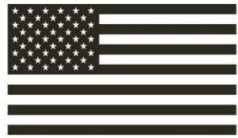


We Lobby, We Vote, We Help...
Our Veterans



DAV Auxiliary Wisconsin

State Department of Wisconsin, Inc.

April 2020



From the desk of State Commander Elizabeth Honaker

Hello all. Well, this has really been a strange year. I just pray that all of you are well and doing fine. This virus has really scared all of us, we will all be okay, will stick together and get thru this rough road that we are on right now.

Most VA places are locked down and we can not visit them but so far I know they will help by e-mail or by phone. Hospitals are taking only those that have to be seen now and transportation will get you there, just be sure and call and check with them before you go.

We are planning everything for the Convention as if it is a go and so that we will be ready when the lockdown is lifted. Right now, it is one day at a time and if there is any thing new we will be told as soon as possible.

I will not be running a second time for State Commander at this coming convention. Julie Hert is the Sr. Vice and will be going up for State Commander. I think she will be an awesome Commander and do an outstanding job for the DAV Auxiliary. Julie is a wonderful person and has been doing a great job not only with her position but helping her husband, Commander Mike, with the DAV State Department. All the people have done a very good job. I'm very proud of all of them and I just want to thank each of them for jobs well done.

If you are interested in going up the chairs as an officer for the Auxiliary be sure and sign up for a job. We need people to help and volunteer for positions. I have learned a lot, met lots of great people that are working very hard and are excited about their unit and what they are able to do to help the disabled veterans and their families. It is very rewarding.

I will still be around if God is willing and the creek don't rise to stand by you and help you any way I can. I have so enjoyed the Auxiliary and it has really been a comfort to me since John has passed.

If any of you have any questions or anything I can do or help you, please call. It has been a joyful job to me.

May God's blessings be upon you and keep you safe. See you at convention!

From the desk of State Sr. Vice Commander Julie Hert

Greetings to all my fellow Auxiliary members. When pulling together an article, I normally would talk about membership, highlight an upcoming event or share a fantastic endeavor that one of our Units is currently engaged with. However my number one concern is the health of our Auxiliary members and Veterans due to the Covid 19 virus. Please take care of yourselves during this time period. Please do all the prescribed precautions such as keeping proper social distance, hand washing, etc... Together we can make it through this unique and challenging moment in history. As Americans, it's our nature that we are a tough and resilient people. Please stay healthy and we will continue the mission as soon as this public health crisis subsides.

Reflecting upon this last year, it was a mixture of personal challenges and mission accomplished moments. Due to my husband, Michael, being the Department Commander, I had the opportunity to be exposed to a variety of experiences. This includes attending the resident picnic at Union Grove VA Nursing Home, touring VA Medical facilities in Milwaukee and Madison, observing our Department team engaged in public hearings at the State Capitol plus was able to share Auxiliary information at a presentation in the Corporate offices with the Green Bay Packers. We also had personal challenges

such as the passing of Mikes mother, Anna Hert, and our own health issues. I truly appreciate all the love and support that both Michael and I experienced from you.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I'm running for the 2020-2021 State Commander position. I have successfully served as the State Auxiliary Junior Vice Commander and Senior Vice Commander. It would be an honor to serve our Veterans in the capacity of the Auxiliary State Commander and am asking for your support. Working together with the Department team, I know that we can have a positive impact on the lives of our Veterans.

From the desk of State Jr. Vice Commander Frank Woiak, III

Greetings everyone! First, I would like to say I hope everyone is doing as well as possible as we go through this difficult time with the virus. I hope everyone is safe and healthy.

With that being said, I hope everyone is still trying to find ways to keep juniors in your unit active. We may not be able to meet, but maybe you can encourage the juniors to make cards for patients at hospitals, first responders, health care workers, or even grocery store employees. These can be mailed to make sure we are social distancing.

Please remind juniors to complete their project for this year. I am excited to see everything that has been done and how creative the juniors are.

Lastly, I am running for the position of State Sr. Vice Commander. I have learned a lot, have many great mentors, and look forward to learning more. Thank you to everyone who has supported me and encouraged me, and I hope you'll consider supporting me again this year.

Thank you all and stay well.

From the desk of State Adjutant Patty Davis

What a crazy world we are living in right now! I am praying that everyone is safe, healthy, and taking care of themselves. I know firsthand how difficult this time is – I haven't gotten to see family or friends in several weeks, and am especially going through granddaughter withdrawals. I look forward to this time being passed us and moving forward.

I know many of you have questions about how this safer at home policy is affecting unit elections. Right now, we all have to just sit tight. We cannot risk our safety and health to have a meeting or elections. Once this has passed and restrictions are lifted, units will be able to move forward with meetings and holding elections. Until that time, all officers will stay in place. As a friendly reminder, once elections are held, please don't forget to forward the 2020-2021 officer report to state and national headquarters.

Secondly, I know state convention has been weighing heavily on everyone's minds. Right now all I can say is sit tight. As of this letter, we are proceeding with planning the convention as planned. We have to take this virus day by day and make a decision that is best for everyone involved. As soon as we know more, you all will know more.

Before I close, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Elizabeth Honaker for appointing me as Adjutant. This job is a huge part of me and my family. I cannot thank you all enough for your continued support. I have learned so much and met so many great people, and I look forward to doing so for many years to come.

Please, take care of yourself and each other during this trying time. Be safe and stay well.

From the desk of State Treasurer Ann Glende

What a new decade this has been! I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and healthy during the pandemic. There is not much to report from a treasurer standpoint at this time. All units have made their mandate payments and we are waiting for just one more unit to complete their financial report. The state finance committee has met and completed what we think is a great budget for 2020-2021, and this year's budget is well below target. Sweepstakes donations are coming in and we've had phenomenal support from DAV Chapters and DAV Auxiliary Units.

As a reminder as we eventually get into unit election season, a review of the unit records must be completed prior to the installation of the treasurer. This is not a full audit, but just a review to make sure that all records are in order. After July 1 the unit will be responsible for completing the financial report and having the treasurer's books audited in full.

As always, please let me know if I can be of any assistance. Praying for all of you!

From the desk of State Judge Advocate Rose Williams

Happy Spring! Although we are all trying to get through this pandemic, it is Spring which means new life to everything!

We need to carry on as an organization and still do what we can for our Veterans and their families. I don't know how many of the Units are still holding meetings, I know Unit 30 cancelled theirs for April, but we still need to remember our business of electing Unit officers, doing annual reports and getting ready for State Convention.

Please remember when doing elections the requirements for membership that can be found on page U-2, Article VI-Election of Unit Officers, Section 2. Please do not try to force someone to take an office if they don't want to, let it be their choice. Also, when installing Unit Officers, use the Auxiliary Ritual for installation as stated on page U-3, Installation of Unit Officers, Section 1. The installation ritual can be found on page U-27. These can all be found in the National Constitution and Bylaws book.

I would like to thank everyone for electing me to this position last Convention. It is an honor to serve the Auxiliary in this position. Hoping to see you at Convention! Stay home, stay safe and stay well!

REMEMBER TO BE FAIR TO EACH OTHER!

From the desk of State Chaplain Linda Gresbach

Hello! I hope that all of you are staying happy and healthy during these difficult times. Changes in our lifestyles and routines because of the covid-19 virus have made us think about what things really matter the most to us. The people in our lives should be one of them. Check with your family, friends, Auxiliary members, veterans, and seniors to see if they are ok or if they need anything. With "social distancing" in practice now leave your contact information with them so they can reach you even when they just want to talk.

Now that we are "safer at home" for a while, it might be easy to think that there is nothing we can do to help. But there is one thing that all of us could do and that is pray.

Pray for a swift end to covid-19. Pray for all health care professionals who are working nonstop to heal and to help those that are afflicted. Keep them safe and healthy so they can continue to do their good works. Pray for all leaders making decisions. Ask God to give them knowledge to act with wisdom and sincerity for the wellbeing of all they serve. Pray for all churches and clergy, granting them patience and creativity to lead and minister in these unprecedented circumstances. And pray for all those that have been exposed to or suffer from this virus. May God, our great healer, give them strength, healing, and protection. And, lastly, pray for our service men and women who are tirelessly helping others all over the world, that they may remain healthy themselves.

It looks like our Convention is still planned for June. Hope to see all of you there.

Take care. Good health to you. And God's blessings to you for all the good work that you do.

From the desk of the Mae Holmes Advisor Rose Williams

Hello! I am sure all the Units have received either by email or snail mail the annual reports. Please remember, the Mae Holmes report is MANDATORY!!!

After you have filled out the rest of the reports, Mae Holmes is very easy to do. Remember to add just the report for VAVS and Community Service if your totals are over \$1,000.

I look forward to seeing you at Convention! Stay home, stay safe and stay well!

From the desk of King Veterans Home Representative Rose Williams

Greetings from King Veterans Home!

As you all may know, King has been closed to volunteers since February, not because of COVID-19, but because of one building having respiratory illness and one having gastrointestinal illness and not wanting members or volunteers going into different buildings. Mary Kolar, WI Secretary of Veterans Affairs then did close King to visitors and volunteers due to COVID-19.

We did however hold bingo in January and February. The members always have a great time.

Shelley Jandt, the director of the Marden Center did leave King and went on to follow other paths. At this time, we do not know who will take her place. Shelley was very good to work with and we will miss her!

DAV/A King Day will look a lot different this year. The members will eat a picnic lunch in their buildings and then come out to the park around 1:30 for music, ice cream and beverages. We have been talking about doing something in each of the buildings, there are only three now, in the morning, maybe coffee, donuts and some entertainment. That has been solidified yet. At 11:00 am, before the members eat lunch, names will be pulled for prizes. This is just for the members.

There will not be an Open House this year. We have run into some bad weather the last few years, so it was decided to have a family picnic for the members in late August or early September instead. The Veterans Organizations are invited to help out at this event.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!! Without them, we would not be able to hold bingo, parties and other events for the members!

From the desk of Zablocki VAVS Representative Patty Davis

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Zablocki VA Medical Center only has a handful of volunteers on site. All of the VSO offices are closed, DAV Transportation is still running, and we are all working together to get the job done and continue to support veterans.

As a part to Salute to Hospitalized Veterans week we held a cook-out in the lobby of the VA Medical Center. Bunzel's Meat and Catering once again catered the event, and veterans and their caregivers were treated to hot dogs, chips and water. We'd like to thank the Voluntary Services Department for assisting with the project, as well as DAV Chapter and Unit 19. It truly was a great day and we served almost 600 hotdogs! The leftover hotdogs were utilized at the TAG program, which is a recovery program held every day at the facility.

We are putting our heads together on what we can do for the summer once things are lifted throughout the facility. As always, we cannot continue our programs with your ongoing support, and we appreciate everything units, chapters, and members have done! Thank you!

From the desk of the State Finance Committee

We'd like to thank all of the chapters, units, members, and the community for their support of the Sweepstake donations. We are going to have another great year.

At our most recent finance meeting, we talked at length about changing the way we do auctions this year. We are considering going to all bucket raffles, including at hospitality, to that more people have a chance to win a prize! We will have more details at the convention but we hope that you will support this new endeavor. We cannot do this without the support of everyone, so please consider bringing a basket to state convention. Don't forget about those alcohol donations as well – beer, wine, liquor, and even mixers – so we can once again have a liquor pull!

If you have any questions or need help please let us know. Also, we will need members to be on the finance committee next year and hope you'll consider it! It's a lot of fun, you meet a lot of people, and at the end of the day it's all to support our great organization.