

## DAV Auxiliary - VAVS 2019-2020 Year-End Report

Melissa Pierce, National Rep

Ann Glende, Deputy Rep, Velma Steinman, Deputy Rep

Greetings National Officers and members! I would like to start off by thanking DAV Auxiliary National Commander Diane Franz for appointing me as your DAV Auxiliary National VAVS Representative for 2019-2020. I would also like to thank Ann Glende and Velma Steinman for their assistance.

The past few months have definitely been crazy. From quarantines, social distancing, shut-downs, no visitor policies, cancelled conventions and more it has definitely changed how, and even if, we've been able to help our VA's and our Veterans.

This year I received VAVS reports from 20 states –119 of our more than 500 Units. I can only assume that these low numbers are a reflection of our Units not being able to meet and the cancellations of our State Conventions.

Below is a summary of the 119 Unit reports I received. In parentheses I have included the 2018-2019 numbers for comparison.

Regularly Scheduled Volunteers:	284 (540)	27,215.95 (39,420) Hours
Sponsored Volunteers:	53 (195)	1114 ( 7,747) Hours
Occasional Volunteers:	409 (503)	5,006 (11,117.5) Hours
Number of New Volunteers Recruited:	71 (122)	
Unit Projects – Value (Non-Cash):	\$142,335.44 (\$186,100.53)	
Cash Donations:	\$ 50,615.98 (\$73,311.59)	
Units Holding Fundraiser: 12 (23)	Total Hrs: 4,069 (5,172)	Amt Raised: \$31,679.77 (\$54,714.94)

While our numbers look down, I have confidence that it is due to the fact that we received fewer reports this year than we received last year because of Units that were unable to hold meetings and the cancellation of State Conventions. As our VA's and CBOC's begin loosening restrictions I encourage our members to reach out to find out what their needs are and how our Auxiliary can help.

I received minutes and recorded attendance for Representatives and Deputies from 90 VA facilities.

I received Annual Joint Reviews (AJRs) from and sent acknowledgements to 23 VA facilities. Our members continue to step up and help out wherever and whenever needed. Continue your work and encourage others, both DAV Auxiliary members and community members, to join in and assist with our mission of helping Veterans and their families. VA staff and Veterans appreciate all that we do.

In September I attended National Fall Conference in Lexington, KY. My presentation focused on the word volunteerism. I handed out VAVS Volunteer name badge stickers as members and guests helped us create a "Word Cloud" of why they volunteer, what they like best about volunteering, etc.

NAC Conference was scheduled for the end of April, but like so many other things, was cancelled.

So thank you for your continuous efforts. Without you we would not be able to accomplish the great things we do and impact the lives that we do. Thank you to Pat Kemper for her insight and guidance. As General James H Doolittle said, "There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." If this is true, we are already a strong group of people, who can only get stronger as we work together.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Pierce  
DAV Auxiliary National VAVS Representative