

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

September 2024



Please note:
DAV Auxiliary national headquarters will be closed September 25-27, due to national fall conference.
Thank you.

From the Desk of National Commander Christopher Easley

Greetings Auxiliary Family!!! Well, we are all getting ready to attend our Fall Conference this month in Indiana, and I am looking forward to all of the presentations our chairmen are going to present.

This year I would like to focus on increasing our membership. We need more members, both Junior and Senior. Our membership chairman is working with the National Office to finalize the incentives for this membership year, so keep your eyes out. If your unit or department participates in any public events like fairs, car shows, farmers markets, parades, or anything else remember to have the brochure on hand to try and recruit members. With more members it will strengthen your local unit and make our "One Voice, United in Service" even stronger.

If you have Junior members remember, make things interesting for them to want to attend the monthly meetings. Remember to reach out to the DAV Auxiliary Units and DAV Chapters to see what tasks Junior members can assist with and at the same time learn. Simple things you can ask Juniors to do are: lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, pass out papers, say the prayer, craft activities such as cards, posters, etc. for events, and anything else that helps them learn the meanings of Americanism and Service.

Lets grow our VOICE with new members and continue to take care of our injured and ill disabled veterans, and their families.

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DAV Auxiliary Membership Dues Increase

With the concurrence of the delegates at the 2024 DAV Auxiliary National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, the life membership dues for our organization will **increase** to \$300 effective January 1, 2025. Here is what to expect:

- Current members who are recruited through December 31, 2024, will **not** be required to pay the new rate.
- Parent/legal guardian is encouraged to pay at least \$20 down prior to December 31, 2024, to lock in the lower rate on Junior memberships. Remember, the parent/legal guardian signature is required to process the payment.
- Communicate to potential members that there will be a dues increase after the new year. Encourage them to sign-up early!
- The minimum down payment will remain \$20 with flexible payment options of once per year to remain active.
- Look for communications from National Headquarters on the release of new applications and brochures.
- Destroy **all** material with the old rates as of January 1, 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change, please don't hesitate to contact our office. Thank you for helping to spread the word on this change!

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 which 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, 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 2023. 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 screener. 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—Important Information!

National Fall Conference will be here, soon! Pre-registration is encouraged! Pre-registration can be done [online](#) or by calling our office at 833.368.1220. Registration is \$50 per person. Pre-registration will close on Friday, September 20, 2024. We will have on-site registration available by cash or check only.

Tickets to the Saturday evening dinner at National Fall Conference **must** be purchased in advance. No dinner tickets will be available for purchase on site. Those wishing to pay with a credit/debit card may call national headquarters between now and the reservation cutoff date of September 13, 2024. No refunds!

The cost of the dinner is \$60.00 per person. The menu is Classic Italian Buffet with Chicken Parmesan, Pasta Primavera, Marinara Sauce, Cavatappi, Alfredo Sauce, Penne, Breadsticks, Caesar Salad, Lemon Italian Crème or Chocolate Cake. We hope you'll join us for a night of wonderful food, laughter and friends on Saturday!

NEW: A limited number of national headquarter tours will be available on Thursday, September 26, 2024. These tours will only be between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Please call our office at 833.368.1220 to schedule a time. Only **seven** seats are available per tour if attendees are utilizing DAV transportation services.

Finally, National Senior Vice Commander Melissa Pierce will be doing a collection for the Cincinnati Fisher House as a part of her “[Help Make the Cincinnati Fisher House a Home\(s\)](#)” project. Members are encouraged to bring in-kind donations, such as wrapped snacks, cereals, air fresheners, disposable coffee cups with lids, batteries, individual juices, puzzle books, or Kleenex. We appreciate your support!

Membership by Kathleen Wenthe, National Membership Chairman

Membership is the lifeblood of the DAV Auxiliary, forming the foundation upon which our organization stands. As we continue to support disabled veterans and their families, expanding our membership is crucial to amplifying our impact and ensuring our mission's longevity.

Why does membership matter? There is strength in numbers; a larger membership base allows us to advocate more effectively for veterans' rights and benefits. There is a rise in diverse skills and perspectives with new members bringing fresh ideas and talents to our organization and with an increased support of more members mean more volunteers and resources to assist veterans and their families.

So just how do you recruit new members?

1. Personal Invitations: The most effective method is often the simplest. Ask someone to join! Share your experiences and explain why the DAV Auxiliary is important to you.
2. Reach Out to DAV Members: Invite Disabled American Veterans (DAV) members to join the Auxiliary. Their firsthand experience can be invaluable to our cause.
3. Family Connections: Encourage your family members to join. The DAV Auxiliary is a family-oriented organization, and involving multiple generations can strengthen both families and our community.
4. Advertising: Utilize local media, social platforms, and community events to spread awareness about the DAV Auxiliary and its mission.

Starting January 1, 2025, our lifetime membership fees will be adjusted. In order to keep the membership at the current rate a new member must sign up before December 31, 2024, with a minimum of \$20.00 paid. Otherwise the rate for regular lifetime membership will be increasing from \$250.00 to \$300.00 on January 1, 2025. As a reminder, anyone 80 and over will remain free.

Don't forget about our Juniors! We must continue to encourage Junior membership. Junior members are the future of our organization. By signing up Junior members we will ensure that for generations to come we will continue to support the mission of service to disabled veterans and their families.

As it comes to Juniors, we have a few changes for them. A paper application must be submitted each time a new Junior is signed up, whether it be complementary, paid, or a payment, and it must have a parent/legal guardian signature on the application. A parent or legal guardian who has a complementary Junior already signed up, but wishes to keep their Senior membership for the current rate of \$250.00 can start paying on the membership with a minimum of \$20.00 down and a minimum of \$10.00 a year.

While our membership fees are changing, the value of being part of the DAV Auxiliary remains immeasurable. Your membership supports crucial programs and services for disabled veterans and their families.

Remember, every new member strengthens our ability to serve. Invite someone to join the DAV Auxiliary family today!

Sponsor a Supporter

DAV Auxiliary continues to find ways we can support our members during their recruitment efforts. Our newest initiative, Sponsor a Supporter, was launched just before national convention. Help us grow our organization with a personalized link that DAV Auxiliary members can use to recruit members. Members can generate their link by entering their membership number at <https://auxiliary.dav.org/sponsor-a-supporter/>.

The Sponsor a Supporter program helps members:

- ◆ Educate the community on DAV, DAV Auxiliary and its missions
- ◆ Reach potential new members, including veterans, their families, caregivers, and friends
- ◆ Earn recruitment points
- ◆ Recruit new members with the click of a few buttons

Members can also share their Sponsor a Supporter link as a QR code, which potential members can scan to access the same link. The link remains active throughout the year! Members who recruit new members using their link earn points that can be redeemed for DAV Auxiliary swag from the DAV Store.

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Melissa Pierce, National Chair

Welcome to September! I know, I know, it seems like we just started our new year, but it's never too early to start thinking about our year-end annual reports. These reports are an important tool National uses to see what we, as units, are doing to support our veterans and their families.

The Mae Holmes report is one of the most important of these as it highlights the activities from all five individual annual reports - Americanism, Legislative, Junior Activities, Community Service and VAVS - plus Membership into one place. This makes it a quick and easy reference that shows what our units are doing. If you keep track of your activities on a daily, weekly or even monthly basis, it makes filling out these reports at the end of the year quick and easy. Start your 2024-2025 year off right and track your activities!

We just returned from our 2024 National Convention in Phoenix. Hopefully everyone who attended had a great time - I know I did! I'd like to start by saying congratulations to all of the units who won at their state level and were submitted for judging at National Convention. There were some excellent reports turned in - you all are doing great work - and it made judging extremely difficult. Congratulations to the units who won in their category:

Group 1—10-50—A.G. Tricentennial, IL, Unit 84

Group 2—51-100—Michael J Thomas, NC, Unit 5

Group 3—101-200—Millington, TN Unit 116

Group 4—201 and over—Elizabethtown, KY, Unit 3

I hope to see many of you at our National Fall Conference at the end of the month - it's going to be a great few days filled with learning, fun, and camaraderie!

I wish you all a great and productive year. I can't wait to see what you do this coming year as we work together to fulfill our Auxiliary mission of helping veterans and their families!

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Representative

First and foremost, I would like to thank National Commander Christopher Easley for asking me to serve as the National VAVS Representative for 2024-2025. VAVS is something that I hold near and dear to my heart, and I promise to continue to serve the organization at well as possible!

This year will definitely be out of this world. Actually, some of the words that could commonly be used to describe it is wow, bam, and pow. We have some SUPER volunteers that walk amongst us, who dedicate their time and talents to assist veterans and their families in all facets of voluntary services. Whether you are a member who drives a DAV Transportation vehicle, volunteers as a patient escort, does the morning coffee cart, passes out comfort items, visits with patients, or assists with physical therapy, you are a hero that walks amongst us!

Now, we know not all units and members have VA facilities close to them—and that is okay. That doesn't mean that you cannot be involved in the VA Voluntary Services program. First off, check out some of their virtual volunteer opportunities. Perhaps you could be a part of the interviewing team that talks one-on-one with veterans who are willing to share their story about their time in service. Or, maybe you'd like to be a part of a buddy check program who does calls to home bound veterans so they hear a friendly voice. Do you have a talent in making blankets or lap robes? Let your local facility know so that your hours can count. If you put your mind to it—POW—you can do wonderful things!

And if you can't volunteer, we understand. But there are still financial needs that can be met. Wish lists at VA facilities are often a mile long. WOW! They all have special funds for veterans that need fulfilled, such as for trips, subscriptions, or upkeep of special areas like bird watching areas or gardens. Comfort items are important to inpatient veterans. Perhaps they could use new jogging pants, special hygiene products, fans, or mirrors. Keeping their mind busy is also important, so maybe they could use puzzle books and pens. BAM—it's as easy as a phone call and some time shopping.

The VA relies on our organization, and we know we can count on you! Keep up the great work! You all are super heroes!