



Christopher Easley Elected National Commander

Christopher Easley was elected DAV Auxiliary National Commander at the 2024 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

Christopher J. Easley has been a DAV Auxiliary member in Oklahoma since 2005. His membership eligibility is through his grandparents, mother, various aunts, uncles, cousins, and he is most proud to be eligible through his step-father U.S. Air Force retired C.J. Bergeron.

Christopher started his journey with the DAV Auxiliary in Alamo Unit #5 in San Antonio practically at birth. His mom and grandma took him to meetings as a baby, and he learned what it truly means to be an American from the men and women of Chapter and Unit #5. Christopher has served in all unit offices except for adjutant and treasurer. In Texas, he performed all elected positions in Texas District #5 and served on various state committees. Christopher also served as state chaplain, 2nd junior vice, 1st junior vice, senior vice, and state commander of Texas. Christopher served on the National Executive Committee for District #20 and the National Finance Committee, which he chaired during his second year. He has also served on the interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Due to a job promotion in early 2020, Christopher relocated to Oklahoma during the weekend that COVID-19 was officially recognized as a worldwide pandemic. Wanting to remain active with the Auxiliary, he decided to get a life membership in Oklahoma. He is currently the Oklahoma state judge advocate and serves as adjutant/treasurer for Unit #43 in Pryor, Oklahoma.

Christopher enjoys music, technology, and photography. Christopher plays the violin/fiddle and performed on the stage at the Grand Ole Opry. He is also an Eagle Scout and enjoys mentoring future Eagle Scouts to help them achieve their goals. Christopher feels that as an organization, we need to use our collective voice to support our nation's disabled veterans and their families to get the benefits that were paid for with their service and sacrifice.



2024-2025 National Officers

Announcing the newly elected national officers:

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

National Chairmen and Appointees

National Commander Christopher Easley made the following appointments with the approval of the National Executive Committee:

- National Chaplain – Austin Blanton, Arkansas
 - History Book Coordinator – Mary Ellen Bell, Texas
 - Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee – Judy Steinhouse, Chairman, North Dakota
Pat Kemper, Kentucky; Aura-Lee Nicodemus, New Hampshire
 - Junior Activities – Kimberly Stake, Arkansas
 - Sgt. At Arms – Ann Wilner, South Carolina
 - VAVS Representative – Patty Davis, Wisconsin
 - VAVS Deputy Representative – Ann Glende, Kentucky
 - Education Scholarship Fund Chrm. – AnnMarie Hurley, Massachusetts
 - National Adjutant – Bunny Clos, Kentucky
 - National Assistant Adjutant – Ann Glende, Kentucky
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2024 National Fall Conference

The annual National Fall Conference will be held September 26-28, 2024, in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. This year we are excited to offer the following:

- **New for 2024** – Educational Seminars on Thursday, September 26. Watch social media and the September newsletter for more information!
- Walgreens will once again be offering flu shots and the newest COVID Booster on-site Thursday, September 26 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Patriotic Night – To kick-off the conference, on Thursday, September 26, 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 27. Join us for a nacho bar, followed by a live band and dancing!
- Fun Night – What better way to bring the conference to close then 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 13, 2024**. The dinner cost is \$60.00 per person.

We encourage pre-registration for those attending conference! Those who pre-register will be able to bypass the registration line and pick up their conference bag and badge.

The registration cost for conference this year will be \$50.00, and will include the conference bag, fall conference booklet, revised 2024-2025 Bylaw Book, revised (2024) Procedure and Program Manual, 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 13, 2024, to purchase a ticket with a credit or debit card. **No dinner tickets will be available on site! Absolutely no refunds!**

Please note: if your guest plans to attend the Friday evening reception, he or she **must** pay the registration fee. There are no exceptions!

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

From the Desk of National Commander Christopher Easley

Wow! The shock of being elected DAV Auxiliary National Commander is still setting in and I will admit it is a bit overwhelming. I want to thank all the members for entrusting me to this position for this year.

We as an organization need to focus on coming together and using our “One Voice United in Service.” We need to increase our membership, recruit and motivate our Junior Members, and work on getting our programs funded and out to as many people as possible.

We are a FAMILY organization. We are all a family, we take care of our veterans, but we must remember to take care of ourselves. Like many of you, I am the last person that will ask for help but will give the last dollar I have to help someone else. We need to remember if we are not healthy both mentally and physically, we cannot take care of others. We need to reach out to one another and support one another so we can build ourselves up instead of wear ourselves down. I ask that everyone make an effort to reach out to your fellow members this year and even if it is a phone call to say hello, we let everyone know we are here for one another.

This year is an election year, and as an organization, we do not support one candidate or one political party over another. Please be mindful in your social media post that you post as you may give the idea that the organization is supporting a political candidate. What we do support is the legislature that will affect our nations injured, ill, and disabled veterans and their families. We all need to be active members of DAV CAN and share with our friends and families.

As we are leaving the National Convention, don't forget that we have the Fall Conference in September. This is a time for all of us to come together and learn about the Auxiliary programs. I look forward to seeing everyone there and can't wait to see the programs the National Chairmen put on.

Thank you for your generous donations at National Convention!

Service Program - \$3,400
Education Program - \$1,150
Disaster Relief Program - \$3,000
DAVA 4 Kids - \$2,805

Caregiver Support Program - \$2,050
Winter Sports Clinic - \$1,100
General Fund - \$850
Camp Corral - \$100

