

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

December 2024



Please note:
DAV Auxiliary national headquarters will be closed December 23-25, in observance of Christmas. We will also be closed January 1, 2025. Thank you.

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.
- 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!

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

Do you know why we have the Mae Holmes report? Where the Mae Holmes report came from? Who started it? I know some do, but maybe not all.....

Mae Holmes served as the DAV Auxiliary State Commander of Michigan in 1949-1950. She was elected as our DAV Auxiliary National Commander in 1954-1955. During her year as National Commander, Commander Holmes established an award to be presented to the unit that had performed the most outstanding work in ALL the Auxiliary programs. Commander Holmes purchased a trophy that was presented annually to the Unit that had the "Most Outstanding Work in All the Programs of the Auxiliary." The trophy became a traveling award and was named after Commander Mae Holmes. As our organization has continued to grow and change, the traveling trophies were discontinued and eventually changed to the present-day awards. The Mae Holmes Award was continued in her name.

Commander Holmes felt that membership was necessary for the other programs to continue, therefore, units had to meet their quota by the first of April each year in order to be eligible for the Mae Holmes Award. Many units that performed outstanding work but didn't make quota were never recognized. Around 2016 this rule was eliminated making it possible for all units to be eligible for the award based on their dedicated service and outstanding work.

The Mae Holmes National Outstanding Unit Award is the culmination of each unit's Membership, Americanism, Legislative, VAVS and Community Service Reports. It also includes Special projects done by the unit.

I know you are all working hard to serve our veterans and their families. So be proud of what your unit does. Brag about your accomplishments. Make sure you record and report your activity on your year-end Mae Holmes National Outstanding Unit report. By compiling these reports nationwide, DAV Auxiliary members are showing National that we are fulfilling the Auxiliary mission of serving veterans and their families.

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Membership by Kathleen Wenthe, National Membership Chairman

Exciting News from the DAV Auxiliary: Membership Incentives You Won't Want to Miss!

The DAV Auxiliary is thrilled to announce a series of incredible membership incentives designed to reward our dedicated members and welcome new ones into our supportive community. Whether you're a current member or considering joining, there's never been a better time to get involved!

Recruitment Incentive: Win a Vacation for Two!

Imagine yourself basking in the sun on the beautiful shores of Ft. Myers Beach, FL. This dream can become a reality for our members who actively recruit new paid members. Here's how it works:

- **Recruit at least five new paid members (initial \$20 paid)** and you'll be entered into a drawing for a fabulous vacation for two in Ft. Myers Beach, Florida.
- For every additional new paid member (initial \$20) you recruit beyond the initial five, you'll receive an extra entry into the drawing.
- The vacation package includes airfare credit up to \$500 each for two, and a stay in a luxurious vacation house with five bedrooms, four baths, an in ground pool, and accommodations for up to ten people. Plus, it's just minutes away from the beach!



This incentive runs through June 30, 2025, so start recruiting today!

New Member Incentive: Win a \$200 Visa Gift Card!

We're also excited to introduce a special incentive for newly recruited paid members. Each new paid member who signs up before December 31, 2024, with the initial \$20 down will be entered into a drawing to win a \$200 Visa gift card. This is a fantastic opportunity to join the DAV Auxiliary and lock in the current life membership rate of \$250 before it increases on January 1, 2025, to \$300.

Junior Members: Lock in the Current Rate!

Don't forget that new and complementary junior members who pay the initial down payment \$20 can also be locked into the current rate and be entered into the new paid members incentive. Just make sure to have the parent or legal guardian's signature on the paper application for them.

Celebration Time: State Departments Achieving Quota!

It's celebration time for the state departments that have achieved their quota for 2024-2025. A big round of applause for Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, New Jersey, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming! These states are shining bright. Who will be the next state department to join them? Let's all work together to shine bright, and achieve 100% across the nation!

Need Assistance? We're Here to Help!

If you have any questions regarding the emails sent about the zip codes for National at Large and potential new members, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to make the process as easy as possible and provide any assistance you may need.

Join the DAV Auxiliary today and take advantage of these amazing incentives. Together, we can continue to support our veterans and their families while enjoying some fantastic rewards. Don't miss out on these opportunities—act now!



Happy Holidays! Please remember to keep those who cannot be with their families, including military members and community heroes, in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season!

Americanism by Carolyn Harris, National Americanism Chairman

How are you celebrating this holiday season, which runs from late November through early January? Are you taking time to celebrate with family and friends? Are you taking time to let the spirit of giving, joy and goodwill spread through out the community? Are you taking time to share with Veterans and their families? The answer to all of these questions should be yes.

Make this holiday season a truly special time for our loved ones and for Veterans and Veterans families in our communities. Find ways to spread joy and kindness as we embrace the true essence of the season.

I wish to thank the following State Departments for sharing some of the great work their units are doing toward promoting, showing and sharing Americanism.



State Department of Maine:

- **Thomas W. Bazemore #19** – members discussed getting out to vote and a member volunteered to give any Veteran a ride to vote. There is an exhibit to honor PFC Thomas W. Bazemore set up to Kennebec High School. Unit #19 members hold a ceremony every Veterans day to share his story with students.

State Department of Alabama:

- **Birmingham #4** – attended a Vietnam Veterans Breakfast in Athen and participated in the National Veterans Day Parade held in Birmingham on November 11.
- **J Paul Pitt #12** – members attended the Veterans Awards Dinner held in Birmingham on November 10, and then participated in the Veterans Day Parade held in Montgomery on November 11.
- **Frank L Bradford #18** – at a local church Auxiliary members set up a display of the Veterans who attend the church. The display includes a brief bio on each Veterans' military service plus a photo in uniform next to a current photos. The display remains up for the month of November.
- **James L. Daniels #51** – members participated in the Veterans Day Parade held in Athens on November 11, and attended a Ceremonial presentation of a POW/MIA table on November 12.
- **Col. Charles Young #70** – members attended the Veterans Awards Dinner held in Birmingham on November 10, and attended and participated in the National Veterans Day Parade held in Birmingham on November 11.

Remember units, email any Americanism activities to the following email address:

carolynhamericanism@gmail.com and your unit will be recognized in the next Auxiliary Newsletter. **Happy Holidays to all!**

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

As we approach the busiest time of the year, it's important to remember that many Veterans within the VA may not have visitors. That is why we encourage every unit and state department to contact their local Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) Program Manager to see how DAV Auxiliary can support hospitalized Veterans. It may be something as simple as an hour of visiting patients or passing out small bags with everyday items. Perhaps the unit can get canteen books or host a special afternoon with desserts and a card game. An hour of your day DOES make a difference.

I'd like to thank Old Glory unit #22 in Westminster, Maryland, for sending cards for Operation Mail Call! I was so excited to see our first participating unit. I hope to see even more units sending in cards so we can continue to support VA Medical Centers. Cards can be sent to me at 213 Southtowne Pl., Apt. AA210, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. This is an ongoing project, so let's get everyone involved! Thank you!

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

DAV AUXILIARY

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“One Voice, United in Service”

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Quota Achieved!

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

Arkansas

Florida

Idaho

Illinois

Louisiana

New Jersey

Oklahoma

South Dakota

Utah

Wyoming



Community Service by Jane Casher, National Chairman

With the holidays upon us it is a time to give thanks for our Veterans and their families. During the holidays there are many opportunities to provide a service or a kind gesture to our Veterans and family members. An idea that I will share with you is a “We Care” event where the unit could provide holiday cards, blank cards, crayons, and colored pencils and invite the community to be creative. Let the Veterans and their families know that we care. The finished cards could then be distributed at the local VA or to Veterans that reside within the local nursing facilities.

My mom always told me that I could not hold a tune in a bucket; however, I love to sing. Caroling around your Veterans community is a fantastic way to share the holiday spirit and pass out the cards that your unit created. Include the Junior members! Their smiles can bring joy to all. Do not forget to keep track of your miles and hours for your Community Service report under Facility Visits.

The holidays are a time to reconnect with Unit and Chapter members that are homebound. Let them know they are a vital part of the organization and are appreciated by scheduling a visit with them, taking them a gift or holiday basket.

I have heard the saying, “there is not enough time in a day to accomplish it all.” The caregiver of a Veteran could use help during the holidays, sitting with the Veteran while the caregiver runs errands or shopping for groceries. That can make a difference and give a much-needed break for all. This volunteer activity can be documented under Family Services on the Community Service Report. Also, don’t forget to keep track of miles, hours, and donations.

Copies of the itemized Community Service details sheet can be found on page 29 of the 2024 DAV Auxiliary Fall Conference book. The sheet can be distributed to all Unit members. This will enable the members to correctly document their volunteer hours under the correct five categories. All services completed within the community must be provided to veterans and/or their families only. They do not have to be members of DAV or DAV Auxiliary.

If you are caring for a Veteran, or a Veteran providing care for a loved one, you are not alone. The DAV Caregivers Support program provides tailored support and resources—including individual support from a trained specialist—at no cost. Through the DAV Caregivers Support, caregivers can access online resources, risk screening, digital tools, and personalized care plans. Visit the [website](#) or call 800-421-5137 for more information.