

# Headquarters News



# DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

## ***From the Desk of National Commander, Donna Adams.....***

Just after Labor Day, I had the absolute pleasure of traveling to Pittsburgh for the annual Sharing and Caring boat ride. What a wonderful experience! The four-day event is sponsored by local veterans organizations, City of Pittsburgh, VA, and corporate sponsors. Each day, hospitalized veterans are treated to the boat ride that traverses the Allegheny, Ohio and Monongahela rivers, a wonderful lunch, and fabulous door prizes. When we reached the point that the rivers converge, a wreath was lowered into the water in honor of those veterans who are no longer with us. The Pittsburgh fire department had their trucks lining the bank with lights flashing, pumpers spurting fountains of water, and the firemen saluting the veterans. I took the opportunity to shake hands with each of the 275 veterans and volunteers on board, and helped distribute lap robes to those veterans in wheelchairs.

My arrival coincided with that of DAV Commander Larry Polzin and we were warmly received by NSO Jon Falk. The hotel was within walking distance of the boat dock and we were accompanied to the boat by members of Pennsylvania DAV and Auxiliary through a tunnel depicting the history of the city. After the ride, DAV state officers treated us to dinner at the historic city train station that has been transformed into a fabulous restaurant. My heartfelt thanks to all.

"Sharing and Caring" is a perfect example of what can be accomplished if organizations cooperate with each other. Whether its your local veterans organizations working in unison, partnering with your city or the local VA, or simply your Unit working with the Chapter, we can do great things when we team up!

Finally, Pittsburgh is a clean, beautiful, and historic city. But if you go there, don't spend time learning to say Monongahela. After I practiced and practiced, I found out the locals just call it "the Mon."

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## **VAVS**

**By Ann Glende, National VAVS Representative**

We all know that it takes a lot of HEART to volunteer. DAV Auxiliary volunteers have shown that and continue to show that in every act of kindness they do. But do you have the HEART to start the conversation about volunteering at your local VA Medical Center or accredited center? With the busy world we live in, it's hard to find time, but the VA system has a lot of great opportunities for volunteers that aren't full time.

Have you considered signing up to be an occasional volunteer – helping at picnics and outings? Or do you have the time to dedicate a few times a month to

a program special to your HEART – like hospice or transportation? With the age of volunteers in every facility increasing, now more than ever, we have to rely on our members to have the HEART and start the conversation about volunteering. There may be someone in your church, work place, or even next door that wants to make a difference; they just don't know where to start.

For more information, contact your local VAVS Representative who will be happy to guide you in the right direction, and get you started. I know I have the HEART – do you?



## Membership

By LeeAnn Karg, National Membership Chairman

### GO FOR THE GOLD!



The Olympics have just been completed and now it is time for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary to GO FOR THE GOLD! We can do it! It is members that make us great and give us the advantage that we need to do what is right for our veterans, giving them assistance and working hard to ensure their benefits are not diminished or taken a way.

This is the beginning of a new year for the Auxiliary and with it comes new challenges for all of us. I would like to challenge each and every one of you to set a goal for yourself to obtain new members for this organization. You can set your goal at whatever number you feel is achievable, but please set one. It can be one new member or ten new members. With the new eligibilities this is not a difficult task and there are endless opportunities for members if we just take the time to ask, "Are you a member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, and if not would you like to be?"

### The New Membership Incentive Program for 2012 – 2013

Bronze	-	Recruit 5 new paid senior members	-	Earn Star Lapel Pin
Silver	-	Recruit 10 new paid senior members	-	Earn Star Lapel Pin
Gold	-	Recruit 15 new paid senior members	-	Earn Picture Frame

Also...

- There will be a \$25 monthly drawing for the "Recruiter of the Month."
- A \$250 cash award will be given to the Top Auxiliary Recruiter (determined by National Headquarters Recruitment records as of June 30, 2013).
- \$250 will be awarded to the top National Service Officer recruiter of Auxiliary senior members (minimum of 50 new paid senior members) as of June 30, 2013.

A Life membership can be obtained with a small down payment of just \$20.00. The cost of a life membership is based on the age of the applicant.

Don't forget the Juniors! They are our future and are very important to our organization. Annual dues for a Junior is only \$3.00 which is paid to National and then whatever your state Junior dues are (if applicable) are paid directly to the State Department.

*Juniors and those over 80 years of age are not included in the incentive program.*

Life Membership amounts are based on the member's age at time of application.

Age	Amount
80 and over	free
71 through 79	\$140
61 through 70	\$180
46 through 60	\$200
31 through 45	\$230
18 through 30	\$250

### Bylaw Books are Now Available

**\$2.00 each**

Make checks payable to: DAV NSF and send to  
DAV National Service Foundation  
3725 Alexandria Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076

*New Auxiliary Unit Chartered*

**Bennington #4**

**Bennington, Vermont**

**Chartered September 13, 2012**

### Fall Conference



The 2012 National Fall Conference was another great success! The national program chairmen presented a wealth of information to the attendees during their programs and the breakout sessions proved beneficial and educational.

We hope the members in attendance take the information back to their units and share with those who could not attend.

## Community Service

By William Craig Johniken, National Community Service Chairman

I spent a great deal of time contemplating my first article as a national officer and as Community Service Chairman. I wanted to help answer questions that may arise in the units, but at the same time I hoped to clarify what Community Service really is.

The best way I know of to resolve issues is to research and since Google is my best friend I went to work looking for ways to meet my goals. Although, I understand what Community Service is, I began to wonder what those two words mean to the rest of the world. I decided if I understood what the majority of people thought that it meant I would be able to discuss how the majority would understand 'our' DAVA Community Service.

First, I began by looking up community service in the dictionary. There were two definitions: **1.** Services volunteered by individuals or an organization to benefit a community or its institutions. **2.** Similar work performed by law offenders to serve a sentence in lieu of or in addition to jail time. Thankfully, we fit into number 1!!

Second, I began to research what is Community Service as far as DAVA is concerned. I referred to my DAVA "bible" and refreshed my memory on that sec-

tion of the Auxiliary Manual. I was once again reminded there are many forms of Community Service. For the purposes of this article I would like to focus on the difference in Direct and Indirect Service.

**Direct Service** is when we have a direct effect on the person(s) we have come in contact with. For example, if our unit makes a direct payment to a utility company on behalf of a veteran and their family due to hardship or purchases food for a family we have performed a direct service. Another great example is if you have a member of your unit that is a professional of some kind such as a teacher who assists a veteran with tutoring. Keep in mind there cannot be a charge for any of these direct services.

**Indirect Service** is when we have an impact on the community as a whole. For example, if your unit volunteers for a local Meals on Wheels program, this has an indirect effect on veterans and their families. The reason is – this program helps everybody, not just veterans.

With these two things in mind, I think we should follow our mission statement of making a difference for disabled veterans and their families.

## Legislation

By Linda Stake, National Legislative Chairman

### PLEASE VOTE on November 6, 2012



- Please cast your vote and help decide who the 45<sup>th</sup> president of the United States will be.

In some countries, voting is a right that citizens can only dream of. In America, however, adults can vote regardless of gender, race, or class. Even though this powerful right is available, many citizens choose not to use it. In the 2008 presidential election, for example, national voter turnout was only 56.8 percent. While American citizens can choose whether to exercise their right to vote, there are some reasons why doing so is important.

#### Make an Impact

- Casting a vote is one way that the average citizen can make an impact on the world in which he or she lives. By voting for officials who hold the same beliefs as you do, you can improve the chances that your wishes are granted and that elected officials will bring to the forefront initiatives of importance to you.

#### Fulfill Your Duty

- Voting is one of the responsibilities of being a U.S. citizen.

Citizens are not legally compelled to vote; however, voting is a responsible thing to do. If you do not vote, you are not playing your required part in keeping the country on track and ensuring the continued health of the nation or your local communities.

How much impact can a vote have? How important is one vote? Your vote? George Bernard Shaw once said, "Liberty means responsibility – this is why most men dread it." Is liberty important to the DAVA? Yes! Your vote makes a difference and so do you!



## DAV AUXILIARY

Follow Us!

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*The Key is Understanding*

### Americanism

By Frances Costa, National Americanism Chairman

I want to assure all of you that I intend to do my utmost to fulfill the obligations of National Third Junior Vice Commander and thank you for this opportunity.

As Americanism Chairman I am urging all of our members to use your right to vote on November 6, 2012. Have unit members assist other members or neighbors in getting to the voting poles. Their vote could be a deciding factor in any election. If they do not have the opportunity to get to the poles, I am sure they will feel as though they have not done their patriotic duty by voting.

In your units, please keep track of all of your Americanism activities in the unit, chapter, and your community so that when the End of Year reports are due, it will be an easier task to complete them. We know units and members are out there doing the work of the Disabled American Veterans and we would like to know what you are participating in and how you are achieving it.

One suggestion, now that school has resumed, is to host an Essay Contest or Poster Contest. You do not have to give much of a reward to the best, but one thing our unit has done is a gift certificate to a Mall as an example. You can choose any patriotic theme for it, and choose the age and grade level you would like to give the opportunity to. You can go to the school, speak with the teachers to be involved. When the deadline has been met and the judging takes place, have a plan in place to present awards publicly to the students. Have Disabled Veterans from your chapter there, and invite local dignitaries as well as the school principal and superintendents as speakers to acknowledge what the children have accomplished. It really is quite simple. Have someone make up certificates of accomplishment or award for ALL the students who participate. That little piece of paper means a lot to a child. It is a great experience for them as well and instills a sense of peace in the world and makes them understand what our nation's flag stands for.

This project could be in keeping with Commander Adams's theme "The Key is Understanding."

### Reminders

- **Junior Dues**—\$3.00 covers the annual national junior dues. Check with your state department to see if there is a state per capita for junior dues. Send only \$3.00 to national headquarters.
- **IRS Form 990-N e-Postcard** — Auxiliary units are required to file this electronic postcard (or Form 990 as warranted by income). Failure to comply will result in the loss of the unit's nonprofit status. Units that do not apply for reinstatement with the IRS will have their Auxiliary charter revoked. Please comply!
- **Fundraising**—Income from approved fund-raising activities shall be used to support programs and activities sponsored by DAV, its subordinate units or other entities, as long as such programs and activities provide a direct and substantial benefit to disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors. (DAV Regulations, Section 5)
- **Election Day**—November 6.