

JAN 21 2014

Headquarters News

DAV Auxiliary

3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076

January 2014



Wishing You

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

"Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties."

— Helen Keller

Inside this issue:

Membership 1

Junior Activities 1

Service Support 2

Scholarship 2

Veterans Crisis Line 2

Chaplain's Corner 3

Reminders 4

Membership

By Linda Stake, National Membership Chairman

Happy New Year to everyone! Thank you for all you do for our veterans and our great organization. What a wonderful year we had in 2013! Let us strive for an even better one in 2014.

After our National Fall Conference in October 2013, four "star members" have been recognized in our *National Headquarter News* for signing at least 15 new members.

I want to again "thank you" and "congratulate you" Andrea Ryan, Unit 101 Florida; Ginger Bish, Unit 43 North Carolina; Willie Atkinson, Unit 6 Georgia; and, Janet Dardi, Unit 23 Indiana, for signing new members and winning the beautiful water globe. And, all that have received the "Reach for the Stars" pin, "Thank you and Congratulations!" You, too, are not far away from winning the water globe!

The largest ever membership mailing by DAV Auxiliary has gone out, new members are being gained. Let's help get new members by personally recruiting! Our organization depends on each and every one of us to remain strong. Please go out, recruit, and "Reach for the Stars". **DAVA members, you are Stars!**

State Department Quota

The total stands at two state departments that have met 2013-2014 membership quota, Georgia and New Jersey! One state department needs only two members to reach this goal and we hope to see them added to the list by the next newsletter edition!

Junior Activities

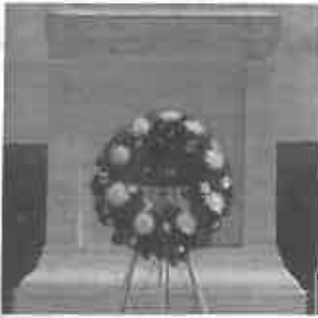
By Tawnya Kingsley, National Junior Activities Chairman

Juniors, now that the holidays are over it doesn't mean that our Disabled Veterans don't need your attention. It is still cold outside and many people are shut in during this time of year. Gather up some books, games or magazines and visit

the VA Centers, nursing homes, or even personal homes to give a little of your time. Offer to run errands or help out shoveling snow to make sure their walkways are safe. Sometimes just an hour of your time will mean the world to

someone that is not able to get out and do things for themselves.

Remember Valentine's Day is coming up next month! I look forward to hearing and seeing all of the wonderful things that you have been doing this year.



Tomb inscription: "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God."

National Commander Susan Miller to Lay Wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns

National Commander Susan Miller will be representing the DAV Auxillary in a special Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery at 10:15 am on Saturday, February 22, 2014.

If you plan to attend the National DAV Legislative Mid-Winter Conference or will be in the area on that date, you are welcome to attend this ceremony.

Service Support Program

Since 1993, the DAV Auxiliary has provided one-time emergency financial assistance to hundreds of DAV Auxiliary members in dire financial need. Our organization is one of service and we have been able to assist with delinquent mortgage and rent payments, utility bills, and medical and pharmaceutical bills. Approved payments are made directly to the biller, not the member, and the amount allotted can be up to a maximum of \$1,000.

This program is funded solely by national unit and state department mandates as well as donations. Unfortunately, donations have slacked off in recent years resulting in modified eligibility requirement guidelines based upon years of membership.

Please consider donations to the Service Support Program that has helped so many.

A program recipient recently sent a beautiful thank you letter that reads, in part, "I was notified that my out-

standing medical bills were being paid this month from the DAVA Service/Support Fund. Due to our household's fixed income this has lifted a huge burden off my husband's and my shoulders. I feel blessed to belong to such a great, compassionate organization as the DAVA. Please accept my most sincere appreciation for your generous support during my need for financial assistance."

"I feel blessed to belong to such a great, compassionate organization as the DAVA."

DAV Auxiliary Scholarship

This amazing program offers scholarships to qualifying DAVA life members up to \$1,500 full time—\$750 part-time. Funded by national mandates and donations, the reality is that not all applicants receive a scholarship. As with the Service/Support Program, donations are needed. **Scholarship application deadline is March 15, 2014.** For application or additional information call 877.426.2838, ext. 3318, or visit: <http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership/Programs.aspx>

Veterans Crisis Line

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers a confidential resource for veterans and their families/friends who may be in crisis and need immediate support.

Call: 800.273.8255, press #1

Online chat: www.veteranscrisisline.net/chat

Text: 838255

Information: www.veteranscrisisline.net

This free service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The DAVA core values from which our organization's worth is defined are Comradeship, Loyalty, Devotion and Service. Each action that we take, and each goal that our organization develops must be weighed utilizing these core values. These hold high standards for each of our actions and plans for the future of our organization to meet and grow with.

In previous Chaplain's Corners we have shared the importance of comradeship, loyalty and service—these indeed are cornerstones to our organization, but the fourth core value—DEVOTION—is truly the essential glue of our every action.

The dictionary notes devotion is: 1. Profound dedication; 2. Earnest attachment to a cause or person; 3. An assignment to any purpose or cause; and, 4. Religious observance or worship. How does devotion lead our every action and become a core value? In order to serve disabled Veterans and their family members it is truly a work of profound dedication—dedication to the cause of service, and dedication to the individuals that we serve. I see this in members each and every day. How do we do this? First look at the DAV transportation network—here in New England with Hercules the snowstorm pounding the area, members of both DAV and DAVA as well as other volunteers still brought Veterans to their VA hospital appointments in very tough road conditions — they could have turned back, but they chose with devotion to serve. Our hospital Volunteers and VAVS representatives still served. Tonight I saw it when members demonstrated devotion by helping Disabled Veterans in the community by shoveling snow, preparing meals for each other, and even by helping in a professional capacity to meet a Veteran's needs.

Devotion is an earnest attachment to a cause or person. Our cause is clear—Making a Difference for disabled Veterans and their families. Our mission is achieved sometimes by individual service to a Veteran or his or her family, but other times it is by our legislative actions which will impact countless Veterans and their family members. A great example of this is the upcoming vote on caregiver legislation to expand caregiver compensation to Veterans of all eras as currently it is limited to OIF/OEF Veteran's. This legislation was established because of the work of DAVA members and will truly make a powerful difference when it passes.

Devotion is an assignment to any purpose or cause. In each of our DAVA units and State Departments each of us has an assignment. We have individual roles with defined assignments. All members have the assignment of service; all members have the assignment to grow our organization through recruitment of new members; and all members have the defined role of comradeship and loyalty to each other. We have monumental assignments to complete at all levels.

Devotion is religious observance or worship - if you noticed, I didn't post last month why our organization does not choose any one religious practice to support. We demonstrate the true foundation of belief, but not of a particular religious affiliation. We serve God by serving our fellow man. As the Bible notes, "If you have done it unto the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me." Our faith leads us to greater service and greater understanding of each other. We are non-denominational, but we are profoundly devoted. I think of each of our opening and closing ceremonies, our Memorial Services at all levels, and our day to day care and compassion as we embrace the differences in each member and thus facilitate the unique needs and personal beliefs we each hold.

We are a group that is truly devoted to our Disabled Veterans, to their families, to widows and orphans and we must be equally devoted to each other. We must celebrate the unique differences that we each hold, while remaining devoted and focused on the important mission that lies ahead. We must not allow the differences that will lead to our great success to ever let us lose track of our devotion and of our mission.

~With comradeship, Aura-Lee

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Earn a "You're a Star" Water Globe

Sign up 15 new paid senior members and receive your own personalized "You're a Star" Water Globe!



Sign up five new paid senior members and receive a reach for the stars lapel pin!

New Auxiliary Unit
Orange Blossom Gardens
#150
Lady Lake, Florida
Chartered December 12, 2013

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

DAV AUXILIARY

Susan Miller,
National Commander

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National Adjutant

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United in Service

Mark Your Calendars!

National Convention

August 9—12
Bally's Las Vegas Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada
Phone: 800.634.3434
877.603.4390
Rates: \$112 single/double

National Fall Conference

September 25—27
Lexington Downtown Hilton
Lexington, Kentucky
Phone: 859.231.9000
Rates: \$109 single/double

Reminders

Indebtedness Statements—If your unit's membership distribution has not satisfied the \$25 national mandate, an indebtedness statement will be included in the unit's December month-end mailing. We recommend that indebted units submit a check to cover the outstanding indebtedness to clear the unit for voting at state and national conventions.

990-N—This matter bears repeating! This is an IRS requirement and units must comply. If your unit has not filed the electronic postcard, it is likely the IRS has revoked the unit's tax exempt status resulting in the unit no longer being exempt from federal income tax. Once a unit has lost their tax exempt status, they must work with the IRS directly for reinstatement. This reinstatement process is a lengthy and costly process. Refusal to file the 990-N could further result in unit charter revocation which is not an acceptable option since there are too many veterans and families relying on us. To give up the charter due to failing to file required information would be disheartening and could have a devastating effect on those who need our help.

990-N Submission Confirmation—Unit and State Adjutants are required to submit confirmation of filing the 990-N to state and national headquarters.

Annual Dues Changes—Units establish their own annual dues amounts, but the amount must cover national and state per capita. If your unit has changed its annual dues, submit this change to DAVA National Headquarters no later than February 17, 2014. The 2014-2015 annual dues notices will be mailed in early March.