

# DAV<sup>®</sup>

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO  
AMERICA'S VETERANS

& AUXILIARY  
MASSACHUSETTS  
NEWSLETTER



## NOVEMBER

11



# VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

THANK  
YOU  
VETERANS



# DAV 5K BOSTON

RUN TO HONOR VETERANS

#FINISHINTHEFORT #VETSRUNBOSTON #DAV5KBOSTON



\*All functions DAV or Auxiliary of Massachusetts host, or attend as a vendor, are listed on [www.davma.org/events](http://www.davma.org/events)

\*when adequate information and proper notice is supplied to the Department



## COMMANDER, BOB KINSMAN

This is a very busy time of year as Veterans Day approaches. The DAV-MA 5K Run/Walk/Roll fundraiser at Castle Island in Boston takes place on November 11. Also, don't forget the WRKO Radiothon to support our 5K event on November 10. We need more volunteers to staff our phone bank as donors call in. The 5K & Radiothon (combined) is our largest fundraising event for the DAV Department of Massachusetts. Please join us this year to make it our most successful fundraiser ever, so that we can help more veterans and their families.

Our Incarcerated Veterans Committee travelled to MCI-Bridgewater (Old Colony Correctional) to assist veterans in prison with filing claims with the VA, and helping qualifying veterans to apply for an upgrade from a less-than-honorable discharge, if warranted. This is our fourth visit to a prison this year, and we typically have 40-50 incarcerated veterans sign up for our services each time. We are now looking for "a few good Service Officers" (certified CSO/DSOs) to assist us in this effort.

The Bedford VA Hospital was probably the last VA facility to reopen to volunteers post-COVID and last week VAVS hosted their first large-scale event in years. The Fall Festival-Halloween Fest was enjoyed by over 100 hospitalized patients, with gifts, food, costumes, entertainment & dancing. Several Service Organizations volunteered to assist, but by far the largest group with the most donations was the DAV and DAV Auxiliary. We had about 25 members in attendance, as many as all other groups combined!

DAV-MA joined the the celebration for Indigenous Peoples Day this year, in support of our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) efforts. Other DAV veterans were assisting the American Red Cross by donating blood and saving lives as part of the DAV-MA Blood Donation Team.

If you need ideas on how to get more involved with DAV, try these: (1) we are hosting a State House Tour for anyone desiring to get more involved with DAV legislative efforts; (2) join us for an Equine Retreat for Veterans at the DAV-MA farm in Fitzwilliam, NH; (3) get some laughs at a Comedy Show to Benefit Veterans in Billerica; or (4) march with us at the Plymouth Thanksgiving Parade this year (it is ranked the #1 Thanksgiving Parade in the nation). Details may be found on the DAV-MA web site & Facebook page.

Our Veterans Housing Program is on track, our DAV Transportation Program is ramping up, and our Service Officers are extremely busy. The Legislative team is gearing up for our Washington, D.C. visit. Our Membership Team is working hard to win Division I honors (DAV-MA is currently in 2nd place and our team needs everyone's assistance to recruit new members).

On a final note, please thank a DAV Auxiliary member for supporting our veterans and as a reminder, do not forget to buy your calendar ticket in support of their fundraising efforts. Their fundraisers help to support our veterans in many ways including the upcoming DAV Hospital Day in December.



PROUDLY PRESENTED BY



VETERANS  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

This Veterans Day, and every day,  
thank you for your service.





## SR. VICE, BOB BRONSON



This month I am continuing with DAVCAN, a quick and easy way of supporting the bills that help Veterans that are presently before Congress. **DAV | Commander's Action Network (quorum.us)** is where you can sign up and also find more information about Bills that DAV supports. At the bottom of the site, 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 four were addressed in last month's Newsletter. In this month's issue I highlighted the last four categories.

### The fifth is Healthcare with 11 Bills:

1. H.R. 2818 The Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act
2. H.R. 1774 The VA Emergency Transportation Act
3. H.R. 41 The VA Same Day Scheduling Act
4. H.R.2414/S 1119 The CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act of 2023
5. H.R. 808 The Veterans Patient Advocacy Act.
6. S. 132 The Daniel J. Harvey Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Service Member Transition to Reduce

### Veterans Suicide Act

7. H.R. 411 The Lead by Example Act of 2023
8. H.R. 1003/S 326 The VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2023
9. H.R. 236 Designate a Week as "Battle Buddy Check Week"
10. S. 42 The BUILD for Veterans Act of 2023
11. S. 10 The VA CAREERS Act of 2023

### The sixth is Homeless Veterans with 1 Bill:

1. H.R. 645, the Healthy Foundations for Homeless Veterans

### Seventh is Survivors Benefits, Veterans Burial and Cemeteries containing 4 Bills:

1. H.R. 3651 The Love Lives on Act
2. S. 1590 H.R. 3790 the Justice for ALS Veterans Act
3. S. 1266 The Love Lives on Act
4. S. 414/H.R. 1083 Caring for Survivors Act of 2023

### Eighth is Woman Veterans with 1 Bill:

1. S. 2026 Maternal Health for Veterans Act

Each month, I will expand on a different issue that needs addressed as seen below.

## TOTAL DISABILITY BASED ON INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY

### The Situation

- When a veteran's disability is rated less than a total 100% evaluation, but he or she is unable to obtain or maintain substantial gainful employment, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations allow the veteran to apply for Total Disability Based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU), commonly referred to as IU.
- The IU benefit is based on the severity of the individual veteran's unique disability picture and its impact on the veteran's ability to obtain and maintain substantial gainful employment. Generally, the veteran must have a single disability rated at 60% or a combined evaluation of 70% to be eligible for TDIU.
- TDIU was established via the VA Secretary's regulatory authority and is not codified by statute.
- There are continuing concerted efforts to limit TDIU benefits based on the veteran's age or their receipt of other earned government benefits, which are not considered a bar to this benefit by VA.

### The Challenge

- Reports published by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in November 2013, August 2014, and December 2016, as well as the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report in June 2015, made recommendations to limit TDIU based on age and entitlement to additional earned federal benefits.
- The 2018 budget contained a proposal to terminate IU ratings for veterans at the age of 62 and cut off TDIU benefits for any veteran already in receipt of Social Security retirement benefits.
- A December 2022 CBO report continues to propose terminating TDIU ratings for veterans at age 67 or older, and cut off TDIU benefits for any veteran already in receipt of Social Security retirement benefits.

### The Solution

- Congress must enact legislation to codify TDIU to include the provisions of 38 C.F.R. § 4.19, which states the VA is precluded from considering the veteran's age in its determination of a Total Disability Based on Individual Unemployability.
- Congress must ensure that TDIU remains available for all veterans regardless of age or receipt of any other earned federal benefits.

## IST JR VICE, ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT

As we step into the month of November, we find ourselves at a special crossroads of remembrance and gratitude. This month holds within its embrace not only Veterans Day but also Thanksgiving, two occasions that offer us an opportunity to reflect, appreciate, and come together as a community. Let's take a moment to reflect on the values that make our organization strong. This is a special time of year when we not only reflect on our blessings

but also reaffirm our commitment to supporting our fellow veterans.

Thank you to all of you who have been actively engaged in our membership initiatives. Your dedication to growing our organization ensures that we continue to provide critical support to our veterans and their families. Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and it serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of gratitude. We, as veterans, understand the sacrifices made in service to our nation and the profound impact it has on our lives.

The membership committee remains committed to increasing our ranks and fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for all veterans. DAV should be a place where veterans from all walks of life come together, united by their service and shared experiences. We believe that in unity, we find strength. Our diversity is our strength, and it's our collective responsibility to ensure that every veteran feels valued and respected within our ranks.

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving, let's remember those veterans who may be in need. Our mission to serve is at the heart of everything we do. Let's remember the importance of supporting our fellow veterans and their families, especially those who may be facing challenges. I encourage all members to reach out to those veterans who may not have joined our ranks. Let them know that DAV is a welcoming home for all veterans, where their unique experiences are valued and respected.

I wish you all a joyous and reflective Thanksgiving. May you be surrounded by loved ones and may the spirit of gratitude fill your hearts. Let us continue to work together to make DAV an organization where every veteran knows they have a place to call home.

What are you doing to achieve your chapter's recruitment goal and increase DAV membership this month? Here are a few opportunities. **Mark Your Calendar & Join us!**

- Nov 3, 2023: Military Retiree Appreciation Day 10:30am- 1:30pm. Hanscom AFB
- Nov 4, 2023: Boston Veterans Day Parade 10:00am
- Nov 5, 2023: Bourne Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony 1:00pm
- Nov 9, 2023: Helmets to Hardhats Fundraiser 11:00am – 1pm, at Pipefitters Local 537, 40 Enterprise Street, Dorchester
- Nov 10, 2023: WRKO Radiothon 680AM to benefit DAV (6am-7pm)
- Nov 11, 2023: DAV 5K 9:00am, Castle Island
- Nov 13, 2023: Golden Corral Military Appreciation Night
- Nov 15, 2023: Chapter 64 Mental Health Summit 6:30pm, Swampscott High School
- Nov 18, 2023: Plymouth Thanksgiving Parade 10:00am

Membership: As of this writing, Chapters 4, and 11 are the only Chapters that have exceeded their membership goal for the year at 100.25% (Chpt 4) and 100.34% (Chpt 11). However, there are 16 more Chapters that can hit their target with 10 or fewer new members (3, 9, 10, 25, 29, 30, 35, 42, 47, 57, 64, 68, 85, 90, 96, 114).

Don't forget - the Lifetime Membership Fee will increase to \$325 on January 1, 2024. Membership will still remain FREE for veterans who are 80+ years old. If you have that veteran who is considering joining, tell them now is the time to join and save. Even past the increase we'll remain the cheapest organization to join, but let's double our efforts in recruiting before the increase takes effect.

## 2ND JR VICE DENNIS DEVINE



As I sit to write this November newsletter article, I can't help but think of how grateful I am.

Last month I spent 8 nights in the West Roxbury VA Hospital. The staff were all great, and I had total trust in their abilities. They treated my family and I fantastic. While I was inpatient I ran into Ed Flynn (City Council) and Rob Santiago (Boston VSO). They were there to present a WWII veteran with his high school diploma. His son told me later that his father was extremely thankful for his diploma. As most of you know, many WWII veterans left school early to enter the military during the war. Every one of them earned the title of the "Greatest Generation" with hard work, determination, and pure blood, sweat and tears.

This got me thinking about DAV's Victories for Veterans. Veterans can face unforeseen consequences as a result of their service injuries. For some of our most profoundly injured veterans, a victory can be as simple as the restoration of life's most basic joys. Fortunately, the DAV has dedicated itself to helping entities provide services that substantively improve veterans' quality of life, and our service officer and members are out in the community daily making an impact in the veteran community.

Last weekend DAV Department of MA co-hosted an Equine Therapy retreat at our property in Fitzwilliam, NH. It was well attended, and even though we had light rain showers everyone in attendance young and old had a great time. Veterans were all smiles that day, and you could witness the impact those amazing animals have on them and the calmness it brings. This is a program we will continue to support and grow. If you would like to participate in future retreats or have ideas for new ones, please reach out to myself or another Line Officer, and we will be happy to share the information with you.

WRKO 680am radio will host our annual DAV Radiothon on Friday November 10, 2023 from 6am-7pm. During the course of the radiothon we will have veteran impacted by DAV call into the radio station to tell how DAV has assisted them, and share their Victories. The monies raised through the Radiothon will go to our service fund to continue our mission and help more veterans through our transportation network, veteran advancement program (housing), claims and benefits assistance, voluntary service program, and more! Please tune in on the 10th and share with your friends, co-workers, and family members so they can hear about the great work DAV MA is doing locally, and show their support.

The DAV5k Boston will be held at Castle Island in Boston on Saturday, November 11, 2023. I am very proud to say that we sold out this year before the end of October! We look forward to next year's event when DCR lifts the cap on participants from 1,500 to see that number grow exponentially.

If DAV has left a lasting impact on you or your family and you would like to share your Victory, please reach out to me at [franden68@gmail.com](mailto:franden68@gmail.com). I would like to begin featuring some of these stories in upcoming newsletters to highlight the power of DAV and veterans helping fellow veterans.

For my DAV Chapter 3 members, DAV Department members and all Veterans, I pray you have a safe and peaceful Veterans Day.

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## 3RD JR VICE EUGENE MCGREEVY



As we move through the fall season and approach the holidays, we start planning for Thanksgiving. We think of family, friends and the good times that the holidays bring. I would like to wish everyone a Happy Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving.

The Bylaws Committee had its first meeting in September. All members were present with 1 excused absence. The first meeting covered Department Bylaws from Article 1 through Article 5. It was decided by the committee that we would individually spend the next two weeks closely reviewing Article 4 Department Officers and Article 5 Department Executive Committee.

Our hope is that through our meetings we will all become confident that the Department Bylaws are complete, and every member of the Department has a good understanding of how the Department functions.

## DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR DEB OLSON



This is not an easy report to submit. My duty as your Department Inspector is to ensure each chapter submits all required documents promptly to the department, national and IRS. I will assist when asked, but it is the chapter's responsibility to complete and submit their warrant request, officer report, dec form, AFR (Annual Financial Reports) and 990 form. I keep track of these on a spread sheet we call the report card. I have also started to record attendance at the

Department Convention, CSO-DSO training, Mid-Winter, and National Convention. This is why your chapter will receive several emails from me over the course of the year. I am also charged with reporting my findings to the commander and adjutant with my recommendations of action. The commander and adjutant may have discretion on action to be taken. My recommendations are per national standards. That said, please read below. I am not calling out chapters by name, you should know who you are and what needs to be completed.

The Department has yet to receive Chapter AFRs (Annual Financial Reports) from 14 chapters. An email was sent to each chapter commander, adjutant, and treasurer on October 10, 2023, if we had not received your AFR by that date, giving your chapter until October 31 to submit report, also stating if you needed assistance to reach out to a department line officer or myself. No chapter has reached out for assistance so I must assume you know what you are doing, and reports will be submitted as required. 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. I will go into the office on Tuesday Oct 31st. I hope the mailbox is full or my email is full. If reports are not received by Tuesday, October 31, 2023, I will recommend to the Commander that your chapter be placed in suspension until your chapter's AFR is received. Your department officers are here to help you, but it is your responsibility to contact them if you need assistance. It is all chapter members' responsibility to ensure their line officers have completed their duties.

Your chapter's 990s 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.

At the request of the Department Adjutant, I set up an outlook calendar using your chapter's submitted officer reports with all meeting dates, times, and places. This is to aid in ensuring your Chapter Leaders receive timely communications ahead of meetings. I then ran each chapter's roster and added members emails to the calendar. A week prior to your chapter meeting each member (that national has email addresses for) will receive a reminder. A big reason to make sure your chapter roster is up to date. I can add a zoom link if your chapter desires. This is a tool to aid in having your members present. Please let me know how it is working for your Chapter, or if there are any changes needed to be made.

LVAP (LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) forms for October are due to the department within the first week of November. Please send them to [dolson@davma.org](mailto: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 <https://DAVMA.org>, Membership, Member Portal, forms, monthly reporting to complete forms. These reports can be completed by any member assisting veterans in their communities.

As you are looking for tools to aid in your roles as chapter leaders check out what is available from National, <https://mydav.org> and [www.dav.org](http://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, look around, 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 line officers, we were elected or appointed to serve you. We all stand at the ready, we are an email or a phone call away. Thank you for all you do in your community. Keeping the Promise.





## ADJUTANT MIKE VALILA

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!

Prior to the DAV5kBoston we will once again have our Radiothon hosted by Boston's WRKO-AM 680 on Friday November 10th from 6am-7pm. Please tune-in and support the DAV Department of Massachusetts. All funds raised through the Radiothon and 5k will go on to support our many service programs to include our Transportation Network, Veteran Advancement Programs, VA Voluntary Service Programs, and more!

I am proud to announce that Chapter 92 Northampton and Chapter 25 Lowell have both undergone reorganization efforts and are now both on route to have their suspensions lifted and begin operating as an active Chapter once again! Congratulations and thank you to the new Line Officers from both Chapters who have stepped up to bring those Chapters back to their glory.

In just a few weeks the Department will hold a reorganization meeting for Chapter 15 Pittsfield on Friday, November 17th from 5-7pm at the Holiday Inn located at 1 West Street. Pittsfield is an area that is critically in need of representation. If you, or any veterans you know live in or around the Pittsfield area and would like to help this Chapter out, please let me know.

As our Transportation Network continues to expand and grow, I ask that anyone interested in volunteering to become a driver please reach out our Hospital Service Coordinator Phil Nadeau at 413-435-6870 or by email at [HSC@davma.org](mailto:HSC@davma.org). 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, nor do you need to be a veteran. We have included the new transportation network flyers within this newsletter. Please share this information throughout your communities and social circles to aid in our efforts to recruit new drivers.

The Department is currently at 98.68% of it's membership goal. As of November 1st we have 24,492 members, leaving us 324 members short of our goal.

The Springfield, MA Golden Corral will host their annual free Veteran's Day Dinner on Monday November 13th beginning at 5pm. Golden Corral guests will be asked to round-up their total amount at the cash register. Chapters should ensure they have members assigned to Golden Corral for the evening to collect funds when patrons enter the restaurant. This is a great recruiting opportunity for both the Chapters and Auxiliary Units in the area! Please consider making the drive to Springfield for dinner that evening and support DAV.

Many restaurants, retail stores and businesses show their gratitude by providing special deals for veterans and their families. For a list of participating organizations, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below. There is also a giant and ever-growing list of museums known as Blue Star Museums that allow free or heavily discounted entrance to veterans and their families. To find Blue Star Museums near you, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code below. I hope that everyone has a safe, healthy, and happy Veterans Day and Thanksgiving!



[Veteran Discounts](#)



[Blue Star Museums](#)

## Local Veteran Assistance Program (LVAP) HOURS

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.

We are reporting these numbers to show the need for Chapters and individuals to begin reporting their hours to LVAP. Year to date (YTD) we have only had 11 Chapters report LVAP hours, with a total of 69 volunteers.

It is my belief that every Chapter is performing multiple functions throughout the month 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, as shown below.

You can report the time commuting to and from a Chapter or Department meeting or training, plus the time spent there. You can also record any volunteer hours you put in whether that's participating in an outreach event, forget-me-not drive, parade, driving a veteran to an appointment, assisting veterans or their family members with claims, and any other volunteer activity you do for veterans.

The chart below shows the Chapter's year-to-date (YTD) hours, and number of reporting volunteers (V).

LVAP HOURS REPORTED BY CHAPTER											
Chpt #	YTD	V	Chpt #	YTD	V	Chpt #	YTD	V	Chpt #	YTD	V
1	694	8	25			53			90	116	1
2	415	2	27			56			91		
3			29			57	43	2	92		
4	1,778	7	30			59			96		
6			33			64	130	1	100		
7			35			68			110		
9	3,697	21	37			72			113		
10			40			74			114		
11	321	2	42			81			115		
15			45			82			119	95	1
20	385	12	46			84			122	428	19
23			47			85					
24			50			88			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,066</b>	<b>69</b>





**Do you enjoy driving?  
Do you want to help Veterans?**



DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

## **TRANSPORTATION NETWORK**

**DAV Transportation Network is in need of Volunteer Drivers to transport Veterans to and from Veteran Affairs (VA) medical appointments.**

**Join a team of dedicated individuals and volunteer for Veterans today!  
CHOOSE DAYS & HOURS THAT WORK FOR YOU TO VOLUNTEER.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT US:  
HSC@DAVMA.ORG  
(413) 435-6870**



[www.davma.org](http://www.davma.org)



## STATE COMMANDER, DIANE SULLIVAN

I attended the DAVA Fall Conference in Kentucky in September and gave a brief presentation on my role as the National Historian for the Commander. The programs were very informative and enjoyable by all who attended. It's always great to reacquaint with old friends and meet new ones. If you haven't done so already, I urge you to view the presentations and meetings on the DAVA face page. Also, it's not too early to start planning on attending next year's DAVA Fall Conference which will be in Lawrenceburg, TN47025. For more information, please see the DAVA website. As I've said in the past it is to everyone's advantage to attend this conference, especially new members. I have started to attend Auxiliary Unit meetings and made a presentation on some of the material given out during the DAVA Fall Conference. As I said last month, I would love to attend your Unit's meeting, so please feel free to invite me. If there are a topics or questions that you would like answered, please send them ahead of time, so that I am prepared.

As a reminder, 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](mailto: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 781-325-6591.

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## SR VICE COMMANDER, KAYLA VALILA

The **Calendar Fundraiser** is underway-be sure to contact a committee member for your calendar today if interested! Calendars will also be available at SEC/DEC Meeting on November 4th. Calendars must be purchased by November 27th. They cost \$10 each and winners will be announced every day of December. Calendar stubs and money/checks may be returned to Nancy Hoey at 169a Washington Circle, Woburn, MA 01801. Should you have any questions, Nancy may be reached at 617-864-4343.



### **Purchase Calendar Fundraisers from Ways & Means Committee Members:**

Kayla Valila	Kathleen LeBlanc
Becca Hasselmann	Cindy Legge
Allison Devine	Patricia Messina
Debra Mehle Connor	Genevieve Downey
Maryanna Foster	Nancy Hoey

**ATTENTION WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** There will be a meeting during 9am coffee hour November 4th prior to start of SEC meeting to discuss and plan the next fundraisers. Please let Kayla know if you will not be attending in person, but would like to attend virtually. Thank you.

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## 2ND JR VICE COMMANDER, ALLISON DEVINE

Unfortunately, with everything that has been going on in politics, there have not been a lot of items getting pushed through the Commanders Actions Network since last month. There are a few items that are pending introduction to the House, however at this point they are still in the introduction phase.



With that said, please remind your Unit members at your next meeting to make sure they have signed up for the Commanders Action Network (CAN) and are taking the necessary steps supporting the DAV supported Legislation.

As mentioned at the last SEC meeting, we will start training on the reports. If you have questions related to the Annual legislative reports, please be sure to bring them to the next SEC meeting or feel free to reach out.

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## STATE TREASURER PSC JEAN SHIFFLETT

Anyone needing a check for reimbursement should contact me at 617-827-1911 at least a week ahead of time 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 2023-2024 State Mandate fee of \$30, please do so immediately. Make checks payable to DAVA Dept. of MA and send to me at 109 Edgehill Road, E. Braintree, MA 02184.

The 990-N must be completed no later than November15,2023.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRPERSON, NANCY MOONEY

November has two very important dates to remember, one being Veterans Day ; a day to thank a veterans for their service and Thanksgiving; a day for us all to be grateful for the bountiful lives we have.

November 11th is Veteran's Day, please honor your family member who served, but never forget the fellow serviceman or women in your neighborhood that also served to protect the rights that we as Americans share in the freedoms that we have.

Take part in the home town celebrations that show how much we appreciate all the sacrifices that our veterans have endured by serving our country. Visit a lonely veteran in a nursing facility. Send a card to a neighboring veterans. These are simple acts of kindness to show our veterans in our community that we are grateful for their service.

Thanksgiving Day is November 23, a day to be celebrated as a day of gratefulness for all the blessing we are so lucky to have in America, Freedom. Most people have shelter, food, and a family to share love with but not everyone is that fortunate. Therefore as a community that serve veterans in our community, it is our responsibility to seek out those of less fortune and offer to bring them a meal or invite them to our table especially any veterans in our community.

May you all enjoy these two holidays not as days off but to be proactive in recognizing the needs of our veterans in our community. Thank you for supporting all veterans in your community.

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## STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE, FRAN COSTA

If you have questions regarding your Unit and you cannot find the answers, contact the State Commander. If the answer is not immediately available, the commander will get back to you as soon as possible with the answer. Do not contact National Headquarters on issues that should be resolved within the Department first. If you have a question regarding the Auxiliary Department, and it cannot be resolved from within, only then do you contact National Headquarters.

I am asking anyone with proposed amendments to our State Standing Rules to please get them to me in writing while it is fresh on your mind. Waiting until spring you may forget. Keep in mind it must be in writing with a rationale for the proposal.

"A leader MAGNIFIES the impact of the team (organization), not just the image of themselves" "You Cannot be in Leadership and be nasty to members and expect to be respected because of your TITLE" (author unknown). The office (title) is not about who we are. We must be members first even though we might be in a leadership role. Successful Units and Departments work as a team.



**FOR ADDITIONAL AUXILIARY  
REPORTS, PLEASE CLICK OR SCAN  
THE QR CODE OR LINK HERE.**







## 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](http://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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 CELL PHONE: 781-325-6591.

# CAUGHT IN THE ACT MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**Chapter & Unit 35 Marshfield provide lunch & comradery to Brockton VA Spinal Cord Injury Unit**



VAMC Visit, pictured back row left to right:  
 Mario Flores, Ch.35 Service Officer, PSC Liz Butters,  
 DAV Department Adjutant Mike Valila, PDC Helen  
 Bennett.

Front row: Brockton VAMC SCIU residents Larry  
 and Stephen.

**(VA Staff & Patients gave permission to be  
 photographed)**



Ch. 35 Lunch Photo, pictured left to right:  
 Michael Maresco, Marshfield Town Administrator;  
 PDC Helen Bennett, Ch. 35 Treasurer/Adjutant;  
 Carin Paulette, Marshfield VSO; Mike Valila, DAV MA  
 Dept. Adjutant; PSC Liz Butters, Unit 35 Adjutant;  
 Lynne Fidler, Vice Chair, Marshfield Select Board;  
 Joann Farnum, Unit 35 member; Larry, SCIU  
 resident.





# Equine Retreat Day

Hosted by DAV Dept. of MA Service Fund Inc.  
and Warriors Ride for Veterans and their families.





# DAV<sup>®</sup>

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO  
AMERICA'S VETERANS

Department of Massachusetts



## DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Did you know DAV provides transportation for Veterans for VA medical appointments at **no cost** to the Veteran?



### FREE TRANSPORTATION

- ✓ VA Medical Centers
- ✓ Outpatient VA Clinics
- ✓ C&P Exams

10 BUSINESS DAYS REQUIRED TO MAKE  
APPOINTMENT FOR RIDES

**CONTACT US**  
**(413) 435-6870**  
**HSC@davma.org**  
**Mon-Fri 8-4pm**



For more information on DAV services and programs, scan the QR code and visit us online at:  
[www.davma.org](http://www.davma.org)  
All services are FREE to veterans and their families.



# Communication With Your Healthcare Team

Doctors and other healthcare workers may want the best care for their patients, but with the pressures of today's healthcare system in the U.S., many just don't have the time that they would like to dedicate to each patient. The Arthritis Foundation has resources available to help you make the most of your upcoming healthcare visits.



## Upcoming Webinar: Better Health Care Through Communication

Get advice from healthcare providers on how to effectively communicate and build trust with your arthritis health care team during a free webinar on Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00pm-7:15pm ET. Learn strategies for successful appointments, including how to express concerns, provide vital information about your conditions, and ask questions about tricky subjects. Register for the event at **Better Health Care Through Communication Webinar**.

## How to Make Yourself Heard Podcast

Arthritis patients know their bodies, situations and needs better than anyone, so it's important that they know how to advocate for themselves. In the **How to Make Yourself Heard podcast**, host Dr. Courtney Wells and guest Stephanie Rosado, Research & Evaluation Associate at The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg, discuss what self-advocacy means, the importance of speaking up for yourself, and strategies to make yourself heard.



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](mailto:edagostino@arthritis.org)**  
All of our resources for Military & Veterans Services can be found **[www.arthritis.org/veteran](http://www.arthritis.org/veteran)**