

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

September 2023

From the Desk of the National Commander

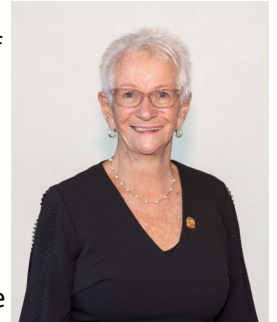
I am honored beyond belief that you elected me to the high office of National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary. Thank you is not enough, but yes, *thank you, thank you, thank you!* I will do my best as commander so that your trust in me is earned.

Our entire line of national officers is filled with dedicated members who, I am sure, will continue to succeed in their new roles throughout the year, and I congratulate them. We have excellent mentors to guide us in our National Adjutant Bunny Clos and Assistant Adjutant Ann Glende.

The convention was excellent all around this year because of the officers and members of the DAV and Auxiliary with their continued dedication to service. We once again had the opportunity to listen to Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band, who put on a terrific show for us. As many of you know, Gary Sinise has been honoring, entertaining and serving our wounded veterans since he played the part of Lt. Dan in the movie *Forrest Gump*. The comradery at convention was plentiful, and it was a pleasure to meet, and reconnect, with many of you, both DAV and Auxiliary.

Volunteering for our Auxiliary itself is a blessing. Who wouldn't want to be part of an organization that supports veterans, their families, their causes and legislative needs, as well as visit VA hospitals and soldiers homes for personal contact with our veterans. Thankfully, our Covid concerns are lessening to the point where we can soon, if not now, visit our hospitalized veterans again.

Again, thank you for this honor!



2023 National Fall Conference Information

The national fall conference is quickly approaching! Below you will find some helpful reminders.

- If you or someone you know has not booked their hotel room, please contact our office at 833.368.1220 before September 13, 2023.
- The last day to purchase tickets for the Saturday evening dinner is Friday, September 15. **Absolutely no tickets will be available on site.** The cost is \$60 per person and includes a buffet dinner of tossed salad, fruit salad, teriyaki grilled pork chops, oven roasted BBQ chicken, sliced roast beef, three cheese macaroni, baked potato with toppings, seasonal vegetable medley, rolls, butter, peanut butter pie and tuxedo cake. We are excited to once again welcome back Unique Productions from Cincinnati, Ohio, who will be performing a murder mystery parody based on the Netflix hit *Bridgerton*. Please call our office at 833.368.1220 by **September 15** to purchase!
- **Time Changes**—Due to our busy schedule of presenters, the Thursday evening session will now begin at 6:30 pm and our Saturday morning session will now begin at 8:30 am. Please plan accordingly!
- We will once again have a health and vendor fair on Thursday, September 28, from 1-4pm. Walgreens will once again be available to offer a variety of shots!
- **Tours of National Headquarters**—You asked, and we listened! Since DAV/A National Headquarters is just five minutes away from our conference location, we are pleased to offer tours of the building on Thursday, September 28. We kindly ask you only visit the building during the scheduled tour times. To sign-up, please call our office at 833.368.1220. Tours are scheduled for 9 am, 11 am, and 2pm. Deadline to sign-up is September 22.
- Remember to show your patriotic pride during the opening session on Thursday evening, September 28!
- The conference will conclude with the NEC meeting on Saturday, September 30.

With the recent devastation of fires, hurricanes, tornados and tropical storms, **DAV Auxiliary is accepting donations for the Disaster Relief Program** to assist veterans and their families in need. Make checks payable to DAV Auxiliary and send to 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018. Credit card donations are also accepted.

Americanism by Kathleen Wenthe, National Americanism Chairman

The American Flag! When you see it waving high with a beautiful blue sky behind it, what are your thoughts at that moment? For me, it fills my heart with pride.

Show your pride by displaying the American Flag proudly on national and state holidays or special occasions, it is the perfect show of patriotism! Display the U.S. flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs in the open. When a patriotic effect is desired the flag may be displayed 24-hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. On special days such as Memorial Day the flag may be flown at half-staff until noon and then raised. Never let the flag touch the ground or place it in an area where it will get dirty. During long periods of inclement weather, take the flag down to prevent it from being damaged.

Did you know there have been 27 versions of the American Flag? The last change was made in 1960 when Hawaii joined the Union.

While driving around your neighborhood, take a second to notice the flags that are proudly displayed. Take notice of businesses that display the flag and whether it needs to be replaced. If it does need to be replaced, speak to the owner, and ask if you can replace the flag. Perhaps your unit could assist with this.

Now that you have replaced the flag, what do you do with the old one? You can't just throw it away. Many of the post offices and/or veteran organizations collect them throughout the year.

Nearly 250 years ago, on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress approved the design of a national flag. We now celebrate "Flag Day" on the anniversary of that resolution. As the weathered flags are gathered throughout the year, a ceremony is performed usually on or around June 14th, known as "Flag Day". The ceremony allows the flags to be properly disposed of in a dignified manner.

During the upcoming DAV Auxiliary National Fall Conference, you are invited to attend the "Flag Retirement Ceremony" where you will learn how to properly dispose of the flag. I hope to see all of you at the ceremony!

Membership by Melissa Pierce, National Membership Chairman

Membership. According to Webster's it's "the fact of being a member of a group" or "the number or body of members in a group." But you all knew that already. Membership is important to the DAV Auxiliary because it brings us all together. We share a common cause or purpose to further the Auxiliary mission – helping Veterans and their families. For us, membership builds relationships, strengthens our purpose and allows us to assist more Veterans. When our membership is down our ability to assist is lowered. As one person, or even just a couple people, we are limited on what we can do. When our numbers are great the possibilities are endless!

New members – we are always going to be looking for ways to build our membership. Without new members to supplement our organization we will fail. Keep membership applications handy, put the application on your phone or tablet, whatever it takes. You never know when you are going to run into someone who wants to join our forces to assist Veterans and their families. And you need to remember to ask. Most people are not going to know that anyone can join the Auxiliary, they may think you have to be a spouse, parent or child of a disabled Veteran. Let them know that is not the case.

While new members are great and help build our DAV Auxiliary units and state departments, we need to also remember the members who have already made a commitment to the Auxiliary. Membership is not just about finding new members but ensuring that all members feel included and useful. As our membership population ages, we need to be reminded that those older members can still be a useful part of our organization. We need to make a conscientious effort to find ways to include them – asking them to make cards to hand out on Veterans Day, Christmas, and other holidays. Helping them sign up for CAN. Maybe having them make calls for donations to gift bags that are handed out at the VA. Anything to keep them involved. And those Juniors – keep them involved by asking them to lead the pledge or help with Forget-Me-Nots – I don't know about you, but it's hard to say no to a kid! Ask them what they are interested in and find a way to get them involved! They are the future of the organization. Your members with busy families can also be useful. They may not be able to participate in every meeting or event but keep trying and ask them how they feel they can best participate. That working mother may be a great baker in her down time and would love to assist with a bake sale. They may love to craft and want to organize and participate in a craft show. Family life keeps them busy, but there are always options, you just need to work together to find them.

Membership. It's not just the new. It's not just the current. It's not just the Juniors. It's all of us joining together and working together for our mission – helping Veterans and their families.