



November 11, 2013
We remember them.



Two State Departments
have met membership
quota!

Congratulations to:

Georgia
New Jersey

Will your state department
be next?

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Headquarters News DAV Auxiliary

3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076

November 2013

From the Desk of National Commander Susan Miller

Thank you to everyone who attended the National Fall Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, with a special thank you to all the "First-Timers." There must have been at least 40 of you and I thought we were going to run out of "First-Timer" welcome ribbons! I hope you all enjoyed the conference and will come back again. Each of you made the conference a success!! Thank you to the DAV Headquarters directors for their presentations and kind remarks, and most importantly, their support of the DAV Auxiliary. DAV National Commander Joe Johnston attended every session and wore his DAV Auxiliary shirts. Way to go Joe!!

Thank you to all the officers and chairmen who presented skits and seminars. You worked very hard and it showed. We went all the way from Red Skelton to the Land of Oz. Many of our national chairmen had members, other than from their own state, assist in their skits. You were truly united in service.

There were some changes to the conference this year. I liked the changes. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please let national headquarters know.

Please stay "United in Service!"

VAVS By Ann Glende, National VAVS Representative & Patty Davis, Deputy

This year, the DAV Auxiliary VAVS Program is United in Service, and we are ready to start making a difference. It is important to remember that there are so many different types of volunteers that can assist at not only VA Medical Centers but also satellite clinics and outpatient clinics as well. Whether it is five days a week or five hours a week, our Veterans need our support, and this is a great way to show we care and we will always support them.

We'd like to share with you a story of what one state does at their local VA

Medical Center. Because their unit members are younger and cannot fulfill the requirements to be a regularly scheduled volunteer, they have signed up to be an occasional volunteer. Every major holiday the DAVA VAVS Representative gets in touch with these volunteers, and they come in to assist with holiday dinners, passing out of gifts, playing games like BINGO or Wii, and visiting. This is a VAVS volunteer. They may only be volunteering five or six times a year, but they are a part of the program and they are united in service!

We'd like to remind all VAVS Representatives and Deputies to make sure they are attending their quarterly VAVS meetings. We receive the meeting minutes and attendance records and I have to say, attendance is getting really low. You have been appointed to this position to represent the DAVA and now is your time to shine! We would love to see 100% participation from all the Reps/Depts this year; I know we can do it, because we are United in Service!!

Until next time; Ann & Patty, VAVS Representative and Deputy

Legislative By Frances Costa, National Legislative Chairman

I would like to encourage all Unit and State Legislative Chairmen to give a report at each meeting, get information from the DAV and other sources like DAV (CAN) Commanders Action Network. Help others to write letters to Congressmen and Senators by making sample letters and distributing them with a list of bill numbers. Chairmen should be keeping a record of bills by name, number and subject to assist with the end of year reports. The chairmen should encourage all members and their family and friends to pay personal visits for face to face communication with our legislators. If possible send personal (not form) letters, as they take more notice that you took the time to write and therefore you must feel strongly about the issue. Fax a message or better still phone their office. Send letters to local papers when you get an unsatisfactory response (or no response at all). Legislators do not like negative news.

Identify yourself as a constituent and a registered voter and taxpayer and let them know that you are a Disabled American Veteran or Auxiliary member. Remember to always be polite, be prepared by knowing information on the piece of legislation you are contacting them about, but be brief, firm, and confident and most of all stay focused on the issue. Listen to their response and always follow up with a thank you letter.

The next section of the end of year report I would like to address is the section below the heading. We are going to add an additional line as I previously noted so now there will be three questions and number one being how many participate in the legislative program.

You and your unit chairman should be keeping track of this information that you receive at unit meetings. If you are active in the legislative program and are not able to attend meetings-but want to be active, please advise the unit of your participation and what bills and contacts you have made.

Community Service By Ellen Timmerman, National Community Service Chairman

Community Service is doing something that helps another person who is not a family member. It is expected that we will help family because they are family.

Following are the National Convention Community Service Report winners and a few highlights of things the units do for their Community Service: **Group 1 (10-50 members) John Woodall #6, Georgia**—Volunteered at a children's shelter, paid to have a transmission put in a car of a deceased veteran's spouse, paid to have a handicap ramp built, and took veterans grocery shopping. **Group 2 (51-100 members) S. Oakland #19, Michigan**—Gave clothing, food, and household items to the family of a Purple Heart Recipient, purchased tents for homeless veterans, gave haircuts to homeless veterans, took VA patients bowling. **Group 3 (101-200 members) J. W. Cantrell #63, Texas**—Purchased gas cards and food cards for veterans, rented tables and chairs for deployment party, purchased decorations for Veterans party, purchased coffee for Service Office. **Group 4 (over 200 members) Murphy-Borelli-Klumker #7, Colorado**—Purchased food, gas and food cards for seniors and single parent, raised money to help purchase special formula for sick baby, did fund raiser for fire and police departments, took seniors to lunch and movie to celebrate birthday, packaged items for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. These are a very few of the things these units do for their community.

You do not count what you do for family or extended family as Community Service!

The change that will be made on the *Community Service Report* is units will only be allowed one additional page to itemize monies. Money is the only thing to be itemized if it exceeds \$1000.

Chaplain's Corner By AuraLee Nicodemus, National Chaplain

"Give thanks" As we come to November it is a special time of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is more than a turkey dinner; it should be a time of positive reflection on our blessings. We are thankful for each of our Nation's Veterans and his or her service and sacrifice. We are thankful for each of their family members and all that they continue to give. We are thankful for the DAVA, our leaders, and each member. We take time to remember this on Veterans day and throughout the year. We should stop and think about all we have to be thankful for each day. Often, as we become busy, we focus on the day to day challenges that we face, and we lose focus on all that each of us has to be thankful for.

Our third core value is loyalty-the loyalty to our Mission of caring for Disabled Veterans and their family members, widows and orphans and the loyalty to the DAVA and each other is essential to our goal of future growth. Loyalty per the dictionary is faithfulness to commitments or obligations. We must be loyal to our mission, our organization, our leaders and each other to promote the positive growth of the DAVA and achieve our missions. I am thankful that we have the DAVA to serve those who have sacrificed so much! I am thankful that we share a special camaraderie between our members! I am thankful that we are "United in Service."

Membership By Linda Stake, National Membership Chairman

Where do you find potential DAVA members? Everywhere! Of course, the first ones to recruit are family – every one of them! How big is your family and extended family? Make a list of all family and extended family members who need to be signed up!

Church or Sunday School is a good place to find new recruits. Lots of churches have a service honoring veterans in November. Has your unit ever participated? If not, I bet you could make it happen. Is your minister, pastor, bishop, or church leader a veteran? Or, does he/she have a veteran in the family? The reason I ask is to tell you this story:

Three years ago, our chapter, unit, and junior members, who are renowned for flag folding, were asked to participate in the "Honoring Veterans" church service. The DAV Commander told his story and a brief history of the DAV. The juniors led the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance, sang "Proud to Be an American", folded the flag and presented it to the pastor in honor of his recently deceased father, a veteran. The main reason for telling this story is to rectify a situation: As I write this paper on recruiting, I realize that three years ago an **opportunity was missed!** Why did we not think of recruiting while we were there? We had everyone in a patriotic frame of mind! We could have ended our program by letting people know that we needed their help to help our veterans!

Why did we not recruit? We didn't think of it! Let's get our "thinking caps" on, never miss another opportunity. Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day are just around the corner. Have your membership applications ready when you celebrate these holidays! Chances are, there are many potential members ready to be recruited, and always: "Reach for the Stars".

Guest Columnist—Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, California PSC, State Adjutant

In her book, *Letters to My Daughters*, Ms. Angelou writes: "I learned that a friend might be hiding behind a stranger's face."

A frequent subject of conversation at Auxiliary meetings and conventions is how to increase our membership. I believe Maya Angelou's words are the road map to answering this question.

The basic issue of membership recruitment is to convince non-members that Auxiliary membership is beneficial to them. There is a perceived notion that younger people don't want the same things that older members do. The generation gap is magnified by those who say we can't get new members, or "we tried sending out letters, and no one responded."

We are going about this the wrong way. We need to focus on what common experiences we share. I was struck by this notion at Fall Conference. Many of you know that my husband experienced some significant health issues this past year, and just as so many do, we struggled with the VA. This medical system is unlike any other in the country. Although my friends whose spouses are not veterans sympathized, my Auxiliary friends provided the greatest support, because they knew firsthand of the challenges of dealing with this system. Many of these Auxiliary members are older than me, and in many respects, we don't have much in common. However, their love, support and understanding brought us to a new level of friendship and trust.

If I could, I would adopt Maya Angelou's words as the DAVA's national slogan. As more and more members of the military are discharged from service, they and their families need to know that they are not alone. We as an organization need to figure out how to offer friendship and support in ways that make building relationships less scary to the strangers amongst us. I hope we can all embrace the idea that a friend might be hiding behind a stranger's face.

Mae Homes By LeeAnn Karg, Chairwoman

The National Mae Holmes award is for the outstanding unit in each membership category. You must have made quota by April 1st to qualify for this National award which gives a summary of all the programs you have participated in over the past year. This information is to be taken from the year-end program reports that your unit completes. It is very important that you include a copy of the Hospital, Community Service, and/or VAVS reports if you had a total value of over \$1000 on any or all of these three reports. Also included is your participation on Membership, Americanism, Legislation, and Junior Activities. This is the only report that requires four (4) copies, one for unit records, one for state judging, one for the National Mae Holmes Chairman and one for your district NEC.

Be sure to complete the entire top portion of the report and get the report signed by your Unit Commander. Every unit should complete a Mae Holmes report regardless if you have made quota or not so that your NEC and National Chairman have a summary of what you have done. In order to qualify for the National award you must have reached quota by April 1st.

What say we all work towards making quota and complete those Mae Holmes reports? I would love to see a large stack of reports to judge at National Convention in 2014. I will have a special gift for any state department that has 100% reporting on Mae Holmes.

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October
Water Globe Recipients

Andrea Ryan, Florida #101
Ginger Bish, North Carolina #43

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
Roanoke Valley #15
Roanoke Rapids, NC
Chartered October 21, 2013

DAV AUXILIARY

Susan Miller,
National Commander

3725 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076

Judith Hezlep,
National Adjutant

Phone: 859.441.7300
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E-mail: dava@dav.org

United in Service

HISTORY By Margaret Snelling, National History Chairman

WANTED

PICTURES

PICTURES

PICTURES

PICTURES

My contest is still open for pictures of National Commander Susan at the 2013 National Convention in Orlando and the National Fall Conference in Cincinnati. I am looking for the **most pictures** and the **best pictures**. Send them via computer at E-mail: stclora@aol.com or postal at 1206 Larkspur Drive, Mooresville, NC 28115. Please share your pictures with me. You just may be the winner.

I see in my Crystal Ball that all of the State Department History Chairmen have ordered their History Books from National Headquarters and are already planning the lay out (per instructions in the Auxiliary Manual). Way to go. There is much for your State Commander to report on with the upcoming holidays.

Above all, remember to send me lots of pictures when National Commander Susan visits your state.

The holidays are times of tradition and times of celebration. They are the perfect opportunity to reach out to friends, neighbors and love ones. We Americans have so much to be thankful for, so let's share our good fortune with the families of those have borne the brunt of the battle to keep us free, the men and women who are in harm's way and our men and women who are now our veterans.

Happy Holidays and God Bless us all as we serve together **UNITED**.

Reminders~

Meeting Cancellation—If a Commander cannot attend a unit meeting, this would not be grounds for cancellation as the bylaws allow for the Senior Vice Commander (or Junior Vice Commander as described in the national bylaws) to fill that role and conduct the meeting. In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances that would prevent members from attending a meeting, these would be instances where a meeting may be canceled by the Commander with proper member notification. Meeting changes (date, time, location) must be by majority vote of the unit, not at the pleasure of the Commander.

Membership Listings—Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders, Adjutants, and Membership Chairmen are authorized to generate membership listings. Keep in mind these reports contain personal member information (including junior members) and are to be safeguarded at all times and not freely distributed.

Membership Mailing—The largest ever membership mailing by DAV Auxiliary is now going out. We will make every effort to see that new members are processed in local units, where applicable. Adjutants should review the monthly activity reports for new members. And, we expect units to reach out to the newly recruited members and provide them with information pertaining to your individual units. We are hoping for a successful membership drive!

New Logo and Tag Line—The Auxiliary's new logo is being developed and we hope to unveil it in the near future. As a reminder, the national executive committee approved the rebranding which will align the Auxiliary logo with DAV's unique and identifiable logo. Also, the national executive committee approved a new tagline to read, "Making a Difference." It is important to remember the DAV Auxiliary seal will not change.