



& AUXILIARY MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO
AMERICA'S VETERANS



OCTOBER



DAV 5K BOSTON

SEE YOU VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11TH AT DCR
FORT INDEPENDENCE CASTLE ISLAND!



*All functions DAV or Auxiliary of Massachusetts
host, or attend as a vendor, are listed on
www.davma.org/events

*When adequate information and proper notice is supplied to the Department



COMMANDER, BOB KINSMAN

Honoring and caring for our fellow veterans are cornerstones of our DAV existence. In fact, this is noted in the DAV mission: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. With the generous support of a local TV Studio, your Commander was able to prepare a Public Service Announcement (PSA) honoring Prisoners of War (POWs) and those Missing in Action (MIAs). This tribute was broadcast on September 15th for POW/MIA Remembrance Day on local TV and via the DAV-MA Facebook page. Caring for our comrades may occur in many ways, and some can be unusual. For instance, PDC Frank Whitty is the chairman of the Incarcerated Veterans Committee. Our DAV-MA Service Officers travel to prisons throughout Massachusetts to meet with Veterans in Prison and assist them with obtaining any VA benefits for which these mostly forgotten veterans qualify. Some of you may wish to join this committee ... it's good to go outside of your comfort zone on occasion. Another important area is assisting veterans in finding employment. DAV recently sponsored a well-attended national job fair at Gillette Stadium, where over 100 companies were interviewing and hiring local veterans. As a volunteer, you would be a hero to a veteran if you helped them find a job.

We would be pleased if every DAV member in the state could find the time to join one committee and become a bit more active. I'm certain that you would enjoy the experience. If you are new, you may wish to join one of our long-standing committees, such as Legislative, Membership, Service & Charitable, Bylaws or the Honor Guard. These are discussed below in this newsletter by our outstanding Line Officers. You could also volunteer as a driver for our Transportation Program or become certified as a Service Officer to assist veterans in obtaining VA benefits that they have earned. You might also be interested in joining one of our newest committees, the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee headed by Alicia Reddin, or the Women Veterans Committee led by Sheila Pelletier. Under their able leadership, we anticipate these two new groups will be among the best in the nation. Please consider joining either of these new initiatives!

Training Seminars for Officers and volunteers have been completed. Commanders, Adjutants and Treasurers have all been trained. Chapter (CSO) and Department (DSO) Service Officers have been certified by the National Service Office. Goals have been established. We are ready. Now comes the easy part: achieving all the goals we set out to accomplish.

The DAV National Service Office announced that they have realigned the National Service Office areas. Congratulations to National Area 1 Supervisor Mason Sullivan, who will be responsible for New England and New York. Locally, we will restructure our DAV-MA Transportation Program to attract new volunteer drivers and increase the utilization of our DAV vans at VA Hospitals, in a continuing effort to assist veterans in getting to their scheduled medical appointments.

Join us at the DAV-MA 5K Run/Walk/Roll at Castle Island in Boston on November 11. Also, don't forget about the annual WRKO Radiothon to support our 5K event on November 9 & 10. We need volunteers to staff our phone bank as donors call in. Finally, our Department Inspector reports that Annual Financial Reports (AFRs) are due by September 30, and IRS 990s soon after.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

DAV 5K BOSTON



SR. VICE, BOB BRONSON



Continuing the drumbeat of highlighting our committee's mission... to have every chapter submit three resolutions, something for National, something for State, and something locally. Along with that, I want to stress the importance of signing up for DAVCAN. This is something everyone can do to help Veterans. You don't need to be a member of the DAV. You don't even need to be a Veteran. It's a quick and easy way of supporting the bills that helps Veterans that are presently before Congress.

DAV | Commander's Action Network This is where you can sign up and it is also where you can find out more about the Bills that DAV is supporting this year. Once you are signed up, you can go to the bottom of the page where you will see three boxes, the first (DAV issues) addresses different Bills before Congress. It opens to 8 boxes, each separate issues that multiple Bills are addressing.

The first is **Appeals, Benefits and Claims**. There are 7 Bills under his category:

- 1.HR 3489 The Restore Veterans Compensation Act of 2023
- S.344 The Major Richard Star Act
- S. 1635/ H.R. 3718, The Department of Veterans Affairs Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Process Claims Improvement Act of 2023
- S.1515, The Retired Pay Restoration Act
- S.344 and H.R. 1282, The Major Richard Star Act.
- H.R. 1529 /S.777, the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2023
- H.R. 333 the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act

The second is **Burn Pits, Agent Orange and other Toxic Exposures**. This also has 7 Bills:

- H.R. 4424, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
- H.R. 4061-to Establish an Exposure Registry and Studies on the Red Hill Incident
- H.R. 4886, the Aviator Cancer Examination Study (ACES) Act
- H.R. 4249/S.2294, the Vietnam Veterans Exposed to Toxic (VET) PFAS Act
- H.R.4566, the Providing Radiation Exposed Servicemembers Undisputed Medical Eligibility (PRESUME) Act
- S.1360-the PFAS Exposure Assessment and Documentation Act
- S., the Barbosa Act

The third is **Caregiver** It has just one Bill

- S.141, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act

Number 4 is **Education and Employment**. There are 2 Bills under this category

- H.R. 1606, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Act
- H.R. 1799, the EMPLOY VETS Act

In effort to keep this Newsletter to just 2 pages, I'm going just list the last four boxes and not highlight the Bills under them until next month's Newsletter.

All the Bills under each category are equally important and can be seen be going to the Commanders Action Network

Health Care

Homeless Veterans

Survivor Benefits, Veterans Burials and Cemeteries

Woman Veterans



The Legislative Process (Video)

IST JR VICE, ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT

As we step into the vibrant colors of October, I welcome another opportunity to connect with all of you through this newsletter. The fall season brings with it not only the beauty of changing leaves but also a sense of renewal and growth within our organization. I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on our shared journey and the importance of our collective commitment.

Honoring Our Legacy: A Look Back

This year has been marked by meaningful moments, and I would be remiss not to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our members. We've come together to support veterans, advocate for their rights, and strengthen our bonds as a community.

In September, we paid tribute to our heroes of by supporting the Greater Boston Stand Down, The Big E, The MA Veterans' Expo in Brockton, Truck-A-Palooza, the Johnny Appleseed Festival, The Dolce Center for the Advancement of Veterans and Servicemembers' annual veteran community reception and the Topsfield Fair. We have been busy and what better way is there to honor our veterans than by sharing the good news of the benefits of DAV membership. Thank you to all who volunteered at these events.

Membership Drives: Join Us in Action

This month, we're excited to announce a series of membership drives across Massachusetts. These events are not just about growing our numbers; they're about welcoming like-minded individuals into our DAV family. I share with you that the Department of Massachusetts needs 365 new members to meet the goal set by national. We can achieve this. If each chapter recruits just 1 person each month from now until May we will achieve and exceed our goal. Share your stories, experiences, and passion for our mission with friends, family, and colleagues. Encourage them to join the DAV. Please consider joining us at one of these drives, where your presence and passion for our mission can inspire others to get involved.

Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar & Join us!

- Oct 3, 2023: Topsfield Fair Military Appreciation Day – Ipswich, MA – 10am
- Oct 8, 2023: Bedford VA celebrating Indigenous People Day, Middlesex Community College, Bedford, MA – 1pm-3pm
- Oct 18, 2023: Chapter 7 Stand Down & Museum Tour – 19 Willis St, New Bedford, MA – 9am – 3pm
- Oct 21, 2023: Westifest Community Festival – Billings Field, West Roxbury 12pm- 4pm
- Oct 30, 2023: Chapter 7 Fundraiser & Membership Drive – Danny's Seafood Bar & Grille, New Bedford, MA – 12pm – 3pm

Your participation at these events can make a significant difference in our efforts to support veterans and their families. If you are planning to attend, please let me know at andglad@hotmail.com

Calling All District Leaders: Host a Membership Drive

District leaders, you are the backbone of our organization. I'm reaching out to each of you with a heartfelt request: host a Membership Drive in your district. If just one chapter from each district takes the lead and hosts a Membership Drive, we are confident that we can reach and even exceed our membership targets. Your leadership in this is crucial to our success. You will receive an email from me in the next few days with more details regarding support, resources, and guidance.

Thank you for your commitment to the Disabled American Veterans.



CONNECT with us on Facebook!



@DAVMASSACHUSETTS

2ND JR VICE DENNIS DEVINE



On September 15th I had the honor of participating in the City of Boston Veterans' Stand Down at City Hall Plaza. When you work the "Stand Down" it really opens your eyes on how fortunate we all are. To hear some of the stories, it really tugs at your heart. We give billions of dollars to other countries, yet we have a huge homeless veteran population, and it is growing every day.

These veterans signed on the dotted line to join the military and without hesitation. Now it is time for our government to help these veterans and live up to their part of the bargain and to take care of our homeless veteran population.

We have a few months to go before the weather changes drastically. There is no quick fix, but it is time to step to the plate before the cold weather arrives. This isn't just affecting our brothers but our sisters as well.

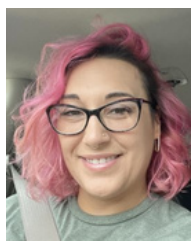
In speaking with the Brockton VAMC Voluntary Services, the following is a list of items needed in that facility. Any donations from DAV Chapters or members will be greatly appreciated.

| Qty | Category | Item | Size | Description |
|------|---------------------|---|-----------|---|
| 1000 | Men's Clothing | Sweat Pants and Hoodies | | Hoodie Sweatshirt and Sweatpants Long Joggers with Pockets Uni-Sex Sets, S, M, L, X-L, XX-L, XXX-L, & XXX-L |
| 600 | Men's Clothing | Winter Jackets New | XXX-Large | Winter Coats sizes XX-Large, XXX-Large need 100 each |
| 1000 | Miscellaneous | K-cup coffee pods (Regular and Decaf) | | (Regular and Decaf) K-Cup Pods for Keurig Brewers assorted favors |
| 1000 | Personal Care Items | (ADA) Stamped Toothpaste & Toothbrush's | | (ADA) Stamped Toothpaste & Toothbrush's, "Must" have (ADA: American Dental Association) Seal on Tube or Package or we cannot accept the donation |
| 1000 | Personal Care Items | Alcohol Free Mouthwash "Only" Alcohol Free Versions | Small | Alcohol Free Mouthwash (Only Alcohol Free) VA prohibits alcohol in any form |
| 1000 | Personal Care Items | Shampoo, Conditioner, & Body Wash | XXX-Large | Shampoo, Conditioner, & Body Wash large bottles |
| 1000 | Personal Care Items | Nail clippers Small & Large | | Nail clippers Small and Large Nail Clippers Set - fingernail and toenail clippers, small fingernail clipper with curved edge to fit your fingernail and big toenail clipper with sharp edge for your thick toenail |
| 1000 | Personal Care Items | Deodorant (Antiperspirant) "Only" Alcohol Free Versions | | Deodorant (Antiperspirant) "Only" Alcohol Free Versions: Unfortunately, most Deodorants are often alcohol based. Alcohol initially stimulates sweating but may also temporarily kill bacteria. Our Hospital Ward Staff will not accept any deodorant with alcohol for the patients. |

DEI COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN, ALICIA REDDIN

Comrades, as we step into the fall season, we are reminded of the rich tapestry of identities, cultures, and histories that make up our vibrant organization. Over the next month, we have the privilege of celebrating several important observances that underscore our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

[Here's a glimpse of what's ahead in October\(click\)!](#)



3RD JR VICE EUGENE MCGREEVY

The fall is great golfing weather the courses are beautiful with the fall foliage all you golfers enjoy. I have provided a copy of the approved 2023 Department Bylaws to the bylaws committee so that they can become familiar with them.

The Constitution & Bylaws Committee will have our first meeting, via zoom in October, where we will discuss the current Bylaws, and recommend any improvements or changes. Any discussed changes will be brought before the body at our 2024 Department Convention to be voted on.

I urge all Chapters to review the bylaws and to have a bylaw committee in the Chapter. If any Chapter has any questions or concerns about their own bylaws please reach out to me at 413-530-4108 or by email at emcgreevy@aol.com. The following link contains a model constitution and bylaws, along with guidelines and suggestions for Chapters to utilize: [DAV Model Chapter Constitution and Bylaws](#)

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR DEB OLSON

The Department has received 26 out of 47 Chapter AFRs (Annual Financial Reports). As you can tell, several are still delinquent. Filing all reports on a timely basis is a requirement of not only the National bylaws, but also the Department and your own Chapter by-laws.

Your chapter's 990n are also due now. We are still missing DEC forms from four chapters. If you have issues completing any of these required reports, contact the department, a line officer or the Department Inspector, we will assist you.

LVAP (LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) forms for September are due to the department within the first week of October. Please send to dolson@davma.org, they will be forwarded to National and the 2nd Jr Vice Dennis Devine. DSO (Department Service Officers) and CSO (Chapter Service Officers) please remember to also complete Mass monthly reporting form SENA (Service Encounter & Needs Assessment). Go to davma.org, click on 'Membership', 'Member Portal', 'Forms', then 'monthly reporting' to complete your SENA and LVAP reports.

The Department will be facilitating reorganization efforts for Chapter 15 Pittsfield, Chapter 25 Lowell, and Chapter 92 Northampton. The goal is to rejuvenate these Chapters, have new officers elected and get these vital Chapters back on their feet. Watch for the dates. All members and potential members in those areas are invited to attend. Invitations will be sent by both email and postal mail.

National Mid-Winter Conference is scheduled for February 25- February 28, 2024, please check out the attached link for further information - [2024 Mid-Winter Conference](#). Now is the time to reserve your hotel room if you plan on attending. Sr Vice Commander Bob Bronson will be hosting a training event, as in previous years to prepare us for this important event where the boots meet the pavement. Please notify the Department should you plan to attend so information can be forwarded to you. This is your chance to meet with our Legislators face-to-face on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.!

As you are looking for tools to aid in your roles as Chapter leaders check out what is available from National, www.mydav.org and www.dav.org. MYDAV is personalized to your position in your Chapter. I have not found a key that blows up the system, so you are safe to look around and explore what is available to you and your Chapter members so that your Chapter has the tools it needs to grow and thrive.

If you need any assistance or if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please contact your Department Line Officers. We were elected/appointed to serve you! We all stand at the ready, and are just an email or a phone call away. Thank you for all you do in your community and for Keeping the Promise.





ADJUTANT MIKE VALILA

Dear DAV Members,

I want to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude for your unwavering support and trust appointing me as the Department Adjutant. It is truly an honor to serve such an incredible organization and work closely with all of you in making a positive impact across our state, and to the veterans and families that we serve. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue our important work together and am committed to upholding the values and mission of the DAV. Your support and dedication mean the world to me, and I am truly humbled by the responsibility bestowed upon me.

Thank you once again for your support allowing me to serve as your Department Adjutant. I look forward to the journey ahead and the countless achievements we will accomplish together!

Our **Transportation Network** will be making big changes. As of today, I ask that you spread the word that any veteran in need of transportation to VA medical appointments please contact us at 413-435-6870 or by email at HSC@davma.org. As our Transportation Network continues to expand and grow, I ask that anyone interested in volunteering to become a driver please reach out as well. We are always in need of new drivers so that we can serve more veterans! Please note that you do not need to be a DAV member to become a volunteer driver. Please share this information throughout your communities and social circles.

I would like to congratulate our newest **Service Officers** who just completed our make-up Level I & II training in September. We had 42 members certified at that training, bringing us to 126 CSO & DSO's total across the state! Starting in October we will begin monthly trainings for our service officers via Zoom. Each month we will pick a topic or two and discuss what the benefit is, who is eligible, how to file for it, and what the appellate options are, ending with a Q & A session. I would like to thank 3rd Jr. Vice Gene McGreevy for pushing this great initiative to further train and build confidence in our service officers!

Our **Veteran Advancement Program** recently laid the groundwork for a new pavilion and playground at the Gardner Campus. We are looking for volunteers with a background in construction/carpentry to come out and help us with the final build to complete the project. If you are interested, please email our Maintenance Foreman, Chris Akey, at Cakey@davma.org.

As the last of the VA Medical Centers and Soldiers Homes finally open their doors to volunteers, our **VAVS & SVS Representatives** are looking to get in and get busy supporting our veterans. They will be hosting all kinds of activities from Bingo to Ice Cream Socials, and everything in-between. Please reach out to our VAVS & SVS Reps if you are interested in volunteering at any of our VA's across the State. For a full listing, please view our Department Directory by [clicking here](#) or visit our website davmamembers.org to access.

While you are on our Department website davma.org, please find your way to our Events page to see where DAV is in your community. If there is an event your Chapter is taking part in, please send me the information and I will list it on our calendar.

Also, please follow our podcast, **The Great American Heroes Podcast** to listen in from community partners on why they choose to support DAV and also our DAV Services page, where we answer common questions in the veteran community-specifically regarding claims.

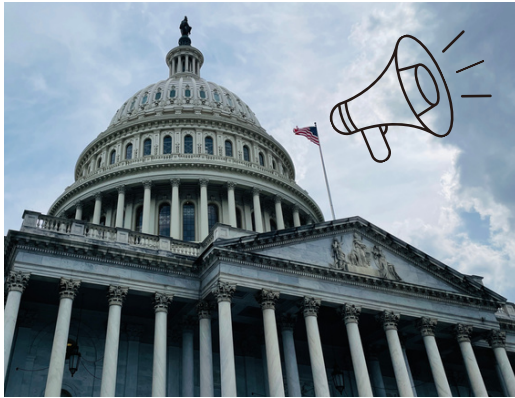
ADJUTANT MIKE VALILA CONTINUED...

Our **DAV 5k Boston** will be held at DCR's Castle Island again this year rain or shine on Saturday November 11, 2023. Come run with the DAV 5K Boston and #FinishInTheFort!

We are thrilled to be back at DCR Fort Independence and cannot wait to see you and all of our DAV5kBoston friends and family again. The DAV5kBoston race committee is working with our municipal partners at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the DCR, State Police and the City of Boston to ensure a safe and responsible family-friendly event experience. The DAV5kBoston team is, again, taking extra care this year to keep you safe, including shipping race kits in advance to all participants.

The DAV 5K Run to Honor Veterans is a run, walk or roll that thanks those who served and raises awareness of the issues our ill and injured veterans face every day. This event helps further the mission of DAV to ensure our injured heroes are not alone on their road to recovery. This event is family friendly. Whether you are a regular runner, or looking for a fun-filled day with the whole family, this event is for you. Paul Whalberg will be there cooking up a ton of food, as will the Sausage Guy! We will have vendor tents throughout the common area filled with tons of merch and swag for you or your little ones to take home. We hope to have you join us! For registration please visit dav5k.boston.

Prior to the DAV5kBoston we will once again have our **Radiothon** hosted by iHeartMedia Boston's WRKO-AM 680 with on-air personalities Jeff Kuhner, Barry Armstrong and Howie Carr. Our 2-day live broadcast encouraging listeners to donate and raise funds for the DAV of Massachusetts' Veteran Advancement Program, Transportation Network, and other service programs across the state. Since 2016, the Radiothon has raised over \$900,000 to benefit DAV Department of MA.



Veterans Guide to Government Shutdown

As the threat of a **Government Shutdown** makes its way through news headlines we have had many veterans contact the Department with inquiries of what to expect should it happen. I am happy to tell you that DAV will not be impacted at all, because we as an organization are a nonprofit. I would like to share this Veterans Field Guide to Government Shutdown that outlines how VA Services may be impacted to answer many of your questions. If you have any questions please call 1-800-MYVA411. This line is accessible 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.

I would like to congratulate Fitchburg Chapter 30's Adjutant and DAV Life Member Sheila Pelletier as she was appointed by our National Commander Nancy Espinosa to serve on the 2023-2024 Interim POW/MIA Committee. Sheila is also the current Chair for the Department's Women Veterans Committee, and previously was appointed to serve on the 2022-2023 Interim Women Veterans Committee by Past National Commander Joseph Parsetich. Congratulations Sheila. You have the full support of DAV Department of Massachusetts behind you!



Letter From National Commander



Local Veteran Assistance Program (LVAP) HOURS

The timely and accurate reporting of LVAP hours will be one of my priority goals this fiscal year. Last year only 14 of our 50 chapters reported LVAP hours to the Department monthly as required. It is my belief that every Chapter is performing functions for which LVAP hours can be claimed – they simply are not reporting those hours. Consequently, we are significantly under-reporting the activity of the Department of Massachusetts.

Reporting LVAP hours by every chapter is very important to the DAV as an organization. DAV is required to report volunteer hours to Congress, watchdog groups, members, and donors. Reporting 'ALL' of our volunteer hours can strengthen our lobbying capabilities in congress, elevate the favorable opinion of watchdog groups, and reinforce the trust of our members and donors.

The below chart will be updated and appear in this newsletter monthly going forward so that every chapter will know where they stand.

| LVAP HOURS REPORTED BY CHAPTER | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----|--------|---------------|-----|--------|---------------|-----|--------|---------------|-----|
| Chpt # | Current Month | YTD | Chpt # | Current Month | YTD | Chpt # | Current Month | YTD | Chpt # | Current Month | YTD |
| 1 | | | 25 | | | 53 | | | 90 | | |
| 2 | | | 27 | | | 56 | | | 91 | | |
| 3 | | | 29 | | | 57 | | | 92 | | |
| 4 | | | 30 | | | 59 | | | 96 | | |
| 6 | | | 33 | | | 64 | | | 100 | | |
| 7 | | | 35 | | | 68 | | | 110 | | |
| 9 | | | 37 | | | 72 | | | 113 | | |
| 10 | | | 40 | | | 74 | | | 114 | | |
| 11 | | | 42 | | | 81 | | | 115 | | |
| 15 | | | 45 | | | 82 | | | 119 | | |
| 20 | | | 46 | | | 84 | | | 122 | | |
| 23 | | | 47 | | | 85 | | | | | |
| 24 | | | 50 | | | 88 | | | | | |





STATE COMMANDER, DIANE SULLIVAN

Fall is upon us and a new season is here. Our Auxiliary is strong and I know with everyone's participation we will have a great year. We all need to generate new ideas within our Units for future events and fundraisers. I will be attending the fall conference this month and can't wait to come back to the next meeting in November with information and new ideas. This will be the first official meeting for National Commander AnnMarie Hurley, who we all know

will do a great job. This will be my first opportunity as Historian Coordinator to photograph the event. I will be giving a brief report during the conference asking each attendee to forward any pictures and suggestions that may help me in this position. If anyone has any pictures during the year of any events or people that you would like to submit to the historian, please feel free to forward them to me at dsullivan.dava@gmail.com. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you would like to discuss anything with me, please call my cell phone at 718-325-6591.

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

It is official! A new fundraiser has begun and more are on the docket for us to plan! Approved by the State and the Department at the September SEC/DEC meeting, the Auxiliary has officially embarked on a new fundraising journey to aide our efforts in providing support and services to veterans and their families.

The **Calendar Fundraiser is currently being sold, \$10 per Calendar, by Ways & Means Committee Members.** Limited quantity so be sure to contact one of us and buy now for your chance to win! Drawings are held every day in December.

On the horizon... BINGO Night, state-wide Car Washes, state-wide Movie Nights and a Fun Night of Karaoke, Trivia or Comedy! If your unit is interested in being a host location for a movie night or car wash, please reach out to me as soon as possible. The committee will be planning these very soon for the winter and spring.

WE ARE SEEKING YOUR INTEREST! Click the link or scan the QR Code to vote on what you would like to attend for a state-led Fun Night: Karaoke, Trivia, Comedy or a combination of them. **Your vote matters- sway the vote and have a Fun Night hosted in your area all while supporting veterans!**



SURVEY
Fun Night
Fundraiser

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRWOMAN, ANGELA TRUELSON



Thank you to Commander, Diane Sullivan, for appointing me as the Junior Activities Chairperson. I began my journey in this organization as a junior member and my husband and I are raising three junior members, so we understand first hand how essential it is to continue to keep our junior members active and included, as they truly are the future of our organization.

BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Ms. Lily Valila on being awarded Outstanding Junior Member at our State Convention this past June. Lily's application was forwarded to the judging committee at the National Convention this past August where she was awarded the same title at the national level! Lily is a shining example of how capable our children are at serving veterans and their families... and more importantly, how much they WANT to. We are so very proud of Lily and her achievements and know that she will continue to do great things!



2ND JR VICE COMMANDER, ALLISON DEVINE



As a reminder if you have not done so, please make sure you sign up for the Commanders Action Network and support the DAV supported legislation. It's a very easy process and it truly makes a difference.

If you haven't done so already, please make sure you take action on the following item:

H.R. 1774, the VA Emergency Transportation Act, would reimburse veterans for the cost of emergency medical transportation to a federal facility by redefining emergency treatment as "services"—to include emergency treatment and emergency transportation. The bill would codify emergency transportation to mean transportation of a veteran by ambulance or air ambulance by a non-Department provider or a facility for emergency treatment; or from a non-Department facility where such veteran received emergency treatment to a Department or other federal facility. This legislation would expand access and eligibility to much needed service for reimbursement of emergency care related to ambulance transportation.

DAV supports H.R. 1774, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 148, which supports legislation to simplify the eligibility for urgent and emergency care services paid for by the VA and urges the Department to provide a more liberal and consistent interpretation of the law governing payment for urgent and emergency care and reimbursement to veterans who have received emergency care at non-VA facilities.

It was great getting to see many of you at the last SEC meeting. If there are any questions regarding the bills that were discussed, please let me know. I am happy to answer any questions or direct you to the information.

STATE TREASURER PSC JEAN SHIFFLETT

I would like to Thank all the Auxiliary Units that have sent in their 2023-2024 Mandates. I will be contacting any Auxiliary Unit that has not sent in them to date. This gives me opportunity to say hello.

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. Reminder, IRS 990-N e-Postcard must be completed by November 15, 2023.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: PSC SANDY FINCEL CHAIRWOMAN

The Finance Committee will commence (if needed) at 9:30 AM ½ hour prior to the November SEC Meeting in Gardner MA. Request for monies should be in writing 10 days in advance of the SEC Meeting either by email to gorsfincel@gmail.com or USPS mail to Sandy Fincel, 2 Smith St. Apt 1, Gloucester, MA. 01930. Thank you.

STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE, FRAN COSTA

Again I encourage ALL to read our State Standing Rules cover to cover. Awareness makes for a more cohesive and successful year for our department.

Also keep in mind that though we have State Standing Rules, National Constitution and ByLaws supersede them.

We all need to be proact members to be successful.

"Train your mind to see solutions, not problems." - Author unknown

VAVS Brockton VAMC

Just a reminder that volunteering is encouraged. Masks are required.

When I have concrete information for DAV Day, I will share it. COVID can always rest it's ugly head again and if that happens all will be made aware.

Thank you for all you do for hospitalized veterans.

-CDCE Rep Frances Costa

VAVS Providence VAMC

Lots of renovations are ongoing. The VAVS committee will again be holding our annual Bake Sale and Raffle Table to benefit Christmas for homeless and veterans families in need. Clothing and gifts for the children.

-CDCE Assoc. Rep Frances Costa

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRPERSON, NANCY MOONEY

I hope you all gave the colored paper to veterans in your community to communicate their needs for help. I think this will be a very successful project. This an ongoing project so If you did not get information or the packet, I will have them available at the next DAVA SEC Meeting.

Fran Costa shared an another good idea that would be beneficial to our veterans in the community. It is a program that accepts plastic bottle caps (water, soda, milk, cream, orange juice, ketchup relish, mustard, medicine) to name a few that are ground down then melted and poured into molds to make braces (leg, arm, back) for veterans. Let's help our fellow veterans with this special way to get them the support they need. These braces are made available at a reduced cost to the veteran. Bring the bottle caps to the November SEC meeting and I will get them to the contact person who will take the bottle caps to the agency running this program. Thank you for continuing to think of the veterans in your community. It" may take a village to raise a child"; well it takes our DAVA community to care for our veterans IN THE COMMUNITY.



ADJUTANT, JANET PRATT

Unit annual financial reports were due to National Headquarters by September 30, 2023, and copies sent to DAV & DAVA Department of MA department adjutants. If your unit has yet to submit its report, please do so as soon as possible. Ensure you use the new form, and not an outdated version you may have. The current form is available online at www.davauxiliary.org.

The following information is to clarify any confusion regarding the DAV/DAVA newsletter and the Auxiliary State Bulletin. The MA DAV/DAVA newsletter will be published monthly ongoing. Elected and State Auxiliary officers must submit articles for this publication by the 22nd of each month for the following publication date. (i.e., November articles must be submitted by October 22nd, December articles by November 22nd) and so on. The Auxiliary "Bulletin" is not being published at this time, instead there is a monthly DAV/DAVA. Newsletter. Please remember, it is now 12 months' publications that you are required per our state by-laws to submit an article should you be in a role that requires a report of you. All articles must be emailed to the Auxiliary Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant, Department Adjutant/ and State Commander. Emails as seen in the newsletter and the Auxiliary directory. Any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out!

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The Veterans Crisis Line is available for all Veterans and their loved ones.

Arthritis and Mental Health

Having arthritis and the associated symptoms can have a negative impact on your emotional well-being, leading to bouts of depression and anxiety. The reverse is also true: poor mental health can worsen arthritis symptoms and lower your pain threshold. Find out more about the connection between arthritis, depression and anxiety, and how to combat these conditions at [arthritis.org/healthy-living](https://www.arthritis.org/healthy-living).



Upcoming Webinar Explores the Mental Health-Pain Connection

Learn how mental health can impact chronic pain, specific to your experiences as a military service member or veteran during a free webinar on Thursday, November 9 at 7:00pm-8:15pm ET. Speaker Dr. Terry Keane, Director, National Center for PTSD, Behavioral Sciences Division, will talk about pain triggers and coping mechanisms, techniques for managing emotional distress and more. Register for the event at [arthritis.org/events/webinars](https://www.arthritis.org/events/webinars).

Dial Down Pain with Self-Care

When you have chronic pain, showing kindness to yourself can help relieve stress, alleviate depression and even alter the pain experience. In the **Self-Compassion and Chronic Pain** podcast, Christiane Wolf, MD, shares how to use self-compassion to help cope with pain and improve quality of life. Dr. Wolf serves as the director of the department of Veteran Affairs' national mindfulness training program for clinicians. You can listen to the podcast at [arthritis.org/liveyes/podcast/episodes/self-compassion-and-chronic-pain](https://www.arthritis.org/liveyes/podcast/episodes/self-compassion-and-chronic-pain).



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 at www.arthritis.org/veteran