

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

November 2024



Please note:
DAV Auxiliary national headquarters will be closed November 28-29, in observance of Thanksgiving.
Thank you.

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From the Desk of National Commander Christopher Easley

It is hard to believe it is already November. It does not feel like it in Oklahoma yet, but I am looking forward to the cooler weather.

I want to remind everyone that our life membership rate will be increasing as of January 1, 2025. If you have any "free" Junior members it would be a good time to have the parent/legal guardian start with the \$20 down payment to lock in the lower rate. We also have the awesome incentive vacation to Florida for our lucky winner so get out there and RECRUIT!!!!

By the time the newsletter comes out we will have had a major election. I hope everyone exercised their right to vote! The leadership in this country is changing, and if your person/party did not win you can still make a difference. We need to use our "One Voice, United in Service" to educate those elected to office on the changes we need to better serve our injured, ill, and disabled veterans and their families.

I want to extend my condolences to District #10 and the Olinger Family for their loss of National Executive Committee Member, Kimberly Olinger, who passed shortly after our National Fall Conference. I, along with every member of the Auxiliary that knew her will miss her, but her memory and dedication to our nation's disabled Veterans and their families will live on with her family.

I would also like to extend thanks to everyone for the thoughts and prayers for my family with the passing of my father, CJ Bergeron. We could not have navigated this tough time without the help of many members of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary. THANK YOU and God Bless.

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 a \$20 down payment 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.
- Any new applications received after December 31, 2024, must be postmarked. No exceptions!

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

Membership by Kathleen Wenthe, National Membership Chairman

Joining the DAV Auxiliary is more than just about membership; it's a commitment to support and uplift the lives of veterans and their families. With the current membership fee at \$250, there's an urgency to act now before the price increases to \$300 on January 1st. But it's not just about the savings; it's about being part of an organization that cares.

Members can ignite this spirit by bringing guests to meetings or special events, contacting the local Chamber of Commerce, and distributing guest information packets to potential new members. Imagine the impact of having a booth at local fairs or placing brochures in high-traffic areas like doctors' offices and libraries with your contact information. The enthusiasm for the DAV Auxiliary is palpable, especially when considering the vibrant energy of Junior members, who are the future of the organization. The recent National Fall Conference showcased their significant role as Junior members.

Moreover, the DAV Auxiliary is offering an exciting incentive: a chance to win a memorable vacation in Fort Myers, FL. Recruiting five new members with a minimum down payment of \$20 each enters you into a drawing for a luxurious 5-night stay in a 5-bedroom home, including airfare for two up to \$500 each. And for every additional member you bring in, your chances increase.

How many are utilizing the "Sponsor a Supporter" personalized link thus far? This is an innovative way to get your membership credited when you sign up a new member via the online app while using the "Sponsor a Supporter" QR code. Simply follow the instructions at: <https://auxiliary.dav.org/sponsor-a-supporter/>.

In order to receive your QR code, you will need to have your membership number available.

Now is a great time to pay those Junior members with only a \$20 down payment, and as little as \$10 per year until their life membership is paid in full. Take advantage of the current rate and lock them in today! Encourage your members who have set their children up as complimentary to get that minimum payment in before December 31, 2024! Paper applications are a must and be sure to get that parent/legal guardian signature when sending any new application or even just a payment.

Maintaining interest in the organization can be challenging, but positivity is key. Encourage members to contribute in ways that suit their strengths and bring their ideas to life. It's about finding a niche for everyone and fostering a welcoming environment where all contributions are valued. Remember, every member is a beacon of encouragement, and together, we can continue to grow and support our veterans with unwavering kindness and dedication.

Let's keep the momentum going and make the DAV Auxiliary a thriving organization for all. Invite someone to join the DAV Auxiliary family today!

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

With your help at National Fall Conference, DAV Auxiliary sent out cards to 33 VA facilities across the United States. Program Managers have been contacting us regarding this amazing program, and we can't let it stop here. We are calling on units, members, Boy and Girl Scouts, schools, church programs, senior centers, and other various programs to help us bring cheer to veterans in the VA Medical Centers by participating in the DAV Auxiliary Mail Call Program! Be as creative as you'd like and send your cards to me—Patty Davis, 213 Southtowne Dr., Apt. AA210, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. We will see that the cards are sent to the VA Medical Centers as received. There are 172 VA Medical Centers that need our help, so we cannot stop now!

An example of how meaningful this program is was when I received a call from the Program Manager of the Biloxi, Mississippi, VAMC. She was overjoyed to share our cards with patients who may not otherwise have visitors or receive mail. This package from our organization made a difference. This was also a great way to share about DAV Auxiliary, what we do, and how we do it.

This is also a good time to remember our inpatient veterans for the holiday season in other ways, too. For example, one VAVS Representative shared that they are going to purchase 375 throw blankets and pass them out to every veteran in the facility for the holiday with a notecard so they know they aren't forgotten. What an amazing gesture! Another VAVS Representative is going to have special desserts placed on patients trays for Thanksgiving. What a "sweet" way to bring a smile! As you can see, the opportunities are endless. We can make a difference!

Thank you for all that you do! You are appreciated in within the VA and beyond. Happy Holidays!

Junior Activities by Kim Stake, National Junior Activities Chairman

Commander Chris, thank you for your confidence in my abilities to lead the future of our organization, the Junior Auxiliary.

We had a wonderful National Fall Conference in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Although my program took a bit of a turn as we dumped the ice cooler on National Chaplain Austin Blanton, we did raise over \$900 that was donated to the National Service Fund and DAVA 4 Kids, so all that took part in this effort, many thanks.

I want to give a GIANT shout out to Jaden, Alexander, Mattie and Madelyn for their hard work for the program, helping the line officers pass out information, helping Commander Chris collect money and adding a bit of Junior Auxiliary to fun night. Great job!

It was brought to my attention that members didn't know Juniors could attend National Fall Conference. The answer is YES, bring them. They are great help passing out paper work, joining other chairman skits, and helping pass out door prizes.

Junior members, the holidays are coming up. I challenge you on November 11, Veterans Day, to shake hands with Veterans and thank them for their service. Please keep our Veterans in your minds and think of ways to make their holidays special. Take pictures, send them to me and I will share them in my next report. My email is lady-tazdevil64@gmail.com. A parent/legal guardian signature **MUST** accompany all photos with permission to share.

Americanism by Carolyn Harris, National Americanism Chairman

Autumn; what a beautiful time of the year. Weather is changing from the hot days of summer to the cool days of fall. As we move into November and December let us not let our search for Americanism in America cool down.

In November we have some important military holidays, observances and national holidays to remember.

- November is National Veterans and Military Family Month
- November 10, Marine Corps Birthday
- November 11, Veterans Day. Veterans Day honors all veterans of the United States Armed Forces.
- November 28, Thanksgiving Day



And in December we have:

- December 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 13, National Guard Birthday
- December 20, Space Force Birthday
- December 25, Christmas Day

All of these days give each of us the opportunity to promote and show our patriotism by hosting and/or attending programs honoring our veterans, passing out and displaying the American flag, and singing patriotic songs.

Now, let's put the spotlight on a couple of units who have shared with me some of their Americanism activities. From the **State Departments of Arizona and Texas:**

- **Heart of Texas Unit #3** held a National Forget-Me-Not Day presentation
- **Cactus Unit #2**, held a 2024 POW/MIA Ceremony. The unit sponsored and participated in the ceremony with prayers, poems, reading of names and the missing man table lighting. The ceremony was live streamed and a local TV channel conducted interviews.

Let's pull those maps out and start highlighting Arizona and Texas who is on the road to going gold by the end of the 2024 – 2025 year. If any unit or State Department would like me to send them copies of the material on Americanism in the Fall Conference Booklet, just email me at carolynhamericanism@gmail.com and I will be glad to email that information to you.



May you and those you cherish most have an abundant Thanksgiving and holiday season. Please keep our community heroes and military in your thoughts and prayers. We are thankful for each of you!

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



Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the
following State Depart-
ments for reaching
2024-2025 Quota!

Arkansas

Louisiana

New Jersey

Oklahoma

South Dakota

Utah



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

DAV AUXILIARY

Christopher Easley
National Commander

860 Dolwick Dr.
Erlanger, KY 41018

Bunny Clos
National Adjutant

Phone: 833.368.1220
E-mail: dava@dav.org
www.davauxiliary.org



“One Voice, United in Service”

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

We are members of the greatest organization - the DAV Auxiliary. We are doing outstanding work at our VA's. We are doing outstanding work in our communities. We are outstanding AND we have a mission - helping veterans and their families. We have passion. We have heart. We have character. We have empathy. We don't wait for people to let us help, we ask who is going to stop us. **We are outstanding!**

Our 33rd President, Harry S Truman once said “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” I think that sums up how most of us feel about what we do, how much time we volunteer, how much money we donate when we are doing it for our veterans.

Our members don't care if they get credit for what they do. Our members don't want acknowledgement of their deeds. We do it because we owe those who wore the uniform. We do it because it's our small way of repaying those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We do it because it is right. But we ARE outstanding and we NEED to let National know about our outstanding work.... about our outstanding activities. We NEED to fill out our Mae Holmes National Outstanding Unit Report. We are outstanding and we need to show it! Not because we want credit. Not because we need acknowledgement. Not because we need pats on the back. We need to do it so everyone at National knows we ARE keeping our promise and fulfilling the DAV Auxiliary mission of helping veterans and their families!

I'd like THANK everyone who helped us out at Fall Conference with donations for the Fisher House in Cincinnati! I truly appreciate your support and dedication to our DAV Auxiliary mission and your willingness to always step up when needed!

And remember – WE ARE OUTSTANDING – we need to let National know and the best way to do that is to get those Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit reports turned in!