DAV Auxiliary Making a Difference

CALIFORNIA NEWS

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Commander's Message

Samantha Galliher
Commander

As your newly elected Department of California State commander I wanted to share with you some thoughts on why the Auxiliary is important to me.

I could speak to our core values Comradeship, Loyalty, Devotion and Service. If I expounded on each it would take 3 or 4 articles before I could move on to the next. The DAV Auxiliary means I stay involved in veterans, spouses and children's programs, events, and concerns. I stay informed thru DAV Service Offices, Transportation and voluntary services, legislation, Americanism and much more. Keeping involved allows me to speak and interact with veterans and their families and speak intelligently and with genuine care and concern on legislation, veterans benefits and how each and every one of us can make a difference in their lives as well as make an impact in my life and the lives of our membership. We should all stay involved knowing the impact we can have on one veteran or many, one family or many families. Making each and every interaction count and keeping the involvement going.

So, to summarize my watchword is "**involvement**" Stay involved, volunteer, join and carry the DAVA's message to veterans and their families and the communities we live in.

You will find that you can and do make a difference.



Greetings from Our Sr. Vice

Kimberly Stuhler
Sr. Vice Commander

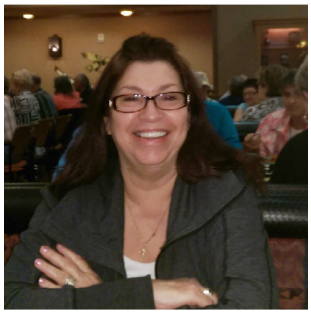
Dear Members,

It's a pleasure to join the line in this year's State Auxiliary. As my father served in the military, as well as extended family, and many friends around me, I have seen and met so many veterans wounded during their days of serving our beloved country. Having belonged, as well, to another organization that helps our disabled veterans with sports rehabilitation, I have seen our many disabled veterans in need of our support. This support is what I believe is the backbone of the DAV Auxiliary and will do my best in continuing its work as well as the promotion and education of overall Americanism. With honor, I welcome you to call upon me for any challenges that need to be addressed within our gracious organization.

It's All in the Numbers

Our Department's quota this year will be met when **201** people become new members. Our membership now totals **4,984** who belong to **22** units.

How many lives can we touch?



Meet Our Jr. Vice Commander

Christine Castillo

Jr. Vice Commander

First of all I want to thank all of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary members who were at the California state convention and elected me as their State Jr. Vice-Commander. I am honored to be participating with such wonderful people and am looking forward to learning more on how to help our Disabled American Veterans.

I am a retired Special Education Teacher and have dealt with children's disabilities on a daily basis. I have been married to a Vietnam Veteran for the last forty five years and have learned about and lived with some the disabilities that our veterans have been suffering for most of their lives.

As a Senior Vice-Commander for Chapter 92, I have been able to learn more about how we can better help veterans and their families. Just being in a group where we have faced similar problems with our spouses and to know we are not alone, really helps. To know that we do not have to feel bad may allow us to share information that may improve our lives with a disabled veteran.

In Memory of



Leona Galloway

P S C 2004 - 2005

Services to be held:
Riverside National Cemetery,
Stage 1
September 25, 1 PM



Commander Mary Lou Caldwell's Final Address to DAV

June 12, 2015

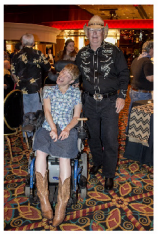
Good morning, this is the second time I have had the honor of addressing the DAV membership at the annual meeting and my hands still shake. I chose as my theme 2 years ago "Pulling together" and I believe we have both worked successfully to bring the concept to reality. The DAV has been incredibly generous in their financial support of the Auxiliary. We would never be able to do the work that we do without your support. I was very excited when Commander Ed Vandiver extended an invitation to me to have a joint Commanders testimonial; and I immediately accepted his invitation. The event was a success!

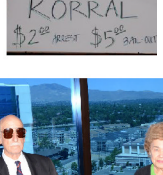
A woman's roll in society has changed since our organization was founded. This world is no longer a manual society, with Remington typewriters, wringer washing machines, ice boxes, and men in trucks who deliver milk to the front porch. Modern time saving inventions have made it possible for a woman to run a house, and have a career.

Today, to be a stay at home mom has become a luxury few can afford. It now takes two incomes to support a family and educate children. With this evolution in family life, other changes have evolved in society. Former President Jimmy Carter admitted he no longer makes the unilateral decisions he once did, but is fully collaborative with his wife. My husband is still working on this.
Women hold 104 of the 535 seats in the House for the 114th Congress; 20 of the Seats in the Senate are held by women.
In every National election since 1980 the proportion of eligible female adults who voted has exceeded the proportion of eligible male voters. Plain and simple, more women vote than men. We need to recognize this fact and use it to our advantage.
The goals of the auxiliary are the same as the DAV, maintaining and improving the care of Veterans and their families. This is viewed as a team effort.
Any successful team effort must put the goal of the organization primary and the individual's role secondary.
If you look around you can see that many groups and professional teams have lost sight of this basic fact, Congress included. On some teams, players have tended to concentrate on their own glory and not the good of the team, with disappointing results. Money cannot buy team spirit. The L. A. Dodgers player's salaries total $227,329,905/ year, yet they have not won a World Series since 1988. Tommy Lasorda is publicly broadcasting the message that "it is not the name on the back of the shirt but the name on the front that counts."

We all have DAV on the front of our shirts; some of us just have the added word Auxiliary. Same team, same goal.

Images from State Convention Reno, NV























National DAV & Auxiliary Convention

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, PSC, NEC

Adjutant

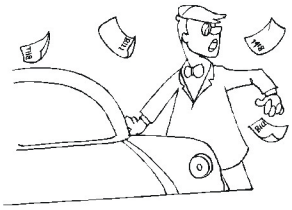
This year's National Convention was held in Denver, Colorado. The California delegation was led by State Commander Samantha Galliher and NEC Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh. Also attending were Alma Fowlkes, PSC (Unit #123), Jackie Medvigy (Unit #157), John Medvigy (Unit #157), Donna Sooter (Unit #123), and Leslie Svanevik (Unit #7). An estimated 4,000 people attended the convention.

VA Secretary Bob McDonald addressed the body at the Joint Opening Ceremony. He urged for continued lobbying efforts to ensure funding for capital improvements to VA hospitals and clinics.

As NEC's for DAV and Auxiliary, Dan Contreras and I participated in the Memorial Service. We were both impressed by its simplicity and eloquence. At this year's State Convention, we would like to introduce a similar structure to our service. This new model permits DAV to take the lead in organizing the service while highlighting the sacrifices made by caregivers.

Samantha Galliher was our representative on the Nominating Committee. Linda Stake was elected as the Auxiliary's National Commander. Her theme, "Partners, Pulling Together" reflects an urge on both a National and State level for DAV and Auxiliary members to support one another. Convention was a great way to set this expectation for the year to come.

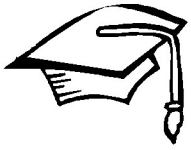
Member Resources



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, 2016**

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, 2016**
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
Samantha Galliher
Unit #2
(619) 755-9179

SR. VICE COMMANDER
Kimberly Stuhler
Unit #85
(831) 238-5793

JR. VICE COMMANDER
Christine Castillo
Unit #92
(760) 220-2522

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

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

ALTERNATE NEC
Melissa Valdez
Unit #12
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



DEPT of CA DAV Auxiliary

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