

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



DAV Auxiliary Wisconsin

# State Department of Wisconsin, Inc.



May 2020

**The DAV Auxiliary Sweepstakes drawing will be held on June 13, 2020, at the Radisson Green Bay as scheduled. DAV and Auxiliary members will be on site to participate.**

## **From the desk of State Commander Elizabeth Honaker**

Hello Everyone! This is my last notice as your Commander. I want to take a few minutes and tell all of you THANK YOU for all your help when I needed it. This has been a very strange time for all of us and something we have never gone through.

There will be no convention this year at the Radisson in Green Bay, but let's all believe there will be a conference in Stevens Point in October and we will get our life back on track.

There are not enough words to say THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU for giving me this opportunity to be your Commander. It has been very educational and an enjoyable time.

Remember, stepping up and being a TEAM player and putting others FIRST is what makes us so good!

Stay well and stay safe. I'll see you at the conference in October. Thank you, again, and God Bless each one of you.

## **From the desk of State Sr. Vice Commander Julie Hert**

There is an old quote in Chinese folklore that state's "May you live in interesting times". Truly that age old quote hits today as we are living in uncharted times not seen since the early 1900's, when a global pandemic struck us then. "Stay at Home" is the new phrase of the day as we strive to keep each other safe. In an unprecedented manner, we have seen our 2020 State Convention, District meetings and Unit meetings cancelled. However the Auxiliary silver lining has been our spirited resilience as we face the COVID-19 storm with calmness, compassion and tenacity.

In reviewing our latest Population Summary data regarding our membership numbers, it appears we are just short 12 new members of reaching goal. While I don't like making excuses, I truly believe COVID-19 really impacted our numbers. It's hard to work on membership when you are in quarantine! The majority of our new members occur on a personal basis or word of mouth. I know that when Chapters and Units begin to meet again, we will see our numbers start to climb. There is nothing like bringing a prospective member to a Unit meeting so they can see how we roll.

As we start to close out the year, I would like to thank you for your support of me as your Senior Vice Commander. It has truly been an honor to serve our Auxiliary in this capacity. I would also like to extend a gracious thank you to our Commander Elizabeth Honaker. She has been an inspiration to me and I treasure our friendship. Overall, we had a tremendous year under her leadership. In closing, everybody stay safe and God willing we will see each other soon.

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

This year was a learning experience for me. I enjoyed meeting new people and learning more about the organization. We have to remember to keep our Juniors involved as much as possible, including in the community helping veterans and their families. With the virus going on, Juniors can get together and send cards out to Veteran Hospitals and Homes, or even to neighbors. Adults can help them get addresses or purchase stamps. Make it a Unit effort and get everyone involved.

I'd like to thank you all for your support and encouragement, and I look forward to working with you all in the future. Stay safe, stay well, and take care of each other.

## **From the desk of State Adjutant Patty Davis**

Recently, ballots were sent out to all 2019-2020 members of the State Executive Committee. One additional ballot will be forthcoming. We appreciate the diligence in those who have so quickly returned the ballots. If you have not done so, please remember they must be postmarked no later than June 5, 2020.

As a reminder, the 2020 State Convention has been cancelled. If you have not already, please cancel your room at the Radisson in Green Bay. DAV and DAV Auxiliary is not responsible for fees incurred as a result of rooms not being cancelled. If you have any problems when calling the hotel, please let me know and we will get in contact with the Sales Manager at the facility.

The National Convention in Dallas, Texas, is still slated to be held August 1-4, 2020. All rooms available on site have been reserved, but DAV has contracted with several neighboring hotels. You also may want to reach out to your fellow members to see if anyone is interested in sharing a room. We hope as many people as possible can join in with DAV celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It's going to be a great event!

The 2020 State Fall Conference is still being planned and will be held in Stevens Point October 15-17. Watch for additional information in the coming weeks regarding room pricing and tentative agendas. This will be a very busy conference, as we are going to try to squeeze in some convention items like awards and speeches, during this short period of time.

Lastly, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Commander Elizabeth Honaker for allowing me to serve as Adjutant this year. We had a great year and had a chance to accomplish many things working together as a team. Each of the State Officers worked hard to make sure our state continues to shine and serve veterans and their families.

Be safe and stay well during this difficult time, and I look forward to seeing you all in the coming months.

## **From the desk of State Treasurer Ann Glende**

As we wrap-up the 2019-2020 year, I'd like to start off by saying congratulations to everyone on a great year. From a financial standpoint, we are operating on a great budget and expenses continue to remain far below expected. That is due to the hard work of each officer and chairmen ensuring that they are completing expenses correctly and staying within the guidelines. I am confident that we will continue this trend for many more years as we continue to find creative ways to reduce expenses while also finding ways to increase our donations to Veteran Homes and Hospitals, as well as DAV Auxiliary National Programs. After all, that is what we are about!

Soon, all Units will begin to work on their Annual Financial Report. I cannot stress enough that if you have questions, please contact us. It will save you time and probably some frustration. I know that Units are not meeting right now, but as a reminder, prior to the installation of a Unit Treasurer, the records must be reviewed to make sure that everything is in line. Are there Warrants/Vouchers/Check Request? Are receipts attached? What the expense properly voted on or in the Unit Standing Rules? I know all of our Units are great, but we must make sure that we are staying diligent on these requirements. After July 1, a complete audit will be done of the Unit records and the Annual Financial Report will be completed and sent accordingly. If you haven't gotten your July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, financial report in, time is running out. That deadline was September 30, 2020. Units are already on a hold status through National Headquarters, and soon Units will be revoked. We know times have been crazy, but we need to make sure that paperwork is in!

Last, but not least, do not forget about completing those 990-N e-Postcards after July 1! If you cannot do it, for any reason, all you have to do is contact me! I'd be happy to do it for the Unit. Save yourself the hassle of getting your tax-exempt status revoked by completing this required online report.

My best wishes to all individuals taking, or continuing, offices in 2020-2021. We truly are in a unique situation but I am sure that, as time progresses, things will resume to a new "normal" that will allow us to continue our mission of service.

## **From the desk of State Judge Advocate Rose Williams**

Hello members! I am hoping this finds you all well!

It sure is a different world today and will be for sometime in our near future. I will really miss all of you at the State Convention, but feel confident that the new officers will do a great job.

All we can do at this time is try to stay in contact with our Auxiliary members and our Veterans by phone or mail and let them know they are still in our hearts.

Adjutant Patty has done an excellent job in keeping everyone informed as situations arise. If you as an Auxiliary member did not receive the information she has sent out to Units, please contact your Unit Adjutant to receive it. If you are unable to reach your Unit Adjutant, please reach out to Adjutant Patty and I am sure she will gladly get the information to you. Please remember, the Auxiliary is not like the Chapter. The Chapters have their own rules and the Auxiliary has theirs. You can always refer to the National Constitution and Bylaws, our State Standing Rules or if you have any questions, Adjutant Patty is the best person to be contacted. She is making this unusual situation we are in a lot easier to understand as far as what the Auxiliary can do.

Remember, Unit elections can only be done at a Unit meeting! Since we cannot meet yet, elections should be done at the first meeting that Units will be allowed to do.

I will be staying on this year as Judge Advocate and will do my best for you! I will be attending the National Convention in Dallas, Texas. We will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the DAV, what an accomplishment for the best Veterans Organization!

## **From the desk of State Chaplain Linda Gresbach**

This past year I had the privilege of serving as the DAVA State Chaplain. I learned that this is a quiet, but very rewarding job. Sending out greeting cards, making follow up phone calls, and sharing memories with the families of deceased members are just some of my Chaplain duties that I enjoy. I feel that our members appreciate that we are thinking of them and are there for them whatever the occasion is.

Even though we are not having a State Convention I want to congratulate all the Officers coming in for this year. May God bless you with a successful year. And may God bless our Auxiliary with renewed strength as we continue to carry out our mission of helping veterans and families.

At the time of this report we are still under the "safer at home" guidelines. Not all of us can be "frontliners" but we can still do something to help others during this pandemic. See who is lonely. See who needs help. A greeting card in the mailbox, a phone call, or groceries set on the front porch with a local newspaper, a church bulletin, or a face mask tucked in the bag are simple ways to show that we care. Have gratitude for all those working to help fight this virus in so many ways. Appreciate their sacrifice.

So until we meet again my prayer is for all of us to remain healthy, continue to help others, and appreciate all that we have. Remember, God is at his best when things are at their worst. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in need." Psalm 46: 1,2.

## **From the desk of King Veterans Home Representative Rose Williams**

Greeting from King! I don't have much to report from King because it has been closed to us since March 1.

There will not be a King Day this year. This makes me really sad, because we look so forward to seeing all the members having fun, but we need to be safe. There will also not be any Memorial Services at the Home, except for the placing of the flags on the graves, which they have made rules for the volunteers coming to do that. I can report, according to Terry Heschke, voluntary services, that there are no reports of the COVID 19 in the home!

I am proud to remain your DAVA Rep at King. I want to thank incoming Commander Julie Hert for asking me.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generous donations! With them we are able to provide entertainment, picnics, etc. for the members.

## **From the desk of Zablocki VAVS Representative Patty Davis**

COVID-19 is still affecting much of our activities throughout the VA Medical Center. We are still continuing to provide coffee for the various floors and the patients really enjoy that. We are already starting to plan our annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the patients, and hope to make this one of the best years yet. More information will be forthcoming on how you can support this special program.

We are continuing to find new and creative ways to bring joy to veterans in the hospital, especially now when they cannot have visitors. We have been working with Voluntary Services and participating in virtual meetings with the Center Director on what the next steps of opening our facility will be.

Thank you to each individual, unit, and chapter who has supported the Zablocki VAVS Fund. The veterans greatly appreciate everything we are able to do for them, and we wouldn't be able to do that without each of you!

## **And the Winners are....**

Individuals and volunteers at the Zablocki VA Medical Center who are not affiliated with a Unit of DAV Auxiliary were asked to judge the annual report forms from our Wisconsin Units. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who submitted their report forms and the individuals who assisted with this project. The following were chosen to be the best in their category and will be forwarded to national headquarters for judging at National Convention.

### **Junior Activities**

Category 1, 1-25 members: Welling Washbush Unit #11

Category 2, 26-50 members: West Allis Unit #19

Junior Award, Ages 11-13: Morgyn Sobocinski, West Allis Unit #19

### **Americanism**

Category 1, 10-50 members: Baraboo Unit #8

Category 2, 51-100 members: West Allis #19

Category 3, 101-200 members: Green Bay Unit #3

### **Special Americanism**

Category 1, 10-200 members: Baraboo Unit #8

### **VAVS**

Category 1, 10-50 members: Redgranite Unit #51

Category 2, 51-100 members: West Allis Unit #19

Category 3, 101-200 members: Rusk County Unit #33

### **Community Service**

Category 1, 10-50 members: Belle City Unit #9

Category 2, 51-100 members: Welling Washbush Unit #11

Category 3, 101-200 members: Green Bay Unit #3

### **Legislative**

Category 1, 10-50 members: Belle City Unit #9

Category 2, 51-100 members: West Allis Unit #19

Category 3, 101-200 members: Green Bay Unit #3

### **Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit**

Category 1, 10-50 members: Baraboo Unit #8

Category 2, 51-100 members: Belle City Unit #9

Category 3, 101-200 members: West Allis Unit #19

Category 5, 201 and over: Green Bay Unit #3