



★ CALIFORNIA ★

DAV

Winter 2015

DAV CALIFORNIA'S
2016 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE
IN ANAHEIM



CALIFORNIA AND THE
NATION IN GOOD HANDS!
MORE ON PAGE 12-13

DAV

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NEWS

USPS 157-620 | Third Class Postage Paid at Los Angeles, CA and Additional Mailing Offices

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

DAV California 2016 Midwinter

January 22-23, 2016
DoubleTree
100 The City Dr.
Orange, CA 92868
(714) 634-4500
\$109 Single/Double
Reservation Cutoff Date:
January 1, 2016

DAV California 2016 Convention

June 8-11, 2016
DoubleTree
100 The City Dr.
Orange, CA 92868
(714) 634-4500
\$119 Single/Double
Reservation Cutoff Date:
May 20, 2016

DAV National 2016 Midwinter Conference

February 21-24, 2016
Crystal Gateway Marriott
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, CA 22202
(800) 266-9432
\$195 Single/Double

DAV National 2016 Convention

July 31-August 3, 2016
Hyatt Regency Atlanta
265 Peachtree St. NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
(303) 893-3333
\$125 Single/Double

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★ **March 11, 2016** ★

Published and Distributed by: Disabled American Veterans Department of California (A Non-Profit Corporation)
13733 Rosecrans Ave. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • Phone: (562) 404-1266 • Fax: (562) 404-8044
www.davcal.org

ON THE COVER: **Disney's California Adventure**

Publisher: *Daniel Contreras* | Layout: *Blue Z Studios* | Printing: *American Web*

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

DAV & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This is my first article as your Department Commander. All of you have been very supportive as I moved through the chairs, and I thank you for that.

This year, there was a record number of chapter members who attended the state convention at the Peppermill Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada, many of whom utilized the CCAP program.

These attendees sat in on educational meetings, seminars, and business sessions. These equipped them with knowledge that they were then able to bring back to their chapter's membership.

I was so proud of all of our chapters reaching their membership goal, and, for the first time this year, the Commanders received a membership coin. The department also received recognition as the best in membership in Division I. We clearly do a great job of recruiting new members, but I would like to encourage you to make sure these new members are getting active within the organization, participating in events and meetings in your chapter's area.

Be sure not only that your members are engaged with the chapter, but also that the chapter is engaged with the community. It's not so difficult to find resources, meet politicians, and connect with organizations that help veterans or businesses that hire veterans. You have to be seen in your communities. Let veterans and community leaders know about what we do and what the DAV does to help our veterans and their families all free of charge.

Thank you to our CSOs, TSOs, DSOs, and of course to our highly-trained NSOs for the great work they do helping our veterans and their families get the benefits they earned.

What a great honor it is to represent the Department of California as your Commander. I attended the Commander and Adjutants' Orientation in Cold Spring, Kentucky at the national headquarters and learned a lot about the Commander's duty. I also attended the California Leadership Institute's Fellows Academy and graduated August 24th after six months of training classes.

So far the time since my appointment as Commander has flown by. It's been filled with events, meetings, mixers with our politicians, and of course meeting and becoming friends with many new people.

Some of these events have been organized by our current Convention Chair, Bobby McDonald. He is the Chair of the Orange County Veterans Advisory Council, President of the Orange County Black Chamber of Commerce, and member of Chapter #23. I'm excited for our upcoming convention as the events he organizes are always stellar.

During this first part of my Commandership, I also attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Fisher House at the Long Beach VA Hospital, and have distributed over 300 wheelchairs to our disabled veterans and their family members.

Our headquarters staff is fantastic. As many of you know, everything they do is well-organized and done the right way. If you have questions, they have the answers. I would like to thank them for all their help. And, finally, I would be remiss not to thank my family and my lovely wife, Deanna. I'm away from home frequently, and their support means the world.

**This year,
there was a record
number of chapter
members who attended
the state convention**

James Torres, COMMANDER



■ ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

CALIFORNIA MEETS RENO: A SUCCESS STORY!

As some of you may have noticed, we tried something unprecedented in 2015. We, for the first time, ventured outside of our own lovely state for convention. This was a decision that was met with some questions, however, I am happy to say that the end result was a success.

The Finance Committee, the State Executive Committee, and myself, decided that the Peppermill Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada could provide our members with an affordable and entertaining venue for the Department Convention. The results went above and beyond our expectations, with attendance being the highest it's been in 15 years. Over a hundred more attendees came out to our 2015 convention than our average attendance from the last couple of years, and only 40% of those were through CCAP.

The Peppermill was able to offer us improved amenities and dining options. It lived up to its reputation as a cruise ship, and did not fail our members in providing five star accommodations and services at an affordable rate of \$79.00 per night. It is important to us as a department to be able to provide our members with a positive experience, one that is entertaining as well as educational and productive, without creating financial stress. The Peppermill allowed us to have all of those things.

There were other changes that took place this year as well, such as a long-awaited amendment to our bylaws, which will allow our chapters to conduct their annual Forget-Me-Not drives, once a year, anytime of the year.

Speaking of recent changes, we have reduced our number of committees from thirteen to seven. This has opened up opportunities for our attendees to participate in more committees, as well as allowed us time to accommodate more specialized training on specific themes. This year's was on PTSD, and we brought in specialists who helped us think through how to combat this growing dilemma.

In 2013, we instated CCAP. We had previously had the Chapter Support Program, which encouraged membership. Here in California, we've never had too much of an issue meeting our membership goals, however we have, at times struggled with participation. Now, after our third year of CCAP, we continue to be Division I winners in membership, and CCAP has achieved its purpose of increasing chapter participation.

At this Reno Convention, we also changed our goal incentive from the old ribbon to the Commander's Club coin. We were happy to be able to provide so many of our chapter leadership with such an attractive reward for leading their chapter well.

I'd like to thank all of you who attended our Reno convention for being willing to follow our lead and make changes to the status quo. The last few years have held a lot of change for the DAV Department of California. Thank you to everyone who continues to support a vision that makes us stronger, and for being open to change that betters us all.



Daniel Contreras, PSC, CEO/ADJUTANT



★ SR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE ★

Addressing Homelessness through **STAND-DOWNS**

Serving as your Sr. Vice Commander is an honor, and so far, I have visited with chapters and talked about the importance of volunteerism and formulating legislative resolutions that serve our disabled veteran community in California. In this upcoming year membership and service to our most needy disabled veterans will be very important themes for us. Membership goals need to be met in order for DAV to grow and provide the necessary services to our disabled veterans and their dependents. I have always believed in setting high goals, or "Big Hairy Audacious Goals" (B.H.A.G.), so I believe reaching over 100,000 fully-paid life memberships for the Dept. of CA is obtainable. The realization of this goal begins with members like you reaching out to the veteran that has not yet joined for whatever reason, and explaining the benefits the DAV has to offer. Set your goal high, and when you achieve it, you will feel on top of the world.

Serving our service-connected disabled veterans is what we do. I like to concentrate in four particular areas I call the Four Pillars of Veterans' Success. These four pillars are Housing, Education, Health, and Employment, or the HEHE Concept. Often times we join the military at a very young age. The average age of someone joining the military is 19. The Military provides Housing, Education, Health, and 24/7 employment. So transitioning back into civilian life, especially with a service-connected disability, can prove to be a significant road block.

Homeless and At-Risk Veterans Stand Downs are held across California, and participating in these is a great way to address these problem areas. I have been busy working with the veterans' community in the bay area organizing the "Stand Down on the Delta" for homeless or at-risk veterans. This was a four day event that brought in over 350 veterans and their families, including animals. DAV Mt. Diablo Chapter #154 in Pittsburg, CA, played a large role in the planning. While other local DAV chapters provided volunteers.



This Stand Down came at a critical time for Contra Costa County. The DAV Department of California, and other nonprofits serving veterans, such as the Delta Veterans Group, corporations and businesses, foundations, faith communities, County Health Services, the Veterans Administration, local hospitals, law enforcement, and other sectors dealing with homeless persons are coming together as a part of Zero: 2016. Zero: 2016 is an initiative by 70 communities nationwide to end veteran homelessness within one year, with housing subsidies and wrap-around supportive services to get vets off of the streets and on the road to reintegration in society. New federal and other resources are coming together to accomplish that goal, and Contra Costa County's FIRST EVER Stand Down was a key vehicle to drive this effort.

As you may know, there is a disproportionately large percentage of veterans in the homeless population, and homeless female veterans are growing in number as their representation in the military has increased in recent years. The 2015 Point in Time count of homeless persons in Contra Costa County alone documented 140 homeless veterans living on the streets and in encampments or in emergency shelter, as of January 26, 2015. The issues these Vets are facing are complex, and range from needing a place to call home to needing employment training and placement, medical and dental care, substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, and so on.

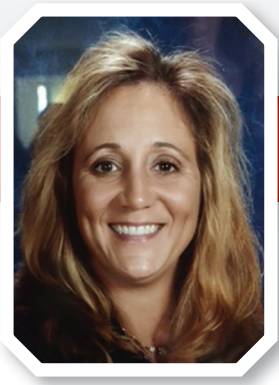
Reach out to your community leaders and inform them of what the DAV is about and how we can help veterans in their communities.

Thank you for your continued service to our veteran community!

Many thanks to my family, the Department staff, and my fellow members for all the hard work and support.



J.R. Wilson, SR. VICE COMMANDER



★ AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S MESSAGE ★

THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVEMENT

As your newly elected Department of California Auxiliary Commander I wanted to share with you some thoughts on why the Auxiliary is important to me. Basically it all boils down to INVOLVEMENT. Four years ago, I was blessed to marry the love of my life, a former marine and retired navy veteran and national service office supervisor for the DAV. Through him, I was introduced to a world of events and meetings for the DAV, of disabled veterans and their families, and the ways our small actions can make a significant impact. It was during this time that the Auxiliary unit in our area was considering closing the charter. My husband took me to an Auxiliary meeting to discuss the closure and I decided to get involved. I offered my help to keep the unit going. I was asked to be the treasurer and SEC. I was scared at first because I didn't know what I was doing, but I took the step and jumped in. I wanted to help. We are now a fully functioning unit and have increased the number of people attending our meetings. We are involved in our veteran and

active duty community. We have an annual picnic, Christmas party, and fundraisers to assist our local veterans as well as sending care packages to those on active duty. Being a part of the DAV Auxiliary means I stay involved in veterans' issues, spouses and children's programs, events, and concerns. I stay informed thru DAV service offices, transportation and voluntary services, legislation, Americanism and much more. Keeping involved allows me to speak and interact with veterans and their families intelligently and with genuine care and concern. Every one of us can make a difference in the lives of veterans. We should all stay involved knowing the impact we can have on one veteran or many, one family or many families, making each and every interaction count and keeping the involvement going. So, to summarize: my watchword is "involvement." Stay involved, volunteer, join and carry the DAV/DAVA's message to veterans and their families and the communities we live in. You will find that you can and will make a difference.

Samantha Galliher, AUXILIARY COMMANDER



★ JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE ★

I'd like to begin by thanking all those chapters who have welcomed me to your meetings; you went out of your way to make me feel at home. Often times after many hours of driving, I was greeted with homemade meals and goodies, thank you. I'm impressed not only by your hospitality, I'm also proud of the professionalism and enthusiasm with which you hold your meetings. You are our front line troops and I want you to know I appreciate your warmth and camaraderie.

Whether I attend an Auxiliary or a DAV meeting, the topic always drifts towards membership or benefits. Many members still work and find it hard to make daytime meetings. Try changing up your meeting times and see if you can attract those members. I'd also like to see more family involvement. Like you, my wife and children play a crucial role with my involvement in DAV. Our

families sacrifice our time together so we can attend DAV functions. Every few months invite families to the meeting and watch your ranks grow.

Since 1920 the DAV has been at the forefront of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. Within our department we have chapter, district, transitional and national service officers working tirelessly towards this end. Become proactive when legislation is presented to congress that may harm our benefits. Join the Commanders Action Network and with a few keystrokes your message will reach your representatives.

Our leadership at the national and department level and their commitment to veterans makes me as proud today as I was 27 years ago, when I became a life member. I hope to see each of you at the department Midwinter Convention.

Guy Anastasia, JR. VICE COMMANDER

★ AUXILIARY ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE ★



In 2010, Congress enacted Public Law 111-163, requiring the VA to provide comprehensive caregiver support to family caregivers of veterans severely injured on or after September 11, 2001. The law provides additional assistance to primary family

caregivers of eligible post-9/11 veterans and service members, such as: monthly stipend, travel expenses (including lodging and per diem while accompanying veterans undergoing care), access to healthcare, insurance, mental health services and counseling, comprehensive VA caregiver training, and respite care (not less than 30 days per year).

Since the law's passage, both the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary have continued to lobby Congress to extend these benefits to family caregivers of veterans severely injured prior to September 11, 2001. Although both organizations advocate on behalf of family caregivers, we each do so from different perspectives. As the wife of a marine injured during service and a woman born with cerebral palsy who needs assistance, I can speak to the importance of supporting family caregivers.

In my role as a wife and Auxiliary member, I live with someone who suffers from chronic pain and physical limitations. I have met many other spouses who, like me, must take on responsibilities not often expected when a mate does not have a disability. Some have spent decades providing emotionally and physically demanding care to America's most seriously injured veterans. Although most family caregivers continue to willingly dedicate themselves to this role, to sustain their efforts they need the comprehensive support provided in VA's comprehensive program.

Although I am not a veteran, I do rely on others for all my personal care. If my husband were my only caregiver, I would worry that I was a burden to the person I love most. If he gave up a career to take on this role, could we financially sustain ourselves? I can imagine having access to the supports provided in Public Law 111-163 would be a relief to older veterans whose spouses have received little, if any support from the VA.

Only by joining together, can we present a strong case to Congress to provide comprehensive caregiver support to ALL family caregivers of veterans severely injured.

Veteran and family caregivers each have stories to tell. Only by joining together, can we present a strong case to Congress to provide comprehensive caregiver support to ALL family caregivers of veterans severely injured. Reach out to chapter and unit members who might benefit from an extension of Public Law 111-163. Invite them to share their stories with other members. Cite these experiences when writing to ask Congress to enact legislation to provide all severely ill and injured veterans access to comprehensive VA caregiver support services. Together, the DAV and DAV Auxiliary can truly improve the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, AUXILIARY ADJUTANT

★★ CHAPLAIN'S CORNER ★★ **LINDA SUNDBERG**

“Thank You for Your Service. This phrase is always nice to hear that from a friend, a relative, or even someone we might not know. It feels great. And how many times have we heard our fellow comrades say, “I was just doing my job”? Let me tell you a secret (you probably already know this). Those of us who say “I was just doing my job” also appreciate your gratitude.

Even more significant than saying thanks are the acts of support that those of us who served received from our families, communities and loved ones. You may have had parents who stood by you as you joined the service, siblings who expressed

their love during and after your service, a spouse who would do anything to care for you, a friend who helped your family in your absence, or wonderful children who weathered frequent moves and changing schools. These people in our lives missed us during deployments, encouraged us with calls and letters, and worried about us while keeping a brave face.

So to my comrades, I would like to say “thank you for your service.” And, to the family and friends of my comrades, I would like to say “thank you for your support.”





The DAV will be in Anaheim in 2016!



Join Us for Our Midwinter Conference: Jan. 22-23, 2016

We've got a good feeling about 2016 here at the DAV Department of California, and we're excited to kick it off with all of you in Anaheim!

Want to know more about our organization and how we assist injured and ill veterans? Want to meet passionate DAV members from around the state? This is a great way to learn more about how we help injured and ill veterans in California and how you can join us in impacting our great state.

Each year at Midwinter, we attend to the business that keeps our organization running. This can be a very illuminating time for our members who want to delve deeper. Additionally, we take this opportunity to train and equip our dedicated injured and ill veterans to tackle the upcoming year, to better assist their fellow injured and ill veterans, and to help us as an organization fulfill our promises to the men and women who served. We couldn't do it without all of you!

There will be a couple of especially exciting features for this upcoming conference. Our Legislative Chair, Richard Valdez, PSC, will be presenting a seminar to update attendees on our legislative efforts and educate us all on the resolution preparation process. Also, for the



first time this year, we will hold a new, enhanced two-part Chapter Service Officer Training and (Re) Certification session. We hope that our chapter service officers, and those interested in learning more about the claims process will come out. We know that here in California, we have a lot of dedicated and passionate people,

looking to help their fellow veterans and their families, and we here at department want to equip those people through knowledge and education.

It won't be all serious business though, because we'll be in Anaheim, one of the most popular vacation destinations in the world. It's clear to see why this is the case. We will be in the DoubleTree, half a mile from the iconic and impressive Christ Cathedral. Come by a day or two early or stay a day or two late, and make a vacation of it. Bring the family, as the DAV Auxiliary will have events specifically for family members of veterans. The area has several awesome things to offer, including scenic beaches, breathtaking golf courses, and the Outlets of Orange. Check out Angel Stadium, see an Anaheim Ducks NHL game at the nearby Honda Center, or see a concert at the City National Grove of Anaheim. And of course, make sure to go to Disneyland, with its eight extravagantly

Chapter Service Officer Training Certification Program



Our organization thrives because so many of our members have a great passion for helping their fellow veterans. Our chapter service officers do a great service to their communities, and all on a voluntary basis. This year, for the first time, we will be offering a longer, more in-depth, enhanced chapter service officer training. On January 22, 2016 at noon, and January 23, 2016 at 8:00 AM, we will hold Phase I and II of our Chapter Service Officer's Training and (Re)Certification Session. These sessions are open to all who wish to attend, however only elected chapter service officers will receive certification. So come out and learn more about the process of filing a claim. The claims process can be a complicated and detailed one. Let one of our highly-trained national service office supervisors demystify the process, and make you more effective at helping injured and ill veterans.

Fax or send your registration form to the number provided by January 9, 2015.

Fax: (562) 404-8044 Or

Mail: 13733 Rosecrans Ave. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Yes! Please register me for the Chapter Service Officer Training/(Re)Certification Program!

GUEST #1

CHAPTER

ELECTED POSITION

EMAIL ADDRESS

GUEST #2

CHAPTER

ELECTED POSITION

EMAIL ADDRESS

themed lands, or Disney California Adventure Park, with its seven additional lands. These Disney attractions really are magical and live up to the reputation of being the happiest place on earth.

We'll be staying at the DoubleTree this year. This hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to Disneyland Park, delicious DoubleTree chocolate chip cookies, and of course a warm welcome. This hotel features building-wide Wi-Fi, a Starbucks, the delicious Trofi Restaurant, a fitness center, outdoor tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts, and a pool. The Outlets of Orange are within walking distance, which also feature several restaurants, bowling and an AMC Movie Theatre with IMAX.

There's no shortage of activities to keep you and your family busy in Anaheim, so come out and join us! Learn about our organization, how to make a positive impact on veterans and their families in California, and meet like-minded folks from around the state. We look forward to seeing you there!



DAV Department of California 2016 Midwinter Conference January 22-23, 2016

DEPARTMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

8:00 AM Membership Committee Meeting

9:00 AM Claims & Service Commission Meeting

10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting

12:00 PM Chapter Service Officer Training &
Re/Certification Seminar - Phase 1

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

8:00 AM Chapter Service Officer Training &
Re/Certification Seminar - Phase 2

9:00 AM Legislative Update & Resolution Prep

1:00 PM State Executive Meeting

5:00 PM Commander's Reception

DISASTER RELIEF

On September 13, 2015 California's third largest disaster forest fire ever hit Lake County. The flames engulfed 50,000 acres in a matter of hours and effected the communities of Middletown, Kelseyville, Cobb, Hidden Valley, Las Lomond, Clearlake and Lower Lake. The Valley County and Lake County disaster took 4 lives, wiped out over 75,000 acres, displaced over 20,000 residences, and destroyed over 1,200 homes.

In the wake of this disaster, we are proud to say that DAV in the area responded promptly and effectively. Within hours of the Governor calling for a state of emergency, our State Executive Committee member District #1, Ken Wingett, PSC, sent Chapter #83's Commander, Skip Hulet, to assess the situation. Shortly after that, Chapter #21's Adjutant and First National Jr. Vice Commander, Delphine Metcalf Foster, notified National Commander, Moses A. McIntosh, Jr., and the DAV office in Oakland was given the call to implement the DAV disaster relief program. By September 14th, contact had been made with Chapter #83, the California Red Cross, Fema, and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and connections were made with VA Social Services, the VA County Veterans Service Officer, and the VA Outpatient Clinic in Clearlake for help locating veterans in need of assistance.

During the first week, NSO Supervisor for Oakland, Leroy Acosta, Assistant Supervisor William Marigny, NSO Hoy



Evans and NSO John Spradlin assisted 50 veterans and dispensed 50 back packs, blankets and hygiene kits. Veterans were given disaster relief drafts in the amount of \$500.00-

\$1,000.00. In the first week, nearly \$50,000.00 was dispersed to veterans and their families in need. A special thanks to SEC, Ken Wingett, PSC, First National Jr. Vice Commander and PSC, Delphine Metcalf Foster, National Commander, Moses A. McIntosh, Chapter #83 Commander, Richard Hulet, Chapter #83 Adjutant, Dean Gotham, and Chapter #21 Past Commander, JD Dickerson, for helping make this possible.

By October 6, 2015, the DAV in Oakland had reached over 100 veterans and dispensed over \$100,000 in relief of the valley fires, and continues to assist any veterans effected.

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS: AN UPDATE

In 2015, the VA and White House set a goal to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. So where are we now, and what have we done in our local communities to help the most vulnerable veterans find the help and resources needed to get their lives back on track?

Veteran homelessness is a very complex issue mired in a variety of cause and effect circumstances. Homeless veterans often battle economics (loss of a job), psychological issues (PTSD), physical injuries (TBI, loss of a limb, debilitating injury, etc.), or substance abuse (self-medicating). Regardless of cause, one thing is certain, and that is that there isn't a one-remedy-fits-all solution.

Assessing a homeless veteran's situation is a critical first step in getting them the proper help they need. First, does the vet need immediate medical care? Many of our aged and chronically homeless veterans are suffering health problems due to their living conditions, some have a service-connected injury

they didn't know they could file a claim for, and others don't know they are eligible for VA healthcare. After that, the VA's Social Services Department, with their case management and housing assistance (HUD/VASH) can provide for or direct the veteran (if conduct of discharge renders them ineligible for VA services) to community agencies.

Finally, let's not forget our homeless veteran families and homeless single-parent families. How much do you know about the Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program and what it can provide? There's also the State's Veteran Housing and Homeless Prevention Act (VHHP), which most of you may know from last year's ballot measure, Proposition 41. Projects funded from the first \$62M are already underway, and the second round notice of an additional \$75M allocation has been announced. Our ability to help homeless veterans is proportional to our knowledge of available resources. With knowledge and passion, we can keep chipping away at veteran homelessness.

★★ SECOND ANNUAL ★★

DAV 5K

IN SAN DIEGO!

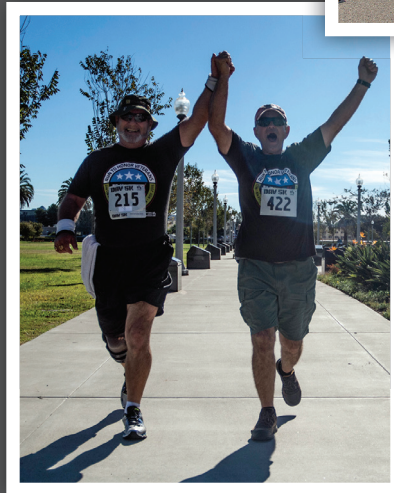
Thanks so much to everyone who participated in, or volunteered at, the second annual DAV 5K in San Diego!

It was a beautiful morning on November 7, 2015 in NTC Park at Liberty Station. The 1,200 participants were energized and excited to support veterans. Forty-five percent of our participants were veterans themselves and there to proudly support their brothers and sisters.

We were happy to have AM 760 KFMB radio show host, Mike Slater, DAV National's Chief Development Officer, Brian Cowart, and DAV Department of California Adjutant, Daniel Contreras, PSC, there to emcee and speak at our opening and closing ceremonies.

The 5K sponsors included USAA, Ford Motor Company, Cintas, and RecruitMilitary. Thanks to all of your efforts, \$52,935 was raised (and there is still time to donate at www.dav5k.org/sandiego).

It was a great way to spend Veterans Day weekend, and to honor the men and women who served. The DAV 5K is a wonderful way to raise funds for injured and ill veterans and their families, and to have fun while doing it. Thanks again to so many of you who came out, and we hope to see you again in 2016!



2015 Department Convention

Our 2015 convention was certainly a good time! We hope that if you missed out, you'll be able to come out to our 2016 Convention in Anaheim! The more, the merrier! A special thanks to our Sr. Vice Commander, J.R. Wilson for serving as convention chair and helping make this successful convention a reality.

Reno's Peppermill Resort and Casino provided an ideal and affordable venue for our 2015 convention. The attendance was fantastic, the vibe was upbeat, and the feedback from our members and attendees was positive. We here at the DAV Department of California strive for constant improvement, and this was a part of that effort.

For our Joint Opening Session, we were thrilled to have a great group of special guests out to join us. Vice Mayor of Reno, Oscar Delgado, acting Secretary of California's Department of Veterans Affairs, Debbie Endsley, Deputy Secretary of Communications and Public Affairs at California Department of Veterans Affairs, Paul Sullivan, Senator, Dean Heller's Military & Veterans Rep., DAV Department of Nevada's Commander, Katherine Baran, Glenna Smith, Associate Director of the Sierra Nevada VA Health Care System, Lisa Howard, and the Veterans Service Center Manager of the Reno VA Regional Office,



Home Depot Foundation for all the work they've done in helping injured and ill veterans in California obtain much-needed home repairs, Edward Croft, for being an outstanding Member



Rashetta D. Smith all came out to address our attendees. A huge thanks also, to our DAV national guest, National Judge Advocate, Michael Dobmeier, and DAV Auxiliary's national guest, Past National Commander, Paula K. Raymond, for spending the duration of the convention with us and for swearing in all of our new officers.

We also had the privilege of recognizing a lot of excellence within our department and the VA in California at this year's convention. Starlyn Lara was our Veteran of the Year, Ken Wingett, PSC, was our Volunteer of the Year, and Transportation Coordinator, Blas Barragán, was Employee of the Year. We are very proud of all of our DAV members and employees in California, and these special folks stood out among a group of excellent individuals. We also honored the

of the Department of VA Veterans Benefits Administration, and Marc Berner for being an outstanding member of the Department of VA Veterans Health Administration. A big thanks to all of these individuals for all their hard work to better the lives of injured and ill veterans in California! Our organization would never be able to do what we do without passionate and caring people like yourselves!

Congratulations to our Lakewood Chapter #119, Bruce Patterson Chapter #68, and Fremont-Newark Chapter #77 on achieving fifty years chartered this year! Congratulations also to our membership awardees. Thomas Durbin Chapter #70 took home both the Harry G. Wentworth award for largest percentage gain of members, and the award for the largest numerical gain in life members for chapters with 1,001 to 2,000 members. Marysville Chapter #9 took home the award for the largest numeri-

National Convention

DAV took over the mile high city this year! As always, it was an informative and enjoyable occasion. We were privileged to be joined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert McDonald, who filled us in on several things effecting veterans on a national level. He spoke both at the Joint Opening Ceremony as well as at the Service and Legislative Seminar where he was joined by the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Jeff Miller. Attendees heard Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band at Fun Night, and as always, there was a wealth of seminars with helpful information on a very wide range of topics. National convention is a great time to see the big picture for disabled veterans in our country. It's an opportunity to connect with other departments, to hear about the state of the VA on a national level, to learn from the wisdom national has gained, and to just all-around be a better informed chapter member, veteran or family member of veteran.

This year was an especially exciting one for Califor-



nia. We had the opportunity to hold a reception for our fellow attendees, and in support of our very own Past State Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, as she ran for higher office. We are happy to say that she was elected to the position of National First Jr. Vice Commander. Many of us here in California know Ms. Metcalf-Foster, and to know her is to be familiar with her charisma and fantastic leadership skills.

We know that our national organization is in good hands with someone like her in a position of leadership. She has our full support, and we are proud of her!

Serious about the DAV and helping your fellow veterans? I would encourage you to consider attending the 2016 National Convention in Atlanta.

cal gain in life members for chapters with 50 to 300 members, Ray Clark Chapter #35 had the highest numerical gain for chapters with 301 to 1,000 members, and Dick Cosgriff Chapter #2 took home the award for the largest numerical gain for chapters with 2,000 or more members. The San Diego NSO office won for being the NSO office to recruit the most life members, and Leigh Polzin recruited the most new life members of our DSOs. Thanks for all of your hard work. You all keep our organization growing and thriving.

We had a productive convention as well, attending to our usual business with the State Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Claims & Service Committee. At our State Executive Committee, we introduced our new membership recruitment incentive, our Commander's Club coin. Congratulations to all of our chapter commanders and chapters who reached their goal this year! Also, our convention committees, which, last year we downsized from thirteen to seven, held very well-attended and useful sessions.

Amongst other highlights of the convention was our "Healing the Veteran: A PTSD Seminar", led by Nathan Graeser and

Darin Farr, our Chapter Leadership Forum, which covered service, social media, and mentorship, and, of course, our Wild West Fun Night, complete with a photo booth and karaoke. It really did live up to its title of "Fun Night".

The time came for our elections. We recognized our PSC, Richard Valdez, for his continued hard work. Our Commander, Ed Vandiver gave a moving final report. Our elections brought Guy Anastasia into the position of Jr. Vice Commander, J.R. Wilson into the position of Sr. Vice Commander, and James Torres as Commander. We feel confident in the abilities of this year's line. These officers are all passionate, hard-working, intelligent, and strong representatives of our organization. Congratulations to these gentlemen. We are excited to work with them throughout this upcoming year!

Our convention closed out with great food and company at the Commander's Reception.

Thank you to all our guests, our attendees, our awardees, our committee chairs and advisors for making our 2015 convention in Reno a success!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Lisa Booth

In July, 2014, Headquarters Receptionist, Lisa Booth, started working for the DAV. She was drawn to the idea of giving back to the community, and helping her fellow veterans.

Lisa brings an energy and enthusiasm to the reception position, as well as the respect, discipline, and motivation she learned during her time in the service. She assists callers and visitors, helps keep the headquarters office running smoothly and efficiently, and does it with an upbeat attitude.

When asked what she likes about her job so far, Lisa answered that, although she feels her role is small, she finds the job fulfilling. She feels good helping, and knows that every small thing she does for injured and ill veterans in California adds up to make a big difference. She looks forward to the future with the organization. She has already learned so much, and is excited to know more and make a bigger difference as time goes on. We are happy to have someone like Lisa Booth on our team!

“It’s great to have Lisa’s friendly voice be the first voice most hear when calling or visiting headquarters. Being a veteran herself, she exemplifies our organization’s mission of veterans helping veterans.”

-Adjutant/CEO, Daniel Contreras

DAV Department of California UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION June 30, 2015

ASSETS	2015	2014
Cash	\$851,572	\$191,549
Due from Auxiliary	1,508	1,564
Deposit	5,000	
Prepaid Expenses		7,523
Long-Term Investment	3,900,524	4,207,128
Property & Equipment	282,071	288,079
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,040,675	\$4,695,843
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	52,591	48,291
TOTAL LIABILITIES	52,591	48,291
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	4,988,156	4,647,552
Undesignated	-	-
Temporarily restricted	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	4,988,156	4,647,552
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$5,040,675	\$4,695,843

★ Department Service Offices & Transportation Coordinators ★

A. SAN FRANCISCO VA MEDICAL CENTER

4150 Clement St. Bldg. 2, Room 161A
San Francisco, CA 94121
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Marilyn Nosaka- Transpo. Coordinator
(415) 221-4810 Ext. 5612

B. MATHER VA MEDICAL CENTER

10535 Hospital Way
Mather, CA 95655
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Ron Juliana-Dept. Service Officer
Bldg. 650, Room 1B070
(916) 843-7002
Pam Goto- Transpo. Coordinator
Bldg. 650, Room 1B052
(916) 843-7001

C. FRESNO VA MEDICAL CENTER

2615 E. Clinton Room E-108A
Fresno, CA 93703
Hours: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Jeffrey Brager- Dept. Service Officer
(559) 241-6418
Mae Stinson- Dept. Service Officer
(559) 241-6401
Susan Bertolani- Transpo Coordinator
Room W110
(559) 241-6424

D. SEPULVEDA VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

16111 Plummer
Sepulveda, CA 91343
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Leigh Polzin- Dept. Service Officer
Bldg. 22, Room 213
(818) 891-7711 Ext. 7916
Marie Pounds- Transpo. Coordinator
Bldg. 22, Room 215
(818) 895-9408

E. LOS ANGELES VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

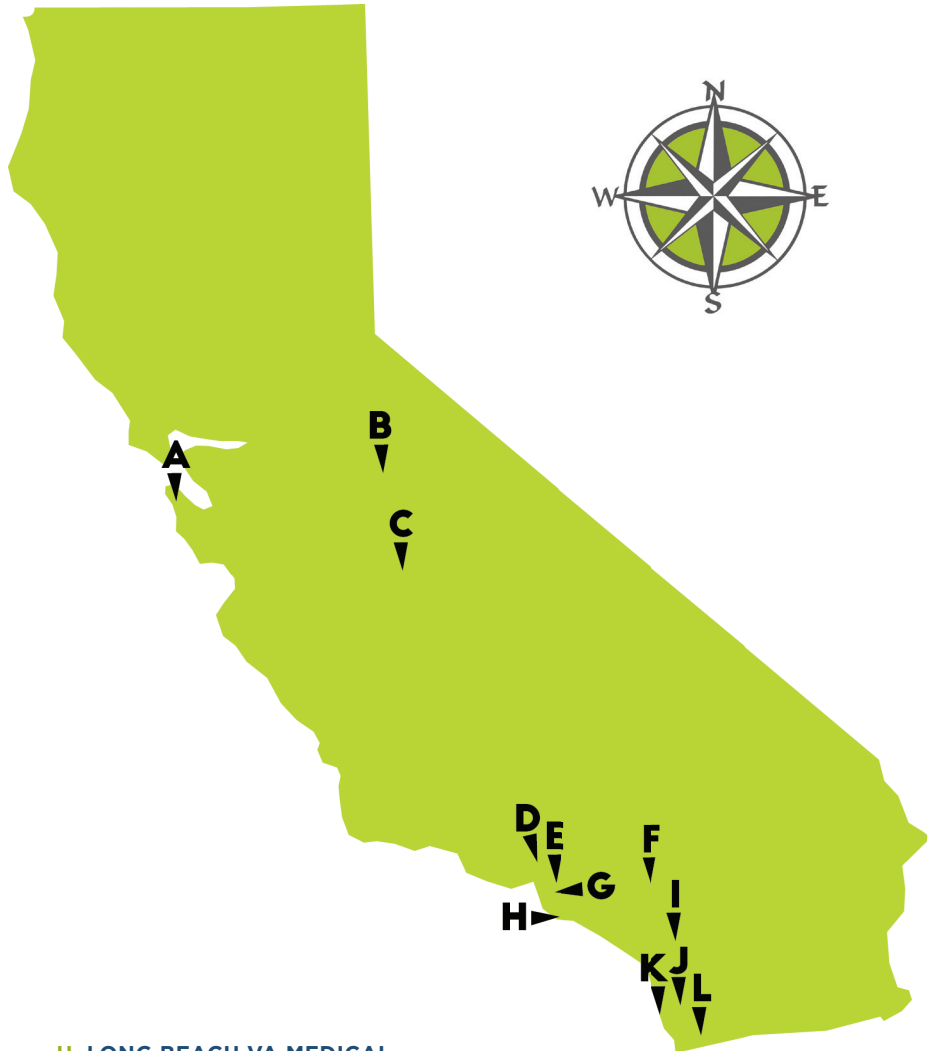
351 E. Temple St. Bldg. B-306
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Audie Reyno- Dept. Service Officer
(213) 253-2677 Ext. 4604

F. LOMA LINDA VA MEDICAL CENTER

11201 Benton St. Room IF-41
Loma Linda, CA 92357
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Eric Porche'- Dept. Service Officer
(909) 583-6016
Steven Salazar- Transpo. Coordinator
(909) 583-6014

G. WEST LA VA MEDICAL CENTER

11301 Wilshire Blvd.
Bldg. 500, Room 1613
West Los Angeles, CA 90073
Hours: 5:00 AM-2:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Blas Barragán, Sr.- Transpo. Coordinator
(310) 268-3344



H. LONG BEACH VA MEDICAL CENTER

5901 E. 7th St.
Long Beach, CA 90822
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Joe Palmares- Dept. Service Officer
(562) 826-5711
Liza Thornton- Transpo. Coordinator
(562) 826-5796

I. VA ESCONDIDO CLINIC

230 E. Park Ave.
Escondido, CA 92025
Hours: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM Mon.-Fri.
Anthony Ramos- Dept. Service Officer
(760) 741-1746

J. SAN DIEGO MCAS MIRAMAR

MCAS Miramar, PO Box 452005
Area 5, MCCC Bldg. 5305,
"The Hub" Miramar Way Room 120
San Diego, CA 92145
Hours: 7:30 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Bruce Hillman- Dept. Service Officer
(Fridays Only)
Tomoko Ferguson- Dept. Support
(Monday-Friday)
(858) 689-9637

K. LA JOLLA VA MEDICAL CENTER

3350 La Jolla Village Dr.
San Diego, CA 92161
Hours: 8:15 AM-3:30 PM Mon.-Fri.
Richard Randolph- Dept. Service Officer
Room 1598
David Strobehn/Nancy Casey- Transpo. Coordinator
Room 1592
(858) 552-7470

L. SPRING VALLEY - DAV INDUSTRIES

1049 Elkelton Blvd.
Spring Valley, CA 91977
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Thurs.
Bruce Hillman- Dept. Service Officer
(619) 337-9257



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