

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

October 2023

Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for reaching 2023-2024 Quota!

Louisiana
New Hampshire
Oklahoma

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Membership by Melissa Pierce, National Membership Chairman

We want to make breaking news this year, and you can help! It's as simple as recruiting members so DAV Auxiliary becomes 125,000+ members strong!

Wouldn't it be awesome to be able to share that news with others? If you were able to attend Auxiliary National Fall Conference you already know this is our membership goal for 2023-2024.

While it may sound lofty, if we all work together, we can make it a reality! These days almost everyone is eligible for membership in the Auxiliary – mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. Husbands, wives, sisters and brothers. Grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles and cousins. Stepfamily, in-laws – the list goes on and on! Get out there and recruit a relative, recruit a friend, recruit a stranger on the street – recruit anyone you can, to help us meet our goal!

The 2024 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention will be held in Phoenix Arizona. We have decided to "fill the cactus" for Phoenix. Members will be able to track our progress as we strive for 125 (thousand) members on the DAV Auxiliary Facebook page and the Headquarters Newsletters.

Along with this I'd also like to share this year's membership incentives:

a PAID trip to the 2024 Fall Conference in scenic Lawrenceburg, Indiana

OR

a PAID trip to the 2025 National Convention in fabulous Las Vegas Nevada

To get into the drawing members will need to sign up 5 NEW, PAID (at least \$20 down) members. Once you have recruited five (5) members you will get one (1) entry into the drawing. For each additional NEW, PAID member, you will get an additional entry! Not only will you be getting the opportunity to win the trip of YOUR choice, but you will be helping us reach our goal of 125,000 Auxiliary members strong!

Oh wait, that's not all – you could win a pizza party for your unit or state department! Every unit and state department that reaches quota plus one will be put into a drawing for a pizza party for their unit or state department. There will be a winner at BOTH the unit and state level! On top of that you will get a ton of recognition for your accomplishments.

Get out there! Get recruiting! Get those memberships! Help us FILL THE CACTUS! Help us to reach 125,000 DAV AUXILIARY members strong! Let's make our BREAKING NEWS headline a reality!

History Book Coordinator by Diane Sullivan, National Chairman

It is an honor to have been appointed as the National History Book Coordinator by Commander AnnMarie Hurley. To fulfill my obligation, I will need everyone's help gathering pictures for AnnMarie's history book. So, if AnnMarie is visiting your Auxiliary events, please take pictures with her and send them to me. You can send them by email at dsullivan.dava@gmail.com or by mail at 83 Bay State Avenue, Somerville MA 02144.

Community Service by Carolyn Harris, National Community Service Chairman

Giving back and assisting others is the foundation of community service. Community Service helps the Auxiliary connect to the community and raises awareness to our mission of "making a difference in the lives of veterans and their family."

As members of the auxiliary we have the great opportunity to serve veterans in five areas, **Family Services; Facility Visits; Professional & Trade Services/Payments; Recreation & Entertainment and Special Projects and Programs**. As you look at these areas, please note that service can be done as individuals or as a group. All service work performed will be to aid and benefit our veterans and their families.

As we enter the fall season, just think of all the great things that your unit can start doing. One of the first steps a unit should do is identify veterans and family members of veterans in your community or neighborhoods. Reach out to your chapter, attend neighborhood meetings and community meeting to let it be known that DAV and DAVA are here to aid veterans and families of veterans.

Now let's look at **Family Services** and **Facility Visits** to see how you as unit members can be of service. Family Services is simply giving direct aid. There could be a veteran in need of transportation to the doctor or transportation to the grocery store. There could be some veterans that are home bound. A member could visit just to talk or to help with some light house work. How meaningful that would be to that veteran to know that someone cares.

Some veterans families may need clothing and food. As a unit, clothing and food could be purchased to aid these families. There are so many things that could be done as direct aid to families.

Another important area is **Facility Visits**. So many veterans and family members are in different facilities (hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes). It is so important to take time to visit them. It is very lonely when you never have someone to come by and visit. Just a simple visit can make a big difference in a veterans' life to know that they have not been forgotten.

As we perform our community service work in our neighborhoods and communities, our out reach is for all veterans, not just DAV and DAVA members. Just a reminder, assistance given to relatives is not included when reports are prepared. Please share with us some of the community out reach service your unit members perform.

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

As we learned at national fall conference, DAV Auxiliary members need to "get in the game" to make the VAVS Program highly successful. Whether you're volunteering in-person or in-kind, there is something that every unit in our organization can do to assist hospitalized veterans.

Days are getting shorter and weather is getting colder. Now is a great time to touch base with the CDCE Program Manager to see if the facility clothing room is in need of hand warmers, gloves, jackets, and even sweatpants. Hospitalized veterans may begin to see a decline in visitors since some may not want to drive at night, so small gift bags with word puzzles, coloring books, and other mind-enhancing activities are key this time of year.

As we begin to prepare our family and friends for the holidays, let's not forget about veterans. Be creative, and don't forget to share your programs with us!

DAV Caregiver Support Program

DAV continues to be a vital force and instrument of positive change for so many veterans and their families because we refuse to settle for “good enough.” We innovate, execute and lead the way in bringing positive change for our brothers and sisters in arms.

We are excited to officially announce the latest innovation—the DAV Caregiver Support Program. This no-cost initiative offers concierge support and resources to the friends, family members and loved ones who provide care to those who served. It helps improve the quality of life for veterans and their caregivers while extending the time they can live outside of healthcare facilities.

Powered by TCARE, a Service-Disabled Veterans-Owned Small Business founded by a DAV Patriot Book Camp alumnus, the program allows veterans and their families to access tailored caregiver support and resources—including individual support from a trained specialist—at no cost.

The program officially launched October 2. Through the DAV Caregiver Support Program, caregivers can access:

- Online resources and risk screening to better understand their role as a caregiver.
- Digital tools to support their caregiving responsibilities.
- Personalized care plans and one-on-one support from a trained caregiver specialist with experience supporting veterans and their loved ones.

By being provided with a proven support program, caregivers and the veterans they love benefit from improved relationships, reduced caregiver stress, depression and other negative health outcomes. Participants also develop increased resilience and the ability to navigate complex caregiving responsibilities, including health care systems and financial planning.

To participate, caregivers can follow three easy steps:

- **Register**—Visit www.davcaregiver.org to enroll in the program and complete the DAV Caregivers Support Program screen. The registration code is **DAV**.
- **Access Resources and Support**—Access online content, local resources and digital tools tailored to each caregiving situation, role and responsibility.
- **Receive Tailored Support**—Depending on the screening results, participants may receive one-on-one support from a trained caregiver specialist to help navigate caregiving responsibilities.

DAV is able to continue to expand our services in new and exciting ways because of the leadership and support of so many. We are grateful to each of you for helping make this exciting new program possible.

National Fall Conference

We’d like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for attending the 2023 National Fall Conference in Erlanger, Kentucky. Despite the many issues with our venue, we hope you left the conference renewed and energized for a great membership year! Start making plans now for the 2024 National Fall Conference in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, September 26-28.

As requested, we have included links of importance on the next pages from our DAV Director Presentations held on Friday, September 29. We hope you enjoyed this program change and will utilize this valuable information throughout your unit and state department.

Last, but certainly not least, we’d like to thank you for the amazing donations received for our programs!

We collected \$25,475!

DAVA 4 Kids—\$3,300

Winter Sports Clinic—\$1,680

Disaster Relief Fund—\$4,425

General Fund—\$1,400

Service Program Fund—\$3,455

Caregiver Initiative Program Fund—\$4,405

Education Program Fund—\$4,305

Camp Corral—\$2,505

Here. Is. Better. Documentary

Shown during the 2023 National Fall Conference, Here. Is. Better. interweaves the stories of four veterans—two men and two women—whose wartime and life experiences couldn't have been more different. John served in Vietnam as a door gunner; Teresa drove convoys in Iraq; Jason was a military intelligence officer in Afghanistan; Tabitha served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a welder and a member of the 'Lioness' program. Their willingness to tell their stories—to be heard for a common purpose—is one of the great gifts of making this film.

Through their personal stories, the film seeks to bring understanding to how we collectively respond to trauma, to what PTSD diagnosis means, and how PTSD can impact daily life, far removed from a military setting. The film does not seek to be perspective, but instead highlights how the right fit of trauma therapies and other support systems can help transform darkness into light.

This film is meant to help Veterans who have experienced trauma, but also to help audiences who may be experiencing the aftermath of any devastating event—whether they served in the military or not—and are unable to find a path forward. Here. Is. Better. illustrates how the seemingly impossible mission to heal may become possible as John, Teresa, Jason, and Tabitha choose to face each day with the bravery to seek help and the hope of what help can bring.

Here. Is. Better. can be viewed at home on [digital platforms](#).

Helpful Links

Below is a collective list of links provided throughout the DAV Director presentations at fall conference:

[Create Your Own Fundraiser](#)—start your own fundraiser today to help support the men and women who served.

[DAV 5K](#)—held November 11, 2023, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and virtually.

[DAV Scholarships](#)—\$110,000 awarded annual to volunteers 21 years of age and under with at least 100 volunteer hours.

[DAV Store](#)—swag for DAV and Auxiliary members.

[Field of Flags](#)—empowers our community to set up fields of American flags, all to honor local veterans and raise critical funds to support ill and injured veterans.

[Gift Planning](#)—resources for writing wills and establishing an estate plan.

[Hiring Guide](#)—hiring and retaining veterans with disabilities.

[Honor Garden Bricks](#)—commemorative bricks inscribed to honor or memorialize a veteran.

[Member Resources](#)—information that is beneficial to DAV and Auxiliary members.

[Member Advantages](#)—access to special discounts and savings on national and regional brands.

[MyDAV](#)—the new external membership platform that went live in 2022.

[Patriot Employer](#)—recognition to employers who demonstrate the unwavering commitment and passion to ensure all veterans obtain suitable employment to care for themselves and their families.

[Publicity](#)—resources to promote DAV and DAV Auxiliary.

[Veteran Job Fairs](#)—connects veterans and spouses with employers nationwide who are committed to hiring them.

[Volunteer for Veterans](#)—encourages veterans who need assistance to request help and those with a few moments to spare to help those veterans on various assignments.

[VA Benefit Help](#)—experts available to assist veterans navigate their VA benefits and provide counseling for veterans on claims and appeals.