



AnnMarie Hurley Elected National Commander

AnnMarie Hurley was elected DAV Auxiliary National Commander at the 2023 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

AnnMarie became eligible for membership through her brother, Frank, a retired major in the U.S. Marine Corps, who served four times in Vietnam, including Khe Sanh, and his now retired sons Michael (Navy Commander) and John Patrick (Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant). She is also eligible through her late husband, Michael (Navy), Aunt Celia (Navy), Uncle Charles (Marines), Uncle Eddie and Bill (Army), and her late grandson Michael James (Navy).

Early on, in Massachusetts, during the summers between business school sessions, AnnMarie worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the Engrossing Division working with the legislators, typing and proofreading the new laws on parchment. After graduating, she worked for the Election Division for about five years until she left to have her first daughter. In both of those jobs, she worked well with the Massachusetts senators and representatives, as well as the Secretary of State and his staff, whom she dealt with on a regular basis.

In Massachusetts, she worked for the DAV state department as department/executive secretary for more than 30 years and worked closely with Auxiliary officers. She was active in Auxiliary units and has been the treasurer of Silver Star JFK Memorial Unit 3 since its inception eleven years ago, as well as being the treasurer and adjutant-treasurer of a previous unit. After retiring from DAV, she became more active in the state department Auxiliary, including their state meetings and functions. In 2010, she was asked to run for the office of state treasurer, a position she held for four years. Early in her fourth term, she announced she would finish the year as treasurer but needed to dedicate her time as caregiver to her husband Michael, who died June 6, 2014, from airway disease attributed to his service.

At the state convention weeks later, she was elected to the finance committee, and then began her journey to the position of state commander. Her term as state commander was extremely fulfilling since she had the opportunity to promote the DAV Auxiliary throughout the state and work closely with units in a variety of ways to keep them closely working towards our mission: Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families. Currently, she serves as the National Mae Holmes committee chairperson, a VAVS Deputy Representative at the Brockton VA Medical Center, a member of the Department of Massachusetts POW-MIA committee chairperson, and Unit 3's treasurer.

She is also a mediator for the Brockton Center for Dispute Resolution at the Small Claims Division of the Brockton District Court; although, during Covid, it was through Zoom trainings and meetings, with only one in-person event with the supervisor and mediators. For the past three months AnnMarie has been back mediating in the court once a week.

AnnMarie is blessed with three daughters from her first marriage: Shannon, Kristin and Margret-Mary. Margret-Mary's son, Michael James Burke-Lally, died in a car accident on July 4, 2009, while on leave after deployment as a quartermaster/navigator on a destroyer, making her a Gold Star Mother. The death of AnnMarie's second husband Michael after almost 33 years of marriage made her a Gold Star wife. Through tragedy, the family stuck together and can now remember them both with smiles, knowing how lucky they were to have them. AnnMarie's daughters are DAV Auxiliary members, as well as her 20-year-old granddaughter, Madison Margret Mary, whose paternal grandfather died in Vietnam, making her a Gold Star Granddaughter.



2023-2024 National Officers

Announcing the newly elected national officers:

National Commander – AnnMarie Hurley, Massachusetts
Senior Vice Commander – Christopher Easley, Oklahoma
1st Junior Vice Commander – Melissa Pierce, Iowa
2nd Junior Vice Commander – Terry Grabowski, New York
3rd Junior Vice Commander – Kathleen Wenthe, Louisiana
4th Junior Vice Commander – Carolyn Harris, Alabama
National Judge Advocate – Paula Raymond, Illinois

National Chairmen and Appointees

National Commander AnnMarie Hurley made the following appointments with the approval of the National Executive Committee:

National Chaplain – Aura-Lee Nicodemus, New Hampshire
History Book Coordinator – Diane Sullivan, Massachusetts
Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee – Judy Steinhouse, Chairman, North Dakota
Pat Kemper, Kentucky; Susan Henry, Tennessee

Junior Activities – Tammy Sigman, Ohio
Sgt. At Arms – Lynn Helms Prosser, South Carolina
VAWS Representative – Patty Davis, Wisconsin
VAWS Deputy Representative – Ann Glende, Kentucky
Education Scholarship Fund Chrm. – Darlene Spence, Texas
Caregiver Initiative Program – Melissa Pierce, Iowa
National Adjutant – Bunny Clos, Kentucky
National Assistant Adjutant – Ann Glende, Kentucky

2023 National Fall Conference

The annual National Fall Conference will be held September 28-30, 2023, in Erlanger, Kentucky. This year we are excited to offer the following:

- Health and Wellness fair on Thursday, September 28, 2023, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Many local and national companies will be joining us to talk one-on-one with members.
- Patriotic Night – To kick-off the conference, on Thursday, September 28, show your patriotism by wearing your red, white, and blue! The more creative, the better.
- Hospitality Night – We will once again be hosting a hospitality night on Friday, September 29. Join us for a pizza and ice cream buffet, followed by a night of dancing and karaoke!
- Fun Night – What better way to bring the conference to close than by enjoying a buffet dinner followed by entertainment! Tickets for this event are **not** included in the conference registration, and **must be purchased by September 15, 2023.**

We encourage pre-registration for those attending conference! Within a few short weeks, members will be able to access the system, register attendees, and pay. Those who pre-register will be able to bypass the registration line and pick up their conference bag and badge. Online pre-registration will require your membership number, as well as the membership number for anyone they wish to register. Watch social media (Facebook) for registration announcement and information.

The registration cost for conference this year will be \$40.00, and will include the conference bag, booklet, revised 2023-2024 Bylaw Book, and Friday evening hospitality night. The Saturday evening dinner will be \$60 per person. Members wishing to attend the dinner must call our office at 833.368.1220 by September 15, 2023, to purchase a ticket with a credit or debit card. **No dinner tickets will be available on site! Absolutely no refunds!**

We look forward to seeing you all in September for a fun, and educational, national fall conference!