

Headquarters News

DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

Membership

By Susan Miller, National Membership Chairman

Congratulations to the four departments that have made quota this year - Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, and Puerto Rico. Great Job!!!

Congratulations to all the new units that have been chartered this year and congratulations to those who have won the monthly \$25.00 drawings. Sign up a new member and your name goes in the pot for the drawings. Sign up 5 members and you will receive a "Star Award" pin. I hope many pins have been mailed out this year.

Don't forget that our membership year is not a calendar year. The membership year is from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. In order for units to be eligible to win the Mae Holmes award, quota must be met by April 1, 2012. There is still time to make quota by April 1, 2012! One way to achieve quota, is to start signing up your EXTENDED family members. I know there are probably many, many of them who would love to be members of this great organization.

Another way is to sign up eligible junior members. Their dues are just \$3.00 to National, plus whatever your state and/or unit per capita is. Junior membership also counts towards unit quota. It would be great if there were more chartered junior auxiliaries.

Any new annual senior membership application processed during April, May, or June will be paid through June 30, 2013. This is a way the member can get a little more for their money. It is getting three months free.

It's never too late. We can all make quota!! National Commander Patti would have an even more exceptional year if National Quota was met. We can all help meet that goal.

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History

By Joyce Humes, National History Chairman

Most of you know that I am History Chairman. In that capacity, I would like to do a great job to honor our National Commander. To do so, I need items relating to events you may have that she has done, gone to, or attended. I have YET to receive anything and we are already six months into her service. PLEASE help me to do her proud. Items are not limited to but include pictures, itineraries, brochures and so on. Just about anything. Once again, please send to: Joyce Humes, 9419 Stones River Drive, San Antonio, TX 78245-2052

From the Communications and Technology Strategic Planning Subcommittee.....

Are you attending the National Convention in Las Vegas? Would you like to have the chance to be filmed about why you are a DAVA Member, what activities you participate in as a DAVA member, or even what you do to make a difference in the DAVA? Now is your chance! The Communications and Technology Committee of the Strategic Plan is working on YouTube Video Productions and we need our members' help! More details will be coming on how you can participate and have a chance to be a YouTube Sensation! Put on your thinking caps now, and stay tuned for details in an upcoming article!

Legislative

By LeeAnn Karg, National Legislative Chairman

The Right to Vote!

The right to vote is a right we so often take for granted and we forget that it is the foundation of our democracy in this country. Two hundred years ago it was not a right for everyone. At one time only white, male, and rich men could vote. It was not an easy task to ratify the constitution to allow everyone the right to vote.

We can thank Thomas Dorr, Alice Paul, and Bob Moses. Thomas Dorr, a state legislator, from Providence, Rhode Island, gathered a large group of angry citizens to fight for the fact that the Declaration of Independence states, "That all men are created equal." They demanded that the government represent the peoples' interests.

Another advocate was Alice Paul. Paul, along with several other women was imprisoned for demanding that American women should have the right to vote along with men. The suffrage movement had begun in 1848 with the states of Washington, California, Kansas, Oregon, and Arizona giving women the right to vote but not Virginia and Paul was not going to wait any longer. In June of 1917 the suffrages were put in prison and treated cruelly. In January 1919, the bill passed and August 26, 1920, the 19th amendment to the Constitution won women the right to vote.

Bob Moses was a high school teacher in Mississippi and set out to make right the racial tension there. Moses addressed a mass meeting

and reminded them that since 1868, blacks in Mississippi were given the right to vote with the passage of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which pledged that the government would enforce equal access to the ballot in the South.

Exercise your right to vote and never forget the sacrifices that were made to make sure you have that right. Our government is only as good as the people we elect to run it for us. They are to do the will of the people, so make your wishes known and ask for their support on the issues that are important to you and to our veterans.

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

Junior Activities

By Ann Glende, National Junior Activities Chairman

It's hard to believe we are just a few months away from summer! That means the kids who have been accepted for Camp Corral are busily getting ready for their week at camp. Now more than ever National Headquarters needs the donations our junior members have collected!

Please don't wait until National Convention to bring the funds collected by the junior members – transportation to camp needs to be arranged and we'd like to be able to send as many children to camp as we can!

Are your juniors having a hard time reaching their goal? Perhaps you, as well as your office workers, could skip a week of morning coffees and donate that money to the project. Or perhaps skip one night of going out and donate what you would have spent to help a child get to camp.

There are so many possibilities and I know our juniors have been working hard to get as many children as possible to experience Camp Corral! Keep collecting, and sending, as much as possible. Thank you to everyone, junior members, DAV and DAVA members who have generously donated to this program. You truly are helping **DAVA 4 Kids** and allowing youth to help other youths accomplish something amazing!

Camp Corral will be hosting camps for 2012 in the following locations: Altoona, Florida; Dahlonaga, Georgia; Ellerbe, North Carolina; Front Royal, Virginia; Jackson, Ohio; Brownwood, Texas; Junction City, Kansas; Ft. Collins, Colorado and Sedalia, Colorado. Brochures will soon be available. If you know someone who would be interested in attending the camp, contact the DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters office.

DAVA 4 Kids

Juniors...Juniors...Juniors...

How are the collections for DAVA 4 Kids going? Now is the time to send your change to DAVA Headquarters. Many kids are making arrangements to go to Camp Corral and will need help with their transportation before the summer begins. Count your change and have your Senior Auxiliary send a check, so we can begin to help kids go to camp! Keep collecting change. We want to continue this project.

You are making a difference

Patti Rapisard, National DAVA Commander

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

Frances Costa, VAVS Representative & Ellen Drogo, Deputy VAVS Representative

Winter is almost over and Spring is rapidly approaching! It is time for planting the seed of VA Voluntary Service. When planting a tree for instance, you identify the sapling and where you will plant it and then you take care and nourish it.

This is what we need to do to recruit and retain our Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary volunteers (as well as sponsored volunteers). These past years, I have emphasized the importance of believing in our service mission to hospitalized veterans and DAVA volunteering being family-like. These two concepts are a belief in the future. We take action now so that our children and grandchildren may benefit from volunteering for our veterans. We believe in their future as we do for the future of hospitalized veterans and their families. So be a true Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary volunteer by serving our veterans. Your belief in the power of service and every veteran's future will result in immeasurable good for veterans nationwide.

We count on local VAVS Representatives and Deputies to fulfill the mission by recruiting new volunteers from within our units, chapters and communities. We must warmly greet new prospective volunteers with a great big "Welcome." Help them feel like part of the family so that we do not lose them (retention) within the first few years. They are part of a special group that we consider that VA considers family.

We can use these steps to be an effective recruiter and volunteer for the DAVA. The first is an Effective Orientation-be sure your volunteers get to voluntary service and become a properly registered volunteer and receive their volunteer orientation. Secondly get them involved from day One. A lack of meaningful involvement can discourage anyone. Don't miss out on the energy that these new volunteers have. Third, listen to their recommendations, suggestions and desires as a volunteer. Be a team builder, by brainstorming and listening responsively. They in turn can develop future volunteers. Fourth, remember our veterans' service. Bond through service of our volunteers, remember how you felt when you first became an enthusiastic volunteer. When volunteers work together, they develop trust and rapport and also can build a bond that lasts a lifetime. Fifth, again - be like family. The "little things" matter the most in a caring family. Keep in mind that it is the little things that make the day brighter for our hospitalized veterans. Show compassion for their physical or mental issues, appreciation for their service - and say "thank you." Remember their birthdays with monthly ward socials celebrating those that have or had a birthday that month.

Remember with this group of volunteers (whether regularly scheduled or occasional) like family may have squabbles or disagreements, but like any family we need to accept and value one another - imperfections and all. Keep in mind why we volunteer - not for personal gain or accolades, but to better the lives of our veterans. With this group of dedicated volunteers, the quirks are accepted and the talents appreciated and often praised. There is no nicer family than that of the Disabled American Veterans volunteers!

In salute to National Commander Rapisand - we are on the "Same Team and have the Same Dream" and that Together We Can Meet This Mission!

2012 DAV/DAVA National Convention - Las Vegas, Nevada

Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino

3645 Las Vegas Blvd., South - Las Vegas, NV 89109-800.634.3434

\$112 Single/Double

August 2—Registration	August 5—Auxiliary Business Session
August 2—Auxiliary NEC Meeting	August 5—Fun Night
August 3—National District Meetings	August 6—Auxiliary Business Session
August 4—Joint Opening Session	August 6—Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
August 4—Convention Committee Meetings	August 7—Final Auxiliary Business Session
August 4—DAV Natl. Commander's Reception	August 7—Introduction of Natl. Officers & Dinner

Tentative Agenda Subject to Change

Calling all Juniors! - We are currently working on a special project and we need your help! Have you ever wanted to share with others why you enjoy being a DAVA Junior Member? Have you wanted people to hear about all the wonderful things you do? How about why you signed up to be a Junior Member? Now is your chance! We want to hear your stories. We want to see your pictures. Now is your opportunity to shine even brighter. Please send your stories, comments, photos, and thoughts by March 31st, 2012, to Junior Activities Chairman Ann Glende, DAVA National Headquarters, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076. Thanks in advance!



DAV AUXILIARY

Follow Us!



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

Deadlines!!! -

- **Education Scholarship Applications** must be postmarked no later than **March 15, 2012**. Scholarship information can be found online at <http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership/Programs.aspx> or call Auxiliary national headquarters.
- **PNC Outstanding Member of the Year Award - Submissions** must be postmarked no later than **March 31, 2012**.
<http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership/PNCAwardForm.aspx>

Congratulations to these recruiters whose names were drawn in February for a cash award of \$25 each:

Shirley Ashmore, South Carolina #28
Melba Sayers, North Carolina #48

A membership appeal mailing has just been sent to spouses of DAV members. When possible, the new members will be placed in units affiliated with the chapter of their spouse. We hope for a successful membership drive and look forward to welcoming many new members.

New Auxiliary Unit Chartered

Mary T. Klinker #27
Lafayette, Indiana
Chartered January 27, 2012

Reminders

- **Mae Holmes Award** — To qualify for the Mae Holmes Award, units must make quota by April 1, 2012. All membership payments must be received for processing prior to March 28, 2012.
- **Elections** — Election time is rolling around for many units. Remember that all members must be notified of the elections in written form not less than ten days prior to elections. This could be by newsletter (even a newsletter sent months ago), email, post card, or letter. Make sure voting members and those elected/appointed to an office are paid members.
- **Checks**—Under no circumstances are authorized check signers to sign blank checks.
- **Unit Standing Rules/Changes**—must be approved by the unit body at a regular business meeting.
- **Life Pins**—are sent to members who begin and complete payment of their life membership within one membership year (July 1—June 30).
- **Reports**—Commanders, Sr. Vice Commanders, Adjutants, and Membership Chairmen have access to various reports on the membership system such as: Activity Report, Direct Deposit, and Membership List. [www.davmembers.org/Request for Information/Reports](http://www.davmembers.org/Request%20for%20Information/Reports).
- **State Chaplains**—can contact national headquarters to receive a list of the members who have passed away for their state convention memorial service.
- **State Adjutants**—can contact DAVA national headquarters for an Excel version of the Supplement to State Bylaws.
- **New Charters**—national and state at large members are included in the required ten “new” senior members.
- **Indebted Units**—Delegates will not be seated at the 2012 national convention if the unit has not paid their national mandates nor submitted the required annual financial report **prior** to the national convention. This indebtedness **cannot** be cleared at the national convention.