

Disabled American Veterans

Department of North Dakota

Tri-Annual News Bulletin



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

2009 4th STREET NE - JAMESTOWN, ND 58401

DECEMBER 2011

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER REPORT



Jim Haukedahl
Department Commander DAV

Where has the time gone? It does not seem possible that when you read the Bulletin, my year as Commander will be soon coming to a close. The year has been enjoyable. I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to be your Department Commander.

I hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Traveling was good for the month of December. Wish that everyone had good traveling weather during the

holiday season. Thank you to all the Chapters for their hospitality during my visits. Thank you for all the hard work that you do in your communities. Also, thank you for all the hours that you volunteer in your community, at the CBOC and at the Lisbon Veterans Home. Keep up the great work. Remember to send in the hours that you volunteer for the DAV within your community. Please send me the hours so I can record them with the National Voluntary Service Department.

I know that it is early, but it is time to start thinking about the Department convention coming up in Grand Forks. There will be many things to do and a time to visit with friends. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Department Commander; it has been a tremendous honor that I will cherish forever.

GREETINGS FROM DAVA STATE AUXILIARY COMMANDER



Fay Litzinger
Department Commander DAVA

We hope you had a happy and joyful holiday season. We have been blessed with mild weather so far this fall and early winter. It has made it easier for us to travel. I enjoyed my trip to Minot and Williston in November. It is always a pleasure to visit old friends and make new ones.

I would like to relay the most recent comments from Susan Miller, our National Membership Chair: "If our membership does not grow, our organization will eventually die. ...Now is the time

to start signing up your extended families. If all of us just get one or two to join each year, our membership could at least

double every year. Giving a paid membership to an extended family member could get them started in our organization." Susan's comments are certainly correct, if everyone signs up just one or two new members this year our Department would double. There are many sources for new members, but your extended family members are a great source of new members.

For hospitalized veterans, the time surrounding Valentine's Day is very important. The VA has an annual salute to hospitalized veterans during February. Now would be a good time to plan any activities for your unit. Also, Patty Hicks, National Hospital Chairman, tells us that National is no longer providing hospital badges for non-VA hospital volunteers. There are in the process of changing the recognition for volunteers in the Yellow Book. Certificates of appreciation may be requested from National at no charge.

We hope to see you at the Department Convention.

**Happy
NEW
YEAR**

**FROM ALL OF US AT THE DAV
HAVE A HAPPY, HEALTHY
& PEACEFUL 2012!!!**





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DAV Mid-Winter Conference
February 25-29, 2012
 Crystal Gateway Marriot
 Arlington, VA
 (703) 920-3230

North Dakota Department Convention
April 27-29, 2012
 Guest House International
 710 1st Avenue North
 Grand Forks, ND
 (701) 746-5411 | (800) 867-9797

Minnesota Convention
May 3-5, 2012
 St. Paul, MN

South Dakota Convention
May 11-13, 2012
 Brookings, SD

Montana Convention
June 1-3, 2012
 Kalispell, MT

DAV National Convention
August 4-10, 2012
 Ballys Hotel and Casino
 Las Vegas, NV
 (800) 634-3434



Department Convention 2012 Will Be Held In Grand Forks

The 2012 DAV Department of North Dakota Convention will be held April 27 through 29 at the Guest House International Motel in Grand Forks. The motel's address is: 710 First Avenue North and was formerly the Townhouse Motel. Phone numbers for reservations are (800) 867-9797 and (701) 746-5411. Convention Chair is Mike Dobmeier and the banquet will be held on Saturday the 28th. The room rate will be \$69.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2010-2011

DEPT. COMMANDER
 Jim Haukedahl
 email: jhaukedahl67@cableone.net

SR. VICE COMMANDER
 Richard Krajewski
 email: rkrajewski@gra.midco.net

1st JR. VICE COMMANDER
 Tom Saddler
 email: tsaddler@gra.midco.net

2nd JR. VICE COMMANDER
 Rod Olin
 email: rolin@daktel.com

3rd JR. VICE COMMANDER
 Christian Wingire
 email: cwingire@daktel.com

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
 Gregory Seurer
 email: gseurer@midco.net

ADJUTANT-TREASURER
 Warren Tobin
 email: warren.tobin8@gmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR GENERAL
 Michael Vandrovec
 email: vandrovecm@casscounty.nd.gov

DEPT. SERVICE OFFICER
 Chanelle Lende
 email: lendec@casscountynd.gov

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN
 Dana Baker
 email: Danabaker58401@gmail.com

CHIEF OF STAFF
 Jim Fenstad
 email: jimfenstad@msn.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 3 Year - Greg Wheeldon
 2 Year - Doug Patenaude
 1 Year - Roy Fillion

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
 John Baxley
 (701) 451-4636

NATIONAL AREA SUPERVISOR

DEPARTMENT HSC
 Darlene Famias

Dept. Web Site:
www.tristateveterans.com/nddav

VETERANS COORD. COUNCIL
 Commander: Jim Haukedahl
 Adjutant: Warren Tobin
 Member at Large: Dana Baker

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2010-2011

DEPT. COMMANDER
 Faye Litzinger

SR. VICE COMMANDER
 Mary Holzworth

1st JR. VICE COMMANDER
 Jackie Saddler

2nd JR. VICE COMMANDER
 Marissa Jackson

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
 Joyce Hastings

ADJUTANT
 Sandy Dobmeier

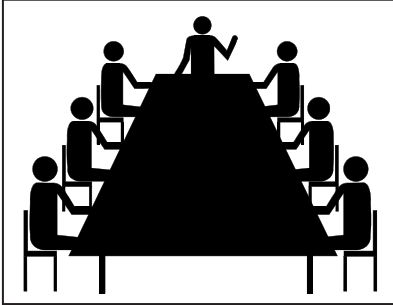
TREASURER
 Judy Steinhouse

JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSP. GENERAL
 Jan Novontny

Published Tri-Annually
 Disabled American Veterans
 Department of North Dakota
 2009 4th Street NE
 Jamestown, North Dakota 58401

Department Fall Conference and Department Executive Committee Meeting

The Department Fall Conference was held in Valley City on October 8. Department Commander Jim Haukedahl conducted the meeting.



Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACOVA) representative Mike Fisher reported on a veterans stand down which was held in Bismarck in September. He briefed the membership about a recent meeting with ACOVA representatives and Governor Dalrymple. He provided an update on the construction of the ND Veterans Home and our Post War Trust Fund.

Daryl Beard (Chapter 9) and Susanna Schecht (ND Vets Home Marketing Director) gave an update on the North Dakota Veterans home. Daryl reported on the grand opening ceremony held in August. Susanna provided an update on activities, admission processes, and showed pictures of the new facility.

Adjutant Bob Evans provided a financial report and Warren Tobin provided a publications report. Other officers provided updates on their department programs. Tom Saddler conducted the traditional "Baseball Pool" fundraiser.

North Dakota Veterans Home Foundation President Chris Wingire provided an update on the activities of the foundation. He discussed a recent donation where foundation funds were added to the Ray and Liz Harkema donation. (See article elsewhere in the newsletter)

Adjutant Evans updated the membership in the Department 2012 Convention to be held in Grand Forks. Dana Baker reported that he had received a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC. This letter informs us that the VA awarded a grant of \$372,872 for operations of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

Adjutant/Treasurer Evans announced his resignation.

Following the Fall Conference the Department Executive Committee met. At that meeting Warren Tobin was elected Department Adjutant/Treasurer.

North Dakota Veterans Home Foundation Donation

On Friday, October 28, Chris Wingire, President of the North Dakota Veterans Home Foundation and Third Junior Vice Commander of the DAV Department of North Dakota, provided a donation from the Foundation and the Ray and Liz Harkema Fund for improvements at the ND Veterans Home. The funds will be used to add fencing from the home to the Gazebo area and other uses as needed. Ray and Liz Harkema donated \$11,225.79 and the NDVH Foundation Inc. donated \$22,371.80 for a total of \$33,597.59.



Mark Johnson (ND Vets Home Administrator), Liz Harkema, Ray Harkema and ND Vets Home Foundation President Chris Wingire display the donation check.

Jesse Brown Youth Scholarships

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is again pleased to announce the 2012 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program designed to encourage youth volunteers to become active in Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) programs.

This year's deadline for submission of applications is February 27, 2012. The applications are submitted to the National Headquarters in Cold Springs, KY.

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program is awarded annually to outstanding youth volunteers who are engaged in VAVS programs. First place prize includes a \$20,000 scholarship and an expense paid trip to DAV's National Convention with his/her parent/guardian for the award presentation. Second place prize consists of a \$15,000 scholarship. Third place prize consists of a \$10,000 scholarship. Two fourth place prizes consisting of \$7,500 scholarships each, and three fifth place scholarships at \$5,000 each.

Candidates for the scholarships must be age 21 or younger and must have volunteered a minimum of 100 hours during the previous calendar year. All volunteer hours must be credited to the Disabled American Veterans. Volunteer hours accumulated under the DAV's local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) are also eligible for consideration. The scholarships can be used for any accredited institution of higher learning, to include universities, colleges, community colleges, or vocational schools, etc. In addition, each recipient must utilize the entire scholarship prior to reaching age 25, or within six years of receiving the scholarship, whichever is later. Employees of the DAV national organization and their families are eligible for consideration for the scholarships.

Happenings from the 14th District Conference

14th District DAV NEC Joseph Litzinger and 14th District DAVA NEC Sandy Dobmeier conducted the 14th District Fall Conference in Fargo on October 22. Many items of national importance were discussed and the meeting provided for the opportunity for leaders from the four states in the district (ND, SD, MN, and MT) to collaborate on items of mutual interest.

Mr. Michael Murphy, Director Fargo VA Health Systems: Mr. Murphy discussed activities at the Fargo Medical Center and updated members about some of the activities at VISN 23 which includes Minnesota and both of the Dakotas. Mr. Murphy stated that due to advanced funding, the VA Medical Budget looks very good through 2012. They expect that FY 2013 could be very lean and future adjustments might need to be made. It continues to be a challenge for the VA to recruit physicians. He discussed the increased use of tele-health, especially at the outpatient clinics. Mr. Murphy informed the group about the VA's Secure Messaging System through MyHealthVet. He discussed Fargo programs including construction, Psychiatric Internship, and travel pay procedures. He discussed the VA's national homeless veterans initiatives and local implementation of the voucher program in conjunction with the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Jeff Hall, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans, represented the national organization at the conference. He gave us greetings from National Commander Don Samuels and National Adjutant Art Wilson. The National Legislative Office is headed by Joe Violante and consists of five employees. Each person has a "portfolio" of legislative bills that they follow and on occasion provide testimony on the bills. Their workload is dependent on the schedules of Congress and its' committees. Sometimes they are quite busy testifying, researching and being in contact with legislators. The DAV is a resolutions driven organization. Resolutions approved at the national convention become the basis for our legislative program. If there is an issue of interest, he recommends the local chapters work on resolutions which, if approved at the convention, will become the legislative policies of the DAV. He recommended that members use the Commander's Action Network. This high quality web site makes it a very straight forward process to contact your congressman and senators on any item of interest. He discussed many of the current issues facing disabled veterans including: concurrent receipt, the VA's duty to assist veterans with claims, unified health records between DOD and DAV,

and the claims process with its backlogs and errors.

Montana: Paul Kroenke reported on behalf of the Department Commander Mary Kreech. The department is doing very well. The convention will be in Kalispell on the first weekend in June

Minnesota: Dave Valtinson reported that in the Membership Competition, Minnesota was placed in Division 3 due to smaller numbers of potential members. Currently they lead Division 3. The department sponsored a disabled veteran hunt. Their volunteers had driven 1.18 million miles supporting the DAV Transportation Network. They conducted a Foundation meeting at the fall conference and were examining methods to enhance foundation services. They also had seminars on DAV programs to help train the chapters at the same conference. The Department Convention will be held in St. Paul from May 3 through 5.

South Dakota: Harold Muilnberg reported that they were continuing to lead their division in membership program. (Editors note: Montana and North Dakota were in second and third place so District 14 is right at the top overall for membership.) The department purchased four vans this year and volunteers drove 380,000 miles. They had conducted a homeless veterans standdown and various disabled veterans hunting events. The Department Convention will be held May 11-13 at the Days Inn in Brookings.

North Dakota: Jim Haukedahl reported that the state had completed a new veterans home this year, but he was unable to attend the dedication which was held during our National Convention. The construction had increased interest in the North Dakota Veterans Home Foundation. The current president of the foundation is a DAV member and one of our junior vice commanders. Our Department Adjutant resigned at the fall conference and Warren Tobin of Chapter 31 was elected Adjutant/Treasurer for the department. Our volunteer programs continue to be very strong. The department is working on membership programs. The Department Convention will be held April 27 through 29 in Grand Forks.

Attendees donated \$257 to the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Fund. The next district meeting will be held at the National DAV Convention in August in Las Vegas. The next fall conference is scheduled for Fargo in October 2012. There was an informal Trench Rats meeting after the district meeting and Warren Tobin was installed as the North Dakota Department Adjutant/Treasurer.



North Dakota Department Commander Jim Haukedahl reports to the Fall Conference.



14th District NEC Joe Litzinger addresses the joint session of the 14th District Fall Conference.