



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

& AUXILIARY MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER

June 2024

2024 CONVENTION

Friday, June 7th & Saturday June 8th

- Connect with fellow veterans and military families
- Be part of a change and make an impact
- Vote on legislative initiatives
- Visit veteran-friendly vendors
- Network and learn new resources
- Enjoy dinner at the awards banquet Friday night
- Complete the night with live band entertainment!

AWARDS BANQUET FRIDAY EVENING AT 6PM

FUN NIGHT FRIDAY AT 8PM

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS SATURDAY EVENING AT 6PM!



Department of Massachusetts
DAVMA.ORG

CONVENTION VENDORS



Interservice Family Assistance Council



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY:



Upcoming Events:



*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

It has been my honor to serve as your Commander for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Massachusetts this year. I have been inspired by the legacy of the many great leaders who came before me. Thanks to their guidance and support, I have been able to enhance & build upon a tremendous record of assisting ill and injured veterans & their families. In addition, I am not going anywhere ... I will serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors for both the DAV-MA 501(c)(3) Public Charity (Service Fund) and the 501(c)(4) Social Welfare (Department) organizations next year.

I would like to thank my outstanding team of Line Officers who made my job easy this year. Kudos to Bob Bronson, who will take over for me next year, Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Dennis Devine & Eugene McGreevy. Also, Mike Valila, who stepped into a new role as Adjutant, and helped to keep everyone in line. And Commander Diane Sullivan and our wonderful DAV Auxiliary. In addition, I'd like to mention our Department Honor Guard, that represents the DAV with dignity & professionalism at events throughout the state.

There are so many others who have worked to make our journey a success. For all those who have assisted me, you all know who you are, and I am truly grateful for all you have done. I am always impressed by the amount of time that our dedicated DAV volunteers give to assist their fellow veterans. This makes it possible for our DAV to stand out as one of the most productive and helpful veterans service organizations in the country.

Our DAV members & volunteers understand the sacrifice it takes to improve the lives of the veterans in our communities. Your willingness to share yourselves by volunteering with the DAV says a lot about you. When you volunteer, you are making a commitment to share a most precious resource – your time – to make life better for veterans & their families. I want you to know just how much your dedication is appreciated. Thank you for serving the DAV Department of Massachusetts and your local Chapter this year. I am privileged to have such amazing people in my life.

I hope to see you all at Convention!

Thank you all
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



CONNECT

with us on Facebook!



@DAVMASSACHUSETTS

SR. VICE, BOB BRONSON



I first want to thank and congratulate our Commander, Bob Kinsman, on such a successful and productive year. Your leadership and effectiveness are something that all of us can, and should, use as a goal to achieve, no matter what position they are about to take in our organization. I am, and have been, since I had the privilege of meeting you, seen you as the embodiment of what a Disabled Veteran should try to be. I'm proud, and very fortunate to be a member of your Department Line Officers and be able to call you a friend. All of us should be using your example as a template of how to serve the DAV Department of Massachusetts.

To the rest of the line Officers, thank you for a job well done and I look forward to serving the next year with each and every one of you.

This Legislative session for inputting Resolutions for the Department to select and send to National DAV Legislative Committee and to the State of Massachusetts is now over. Although we didn't reach the number of Resolutions that I had hoped to, I want to thank everyone that sent in both fully written Resolutions, and ideas for Resolutions that we could write for them. Both ways accomplished what we, as the Department Legislation Committee, had hoped to achieve. Resolutions that may someday be laws that help Veterans and their families, both in the state and across the nation, have been sent to the Department for consideration. What happens after that, is what we as an organization, can look back at, and use to make the next years Resolutions even better. Our next Sr. Vice Commander is more than qualified to take over this committee, but I want to make sure that she knows that I am available, and ready to assist whenever needed.

I also want to take the time to thank everyone else on this year's Legislative Committee, that gave their time and expertise to make this a successful year for us. I couldn't have achieved this without their help. Now is the time for everyone that would like to have the largest impact on improving our fellow Veteran's lives and the lives of their families, to reach out to us and volunteer of next year's Legislative Committee. The more members that get involved, the better the Department can function and grow. Most people want to belong to organizations that are active, growing, and involved. This is how we attract the younger Veterans that want to help but don't want to just go to meetings for the sake of going to meetings. All of us, no matter how young, or old, have something to give, and are needed to make the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Massachusetts an organization that every Veteran is proud of and wants to be a part of.



1ST JR VICE, ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT

This marks my final article as the 1st Junior Vice Commander. On behalf of the membership committee, I am taking this opportunity to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your recruiting efforts throughout this year. I am honoring YOU. As this year, full of accomplishments in service, ends, I am deeply grateful for all that we have achieved together. None of our accomplishments would have been possible without your support and dedication. This year we contributed to:

- **Membership Growth:** Through dedicated efforts we have exceeded our goals and achieved a membership 99.3% of our goal.
- **Member Engagement:** DAV Radiothon, DAV5K, DAV Day, and DAV Impact Day - Develop and execute programs and initiatives that engage DAV members in community activities, volunteer opportunities, and advocacy efforts.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Promoted diversity and inclusion within the DAV membership by actively seeking to include veterans from all backgrounds, service eras, and demographics. We attended the LGBTQ job fair, the Black Veterans Appreciation Brunch, the movie screenings of 2 documentaries highlighting black veterans and women veterans: the 761st Tank Battalion, the 6888, and the Women Veterans Network Annual conference.
- **Community Outreach:** Collaborated with local veterans' organizations, community groups, and governmental agencies to raise awareness of DAV and attract new members at the Boston Veterans Day and the Bourne Cemetery Veterans Day celebration; The Plymouth Thanksgiving Day, the St Patrick's Day, and the Lexington Patriot's Day Parades; the Grand Army of the Republic community Day, the 1st annual pancake breakfast hosted by Chapter 122, the Chapter 64 sponsored Vietnam Veteran Appreciation Breakfast, the Boston Wounded Vet Run and the Bourne Cemetery Memorial Day ceremony.
- **Special Initiatives:** Participated in special membership drives, such as The Greater Boston Stand down, The Topsfield Fair, The Big E, the Brockton VA Expo, The Cape & Islands Veteran Outreach Center Stand down, The Longmeadow Octoberfest, the Bedford Area Indigenous Peoples Day celebration, Hellfish Haven Family Game Night, Swampscott Health & Fitness Fair, and the Springfield RV Camping & Outdoor Show to reach specific membership goals and objectives.
- **Member Benefits:** Hosted claims seminars and PACT Act seminars to ensure that all DAV members in Massachusetts are aware of and have access to the full range of benefits, resources, and services available to them.
- **Chapter Support:** Provide support and resources to individual DAV chapters in Massachusetts to help them achieve their own membership goals.

This progress would not be possible without support from the department, the amazing members of the membership committee, the chapters, and our partnership with community leaders.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and collaboration. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I'm excited to announce my candidacy for a higher office within the DAV department of MA. I look forward to our continued work together in service to disabled veterans and would appreciate your support.

A picture is worth a thousand words. So, let's take a moment to review our year through the lens of the moments captured in images.

SEE YOU AT CONVENTION!

2ND JR VICE DENNIS DEVINE

As the DAV year winds down, I would like to thank everyone for their support of our veterans by their volunteering of time. It takes a group effort to serve our disabled veterans who have illnesses and injuries and to help them get the care they earned. There is still more to do and together we can accomplish a lot.

I attended the Memorial Day services in Bourne. Participation has greatly diminished in the past years. It would be wonderful to have more representation from the DAV. Uniforms are not mandatory. Dark pants/skirts and white shirts/blouses would suffice. It is a very important event and should be heavily attended by our DAV members.

As stated in the past, LVAP hours are very significant as they can strengthen lobbying capabilities. Having at least one member from each chapter report their hours would make a big difference. Our Department Convention will be held on June 7th and 8th. It would be awesome if every chapter could be represented. I would appreciate your support as I seek higher office.





Celebrating past, present and future veterans...

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
Civil War Hall & Museum

Presents a day for all veterans to come together and celebrate:

JUNE 24th 2023
2pm-5pm

Family members and non-vets are also welcome in attendance.

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And a special treat
54th Regiment from
that served in the Am

Civil War Hall & Museum:
36 Andrew Street, Lynn MA, 01901
Please arrive on time to a 10:00 AM start, meeting in the building
on the corner with the American Legion (1882).




DAV MA Membership Committee
YEAR IN REVIEW





DAV MA Membership Committee YEAR IN REVIEW



3RD JR VICE EUGENE MCGREEVY

As I reflect on the year, I'm amazed how fast the year went by. It seems like yesterday that I was sworn in as 3rd Junior Vice at the Department Convention.

This year's Department Convention will be held on June 7th and 8th at the Double Tree in Leominster MA. I encourage you to attend, you will be able to interact with all the Department Line Officers, you will be able to ask questions about the budget, the Bylaws and any other that affect the Department or your Chapter. It's a good time to other Chapters about issues affect your Chapter that they can help you resolve.

On the first day of the Convention the amended Bylaws will be read for the first time. A second reading will be held the following day, with a vote for acceptance.

I would like to thank the Bylaws Committee for their work and dedication. The committee members are Mike Valila, Deb Olson, Denise Devine, Mike Sullivan, Nelson Sarrano and Dan Stack.

With my one term as 3rd Junior Vice coming to an end, I look forward to continuing working in the Department as the 2nd Junior Vice. I am committed to work to further the goals of the Department and the DAV to empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR DEB OLSON



We have over 130 members, representing 38 of our 49 chapters, registered for Service Officer training. Thank you all for your dedication to this important aspect of our mission. You are our front line; veterans and their families will be looking to you for assistance in maneuvering through the VA systems. This training is the first step of your journey to a yearlong feeling of fulfillment, knowing you have assisted a fellow veteran on their journey of empowerment to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. I am so excited about the service work that can be done around the state, with everyone sharing the load a lot can be accomplished. You know I wouldn't be Deb if I didn't mention the paperwork, please submit all claims immediately upon completion to the BOSTON NSO Office.

Monthly LVAP and SENA reporting is necessary, so we know what and where the needs are most. The Chapter's OER (Officer Election Report) is to be completed on-line via www.MYDAV.ORG. Please fill in all positions completely: name, address, membership number, phone number and email address. All officers should have a current email. Many chapters were able to complete this task very easily. Great work. Officer training will take place in June. I hope all chapters will take advantage of this opportunity to learn and ask questions about their duties and responsibilities. The chapters will be notified of time and place directly after convention.

LVAP (LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) forms for May 2024 are due to the department within the first week of June. Please send them 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 <https://DAVMA.org>, Membership, Member Portal, forms, monthly reporting to complete forms. These reports can be completed by any member, including auxiliary, assisting veterans in their communities. I want to thank everyone who is submitting their hours. Please continue the magnificent work, just a reminder if you have not submitted an LVAP for this year please do so. Please complete the SENA on-line, the matrix from this will help us to identify needs in our communities, write resolutions, and seek funds and support to address these needs.

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.



ADJUTANT MIKE VALILA

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Department Convention Friday June 7th and Saturday June 8th at the DoubleTree Hilton, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA. We have made many changes over the past few years to our Convention. We finally got away from holding Convention on Father's Day weekend, and now we have cut our Convention down to 2 days. Our next big change will occur next year at our 2025 Department Convention,

where we will not only change location, but we will also include Commander & Adjutant training, as well as Treasurer training. If there are other trainings you would like to see at Department Convention, please let me know and we can work to build them in! We are working with a company to find us a new convention hall in the state that can host us.

We will have many vendors at Convention this year that are there for you. Please take the time to meet with each of them to see what they have to offer. Many Chapters only send a few members to Convention, so please bring this information back to your Chapters to share with fellow members as well!

This year we also formalized our Department Award nomination process, to include a formal application and nominating criteria. Thank you to the many Chapters and members who sent in nominations. Friday, June 7th at our Award Banquet we will be honoring the following Award Recipients.

- Disabled American Veteran of the Year: **Russell Chaput**
- VHA Outstanding Employee of the Year: **Dr. Dennis O'Neil**
- Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Specialist: **Stephanie Shaw**
- Legislator of the Year: **State Representative James Arciero**
- Community Partner Award: **Jacob Wycoff of WBZ News**

I also am looking forward to **National Deputy Legislative Director Shane Liermann** flying in to join us at Convention this year. Every time we see a law we'd like to change, or a benefit we'd like to exist that doesn't currently, or we just say to ourselves "there should be a law for that"; Shane and his team hop into action in DC and make sure that our Resolutions are passed forward before our Legislators to become a new law.

Finally on Friday evening, following the Award Banquet we will have a live band performing for our Fun Night. The concert is free, and open to all DAV & Auxiliary members, family, friends, and guests. Our band this year will be **Plead the 5th**, and we are excited to have them join us this year!

On the next page I have included our full schedule for Convention. Whether you are a registered delegate for your Chapter, or new member and just curious, if you have the time available this weekend, please come by Convention and check us out. We would love to see you there!

**THE GREAT AMERICAN
HEROES
PODCAST**

Powered by

DAV Department of Massachusetts

[Click to here for the latest Great American Heroes Podcasts with guest, Dan Quirk, Owner of Quirk Auto Dealers](#)





**Department of Massachusetts
2024 Convention Agenda**

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM _____ Joint Opening Session; Intro - Natl. Reps. & Memorial Service
(Brahms-Beethoven-Mozart)

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM _____ Registration of Delegates: (Outside of Boardroom)

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM _____ First Business Session: (Brahms-Beethoven-Mozart)

Adoption of the Rules of Convention:

First Reading of Constitution & Bylaws changes
Resolution

Committee Reports:

Treasurer, BOD, Budget, Resolution, Legislation,
Membership, Service & Charitable, VAVS and Credentials
Second Reading of By-laws and Rules Changes

6:00 PM _____ Joseph R. Harold Awards Banquet Dinner: (Ballroom)

8:00 PM _____ Fun Night

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM _____ Registration: (Outside of Boardroom)

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM _____ Second Business Session: (Brahms-Beethoven-Mozart)

NSO Report:

Introduction of Candidates: Credentials and

Registration Report:

1:00 PM _____ Election of Officers

1:30PM _____ Third Business Session

6:00 PM _____ Joint Installation Banquet Dinner: (Ballroom)

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 22-JUNE 23

2024

WOMEN VETERANS WELLNESS RETREAT

A FREE, RELAXING,
WEEKEND OVERNIGHT
GETAWAY

LOCATED IN FITZWILLIAM, NH

JOIN OTHER WOMEN VETERANS
FOR YOGA, MEDITATION, REIKI,
GARDENING, CAMPFIRE,
CAMERADERIE AND MORE!

**Space is limited. Registration with
confirmation is required to attend.
Proof of veteran status required.

Follow us on Facebook
[@DAVMassachusetts](#) for more
details, or contact us at
inquiry@davma.org with your
interest of attending this event.

If you are a service provider
interested in partnering with
us, please contact us at
inquiry@davma.org.



HOSTED BY:



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO
AMERICA'S VETERANS

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

WWW.DAVMA.ORG



STATE COMMANDER, DIANE SULLIVAN

The year is nearly over. I've had a very enjoyable and fulfilling year. I would like to thank everyone who assisted me throughout the year, especially the line officers and appointed officers. Our joint effect made the year successful. One highlight in the past year was accompanying National DAVA Commander AnnMarie Hurley, as she placed a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier at Arlington National Ceremony. I am looking forward to next year's leaders of our Auxiliary and wishing them all a great year. As always, I am available for questions and any help that anyone may need, please free to contact me. Thank you.

ADJUTANT, JANET PRATT

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUT GOING AND INCOMING OFFICERS.



Reminder to those who are running for higher office your Application for State Office for the 2024-2025 year must be submitted before the 1st business session on Friday June 7, 2024.

REMINDERS:

Warrants/Vouchers/Check Requests The national bylaws provide for the proper procedure when issuing checks from unit accounts. · The Adjutant shall initiate all warrants/vouchers/check requests on unit approved expenditures at a regular business meeting or as dictated by the approved unit standing rules · Warrants/vouchers/check requests must be co-signed by the commander* · The treasurer issues and signs checks in accordance with the warrant/voucher/ check request · The commander co-signs the checks* *In the absence of the unit Commander, the unit Senior Vice Commander shall co-sign checks. The unit Junior Vice Commander shall co-sign warrants/vouchers/check requests in the absence of the unit Adjutant. Under no circumstances may a unit have a credit or debit card.

2024 National Convention Saturday, August 3 – Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Phoenix Convention Center
100 North Third Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004

DAV AUXILIARY NATIONAL FALL CONFERENCE September 26 – 28, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton 51 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg, IN 47025.

Room Rates: \$149.99 – Single/Double \$159.99 – Triple \$169.99 - Quad For room reservations, call – 812.539.8888 and ask for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary group rate. Additional Accommodations: Hollywood Casino, 777 Hollywood Dr., Lawrenceburg, IN. Same room rates apply! There will be no transportation available between the conference hotel and the Hollywood Casino, so please plan accordingly. For room reservations, call 888.274.6797 and ask for DAVA 2024 group rate. Rate for both hotels include complimentary breakfast at the DoubleTree on the mornings of Thursday, Friday and Saturday and free parking. Breakfast vouchers will be provided during check-in and will be required for breakfast each morning. **Reservation cutoff date is September 10, 2024** The DoubleTree by Hilton is located 16 miles from the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG). Airport transportation options include: · Ridesharing services (Uber, Lyft, etc.) · Taxi.

ADJUTANT

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Advocacy in Action

The Arthritis Foundation has been hard at work advocating for research to meet the growing needs of active military personnel and veterans. If approved, appropriations for the Peer-Reviewed Arthritis Research Program (PRARP) and the Peer-Reviewed Orthopedic Research Program (PRORP) will continue to help identify better joint injury management protocols, assist in reducing long-term health costs related to arthritis, and help our troops and veterans live high quality lives.

The Osteoarthritis Prevention Study for Women

The Osteoarthritis Prevention Study (TOPS) is a healthy lifestyle program investigating the effects of weight loss and exercise on knee pain and the progression of osteoarthritis (OA) in women over 50. In TOPS, participants will be placed into one of two healthy lifestyle groups where participants will attend sessions that may include a combination of weight loss, healthy lifestyle, nutrition and exercise information. For more information email TOPS@mgb.org.



Share Your Arthritis Story

You can help advocate by sharing your arthritis story. Your unique story puts a human face on a complex disease and helps legislators understand the need to address barriers to care. Visit the [arthritis.org/advocate/action-center](https://www.arthritis.org/advocate/action-center) to learn more!

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



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Fighting Arthritis Brain Fog and Fatigue Webinar

Join us on June 27 at 6:00pm ET as we learn about the possible causes of brain fog and weariness in arthritis, and ways to tackle exhaustion. Also, gain tips and tricks to regain your clarity and help you feel like your old self again. Register at joinus.arthritis.org/webinarjune

Osteoarthritis Connect Group – Traveling with OA
Wednesday June 5, 8:00 PM ET
<https://bit.ly/ConnectGroups-OA>

Newly Diagnosed Connect Group - Self-Management
Thursday June 13, 7:30 PM ET
<https://bit.ly/ConnectGroups-New>

African American Connect Group – Prep for Vacation
Saturday June 15, 2:00 PM ET
<https://bit.ly/ConnectGroups-AfrAm>

**Grupo de Conexión Hispana -
Manteniéndose activo con artritis**
Saturday, June 22, 5:00 PM ET
<https://bit.ly/ConnectGroups-Hispanic>

Find out more about our Specialty Connect Groups at connectgroups.arthritis.org