

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

May 2024

Quota Achieved!

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

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Illinois
Louisiana
Minnesota
New Hampshire
New Mexico
New York
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Puerto Rico
South Carolina
Texas
Vermont
Wyoming

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Membership by Melissa Pierce, National Membership Chairman

Welcome to May! May is a season for growth. We see that growth all around us in the grass, the flowers, and the trees. We've also seen that growth in our organization! Congratulations to the 18 states that have grown their membership and reached quota. That growth has carried over to National who has reached their quota as well. But let's not stop there. We still have room to grow. We still have time to grow. Let's grow together and reach our national membership goal of 125,000 members strong!

As you know, we need our members. Members are the backbone of this organization and without them we will not be successful in our mission of serving veterans and their families. We have all seen and felt the effects of an aging membership base. We have seen the decrease in event involvement. We have seen the lower meeting attendance. We have seen the smaller conventions. What can we do? Are we going to sit back and watch this great organization decline? Or are we going to go forward and grow so we can continue to support our Veterans?

We need to attract new members. We need to nurture the interest of both the existing and new members. We need to involve members in ways that work with their schedules, their lifestyles, and their strengths. We need to find ways to connect with and involve our younger members. We need to establish new protocols. We need to adapt our ways of communicating. We need to change. Without change we cannot grow. Without growth we will not survive. I strongly believe those with a sincere belief in the success of the DAV Auxiliary and its mission will recognize the need for change, recognize the need for growth and fight for our survival.

Our fiscal year ends on June 30. That still leaves you plenty of time to recruit those new members to get in on our current membership incentives. Get those membership applications in and earn those chances for that PAID trip to either the 2024 DAV Auxiliary Fall Conference OR the 2025 National Convention. And don't forget, your state or unit could still win that pizza party if it meets quota plus one.

May—a season for growth. A season for **OUR** growth. We still have time to grow and reach our goal of 125,000 members strong! Let's do this!

Race to the Finish!

Recruit at least one new, paid member with \$20 down to be entered to win an exclusive DAV Auxiliary Stanley Cup! These are one-of-a-kind and will not be available again! The contest is for ADULT and JUNIOR members! As long as there is at least a \$20 down payment, you'll get an entry!



The contest runs April 30 through June 30. You must put your correct membership number and name in the sponsor section. Staff is not responsible for incorrect information and will not change sponsor information after membership applications are submitted.

Every member recruited = one entry! Two winners will be chosen LIVE on Facebook July 1! Good luck!

Americanism by Kathleen Wenthe, National Americanism Chairman

Did you know the month of May is considered National Military Appreciation Month in the United States? It was initiated by the United States Congress in 1999. During this month, Americans come together to thank service members and their families for their hard work, bravery, and sacrifices. It's a time to honor those who have served and continue to serve in the U.S. military, as well as to remember those who have died in the pursuit of freedom.

While many of us fly our American Flag with pride throughout the entirety of the year, May has a few significant days that are special for that flag to be flown with some extra pride.

VE "Victory Over Europe" Day marks the formal acceptance by the Allied Forces of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender, which occurred in France on May 8th, 1945. While celebrations were held around the world, in the United States VE Day took place on then President Truman's 61st birthday. He dedicated the victory to his beloved predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who passed away almost a month prior on April 12th, 1945.

This year on May 18th, 2024, we celebrate Armed Forces Day. President Harry S. Truman conceived the idea of Armed Forces Day that was officially established in 1949. The creation of this holiday made sense due to the recent unification of all five branches of the U.S. military under the Department of Defense at that time. The goal was to have a single day of celebration for all branches. Armed Forces Day aims to thank and honor service members for their dedication and sacrifices. It falls on the third Saturday of May each year, which in 2024 happens to be May 18th.

In 1971, Memorial Day became an official federal holiday, observed on the last Monday of May. This year many Americans will observe Memorial Day on May 27, 2024, by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings or participating in parades. Did you know that each year on Memorial Day, a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time? Remember that Memorial Day is a day for reflection and remembrance, honoring those who make the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

So, let's all get those American Flags up high and show that true patriotic spirit that is within all of us!

A Big Thanks to Our Recruiters!

As you know, our big recruitment incentive this year is an opportunity to win a **FREE** trip to the 2024 National Fall Conference in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, or the 2025 National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. To be eligible, members must recruit at least five new members. After the first five have been recruited, one entry will be awarded. For every member recruited after that, an additional entry will be earned.

We are excited to announce that, so far, 31 members have obtained entries towards this incentive! This is a great achievement and we'd like to recognize them for their hard work. Remember, you have until June 30, so continue recruiting, and your name could be added to this list.

Carolyn Adams	Virginia Contant	William Fink	Irma Mitchel
William Baker	Patricia Davis	Amber Gacanich	Caroline Morris
Jennifer Banks	Laurel Deveso	Ramona Gattis	Aura-Lee Nicodemus
Karren Barr	Allison Devine	Tanya Goret	Vickie Partridge
Austin Blanton	Cheryl DiLeo	Wayne Kelley	Amie Raber
Edyth Bradford	Kathy Dunham	Stephen Koperna	Shannon Sander
Jane Casher	Shawn Dupuis	Aundra Lett-Jackson	Kathleen Wenthe
Katie Conboy	Linda Durand	Brandy Macias	Carol Whitmarsh

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.

The DAV Caregiver Support Program is a 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 Boot 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 in October. 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.

Forget-Me-Not Luncheon—Ticket Pre-Sale Information

Tickets to the Forget-Me-Not luncheon at National Convention **must** be purchased in advance. No luncheon tickets will be available for purchase on site. Checks may be sent to national headquarters at any time and should be earmarked “Forget-Me-Not Luncheon” with the number of tickets requested. Those wishing to pay with a credit/debit card may call national headquarters between now and the reservation cutoff date of July 12, 2024.

The cost of the luncheon is \$55.00 per person. The menu is a Phoenix Farmer’s Green Salad, Seared Chicken Breast, Cheddar Mac and Cheese, Broccoli, Caramelized Onions, Black Forest Cake, Water, and Coffee.

Please send checks to national headquarters at 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018.

Luncheon tickets will be available for pick-up beginning Thursday, August 1, 2024, in the DAV Auxiliary office. Pick-up location to be determined.

DAV Auxiliary junior members attending national convention are encouraged to sign up to participate as pages. They will volunteer during meetings with passing out information, escorting dignitaries as needed, and be on hand to assist members throughout the convention. If you have a junior interested in volunteering, please contact national headquarters at 833.368.1220, and provide their contact information.

Follow us on Social Media for news and information on the DAV Auxiliary.



Save the Date:

2024 National
Fall Conference
September 26—28, 2024
DoubleTree by Hilton
51 Walnut St.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
Telephone: 812.539.8888

\$149.99 Single/Double
\$159.99 Triple
\$169.99 Quad

All rates will include complimentary parking and breakfast.

Overflow Hotel:
Hollywood Casino
777 Hollywood Dr.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
Telephone: 888.274.6797

No transportation will be provided between hotels.

Please make your reservations early to avoid sell out! They can be cancelled in the future if you're unable to attend!

Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

DAV AUXILIARY

AnnMarie Hurley
National Commander

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Bunny Clos
National Adjutant

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VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

As we approach summer, now is a great time to get youth involved in VAVS Programs! Youth can be involved without ever stepping foot inside a VA Medical Center. It may be as simple as setting up a meeting or phone call with your CDCE (Center for Development and Civic Engagement) Program Manager.

Perhaps, with supervision, Juniors can come once per month to assist with the cleaning of DAV Transportation Vans. This is a big project and they can have fun while doing it. Who doesn't love a car wash? Or, maybe the CDCE would like to have an outdoor social and they need youth volunteers to sit with veterans and chat. There could also be a special birthday for a veteran, and Juniors could work together to make banners and birthday cards. These projects are all being done in the name of DAV Auxiliary and can be recorded for VAVS hours!

As we approach Memorial Day, I hope all of our members find a way to be impactful for a veteran. Perhaps you can reach out to your VA and see how your unit can support their Memorial Day events, whether it be purchasing an item or volunteering the day of.

We all make an impact. Our hearts are full and what we do makes a difference. We may not see it directly, but our veterans know we are there.

Warrants/Vouchers/Check Requests

The national bylaws provide for the proper procedure when issuing checks from unit accounts.

- The Adjutant shall initiate **all** warrants/vouchers/check requests on unit approved expenditures at a regular business meeting or as dictated by the approved unit standing rules
- Warrants/vouchers/check requests must be co-signed by the commander*
- The treasurer issues and signs checks in accordance with the warrant/voucher/check request
- The commander co-signs the checks*

*In the absence of the unit Commander, the unit Senior Vice Commander shall co-sign checks. The unit Junior Vice Commander shall co-sign warrants/vouchers/check requests in the absence of the unit Adjutant.

Under no circumstances may a unit have a credit or debit card!