



& AUXILIARY MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO
AMERICA'S VETERANS



RUN TO HONOR VETERANS

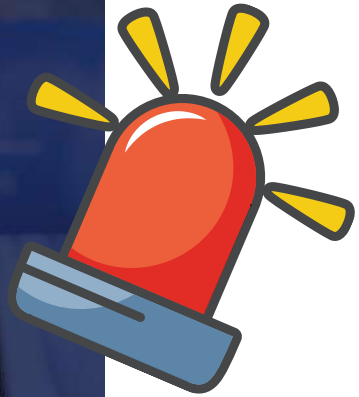
**RESCHEDULED!
NEW DATE:**

~~Saturday, November 12, 2022~~

Sunday, November 13, 2022

Veterans Day Weekend

DCR Fort Independence at Castle Island



NOVEMBER

Due to the weather forecasted for Saturday, the DAV 5K team, in consultation with the DCR and MA State Police, has moved the race date to this Sunday, November 13, 2022.

Please note that the DAV 5K team aims to keep this event safe, fun and family-friendly.

We can't wait to see all of you on Sunday at DCR Fort Independence at Castle Island! Get there early, and together we will honor our local veterans! **#DAV5KBoston #vetsrunboston**

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

Reaching out and supporting each other is important as we approach the winter months for our veterans. We need to join our force's and help them through these difficult times. On veteran's day please reach out to our veterans and thank them for all that they have done for our country. Some of veterans are alone and have no family so if there is something that you or your DAV chapter is I doing think about inviting them to be with you. This is bad time of the year for those of us that have suicidal thoughts. This is where I think our department should step up and help them. I know how it feels to have those thoughts. We as a veterans group should be there to help them through

this. I have been around a lot of great and loving people but there have been many times where being alone is both good and bad. We need to be there somehow to support them in whatever capacity is necessary. We have many events coming up these next few months and they all take help to make sure these all go off well. We have a Radiothon, 5k, Bourne Bridge, DAV day at the hospitals, and the list goes on. So please give up some of your time and show veteran's that the DAV cares. Being your state commander means so much to me. I hope that many of you can step up your game and get involved in your chapter or even at state level. The DAV can use your help so please reach out to our department, and get active!

The [Veterans Crisis Line](#) offers 24/7, confidential crisis support for veterans, caregivers, families, friends, etc. by dialing 988 then press 1. They can also chat online on their website or text message to 838255.

SR. VICE BOB KINSMAN



Last month I shared the Legislative Victories for Veterans in 2022, as well as the DAV Legislative Goals for 2022. These goals help DAV's legislative team in Washington, D.C., focus on the issues most important to our members as they advocate for laws and policies that affect the disabled veteran community. This month I'd like to share the DAV National Legislative Priorities for 2022-23.

This is a compilation of 18 critical issues facing veterans that need attention. Please click on any link of interest to you in the attached report for a DAV "Issue Brief" explaining each situation in more detail. Next month we'll dive into veterans issues facing the 192nd General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I am looking into arranging an on-site guided tour of the MA State House. In addition, I am gathering information on the Citizens' Legislative Seminar, which aims to better educate the public on the functions of the Massachusetts State Legislature. Highlights of the two-day program are a simulated legislative hearing and a simulated Senate Session held in the Senate Chamber. The presentations are made by Senators and Senate staff. This seminar is offered twice a year, Spring and Fall. Due to its popularity, participants in CLS must be sponsored by their senator (please note that you must be able to attend both days of the seminar in order to participate). More information to come.

If you are interested in seeing first-hand how our legislative process works, please consider joining us at the 2023 DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. from February 26-March 1, 2023 (tentative, pending confirmation on Capitol Hill). We will again stay at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. Room are \$210 single/double and the reservation site is now live here: <https://www.dav.org/events/2023-mid-winter-conference/>. Massachusetts is known for having one of the strongest delegations to this gathering, and your presence would enhance our efforts. Please consider joining us!



Scan/click QR Code to the right to
view DAV 2022 Legislative Goals



1ST JR VICE BOB BRONSON



For November I want to concentrate on resources for improving Chapter Membership. The first and most obvious is the National Web Site, DAV.org There are two locations to find webinars pertaining to Membership. The first is a 43-minute webinar that was recorded almost four years ago. The good news is that the information is still very relevant. It contains information about all aspects of DAV membership, from applications and payments to member portal and social media content. [Webinar – Membership](#)

[Department: How We Can Serve You](#)

The next one is membership goals. It's just over 55 minutes long. It too is from 2018 but also has a lot of relevant information. It goes over the percentage of Part Life Members to Full Life Members and how to increase the upgrade to Full Life. [New Membership Goals Webinar](#)

The next place to look is on the Departments website at DAVMA.org The link below will bring you to the Forms/Membership-Forms. There you can download any of ten different Forms, from Forget-me-not adds to Membership Orientation Guides. It also has Membership Transfer Forms, Membership Applications, and more. [Membership Forms - DAVMA Members Portal](#)

Take the time to look at the information that is available and see if you think it's something to show at a Chapter meeting. Remember, the only way to keep your chapter moving forward is by increasing its membership, and as I have said in the past, With the passage of the "Pact Act" we have over 3 million new potential members.

If anyone has something that they think will help with increasing membership, Contact me at 978-549-8333 or by email at BobSueB@Comcast.Net

2ND JR VICE ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT



Do you want to volunteer to give someone a ride?

Do you know someone who needs a ride?

The DAV Transportation Network provides free rides to and from medical appointments for veterans. This is the only way many veterans can get to medical facilities for needed treatment.

The Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC) schedules the veterans' rides and volunteer drivers for these trips. These services are offered free of charge. The transportation service is an invaluable resource to our veterans. Click here to contact the DAV Hospital Service Coordinator for assistance.

Veterans interested in becoming a Volunteer Driver should contact the DAV Department Headquarters office at 617-727-2974.

Looking forward to seeing what we can do when we work together to help veterans!

Some upcoming events are listed below. Be sure to stay up to date by checking the calendar on www.davma.org!

- DAV Radio-Thon on Nov 10-11 for our DAV 5K. Phone bank volunteers needed at the Veterans Advancement Center in Gardner. Contact Erica Kobzik if interested at ekobzik@davma.org
- The Run for the Troops 5k dinner on Nov 11th at the Danvers yacht Club is FREE for all Veterans. (Price is \$125 for Non Veterans)
<https://runforthetroops5k.square.site/product/annual-dinner-run-for-the-troops-5k/16>
Veterans can directly E-mail Sharon Carroll to make a reservation at:
sharonleecarroll@gmail.com
- Nov 11, 2022: Seth Moulton's Veterans Town Hall in Marblehead @12pm
- Nov 13, 2022: DAV 5K at DCR Fort Independence at Castle Island dav5k.boston
- Nov 19, 2022: 35th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon, Randolph, MA

COMMANDER KAYLA VALILA

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.](#)

First time to Fall Conference and I must say, I would love the opportunity to go again. It was great to see so many get together from across the United States for one cause. On Thursday, we visited the Health & Wellness Fair which I found to be informative and something perhaps we could consider doing here for our veterans and caregivers. Many times, we are the connection for these individuals to resources or assistance and getting everyone all together at once, to help create a supportive network, could be very beneficial for many. We also used Thursday as a day for Ann Marie to practice her skit she had prepared for the next day's business session. That night was our opening business session. Everyone wore red, white, and blue and was very festive.

Friday's business sessions, as you may have watched on Facebook Live, started the National Line Officer's skits. I am told everyone had begged for Abraham Lincoln to make another appearance, so Mike Sullivan prepared for his role yet again and grew out his facial hair to play the part. The skits were creative and informative. They also offer another way to retain the information versus just reading about what we do.

Following the business sessions, everyone was invited to play a friendly, competitive game of Kahoots!, testing our knowledge about DAVA-which we did make our way on to the top of the screen a few times, but just couldn't stay on. Maybe next time! That evening, they had a reception with karaoke. There sure are some talented people in our membership body!

The next morning, Saturday's business session included DAV Commander, Joe Parsetich, and Executive Director of DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters, Randy Reese. Overall, very informative and astonishing hearing in-person how much of a difference we truly do make and can make in the lives of veterans and their families. Just reiterating what we say all the time, but truly: those emails from the Commander's Action Network (CAN) play a large role in helping push our legislative priorities. There is strength in numbers. It turns up the volume, and according to Reese, we were the loudest when it came to pushing the PACT Act. So let's keep it up so they continue to hear us!

Following the business session, DAV Auxiliary Massachusetts hosted their annual luncheon again for the first time in years as covid and last year's schedule prevented us from having it. We hosted a "Boston Tea Party" which included all attending from Massachusetts, the National Line Officers and their guests. A rough count of at least 35 were in attendance. Overall, a successful luncheon. It was great to have the opportunity to meet everyone in person.

At the commencement of the luncheon, we packed all remaining food and made up 19 "brown bag lunches" to distribute to the shelter for homeless veterans, located only 2 miles away from the hotel. The lunches included a sandwich; fresh vegetables: celery, carrots, tomatoes; fresh fruit: pineapple, strawberries, grapes, cantaloupe; assorted cookies. We also packaged slices of cake and other desserts, cases of bottled water, coffee, teas, sugar, and creamers for them. Additionally, I had purchased some other items to donate that are often needed at shelters and were on their wish list to include towels, toothbrushes, deodorant, socks, combs, feminine hygiene products, and assorted snacks.

That evening was our dinner and entertainment which included a murder mystery. A Golden Girls murder mystery and our very own, Stan Pratt, played one of the suspects! Sophia was on to him for sure! Luckily, my dinner neighbor was not the murderer.

Overall, a great experience to learn about all that we are doing and how it relates on a national level. Very informative!

Click/Scan to see photo submissions!





SR. VICE DEBRA GEARY

The annual fundraiser is underway! The Ways and Means Committee has come together and we will be working to get tickets and more information out to everyone as soon as possible. Donations are still being accepted!



*Stay
tuned!*

STATE TREASURER, JEAN SHIFFLETT

Anyone needing a check for reimbursement should contact me at 617-827-1911 immediately so I can request a warrant from the State Adjutant. Checks will not be issued without a warrant.

If your unit has not yet paid its 2022-2023 State Mandate fee of \$30, please do so quickly. Make checks payable to DAVA Dept. of MA and send to me at 109 Edge Hill Road, E. Braintree, MA 02184. Thank you.

Reminder, IRS 990-N e-Postcard must be completed by November 15, 2022.

STATE ADJUTANT, PSC ELIZABETH BUTTERS

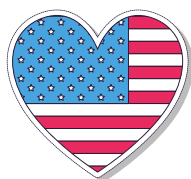
Communication is key to our success as an Auxiliary. Your State Officers are here to serve you and members are free to contact them with questions. Please remember, however, that Units or members that have questions should follow the DAVA National Constitution and Bylaws and MA State Standing Rules regarding lines of communication prior to addressing questions to State or National Officers. It is important the chain of command of Unit-State-National is followed.

Consider becoming a mentor. There's no better way to inspire a new member than to offer guidance and support.

Reminders:

- Meetings - Units must hold a minimum of four regular business meetings per year. Additional meetings are encouraged. The minimum quorum is four senior members, and one member present must be the Unit Commander or a Unit Vice Commander.
- Forget-Me-Not Drives and Income - With proper consent, units can conduct one Forget-Me-Not drive annually, and must use the supplies available for purchase from the DAVA Store. Income from Forget-Me-Not drives are to be used solely for service to disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors, and for no other purpose.
- We Want Your Stories! - Units and members who have done something remarkable should share their story with us. Ideas include, but are not limited to special fundraisers, outreach programs, holiday events, meetings, and Forget-Me-Not drives. Please email me your story and any pictures to miltonlass2@gmail.com. Your article could be published in the DAVMA Newsletter/Auxiliary Bulletin!

*Thank you for
your service!*



*Happy
Veterans
Day*

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ADJUTANT DANIEL STACK

November is a big month and we're off to a great start! Our DEC meeting on November 5th will once again be hosted at our Veteran Advancement Program's facility in Gardner, MA as a hybrid style meeting. WRKO's premiere show The Khuner Report with Jeff Khuner will host our Radiothon this year Thursday November 10 and Friday November 11 (6am-12pm both days). Veterans Day we will partake in a multitude of events across the Commonwealth.



Thank you all for your hard work in making this 5k such a huge success this year. We sold out in record time! Unfortunately, due to impending inclement weather we have been forced to postpone the event to Sunday November 13th at Castle Island in Boston. Please do your part in sharing the word and helping us make this day a success! Again, thank you so much for all you have done, and continue to do to support the Boston 5k and our great Department!

The Transportation Network is in the midst of an overhaul. I have handed responsibility and oversight of the program to my Assistant Adjutant, Mike Valila, to lead us into the future. We are actively recruiting new drivers across the state. Drivers do not need to be a veteran or a member to volunteer. Please take this message back to your communities and chapters and aid us in recruitment! As you know, DAV provides free transportation to veterans to their scheduled VA appointments. We are happy to announce we will now also provide transportation to VA scheduled appointments through community providers, third-party vendors (LHI, QTC, and VES), as well as to Vet Center appointments! As always, we will provide in-patient veterans a ride home upon discharge from a VAMC; all other requests must be submitted one week in advance (if possible).

Leo Vance will be retiring from his role as HSC, of which he has dedicated the last 18 years to at the Northampton VA. We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Leo for all that he has done for DAV and our veterans through the years! Leo has done such an amazing job that he has been recognized by the State, VA staff, and our National Office for the hard work and hours on the road he has fulfilled! We will be hosting a retirement party for Leo on December 10th at the Red Rose in Springfield, MA. Please look for further details by email from our department administrative assistant, Erica Kobzik, in the coming weeks. We hope to see many of you come out to join us to thank him and wish Leo a happy retirement!

Last, I'm happy to announce that our Assistant Adjutant Mike Valila will be purchasing new computers and equipment for our DSO offices and hosting trainings for each of them to ensure we are up to date with the most current technologies and equipped to assist our veterans!

See you all at the 5k!

