

DAV[®]

& AUXILIARY MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO
AMERICA'S VETERANS

M
A
Y

★ WE NEED ★
your
★ SUPPORT! ★

HERO AVE



TAKE
ACTION



Our very own housing programs need your support!

The food pantry is near bare. The pantry supports not only our current residents, but veterans in the community in addition to those located at VA hospitals and other locations. Please consider making donations of nonperishable food items at any time, or bring with you to DEC/SEC meeting on May 13th.

In addition, the housing program always welcomes volunteers and offers a great opportunity for group activities for your chapter or unit!



**DAV DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
23RD ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC**

Join us for a
**SCRAMBLE TO
BENEFIT
Veterans**

Monday, June 19th, 2023
9am Registration 10am Shotgun Start
Blissful Meadows Golf Club
801 Chockalog Road
Uxbridge, MA 01569

For more info:

Scan or click the
QR Code to view
the full flyer and
for a link to
register you or
your foursome
today!



Sponsorships
AVAILABLE



ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR
SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR
VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Click or Scan the
QR Codes for more
information!



UPCOMING EVENTS
Stay Connected via
FB and the calendar on
www.davma.org/events



IS YOUR CHAPTER
OR UNIT ACTIVE?
WE WANT TO SEE!

@DAVMASSACHUSETTS



COMMANDER RICHARD CONNOR

Now that Spring has arrived there is no better time to get outside and spread the message of DAV and meet fellow veterans. Consider having your next meeting in a park or outside area, or planning a tabling event at a local fair or festival. These can be great opportunities to recruit new members for both your chapters and to the auxiliary, assist veterans with claims, and find volunteers to support the VAVS & Transportation programs we facilitate at the VA.

The NSO Office will be holding DSO/CSO training at Department Convention in June. If you are interested in becoming a service officer and assisting veterans and their families with claims, please contact your Chapter so they can get you registered!

It's that time of the year for installations. Once elected officers are installed, have the Department Line Officers full support throughout their term. Every officer should spend time mentoring with the next in line to help them understand the importance of their position. For example, being available for phone calls, meetings or questions on what their new role entails will ensure a smooth transition. Please feel free to reach out to myself, or any other Department Line Officer for assistance!

When I became your Department Commander I made a few changes which I believed to be beneficial for the state. I worked hard to attend many chapter meetings across the Commonwealth, and ensure I was available for mentoring, and will continue with this in the future.

Please join me at our Department's Joint Testimonial Dinner on Thursday June 8th at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster MA. Cocktail hour starts at 5pm, and Dinner & presentations begin at 6pm sharp. I am looking forward to seeing many of you Department Convention, and always know that I am reachable for questions or suggestions. It has been my honor to serve you this last year, and I want to thank each of you for your support and camaraderie!

SR. VICE BOB KINSMAN

I recently spoke with the VA Bedford Director, Dr. Joan Clifford, who told me that the Bedford VAMC is reopening to volunteers!! Our DAV Chapters and Auxiliary Units will soon be able to visit with hospitalized veterans in the wards at Bedford. This is phenomenal news!



The VA Town Hall Seminar on the PACT Act (the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022) held recently in Billerica was exceptionally informative. Subject matter experts from VA New England gave an in-depth presentation on the expansion of VA health care & benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. After the presentation, more than a dozen VA Doctors and Nurses were available to discuss toxic exposure issues with the 75 veterans in attendance. I spoke to one of the Doctors about ionizing radiation exposure, and within three days, I was contacted by three VA personnel about the issue, so they seem to be very pro-active. I encourage anyone with toxic exposure to attend one of the PACT Act Town Hall events to get more information and the care they deserve.

This is a very busy time for Chapters and the Department, with Officer elections & installations, annual financial reports, Service Officer training and convention planning all coming due. Please be proactive and get your hotel & meal reservations completed soon. Also, this is the time to submit your resolutions (prior to the Department Convention). In last month's newsletter, I included a brief report on **How to Write a Resolution** for your use. If you need assistance on preparing your resolution, please contact me or Mike Valila. If your proposed Resolution gets approved, it may be included by the DAV Legislative Team in next year's edition of DAV's Critical Policy Goals.

We are planning an **On-Site Tour of the Massachusetts State House**. Please let me know if you are interested. We are also gathering information on a Citizen's Legislative Seminar. The **Citizens' Legislative Seminar (CLS)** is a citizen program, organized by the Senate Office of Education and Civic Engagement, which aims to better educate the public on the functions of the Massachusetts State Legislature.

Continue to use the **DAV Commander's Action Network (CAN)**, which is available here: <https://dav.quorum.us>. This is a national quick-reaction service that notifies our legislators of DAV support for bills that are important to veterans. It does make a difference when you contact your legislators and it is very easy to use. Give it a try!



1ST JR VICE BOB BRONSON

As we prepare for Department Convention next month, I reflect back on the wonderful year we have had, and all the great work we have accomplished! The Membership Committee has been meeting monthly, and has come up with some great ideas to assist with recruitment, retention, and getting members active!

One idea that we are soon wrapping up is developing Department business cards. Each Chapter will be provided a case of them, and reorder instructions. These can be handed out to veterans in search of assistance for claims & benefits, housing, legislative issues, membership, and more! It will have our contact information as well as QR codes and links to our Department social media and website, and list our services and programs right on the card. Our other project we have been discussing is doing a membership transfer drive to try and get as many of our 3,700 "at-large" members assigned to chapters and active! We hope to do this by creating a raffle to incentivize them to reply. We will be contacting our Chapters with further instruction once we begin this drive, as we will be counting on you to reach out and provide a warm welcome to the newly transferred members! The Chapter that receives the most transferred members from "at-large" will win a prize as well!

I have been reaching out to the Chapters that were assigned to me to set up a visit during one of their Chapter meetings. The results have been mixed, no response from some, one no show, but the ones that I had the opportunity to visit were all run very smoothly. I was very impressed by each and every one of those Chapters! Although they were not run exactly the same, they all did the best with what they had. Some were quite a surprise with the number of members in attendance. The take away from all of them is that it takes work and planning to have a successful Chapter. The more you put into it, the more success will follow. Please use the Order of Business templates that the Department is sending out monthly to help conduct your meetings. Insert your own local business, but by using the template we will ensure fluidity across the Department, and ensure all chapters are running as they should. If you have any suggestions for changes, or things you'd like to see, please let us know! Until then, keep up the good work helping our brother and sisters!

2ND JR VICE ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. 1 in 5 people will experience a mental illness during their lifetime. From anxiety, to depression, to PTSD and suicidal thoughts, there is a wide range of mental health challenges. Mental health, like physical health, is something EVERYONE should care about. It's a time to share information, stories, resources and #removethestigma. Let's #bethere for each other and reach out when in need.

May 8 is National Military Spouse Appreciation Day! The contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses make them the backbone of families who support our troops. This is the reason our volunteer efforts are for veterans and their families.

On May 14, 1942, Congress approved the creation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Women earned the right to enlist and serve in America's military. DAV volunteers thank current and future women veterans for their service.

May 16, 2023, is National Do Something Good For Your Neighbor Day. It's a perfect day to start your #100ActsofHonor challenge! Bring their garbage bin to the curb or help weed a flower bed. Going out for essentials? Ask a veteran confined at home if they need anything! No action is too big or too small. It is also Armed Forces Day. We encourage you to #volunteer and aid a veteran in any way that honors their service on this day.

*The Boston Wounded Vet Run 12, the annual motorcycle charity ride dedicated to wounded veterans from New England, will be held on May 21, 2023. They are honoring five Marines wounded at the Kabul Airport. This event attracts thousands of veterans each year. DAV has an opportunity here. **We are looking for volunteers for the DAV information table.** If you are available, please contact me for more information.*

There are many things we can all do to show appreciation to the veterans in our lives. What are you doing to serve this month? There are so many opportunities. Share your photos on social media and include the hashtags #DAVMA, #DoSomethingGoodForYourNeighborDay, #ArmedForcesDay, #MilitaryAppreciationMonth, #100ActsofHonor, #MilitarySpouseAppreciationDay #bethere and #removethestigma.

Don't forget to complete both of your monthly volunteer reports. Also, Chapters should take the time each month to complete both forms for their active members, and those in attendance! These reports go a long way in helping our Department and National Organization when we are lobbying for new legislation, seeking sponsorships and donations, and more!

- DAV Service Form: <https://forms.gle/cLQA4Mogtm3LVcw86>
- **VAVS Form 60: Monthly Reporting Form 60 - LVAP (xlsx)**. If you have not completed these forms in the past, You can go back up to 3 years on the VAVS 60. (Fiscal Years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022)



3RD JR VICE DENNIS DEVINE

If any Chapters need any assistance with review or proposed revisions of their by-laws, please do not hesitate to reach out. Also, please remember to get your resolutions submitted to the Department as soon as possible. We need to review these at Department Convention June 8-11th.

Constitution & By-Laws Committee will have a final meeting within the next few weeks, prior to Department Convention. Please keep an eye out for further details.

My phone number is 508-400-0328. I am happy to be of assistance.

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR DEB OLSON



Election and Installation Season is upon us. Attached you will find the forms required to be completed and submitted. Please complete these forms online as it is easier to read and place in your electronic files by Department HQ, NSO and National. The installation request form is to be completed and submitted as soon as your chapter has chosen its installation date.

If you need a 2023 Warrant request form, please contact Erica at Department Headquarters.

Below are the links and forms each chapter will complete at your elections.

[Officer Election Report Kit Memo \(dav.org\)](#)

[Officer-Election-Report-Kit.pdf \(dav.org\)](#)

[Blank DEC Report Form - DAVMA Members Portal](#)

All forms should be fully completed online, printed, signed by incoming commander and adjutant, scanned, and emailed to:

Department HQ - ekobzik@davma.org

NSO office - dav.vba.bos@va.gov - attention David Boyd

The officer report is to also be emailed to National HQ - OfficerReportInfo@dav.org

All forms are to be submitted within 10 days of Chapter installation as per Article 8, section 8.7 of the Department By-Laws. If you install at the Department Convention completed forms are to be submitted immediately after installation.

Reminder all properties of the chapter are to be given to the proper officer at your installation. The officers, especially the adjutant and treasurer, are to meet and review all paperwork, so that the AFR (Annual Financial Report) can be completed properly and timely.

Complete and submit the Service Officer Nomination form no later than **May 19th, 2023**. [Service Officer Nominations \(dav.org\)](#). If a member's name is **NOT** on the nomination form, they will **NOT** be allowed to attend training. Please return this form even if your chapter will not have a CSO, or if your CSOs are trained in Providence, RI, state so on the form. We need full accountability from each chapter. All forms should be fully completed online, printed, signed by the incoming commander and adjutant, scanned, and emailed to:

Department HQ - ekobzik@davma.org

NSO office - dav.vba.bos@va.gov - attention David Boyd

The Department Convention forms have been sent out to chapter leaders. All forms are to be submitted no later than May 30th.

DAV National Convention is August 5th through August 8th. District meetings take place on Friday, August 4th. Chapter Delegate forms should have been received by chapters now later than the 1st week of March. Delegate forms need to be returned to National by July 1. Hopefully, those attending have made their hotel reservations. Delegates will go to [2023 National Convention - DAV](#), to register themselves and guests. Registration is \$25 per person.

Please notify the Department if you will be attending the National Convention. so that we have a head count for our delegate luncheon on Friday.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Department HQ or a Department Line Officer for assistance.



ADJUTANT DANIEL STACK

We are in that busy time of year where we are looking to our membership to get active and assist where they can. Department Convention will be held June 8-11 at the DoubleTree Hilton in Leominster MA. As Dept. Inspector Deb Olson mentioned in her column, please make sure that your Service Officer Nomination forms are completed and sent into the Department prior to Convention. The NSO office will not allow anyone to attend training that does not have a completed form turned in.

Please send in any Corporate/Business Ads for the 2023 DAV Convention Book to Erica at ekobzik@davma.org as soon as possible. Cutoff date for Payment & Ad Copy must be received in our office by May 12, 2023. Ads received after May 12, 2023 will not appear in the convention booklet.

We will be hosting a Joint Testimonial dinner on Thursday June 8th at the DoubleTree to honor Department Commander Richard Connor and State DAV Auxiliary Commander Kayla Valila for the wonderful year they have given us. We hope to see many of you come out in support of them. Please see attached flyer here to make your meal selections and send in your confirmation of attendance.

Our new website will be released this month. The link will still remain www.davma.org, however you'll notice we've given the site a complete makeover from the main site to the members-only portal! Please scroll around on it, and if you have any suggestions, or things you don't see on the site you would like to see, please let me know. One exciting feature we hope you'll enjoy is the release of our new monthly podcast, 'The Great American Heroes Podcast. We are the DAV Dept of Massachusetts'. Our Assistant Adjutant Mike Valila has been working hard to ensure the website, and podcast are appealing to all, and help to promote the Department and work we do.

June 19th is our Department Golf Tournament at Blissful Meadows in Uxbridge, MA. Speak with your Chapter to have them cover your fees on a single entry, or foursome. At the least, we hope to see our Chapters all provide hole sponsorships, and assist with recruiting sponsorships for this event. Remember, this tournament is for you! Proceeds from this event go on to fund our Transportation Network, Housing Program and other services we provide.

We've been asked to participate in the Fox25 ZipTrips again this year. Last year was a tremendous success, and we are still getting calls and walk-ins from the exposure we received. This year we will be in Dedham, Mendon, Sandwich, Wrentham, Gloucester, Whitman, Sterling, and Natick. We are looking for a veteran from each city/town to be recognized as Fox's 'Hometown Hero', as well as a member from the local or nearby Chapter to come on air with us to speak with the News Team and tell them why DAV is special to you! These events are great for recruitment, and to get the message out. Assistant Adjutant Mike Valila will be contacting local Chapters and Auxiliary Units to ask them to volunteer their time and work the table with him at these events. Please show your support!

Last but not least, we will be traveling to Atlantic City NJ this year for National Convention August 5-8. I would like to have a few Department vehicles drive down for members in need of transportation. If you are planning to attend convention, and would be interested in driving one of our vehicles down, please contact myself or Mike Valila so we can make arrangements. Ideally we would be sending a 12-passenger both from the Boston area and from Central/Western MA.

Please remember to submit orders to National for brochures/handouts for events that your Chapters table locally. You can do so at no cost by completing and sending in the Membership Supply Order Form. For tablecloths, please visit DAV's store online. "Swag" items can be purchased by your chapter online from a variety of vendors. If you would like a list of vendors the Department has used previously, please contact Erica Kobzik, or Mike Valila. They would be happy to share where they've bought items in the past, and provide you with our Logo/Style guide for your orders.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy Spring, and I look forward to seeing you all at Department Convention!

[Convention
Letter for Ads](#)



[Chapter
Personal Ad
Form](#)

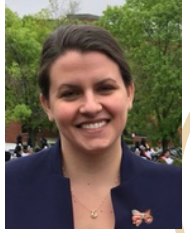


[Corporate
Ad Form](#)





COMMANDER KAYLA VALILA



Are you passionate about America's veterans and their families?
Do you want to make a difference in their lives?
WE NEED YOU. Not only do we need you, but WE WANT YOU!

We want you to get involved, in any capacity you are able, to help in making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. We are here to help you do just that. Together, we create one of the strongest forces of allies for the veteran and family community.

Step up and take an active role within a unit or the state line.

Not sure about what it entails? Just ask!

I am happy to answer any questions from interested parties of current or future members.

Again, we are seeking interested, motivated members to submit their Fact Sheet to join the state line. Similar to a unit officer's responsibilities, a state line officer's duties encompass the state and are outlined in the State Standing Rules (SSR).

By helping us, you, yourself, become part of making that difference
in the lives of veterans and their families.

Let us sustain and surpass the exceptional work we do.

By leading the way, being the best at what we do, together, we will continue to set the bar high and set the standards of service for our veterans and their families. Accept nothing less.

To alleviate any confusion, the duties of each officer, appointment or role for the remainder of the 2022-2023 year is outlined below.



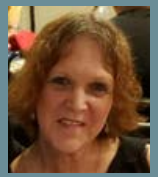
Sr. Vice Commander
Genevieve Downey
Membership Chair
PSC Breakfast



1st Vice Commander
Carole Evangelista
Legislation Chair



2nd Vice Commander
Currently Vacant
Assist officers as needed



Asst. Adjutant
Diane Sullivan
Hospital Raffle

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Congratulations to any units that submitted all of their unit reports to Liz by her due date!
Units will be named at May SEC meeting as well as your mystery prize.



Want to LEVEL UP and double that mystery surprise?
Bring five (5) of your unit members to the May SEC meeting.

DON'T FORGET You can, **and do,** **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



ASST. ADJUTANT, DIANE SULLIVAN

This year's DAVA Hospital Fundraiser raffle is coming to an end. We are less than 2 weeks away. We still need your help. If you have tickets, please mail them to me, ASAP. If you cannot mail them, please bring them early to the meeting on May 13th. Also, if you have any unsold books, please feel free to turn them in as well. Remember that the proceeds from this raffle go directly to the VA hospitals, including Chelsea and Holyoke. Please mail everything to Diane Sullivan, 83 Bay State Ave, Somerville MA 02144.

All checks should be payable to the "DAV Auxiliary Department of MA". Please note, we are also accepting donations of any denomination, which are greatly appreciated. For further information, please contact me at dsullivan.dava@gmail.com or 781-325-6591.

HOSPITAL FUNDRAISER REPORT

ADJUTANT, LIZ ELDRIDGE



Tis the season for unit elections! You are encouraged to elect members who will be active and involved by regularly attending unit and state meetings. Units elect a State Executive Committee (SEC) member and Alternate SEC member to ensure the unit is represented by one of them at each state meeting. Unit Commanders are urged to ensure they do so.

Unit Commanders are reminded that for unit delegates to be eligible to vote at DAVA State and National Conventions, units must have filed their 2021-2022 officer report and financial report forms with DAVA National HQ, and that they complete and file 2022-2023 State & National delegate and alternate forms with DAVA State and National HQ. Units are encouraged to ensure all their paperwork is filed by the required due dates.

State Convention meal order forms were sent April 12 to all Auxiliary members for whom I have email addresses. Please ensure your completed forms and checks, payable to DAV Department of Massachusetts, are returned to Erica Kobzik, DAV Administrative Assistant, by the due date of May 30, 2023. Mailing address & telephone number are on the form if you have questions.

All members are welcome to attend the May 13, 2023, SEC meeting in Gardner, MA.

ADJUTANT, LIZ BUTTERS

EMAIL: MILTONLASS2@GMAIL.COM
CELL PHONE: 781-588-2520

ASST. ADJUTANT, DIANE SULLIVAN

EMAIL: DSULLIVAN.DAVA@GMAIL.COM
CELL PHONE: 781-325-6591

ADJ./ASST. ADJ. MENTEE, JEN BARBARO

EMAIL: JBARBARO@DAVMA.ORG
OFFICE PHONE (M-F): 978-632-1271
CELL PHONE: 978-413-9315

Are you a veteran in need of transportation to your VA medical appointments?

Transportation Network Volunteer Drivers are certified through the VA and are here to help!

For requests within the Boston VA Medical System to include:

Brockton, W. Roxbury, Jamaica Plains, Bedford, or Outpatient VA Facilities, please call: 617-295-7001

For requests within the Central/Western MA VA Medical System to

include: Leeds, Worcester, or Outpatient VA Facilities, please call: 413-582-3078.

For more info, please scan/click the QR Code below.



Interested in transporting veterans for VA medical appointments?

Become a Volunteer Driver today!

Scan or click the QR Code below and complete the application. In the comment section at the bottom, please state you would like to become a **DAV Transportation Network Volunteer Driver.**

VOLUNTEER

For more info, please contact
Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC)

Terry Mate

Phone: 617-295-7001

Email: trobart@davma.org





Department of Massachusetts
Joint Testimonial
Honoring:

DAV Dept. Commander Richard Connor
&
DAVA State Commander Kayla Valila

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

*DoubleTree Hilton
99 Erdman Way
Leominster, MA 01453*

Reception at 5:00 pm
Cash Bar
Dinner at 6:00 pm

Menu: Chicken Parmesan -or- Pork Loin

Tickets are \$50.00 each or \$500.00 for a table of ten.

Please cut here and return to: DAV Dept. of MA, 3 Victory Lane, Gardner, MA 01440

Please send me _____ tickets @\$50.00 each. Meal Choice: _____ Chicken Parm _____ Pork Loin

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ (Payable to the DAV DEPT OF MA and in the memo include "Joint Testimonial")

Name _____ Chapter/Unit No _____

Address _____ Apt No _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____