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TO: Department and Chapter Commanders and Adjutants

FROM: Barry A. Jesinoski, National Adjutant

DATE: June 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Life Membership Fund Distributions

In accordance with Article 11, Section 11.10 of the National Bylaws, I'm pleased to share that DAV's Board of Directors approved a measure in May to increase membership per capita dues distribution rates over last year's distribution amounts. This change will be effective for DAV departments and chapters on July 1, 2024. The Board determines rate changes by maximizing distribution rates while protecting the longevity of DAV's Life Membership Fund.

The new approved rate for departments is \$2 (up from \$1.50) and the new chapter rate is \$2.50 (up from \$2). There will be no increase to the reduced distribution rate to the National Organization.

From 2004 to 2010, DAV infused \$4 million annually into the fund in order to maintain its longevity. Also, since 2020, the dues distribution rate used to support national initiatives has been reduced in hopes of avoiding reductions to departments and chapters.

Our Board has taken a thoughtful approach to this issue, and it was important to make this information known as soon as possible, so you can plan for the upcoming changes to your department or chapter budgets beginning with the 2024/2025 membership year.

DAV's bylaws provide that distributions are made for national (\$9), departments (\$2.50) and chapters (\$3.50) as annual dues distributions per member respectively. However, if it shall be determined by the Board that such payments from the fund, based upon internal audit, are not on a sound actuarial basis, the above payments will be reduced to not less than national (\$4), department (\$1) and chapter (\$2). We continue to reevaluate the financial position of the Life Membership Fund and will increase the dues distribution rates when possible. Greater investment market returns, greater numbers of fully-paid new members recruited, and slight dues increases, when necessary, continue to have a positive effect on our ability to do so.

As we look to continue our mission for the next century, we must ensure that we protect DAV's ability to provide our programs and services in our communities for current and future generations.

Barry A. Jesinoski
National Adjutant