

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

March 2025

Quota Achieved!

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

Arkansas
Florida
Idaho
Illinois
Louisiana
Minnesota
New Jersey
New York
North Carolina
Oklahoma
Puerto Rico
South Carolina
South Dakota
Utah
Vermont
Wisconsin
Wyoming

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Membership by Kathleen Wenthe, National Membership Chairman

As the warmth of spring quickly approaches, it's the perfect time to shake off those winter blues and emerge from our winter hibernation in order to refocus on the essential work within the DAV Auxiliary. Each member plays a crucial role in our mission, and together, we can achieve great things. For the DAV Auxiliary, this season is a golden opportunity to engage with potential new members and reinforce our commitment to supporting veterans and their families. Let's seek out new members who share our passion for serving veterans and their families.

One of the simplest and most effective ways to engage potential new members is through personal interaction. Introduce yourself to individuals in your community, share the fantastic work the DAV Auxiliary does, and invite them to join our cause. By talking about the impact we make every day, you can inspire others to become part of our mission.

What better way to meet new potential members than by setting up a booth or table at your local spring festival which will allow you to engage directly with community members and spread awareness about the DAV Auxiliary. Our national office will be happy to provide free literature to support your efforts – all you need to do is call or email to request it.

It's equally important to keep our existing members active and involved. Try sending postcards to remind them of upcoming meetings! Letting them know they are missed can help re-establish connections.

Keeping members busy with various activities and setting achievable goals can foster a sense of purpose and accomplishment. Be creative in finding ways to keep everyone informed and excited about the latest incentives and initiatives from the national office.

We are thrilled to announce a new recruitment incentive alongside our existing Florida Vacation incentive. New members who start their life membership with just a \$50 down payment will be automatically entered into an exclusive drawing to have their entire life membership balance paid in full. This opportunity runs through April 30, so don't delay. On May 1, TWO lucky winners will receive this incredible award. Even if a member's name isn't drawn, flexible and affordable payment options starting as low as \$20 per year are available.

Remember, the simplest way to recruit a new member is to simply ask. Be enthusiastic about the organization and share your story. By sharing your story, our mission and the positive impact we have on veterans lives, you can inspire others to join and be an active member. Your enthusiasm and commitment can make all the difference in growing our membership.

By engaging potential new members, re-engaging current members, and taking advantage of recruitment incentives, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans and their families. Let's seize this season of opportunity and work together to build a brighter future for all.

Community Service by Jane Casher, National Community Service Chairman

Community Service according to Wikipedia is defined as: “voluntary work performed by a person or a group of people intended to help for the benefit and betterment of people in a particular area.” For the DAV Auxiliary it is about serving Veterans and their families in the community. “Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world” – Howard Zinn.

The Annual Reports will soon arrive to the Adjutant of a DAV Auxiliary Unit. In the DAV Auxiliary Procedure and Program Manual on pages 33 and 34 you will find information and guidelines on how to complete the forms. The State Departments will have a return date; make sure your Unit has met this deadline and signed the reports.

The recommendation from the 2024 National Judging Committee for the Community Service Report is to attach a detailed explanation if donations are over \$1000. In the DAV Auxiliary 2024 Fall Conference book on pages 25 to 29 you will find examples to use. All services completed within the community must be provided to Veterans and/or their families. They do not have to be members of DAV or DAV Auxiliary.

I look forward to reading about the great accomplishments that the DAV Auxiliary Units are providing to the Veterans and their families residing within their communities. As the National Chairman for Community Service, I would love to see photographs of your Unit participating in their creative events. I will be organizing and assembling an album to be displayed at the 2025 National Convention in Las Vegas. If your Auxiliary Unit would like to submit a photo, mail it to Jane Casher, 166 Portobello Rd, Radcliff, Kentucky 40160. The photo should have a short narrative of the event. Make sure you have permission from all members to include Juniors that are in the photograph. No names please, just your Unit number, one photo per event. This is strictly voluntary, and the photo will be used for the album only and become the property of the national organization. Photos will not be returned. I look forward to assembling this Special Project.



**COMMUNITY
SERVICE HOURS**

Junior Activities by Kim Stake, National Junior Activities Chairman

In November, we had several junior members that participated in the DAV 5K in Cincinnati, OH. We also had Junior involvement in Veteran Day Parades and Junior members took cards and treats to the Nursing Homes and Veterans Hospital on Veteran’s Day.

Thank you to the Arkansas Juniors for the photo of the DAV 5K.

All pictures are welcome to be sent to me at lady-tazdevil64@gmail.com along with a signed copy from the parent/legal guardian giving permission for use.

We are experiencing very cold and snowy weather. This would be a good time to help veterans with shoveling or salting their walkways, checking their mail and maybe sharing a nice hot cup of cocoa.

To the older Juniors, if you are planning to attend college, the deadline for the DAV Auxiliary scholarship is March 21, 2025. Please take advantage of this opportunity to help enhance your leadership qualities.

Coming up on April 5, is Community Impact Day: it is a nationwide initiative organized by the DAV where people are encouraged to volunteer their time to support veterans in their communities. I would like to challenge everyone to donate an hour of their time to help in supporting these veterans. The primary goal is to spend time with veterans with helping in yardwork, delivering a meal, or taking treats and listening as they tell their stories. Make plans to get out there and serve by teaching, fixing, and donating your time.



Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

February 22-25, I attended the DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Washington DC. While there for educational seminars and advocating for important veteran legislation, Mae Holmes and our Auxiliary programs were never far from my mind. Almost every seminar and event I attended had something that was applicable to our DAV Auxiliary programs.

Americanism: For the third time, I had the opportunity to visit Arlington National Cemetery. I had the honor of witnessing the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I was privileged to witness the laying of a wreath by our Auxiliary National Commander. No matter how many times I have been to Arlington, no matter how many times I have been witness to these ceremonies, it always touches me and is a solemn reminder of all the sacrifices that have been made by our men and women in the military for the freedoms we often take for granted.

Community Service: Have you heard of DAV's Community Impact Day? This second-year event will take place on April 5. Last year's inaugural event had over 900 participants. This year their goal is to have 1,300 volunteers participate, so make sure you go to communityimpactday.org to sign up for this great initiative. Use your actions to say thank you to the veterans in your community and make an impact!

Jr Activities: During the seminars many activities were shared that demonstrate how our members, DAV and Auxiliary, can get involved. Most of these activities would also work for helping to increase the involvement of our juniors. From LVAP to VAVS. From DAV Community Impact Day to fundraising. Involve your juniors as much as you can. You are their teachers. You are their mentors. Demonstrate the path to service and they will follow.

Membership: I had opportunities to speak with DAV members about Auxiliary membership and the benefits of the Auxiliary. I had conversations about growing the Auxiliary. I shared what the DAV Auxiliary was and how we help people who had never heard of the Auxiliary. It was a great opportunity to spread the word about who we are, what we do and our mission of helping veterans and their families.

VAVS: Did you know that in 2024 DAV and Auxiliary members volunteered 48 million hours? Or that our transportation network drivers drove over 586,000 hours and 9.3 million miles this past year? Or that since 1987 our volunteer drivers have driven 761 million miles? Neither did I! Our VA volunteers are doing great things in their VA's and I encourage you all to keep up the great work!

Legislation: The main reason why we all gathered in Washington DC – to advocate for our veterans and their families. Senate and House representatives were visited. Seminars were presented to educate on DAV Critical Policy goals. The DAV National Commander testified before the joint veterans affairs committee. I learned that I was a small part, but a part none the less, of the 626,000 emails that were sent to our legislative representatives through DAV CAN. If you're not signed up for DAV CAN, do so today so you too can be part of the impact! Remember, CAN - it's not just for DAV and Auxiliary members, share it with all your friends and family so they too can advocate for our veterans.

Mid-Winter was once again a great experience. While typically a DAV event, the Auxiliary is still able to be an active part in the seminars and advocate for veterans alongside our DAV counterparts. I learned knowledge that can be taken back to my unit and state. Knowledge I already had was reinforced. I was able to take the information and activities from Mid-Winter and apply them to our Auxiliary programs, and in the end our Mae Holmes report. Speaking of those reports, we only have a few more months in our year – start planning now to get them filled out and turned in, especially your Mae Holmes. Let National see how much you are doing for the veterans and families in your area!

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



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

DAV AUXILIARY

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VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

Even though the holidays are behind us, that doesn't mean Operation Mail Call for the local VA Medical Centers should stop. Every day, a veteran is being admitted to a facility for care, and our organization could be the only form of communication they have. Our greeting card might make a difference in their day, or even their entire hospital stay. Each unit is encouraged to take a few moments before or after their meeting to write out a few cards and send them to me. Cards can be handmade or purchased from the Dollar Tree and filled out. Not only is this an easy project, but it also is a great way to get volunteer hours for your annual report form. Cards should be sent to: Patty Davis, 213 Southtowne Pl., Apt. AA210, South Milwaukee, WI 53172.

I would like to thank the units in Massachusetts and Wisconsin for their support of Operation Mail Call during Salute to Patient Veterans Week. The outpouring of love was tremendous!

Speaking of annual report forms, don't forget to start gathering your information for the report! Remember, only certified volunteer hours with the VA Medical Center may be counted on this report. However, all monetary volunteer projects should be counted. All projects should be itemized. Be descriptive. Your unit is proud of the work you do, and so are we. Make sure you are meeting the deadline for your report and they are completed as required.

National History Book Coordinator by Mary Ellen Bell, Coordinator

Hello Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Members! Can you believe it is already March and the 7th month of National Commander Christopher Easley's term as National Commander? Have you been to an event and taken photos that you would like to share as a remembrance of Chris's term?

Maybe Veteran's Day events, Mid-Winter Conference, Thanksgiving week, National Americanism week, or the Laying of the Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown? Did your state put on a school of instruction? Do you have photos of your Auxiliary members participating in events? Are you sponsoring an event for Commander Easley? Please be sure to take pictures!

If you do have such pictures on your phone or camera, each of these are unique and would be of interest to National Commander Chris. Please share what you have captured!

Do not write on the back of the photos. Please use a post-it note! Include the event name, date and location. Also include the state, unit name and unit number. Lastly, identify all personnel in the photo with names and titles.

Digital photos may be submitted to marye.bell9947@gmail.com with the subject "DAV Auxiliary National History." Copies may also be mailed to Mary Ellen Bell, National History Book Coordinator, 4636 Friars Lane, Grand Prairie, TX 75052.