

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | March 2018

## Join us for the 2018 National Fall Conference



The National Fall Conference will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, September 27—29, 2018, at the Lexington Embassy Suites. Nestled in a beautiful setting in the heart of Kentucky's Bluegrass Country at the University of Kentucky Coldstream Research Campus, this hotel is centrally located to the finest attractions and just minutes away from

Lexington Bluegrass Airport.

Enjoy spacious suites that feature two rooms, a refrigerator, microwave, sleeper sofa, HDTV's, and WiFi. A complimentary made-to-order breakfast and evening reception with drinks and snacks is included with each reservation. The Paddock Grille and Bar adds casual dining and offers American cuisine. There is also a newly renovated and fully equipped fitness center and an indoor heated swimming pool.

All members are invited to attend this three-day educational conference that will include information from National Chairmen on their respective programs as well as an opportunity to learn more about how DAV and DAV Auxiliary are working together toward helping Veterans and their families.

Registration will begin on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., and continue Thursday, September 27, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and Friday, September 28, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

The National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting will be Thursday, September 27, at 4:00 p.m., and the first business session will be held that evening at 7:00 p.m. Show your patriotic pride by wearing red, white, and blue to the opening business session.

After the meetings have concluded, join us Friday evening for a casual and relaxing hospitality event and don't forget to charge your camera for the photo booth.

Saturday morning the newly elected DAV National Commander will address attendees. The conference wraps up with a reception on Saturday evening.

Registration will be \$60 for all attending, including guests, and includes a registration bag, fall conference booklet, fall conference flash drive, ticket to the Friday evening hospitality night, and admittance to the Saturday evening fun night. Registration fees are paid to the DAV Auxiliary registration desk at the conference hotel.

Reservations can be made by calling 1-859-455-5000, and asking for the DAV Auxiliary group rate. Single/double accommodations are \$124 per night, and triple/quad accommodations are \$134 per night, plus applicable taxes. Reservation cutoff is September 4, 2018.

Event pre-registration will be available after August 1, 2018. Stay tuned for more details.

We look forward to seeing many new faces and friends at the 2018 National Fall Conference. You won't want to miss this educational and fun event!



### Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for making 2017-2018 Quota!

Nevada  
Vermont  
West Virginia

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## Legislative by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Legislative Chairman



As 2018 came roaring in like a lion, it seems Mother Nature thought we needed record breaking everything, including torrential rains, tons of snow, ice, and the lowest freezing temperatures ever recorded in many areas. Yes everyone, even me in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. I'm sure everyone did a double take like I did when the power bill came! Ouch! I am praying for a very early Spring.

Many of you will be planning conferences and conventions soon, so I am asking that all Unit and State Legislative Chairmen start making plans to sign up members for the Commander's Action Network (CAN). If possible, set up a table with a laptop and get volunteers to help sign up new members. Also, be prepared to give handouts to all members and supporters explaining how they can sign up other family members and friends. It's important that we **Keep the Promise** and fight for the interest of America's injured heroes and their families on Capitol Hill.

### DAV/DAVA's Critical Policy Goals for 2018 are:

1. Comprehensive Support for Caregivers of all eras
2. Strengthen and modernize the VA Health Care System
3. Defend our benefits and protect our future
4. Improve services and recognition for Women Veterans
5. Support sufficient funding for Veterans benefits and health care

We also need to continue to educate the public about the great sacrifices and needs of our veterans making a transition back to civilian life.

Please visit "Take Action" on the DAV Auxiliary website or "Help DAV" and then "Advocate" on DAV's website to explore the many bills that are pending to improve medical and compensation benefits for our veterans and their families.

DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Arlington, VA, was held February 25—28, facilitated by the Commanders and Adjutants Association. Members of DAV and DAV Auxiliary attended various workshops, made personal visits to their legislators, and presented our Critical Policy Goals for 2018. On Tuesday, February 27, DAV National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster gave her presentation to the Joint House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C. There is no better time than **now** to flood your elected politicians with veterans benefit support letters letting them know we are **strong, united, and voting!**

Thank all of you that are participating in CAN and for signing up new members. May God bless you, our troops, our veterans and may God forever bless and keep us **"America Strong."**

### 2018 National Convention Junior Pre-Registration

*The following junior will be in attendance at the 2018 National Convention in Reno, NV.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

State and Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Child (circle one)

*This form must be returned to DAVA National Headquarters no later than **May 15, 2018**.  
3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 -Fax:859.442.2095 -email: [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org)*

Don't forget to return the pre-registration form for any junior attending national convention. This will guarantee that the junior receives a t-shirt once they arrive. Additional t-shirts will **not** be available!

## VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

Do you ever find yourself in need of inspiration? Just a little something that reminds you that what you are doing for our Veterans is making a difference? I know I do! As your DAV Auxiliary National VAVS Representative, I am in a special position where I get that inspiration on an almost daily basis. I get the privilege of receiving the VAVS minutes and newsletters from VA's and CLC's across the country. While some days I may not always read them as close as I should, I always take the time to look them over to see what VAVS programs, State Departments, and Units are doing. The variety of projects, activities, events, and donations are amazing! No one is doing exactly the same as someone else, but everyone is doing what works for them, their State, and their Unit.



As we approach spring, think about different activities your Unit could do. Do you have a minor league baseball team in your town? Consider sponsoring a baseball outing for CLC residents – if the task is too big for one Unit, maybe you can join up with your Chapter or other Units. You could sponsor a baseball watching party with hot dogs, popcorn, and peanuts for inpatients. Or maybe arrange a boat outing. Another idea is to start a garden for Veterans. This could be a flower garden for patients and visitors to admire or maybe raised beds that Veteran residents could help tend. Always talk to your VAVS staff to see what would work for your particular VA and/or CLC. Arrange a visit to VA cemeteries and offer to assist with spring clean-up. With the changing weather, consider donating some season-appropriate clothing to the VA Outreach centers. Remember, if you use your imagination, the possibilities are endless.

I know that there are many of us (myself included) that are still working full-time jobs. Maybe we still have young children at home, or we are caretakers of spouses, parents, or other relatives. Finding the time to be a regularly scheduled volunteer at our local VA is almost impossible. I recently learned that my local VA has an inpatient visitor program. This is a volunteer opportunity that can be done in the evenings or on weekends. Does your VA have a program similar that might work with your schedule?

I know we sometimes feel like we're not doing much, but every little bit is something for the Veterans in your area. As we approach our State conventions, please remember to fill out your Annual Reports. We want the opportunity to see what your Units are doing. Filling out Annual Reports is one way we are able to see that – so please, track your activities and hours, fill out reports at the Unit level and send them to State. Also, feel free to send pictures of your Units and State taking part in VAVS activities. We would love to see what is being done as we work together to make a difference for our Veterans and their families.

“Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals.” Dave Gynn.

### **2018 National Convention Tentative Agenda**

7/12 - Registration	7/14 - National Commander's Reception
7/12 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting	7/15 - Memorial Service
7/13 - Registration	7/15 - Auxiliary Convention Committee Meetings
7/13 - District Meetings	7/15 - Department Receptions
7/13 - Auxiliary Opening Session Rehearsal	7/16 - Auxiliary Second Business Session
7/13 - NEC Memorial Service Rehearsal	7/16 - Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
7/14 - Registration	7/16 - Fun Night
7/14 - Joint Opening Session	7/17 - Auxiliary Final Business Session
7/14 - Auxiliary Opening Session	7/17 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting
7/14 - Financial Reporting Seminar	7/17 - Introduction of National Officers and Dinner

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

## DAV AUXILIARY

**Craig Johniken,**  
National Commander

3725 Alexandra Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076

**Patricia Kemper,**  
National Adjutant

Phone: 877.426.2838  
Fax: 859.442.2095  
E-mail: [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org)  
[www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org)



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on the DAV Auxiliary.



## Sponsors Welcome!

Sponsorships are available for the 2018 National Fall Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. This is an opportunity for a business or organization to say thank you to disabled veterans and their families, and to provide a memorable Fall Conference experience for our deserving members.

Currently, these sponsorships are available:

- ⇒ Signature Sponsor (\$5,000)
- ⇒ Special Event Sponsor (\$2,500)
- ⇒ Sponsor Exhibitor (\$1,000)
- ⇒ In-Kind Sponsorships

Any business or organization interested in a [sponsorship opportunity](#) should contact Auxiliary national headquarters.



## New Auxiliary Unit!

Mayo Southeast Unit #28  
Rochester, Minnesota  
Chartered February 12, 2018

## Reminders:

- **Annual Report Forms** — By now, units should have received the annual report forms from their respective state departments. These forms are also available online in Word and PDF fillable formats. <http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership/AnnualReportForms.aspx>
- **Unit Meetings** — Meeting changes (location, date, time) must be made by vote of the unit members at a regular business meeting, followed by a notice to all members.
- **Adjutants** — It cannot be stressed enough that all mail is sent to the attention of the unit/state Adjutant; however, 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.
- **Date of Birth** is required on all new membership applications. Without a date of birth, the application will be returned if the member is unable to be reached by phone or email.

## National Commander Testimonial Dinner

National Commander Craig Johniken will be honored at a testimonial dinner on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

Cocktail hour will begin at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow at 7:00 pm. Dinner tickets are \$50 and reservations are required. Purchase tickets by April 1, 2018. Checks should be sent to Darlene Spence, DAVA Commander's Testimonial, 7919 Yellow Bark Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78154.

Room reservations can be made directly with the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, 110 Lexington Ave., San Antonio, TX 78205 (210.223.9461) and refer to the room block DAV Auxiliary Testimonial. Room rate is \$125 per night plus tax, and reservation cut-off is March 12.

A golf outing at Willow Springs Golf Course is scheduled for Friday, April 13. The cost is \$48 for 18 holes and a cart.

The National Commander has requested casual attire for all events.