



Department of Colorado
March 2018

VOICE from Headquarters

COMMANDER'S DESK : STEPHEN MILLER

"Greetings from Headquarters!"

We have all been very busy this last quarter and looks like things are heating up for the rest of the year as well. I keep wondering how I got talked into this job, but seriously it has been an Honor to serve as your Department Commander. I have met so many wonderful people and I keep wondering where they came from and how lucky this country is to have had such Hero's serve it with such unquestionable devotion and loyalty, and to have sacrificed so much for so little in return. Another reason I am so proud to have served you all is to do my best to get that point across to all I meet and speak to.

The last few months I have had the opportunity to meet the Governor and his AG, (Adjutant General), and many State Representatives and Senators to let them know we are a strong presence out here in the state and we all VOTE, so all these bills they keep talking about need to actually have some action applied. We sent a team to Mid-Winter Conference in Washington DC where we learned a lot from our National Staff, and Commander and listened to her speak before the Joint Committee of Congress and Senate on Veterans Affairs, we heard from the Secretary of the Veterans Administration Learned about all they are trying to do for us and are actually doing to modernize, update and streamline the flow of our claims, our appeals and programs. Our Team was made up of our National Service Officer Supervisor Carmen McGinnis, Past Department & National Commander Paul Jackson, Jr Vice Commander Bonnie Rohn, Department Adjutant Andy Grieb, and myself. We saw one Senator and three of our State Representatives in meetings where we asked that they do take our concerns seriously and act on our requests, to keep the VA and not privatize it, to keep the VA Sec as we believe he is trying to do a good job and needs more time, to provide comprehensive Support for Caregivers of Veterans of all areas, defend of benefits and don't take anything away, improve services for our Women Veterans and support sufficient funding for Veteran Benefits and Health Care.

Department Officers 2017-2018

Commander
Stephen Miller

Senior Vice Commander
David Jiron

Junior Vice Commander
Bonnie Rohn

Judge Advocate
Michael Schievelbein

Immediate Past Commander
Robert Addyman

Adjutant/Treasurer
Andrew Grieb

Department Staff:

Office Coordinator
Joni Cousland

Administrative Assistant
Kelsey Kiernan

Office Hours:
M-F 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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OPEN DOOR POLICY:

The Department is interested in hearing your suggestions, concerns, and comments about how we can improve for Colorado's Disabled Veterans. If you have any thoughts to share, please call or email Department Headquarters.

The Department Adjutant and Commander want to hear from you and are here to help.

Office: 303-922-3631
Fax: 303-922-3820

Email: davcohq@gmail.com

1485 Holland St
Lakewood CO 80215

COMMANDER'S DESK CONTINUED...

I have to say this again to you all, we can all step up and be there for each other and those that do not know how to voice their opinion. Find out who your State Representative and Senator is at all levels and write to them as often as you can on Veterans issues, find out how they vote, you would be surprised! Make them know you are out there and we are strong in numbers and we are watching them, they work for us. They sent us to war or put us in harm's way, now they need to know we want them to make their promise good to us.

Membership! Yes, I am sad to say we are still losing members faster than we are gaining them. We are growing older each day and all the chapters need help, we need those members of the chapters to take an even more active role in the operation and activities of the Chapters, engage in more social activities with each other, be friendly and kind to each other help those older members in leadership positions and think about taking over those positions when the time comes. Review those expiring membership lists that we have sent out and see what we can do to grow our ranks. I have said it before there are over 450,000 Veterans we know of in the state, only 196,000 registered with the VA and some 132,000 are disabled Veterans, they need us as much as we need them, they just don't know it yet. Talk to every Vet you meet and tell them what we do, what we do for our Veterans, what we can in turn do for them and they can pass on to other Veterans as well. I wanted to say thank you to our Units, our Auxiliary for all Americanism Programs they hosted. I want to encourage more Chapter Members to participate in these events in the future.

Lastly, I hope to see many of you at our State/Department Convention this year in May. Same old place and I hope to see some of the same old faces and many more new ones. **Remember you have a vote and a say in things if you show up.** Stand up and be counted, get actively involved and make a difference for our Veterans and yourself. We are greater united and together than divided and speaking alone. I look forward to seeing you, be kind and say hi when you see me, I have tried to do my best and hope and pray that has been good enough. Thanks again for the privilege of being your Commander.



Commander Stephen Miller, Adjutant Andrew Grieb, Jr. Vice Cmdr. Bonnie Rohn, Congressman Ed Perlmutter.—Mid-Winter Conference 2018



ADJUTANT'S NOTES: ANDREW C. GRIEB

Wow! We're almost ready for our 98th Department Convention! Time has flown by so fast. There are so many people to thank for making this year such a resounding success. I can't begin to name them all.

I am so proud of our Chapters this year. You all have stepped up to meet the challenges this year and surpass our goals. New vehicles for the Transportation Program and a new Department Service Officer for Colorado Springs are only a couple of the "new" things we have gained this year.

Now we just need to focus on membership. We need new blood in our organization to spur us on to greater heights. Each Chapter should consider a major recruitment drive this coming year. If each active member could recruit and engage one new member, we could

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C.A.T. TRAINING AT STATE CONVENTION:

Once again, Department of Colorado is offering Commanders, Adjutants and Treasurers (CAT) Training to all officers of the sixteen Chapters in the state. The training will be held at the beginning of the 98th Annual Convention on May 16th in the Crystal Ballroom III from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM.

The training will focus on fiscal responsibility, forms, deadlines and Department of Colorado constitution requirements for Officers.

If your Chapter is interested in this training, you must register by providing a list of the Chapter Officers (names and titles) and names of any members who want to attend.

Contact Department by April 13, 2018. Please email: davcohq@gmail.com or call 303-922-3631 with this information.

effectively double our active membership strength. It's a reachable goal.

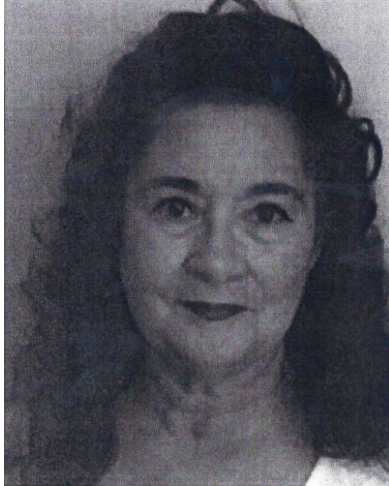
This last year we have put the finishing touches on the new Foundation that will get us moving toward obtaining grant money. We are ready to start the active grant application process and will be searching for a full-time grant writer for the Foundation very soon.

The Commander and I attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, DC in February and we came away with a lot of new information and renewed respect for our Legislative office there. Joy Ilem and the staff there (including our own Shane Liermann, by the way) work endlessly to make sure that the voice of the DAV is heard in the halls of power in our nation's capital. Our efforts were well worth the time and energy spent as we met with four out of the nine representatives from Colorado and were warmly welcomed by all of them. They all listened intently to our presentations and gave freely of their time. The Commander and I were most grateful to them, but we made it clear that we are holding them accountable for the issues that we brought forward.

Personally, I want to wish Jeff Birdwell, from Chapter 21, a fond farewell as he leaves for the East Coast to stay with family. Jeff was the Department of Colorado Commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart a couple of years back and he will be missed by both organizations. May the wind be at your back, Jeff!

Until Convention!

DAV AUXILIARY STATE COMMANDER: Leslie Sandoval



Hello friends, I Sincerely want to thank everyone for all their hard work on our Americanism Programs.

Chapter and Unit 26 from Colorado Springs gave a wonderful program on what Americanism means to me which was presented by their Juniors Program. The Program was their own ideas on American Drive, freedom and liberty. They are an awesome group of young adults.

Chapter and Unit 7 started their program with bag pipers from the Jebel Shriners. It was very interesting to hear as many songs as they presented. Their guest speaker Rick Crandell who presented the history and success of our newest Veterans Memorial in Denver. The Colorado Freedom Memorial, which will have a Memorial Day presentation on May 26th Buckley Airforce Base.

I am so looking forward to the rest of this year. It's been an honor representing our State when I'm able to present the VA Nursing Homes programs with or programs with donations to help with various projects for our veterans. See you at Convention!

“Caring is doing what has to be done and not expecting anything in return.”



DAV AUXILIARY STATE ADJUTANT: Susan Miller

This is the last newsletter for this fiscal year. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I am looking forward to warmer weather!!

Our State Convention is just around the corner. All units have received their packets with all the reports, credentials, etc. Please, please, pay attention to the deadlines. I want all units to get the recognition they deserve for their hard work. If they are postmarked late, they are ineligible for consideration.

All SEC's and DEC's are requested to participate in the Memorial Service on Friday morning. All SEC's are requested to be dressed in all white and DEC's in Dark jacket, dark pants and white shirts. If you are unable to attend, please have someone be prepared to represent your unit/chapter at the Memorial Service.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the convention.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN: REV. GARRY TURKS

Greetings Membership! I am praying that this year brings abundant blessings and prosperity to each and every one of the great members of the DAV Department of Colorado. I have already been busy this year visiting members and many veterans in need from multiple organizations. I visited Pueblo, Fort Morgan and Montrose Stand Down gatherings for homeless veterans. In which they gave out sleeping bags haircuts, showers and helped veterans file for benefits. I have often been to Fitzsimons, Home Lake, Division of Veterans Community Living Center, Pueblo Living Center and Spanish Peaks as well the Bill Daniels Veteran Service Center, to meet with fellow veterans and give them a listening ear.

I do all of this in the name of the DAV. As your Department Chaplain, my part in the DAV efforts is spiritually and mentally reaching the veterans who are suffering. That is why, your salvation is utmost importance in my prayer. Knowing all of this now, please remember I am always available as a Chaplain for visitations for the sick, attending funerals, no matter where you are in this state. Please contact Department and I will attend to your needs the best of my ability. I am always praying for the success of increased membership. I will always be praying for your sick and shut in members. I also pray that your chapters have unlimited funds so that you can continue to help serve and honor our veteran communities.

I want to encourage members to attend the Annual State Convention. Thank you for the opportunity to be your Chaplain, and for all that you do. see you at Convention.



MOBILE SERVICE VAN STATIONED AT DEPARTMENT

Wednesday April 18th From 8am – 4pm

The DAV Mobile Service Van and National Service Officers will be at Department Headquarters to service any veteran who wishes to ask questions, re-file, or begin a claim for their VA benefits on a walk in basis.

1485 Holland Street

Lakewood, CO 80215

****Department Headquarters staff are NOT qualified to answer or help with any questions regarding benefits****



SEEKING HIGHER OFFICE 2018-2019

ANTHONY ROTELLA: S.L. BROWN CHAPTER #11

Hello, my name is Anthony "Tony" Rotella, I am a 15 year Veteran of the U.S. Army (1983-1998). I am currently an active member of S L Brown, Chapter #11 where I am also the current Jr Vice Commander. During my military career I have been assigned to FS Korea / FS Sinop (Turkey) / NCTAMS Naval station (GUAM) / 2 tours at NSA Ft Meade / and Buckley Air Force base.

I have also had temporary duties in Okinawa/ Yokota / Bad Toelz & Winter Harbor. I did my basic training at Fort Jackson, SC (Tank Hill) and my Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Devens, MA. While stationed in Korea I was the right seater in the OV-1 Mohawk. I also did a 60 deployment on the USS Dubuque (LPD8) in support of the US Navy. I am very interested in becoming an officer in some capacity at the Department level.

Over the last few years I have had first hand experiences on how the DAV helps our Veterans in need. I am truly honored to be a part of this great organization and look forward to helping move the mission of the DAV forward in the future. Thank you all.

BONNIE ROHN : FORT MORGAN CHAPTER #41

I believe that every veteran can benefit from the DAV. I'm asked often, "what's DAV" (Dave)?" that's a conversation starter! I believe in the DAV, especially the position I hold as Adjutant of Fort Morgan Chapter #41 and Jr. Vice Commander of Department of Colorado. A disability does not have to be seen, it can be what's inside too!

My basic training was in Fort McClelland, Alabama. I went to Fort Sam Houston, TX for Medical training. In the Presidio, San Francisco, I was a flight medic and worked in the Emergency Room. A female medic had to be on board when a female was being picked up. My first and only baby was delivered in the helicopter! While at PSF, I was selected for the Command Military Touring Show in 1972. At Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver I was Coordinator for the Pediatric Clinic and Emergency Room Medic..1973 I went to Germany. I was in Darmstadt with the 557th Medical Ambulance Company. I drove a cracker-box! I went to Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart, where I was with the 32nd Combat Support Hospital. In *Primasens Munchweiler Clinic*. I was the only female medic.. After Germany, I went to Colorado Springs.

It wasn't until 13 years ago that I found out about the DAV. I wanted to see how it could help me with my disability and the PTSD that I suffered with. In Chapter 41, the positions I have held are Sergeant at Arms, Officer of the Day, Junior Vice Commander and Treasurer. Presently I am appointed Adjutant. Since joining Chapter #41 in Fort Morgan, there have been many changes, for the better. Some include; Chapter Meetings are held in a local restaurant, so no overhead charge for a building. we had 117 members now we have 140. \$4000.00 raised at the first fundraiser and more. Please support me for Higher Office. I will be here for you, support the Commander and learn more as we take on another year with the Disabled American Veterans!

ANNOUNCING ROLLER CITY WEST!



Andrew C. Grieb, Adj., Joni Cousland, Office Coordinator, Stephen Miller, Commander, Kelsey Kiernan, Admin., Bry Duncan, Duncan Ent. David Jiron, Sr. Vice Commander

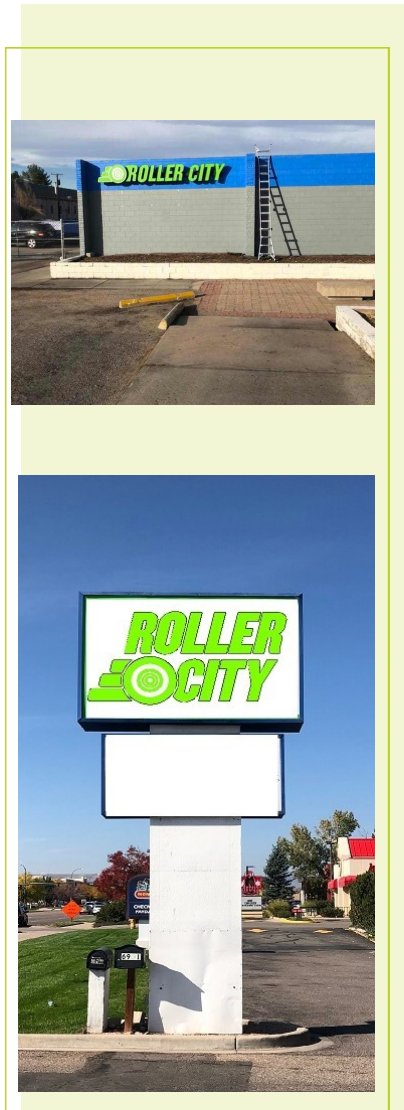
DAV Department of Colorado would like to thank the membership for approving the new purpose for the Alameda building which was previously the DAV Thrift Store.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Roller City West opened on March 17, 2018!

The building was filled to capacity within hours. In addition, Department raised over \$600 from the public with our donation bins. It was a great success.

Featured are before and after pictures of some of the renovations:



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE DAV

“Volunteer hours are tied to dollars and are important when the DAV goes to Congress to let them know all the areas that we continue to assist veterans.” ~ Stephen “Butch” Whitehead

The Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) encourages DAV Members and the community to volunteer time to assist veterans in their community with their skills, talents and resources to help with everyday needs. DAV established this program to aid in the mission to *serve disabled veterans* and their families in the community at the local level.

Examples of LVAP - that can be reported to Department are as follows:

Fundraising – Chapter fundraising efforts (Forget-Me-Not, Golden Corral and other Department approved fundraising)

DAV Outreach – Direct assistance to veterans, widows, or families (professional services, yard work, painting, home repairs, grocery shopping, involvement in community projects that support veterans, etc.)

Veteran Assistance – Are you a working professional? How about offering free services, to a veteran using those skill sets you have?

DSO/CSO - Service Officer Work (**training & certification required**)

Volunteer Drivers

Transporting Veterans to and from medical appointments at VA Hospitals is a critical piece of the DAV Volunteer Programs. A volunteer does NOT need to be a DAV member or a Veteran to participate. It is a process to become a Volunteer Driver through the DAV, if you or someone you know is interested, contact Department to get connected to the Transportation Coordinator in your local area.

(VAVS) Hospital Volunteers

Volunteering at the VA hospitals and clinics includes socializing with and getting to know patients, supporting patients through their recovery process, aiding nurses, helping at the front desk, instructing and leading group discussions and escorting patients to and from their rooms. Each facility has opportunities available.

Below is a list of volunteering opportunities in the Denver Metro area. Information regarding opportunities in other areas of Colorado to come.

Contact Department to get connected.

Denver and Aurora:

Information Desk/Red Coat
Ambassador Program
Patient Transport
Infusion Clinic
Emergency Room
Firm/admin
HR
Dialysis
Same Day Surgery
Recreational Therapy
IT

Golden:

Lab
Physical Therapy
Audiology
Primary Care
Mental Health

VOLUNTEER REPORTING

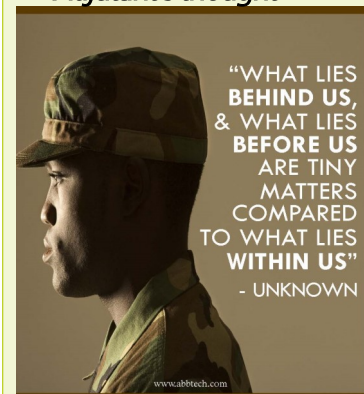
It's very important to report the number of hours for each volunteer. It serves as a barometer to let us know how we're doing as an organization.

It provides analytic data on where we are providing help, and it lets us know where more volunteers are needed.

If you want to start serving fellow veterans, or know someone who does, but just need some help getting started, Department is here to help.

We can't stress enough the importance of reporting this data to Department Headquarters.

~Adjutant's thought~



“I promise you, voluntary service in veteran communities is something many find themselves very passionate about once they get started.

I invite you to join me in this very rewarding experience.”

*~John H. Kleindienst
DAV National Voluntary
Services*



2018 National Winter Sports Clinic 4 /01 - 4/05

2018 DAV Dept of Colorado Convention May 16 –18, 2018

Double Tree Hotel by Hilton

3203 Quebec St,

Denver CO, 80207

303-321-333 For Reservations

Group Code: DAV Convention

Wyoming State Convention May 4th & 5th 2018

Holiday Inn Hotel in Rock Springs,

Registration is Friday May 4th Noon to 4 pm & Sat morning 7 am to 9 am

Joint Opening to begin at 9 am Saturday May 5th

Memorial Day 5/28 –Department Closed

Utah State Convention June 1- 2, 2018

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott

7141 FLSmidth Drive

Midvale, UT 84047

801-568-9000 For Reservations

May 3, 2018 Deadline

New Mexico State Convention June 7 -9, 2018

MCM Elegante Hotel

2020 Menaul Blvd. NE

Albuquerque, NM 87107

More information when available

Independence Day 7/4 –Department Closed

2018 National Convention 7/14 - 7/17

Grand Sierra Resort and Casino

2500 East Second Street

Reno, Nevada 89595

(775) 789-2000 | Toll Free: (800) 501-2651

Group Code: Disabled American Veterans (DAV)