

# Disabled American Veterans

## Department of North Dakota

# Tri-Annual News Bulletin



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

2009 4th STREET NE - JAMESTOWN, ND 58401

OCTOBER 2017

## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER REPORT



**Larry Holweger**  
Department Commander DAV

Fall is definitely in the air, the evenings are cooler and summer is coming to an end. I hope everyone had a good and safe summer. I have been busy since the Convention in April when I became Commander.

I attended the 96th National Convention in New Orleans, it was amazing, met several new members and attended many seminars. All of our national officers are quality people!

I started visiting the many chapters which include Minot Chapter 4, Devils Lake Chapter 5, Valley City Chapter 24, Bismarck Chapter 3, and Williston Chapter 9. One common goal they all share is recruiting new members and everyone working together. all were very welcoming and each was a great gathering of fellowship.

I encourage each of you to keep two applications with

you at all times so when the time presents itself you are prepared. Keep in mind the active military also.

The DAV of Minnesota along with the Park Rapids and Detroit Lakes Chapters propose to hold the Fall 2017 14th District Conference at the Holiday Inn Lakeside in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota on 20-21 October 2017. The rooms run \$91 plus tax for standard room and \$111 plus tax for lake side rooms. The lock expires 20 September 2017. You can call 1-218-847-2121 or 1-877-251-9348 to reserve your room. they have reserved a hospitality room and two conference rooms. there will be a buffet breakfast on the 21st.

I value all of your opinions and will do my best to address them in a short manner. The DAV remains strong and continues to grow with all of us working together to keep our promise to the Veterans.

If you need to contact me my email is: [cholweger@gra.midco.net](mailto:cholweger@gra.midco.net).

Have a wonderful fall and holiday season coming up.

Thank you to all the Commanders and members for making the DAV a wonderful organization and for you trust in me.

## DAVA DEPARTMENT COMMANDER REPORT



**Bernadine Burke**  
Department Commander DAVA

I'd like to introduce our National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary to you. A historic first, William Craig Johniken was elected National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary at the 2017 National Convention in New Orleans, LA. Craig is the first male to serve in this capacity since the inception of the organization in 1922. Mr. Johniken is eligible for membership through his wife, Teresa, a service-connected disabled veteran and DAV member since 1995, and his son, Tim, also a service-connected veteran.

A native of Texas, Craig began his career at the Texas Dept. of Transportation in 1979, and retired after 30 years of service in 2009. He is currently a sales representative for Roy Bing Supply, a position that has provided opportunities to communicate bingo fund raising efforts to many DAV Chapters and Units.

Mr. Johniken served as a Unit Commander for three years, and was the 2011-2012 Auxiliary State Commander of the State Department of Texas. On the National level. Mr. Johniken was appointed as a member of the original strategic planning core committee formed in 2009, chairing the membership sub-committee. He also served on the Standard Operating Policies sub-committee. In 2012, he was elected to the office of National 4th Jr. Vice Commander and advanced through the chairs to his current position of National Commander. Regarding this opportunity, Mr. Johniken stated, "I'm honored to serve in this capacity and will continue to promote awareness of the DAV Auxiliary and its mission as well as emphasize the importance of supporting caregiver initiative and volunteerism."



**William Craig Johniken**  
DAVA Nat'l Cmdr

Like National Commander Johniken, I also am honored to serve as your DAVA Department Commander and will continue to promote awareness of the DAV Auxiliary and its mission. I look forward to meeting you in the upcoming months.