

DAVA[®]

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO
AMERICA'S VETERANS

& AUXILIARY MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER

August
2024



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WORK
FOR WHAT
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COMMANDER, BOB BRONSON

First, thank you for entrusting me as your new Department Commander. This is a position that I do not take lightly and will do my utmost to make sure that we, as the oldest and most respected Veterans Service Organization, have one of our most successful years possible. It is a high bar that has been set after not only our immediate Past Department Commander (PDC), Bob Kinsman, but all our PDCs. We have many challenges ahead, but

want to also thank all the Chapter officers and members that have given of themselves to make sure that as many Veterans as possible get the help and assistance they need.

By the time you read this, almost sixty of your fellow DAV, DAVA members and guests will be in Phoenix, Arizona for our National Conventions. Thanks to your support, at our Department Convention in June, we passed 26 National Resolutions that have been submitted and will be part of the Legislation agenda for the upcoming year, and for that, I personally want to thank everyone that stepped up to the challenge that I presented last year. Last year there were over five hundred Resolutions that were considered at the National Convention. Fourteen of which became Bills that were brought before Congress. I can't stress enough that the most rewarding way to help the most Veterans and their families is to have a Resolution become a law that was passed by both the US Congress and Senate. Every bill that has ever been passed started with someone saying to themselves, this is wrong and there ought to be a law. It's not too early to start submitting Resolutions to the Department. Just come up with an idea about something that has been bothering you and bring it up at your next Chapter Meeting. Your Line Officers are waiting to help with the formatting of the Resolution, so don't let "I don't know how" become the reason for inaction. Also, remember that the best way for anyone who wants to support Veterans is to become a member of DAVCAN. It's easy and you don't even need to be a Veteran to join. Just go to [DAVCAN.Org](https://davic.org) to sign up, or just click on the following link: <https://dav.quorum.us/home/>

So, while I'm still on my soap box, I might as well remind everyone that if you haven't signed up for MYDAV, please do so at [MYDAV.Org](https://mydav.org). To understand what MYDAV is about, here's a link to a video from DAV's Membership Officer, Doug Wells: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w53K8GKkV9A> Keep in mind that it's through signing up new members that we will keep the DAV the premier Veteran Service Organization for decades to come.

My last pitch for this month is to pay as much attention as possible to signing up DAV Drivers for our Transportation Network. It is the Flagship Volunteer Program for the DAV, and it is what most people think of when you mention the DAV. The Department of Massachusetts currently has 32 vehicles outposted across the state so volunteers can access a DAV vehicle to transport veterans. Volunteers are sent a monthly calendar and select the rides that work within their schedule. If you would like to volunteer to become a DAV Transportation Network Driver, please contact Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC) Phil Nadeau at HSC@davma.org or simply click the 'volunteer now' button on the DAVMA website: <https://davma.org/become-a-driver/> to get started, and remember, you don't need to be a Veteran to drive.



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

SR. VICE, ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT



Happy August! This is National Wellness Month. It is a great time to reflect on the well-being of our veteran community and how we can contribute to their holistic health through our legislative efforts. With that said, I am pleased to announce that the HERO Act, the most comprehensive veteran legislation in Massachusetts in a generation, has been passed. This is a significant milestone for our Massachusetts veteran community.

Why am I talking about the HERO act during National Wellness Month? I'm glad you asked. It is important to recognize the connection between wellness and legislative efforts and the overall well-being of veterans. By advocating for better healthcare, mental health support, and comprehensive benefits, we are directly contributing to the wellness of our veteran community. Legislative advocacy is not just about laws and policies; it's about ensuring that our veterans lead healthy, fulfilling lives. The passing of the HERO Act demonstrates the commonwealth's commitment to improving the well-being of veterans across Massachusetts. Legislative initiatives like this is one step towards providing veterans the support and resources they need for their health and wellness.

With the passing of the HERO Act in mind, thank you Legislative Committee members who have actively participated in our most recent and unusual Legislative Committee meeting. Thank you for accommodating my schedule by holding the meeting via email. A special thanks to those who volunteered for the subcommittees listed below:

- Increase Usage of the DAV Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN)
- Resolutions
- Legislative Day
- Volunteer Hours Reporting

As the committee maps out our path and formulates plans to realize our goals, I invite all of you to offer suggestions, ideas and recommendations to help us. Two of our top priorities are to increase the usage of DAV CAN and improve the reporting of volunteer hours via SENA and LVAP. Your input is important in helping us refine our strategies and promote maximum participation and impact.

I am also looking forward to attending the DAV National Convention this month. I am excited about the opportunity to learn, share, and bring back updates to our department. I will be reporting back to you in the next newsletter with updates and highlights from the convention.

Thank you once again for your continued support and for your trust.



To Join the Commander's Action Network, Please visit davcan.org or click this button



**OPERATION:
KEEP THE
PROMISE**

Commander's Action Network



1ST JR VICE, DENNIS DEVINE

As we are currently preparing to attend our National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, I look forward to seeing old faces and new faces. So much information is available and there is a lot of new material you pick up at the Convention that can be shared with chapter members.

This year we must strive to sign up new members. They are the target, both men and women. They are our life blood to keep the organization running. We must keep our promises to our veterans. We must work diligently advocating for our brothers and sisters. Our strength lies in numbers. You could sign up a new member when you least expect it.

Since our State Convention in June, we have been busy visiting chapters, attending zip trips and parades. The July 4th parade in Pittsfield was a great success. We had the honor guard and line officers and chapter members from Pittsfield. Another event I attended was Navy week in Boston. Thank you Charlie Cook and Jeff Blonder. The Quincy Veterans Musical Festival held on July 13th was attended by Chapter 3, Unit 3 and Chapter 50 members. Despite the poor weather there was a good crowd. The 19th brought me to Acushnet for Chapter 7's Spaghetti Supper fundraiser. Thank you to Larry Badger and his team. Then Sunday July 21st brought me to Yarmouth for Big Nick's Ride for the Fallen Honoring Cape Cod's Fallen Heroes. There were over 1500 motorcycle entries and the weather couldn't have been better. Thank you to Cindy Legge and Alex Yukna for their help, which was greatly appreciated.

I want to thank all chapters that submitted LVAP hours for this past year. Keep up the good work! Hopefully, at least one member of each chapter will submit forms each month for this current fiscal year (July 2024 to June 2025).

On a sad note, please keep Chaplain Johnny Wilson and his family in your prayers. His sister-in-law Cynthia in Louisiana is severely ill and in need of your prayers.



Make sure to tune into DAV's YouTube Channel or Social Media to view the 2024 National Convention in Phoenix, AZ!



SUPPORTING OUR NATION'S HEROES
OF TODAY, AND THE FUTURE,
FOR TODAY,
AND THEIR FUTURE.



2ND JR VICE GENE MCGREEVY



For the past 102 years the DAV has provided services and support for Americas wounded, ill and injured veterans and their families. It remains equally important today that we make an impact on our nation's heroes. The best way to accomplish this is through volunteerism.

All VA medical facilities, clinics and nursing homes need volunteers. Some to participate in recreational programs, some to serve coffee, some to escort patients to appointments. There is always a need for these facilities and there is always a veteran that appreciates your time.

There are other areas outside these facilities helping a veteran, with grocery shopping, helping with yard work or just visiting a home bound veteran, or becoming a driver in the transportation program all this activity you can do through the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP).

The bottom line is volunteering to improve the quality of a veteran's life.

All Chapters do things that are LVAP related, fundraisers, for get me nots, Christmas parties, picnics and a host of other activities. All times and names should be recorded on the LVAP form and turned into the Department so that they can be organized and turned into National. One of the things that I would like to ask the Chapters to do is turn one LVAP document that captures all the names, hours and activities. This would make tabulating the information a lot easier, and please make sure it is legible.

National offers incentives for individuals performing the most LVAP hours and are awarded at the National Convention, the Department will be evaluating what type of incentives it could use for those highly motivated volunteers. Stay tuned

If there any suggestions how to improve or create more activities do not hesitate to reach out to me at emcgreevy@aol.com or text at 413-530-4108.

I would like to thank Dennis Devine for covering for me for the month of June, he has published the LVAP for that month, the is the essence of a vet helping a vet, thanks Dennis

All LVAP forms can be found at DAV.org go to the drop-down menu in the search bar type LVAP and you will get all the instructions and forms.

Have a great month and talk to soon



Monday, August 12, 2024
Granite Links, Quincy MA
Shotgun start at 1:30pm



Available
FOR PLAYERS, TEAMS AND
SPONSORS!



Click or scan the QR Code to view the participation levels, register your team or sponsorship and pay the applicable fees.

3RD JR VICE PHIL NADEAU

Great news! The 2024-2025 DAV Department of Massachusetts Constitution & Bylaws has been approved by National, and is now available on our website davma.org by going to the members portal, then clicking "forms", and finally the "constitution & bylaws" tab. The Constitution & Bylaws Committee had their first meeting on July 29th, and our upcoming meetings for the year are as follows:

- August 26th at 6pm via Zoom
- September 23rd at 6pm via Zoom
- October 29th at 6pm via Zoom
- November 25th at 6pm via Zoom
- December 23rd at 6pm via Zoom
- January 27, 2025 at 6pm via Zoom
- February 25, 2025 at 6pm via Zoom
- March 24, 2025 at 6pm via Zoom
- April 29, 2025 at 6pm via Zoom
- May 27, 2025 at 6pm via Zoom

There is still time for anyone to join the committee to help make a difference in the state. Also, as your 3rd Jr. Vice Commander I have other responsibilities so I will be contacting Commanders and Adjutants to come and sit in your Chapter meetings. The Chapters I will be following this year are: #6 Milford, #11 Westover, #29 Braintree, #33 Greenfield, #35 Marshfield, #46 Athol, #47 Billerica, #68 Springfield, #82 Marlboro, #90 Norwood & #81 Falmouth.

I love seeing what other chapters are doing in the community. If you have any type of need or question you may have please reach out to anyone of the line officers. You can go to DAVMA.org to get contact information.

In my other role with the Department as the Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC) I am looking for more drivers in all areas of the state. The veterans we serve really need these rides to their VA, VA Community Care, and Comp & Pen appointments. You do not need to be a veteran or a DAV member to drive. You just need a valid drivers license and a willingness to help veterans. If you, or anyone you know may be interested, please email me at HSC@davma.org or call 413-435-6870.

We have 35 drivers and 32 vehicles but only 50% of the drivers drive 4 to 5 days. I would like to see these cars driving all day every day. I can proudly say our program is 3rd in the country and it would not be there if it weren't for our volunteer drivers. Have a great month and hope to see you all at our DAV National Convention in Phoenix Arizona on August 3-6, 2024.

"It's not about us it's about them"

" No Veteran left Behind"

CONNECT

with us on Facebook!



@DAVMASSACHUSETTS



ADJUTANT MIKE VALILA

During these summer months many Chapters are not in session, but the work still continues. I want to start by thanking all of our Line Officers, Volunteers, Department and Chapter Service Officers, VAVS & SVSR Representatives, and finally our Transportation Network Drivers for their continued work throughout the year. There are many wonderful things in our near future, and we simply could not continue to be so successful without all of your hard work and assistance.

Our 15th Annual DAV Corporate Golf Tournament is upcoming Monday, August 12th at Granite Links in Quincy, MA. This event is our second largest fundraiser of the year. We are fortunate this year to have had many vendors reach out to the Department offering their services or signing up to participate and become a sponsor for the first time. There are still a few slots open, so if you or anyone you know would like to get sign up, please follow this link to our registration page: [Registration: 15th Annual DAV Corporate Golf Tournament](#) . Please note price of a single golfer is \$750, a foursome is \$3,000.

We have a couple more ZipTrips scheduled with Boston25 to end the summer. Friday August 9th we'll be in Hyde Park, and our final trip of the season will be Friday August 16th in Walpole.

The NSO Office will host an Info Seminar on Tuesday, September 10th at 119 School Street, Waltham MA. They will also host an Info Seminar on Tuesday September 24th at the Norwood Elks, 152 Winslow Street, Norwood, MA.

DAV & Recruit Military will host their annual Job Fair at Gillette Stadium Thursday, September 12th from 11am to 3pm. Please note you must register in advance for the Job Fair by following this link: <https://my.recruitmilitary.com/events/boston-veterans-job-fair-september-12-2024>

The Department's Board of Directors (BOD) will meet September 9, 2024 at 7pm via Zoom. The Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC) on Saturday, September 14th at 85 Willow Street, Malden, MA from 10am-12pm. For links to either meeting, please visit our website event calendar at davma.org . Our Department Committees have also recently determined their meeting schedules for the year and will be populating on our website calendar soon.

September 20th the Department will table at the Boston NECHV Standdown in City Hall Plaza. We will also be participating once again in the Chair City Luge at the Gardner Ale House in Gardner, MA on Saturday, September 28th from 9am-3pm.

All of the aforementioned events and much more will be shared on our Department website davma.org . We drop new Podcasts monthly! Please check out our latest Podcast episode with guest Phil Nadeau, our Department 3rd Jr. Vice Commander and Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC) for the Massachusetts DAV Transportation Network. To listen in, please click below:



Click to here for the latest Great American Heroes Podcasts with guest, Hospital Service Coordinator Phil Nadeau of the DAV Dept. of MA Transportation Network.





STATE COMMANDER, LIZ BUTTERS

August is upon us, which means the DAV & Auxiliary National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, is fast approaching. I hope to see many of you there and encourage you to participate as much as possible, beginning with the joint opening session, and attending the District 1 meeting, the auxiliary business sessions and – my favorite – participating on the convention committees that judge the auxiliary annual program reports. The ideas and reports is a wonderful learning experience and I highly recommend it.

Membership in our organization has declined these past years. It takes only one spark to light a candle or start a forest fire, and it takes just one of you to revitalize a unit or reignite the passion in fellow members. I challenge each of you to make that happen this auxiliary year.

Is there a member you've lost touch with who could use a friendly phone call or join you on a visit to a VA hospital or Soldiers' Home? Is there someone you think would be an active member that you can call and invite to your unit meeting? Is there a member you think has the right stuff to seek unit, state, or national office? One thought, one word, one smile, one action, one idea can launch a transformation and the collective power of one Auxiliary can change the world and make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their family members.

Looking forward to seeing you at the National Convention.

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

SR. VICE COMMANDER, CINDY LEGGE

Hello Everyone! Summer is half over and it is time to start working on this year's auxiliary state fundraiser to benefit the veterans in the MA VA Medical Centers and Soldier's Homes.

Pending approval from DAV Department of MA, we hope to have raffle tickets available for distribution at the September SEC Meeting in Malden.

Donations of items for gift baskets are welcome. Thank you all for your support of this project to benefit our hospitalized veterans.



DAV & Recruit Military will host the Boston Veterans Job Fair on Thursday, September 12th from 11am-3pm at Gillette Stadium. This Job Fair is open to Veterans and Spouses. Employers are looking to hire on the spot!

Local, Statewide, National, and Remote Opportunities Available!



Boston Veterans Job Fair

When: Thursday, September 12, 2024

Where: Gillette Stadium,
1 Patriot Place
Foxborough, MA

Time: 11am – 3pm



1ST JR VICE COMMANDER, ALLISON DEVINE

Please take a look at the Events page on <https://davma.org/events/> to stay up to date on the different events taking place, including the ZipTrips. This will give Units in those areas the opportunity to be represented and to engage potential new members.

Please be sure to continually check the DAV Auxiliary National Newsletter for new incentives popping up. Nationally there is a DAV Recruiter Rally taking place:

DAV Recruiter Rally

You don't need to be a "super recruiter" to join the new DAV recruiting sweepstakes! Here are the details:

- Beginning May 1, 2024, and running through June 30, 2025, any DAV or DAV Auxiliary member who recruits at least one DAV member is eligible to win a trip for two, including hotel, to Las Vegas for the 2025 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention and \$2,500 spending money!
- Simply recruit one member during this period and you will automatically be entered into the drawing.
- After July 1, 2025, DAV will draw the lucky winner at National Headquarters and broadcast it live on DAV social media channels.

Remember, this is a separate recruitment program from DAV Auxiliary! If you have questions or concerns, you can reach out to the DAV Membership Team at membership@dav.org.

This gives the Unit Members a chance at winning a great prize and gives your Unit the chance to engage new members in our organization.

One final item as we start the new year: I ask that each unit challenge their current active members to sign up at least 1 new member in the 2024/2025 year.

DCU No	DCU Name	Current Year						Quota		
		Goal Met	Total Junior	Total Part Life	Total Full Life	Total Paid Members	Total Members	Quota	Quota %	Quota Variance
20	AUX Department of Massachusetts		193	285	2,883	3,168	3,361	3,430	97.99%	-69
1	Bay State #1	G	24	15	1,381	1,396	1,420	1,420	100.00%	0
2	Queen Cty #2		0	4	45	49	49	50	98.00%	-1
3	Silver Star Jfk Mem #3		19	11	112	123	142	147	96.60%	-5
4	Worcester #4		10	13	150	163	173	179	96.65%	-6
9	Wm. S. Greene #9		5	5	51	56	61	63	96.83%	-2
11	Westover #11		7	4	16	20	27	28	96.43%	-1
27	Somerville #27		12	109	237	346	358	371	96.50%	-13
29	Braintree #29		34	66	229	295	329	342	96.20%	-13
33	Scott Vetterling #33		3	5	37	42	45	46	97.83%	-1
35	Marshfield Memorial #35		4	27	117	144	148	153	96.73%	-5
40	E. A. Twomey Sr. #40		22	0	100	100	122	126	96.83%	-4
47	Billerica #47		1	7	22	29	30	31	96.77%	-1
56	Westcott Houghton #56		46	4	241	245	291	302	96.36%	-11
57	W. F. Reardon #57		3	8	15	23	26	27	96.30%	-1
96	Cape Cod #96		3	2	112	114	117	121	96.69%	-4
110	Tewksbury Ma #110		0	5	18	23	23	24	95.83%	-1
Active			15					22		
At Large			1							
Merged				8						
On Hold					0					
Revoked										
Suspended									0	

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out: allydev@gmail.com



FRANCES COSTA, PNC/PDC JA



Hope everyone is enjoying the summer reprieve. September will be here before we know it and your units will be meeting.

Reminder to those who may not be aware, State Mandates are due for the 2024-2025 year. Any questions please contact State Treasurer Jean Shifflet.

Reminder to unit elected State Executive Committee member (S.E.C.) that you must represent your unit at State meetings and bring ALL information back to share with Unit officers and members. The Alternate S.E.C. should attend also as you learn from observing.

Reach out to the State Commander or Adjutant if you have any questions.

ADJUTANT, JANET PRATT



Unit Financial Report Form, instructions, and guidelines for completing the annual audit for the 2023-2024 filling year have been sent out by National HQ to Unit Adjutants. National HQ must receive the completed form no later than September 30, 2024. State Executive Committee (SEC) Meetings: Each unit annually elects a State Executive Committee member meeting. If both SEC and Alternate attend the meetings only the SEC can vote.

IRS 990-N-e Post Card Reminder: All Chapters, Units and State Departments have until November 15, 2024, to complete. Unit State Mandates are due August 15, 2024 and are \$30.00. Please mail to the State Treasurer Jean Shifflett, 109 Edge Hill Rd. Braintree, MA. 02184.

REMINDERS

2024 National Convention

- 8/1 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting
- 8/2 - District Meetings
- 8/3 - Joint Opening Session 8/3 - Auxiliary Opening Session 8/3 - National Commander's Reception
- 8/4 - Memorial Service 8/4 - Convention Committee Meetings
- 8/5 - Auxiliary Business Session 8/5 - Forget-Me-Not Luncheon 8/5 - Fun Night
- 8/6 - Auxiliary Final Business Session 8/6 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting 8/6 - Introduction of National Officers and Dinner.

National Fall Conference

- Ticket Pre-Sale Information Tickets to the Saturday evening dinner at National Fall Conference must be purchased in advance. No dinner tickets will be available for purchase on site. Checks may be sent to national headquarters at any time and should be earmarked "Fall Conference Dinner" with the number of tickets requested. Those wishing to pay with a credit/debit card may call national headquarters between now and the reservation cutoff date of September 13, 2024. Please send checks to national headquarters at 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018. The cost of the dinner is \$60.00 per person. The menu is Classic Italian Buffet with Chicken Parmesan, Pasta Primavera, Marinara Sauce, Cavatappi, Alfredo Sauce, Penne, Breadsticks, Caesar Salad, Lemon Italian Crème or Chocolate Cake

ADJUTANT

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STATE COMMANDER

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THE ARTHRITIS CORNER



Getting the Most Out of Your Doctor Visits

Studies say the average doctor's appointment is just 18 minutes, so effective communication is key to getting the care you need. The Arthritis Foundation has a number of resources to help you make the most of the time with your doctor.

Tips for Better Doctor-Patient Communication podcast

Learn how to navigate common doctor-patient communication obstacles, including what both parties can do differently and better to improve care. Also, get tips on how bring up difficult topics with your doctor, like medication concerns and alternative therapies.

<https://arthr.org/3zO2GLJ>

Talking With Your Doctor

When you visit your doctor, you need be ready to explain how you are feeling physically. But you should also be ready to talk about how arthritis is affecting you on a deeper, emotional level in order to manage your treatment effectively.

<https://arthr.org/3WcOCDf>



CONNECT GROUPS:

Join a virtual Connect Group community for fun social and informative educational events and activities focused on mutual support and positive coping strategies for living well with arthritis. Group members become self-advocates, develop self-management skills and learn not only how to survive life with arthritis but to also thrive.

August Specialty Connect Groups

• Gout Connect Group

7:30 p.m. ET, Sunday, August 11
<https://arthr.org/3WsA4R4>

• Military & Veterans Connect Group

7:30 p.m. ET, Wednesday, August 14
<https://arthr.org/4d8ZatY>

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