

DAV[®]

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO
AMERICA'S VETERANS

MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER



NEW LOOK!
& MORE INFO!



Welcome

to the new Department newsletter!
A new format and platform to keep
connected and improve communication
across the state.
Let us know what you think!

SEPTEMBER



@DAVMASSACHUSETTS

IS YOUR CHAPTER OR UNIT ACTIVE?

We want to see!

Share your pictures with a short description
of the event or activity and be featured on
the Department Newsletter or Social Media!

**VOLUNTEER
WITH US!**



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Live
Calendar
Coming Soon!

Click or Scan the
QR Codes for more
information!





COMMANDER RICHARD CONNOR

Though I have only been your Department Commander for a few months, I have enjoyed every day of my new position. Knowing that I have a great group of Line Officers behind me brings me confidence and support.

The Line Officers all went to DAV's Centennial National Convention in Orlando, FL this past month. We were able to meet so that we can align on our goals for the year ahead of us.

I can proudly tell you all for the next four years after I leave my position you will be in great hands with the officers coming up the line behind me. Each of our Department Line Officers are dedicated to their jobs. Each of them is willing to help others, and more especially our veterans.

As the year goes forward we will be attending many chapter meetings. If your chapter is having any problems please reach out to myself or any of my Line Officers. We are here to ensure we all are successful in our mission!

Reminder, the last district training session, a make-up for any/all chapters or bar lounges that missed previous trainings, will be held from 1pm-5pm following our DEC meeting on Saturday, September 10th.

Annual Financial Report (AFR) are due by the end of the month. If your chapter makes more than \$25,000 (line 10) other than per-capita, your AFR needs to be sent to both the Dept. and National. [Click here for the form.](#)

SR. VICE BOB KINSMAN

DAV Department Legislative Committee advocates for veterans rights on Beacon Hill in Boston, just as the DAV National Legislative Committee advocates for veterans rights on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. This effort has been ongoing since the founding of DAV over 100 years ago. DAV's legislative and policy goals are based directly on resolutions submitted by DAV departments and chapters across the country, with DAV members serving as the driving force behind our organization's advocacy mission. I'll share more of this process with you in upcoming newsletters.

I have organized a Legislative Committee for the upcoming year, and if you are interested in joining us, please send me an email or text to be included. Our goals for the year include the following:

- Ensure a strong attendance at the 2023 DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Share DAV National Critical Policy Goals with Department membership
- Confirm that all Officers, Committee & senior staff are enrolled in DAV CAN (Commanders Action Network)
- Share information on how to write a resolution, prior to the Department Convention
- Plan to meet & correspond with State Veterans Affairs legislative leaders
- Investigate "Quorum" State-level legislative contact notification program (similar to National CAN Program)
- Update DAV members on progress of veterans-related bills in Congress



The PACT Act is a new federal law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. Here is an [online summary](#), and click the QR for a PACT Act FAQ.





1ST JR VICE BOB BRONSON

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS-We must remain diligent advocating for our veterans. Strength comes in numbers. The more members we have, the better our ability to continue to fulfill that promise. We have a great network of people with even greater reasons to join us on this mission.

Membership Incentives... DID YOU KNOW that DAV recently expanded our Member Advantages program to give you more access to special discounts and savings on national and regional brands! To access, simply go to the site: dav.enjoymydeals.com, click sign up and enter the information including your DAV membership number and you will instantly have access to some great deals and discounts. You won't want to miss out!



<<<DAV Enjoy my Deals

2ND JR VICE ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT

My focus this year is Service and Charitable. My outlook and mottos for the year are:

- Veterans are always the number one priority; they are not an interruption.
- Everyone deserves respect, and
- Information is free. I will answer every question presented to me.

By design, I will spend the first 90 days in this role listening and learning what the position could and should be. I plan to support and encourage chapters in planning and carrying out community service activities throughout the year, provide direct support through the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program and provide direct support to Local Veterans Assistance Programs (LVAP). I invite you to share with me anything that you want the Service and Charitable Committee to START doing, STOP doing and CONTINUE doing. I welcome you to view my inaugural newsletter, The Pulse, which will highlight the latest news, events and volunteer opportunities that support Veterans and their families.



The Pulse



3RD JR VICE DENNIS DEVINE

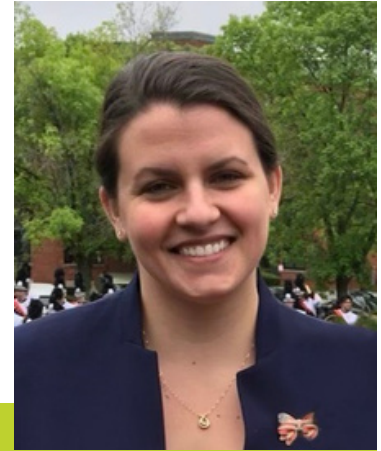
I want to thank everyone for their support for 3rd Jr Vice Cmdr. I will be working with a very good group of officers. I want to congratulate Coleman Nee on becoming 2nd Jr. Vice Cmdr. and Anne Marie Hurley on becoming Sr. Vice Cmdr of the Auxiliary. They both are associated with Chapter 3 and Unit 3. Please see the link below for the memo released regarding a change to the national bylaws.

NATIONAL BYLAW AMENDMENT (VIRTUAL CHAPTER PARTICIPATION) & UPDATED 2022 NATIONAL CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, NEC REGULATIONS AND BOD INFORMATION



COMMANDER KAYLA VALILA

Thank you all for your support of my journey in the auxiliary. I am honored to have been elected as your commander, but furthermore, honored to be part of such an amazing group of individuals that do so much to support our nation's heroes and their families. Together, we will achieve great strides in securing benefits, assistance, and further support for veterans of all eras. Our National Commander, Darlene Spence, motto of "Committed All the Way" is one that us in Massachusetts certainly lives by. Highlighted in the listing below are units that received awards during this past National Convention:



National Legislative Awards

- Scott Vetterling Unit 33
- Marshfield Memorial Unit 35
- Westcott Houghton Unit 56

National Junior Activities Awards

- Westcott Houghton Unit 56
- Braintree Unit 29

National Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Award

- Braintree Unit 29

National Outstanding Junior Awards

Ellenora Truelson

Madeline K. Bonneau

National Americanism Award

- Braintree Unit 29



Congratulations to all!

Let us sustain and surpass the exceptional work we do. Let us continue to set that bar high. Getting our reports in to National is the best way for us to stay on the map and to show all what we can accomplish together. Let us set the standards of service for our veterans and their families by leading the way and being the best at what we do! I look forward to this year of service with all of you.

-Commander Kayla Valila

SR. VICE DEBRA GEARY



As the chairperson for this year's annual hospital fundraiser, I am excited. Time to dive into the business of fundraising! The Ways & Means Committee members and I are discussing ideas as to what the format of the fundraiser will be, and we will provide more details soon.

No matter the format of the fundraiser, I know, with the support of the DAV and Auxiliary members, their families and friends, it will be a successful venture. All proceeds are used to better the lives of veterans in the V.A. Medical Centers and Soldiers' Homes we serve across the Commonwealth.

Thanks in advance for all your help with the fundraiser in the coming months.



1ST JR VICE GENEVIEVE DOWNEY

How can you help with membership

Reach out to your network! Whether personal or professional, if you know someone that believes in protecting the rights of disabled veterans and their families, ask them if they know about the DAV Auxiliary. Sometimes, we forget to reach out to those closest to us.

Perhaps they have a busy lifestyle? Remind them, they can be as active as they want to be. Their membership alone strengthens us in our continued efforts to uphold the benefits of our veterans. Of course active members are always needed. Let them know we welcome all and their support is appreciated no matter how big or small. Reaching out to your current membership and letting them know we need their support may reignite the spark in them that once made them join us. They **CAN** and **DO** make a difference.



NEW External CRM Portal now available to Adjutants and Commanders! See the link for Committee Reports & More in the Adjutants' Corner (or last attachment in the printed version) for instructions to access the site: mydav.org -- Users must be registered first through: www.mydav.org/member-registration for access.



2ND JR VICE CAROLE EVANGELISTA

On June 7, 2022, five important veteran-related bills were signed by the President and became public law.

- SERVICE Act (P.L. 117-133)
- Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program Restoration and Recovery (P.L. 117-138)
- Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act (MAMMO Act) (P.L. 117-135)
- Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Extension Act (P.L. 117-139)
- Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act (P.L. 117-136)

These bills get the attention they deserve because of organizations like ours and individuals that advocate for veterans and their families.

One current bill being proposed is H.R. 7589 the Reduce and Eliminate Mental Health Outpatient Veteran (REMOVE) Copays Act. This legislation would eliminate medical care copayments for veterans' first three mental health visits in a calendar year.

Please contact your representatives and ask them to cosponsor this bill and others DAV supports. Sign up for the Commander Action Network (CAN) and get started today!

Commander Action Network

Learn about more legislative initiatives DAV supports and take action now!



ADJUTANT DANIEL STACK

Another productive summer! I am proud of all the great work that we accomplished and continue as a Department. Our Golf Classic was well-attended, we installed our new Line Officers at Dept. Convention, attended National Convention in Orlando, hosted our Corporate Golf Tournament at Granite Links along with District Trainings and participated in 8 Zip Trips across the Commonwealth with Fox25 News -and to think we are only just getting started! September is going to be another action packed month. I urge you to keep abreast our upcoming events and participate in as much as you can.



While at National Convention, a bylaw change was adopted. This allows Chapter and Department meetings to be conducted virtually. This means we will need each of our Chapters to update their bylaws accordingly. Also while at National Convention, the PACT act was favorably voted upon and signed into law by President Biden. We are ensuring DSO/CSO's are educated and equipped to assist all those veterans who now qualify for benefits they rightfully deserve.

I look forward to seeing you throughout our many events this month and at our DEC meeting on September 10th at Victory Campus in Gardner, MA. Please stay actively engaged with the Department through social media, our website, and email so you are always informed. Let's keep up the great work!



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COMMITTEE REPORTS & MORE!

CLICK OR SCAN
THE QR CODE



Reminders:

Unit Financial Report form, instructions, and guidelines for completing the annual audit for the 2021 - 2022 filing year have been sent by National HQ to Unit Adjutants. National HQ must receive the completed form no later than September 30, 2022.

State Executive Committee (SEC)

Meetings: Each unit annually elects a State Executive Committee member and an Alternate State Executive Committee member. It is expected that one of these persons represents your unit at each SEC meeting. If both SEC and Alternate attend meetings, only the SEC can vote.

IRS 990-N e-Postcard Reminder: All Chapters, Units and State Departments have until November 15, 2022, to complete. See link (on the left) or attachment for more information on the new IRS login process.