



HAWAII DAV DEPARTMENT NEWS

July 16, 2010



“Building better lives for all of our nation’s disabled veterans and their families.”

Regulation 10: National Constitution Bylaws and Regulations

Priority: To help veterans, focus on resolution.

The 59th annual convention is now history. A big “Mahalo” to Chapter 2 and those who helped to make the convention a reality. The convention was honored with the presence of National Commander Roberto “Bobby” Barrea, DAVA National Commander Kay Egan, and District 18 representative Robert DiGirolamo and Past National Commander Ray Dempsey. Thank you for your presence.

The elected officers for 2010-11, are, Ed Keoho, Commander, Penny Fox, Senior Vice Commander, Wayne Manning, 1st Junior Vice Commander, Fred Dauer, 2nd Junior Vice Commander, Archie Brito, 3 year finance, DAVA Commander, Lorna K a k e s a k o .

Congratulations to all as you embark on your tenure to serve your fellow veterans, and your department.

The photo, portrays NSO Bert Erwin and his class of 15 students, (2 not pictured) after completing two days of concentrated Service Officer training on Wednesday and Thursday preceding the convention. This training is very thorough and well detailed. It helps veterans to assist other

veterans in obtaining assistance, and offers protection to those veterans that are helping other veterans. There are so many ways the VA can assist both veteran and family. I highly recommend this training if you have the opportunity.

One of the items of convention business was a substantial change to the state bylaws. Most of changes were corrections to grammatical and spelling errors. The entire convention rules are now part of the Department of Hawaii DAV bylaws. Approval of the bylaws is expected sometime in August. It is strongly recommended the chapters review their respective chapter bylaws to assure they are not in conflict with either the National Bylaws or the State Bylaws.

This from Public Affairs Officer, Fred Ballard: July 12, **VA**

Simplifies Access to Health Care and Benefits for Veterans with PTSD

It is truly a pleasure to pass on this information. For futher information go to;



Front Row LR: Ron Phillips Ch 1, Warren Imada Ch 8, Willie Howard Ch 4, Al Remigio Ch 4, Orlando “Nalu” Perez Ch 4
Back Row: Gary Inouye Ch 5, Joseph Penn Ch 1, Bert Erwin NSO Ch 1, Hugh Beemer Ch 4, Sammy Houseberg Ch 4, Bob Kent Ch 4, Thomas Scott Ch 2, Henry Sonoda Ch 4 (Not Pictured) Renny Hyun Ch 2, Fred Dauer Ch 1

www.va.gov or call VA's toll free benefits number at 1-800-827-1000. This regulation in the "Federal Register" should be a substantial improvement in both process and time to process the individual claims. The following is a quote taken from the news article:

"Under the new rule, VA would not require corroboration of a stressor related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA doctor confirms that the stressful experience recalled by a Veteran adequately supports a diagnosis of PTSD and the Veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor."

The department receives many phone calls from people having items to donate to the DAV. Often these are veterans or caretakers of veterans. Most of these instances have to be referred to another agency because the department doesn't have the resources to accept and/or place the item. Occasionally these offers do come at a time when the donor and a need can be accommodated.

One such case occurred in June when a donation of a hospital bed was offered. Bob Kent was aware of a need for such a bed. Bob made arrangements for the recipient and donor to connect and the donor was put in contact with veteran of need and arrangements made for the pickup and delivery.

HSC Van Transportation: Hospital Service Coordinator Perez continues to expand the state's van transportation system. From February through June, volunteer hours worked went from 279 to 433; miles driven 2969 to 4737; and most important, veterans transported 98 to 195. Also the number of denials of service have increased as well, March-3, April-4, May-7. It should be noted in June the reason there were no denials is that a loaner van was available from Post Traumatic Rehabilitation Recovery Program (PRRP). The average use of their van was twice a week. This represents the need to increase support for the van program. Individual chapters are strongly encouraged to

support this vital program in the form of fund raisers and any financial support they are able to offer. Marketing the system seems to be gaining momentum, but must be supported by having adequate equipment to meet the needs of the veterans.

DAVA: The State Department of the DAV Auxiliary at the Maui Convention elected officers for the coming year; Commander, Lorna Kakesako, Sr. Vice Commander Rebecca Manning, Jr. Vice Commander, Pat Weiland, Treasurer, Mindy Alles, Judge Advocate, Laura Tindall and Chaplain Lorraine Yap. Cheryl Kamihara will serve as the adjutant.

We are very glad to welcome our new unit 9 from the Big Island. A special thanks to DAV Sr. Vice Commander Penny Fox for her outstanding job in getting the new unit started.

Upcoming Events: Department SEC meeting August 22, 2010 at Keehi Lagoon Memorial in Los Banos building at 11:00

The National Convention is July 31 - August 3 in Atlanta, GA.

Quotable quote: "Democracy is not a utopian ideal, but an honorable and ongoing effort to ensure that our society's hopes and needs are pursued in a fair manner."

Senator Daniel K. Inouye

As the Department administration embarks on its new term, that same philosophy applies to its endeavor and efforts. It serves to remind us no administration is perfect, and each brings different talents and skills to the process. It is this administration's promise to pursue our society's hopes and needs in a fair manner, and solicits your input to help with this process.

Please give us your feedback on this newsletter; 808 833-3746/Fax 808-839-5376; or HIwebmaster@davfrat.org

Ed Keoho, Sr.

Commander, Department of Hawaii DAV