

DAVA Auxiliary Headquarters News



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



Quota Achieved!

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

- Florida
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Utah
- Vermont
- Wyoming

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From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

I hope this finds you healthy. These past weeks have been very difficult for all of us. But, we must not forget to keep in touch with each other, either by phone calls, text messages, cards, or emails.

It is unfortunate that state conventions have had to cancel due to the Covid-19. The national representatives who attend the conventions look forward to being with all the members. We take away many wonderful experiences, friendships, and ideas to share.

Stay safe. Please follow the guidelines set by the CDC, your state, and local governments. You have probably heard this often: "Together we can get through this."

We look forward to seeing you at the National Convention in Dallas. In closing, remember, in unity, we can accomplish our present and future goals and commitments for the betterment of our veterans and their families. God bless you, our veterans, and the USA.



"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." - *Mattie J.T. Stepanek*

National Commander's Testimonial Dinner

The testimonial dinner honoring National Commander Diane Franz has been rescheduled for **July 11** at The Florida Hotel & Conference Center in Orlando.

Previously reserved rooms have been canceled. Rooms will now have to be reserved for **July 9–12** at a special rate of \$127 per night (\$19 resort fee has been waived). Call 407-859-1500 and ask for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Dep testimonial room block.

There will be a meet and greet on Friday, July 10, from 6:30 PM—8:30 PM. The testimonial dinner will begin at 6 p.m. on July 11. The cost is \$60.

Mail checks and RSVPs to Delores Roussey, 407 Fletcher St., Port Charlotte, FL 33954. Make checks payable to DAVA State Department of Florida indicating "testimonial" on the memo line.

Membership by Darlene Spence, National Membership Chairman

We have, perhaps, come face to face with the greatest recruiting challenge the majority of us have ever witnessed. Although the coronavirus (Covid-19) has disrupted our DAVA day-to-day operations, our membership goal has not changed, and membership is still vital to fulfilling our organization's mission of service to our Veterans and their families.

Despite the disruption, the need to practice social distancing and the need to be individually vigilant in order to avoid community spread of the virus, we must persevere. We have "begun a good work" that should be continued. We have made significant sacrifices in the past to meet our membership recruiting goals and we can do it again! Please remember, our recruiting resources have not changed, we just need to change how they are used. I implore you to remain strong; continue to encourage each other; share ideas, think out of the box; involve family members and Juniors in recruiting efforts; and, take advantage of communication technology.

We do not waiver, we do not quit. In unity we move forward to reach or surpass our goal because, as the DAVA, we have the ability to work beyond our potential.

Mask-up, Stay Safe and Be Careful out there.



We are at 99.85%, which calculates to us needing only 215 new members to meet Membership goal.

"The work of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by who we are. We are the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, we are special, and let us never forget it. Yes, let us count our blessings and not our problems."

~Dr. Charles W. Edwards, Jr.

Community Service by Linda Gerke, National Community Service Chairman

It is time to prepare the Unit Community Service report. The DAV Auxiliary Community Service Program has undergone an important and necessary change. Please take note that Volunteerism and service efforts outside the scope of service to veterans and their families may no longer be performed in the name of the DAV Auxiliary and should not be entered on the Community Service report. The report has been modified to reflect the change.

The upper portion of the report which includes Unit Name, Unit Number, City, State, Number of Senior Members and Total senior members working on Community Service should be completed in its entirety.

For the members who have not reported all the good things you have done to serve veterans and their families in the community or for the units that have not maintained a list of activities performed, now is a good time to add up the dollar value, time, and miles and enter the information on the Community Service report.

When you begin tallying the hours worked, money spent, and miles driven, you will be amazed. Show all the good work you have done by completing the report and sending to your state department. Win that **State** Community Service Award! Win that **National** Community Service Award!

The final portion of the report is affixing necessary signature/s. Don't miss this step. During the stay-at-home measures, units may need to be creative to secure the necessary signature/s.

Thank you for all that you do for service to our veterans and their families.

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Chairman

Mae Holmes was elected as DAV Auxiliary National Commander in 1954 and established this award to be presented to the unit that had performed the most outstanding work in all the Auxiliary programs. It reflects the totals of each unit's Membership, Americanism, Legislative, VAVS, and Community Service Reports and includes "Special" projects. By compiling these reports nationwide, DAV Auxiliary members can see that they are fulfilling their mission by serving our veterans and their families.

I know that we are all in the middle of a global pandemic known as "COVID-19" that has changed most of our lives forever. Unfortunately, according to medical reports, many of our members may be at a high risk of getting ill so please practice social distancing. If the unit plans to complete the annual reports, I encourage you to use your phones and computers to gather your unit members' information and send them in by mail or electronically. The 2020 Annual Report forms are available on the auxiliary website. Regardless, I want to thank you for everything you have done and continue to do to assist our veterans and their families.

As a service organization, members of the DAV and Auxiliary are naturally bonded by a common thread with a deep desire to help and support others in their time of need. Thank each one of you for your dedication and love for your fellow man. There are many ways to help, but stay safe and protect them and yourselves. A special thank you to our entire National DAV staff for their dedication by providing emergency assistance for our veterans and their families.

Many of you are in a volunteer or career position that keeps you in the public performing your duties. Our military personnel are still on the front lines protecting our freedom, first responders are answering emergency calls, hospital staff are working around the clock, grocery store clerks are stocking shelves, sanitation workers are vital, volunteers are collecting and delivering food, many are donating much needed blood, and educators are working non stop to assist with students studying at home. The list doesn't have an end.

We may be disappointed that local meetings and state conventions have been cancelled due the virus, but we are a dedicated family, we will stay united and fulfill our mission.

May God continue to bless our veterans, our troops, heal our land and always keep us "America Strong"!!!

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Dinner is Served!

We are proud to recognize the members of Cactus DAV Auxiliary Unit #2 in Tucson, Arizona. They prepared and served dinner to Fisher House residents on the campus of the Southern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care System (SAVAHCS) on February 19, 2020. The spaghetti dinner, complete with a tossed green salad, rolls, and cake for dessert, was more than the comfort of a homemade meal for the veteran families, it was a time for those families to interact with others who possessed an empathetic understanding of their respective journeys.

Fisher House is open to family members of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA Medical Centers and are normally located within walking distance of the treatment center. Currently there are 87 Fisher Houses that can accommodate from 16 to 42 families at no charge. Many more of these "home away from home" facilities are under construction or in design.

This is another way that units can *make a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families*. Thank you, Cactus Unit #2, for helping these families!



Members of unit #2 and Fisher House Staff

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 Double-Tree, free parking, round-trip transportation to/from conference location.

Make your reservations early to avoid sell out!

VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Representative

“Every action we take impacts the lives of others around us. The question is: Are you aware of your impact?” -Arthur Carmazzi

Impact. It’s a word that’s recently been on my mind with all the uncertainty right now. I’m guessing that it has possibly been on some of yours also. It has also had me thinking about our, the DAV Auxiliary’s, impact. As Auxiliary members we are aware of all the great things we do to help our Veterans and their families. We are aware of our many volunteer hours at VA’s and CBOC’s across the country. We are aware of the donations, monetary and items, that we make to our VAVS offices. We are aware of the time we have spent and monies we have raised to support the DAV vans that transport Veterans to their appointments. We are aware of the many hours and miles that we, or someone we know, have spent behind the steering wheels of these vans.

But are we truly aware of our impact? Impact – The friendly smile and cheery help from the volunteer greeter may be the first person a Veteran has seen or talked to in days. Impact – Those sweats and shirts we donated are going to a Veteran who hasn’t changed clothes in weeks. Impact – That soap and shampoo we collected are being used by a Veteran who may have last bathed in rain water. Impact – The money we donated is purchasing an air mattress for a Veteran who is moving off the street for the first time in years. Impact – Those phone cards are being used so the VA doctors, nurses and other staff can reach a Veteran they otherwise might not be able to talk to. Impact – That DAV van is bringing a nervous Veteran just diagnosed with cancer to their first chemo appointment. Impact – That new van rider just lost their license because of health issues and for the first time in years is dependent on someone else for help. Impact – The half hour, one-hour or even-two hour van trip to the VA is the only social contact and camaraderie some Veterans have.

Yes, I know we are aware of all the good we are doing as Units, State Departments and on the National level, but do we truly understand the impact we are having. I would encourage you to talk with your members when making donations or discussing volunteering, not just about how much to give or who may be doing what, but why it’s important and the lives we can impact when we all work together.



Annual Unit Officer Elections

Many units have had to delay annual officer elections. Elections can be held when it is safe for groups to resume gatherings, but until that time, the current officers will remain in their current positions until their successors have been elected and installed.