

Headquarters News



DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

Membership

How are your recruiting efforts coming along? Remember, with the expanded eligibility requirements, it is easier than ever to find potential members.

- If you need membership applications and brochures, call Melody at DAV Auxiliary national headquarters. 859.441-7300, ext. 3318.
- For a list of prospective members or mailing labels for national and state at-large members, send your written request with the zip codes specified.
- Sign up a new annual senior member for \$15 and their membership will be paid through June 30, 2013. (This offer does not apply to delinquent annual members.)
- Sign up a new life member for only \$20 down payment and three membership years to pay the balance.
- Junior members pay \$3.00 annual dues.

Sponsor five new senior members and receive a special recognition pin. Larger membership roles equals a louder voice when presenting issues and concerns to our legislators.

Don't forget to sign up for the E-newsletter. Click on the link at the bottom of the www.davauxiliary.org home page.

Legislative

By LeeAnn Karg, National Legislative Chairman

Good News! On October 10, 2011, the House of Representatives passed five (5) veterans bills. H.R. 2433 Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011, H.R. 2074 Veterans Sexual Assault Prevention And Health Care Enhancement Act, H.R. 2349 Veterans Benefits Act of 2011, H.R. 2302 To amend title 38, United State Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify Congress of conferences sponsored by the Department

of Veterans Affairs, H.R. 1025 Provides honorary veteran status to individuals who served at least 20 years in the reserves. These bills will go the Senate next. The Senate approved S. 894 Veterans Compensation Cost-Of-Living Act of 2011.

Our work is not done! I hope that you have pens and paper ready to help. S. 1017 the Disabled Veteran Caregiver Housing Assistance Act of 2011, H.R. 803 the Equity for Injured

Veterans Act of 2011, H.R. 178/S. 260 Offset Between Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC), H.R. 186/H.R. 303/ H.R. 333 Concurrent Receipt, and H.R. 813 Reduction of the 10 Year Rule for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) . Call, write or e-mail your legislators and tell them to support these bills.

Remember, "Same Team, Same Dream." Together we can do this.

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Junior Activities

By Ann Glende, National Junior Activities Chairman

This year at National Fall Conference, National Commander Patti Rapisand introduced a new project called "DAVA 4 Kids". The goal is for our juniors to collect change to be donated to Camp Corral, a camp for children of disabled, deployed and deceased Veterans. The juniors should ask their family, friends, fellow DAV and DAVA Members, and start sending their money to National Headquarters. DAVA members should help the juniors keep track of how much they have collected when sending the money to National Headquarters. This is a great way for juniors to get active, while helping other children. The donations will be distributed to children for their transportation to and from camp, as the camp itself is free to the families. Perhaps they can involve their

school? Members of their church? Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts? As you can see, the list could go on. This is just another way for our juniors to reach out and be our STARS. They will shine a new light on these children and allow them to do something very special.

There are many programs you can get your juniors involved in, especially in the communities. Helping them sponsor drives for food, clothes, hats, or jackets, is just one way, especially now that colder weather is starting to affect some of us. They can also participate in writing projects for Veterans, past and present, or offer assistance at upcoming holiday parties at nursing homes and VA Medical Centers. Allow these juniors to be STARS, and give them the chance to really learn about

others while helping disabled Veterans and their families.

I hope all of you are assisting your junior members by taking pictures of them at events and gathering information for their Junior Unit History Book. This year we are pleased to announce the introduction of a grading form for the judging of the Junior Unit History Book. Watch for a future article to learn more about the form, but it's never too early to start gathering items for the books! Lets have all of our junior STARS share their success, their fun, and what they have done to help disabled Veterans and their families!

Remember... juniors are a vital part of this organization! Keep them active, keep them involved, and keep them your STARS!

Community Service

By Laurie Stopyra, National Community Service Chairman

Summer is a memory and Autumn is nearly gone. Remember to document your Community Service projects, events, and volunteer hours. You can count junior hours on both the Community Service and Junior Activity Reports.

Stamps for the Wounded – Used stamps are used for therapy for wounded veterans in more than 130 VA hospitals. Save your used stamps and pack them in piles of 100. Leave at least a quarter-inch margin around the stamp. You may count the postage and the time spent dividing the stamp packs. Send them to: Stamps for the Wounded, PO Box 297, Dunn Loring, VA 22027.

Military Coupon Program – Service members and their families are able to use donated manufacturer's coupons to purchase food and necessary supplies through the commissaries located on military bases overseas. Most coupons are honored up to two months after their expiration date. Due to the lack of volunteers, it is helpful if the coupons are sorted into categories. For the Community Service report, the coupons can be counted at ½ face value and be sure to report the time spent cutting the coupons and the postage for mailing. For additional information and mailing addresses, refer to the following website: <http://grocerycouponsforfree.org/military.html>

DAV Auxiliary members are helpers. We give of ourselves by helping our friends, neighbors, and our Community. I hope this year will be a year of giving back to our veterans and families through our kindness and support.

VAVS

By Frances Costa, National VAVS Representative

Fall has arrived and with it cooler weather. Our veterans in the VA Medical Centers will not be getting outside as often. Very soon snow will fall and they will be inside for many cold months. A warm friendly face arriving to break up their day will make the time go by faster.

That is all we need of volunteers, if that is what you can give. Please make the effort and think of them when you have time to get out to the VA Medical Center. If you are not already a registered volunteer, please make the effort during the remainder of this calendar year to become one.

Regularly scheduled volunteers can commit to maybe once a week or once a month with a specific program. Just think of the impact you could have on a veteran if you could get in more than that.

Check with Voluntary Service at your local VA Medical Center and find out what you can do. They will sit with you and review the many programs where your services would be valuable. The sense of accomplishment and satisfaction on what you bring to a veteran's day will make it worth while.

Yes, you say the VA is counting more on volunteers these days. This is true especially with the economy the way it is, they need more volunteers to fill the spots where they may no longer be able to hire someone. But more than this is the sunshine you will bring in to the lives of the veterans you touch.

I would like to remind all of the VAVS Representatives and Deputies that we have passed the month of Annual Joint Reviews for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. Representatives, if you have not already made the effort to complete this short but important form, please make an appointment with your Voluntary Service Chief or program manager and get it done. This is the tracking device that Veterans Affairs uses to see where the organizations stand on volunteer hours and donations within the VA Medical Centers.

Each state department received correspondence regarding Representative appointments. State Commanders should be considering the appointments and reappointments of the Representatives and sending them in to National Headquarters.

Please remember our hospitalized veterans during the upcoming holiday season. It will be here before we know it. Keep National Commander Rapisand's theme "Same Team, Same Dream" this year since we are working towards one goal; service to our veterans.

Deputy Ellen Drogo and I wish to thank every registered volunteer for what you do for our veterans and to remind all volunteers to wear your VA ID Badge every time you are volunteering. If you do not have one or need an updated badge, contact your voluntary service office and they will see that it gets done. All registered volunteers should have an Identification Badge noting that they are a registered volunteer. And, don't forget your Flu Shot (and TB Tests). The importance of this is that it protects you as well as the patients and staff.

URGENT
VAVS REPRESENTATIVES!
Annual Joint Reviews are past due!
 If you have not completed your AJR, please contact your Voluntary Service Chief or Program manager and make an appointment to complete this important process. Keep in mind that this is a VA tracking tool to keep abreast of the activity of the Service Organizations.
 Also State Commanders are in the process of recommending Representatives for reappointment or appointment. There are quite a few states that do not have a Representative on record. Please pay close attention to this.

<p>October Recruiter Winners</p>	<p>Congratulations to these recruiters whose names were drawn in October for a cash award of \$25 each:</p> <p>Kim Anders, Kentucky #158 Crystal Stillely, Indiana #15</p>	<p>You, too, can receive a cash award by recruiting just one senior Auxiliary Member. Be sure to include your membership number in the sponsor section of the application.</p>
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DAV AUXILIARY

Follow Us!

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Same Team... Same Dream: Serving Disabled American Veterans and Their Families

DAVA 4 Kids

The Camp Corral project has inspired the creativity of Auxiliary units and members. Many military children will get to experience a week of fun and excitement thanks to our organization. Through generous donations, the transportation hurdle will be cleared and they will be able to attend one of the Camp Corral locations.

The DAV Auxiliary National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Chairmen, and staff wish for you, your families, all military personnel and their families a warm, safe, and happy Thanksgiving. Because of the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans, we have the freedom to celebrate this occasion.

If your company has a workplace giving program, consider the DAV Auxiliary as the recipient of your donations. Many companies have these types of programs and the DAV Auxiliary could benefit as a not-for-profit organization.

Order Information

- Auxiliary Voucher Books are sold out! Units and state departments can purchase them at a local office supply store.
- The Auxiliary Manual is the only item sold by DAV Auxiliary.
- All other fraternal item purchases are through: DAV National Service Foundation, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076. 859.441.7300, ext. 3252.
- Make checks payable to: DAV National Service Foundation or DAV NSF.

Reminders

- **Junior Members** – Payment for Junior members must be accompanied by a list of those being paid or the membership application marked “Junior Renewal.”
- **Junior Dues** are \$3.00 per membership year. Submit only \$3.00 for each year paid; do not include state department per capita as this is not distributed to the state.
- **New Members** – National headquarters must receive a membership application for new members. Headquarters staff can complete an application for the member if credit card and other information is provided. A check with a note will not suffice.
- **New Life Membership** can be obtained with a down payment of \$20. Members then have three membership years to pay the balance. **Units do not vote on acceptance of new members.**
- **Free Life Membership Pins** are given to those who begin and complete payment of a life membership within one membership year (July 1–June 30).
- **Unit Checks** require two authorized signatures (Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Treasurer).
- **Bylaw Books** are available from the DAV National Service Foundation at a cost of \$2.00.
- **New DAVA Items**—Attendees at the DAV Auxiliary National Fall Conference saw many new DAVA items that were on display and available for purchase. Be sure to check out the new items at www.davstore.org/auxiliaryitems.html.
- **Form 990-N** (electronic postcard) is a filing requirement for all DAV Auxiliary units and state departments with annual gross receipts less than \$25,000. Failure to comply will result in the loss of the non-profit status of the unit or state department.