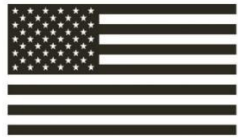


We Lobby, We Vote, We Help...
Our Veterans



DAV Auxiliary Wisconsin

State Department of Wisconsin, Inc.

February 2020



Special Announcement!!!

Thank you to a vote from the SEC's at State Fall Conference, DAV Auxiliary Wisconsin has officially relaunched our website!! While it is still a work in progress, we encourage you to share this great news with our members!! Take a look today – www.widava.com. Also, if you have suggestions for the website, please let us know!!

From the desk of State Commander Elizabeth Honaker

Hello to all! My goodness this past year has gone by so fast, it is almost unbelievable. I pray that you all had a wonderful holiday and safe trips. I've been so busy and have had a wonderful time meeting with different Units, Christmas parties and visiting VA hospitals. It's been fantastic!

In November I visited the Zablocki VA Medical Center. We talked about things that they are planning for the future. We took a tour and then we served Thanksgiving dinner to the residents who live there. It was a great time and very rewarding.

In December I went to some Christmas parties by different Units and met lots of wonderful people that I did not know and enjoyed every minute of that. We have got some wonderful people in our organization that are very sincere, loyal and just burning with energy to do everything they can to help our Veterans have a better and more productive life for themselves and their families.

Later in the month I went with Commander Hert and others to the Madison VA Hospital. We had a meeting with John Rohrer the hospital medical director and then we went on a tour of the place. We got to talk to some of the patients that were there and heard nothing but good things said about the hospital and staff. They have 117 rooms for those that have to stay awhile, four hospice rooms and a very nice therapy room with lots of equipment. The personnel and medical staff were very nice and the hospital also furnishes a valet service for the needy.

My journey as Commander so far has been so very delightful and rewarding and I am glad I had this opportunity to step up with God's help and say "YES" I can do this. Thank you for giving me this chance.

I also want to thank all of you for the good work you have done and are doing. The LVAP was a success. I am very proud of all of you. Good team work is the best and I know we can do that because you have proved this. I love working with you and I'm here for you and I'll do whatever to help you in anyway I can. I'm very PROUD of all our Units. THANK YOU for all that you do. You're the BEST.

Happy New Year 2020 and may God Bless you everyday. Now I'm off on another trip. I'm here for you!

From the desk of State Sr. Vice Commander Julie Hert

To my fellow Auxiliary, greetings as we enter 2020! The expectations are running high for DAVA-Wisconsin. Just a quick reminder but membership rates as of January 1st are \$250.00. This is an incredible reasonable rate and I encourage you to reach out to any prospective member. As of this writing, we just need 26 new members to make goal. This is an achievable goal and together we can make this a reality. The revised DAV Auxiliary membership applications are now available. Please contact dava@dav.org or 877-426-2838, option 8 to place an order. If you need any assistance or have questions please contact me at the following email address: hertjulie@yahoo.com

In closing, the bottom line this is about being of service to our Veterans and making a difference in their lives. Together we make that difference!

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

Hello everyone in the DAVA from your State Junior Vice Commander. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. My hops is that 2020 is great! Just a reminder to have your juniors get there project done for this year. Also, remember to let your juniors be involved and do projects with you. Your unit can record these ours on the annual junior report! Uur juniors are very important. With all that being said may all of you have a wonderful year.

From the desk of State Adjutant Patty Davis

It is hard to believe that we are now in 2020 and we less than six months away from State Convention. I hope that you all will plan to attend this year – it would be wonderful to have at least one representative from each unit attend. Convention information will be mailed to Unit Adjutants by the beginning of March. **Please, remember this is not your personal mail and should be shared!**

In January, each Unit Adjutant received the annual report forms. While we understand now all units complete these forms, it is **required** that the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit form be completed and submitted by each unit. Why not take the opportunity to showcase everything that your unit accomplishes? You all should be proud of the work that you do! Not to mention that great ideas we can all share because of these reports.

While you begin to make plans for convention, we'd like to remind everyone that anyone is able to attend the Pre and Post-SEC meeting at convention as an observer. Whether you are new to DAVA or have been a "seasoned" member, there is much to take away from these meetings. Plus, it's a great opportunity to speak to officers and find out how you can serve the state department.

Have you ever thought about becoming a state officer? Applications are now available to state office positions. If you have questions or your curiosity is peeked, please speak to any officer, past officer, or consult the National Constitution and Bylaws for information on positions. Every state is required to have a minimum state line of a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Adjutant (appointed), Treasurer, and Judge Advocate. That means we all need to unite together and work towards the mission of the DAV Auxiliary.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone of something very basic, but it seems to have been forgotten as of late. When your unit is contacted because something needs to be done or something is missing, it is not because anyone is being picked on or because we are trying to find reasons to contact units. Rather, it is because it is required. We all have to work together to make sure our organization is fulfilling our bylaws, and sometimes things happen – mail can be unpredictable, things get misplaced. It is not necessary to be upset or rude, because I can guarantee you that you aren't the only one that might be frustrated. Let's solve the issue together and get the job done!

Thank you to everyone for their hard work and making DAVA Wisconsin a great state. You rock!

From the desk of State Treasurer Ann Glende

Happy February! Thank you to all of the units who have followed-up with requests for necessary changes and/or clarifications to the Annual Financial Reports. We still have a small number of units who have not submitted the report, which was due September 30. If this isn't turned in the unit will not be able to vote at state convention. Don't disappoint your delegates – get your report in today!

We just wrapped up Quarter 1 of our financials and I am excited to announce that we are well on track for another great financial year. One thing that was noticed was the lack of hospital and veteran home donations this year to date. Money that is raised from Forget-Me-Not drives may not be used for operating expenses of the unit. We also need to make sure our units aren't self-serving. We need to be good stewards of funds, whether it is for sending members to conventions, conference, or making "love" gifts to members who are staying in the hospital or need a helping hand. As a social welfare 501c4 organization, our goal is to make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. VA Medical Center and Veteran Homes need our support to put on activities for patients or even for care items like game books and Canteen Books.

If you're reading this and saying, "Our unit has donated right to the VA, what is she talking about?" this is a good time to remind everyone that donations should come through our state so units receive credit on the hospital financial. This allows members to see who has donated and what. Funds are distributed accordingly. It's not done as a matter of seeing who donates the most, but rather because we want to make sure unit funds are that are donated to VA Medical Centers and Veterans Homes are properly used. Writing a donation directly to a VA does not guarantee that the funds aren't being put right into the Voluntary Services General Fund, which may or may not be used as your unit wanted.

I'd like to conclude by reminding everyone of our upcoming fundraising efforts at state convention. We cannot do it alone and we will need your help! Watch for future communications on what the finance committee has planned. And now is a great time to start working on baskets for the live/silent auction. Thanks for all you do!

From the desk of State Judge Advocate Rose Williams

Hello! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and are all surviving the winter! It sure is a crazy one weather wise.

Some Units will be preparing to elect officers in the spring. Remember, to nominate a person for office, they must be a member in good standing, meaning all membership dues are paid on time or are full life members. Please make sure you ask the person if they are willing to take an officer position. All officers must be nominated and elected, even if the same people are remaining in office. You must use the Auxiliary Ritual for installation. For reference, see pages U-2 to U-4 in the Auxiliary National Constitution and Bylaws.

After election, remember you have 10 days to get the Officer's report to National and State Headquarters. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE FAIR TO EACH OTHER!

From the desk of State Chaplain Linda Gresbach

Hello everyone- As with all new beginnings, I pray that 2020 will be a happy, healthy, and peaceful year for you.

It looks like winter is now here to stay. Once the shoveling is done, the driveway is clear, and your body is tired and achy just stop and take a moment to look around. Enjoy the pretty and peaceful scenery that winter can provide.

It saddens me to say that in just the past two months we have lost several Auxiliary members. Once again this brings up the importance of staying in touch with each other. During the quiet winter months when our units don't meet we still need to reach out to our members. Not only to keep them updated about what our Auxiliary is doing, but also to see how they are feeling or if they need help with anything. Letting them know that they are important to our Auxiliary and that we care about them with a phone call, greeting card, or a visit can lift their spirits and really make their day.

This year at our State Convention we will be having a different style of memorial tribute for our DAV and Auxiliary members that have passed away. As plans come together for a respectful and meaningful display please let me know if you have any ideas or if there is something specific you would like included.

Some fun Bible trivia-

1. Noah's ark's dimensions make it just over half the size of Titanic. And Titanic was 882 feet long.
2. The one domesticated animal that is not mentioned in the Bible is the cat.
3. Since its creation, the Bible has been translated into more than 1,200 languages- including Klingon"

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." Romans 12:4-5.

May the peace that comes from above be with you and yours in 2020.

From the desk of the Mae Holmes Advisor Rose Williams

I am sure all of you were notified by Adjutant Patty Davis that the annual reports were either emailed or mailed to your Unit.

Please remember the Mae Holmes report is MANDATORY for National and State!

If you complete all the reports, the Mae Holmes will be easy to do. This is the last report that should be filled out.

If you need any help with the report, please just ask Adj. Patty Davis, Treasurer Ann Glende or myself and we will be happy to help!

I look forward to judging the reports to see what amazing things our Units do and to pass along the winners to National so they can see what amazing things our Units in Wisconsin do!

From the desk of King Veterans Home Representative Rose Williams

King is a very busy place with construction going on in the Marden Center, mainly flooring. Stordock Hall continues to move members to the other three halls, Olsen, MacArthur and Ainsworth and some of those members will be move to the new Moses building upon completion.

We had our annual Christmas Party on December 20 and were happy to have practically all the DAV state officers come! Commander Mike Hert, Senior Vice Commander Matt K, 1st Junior Vice Rob Hilliard, whose father resides at King and 2nd Junior Vice Greg Palo who was Santa and even brought two elves! We also had the pleasure of DAVA Senior Vice Commander Julie Hert and Henry attend. State Chaplain Linda Gresbach and I were the other Auxiliary State Officers, we are the Rep and Dep at King as well as Karen Conklyn, Dep were all in attendance. A great time was had by all with Christmas music, cookies, punch and coffee. Thanks to all that helped!

We continue to sponsor bingo games and parties with DAV Rep Don McGowan, as well as meals, road activities and donations to Legends of the Lake I & II. We will continue to have bingo games in each hall. The DAV provides cookies, coffee and coupon books and we provide the money for the games. This gives more of the members in the halls to come to bingo as some of them cannot get to the Marden Center. It is always great talking to the members and meeting new ones.

We have to revamp our King Day, which will be Sunday, June 28 as we cannot have food in the park for residents. The DAV will provide the meals in the halls and after their meals the members will be invited out to the park for music, ice cream, soda and prizes. We still have to firm up exactly what the schedule will be for that day.

We could not do this without your generous donations! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

From the desk of Zablocki VAVS Representative Patty Davis

Spring is right around the corner and that means activities will pick-up again at the Zablocki VA Medical Center. Unit donations will assist DAVA to make donations towards movie and dinner outings, Brewer Games, and even on-site parties to celebrate the warm weather.

Over the last several months we have assisted with coffee donations for various floors. The veterans love to have a warm drink without waiting for canteen services. We have also helped by teaming up with the American Legion Auxiliary and purchased port shirts for cancer patients. We hope to continue with this project. Lastly, we also helped get patient boards for several of the wards that did not have one. This allows the nurses and doctors to write goals, messages, and important contact information for inpatients. Families also like to use it to write their own messages.

We are getting ready to plan for Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, and plan to once again do sub sandwiches with chips, a cookie, and water. We also are going to pass out pocket calendars that were ordered earlier in the year. Thank you for your ongoing support. You are appreciated!!

From the State of Wisconsin DAVA Finance Committee

It is hard to believe that it is State Convention time. We had a successful Fall Conference and on behalf of Carrie, Joan, and myself we would like to thank everyone for all the help and support that was given to the Auxiliary. Again, we are asking for all units to help with baskets for our live and silent auctions a this years State Convention. We hope to make this one of our best as we celebrate the DAV's 100th Anniversary! Thank you for your confidence in us!