

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076

March 2015

Join the DAV CAN!

Currently, VA provides comprehensive benefits to caregivers of veterans severely disabled on or after September 11, 2001. By joining the CAN (Commander's Action Network), you can join forces in urging Congress to expand the limitations to include veteran caregiver benefits for all eras. For more information, or to sign up, please [click here](#).

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Membership by Frances Costa, National Membership Chairman

Congratulations and Thank You to those who have signed up members and received a "Together as One" pin and/or a Gift Certificate for signing up 20 members or more.

Our membership is important so please help your units, departments, and national make quota. It is not easy, I know. Begin with your Delinquent members and renew your Junior members. Many of us work hard at recruitment and retention, but "if not us—then who" will carry on our legacy and be there for the next generation of veterans to come?

Membership is not only about recruiting, but retention of our existing members, encouraging new ideas and young able-bodied officers and chairmen. I know we are only required to hold four meetings per year, but more are encouraged. By meeting more frequently we build closer comradery among our members. When you have less contact or communication with your members they become uninterested in being involved and find other more meaningful things to do. We need these members, so please give this some thought.

The names and faces might change but the dynamics remain the same. What good is an agenda if you don't follow it or you don't begin your meetings on time? This might be another way to keep our members active. Spring is just around the corner and it is almost that time again when most units elect and install new officers. Instead of relying on word of mouth, we need to get the word out to our members of our meeting dates and elections in other ways. I hear often that we don't keep our members informed about what we are doing. Send out a newsletter or just a postcard, whether it be monthly or quarterly, to all the members and keep them in the loop. It is all in the asking—if we all ask just one then we will be keeping our promise to our veterans and their families because we will continue to grow and be able to accomplish more.

DAV and Auxiliary "Together as One!"

July 1, 2015, we will convert to a life membership program for all adult members. New life members can start their membership with a \$20 down payment with an unlimited amount of time to meet the payment goal. Payments are only required one time per year with the option of making more frequent payments if the member desires.

Junior members will have two options effective July 1, 2015:

- ⇒ Complimentary membership up to age 18 at which time they will automatically convert to a part-life membership and payment billings will commence.
- ⇒ Junior Life Membership for those under the age of 18 allows family members to get an early start on a life member for their juniors. The minimum down payment will be \$20 and applied toward a \$250 life membership amount.

If you have questions or concerns, please call us at 877.426.2838, option 5.

National Fall Conference

It's time to make plans to attend the National Fall Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The conference will be held at the beautiful Galt House Hotel, and is a learning experience for all. The conference is open to all members, and there is no need to elect delegates. Everyone has a voice! All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

This year we are excited to announce the first annual Health and Wellness Fair during the conference!

This event will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on October 1, and will include vendors such as Walgreens, American Cancer Society and Women Health Services. Watch for more information about this event, the agenda, and other special speakers that will be attending this year.

As a reminder, the banquet will be held on Friday, October 2 and the conference will conclude with a reception Saturday, October 3.

Galt House Hotel
140 N. 4th Street ~ Louisville, KY 40202
800.843.4258
October 1—3
\$125 Single/Double
\$135 Triple
\$145 Quad
Add \$20 per night for executive suites

Mae Holmes

by Linda Stake, National Mae Holmes Chairman

How many units have made quota? When you think, "Mae Holmes," think, "Membership quota – April 1." To be eligible for **competition** and to be the best unit in the state and nation, quota is the key. We have until the end of this month (March) to sponsor those new members for this program.



The Mae Holmes report recaps everything your unit has done for the year; so really, **all** programs are important in Mae Holmes. Even if you do not make quota by April 1, please fill out your Mae Holmes report anyway.

The Mae Holmes report is very important to the NEC for your district. The NEC will record the hours, miles and money your unit has contributed for the year; and then, will send in the totals to National Headquarters. See the importance of filling out this report?

Do not confuse the quota date of **April 1, Mae Holmes** with the quota date for the year. If you do not reach quota by April 1, you can still sign up members until June 30 to make quota for the year.

Remember, it is you, the member, who makes our organization a success!

Spreading Cheer to Veterans



Venice Gulf Unit 101, Florida, went the extra mile to spread holiday cheer to Veterans living in local nursing home communities during Christmas.

They began by setting up a tree, and trimmed it in red, white, and blue. The tree included honor scrolls with the name of individual Veterans. Auxiliary members and the community chose names from the tree, and shopped for gifts. Items purchased included pajamas, socks, flannel shirts, robes, aftershave sets, ball caps, and gift cards. All that was asked was that the gifts be wrapped and include the name of the Veteran when delivered.

The project began with 17 Veterans and the names on the tree grew to 130! Every Veteran received 4 to 7 gifts, and the Auxiliary's goal to make sure that no Veteran went without a gift to open on Christmas was achieved.

Since, the program has been named "Adopt a Vet" and the Auxiliary members plan to make sure that this becomes an annual tradition.

Each "Scroll of Honor" was selected and gifts produced...100% response... and the return was nothing short of a "Christmas Miracle."

Thank you for the outstanding work, Unit 101!

"The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better." *Robert F. Kennedy*

Legislative

by Craig Johniken, National Legislative Chairman

With a new year started and Congress in session, it is time that we work towards making sure that the DAV Legislative Priorities for 2015 are brought to the forefront of our elected officials.

DAV National Commander Ron Hope recently stated: "In the past couple of years, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has made significant progress in addressing the claims backlog, but there is still much more that needs to be done. Congress must provide, and VA must allocate, additional resources to complete the modernization of VBA's IT systems, increase the number of claims processors, and expand the number of Board of Veterans' Appeals attorneys and judges to address that growing backlog."

We as DAVA members must contact our elected officials and request that they thoroughly review *The Independent Budget* as the 114th Congress works towards approving a budget.

For more information on The Independent Budget you may read the full report at www.independentbudget.org.

VAVS

by Patty Davis, National VAVS Representative
Rose Williams, National VAVS Deputy

Did you know that on March 3, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln signed a law to establish a national soldiers and sailors asylum? It was renamed in 1873 to "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," and was the first-ever government institution created specifically for honorably discharged volunteer soldiers. It's amazing to know that the history of the VA system, and the emphasis it has on caring for Veterans, dates back to over 142 years ago.

Today, the volunteer possibilities are endless and are extremely flexible. Whether you can only volunteer once or twice a month, or every day, Voluntary Service Program Managers will strive to make sure that those who are willing to assist in the care of Veterans are put to the task! Reach out to members of your community and encourage them to make a difference at a local VA Medical Center.

We look forward to seeing the units' annual report forms. State Adjutants, please remember to send copies of the reports to: Patty Davis, 455 W. Sunnyview Dr. #104, Oak Creek, WI 53154. Thank you for everything that you do everyday to help care for Veterans!

Americanism by Ellen Timmerman, National Americanism Chairman

It's almost "**REPORT TIME**" again. I want to remind everyone that when you fill out your report for Americanism that our reports work together. On the Americanism Report you will list what is involved in doing your Americanism activities such as how many flags you gave out, encouraging people to vote, displaying our flag, etc.; but the time, money and mileage involved in doing these activities should be included in your Community Service Report.

These are the days that are recognized as "flag flying" days, but every day is a perfect day to fly the American Flag.

Voting is one of the most important ways we can show how important being an American is to us. We have so many opportunities to do this from a school board election to the election of the President of the United States of America. Our Auxiliary elections are just as important, so please give a great deal of thought about who will be the best person to guide your unit and state for the next year.

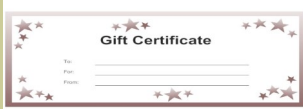
State Adjutants: I have a new mailing address so if possible please mail your "Americanism Reports" to: Ellen Timmerman, 5508 Foothills Dr., Farmington, NM 87402. **GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**

(Variable)	Easter Sunday
April 6	Army Day (Navy only)
April 13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday (Army only)
April 14	Pan American Day (embassies in Latin America)

www.davauxiliary.org



February Recruitment



Congratulations to:
Amie Woods
Florida 18

Sign up 20 new, paid senior members and receive a \$30 gift certificate to the DAV Store!

New Auxiliary Units

Chilton County
Clanton, AL #33
Chartered 2-9-2015

James Raj Jones
Asheville, NC #2
Chartered 2-20-2015

Congratulations and
welcome!

DAV AUXILIARY

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DAV and Auxiliary, Together As One



Save the date! The DAV 5K will be in 3 cities this year:

Cincinnati, OH—11.7.15
San Diego, CA—11.7.15
Atlanta, GA—11.14.15

Registration will open Fourth of July weekend. For more information, visit www.dav5k.org or like the DAV5K on Facebook. We hope you'll make plans to join us!



Reminders~

Meetings—Units must hold a minimum of four regular business meetings per year. Additional meetings are encouraged. The minimum quorum is four senior members, and one member present must be the Unit Commander or a Unit Vice Commander.

Fundraisers—All units wishing to conduct a fundraiser must first get the written approval of the chapter. If there is no chapter, the written approval must be obtained from the DAV State Department. If there is no DAV State Department, written approval must be obtained from the DAV National Executive Committee. Also, no unit can conduct a fundraising project or activity in the territory of another chapter or unit without receiving required approval.

Forget-me-Not Drives and Income—With proper consent, units are able to conduct one Forget-Me-Not drive annually, and must use the supplies available for purchase from the DAV Store. Income from Forget-Me-Not drives are to be used solely for service to disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors and for no other purpose.

Memorial for Departed Members—Many units hold a memorial each year to honor those who have departed. As a reminder, an example of a memorial is available in the Constitution and Bylaws on page U-29.

Installation of Unit Officers—The Unit Commander and Unit Officers can be installed by an Auxiliary Past National Commander, an elected National Officer, the National Adjutant, the National Assistant Adjutant, an elected state officer, a past state commander, or a past unit commander. The incoming Unit Commander selects the installing officer. The Auxiliary Ritual must be used for installation.

990-N e-Postcard Confirmation—It is the duty of the adjutant to send copy of the acknowledgement of filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of Form 990-EZ or Form 990 to State and National Headquarters each year.