

DAV[®]

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO
AMERICA'S VETERANS

& AUXILIARY
MASSACHUSETTS
NEWSLETTER



JULY

LAND OF THE
Free
HOME OF THE
Brave

Happy
INDEPENDENCE
Day!

NEW YEAR, NEW LINE OFFICERS

Many, many events, trainings, and more coming up.
Stay on top of everything through our events calendar at
www.davma.org/events and stay connected via [Facebook!](#)



TO OUR NEW LINE
OFFICERS AND BEST
WISHES ON YOUR YEAR!



@DAVMASSACHUSETTS



COMMANDER, BOB KINSMAN

I want to thank each of you for placing your trust in me as Commander of the DAV Department of Massachusetts for the upcoming year. Together, we can achieve incredible results! Your dedication, selflessness and spirit demonstrate what it means to be a veteran and a member of the DAV. Our organization has made incredible progress in the past year under the leadership of Past Department Commander (PDC) Richard Conner and his entire staff.

Our mission this year will be to build on the strong foundation put in place by our predecessors, and position the DAV for future growth.

We are off to a good start. All Appointed Positions have been staffed, and Committees have been formed. Our goals for the year were sent out to all Officers & Committee Chairs. Leaders in each major area of responsibility (Legislation, Membership, Service & Charitable, Constitution & Bylaws, Housing and Transportation) will issue detailed objectives in the near future. Our Service Officers have been re-certified for the upcoming year at the Department Convention. Senior leaders (Commander, SVC, Asst. Adjutant & Treasurer) have just returned from a training conference at the DAV National Headquarters in Kentucky, where we met with the new DAV Adjutant /CEO and Department heads, and discussed the challenges we will face in the future.

I hope to see you at the DAV National Convention in Atlantic City, NJ. We have almost 100 people signed up to participate, so it should be a very good time. Remember, our DAV Department of MA Honor Guard will be the DAV National Honor Guard at this year's convention. You are always invited to join us in parades (marching or riding) ... we have four parades scheduled over the 4th of July weekend and more in the future. We can still use volunteers at our Corporate Golf Tournament at Granite Links CC in Quincy, and we can always use more participants at the DAV-MA 5K Run at Castle Island in Boston in November.

Please continue to use the DAV Commander's Action Network (CAN), available here: <https://dav.quorum.us> Also, don't forget to recruit a new member. Finally, we are working on scheduling an On-Site Tour of the Massachusetts State House. I look forward to working with all of you this year. Feel free to email or text me with your ideas and suggestions. I will always be available.

SR. VICE, BOB BRONSON



First, thank you to everyone who assisted with the Membership Committee this past year. All should be very proud of what we have accomplished. While there is much to be done, I'm sure that under the very capable hands of our new 1st Jr vice commander, Deputy Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans Services (EVOS), and retired Brigadier General Andrea Gayle-Bennett, this year's Membership Committee will be just as successful .

As Chairman of the Legislative Committee, I have a couple of initiatives that I want to prepose this year. The first requires assistance from each Chapter, the latter, and probably the most impactful, from each member. I ask each Chapter submits three resolutions. One each for Local, State, and National. The deadline for all three to be received no later than the March DEC meeting. Yes, that's three months sooner than normal, but with the expected influx of resolutions, the Department will need the extra time to go over all of them.

The latter has to do with the (Commander's Action Network). What I would like is for every member to sign up for it at [DAV | Sign In \(quorum.us\)](https://dav.quorum.us). That should be the easiest part. What will be the more difficult part is to get as many of your friends and relatives, that want to support not only the Veterans in their lives, but all Veterans and Veteran's families, to also sign up. Once you sign up, you will be able to click on the "Act Now" button that will bring you to the list of active bills in both the Congress and the Senate that will, if passed, improve a vast array of issues facing Veterans and their families. There is a blue "Write" button on the right-hand side of each potential bill. Clicking on it will bring up a prewritten letter to your specific Congressperson or Senator, supporting that bill, signed with your name and address. The more letters sent, the better the chances that we will get the support to pass that particular bill. This is how we improve every Veterans, and their families lives.

SR VICE BRONSON, CONTINUED...

While I have your attention, it's not too early to plan on attending the Mid-Winter Conference in DC this winter. This is where the "rubber meets the road". Although DAV, as a National Organization, decides what resolutions will be submitted to Congress at our National Conferences, this year in Atlantic City, August 3rd through August 9th, nothing would come of them without the support of as many US citizens as possible. The bottom line is that you don't need to be a member of the DAV, or even a Veteran, you just need to want to support, not only the veterans in your life, but all Veterans in addition to their families.



1ST JR VICE, ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT

I want to thank everyone for their support and for placing your trust in me as 1st Jr Vice Commander. As we begin a new year, it's worth considering the value of our work and recommitting ourselves to the mission and the vision of the DAV. My focus this year will be expanding membership and highlighting what does DAV do for you?

We:

- Help returning veterans transition back to civilian life by linking them with services that address their physical, emotional, and financial needs.
- Provide free, professional assistance to veterans of all generations in obtaining VA and other government benefits earned through service.
- Fight for veterans' rights on Capitol Hill.
- Link veterans to job training and job assistance programs.
- Fund rehabilitation programs for veterans with severe disabilities, such as blindness or amputation

Membership in DAV also includes access to a wide range of money-saving advantages for you and your family. Generous partners stand by our veterans through a variety of programs, products, and services. To access, simply go to the website dav.enjoymydeals.com for deals on well-known brands and also local brands to eat, play, shop or travel. You will instantly have access to some great deals and discounts. You won't want to miss out!

What is your chapter's recruiting goals for this year? One of the DAV Dept of MA's focus for 2023-2024 is to focus on growing membership by attracting Post 9/11 veterans and assisting chapters in retaining current members. To help with recruitment, DAV National HQ will send a membership prospect "Hot List" to help identify potential members, but you must request it using the membership List Request Form, found at this link Memb_List_Request_Form_Fillable.pdf (dav.org). There is strength in numbers. The more members we have, the better our ability to keep our promise to America's veterans. So spread the word!

2ND JR VICE DENNIS DEVINE

As June comes to a close I want to thank the members who gave me the opportunity to continue in the line; It is an honor to continue to serve my fellow brothers and sisters in arms. Recently I had to say goodbye to two people who I considered mentors and friends, who were truly special and genuine souls, that can never be replaced. Will Adams (98) from Randolph was a WWII Veteran and my mentor growing up; he taught me the importance of selflessness, community, and family. Lou Pasquale (96) from Braintree was a WWII Veteran and friend; I don't know if you could find a more inspiring or engaging person in the community.



With that, I want to remind you that with July comes extreme temperatures. Please keep an eye on your neighbors who may not have central air or air conditioning of some sort. If the temperature becomes extreme, please make sure you are checking on them. If you see them doing yard work, pop in and help, or check with volunteers from the DAV for help. Also let's make sure they have plenty of water on hand, we have to make sure our veterans and especially our elderly veterans are staying hydrated.

If you have any questions or if you need any help please give me a call.



3RD JR VICE EUGENE MCGREEVY

I am happy to have joined the line as your new 3rd Jr Vice Commander! I look forward to serving the Department, and all of our great members. I would like to start by wishing everyone a safe and happy summer. Please be mindful of older veterans and others in your neighborhood check on them and make sure they are safe. Next, I would like to introduce the new members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

The purpose of the Constitution and Bylaw Committee is to ensure that our Department Constitution and Bylaws are within compliance, and to make any updates/changes as needed. If you are interested in joining, please get in touch with me!

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Chairman: Gene McGreevy

Co-Chair: Andrea Gayle-Bennett

Member: Nelson Serrao

Member: Mike Sullivan

This year I am setting a goal of 100% compliance for every Chapter to achieve by our 2024 Department Convention. This is a high bar for the entire Department to achieve, but with your support it is achievable! I would like to start having Zoom meetings with each Chapter to ensure they are updated with their bylaws. Please check your emails for further communications on this topic. It is important to remember that your bylaws are the foundation of your chapter! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 413-530-4108 or at emcgreevy@aol.com

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR DEB OLSON



As we begin our new year, with new commanders, adjutants, and treasures for our chapters, remember as outgoing officers you are responsible for ensuring that all property of the chapter is turned over to the proper officer. This includes all chapter paperwork, bank statements, vouchers, minutes, sign in sheets.

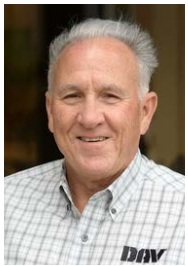
Chapters should now elect or appoint their trustees, ie the Audit committee, the Commander, Senior Vice, Adjutant, and Treasurer cannot be on the Audit committee.

The Treasurer and Adjutant are to get all documents required to complete the chapter annual financial report. Start the process now, your reports to be received no later than September 30th. For those chapters that have an income of over \$25,000, your AFR (Annual Financial Report) is to be received by National, NLT September 30th. We want those reports required to be submitted to National to come to the department for review before submitting them. These reviews will catch any issues so they can be addressed prior to submittal to National, so plan accordingly. If you sent your report to the Department in the last week of September, it would be extremely difficult to review, make corrections and submit to National by the due date. If you have any questions or concerns about how to complete your financial report, please contact a department line officer or the inspector for assistance. There will be a training held for treasurers in August, a hybrid meeting. We would hope you would join us in person, bringing with you your documentation. We will thoroughly go through the AFR form so that you know what goes on what line and answer any questions you may have regarding proper placement of income and expenditures. The Treasurer, as noted on your Officer report, will be notified via email of date, time and Zoom link.

DEPT INSPECTOR OLSON, CONTINUED...

On Thursday, July 6th there will be Chapter Commander and Adjutants training. This training will be a hybrid meeting; you may participate via a Zoom link sent to all Commanders and Adjutants as noted in your current Officer report and in person at the Advancement Center in Gardner. We want you to join us in person if possible. Please notify Erica via email on how you will be attending for proper planning. The Department has not received several Officer Reports and DEC forms. All chapters have been notified via email and required forms were included. We received notice from National that chapters whose reports were not received by July 17th are in danger of National suspension. The Department will submit any properly completed forms it has received. Kindly keep in mind this is the Chapter's responsibility to submit required forms.

While at C&A we have learned the Officer Reports will be on MYDAV.org within the month and chapters will be able to make changes or corrections, but National needs your current report to set up your authorization level in the system. This includes email addresses, if you are a chapter officer and do not have an email address, get one. They are free and take 5 minutes to set up.



ADJUTANT DANIEL STACK

We had a great Department Convention this year, and I would like to thank each and every member who came out to celebrate our Department's 100th convention with us! I have full confidence in our new Commander Bob Kinsman, and look forward to a busy, and productive year under his leadership. We have so many exciting new things taking place in our Department. DAV is everywhere these days, and it is because we have such a wonderful membership body out in the community, spreading the word of DAV, and doing great service work and volunteerism for our veterans!

The Department will be hosting Commander and Adjutant training on Thursday July 6, 2023. Please make sure if you hold one of these positions you attend, whether in-person, or by Zoom as there will not be a make-up date for this training.

Next, we will be hosting a training for Treasurers. Erica will send an email with further detail, as the date approaches.

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Golf Classic at Blissful Meadows. This was one of the best years for Chapter involvement we've had in a long time, and I look forward to growing upon those efforts in future years. Remember, this tournament funds our Transportation Network and Housing Programs!

At our Department Convention in June, the voting body unanimously approved 14 Resolutions, and 20 Department Constitution and Bylaw Changes. Please click or scan the QR codes below to view the approved Resolutions and Bylaw Changes. These have been passed into National for formal approval, and will be rule of law following National Convention. The largest change is in our fundraising practices. Our Department's new website, davma.org>members portal>forms>chapter district forms>fundraising requests, to find our new fundraising request form. This form **must** be submitted to the Department for all future fundraisers. Hope everyone has a safe and Happy Independence Day! We'll see you in Atlantic City at National Convention! .



RESOLUTIONS

Commander & Adjutant Training Thursday, July 6th, 2023

(hybrid format)

Hosted at: Veteran Advancement Program
3 Victory Lane,
Gardner, MA 01440

-OR-

If you're not able to join us in person, please log on
though Zoom at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85959866784?
pwd=dGVmWWdrcEpVZGt4NG9kdjhsbVhUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85959866784?pwd=dGVmWWdrcEpVZGt4NG9kdjhsbVhUT09)



**BYLAW
CHANGES**

National Convention 2023 is August 5-8th in Atlantic City, NJ. We will be running a few shuttles in our Department's 12-passenger vehicles from Western, Central, and Eastern Massachusetts, so if you are looking for a ride, please email ekobzik@davma.org.

20TH ANNIVERSARY ENTERING EST. 2004
ZipTrip

DEDHAM	7/7	GLOUCESTER	8/4
MENDON	7/14	WHITMAN	8/11
SANDWICH	7/21	STERLING	8/18
WRENTHAM	7/28	NATICK	8/25

THELOTTERY

**BOSTON
25
NEWS**



DAV Department of MA will begin our ZipTrip season on Friday June 7, 2023!

Come out to join us, or catch us on Boston25 News each Friday and share with family, friends, co-workers, and fellow veterans!!



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: trobort@davma.org





STATE COMMANDER, DIANE SULLIVAN

I'd like to thank everyone for the vote of confidence in electing me as Commander for the upcoming year. I am looking forward to a great year especially working along side DAV Department Commander Bob Kinsman. We both are expecting a great collaborating year.

My first official outing was on June 14th, at a flag day and Army birthday celebration at the George Dilboy VFW in Somerville. I briefly spoke at the ceremony and I was privileged to represent the DAVA State Department. Through the upcoming year, I am hoping to visit each Unit's meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need anything, please feel free to reach out to me.

SR VICE COMMANDER KAYLA VALILA

"Making a Difference"- the motto the Auxiliary stands by, and is exactly what we do.

We make a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families through our membership's volunteer efforts each and every day. Many of these efforts are made possible by generous donors like you and others that give to our organization.



The Ways and Means Committee will meet soon to discuss our Annual fundraiser for formal announcement. Meanwhile, I ask you to share how your unit members have made a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families this past year and ongoing through this year. Send in a list, a photo, video, anything to show the difference we are making. It is important to remember, not everyone will want to partake in a photo op or can be in the photo. That is okay! We do not do what we do for recognition. We do it because we care and want to make a difference in the lives of those we are helping. An example of an alternative photo op could be: If your unit made cards for veterans in-patient, take a photo of those making the cards during the process, or of the finished cards to be shared publicly. In the end, it shows our efforts, what we have done, and the difference we are making. It also shows our donors what their donations support. This will help garner their continued support and, hopefully, the support from others that want to help aid our efforts. A reminder that they, too, can make a difference.

I look forward to seeing all of the amazing things you have done and do. Thank you all in advance for your support in this year's fundraiser, and also, for your continued support and confidence in me as I join the state line again.



1ST JR VICE COMMANDER, REBECCA HASSELMANN

I want to first start by saying thank you to you all for putting your faith in me and electing me to the position of 1 Jr. Vice Commander. I am both grateful and honored. I was first introduced to the DAV and DAV Auxiliary about 3 years ago when I was able to see firsthand just how incredible this organization is and how much it truly impacts the lives of Veteran's.

I plan to use this experience and passion to help drive and increase our membership numbers for the next year. That being said, this is not a one-person job. I implore each of you to utilize your own experiences to fuel your passion for this great organization. Get out in your communities, tell your friends, tell your family, tell your coworkers. YOU are our greatest resource for increasing membership, and we are stronger in numbers. I plan to be present and involved and am looking forward to meeting so many more of you across the state throughout this next year. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, ideas, or support you might need at rebeccahasselmann@gmail.com. Thank you again and I look forward to a great year!

BECOME A MEMBER



2ND JR VICE COMMANDER, ALLISON DEVINE



It was great getting to see many of you at the State Convention. I know I am looking forward to the year ahead, though there are some big changes, I think it will make us a stronger organization.

Since the last SEC meeting there has been a total of 26 Bills put before Legislation. Also, on June 14, 2023, the president signed into law S. 777, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-

Living Adjustment Act of 2023, which authorizes a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation, clothing allowance, and survivors receiving dependency indemnity compensation (DIC) payments. Looking at the Legislative Unit reports as part of the voting at State, I noticed there were many members who were not participating in the Commanders Action Network "CAN". It's an easy system, if you haven't signed up, you should. It only requires, your name, address, and email, and then when you receive the emails from the DAV Commander on the DAV-Supported Legislation, you click the link for "Take Action", and it will pre-fill your respective Senator(s) and US Representative, all you need to do is select Submit Selected Letters. Then at the end of the year your Unit gets credit!

It was great getting to see many of you at the State Convention. I know I am looking forward to the year. If you need help signing up on CAN, please feel free to reach out, I would be happy to walk you through it.

"Teamwork is how everyday people achieve remarkable goals." It's going to be a great year!



ADJUTANT, JANET PRATT

National Convention

If you are attending National Convention, please email jmp3621@aol.com with the dates are traveling, hotel information and if you are bringing any guests. We were notified of a few members who would be interested in carpooling if you plan on driving and have room available or getting a group together- please notify me.

National Convention Update

We are quickly approaching the 2023 National Convention to be held August 5-8 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Below are a few helpful reminders for planning:

The DAV room block at Harrah's is currently sold out. We are asking those who have reservations, for which they do not have an immediate need, to cancel those rooms as soon as possible to make space for those who plan to attend. As cancellations are made, rooms will be available. Additionally, DAV is working to obtain rooms at a nearby hotel that will be drivable. Please continue to watch our website and Facebook page for additional updates.

Convention registration is now available! Pre-registration must be done online. For those who do not wish to pre-register, onsite registration will begin on Thursday, August 3. Credentials are required for all individuals attending events throughout the convention. Those under the age of 18 may register for free; however, they will not receive a bag.

When making travel reservations, it is recommend that you fly into Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). The only airline that flies into Atlantic City is Spirit, but please be cautious when booking, as they charge fees for many of the services and allowances included by most major airlines. Round-trip transportation is available to/from PHL to Harrah's for \$75 one way or \$150 round-trip. Reservations must be made online in advance, and attendees should be mindful of the shuttle times when booking flights.

ADJUTANT, JANET PRATT, CONTINUED....

Forget-Me-Not luncheon tickets are currently on sale for \$45 per person. The luncheon will be held on Monday, August 7, from 12:30-3:00 p.m. All attendees must purchase tickets in advance; no tickets will be available for purchase on site. Tickets must be purchased by July 15, 2023. Checks, made payable to DAV Auxiliary, can be sent to 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018. Attendees can also call our office and pay with a credit/debit card. Additional information regarding scooter rentals will be posted on our website once available.

Reminders from National:

- States and Units—please be sure to provide national headquarters with updated bank information prior to June 23, 2023, those eligible for July 1 distribution receive the deposit in a timely manner. If you are eligible for a distribution and it is not received by August 1, 2023, please notify our office.
- Reservations are being accepted for the 2023 national fall conference in Erlanger, Kentucky. As a reminder, Saturday evening dinner and entertainment tickets must be purchased in advance and no later than September 15. No tickets will be available on site. Tickets are \$60 per person and can be purchased by calling our office at 833.368.1220 or sending a check, payable to DAV Auxiliary, to 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018. Pre-registration is also being accepted and will be \$40 per person.
- DAV Auxiliary national headquarters will be closed Monday, June 19, through Wednesday, June 21, due to a staff convention site visit. We will resume normal operating hours on Thursday, June 22.
- Beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 29, DAV Auxiliary will not be processing any further membership, including new applications and payments. We will not have access to the CRM system, internally or externally, until July 5, 2023. This is in preparation, and completion, of the Year-End and Year-Beginning Processes.
- When calling national headquarters, please utilize our direct dial number—833.368.1220. This number will direct callers right to our office. As a reminder, our office handles all membership requests, including change of address, deceased notifications, and requests for membership lists. When possible, please void calling the DAV Membership Department.
- DAV Auxiliary national headquarters is once again working with just two staff members. Please be patient! We are doing our best to not only prepare for national convention and national fall conference, but also complete daily tasks. We greatly appreciate all of you and know that we will continue to do all we can to get the job done!
- If your unit or state department has completed a special project or event, please share the story with us—dava@dav.org.

WWW.VETERANSCRISISLINE.NET



24/7, confidential crisis support for
Veterans and their loved ones.

You do not have to be enrolled
in VA benefits or health care to connect.

Get Connected

The Arthritis Foundation recognizes the impact that arthritis can have on service members and veterans physically, mentally and emotionally. Connecting with others who understand can help. The new virtual Military & Veterans Live Yes! Connect Group provides an opportunity to get to know others like yourself, share your experience and learn effective coping strategies.



Virtual Military & Veterans Connect Group Meets in July

Join us online for an informative discussion on managing anxiety, depression and other common emotions. The 90-minute Zoom meeting will be held on July 12th at 7:30pm ET, 6:30pm CT, 5:30pm MT, 4:30pm PT. Robert K. Stohr, Executive Director U.S. VETS – Patricia Hall and a licensed clinician for over 25 years, will lead the session. You can register at [Military & Veterans Connect Group](#).

Connect in Person

Local peer-led Connect Groups provide opportunities for people living with arthritis to gather in-person for community, education and support. Now, you can easily [Find a local Connect Group](#) in your area or [Start your own Connect Group](#). The Arthritis Foundation provides the training and resources to support you on your journey as a Connect Group facilitator.



For more information or to get in touch with the local Massachusetts Office reach out to **Erica D'Agostino at (857) 327-5688 or by email edagostino@arthritis.org**
All of our resources for Military & Veterans Services can be found www.arthritis.org/veteran