

Headquarters News



DAV Auxiliary



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State Departments Reach Quota

Many DAV Auxiliary state departments have achieved 2011-2012 membership quota. This is no easy venture and we congratulate each and every member who made this happen for the following states. *If your state isn't listed, you have until June 30, 2012, to reach quota!*

Alabama Arizona Delaware Florida Georgia Idaho Indiana Iowa
Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Missouri
Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Mexico North Carolina Oregon
Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina Vermont Virginia Puerto Rico

*That some achieve great success
is proof to all that others can
achieve it as well ~*

Abraham Lincoln

Time to Elect National Convention Delegates

Has your unit sent in the yellow delegate listing form with the names of the elected delegates and alternates for the 2012 national convention in Las Vegas, Nevada?

It is critical that units elect delegates and alternates to represent the unit at the national convention and submit their names to national headquarters. Credential letters will be sent to each elected delegate and alternate. This letter contains a bar code that will identify the attendee at the registration desk as a bona fide national convention delegate or alternate.

Do not send the letter to national headquarters. Present it at the convention registration desk.

The number of delegates and alternates is determined by the number of senior members in good standing within a unit. Units are entitled to one delegate and one alternate for its charter, and one delegate and one alternate for each twenty-five senior members or major fraction thereof.

Example #1—The unit has 39 paid senior members. They are entitled to three votes. One for the charter, and one for each twenty-five senior members or major fraction thereof (=2).

Example #2—The unit is entitled to three delegates and three alternates, but only two members will be attending the national convention. The unit should elect both members as delegates rather than one as a delegate and the other as the alternate.

See you in Las Vegas!

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VAVS

By Fran Costa, National VAVS Representative

In reviewing some of the Core Values of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, it occurred to me that our Core values reflect in every aspect of our volunteerism.

Comradeship – We develop new friendships and keep old friendships alive within our units and our departments by volunteering together at a VA Medical Center.

Loyalty – We show our loyalty to our veterans who are hospitalized and in need of comfort.

Devotion – Not only spiritually but physically and emotionally, we give many of our talents a workout by sharing with other volunteers.

Service – Service is definitely in play when volunteering at a VA Medical Center, VA Contracted Nursing Home or National Cemetery (which falls under VAVS).

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Voluntary Service Representatives and Deputies are still needed in many VA facilities. We need you to step forward. We need you to help coordinate the DAVA and the VA with volunteers who donate their hours and activities to the DAVA. Reps need to communicate with the Voluntary Service Staff, keep track of monthly hours and report them to National Headquarters, attend quarterly meetings representing the DAVA, and the deputies should be willing to work with the Representative to assist in these endeavors.

Volunteers are also urgently needed to take up the torch where other volunteer numbers have declined for multiple of reasons. Older volunteers can no longer get out, financial reasons, work-related issues, and of course the worst is that there is no stimulation to retain these volunteers. There is a list of volunteer position descriptions available to you in the voluntary service office of your local VAMC. Reach out to all the recently chartered units around the country. We need to draw our volunteers from within our units.

Lee Greenwood (recording artist and Grammy award winner—“God Bless the USA”) says it best. “Patriotism, gratitude and generosity define our American way of life!”

Please give it some thought—Become a VA registered volunteer! You can even register on line!!

Even though you will not receive this article until after Memorial Day, please keep all of our departed members and our veterans who gave their all in your mind and hearts. Keep those veterans still giving of themselves through their illness and disabilities close by visiting them in a VA facility. Many just need visitors and someone to just listen to them and hold conversation.

God Bless you all for all that you do and will continue to do for our hospitalized veterans, and God Bless the United States of America!

Community Service

By Laurie Stopyra, National Community Service Chairman

National Convention is just a few months away. It was so nice reading your reports. Thank you for sending them to me on time. There are so many different ways we can assist people, including our veterans and their families. Good luck with your State Convention. Remember, continue to document everything you do throughout the year. You and your Unit make a difference.

Check List Following Unit Elections

- ✓ Officers to be installed by a proper installing officer.
- ✓ Former officers turn over all property of the unit in their possession to the newly elected/appointed officers.
- ✓ Complete and submit Officer Report form.
- ✓ Submit Financial Report form along with all supporting documentation.
- ✓ Complete the annual IRS Form 990-N electronic postcard. Print and keep submission confirmation for the unit files.

Junior Activities

By Ann Glende, National Junior Activities Chairman

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of the year. As I have started getting activity reports on everything your juniors have accomplished, it just reassures me that we truly believe our juniors are our STARS. Part of me, though, is disappointed in the lack of junior activities in units – if you have juniors, help them get active. Sometimes kids need more of a push than we realize, but if we guide them, help them, and encourage them, they WILL want to participate and get active. They do not have to be at every event, but an occasional volunteer opportunity opens not only the door of opportunity for them

but also for the unit. The juniors ARE a VITAL part of this organization, and they ARE the FUTURE! We need to help encourage them and promote volunteerism and community service. This will educate them, and gear them for the future within the DAV Auxiliary.

I am so excited to see the juniors at National Convention. We have an exciting party prepared on Sunday of the Convention, so juniors, watch for information when you arrive, and be sure that your units are sending in your name so you're registered. The event Sunday afternoon will last a few hours, and then the juniors will have

the rest of the afternoon with their families and friends. I can't wait to hear about everything they've accomplished, see pictures, and watch them be involved with the DAV and DAVA families.

Thanks to each and every one of you for helping to make a junior a STAR. I know my own STAR, my four year old niece, Morgyn, has been more active than ever this year, and I hope that it's just a start to what she'll accomplish within the DAVA. I look forward to seeing you all at convention, and again thank you for your confidence in me to help the juniors succeed in the DAVA.



Watch for future information regarding the 3rd Annual Junior Member **Pizza Pizzazz** in Las Vegas! All Junior members attending the national convention are invited to attend the Pizza Pizzazz. They are also welcome to serve as pages during the national convention Auxiliary business sessions. Advise national headquarters of the names of the juniors attending the pizza party and list those who wish to serve as convention pages. National Junior Activities Chairman Ann Glende has a great party lined up for the junior members!

**Year End Membership Submission
Deadline is June 25, 2012!**

Hold Status Explained

Units are placed on "Hold" for a number of reasons. "Hold" is not a unit suspension. It simply means that until required information is received, membership distribution will be held and unit mail will be forwarded to the state department. Units on hold may continue to conduct business as usual. Convention delegates from an on-hold unit are entitled to vote at state and national conventions.

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

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8/2—Registration | 8/5—Junior Pizza Pizzazz |
| 8/2—Auxiliary NEC Mtg. | 8/5—Fun Night |
| 8/3—National District Mtgs. | 8/6—Auxiliary Business Session |
| 8/4—Joint Opening Session | 8/6—Forget-Me-Not Luncheon |
| 8/4—Convention Committee Mtgs. | 8/7—Final Auxiliary Business Session |
| 8/4—DAV Natl. Comdr. Reception | 8/7—Intro. of Natl. Officers & Dinner |
| 8/5—Auxiliary Business Session | |

Tentative Agenda Subject to Change



DAV AUXILIARY

Follow Us!

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

New Auxiliary Unit Chartered

**Lowndes County #6
Columbus, Mississippi
Chartered May 24, 2012**

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

Michael Lafferty, Florida #101
Lynda Shepherd, Tennessee #46

2012 National Fall Conference

Hilton Lexington Downtown
369 West Vine Street ~ Lexington, KY 40507
859.231.9000

September 27–29, 2012
\$109—Single/Double

Direct reservation link:

http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/L/LEXDTHF-DAVETS-20120926/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Reminders

- **Financial Reports** — Please include all attachments when submitting the annual financial report. Many are being received without the necessary attachments resulting in the return of the reports.
- **State Executive Committee Members** — Any elected state officers who serve on the state executive committee and are entitled to vote shall not serve as the state executive committee member of the unit.
- **Life Membership Pins** — Members who began their life membership on or after July 1, 2011, have until June 25, 2012, to remit payment of the balance of their life membership to qualify for the complimentary life membership pin.
- **Indebted Units** — Members of indebted units/state departments will not be registered as national convention delegates. Please pay all national mandates and submit a current financial report to DAV Auxiliary national headquarters no later than July 27, 2012.
- **Adjutants**—All mail is sent to the attention of the unit/state adjutants. **This is not the personal mail of the Adjutant!!!!** The Adjutant's duty is to see that officers and members are informed of **ALL** communications. If a unit Adjutant is unable to attend a business meeting, it is their responsibility to see that all communications are presented to the unit Commander in advance of the meeting so all members can be informed.
- **Dates of Birth**—should be listed on membership applications for new life members. If a date of birth is not provided, the member will be set up for the maximum life membership amount of \$250.
- **Address Changes**—This time of year, the monthly Activity Reports will show members as having an address change when the member has not moved. This is a flaw in the membership system and when a member's record is marked as attending the national convention as a delegate or alternate, this automatically generates an address change alert.