DAV Auxiliary Making a Difference

CALIFORNIA NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 3' **Spring 2015**



Commander's Message

Mary Lou Caldwell
Commander

The DAV Auxiliary in California has always been a leader in striving to improve and adapt to the changing times. Much of the effort this year has been a continuation of the updating and streamlining of the record keeping that was started several years ago.

Our financial records are now kept on quick books and are available to the treasurer in real time. With a few taps on the keyboard they can compare what was budgeted, and what was expended to date. Our treasurer can alert us if we are on a path to overspend in time to make adjustments. For those members who were not able to attend the mid-winter meeting, these improvements resulted in the Finance committee being able to report that there were no interest charges on any account since last June. The new system also provides for increased transparence in our transactions, which is a very important asset, for any Non Profit organization.

This past term has seen additional firsts. The Disabled for life Memorial, for which so many of our members worked very hard, was dedicated in Washington DC. The First West Coast DAV 5 K Run was held in San Diego on Sunday November 9, 2014. It was heartening to see so many Auxiliary members and DAV staffs participate with great enthusiasm.

It was at the 5 K run in San Diego that DAV Commander Ed Vandiver extended an invitation to me as Auxiliary Commander to hold a joint DAV and DAV Auxiliary Commanders testimonial Dinner. Thus, this year California will be the first DAV/ DAVA Department in the Nation to uniquely demonstrate the spirit of cooperation and working together, by holding a joint testimonial. We have heard the calling from our National Commanders to work as one team in fulfilling our Mission statements, and this is our way of demonstrating that spirit of cooperation.

In June we will have another first with the Annual California DAV/DAV Auxiliary convention going over the boarder to Reno, Nevada. This will be a new town, a new Hotel and an opportunity for a variety of different activities appealing to all age groups. I am looking forward to working with you in June to better serve our Disabled Veterans.



As of March 1st, our department only needs 48 new members to make quota!

Whom can you invite to join us?



Membership News

John A. Medvigy
Sr. Vice Commander

As Chairman of the Department Membership Committee, all Units started this Fiscal Year with a Quota set by National Headquarters. The DAVA Population Summary dated 01 January 2015, showed that four Units have reached their assigned Quota: 13, 21, 106, and 157. It is possible that more Units reached the assigned Quota since that time; others may not yet have attained the number set. Please do not stop recruiting new members. One of the ways to recruit for your Unit is from the National and Department 'At-Large' list. Unit #157 did this last spring. After verification of responses, #157 reached Quota by the end of July! All it took was a few short telephone calls and letters of invitation. While most respondents declined the invitation, those that did allowed this accomplishment.

I would like to announce that Awards will be presented for the Units that attain the best results for recruiting in several divisions based on Unit size, and individuals will also be recognized for their efforts, also. Units are in competition for prizes of $75 for 1st, $50 for 2nd and $25 for 3rd, while individuals $50 for 1st, $30 for 2nd and $20 for 3rd. These awards will be presented at the Annual Convention this June. Please ensure a member of your Unit is in attendance, preferably Commander, Adjutant, other line officers, or State Executive Committee Representative, but any member of your Unit may receive these awards, if your Unit is selected for one or more.

Spring is the time when Units and the Department hold nominations and elections. As National Standing Rules decree, each Unit must notify all the members in that Unit, active or not, of where and when nominations and elections will be held. It must be done in writing at least 10 days prior to nominations and/or elections. Notifications can be done with newsletters, letters or post cards. Post card postage is approximately 2/3 of what first-class costs.

I hope your Unit is present at the Convention this year. Make your reservations as soon as possible for the Department Convention in Reno, NV this June. This is where the voice of the membership is heard. I hope you will please consider becoming more involved in our organization. Even if your Unit does not win any of these awards, much information is presented. Many Committees are unable to meet or are short-handed, due to lack of participation. Sometimes, even one voice can have a major impact!

As always, I am your comrade in serving our fellow veterans



Got Email? ? ? ?

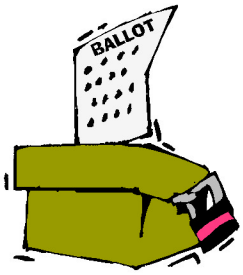
Mary Lou Caldwell
Commander

Information is the life line of any organization. If members are not aware of what is going on, they feel left out, loose interest and drop out. The traditional mode of communication for the DAV Auxiliary has been by US Mail. Information is mailed from either National headquarters or the State Adjutant to the Unit adjutants, to be distributed to the Unit members at the next meeting. This communication pattern has been in operation in the Auxiliary for the last 92 years.

The US Mail is slow, expensive, and not cost effective, but most of all not timely. In the twenty-first century members are now given a choice of supplementing this historical method by receiving News Letters from National and the State via the internet. This is more efficient, more convenient and considerably more cost effective method of distributing the news. No one will be forced to give up the traditional monthly mailings; this is an entirely voluntary option.

However, for any member who agrees to receive the DAV Auxiliary News-letters viainternet, who is not currently on our e-mail list, and signs up before I leave the office of Department Commander, I will personally donate $1.00 to the camp for kids fund. This offer assumes that if you are currently receiving Department Newsletters by US Mail, that these mailings will be discontinued. This offer extends to all DAV Auxiliary members, and is not limited to Unit and State officers. For no cost, you will receive the Department News Letter and have access to National Auxiliary News, on line. I challenge our members to help the camp for kids fund grow.

Mary Lou Caldwell, Commander
DAV Auxiliary



Unit Election Reminders

It's that time of year when most units hold their annual elections. Regardless of when elections are held for your unit, here are a few important reminders:

Use a current membership roster.

Notify all senior members in written form (email, newsletter, postcard, letter) no less than ten days prior to nominations and/or elections.

A member in good standing is one whose dues are paid for the current membership year and is not indebted to the organization. Only senior members in good standing may vote or hold an elective or appointive office.

Membership initiation is not required for a member to vote or hold a unit position.

Those nominated or elected must be members of the unit to which they are being elected. *(Yes, there are times when a non-member is elected/appointed.)*

To be eligible for a unit office, the member's dues shall be paid for the entire term of office.

In accordance with the bylaws, elect each individual office (not an entire slate with one vote). Even if the officers are to remain the same from one election to the next, they still need to be elected by the respective offices.

Delinquent membership dues can be accepted up to the commencement of the meeting for election of officers.

Within ten days following installation, fill out the officer report form (completely) and send the original to national headquarters. Send the yellow copy directly to the state department.



Chaplain's Corner

Betty Quintana, Chaplain

We had a good time at our Mid-Winter Conference except for Gordon Caldwell getting sick, I hope and pray that he is doing better at this time. All of you who were sick and could not make it to the conference I hope you are all doing well.

My unit is Getting ready for DAV Day where we go visit all the veterans at Loma Linda Hospital. We take them fruit, cookies and different treats.

Don't forget to count your Blessings every day. God Bless our veterans and those who help our veterans and their families.





Members at Mid-Winter made over 100 Valentines for patients at VAMC in San Francisco





DAV Auxiliary State Convention 2015
June 10-13 Peppermill Resort & Casino Reno, NV

Schedule

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

8am-12pm: Registration

10-11am: Audit Committee meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2015

8am-12pm: Registration

8:30-9:30am: Joint Memorial Service

10-12pm: Pre-Conference SEC Meeting

1-3pm: Joint Opening Ceremonies

3:30-5pm: Committee Meetings (Finance, Scholarship, etc.)

6-8pm: Sr. & Jr. Vice Reception

Friday, June 12, 2015

8am-12pm: Registration

8:30-11am: First Business Session

11:30am-1:30pm: Forget-Me-Not Luncheon

2:00-4:00pm First Business Session Continued

6:00pm - 8:00pm Fun night

Saturday June 13, 2015

8am-12pm: Registration

8:30-11am: Final Business Session

1: 30pm: Election & Installation of DAV Officers

6:00pm: Commanders Reception



We need your time, talents, and skills on these committees:

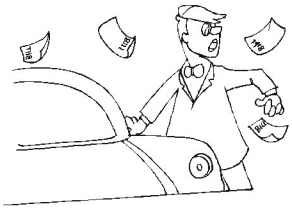
- Audit
- Auxiliary Support Fund
- Community Service
- Credentials
- Finance
- Freedom Foundation
- Fundraising
- Junior Activities
- Scholarship
- Standimg Rules
- Support Our Troops
- V.A.V.S.

Contact Adjutant Julie @

510-926-2529

For More Info

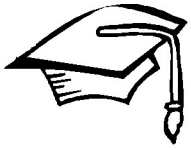
Member Resources



Financial Hardship Assistance

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA AUXILIARY VETERANS FUND:
Provides a one-time grant up to $1,000 to pay bills.
http://dava-ca.com/docs/AUXILIARY%20VETERANS%20FUND%20APPLICATION.pdf

NATIONAL DAVA SERVICE SUPPORT FUND:
Assists those who find they are temporarily unable to meet outstanding financial obligations such as utility bills, mortgage payments, hospital bills, etc. This is a one-time grant of up to $1,000.
http://auxiliary.dav.org/membership/Programs.aspx



Scholarships

STATE OF CALIFORNIA DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP:
Provides financial assistance for books.
http://dava-ca.com/services.htm **Deadline: May 1, 2015**

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND:
Amount of a scholarship can be up to, but not more than $1500 per year for a maximum of 5 years. **Deadline: March 15, 2015**
http://**auxiliary**.dav.org/membership/documents/**ScholarshipApplication**.xls

Jesse Brown Scholarship:
It recognizes outstanding young volunteers who give of their time by awarding annual scholarships that may be used to continue their education.
http://auxiliary.dav.org/membership/documents/scholarshiprules.pdf

Elected & Appointed Officers

COMMANDER
Mary Lou Caldwell
Unit #19
(626) 355-8941

SR. VICE COMMANDER
John Medvigy
Unit #157
(661) 366-6666

JR. VICE COMMANDER
Samantha Galliher
Unit #2
(530) 876-0306

Adjutant
Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, PSC
Unit #7
(510) 926-2529

TREASURER
June McJunkin
Unit #6
(530) 673-3859

CHAPLAIN
Betty Quintana
Unit #92
(760) 243-3032

Judge Advocate
Alma Fowlkes, PSC
Unit #123
(310) 410-4549

NEC Representative
Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, PSC
Unit #7
(510) 926-2529

ALTERNATE NEC
Melissa Valdez
Unit #12
(909) 838-2634

DAVA, DEPT OF CALIFORNIA
13733 E Rosecrans Ave
Sante Fe Springs,CA 90670

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

June 10-13, 2015
Peppermill Resort & Casino
2707 S. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89502
(775) 826-2121

National Convention

August 8 - 11, 2015
Sheraton Hotel Denver
1550 Court Place
Denver, CO 80202
Telephone: 1.303.893.3333
$128 Single/Double