

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | March 2020



Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for making 2019-2020 Quota!

Florida
Indiana
Louisiana
Massachusetts
Minnesota
Oregon
Utah
Vermont

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From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

This month begins a transitional time of year. Winter is fading and Spring is on the horizon. Soon, units will be electing officers for the 2020-2021 membership year. With unit elections, remember that all life members, in good standing, must be notified at least 10 days prior when the nominations/election will be held. This can be done by regular mail, email, or newsletter, but again, all life members must be notified. Posting a sign in the meeting location does not meet this requirement.



State Conventions will soon begin. Try to make every effort to attend your State Convention. Your attendance is extremely important to a successful convention, and when electing new state officers. Have a voice in determining the future of your state department.

In unity with DAV chapters and DAVA units, we can accomplish all our goals in all our programs, and our mission "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families."



Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Chairman

Welcome to March!!! Sign up those Junior Members! Junior Members are relatives of Disabled Veterans, Veterans, or Auxiliary Members. Your Chapter and Unit have signed up Junior members so have the regular members who need to be asked to get their children, grandchildren, and other relatives to come join the DAVA. The information and application forms are online!!!!

There are two types of Junior membership.

- Complimentary – Junior memberships are complimentary up to age 18 at which time they will be automatically converted to a part-life membership and payment billings will commence.
- Junior Life membership is also available for those under the age of 18 with a minimum down payment of \$20.00 to be applied toward a \$250 life membership amount.

SOOOOOO bring in the youth of your Unit and Chapter and make it a FAMILY!!!! March ideas for the Junior Members are to continue to work on a Junior Unit History Book. Finding items to put in the Junior Activities Report for 2019-2020. Helping that Junior who wants to fill out the DAVA Junior Award Questionnaire.

March is the "lion and lamb" month. They can help do service projects with clean up from the winter months with your local parks, help a local Veteran and their family with yard work and even at the local Chapter and Unit home with "Spring Projects." Have them bring "Smiles" to the local DAV Veteran in your Community.

Caregiver Initiative Program by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

May will be here before you know it and with it comes the Month of the Military Caregiver. This is a time to honor, show your support and thank the millions of Military caregivers in the United States. Now you're probably wondering why I'm mentioning this in March. It's to give you and your Units time to plan something to honor the caregivers in your area.

These don't have to be grand, over-the-top gestures, but just little things to show you care and are thinking of them. One such option could be to start a collection drive for gift cards - coffee shops, restaurants, nail salons, movie theaters, etc., and donate them to your local VA Caregiver program or Social Work program. The gift cards don't have to be large amounts – a simple 5 or 10 dollar gift card will let the caregiver know someone is thinking of them. And don't forget to ask our DAV Chapter, co-workers, church members and other community members for support – many hands will make a huge difference!

Reach out to your local VA or CBOC and see if they have anything planned. If they do, ask how your group can help. If they don't have anything planned, ask if you can set a date to have a "thank-you" or "we support you" cake in the lobby or canteen area.

Talk to your members and contacts. Is there a caregiver among your friends and family? Ask if they'd like to do coffee, grab an ice cream cone, or just hang out. Maybe they'd like some help around the house, assistance with grocery shopping, drop off a meal they can just pop in the oven, or run errands.

Assisting a Veteran caregiver isn't just about the retreats and time away from daily responsibilities. It is about morale and developing a sense of community and family with both the caregivers and their Veterans.

"The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves." ~Helen Keller

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Community Service by Linda Gerke, National Community Service Chairman

Homelessness has always existed in the United States, but only in recent years has the issue become a more prevalent and noticeable phenomenon. Homeless veterans began to come to the attention of the public at the same time. It is a common sight to drive through a community and see a person holding a sign **"Homeless Veteran, Please Help."**

Some possible ideas on how you can help the homeless veteran population in your area of the USA include:

- Take a look around your own local community and see if there is a need for helping homeless veterans. The odds are if you live in a city or urban area there are veterans who need help finding stable housing and other resources.
- Contact any agencies and coalitions in your area who work with homeless veterans. You may be surprised at how great the need is in your area. Volunteer to help in any way you can, whether it is filling out paperwork or locating homeless veterans who need assistance and shelter.
- Donate to DAV to support their commitment to veterans. Even a small donation can have a big impact on the life of a homeless veteran.
- Contact your politicians and elected officials to bring attention to the need for helping homeless veterans. When voters reach out to those in elected positions, changes in the current laws or veterans programs are possible so that veterans receive additional assistance and have an easier time accessing the programs designed to help them once their military service is finished.

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

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Mae Holmes Chairman

As National Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Chairman, I want to thank all of you for your continued hard work and volunteer hours assisting our veterans and their families. You are making a positive difference in the lives of our heroes, their spouses, children, and widows. Our auxiliary mission has no boundaries when it comes to the various ways we can provide a hand up to all who have served and need us now. Many of you are volunteering at our VA hospitals and clinics, performing community service, getting involved with legislative issues affecting our veterans and military, working with junior members with various projects, attending veteran and military patriotic celebrations, promoting Americanism and please, don't forget our lifeline, recruiting and mentoring new members.



NOW, it is getting time to start documenting all that fantastic "love" on the current 2019-2020 National Report Forms. Use only the new forms as there have been some changes. All state adjutants are required to distribute the correct forms to the units along with the proper return address and deadline due date. The forms are also on the DAV Auxiliary website. Follow instructions on each form, check totals and complete necessary attachments!!! Make sure ALL forms are properly signed and dated!!!

******* ALL UNITS ARE REQUESTED BY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO COMPLETE THE MAE HOLMES OUTSTANDING UNIT REPORT!!! THE STATE ADJUTANT HAS TO COLLECT ALL REPORTS AND SEND A COPY TO EACH RESPECTIVE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN*******

Time is also drawing near for planning unit elections and state conventions. Communication between the units, state departments, and national headquarters is imperative. Officers at all levels need to render assistance where needed. Following proper procedures will help prevent mistakes, so never hesitate to ask for clarification. We are a TEAM!!!!

In advance, thank you for, "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families," practicing our four main principles of Comradeship, Loyalty, Devotion and Service, and thank you for completing the 2019-20 National Report Forms.

May God continue to bless our troops, our veterans and may we always stay "America Strong"!!!

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VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

Spring is just around the corner and so are our State and National Conventions.

Each year our Units are strongly encouraged to fill out and submit the VAVS annual report for judging at the State and National level. While this form may seem unimportant or time consuming, this (and other annual report forms) are an important part of the Auxiliary's mission of helping our disabled Veterans and their families. Without this report our State departments and National office and officers may not be aware of all the wonderful things we are accomplishing, the unique VA events we are taking part in, our many hours of volunteering, the many items that have been purchased or collected and donated or the dollars that have been given in support our local VA's.

But more than that, these reports show our Unit members all the good things we are doing. They teach our Juniors to give back to others. They encourage our new members to get involved. They show non-members what they can be a part of by joining. They are that little bit of encouragement that shows when we work together we can make a difference in the lives of our Veterans.

So while you may want to skip the work and forego the reports - don't. Be proud of everything your Unit is doing. Take the opportunity to brag on your accomplishments to the State and National level. Share your events and ideas – they may be the catalyst another Unit needs to get more involved.

It may seem like you're not doing much, but when we add it all together we, as an Auxiliary, are accomplishing great things and I for one, can't wait to see what you're doing!

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



Save the Date:

2020 Natl. Fall Conf.
October 1—3, 2020
DoubleTree by Hilton,
Lawrenceburg
51 Walnut St.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
Telephone: 812.539.8888

\$129 Single/Double
\$139 Triple; \$149 Quad

All rates will include complimentary breakfast the mornings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday only. Free garage parking.

Additional accommodations:
Hollywood Casino
777 Hollywood Dr.,
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
Telephone: 888.274.6797
\$129.99 per night

Rates includes complimentary breakfast on the mornings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at DoubleTree, free parking, round-trip transportation to/from conference location.

Make your reservations early to avoid sell out!

DAV AUXILIARY

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"Unity"

Unit Activity Spotlight

When William A. Smith, Jr., Unit 2 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, was approached with a problem, they knew they had to find a solution. Veterans in their area were in need of reliable transportation to and from their medical appointment; however, funds were not available to purchase a DAV Transportation Van. At the next business meeting, the unit knew it was the right thing to do and jumped into action.

Hosting a public bingo is hard work, but it paid off in the end. The unit has volunteers who are doing it all – selling bingo paper, working the floors, calling bingo, and cleaning up at the end of the night. Within a year, enough money was raised to achieve their goal of purchasing a van and they shared the good news with the Battle Creek VA Medical Center. Veterans would not have to worry about transportation to the Muskegon and Wyoming VA Clinics and could receive the medical care they needed.

"We have already started to set aside funds in case another vehicle is needed for other facilities," said John Olinger, Unit Commander. "Many veterans in this area are losing their driving privileges and need the help of DAV Transportation. It is our pleasure to help them." The van, which proudly states, "Please enjoy your ride courtesy of DAV Auxiliary Unit #2," is already picking up veterans in many cities throughout Michigan.

This is another great example of unit members aiding and assisting veterans and their families. We appreciate the dedication and hard work of Unit 2, and look forward to stories on how they were able to help in the future.



Share Your News!

Send photos of your DAV Auxiliary unit or juniors in action to dava@dav.org. Include a description of the activity and the names of the individuals in the pictures.



Pictured: DAVA Unit 2 Adjutant/Treasurer Kim Olinger, Battle Creek VAMC Director James Doelling, DAVA Unit 2 Commander John Olinger and DAV Service Officer Roger Hall

"Volunteers are love in motion."

~Unknown