

# Headquarters News

## DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

### DAV Auxiliary Scholarship Program

The postmark deadline for scholarship application submission is March 15, 2013.

For the 2013-2014 school year, full-time students may qualify for up to \$1,500 and part-time students may qualify for up to \$750.

Scholarship guidelines and application can be found at [www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org). Or, to receive the information by mail, call DAVA National Headquarters 877.426.2838, ext. 3318.

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

What an exciting new year has begun! 2013 started with a trip to Florida to attend their Mid-term conference and what a great trip it was. I was so warmly received by the members and couldn't help but be impressed by the number of members attending, the amount of business conducted, and the information and great fun provided at the conference. Florida is indeed a model of what we're about, including concern for each other. The four-day conference ended with a wonderful testimonial dinner for the DAV and Auxiliary state commanders. I thank DAVA Commander Marie Bare and all the members for your kindness and remind you that even though I came with the flu, you didn't necessarily catch yours from me.

After a short time back in Arizona, I took off again for the Presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. What a whirlwind of excitement! The five-day trip included a reception hosted by the VFW and DAV's own reception. Our DAV staff did a marvelous job of orchestrating a gala for Medal of Honor recipients, veterans service organizations, legislators, and VA dignitaries including VA Secretary Shinseki and Under Secretary for Benefits Allison Hickey. It was thrilling to be among these wonderful people all dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families.

Throughout the incredible weekend, it seemed like events were scheduled around what and where we were going to eat next, and we certainly did that in fine style. We drove past Arlington National Cemetery at night, and visited the Marine Corps Museum just outside of Marine Corps Base Quantico. The museum is amazing even if you don't have ties to the Marine Corps. It's set up on a time line with extensive displays of military history and, of course, we ate at a great restaurant depicting the historic Tun Tavern in Philadelphia (yeah, it's worth Googling).

The day of the inauguration was cold and windy, but it didn't stop thousands of people from attending, and DAV got us to the inaugural ball that evening surprisingly well. It sure was nice to have people driving that knew how to get around all the road closures. The dinner and ball were just wonderful and we were so proud to have our National Commander Larry Polzin seated at the head table. Special tribute was paid to the large number of Medal of Honor recipients and Vice President Biden was charismatic as always. All in all, the entire weekend was one I will always cherish.

The month ended when I was able to spend some time with VFW Auxiliary National President Leanne Lemley. I had just met Leanne in Washington, D.C., and it was an absolute coincidence that my husband was at the VFW when she came in while making an official visit to Arizona. He called me and I was able to spend some time with this delightful woman.

Until next month, stay well, stay warm, and keep up the good work.

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## VAVS

Ann Glende, National VAVS Representative—Shirley Ashmore, National Deputy VAVS Representative

What are you doing to make a difference? At National Fall Conference we found out that ALL of our Auxiliary members had the heart to volunteer – and now we are nearing that time of the year for you to tell us about it. Soon, Units will begin to fill out the annual VAVS report form. This is a great opportunity to share your successes with your fellow members and learn new ideas along the way.

We have heard some great things about our volunteers from our Annual Joint Reviews. For those auxiliary representatives who have not met with their Voluntary Service Director

to have this completed, now is the time to do so. We have been amazed at the things our Auxiliary members do, and we are all truly making a difference in the lives of Disabled Veterans and their families.

In March, VAVS Deputy Shirley Ashmore and I will be heading to North Carolina for the annual National Advisory Committee meetings. This is a four-day event that showcases the VA's throughout the United States and allows us to learn what other Veterans organizations are doing to help Veterans. This will be my first spring NAC meeting and I am looking forward to attending,

as well as having Shirley with me to help take everything in and bring back the information to all of you.

In the meantime, please remember to make a difference. If Bubba could do it, so can you! We need to be there to support our Veterans. Host gatherings at the VA's to celebrate birthdays or other holidays, bring in treats to brighten the day of a hospice patient, visit with patients who are undergoing radiation and need a shoulder to lean on. The possibilities are endless, and as a team we can truly make a difference.

## Legislative

By Linda Stake, National Legislative Chairman

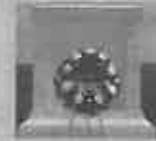
**Mid-Winter Conference** is just around the corner – *February 24-27, 2013*, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

**The Big Event** will be on Tuesday, *February 26, 2013, at 2:00 pm*, when DAV National Commander Larry Polzin makes his presentation to the Joint Session of Veteran Affairs on Capitol Hill at the Canon House Office. Prior to the commander's presentation, members nationwide will obtain the latest information concerning veterans' legislation and meet with their Representatives and Senators to discuss vital veterans' issues.

Jeffery Hall, Assistant National Legislative Director of the DAV, presented testimony before the *Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs – U.S. House of Representatives* on December 4, 2012. He offered perspectives on how problems managing massive volume of paper records have resulted in delays and denials for many veterans and contributed to the enormous backlog of claims for veterans benefits. I encourage you to read his full testimony by logging onto the DAV.org website, click *Legislation* and go to December 4, 2012, testimonial. You will get lots of information on "lost" records.

The DAV works non-stop fulfilling promises to those who have served and the DAV Auxiliary works right along with them making a difference for disabled veterans and their families. Legislation is one of the most crucial programs for the Auxiliary to support. We must help educate our lawmakers and let them know: ***The Key is Understanding!***

### National Commander Donna Adams to Lay Wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns



National Commander Donna Adams will represent the DAV Auxiliary in a special Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery at 1:15 pm on Saturday, February 23, 2013.

For those planning to attend the National DAV Legislative Mid-Winter Conference or who might be in the area on that date, you are welcome to attend this ceremony.

## Junior Activities

By Ruth Gates, National Junior Activities Chairman

Happy New Year to everyone! We have now started the year 2013. All the Christmas presents and wishes have been given. It is time for us to start our activities for a new year with a new attitude.

I would like to offer a few suggestions for activities you can do with your Junior Members. Commander Donna's theme is the Key is Understanding. It occurred to me over the holiday season that as an organization as a whole we have a wealth of knowledge amongst our own membership.

During the holidays, lots of people and organizations reach out to the elderly, home bound, hospitalized, and ill people in our society and provide them with visits and presents to brighten their Christmas. That is admirable but do we really have to stop after Christmas passes? I don't think so.

I offer you a suggestion - Adopt a homebound veteran or auxiliary member from your own chapter and/or unit. Each of these people has lived a remarkable life with many experiences and are still with us. Commander Donna also wants to foster an environment of mentoring within our organization. This will only require a small amount of your time and the rewards for the Junior members will be immeasurable.

Consider sending them a card on a weekly or monthly basis. Plan a weekend day to take them on an indoor picnic or help them around the house. Most people who are homebound have limited visitors which are generally family members, medical professionals, or volunteers from organizations such as Meals on Wheels. If we spent just one hour a month visiting with these veterans or auxiliary members, you would be brightening their days.

Remember that in any activity involving the Juniors there needs to be an adult Auxiliary member with them. Thank you to each and every Auxiliary member that gives of their time to work with our Juniors, our future.

## Membership

By LeeAnn Karg, National Membership Chairman

We are over half way through the Auxiliary year for membership. Is your unit at 100%? What about your State? I would like to give my personal Congratulations to the State Department of New Mexico for being the first to reach 100% for membership. Great Job! Who will be next?

I would also like to congratulate the winners of the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards for membership. Thank you for working so hard to reach these goals. You truly did "GO FOR THE GOLD". But let's not stop! We can all achieve these goals and win the awards. Members are out there and waiting for someone to ask them to join the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

How many of you have delinquent members? Here is an opportunity for your unit to achieve 100%. Talk to these members. Find out why they haven't paid their membership. Ask them what you can do to make them want to stay up to date with their membership.

We need to change with the times and sometimes that means we do things a little differently than we used to. The dynamics of a family are much different than they were 20 years ago. Is it your day of the week or time of the day or meeting place for your meetings that could make a difference to these members?

Take some time to review the State At Large list of members look for members that live in your area and invite them to join you at your meetings. Make them feel welcome. Find out what their interests are and try to find a way to use that asset within your unit.

**GO FOR THE GOLD!**



Sponsor one new paid senior member and you are eligible for the \$25 monthly drawing.



Snow Globes are personalized with the recruiter's name inscribed.

January recipient:

**Linda Chapman, Arizona #18**



## DAV AUXILIARY

Donna Adams,  
National Commander

Judith Hezlep,  
National Adjutant

3725 Alexandria Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076

Phone: 859.441.7300  
Fax: 859.442.2095  
E-mail: [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org)  
[www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org)

Follow Us!



*The Key is Understanding*

### Community Service

By William Craig Johniken, National Community Service Chairman

I hope everyone is doing well after the holidays. Units will be soon completing the annual Community Service report so I would like to touch on one aspect of our COMMUNITY SERVICE program – that would be Family Services.

There are aspects of family services that require funds such as paying someone's utility bills, purchasing food, or any other assistance that has a cost.

There is another way to participate with no cost to the unit which is through a donation of yourself. If you have members that give their time to sitting with a Disabled Veteran or their family member, it also falls into this section. Caregivers have very little time to themselves, to run errands, take care of business, or attend a social event. Providing caregivers with a much needed break from their ongoing 24/7 responsibilities can give a unit member a sense of personal fulfillment.

After doing some research to determine value of personal time that has been dedicated to assisting veterans and their families, I found several web sites providing estimated dollar amounts of volunteer time, including the VA web site. The VA uses this calculator to determine respite care program volunteer hour value. The figure equals approximately \$21.79 per hour (taking into consideration hourly wages, plus typical employee benefits). As you can see, it would not take long to make a big difference in a caregiver's life.

In closing, I would like to mention this section is dedicated to direct service to America's Disabled Veterans and their families. What better way could we start out a new year.

### *New Auxiliary Unit*

Frank H. Dailey #5  
Marion, Indiana  
Chartered January 16, 2013

### Reminders

- **Veterans Crisis Line** – The January 2013 Headquarters News provided information regarding a Veterans Crisis Line, a resource provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This is available to veterans and their families/friends. Contact Information: Phone: **800-273-8255**; Online Chat: [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat); Text: to 838255. VA's Mental Health Services [www.mentalhealthth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealthth.va.gov)
- **Officer and Financial Report Forms** have been sent to each DAVA unit. Officer reports are to be completed following installation of officers and mailed as indicated on the form. Financial reports are to be completed by the treasurer and audited by a three-member committee prior to the installation of a new treasurer. Both forms are available online.
- **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 both Word and PDF fillable formats. <http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership/AnnualReportForms.aspx>