



*United in Service*

# Headquarters News DAV Auxiliary

3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076

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Two State Departments have met membership quota and several are close!

Congratulations to:

**Georgia  
New Jersey**

Which state department will be next?

## Inside this issue:

Membership	1
Legislative	2
PNC Award Form	2
Americanism	3
Community Service	3
Hospital	4
Reminders	4

## Membership By Linda Stake, National Membership Chairman

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.

Membership is more important than ever before. We need members that will help us carry on our important mission. At National Convention in Orlando, we learned that National made membership quota this past year. However, the sad part of the story was learning that we had over 1,400 less members than the year before!

The DAV Auxiliary needs each one of you to help keep our organization strong! Membership is the key! If each of you will commit and sign up only five new members, our organization will continue to strengthen.

Please, please, please – Reach for those Stars!

## National Membership Drive Update

New members are appearing on membership rosters as a result of the largest membership recruitment mailing ever sent by DAV Auxiliary! Don't miss the opportunity to contact the new members and invite them to your next meeting or event. Think about it; one new member could just be the spark to ignite new and exciting ideas for your unit. Welcome them and, above all, embrace their ideas!

Since the mailing was sent to DAV member households, every effort is being made to

place the new member in the Auxiliary unit affiliated with the chapter. Unfortunately, not all chapters have auxiliaries and in those cases, the members are placed in the national at large.

When the bulk of the mailing has been processed, we will offer opportunities for units to pursue recruitment of national at-large members within their areas.

While we are hopefully anticipating a record-setting national membership drive, as members we must be steadfast in our recruiting efforts. Member-

ship is the foundation of our organization. Personal contact is often the best recruiting method because questions can be answered on the spot by an enthusiastic member. With the expanded membership eligibility, our numbers should soar. Together, we can make this happen.

In keeping with the theme of National Membership Chairman Linda Stake ~ let us each *Reach for the Stars.*



## Legislative By Frances Costa, National Legislative Chairman

I hope everyone participated in your local Veterans Day observances and that we ALL continue to keep our veterans and service men and women in our daily thoughts as we continue to work for the betterment of services to our disabled veterans.

Legislation is “key” to this betterment. We all need to take an active role in encouraging our elected officials to bring to their states and to Washington the needs of all veterans and their families in these trying times. Remember, our veterans did not ask to serve in combat, and yes they joined out of a sense of duty to our country, but we need also to assist them in their transitions back to their families and civilian life. What affects the veteran also affects their spouse, children, and extended families.

On that note, I read these comments by President Barack Obama that he spoke in July 2013 **“We, the People, recognize that we have responsibilities as well as rights; that our destinies are bound together; that a freedom which only asks what’s in it for me, a freedom without a commitment to others, a freedom without love or charity or duty or patriotism, is unworthy of our founding ideals, and those who died in their defense.”**

Thomas Jefferson once said: “A government strong enough to give you everything you want is powerful enough to take away everything you have.”

As we all know, it is the veterans of generations before us who worked to obtain the benefits enjoyed by our veterans of today and it is the veterans and their families of today who must remain diligent in retaining those benefits for the veterans yet to come home in need of services. We need to stand together to retain those benefits ensure they will be there for our children and grandchildren who are serving and are yet to serve our country.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all who attended the Fall Conference to contact your legislators on the veterans’ bills that were distributed and especially those assigned attached to your Ghirardelli chocolate bar. Remember all hands make a difference, so we need you to follow through with what you took back from Fall Conference.

Keep this in mind when you review all of the legislation distributed and please take action and keep track of the bill numbers and the legislative contacts made throughout the year to help make filling out your legislative end of year report easier for the Chairman or the Unit Commander.

In keeping with Commander Miller’s theme “United in Service,” please sign on to DAV’s CAN (Commander’s Action Network). It is a great initiative to contact as many politicians as possible in lobbying for veterans benefits. All of our hands working together either by email, phone calls or visits are all positive reinforcement to the needs of veterans. Remember to be concise in your comments, polite and respectful, and always acknowledge their responses because remember also that we obtain more by using honey than we do with vinegar.

If you would like a list of the bills distributed, please feel free to contact me and I will email it to you, or if necessary I will snail mail it. We need every one to be “United in Service” to our veterans, ourselves and our families. I would like to hear from those of you who have been proactive since the Fall Conference with the legislative issues. Contact me at [fl02447@aol.com](mailto:fl02447@aol.com).

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year. We have a lot to do to stand up for veterans and even if the weather is too cold or keeps us indoors we can still contact our elected officials with follow ups to keep the issues on top of their agendas.

### PNC Award Form—

Is there a special member who warrants special recognition for this award? Of course there is! Go online today to download the submission form or contact national headquarters and have the form sent to you. The form is available online in three fillable formats (Word, Excel, PDF). Purpose of the Award: To recognize the contributions and dedication of an outstanding member of the Auxiliary whose efforts have enhanced the goals of the Auxiliary, the parent organization, and has been active in the community since becoming an auxiliary member.

## **Americanism** By Craig Johniken, National Americanism Chairman

I hope everyone had a great Veterans Day. I was excited to see all of the participation through out the United States. Everywhere I turned there were stories, articles, and pictures about different events on Veterans Day.

Although I have been a part of social media through Facebook for quite a while, I realized this Veterans Day how this avenue makes moving the message we have easily and instantaneously. If you do not have a Facebook page perhaps you will consider using this tool.

Fall Conference was a great success and those that attended were given many ideas to advance their unit. I hope everyone is passing the information along.

We are coming to the time of year where we all become very busy planning our wonderful holi-

day season. We must be resilient in not forgetting those who are serving. Please consider taking the time to send cards to those who are hospitalized and care boxes to those that are deployed. My granddaughter brought home a note from her class asking for contributions for care packages that their class is sending. It is great that schools are involved in this effort also.

Since becoming the Americanism chair I have given a lot of thought to the term and trying to come up with suggestions on new projects that your unit could participate in. I invite each of you to contact me with thoughts on this subject so that I can share them with everyone. My email is craigjohniken@yahoo.com. If we think outside the box on this subject I know we can expand this program.

While thinking of Americanism it caused me to also think about what the word truly means. After research of different articles and definitions as to the meaning I will leave you with what I believe it is:

*Americanism started for me at birth. Being an American is way of life. It is pride, honor, and commitment. It is loyalty. It is the willingness to sacrifice your life to uphold and defend your way of life while working towards the end result of freedom. It is the emotional feeling we have when a flag is raised, taps is played, or our soldiers come home. It is teaching our children pride and helping them understand the sacrifices that have been made so that they may enjoy the freedoms that are all around them.*

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## **Community Service** By Ellen Timmerman, National Community Service Chairman

**Community Service is doing something that helps another person that is not a family member.**

I didn't realize how much that statement was going to mean to me. Today while we were purchasing food for our chapter and auxiliary's food pantry, a woman stopped to ask about the large numbers of different items we had in the basket which gave us a chance to explain about our food pantry we keep year round to help veterans and their families. We talked for a while and she told us her husband managed a grocery store in the area and we needed to go and talk to him because he would probably give us a good price and could possibly save us some money (yeah, another contact made to help our veterans). As we talked she told us about some things that were happening in her life and it finally came out that she had just lost her father two weeks ago and she started to break down and cry. I gave her a hug and told her I understood how she felt because I had lost my father 4 years ago this month (I didn't realize I needed that hug too). This gave her a chance to just let her feelings out and when she walked away she thanked us for listening and reminded us to talk to her husband. Sometimes "Community Service" is just listening to someone.

There are so many people in our country right now that just need someone to listen to them. So many homes destroyed by tornados and storms that not only do these people need help financially but they also need support emotionally. For some people just the holidays are very difficult to get through. So take time to listen, give a hug or a smile, it doesn't cost you anything but a little time.

May all of you have a wonderful "Holiday Season" and may God bless you for all that you do.

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November  
Water Globe Recipients

**Willie Atkinson, Georgia #6**  
**Janet Dardi, Indiana #23**

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!

*Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.*

## Hospital By Linda Bailey, National Hospital Chairman

**There is no place like home:** I hope everyone enjoyed the skit at Fall Conference "The Great Oz!" The skit was to remind us that we as DAVA members can still visit our Veterans even if we don't have a VA Hospital locally.

**Holidays, Holidays, Holidays**

Please don't forget our Veterans in local Nursing Homes, Hospitals, and those that are House Bound. Holidays are especially depressing if you are confined. Think of the joy you could bring to Veterans just by stopping by to thank them for their Service to our Nation, wish them Merry Christmas, and ask if they have any needs.

The local nursing home that I visit has a contest going on to see how many Christmas Cards the patients can get this year. All the patients are telling everyone they see to bring them a Christmas Card. My Veteran (Ben) and other Veterans already have Christmas cards taped on their door, but many doors have no cards.

This would be a great idea for your unit and juniors to make cards and take to our Veterans. Challenge the DAV members in your chapter to see who can deliver the most cards to Non-VA Hospital Veterans. If your DAV members have dual membership in DAVA you can count their hours on the unit's Non-VA Hospital report as long as it's not counted on DAV's LVAP report.

When taking food and other items to Veterans in Nursing Homes or Hospitals check with facility / caregiver to ensure items can be given out.

As always there are 365 days a year you can visit our Veterans!

## Reminders

**Report Forms**—The national annual report forms have been mailed to the state adjutants. They will be sending them to the units in the near future. To make completion easier for the units, the forms are available online in Word and PDF fillable format.

**990-N**—This is an IRS requirement and units must comply. If your unit has not filed the electronic postcard, it is likely the IRS has revoked the unit's tax exempt status resulting in the unit no longer being exempt from federal income tax. Once a unit has lost their tax exempt status, they must work with the IRS directly for reinstatement. This reinstatement process is a lengthy and costly process. Refusal to file the 990-N could further result in unit charter revocation which is not an acceptable option since there are too many veterans and families relying on us. To give up the charter due to failing to file required information would be disheartening and could have a devastating effect on those who need our help.

**990-N Submission Confirmation**—Unit and State Adjutants are required to submit confirmation of filing the 990-N to state and national headquarters.

**Accumulation of Funds**—In accordance with the parent organization's national bylaws, Section 18.2: Restriction on Accumulation, "Subordinate units may not accumulate funds, whether for service purposes or otherwise, in excess of three times the expenses of their last fiscal year."

**VAVS Representative Certification**—State Commanders have received correspondence requesting their appointment/s for VAVS Representative/s to serve a two-year term in the VA facilities in their respective states. The position is more than a title; and the appointee should be a member who is committed to fulfilling the role of the VAVS Representative.

**Orders**—With the exception of Auxiliary Manuals, applications, brochures, and transfer forms, **ALL** orders go through DAV with checks payable to DAV NSF. Please do not combine membership and order payment in one check as this causes processing delays.

### *To Our Veterans, Active Military, and DAVA Members,*

*May your hearts and homes be filled with warmth and happiness. In your thoughts and prayers, remember those who are unable to join their family celebrations this year. To those who celebrate the holiday season, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays, from National Commander Susan Miller, National Adjutant Judy Hezlep, and the rest of the DAV Auxiliary staff. Peace to all.*

