

YOUR VOICE FROM HEADQUARTERS

COMMANDERS DESK **Bonnie Rohn**

Greetings from Commander Bonnie Rohn at the DAV Headquarters.

First of all, welcome our Department Secretary, Rob Baker.

Office Coordinator, Joni Cousland is at the other end of the phone line as well to answer any questions.

Since returning home from National Convention in Reno, it has been non-stop for me. My daughter Nicole joined me in Reno as she was born there 40 years ago and that was our first trip back there together. We had the chance to visit with family. I had a chance to meet up with old friends and of course, make many new ones. We had wonderful seminars and different breakout sessions that you could attend. The highlight, Nancy Espinosa took the position of 4th Junior Vice Commander. Yeah! Way to go Girl!

July 21st, I attended the ribbon cutting for the new Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center in Aurora on a very hot day. There were a few DAV members from Fort Morgan Chapter #41 that also attended.

July 22nd, I met up with many veteran's that were on the Viet Nam Honor Flight for a Bar-B-Q. I invited two of them to the DAV meeting, and explained what DAV is. It's amazing that I hear, "I already belong to the American Legion and the VFW, isn't that the same?". Well, one signed up, and one is still thinking.

July 28th, my husband and I attended the Burlington Fair with our son, daughter-in-law and new granddaughter Charlee. There were so many veteran's there.

August 14th, Adjutant Grieb and I took a trip to Colorado Springs to say "hi", have supper and enjoy the meeting of Knob Hill Chapter 26.

August 21, I took another trip to the Department to meet with Adjutant Grieb for some "Pow-Wow" what's happening talk. He sure is full of knowledge and I am learning a lot about the DAV that I didn't know. If you have a question about anything, his door is always open.

August 25th, Steve Larsen, Jack Darnell and I attended the Pueblo State Fair. DAVA State Commander Leslie Sandoval and I rode on the back of a convertible. San Isabel Chapter #2 took 3rd place for the best float. (High 5!)

September 4th took me back to the DAV Department to attend the Sub-Exec. Committee meeting with Department Officers and Adjutant Grieb. I look forward to getting out of town and sitting down with him.

I want to say many thanks to Senior Vice Commander Darla Sanders; and Junior Vice Commander John Carmona, for stepping in and helping with chapter visits, picnics and so much more. We are all spread out, and the distance between us fills the state so we can try to cover what our chapters are doing. We too, are here to help all of you. Remember, I'm just a phone call away too. Also, remember: we were all soldiers once, think back to that time and smile, shake a hand, and a kind word never hurt anyone's feelings. If you have an upcoming event that you would like me to attend, let Department Headquarters know and I'll do my best to attend.

Blessings to all..



ADJUTANT'S NOTES by Andrew Grieb

As we enter the second quarter of the year (and we recover from the Conventions and other travel), we are rededicated to the mission of the DAV by the excitement of the previous quarter's events. Our National Convention in Reno, Nevada was a big success and we received a lot of great training. Commander Rohn and I were extremely happy to see as many of our Department members as we did.

However, we must rally our Department to carry out our vital mission. With Department membership at just over 26,000, (and our At-Large Chapter at over 6,300) we have less than a 1% active membership. That's roughly 260 active members in our Department, and probably less, in our fifteen remaining Chapters. (Please keep in mind that this is only an approximation. This percentage can change from Chapter to Chapter, and often does.)

Our focus for this year must be on outreach, membership, volunteer recruitment, and establishing new Chapters, along with expansion of the State Auxiliary programs.

National Membership has re-vamped the membership goals and the new focus is not on fully-paid Life Members any more, but on total new members signed up, partial or fully paid. Membership has put out "HOT LISTS" of prospective members that are available for all Chapters based on ZIP Codes assigned. Chapters interested in using the "HOT LISTS" should contact National Membership for them. These lists are only one tool in our arsenal to reach out to new members, though. Our regular tool belt still includes "Forget-me-not" drives, Veterans' Day and Memorial Day events, Americanism events, parades, veterans' information seminars and more. Commander Rohn and I agree that we must get the message of the DAV out more. DAV National already has PSAs that are circulating on TV and radio, not to mention print ads and billboards. The message is there. We need to put the local spin on it. We must let the public know that we're here and active! Consider putting together press releases or contacting local media about events that you are organizing, for instance; Chapter Picnics, Americanism Programs, Installation Ceremonies, Memorial Day and Veterans' Day events, etc... The public needs to know! That's the only way we're going to attract new members and volunteers.

Veteran Information Seminars are being conducted on a regular basis by the NSO office. Scheduled at various venues across the state, these seminars are a great recruitment tool, for volunteers and membership!

The Mobile Service Office will be in the state during most of the month of October. Already scheduled are trips to Steamboat Springs, Colorado Springs, and colleges in the state. We are also hoping to open a couple of new Chapters in the very near future, utilizing the MSO visits and other planned events throughout the rest of the year. Volunteers should contact Department to see if they could be useful in assisting with membership and volunteer recruitment.

Well, I've droned on long enough for this quarter. Think about what your Chapters can do to make our goals this year. Contact Department if you have any questions or if we can help in any way.



STATE AUXILIARY COMMANDER Leslie Sandoval

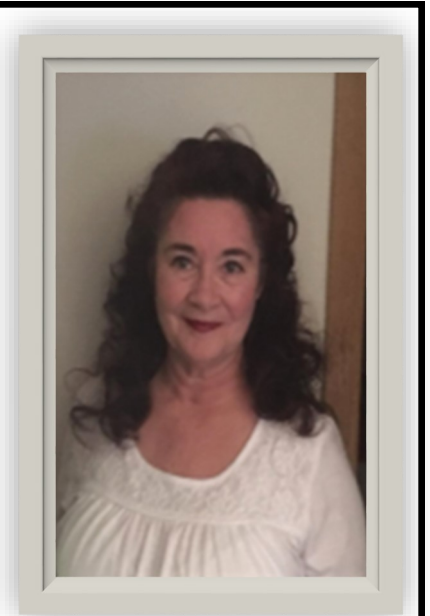
Dear Members

I would like to thank everyone who came to Pueblo for the Colorado State Fair

Parade. We had such a wonderful time and hope that you all come back soon. We were so excited to actually win Third place for Civic and Community Award. It was all possible because of your efforts.

Thank you, DAV Department Commander Bonnie Rohn, Department Jr. Vice Commander John Camona, and Diana. DAVA State Junior Vice Commander Sharon Bilodeau and Joe, Kathy Hanner from Unit 26, Unit Commander, Laura Verdonk and her grandson, Conner, and everyone who walked, handing out flyers. You were all so awesome. We felt honored for having so many representatives from all over Colorado.

As this summer flies by, we will be attending. Summerfest at Homelake, Pueblo's All Activities Day, and Kentucky Fall Conference. Soon it will be fall and time waits for no one. Staying busy with planning for our veterans' holidays, Veterans Day events, and soon Thanksgiving and Christmas, will keep everyone busy. I'm looking forward to decorating our VA nursing homes, we really enjoyed it last year.



STATE AUXILIARY ADJUTANT Susan Miller



I hope everyone is doing well. National Fall Conference is at the end of the month. I hope to learn more about our year end reports. Rumors have it that only the Mae Holmes Report will be completed, and all the other reports are being dropped. I believe what they actually meant was all units are going to be (required/encouraged), by National Headquarters to complete and submit the Mae Holmes report. All others will be optional. Those states that do participate in report judging, winners will still be judged at National Convention. I will clarify this for everyone, after the National Fall Conference.

Keep up the great work you all do every day to help veterans and their families. Hope to see some of you at the conference.

Rev. Garry Turks—DAV DEPARTMENT COLORADO CHAPLAIN



Greetings my fellow Department Colorado DAV members.

I pray and hope your summer has been enjoyable and your vacations and summer gatherings have been full of fun and pleasure. Here are some of the important veterans' events that have taken place since the National Convention that I have attended and I am also following up on to keep you informed and up to date on current events.

I attended had the Veteran Stand Down in Denver, Aurora, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Cheyenne and Albuquerque. The next event I attended was the 911 Memorial Ceremony at the Fort Logan National Cemetery. Followed by the Veterans Job Fair in Denver, Aurora Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Ogden. One of the memorable occasions was the opportunity to be a part of the Governor's and Mayor's Outreach Seminar which was held in the Governor's office.

As the DAV Chaplain I also attended the Colorado Veterans Seminar held in Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Ft Collins and Ogden. I visit the Denver VA Hospital twice a week as Department Chaplain, and it is most fulfilling to be able to minister to the patients. It is something I look forward to doing not only as a Chaplain but as a person. I was very grateful when asked to do the Invocation and the Benediction for the Grand Opening of the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Hospital. The event was well-attended, with many local and national dignitaries.

It is my privilege as Department Chaplain to have visited nine of the fifteen chapters in the State of Colorado this year. Again, my position as Chaplain has filled me with a sense of contentment in my duties. I have been summoned to various homes and to hospitals to be with over 54 veterans. I continue to serve the families by doing eulogies and that are located in Walsenburg, Rifle, Homelake, Pueblo, and Denver. My position as the DAV Chaplain has allowed me to go into various areas and be a part of many events in the region to serve the veterans in any way that I can.

As the Holiday season approaches may your days be filled with Love, Peace, Prosperity and Health.

A NEW TEAM PLAYER



In June we announced that Danielle Van Vleck was in training as Department Secretary. Danielle had a family emergency shortly thereafter and had to immediately move back to her hometown.

The newest addition to our staff came on July 1st when Robert (**Rob**) Baker started as a temp-to-hire with Department of Colorado and we would like for everyone to introduce yourself to him and make him feel welcome.

A little introduction from Rob:

Hello all, I just want to say I feel it a privilege and a blessing to be a part of this great organization. I say that with a sincere heart. I have worked with more that a few nonprofit organizations and DAV Department of Colorado is right at the top. I have years of providing office support and a diverse background in working with organizations that focus on groups that are often overlooked or not considered important, especially seniors. I look forward to the new challenges this position will bring and the new opportunities that will arise for me to reach out to help someone. Most of all to serve you, the members of the DAV.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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 (DAV member)

Volunteer—A person who works for an organization without being paid.

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.

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 and escorting patients to and from their rooms. Each facility has opportunities available.

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.

“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

“LET US ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW PRICELESS VOLUNTEERS ARE TO THE VETERANS AND TO THE DAV”

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND FOR THE CHAPTERS

September 30th

Department Headquarters should be in receipt of all Chapter Annual Financial Reports by September 30th. The only exception is if your Chapter has filed for an extension with DAV National. And do not forget to file the 990 for the Chapter with the IRS.

October 1st

Quarterly Allowance Reports for the Quarter ending December 31st will be sent to all chapters that participate. (If you are not sure if your chapter participates, give us a call at Department Headquarters.)

October 6th

Annual October DEC Meeting – DAV Department of Colorado will be giving the DEC's from each chapter 3 wall calendars to bring back to the Adjutant and Commander of the Chapter.

October 9th

Chapter Adjutants should contact Dept. Headquarters no later than October 9th to get information about the Golden Corral/DAV Military Appreciation Night in your area and selecting a member to represent the DAV Department of Colorado if your Chapter is participating.

November 12th

18th Annual DAV & Golden Corral Military Appreciation Night – If your Chapter has been asked to select a member to be a Representative of Department at your local Golden Corral Restaurant we ask that the Chapter members support them by assisting at the event.

January 2019

Deadline Dates for Convention will be sent to all Chapter Adjutants to help prepare for the Annual Department Convention in May.

February 2019

Convention Packets will be sent to all Chapter Adjutants with information and forms to be filled out and sent back to Department Headquarters for participation at Department Convention in May.

As always, please contact Department Headquarters with questions or for additional information.

Mission Statement

“Empowering veterans, their widows, and dependents to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity”

(From the DAV Mission Statement)

Department of Colorado Award Information

Recommendations and nominations for Awards at the Department Convention must be in writing and can be sent to Department Headquarters at any time, but they must be received by Department Headquarters no later than March 15th, 2019 if the Chapter would like the recommendation/nomination to be considered by the Awards Committee for the 99th Annual Department of Colorado State Convention.

Awards given at Convention include:

Adjutant (Chapter Adjutant) of the Year-Commanders or Chapter members make recommendations for this award to the Awards Committee and the Department Adjutant contributes is selection of this award.

Legislator of the Year – Most receptive Legislator as recommended by the Benefits Protection Team Leader for the Chapter.

Benefits Protection Team Member of the Year – Any Chapter Adjutant or Chapter member may submit a recommendation.

The following award nominations require a 30-day submission paperwork for their nomination to be considered by the Awards Committee.

News Media Award – Any radio station/personality, television station/reporter, newspaper given excellent, factual coverage to veteran's rights and issues.

Veterans Service Award – Any Chapter or DAV member can nominate any individual, company or organization that go out of their way to support the DAV.

The Outstanding Veteran of the Year Award is not revealed to the DAV member who is selected so it remains a surprise at the Department Convention Banquet.

Outstanding Veteran of the Year – Any Chapter or DAV member may submit recommendation/nomination for this award and the nominee may be any DAV member from a Chapter within the state of Colorado.

Please note: If at any time a DAV Chapter or DAV member would like to request a Certificate of Appreciation from Department of Colorado be given to an individual, business or organization, please submit the request in writing, with your contact information, to Department Headquarters for approval.

ADJUTANTS THOUGHTS

“You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time”

– John Lydgate

ON THE HORIZON

Veterans Day , November 12, 2018(Observed) 18th Annual DAV – Golden Corral Military Appreciation Night

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. November

The evening's events, held at Golden Corral restaurants nationwide, will offer up free meals to veterans and active-duty service members, while collecting donations to support DAV Department grassroots service initiatives throughout the country.

Military Appreciation Night is Golden Corral's way of saying "Thank you!" to our nation's veterans and active-duty personnel.

2019 Mid-Winter Conference

February 24 – February 27, 2019 (Tentative, pending confirmation on Capitol Hill))

Crystal Gateway Marriott

1700 Jefferson Davis Highway

Arlington, VA 22202

(800) 266-9432 or (703) 920-3230

Group Name "Disabled American Veterans"

\$199 Single/Double

33rd Annual Winter Sports Clinic

March 31 – April 5, 2019

Snowmass Village, CO

(Limited lodging available for only participants and volunteers)

99th Annual Department of Colorado State Convention

Wednesday, May 15th through Friday, May 17th 2019

DoubleTree by Hilton Denver

3203 Quebec Street

Denver, Colorado

Reservations: (303)321-3333

Remember to tell them you are in the DAV Room Block

Room Rate: \$109.00 + tax

2019 National Convention

Saturday, August 3 – Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Rosen Shingle Creek

9939 Universal Boulevard

Orlando, FL 32819

407-996-9939 or 866-996-9939

Group Code: Disabled American Veterans

\$137 Single/ Double

Department Officers for 2018-2019

Commander

Bonnie Rohn

Senior Vice Commander

Darla Sanders

Junior Vice Commander

John Carmona

Immediate Past Commander

Stephen Miller

Judge Advocate /Inspector

Vacant

Adjutant

Andrew Grieb

Chaplain

The Rev. Garry Turks

Chief of Staff

Steve Larsen

Sergeant-at-Arms

John Joffrion

Officer of the Day

Bernard Benton

Photographer

VACANT

Department Headquarters

Office Coordinator

Joni Cousland

Department Secretary

Rob Baker

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Business Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Except Federal Holidays