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Calendar

May 10th – Mother’s Day
 May 16th – Armed Forces Day
 May 25th – Memorial Day
 June 12th, 13th, 14th – State Convention
 June 21st – Father’s Day

FY 2014-2015 March 31st Position

Asset Balance		
Savings		\$386,181.59
Checking		82,217.14
Investments		<u>1,429,079.48</u>
Total		\$1,897,478.21
Expenses		
Line	Admin	Service
11	\$ 72,335.28	
12	41,447.14	
13	12,194.88	\$ 5,639.46
14		325,787.24
19	16,649.84	
21	<u>22,164.04</u>	
	\$164,791.18	\$ 331,426.70

Teresa Johniken
 Adjutant



NEWS BULLETIN

Volume 25 Issue 1 Chartered by act of Congress 1932
 May/June 2015

★ *Tim Lindsey Commander*

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Thank You for making a positive difference in the lives of our veterans. DAV’s exemplary efforts in service to our local communities continue to make veterans transitioning home a better place to be. Living downrange makes home life seem like a dream of possibilities until returning home and getting an unwelcome reality check. DAV knows firsthand what it takes in this climate of change to our world everyday by staying ahead of those curves in service to veterans. We can be proud of our DAV membership.

Serving as the 75th Department of Texas Commander I want to thank all our chapters for the extraordinary services you provide each day. Know that anything you do may sometimes seem little in service but it quickly adds up to great things. Please check with Department anytime you have a question or a need.

2015 Department Convention is coming up soon and I hope more and more members will attend each year for fellowship and register to vote on important business. Your chapter can pre-register you with Department for easy check in on arrival. The instructional seminars will be able to assist with questions you may have and your representation for your chapter on committees and in caucus will need your vote. The Department of Texas Convention is where ideas are expressed and shared for all of us to learn, so don’t miss out.

I have seen the future of the Department of Veterans Affairs and many patients are seeing their

practitioners and specialist from home thru multimedia today. Hundreds of cameras are prepared for shipping and hundreds more have been shipped. Pharmacy and lab test reports are quicker than ever and if you use My Health e-Vet for VA communications, real time is here and wait time is about over. The George H. O'Brien Jr. VA Medical Center in Big Springs Texas is the countries leader for cutting edge technology in pharmacy, customer service and doctor checkups by managing all these services with accessibility from home. Doctor and patient clinics remain face to face on healthcare and wellness without having to travel in person for each checkup. Anyone remember Dick Tracy?

Thank You All for a great 2014-2015 year as your Commander. God Bless

Tim Lindsey
Commander

★ *Sharon Thornton Auxiliary Cmdr.*

sktangel@hotmail.com

State Convention is soon to be here. Please make plans to attend. It will be very informative & great fellowship. Seeing old friends and making new ones. Hope to see you there June 12, 13, & 14. I am happy & proud to announce our national guest will be National Commander LeAnn Karg. Let's give her a big Texas welcome & hospitality Texas style 😊.

As my year as Commander is coming to a close I would like to say "Thank you". For all the support, caring & hard work you have shown. It is appreciated.

Please continue to give your time and whatever else you chose to share - volunteering, contacting legislators, gaining membership. You are AWESOME!

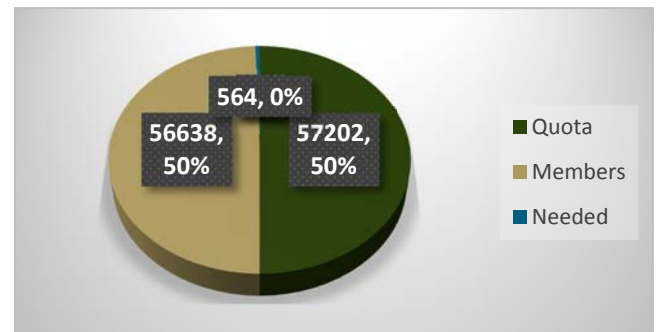
And remember ... TOGETHER WE CAN!!!!

Sharon Thornton
DAVA Commander



★ *Jay Johnson Membership Chairman*

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Greetings, during this past year I have stated the following in previous Newsletters - In case some of you did not get a chance to read the Newsletter I want to point out again, what I consider is most important.

Remember there is strength in numbers.

The more we grow and progress, the greater impact we can have on our injured and ill veterans in our communities. Encourage veterans in the communities around you to attend a meeting, join and get involved. New members can get involved by letting their peers know about the DAV and encouraging them to join.

When a first time visitor/potential members attends your chapter meetings let us ensure that they are walking into an enthusiastic professional environment in which the leaders are conducting chapter business in accordance with the Disabled American Veteran National, Department and Chapter By-Laws.

We are a strong and vibrant organization that many of you have poured your life's blood into

and rightfully there's a sense of ownership. But, there comes a point when we need to loosen up, focus on our mission and have enjoyment working to achieve it. Remember that "we are all volunteers."

Our membership numbers are holding but we have work to do. It is an ongoing responsibility of each DAV member to ensure that every deserving veteran is given an opportunity to become a member of a DAV Chapter in the Department of Texas.

When reviewing the Department of Texas' DAV Population Summary from last year's total Chapters Membership Rolls regarding Part Life members to Full Life members some chapters have met and exceeded their goals, and others are making progress.

Congratulations to all and keep up the good work.

Jay Johnson
Sr. Vice Commander

★ **Ruth Gates, DAVA Adjutant**

ruthgates@sbcglobal.net

Hello Auxiliary members:

State Convention is just around the corner. All the information has been sent to each Unit Adjutant. If you are coming to State Convention, the first meeting will be at 9 am for the Joint Session. The Auxiliary registration will open on Thursday, June 11 at 12 noon. The cost will be \$20. Our Forget me not Luncheon will be Saturday, June 13 and the cost for it will be \$20. Please make plans to attend if you can.

May is the month in which each Unit has an opportunity to elect a State Executive Committeeperson and Alternate. Please try to elect members to fill these positions as they will be your representative to vote on any items or issues that arise at the State level.

We will have the Auxiliary National Commander, Leann Karg at our convention. I am certain she would love to meet as many members as possible.

We are in the process of making changes in the way our Districts function and the National Auxiliary is in the process of making changes in our membership process effective July 1. I have some

additional information here and it will be handed out at State convention. I am sure that Commander Karg will go over it with us as well.

I saw this quote on Saturday and thought it holds an important message for each of us. It certainly made me examine my life and the impact I wish to have on those I have contact with. ****There are 2 kinds of folks in this world—the folks of words and the folks of deeds. Which one are YOU? And is that the impression you wish to leave with everyone you meet?

Ruth Gates
State Adjutant.

★ **Darlene Spence, DAVA Membership**

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Fiscal Year 2014-2015
Needed to meet quota----62 99%

Thank you "Texas" for your support in recruiting Auxiliary members. We have only a few months left to meet our quota. We **only need 62** new members, yes **only 62**. It's been an honor and privilege to serve as your Membership Chairman for Texas. Let's close this year out with a "Bang". Hope to see you all in June at the state convention.

CONGRATULATIONS! To the following Units for achieving 2014-2015 quota!

Alamo #5
James T. Hall #9
Taylor County #36
Doug Herrle #61
Hunt County #81
Nacogdoches #83

"AWESOME"

Ernest Peralez #150

**“Alone, We can do so little;
Together we can do so much”
~ Helen Keller~**

Together We Can!

**Darlene Spence
Sr. Vice Commander, DAVA**

★ Tom Archer, District II DEC

etexasarcher@gmail.com

Lots of excitement in District II. Beginning with the District II Round Up at the Love civic center, in Paris, Texas on May 16, 2015 at 10am. Come for the weekend, enjoy great food, fellowship, a time to relax and enjoy. Paris chapter 89, will host.

CSO training was a huge success, lots of work ahead, helping veterans. Our chapter is growing and I attribute it to assisting veterans and becoming more visible in the community.

We want to help the homeless veterans, but a word of caution, there are those that come in the name of veterans and are not. I've been approached lately by some that stay in La Quinta Inn asking for us to pay their room cost and give cash. We are not a hand out, but a hand up. Just a word of caution.

Again, see you in Paris, see the Eiffel tower, Veterans memorial, will be one of the largest in the United States, when complete. Ride the trolley for a tour of Paris.

Tom Archer
District II DEC

★ Robert Squyers, District IV DEC

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The 2014 – 2015 Department year is almost over. Time has gone by very rapidly.

Remember the District IV Service Officer Training session, May 23, 2015 in Brenham, Texas. The training will be at the VFW Hall in Brenham located at 1200 E Tom Green. The training will be

held May 23, 2015, from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm with lunch from about 12:00 – 1:00.

After training there will be a short District meeting to conduct such business as may be presented.

The Department Convention will be held June 12th – 14th at The Doubletree Hotel in Austin. The phone number to make reservations is 1-800-374-4870 (use code DVT). District IV will elect a District Executive Committee Person to serve 2015 – 2017.

The National Convention will be held August 8th – 11th at The Sheraton Hotel 1500 Court Place, Denver, Co. – (303) 893-3333

The DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: Empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

As a leader in the DAV, you're a spokesperson for our organization in your community. DAV's reputation in your area rests in your hands. It's an important responsibility, but it can be fun and rewarding. If you're an effective spokesperson, your activities will benefit your Chapter, your Department, and the entire organization. In addition you'll enhance your position of leadership. The public views you as the voice of our organization in your area. Your members will see you in the same light.

You can use Department and National for any questions you have and for providing materials to use in your community.

Remember you are the DAV. Conduct yourself accordingly, and, the DAV will prosper there!

Robert Squyers
District IV DEC

★ Marlin Howze, District V DEC

fehorse@gmail.com

Hello and welcome to spring. The flowers are out and looking beautiful right now. But, with all its splendor, soon we will be remembering fallen comrades with Memorial Day observances across the State. This is a time of renewal and Memorial Day is no different. We, as one of leading voices in the Veteran community, must renew our efforts to remind

all of the sacrifices that veterans and our currently serving military personnel have given and continue to give, to our country. There are plenty of events already forming throughout the month of May to commemorate those who have gone before us. I encourage all to remind the public that the Memorial Day holiday, is more than a BBQ weekend. Not that there is anything wrong with BBQ, just give the public a little reminder when your enjoying the holiday and the all the good things that will come from it thanks to all that have sacrificed for the ability to have a Holiday.

At CSO training, I was glad to meet our new staff of San Antonio National Service Officer's including NSO Supervisor Jennifer Kellogg. The NSO's held a great training event and are working overtime to bring in new changes to the office. I hope the new service officers that were certified are out there to bring attention to the DAV's Service Program and provide top notch service to our comrades in need of the important services a Chapter can provide. Indeed, I hope your Service Program is at the heart of what your Chapter does in your respective community. Used correctly, the Service Program is a game changer for everything your Chapter wishes to accomplish.

Also, coming to a summer near you is the annual State Convention which will take place in Austin at the Doubletree Hotel 11-14 June. Make your reservations if you need them and get your delegates to Department. Convention is not just a time to knock out a lot of work and legislation, it's also a time to renew friendships, make new ones and network for ideas to make your Chapter and organization better. Take advantage of the opportunity.

I hope your having an opportunity to enjoy the spring weather and flora and hope to see you soon at Convention.

Marlin Howze
DISTRICT V DEC

May is fast approaching and the State Legislative session is half over. I attended The Texas Veterans Commission's 17th Annual Veterans Summit, which was held February 4, 2015, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Austin.

The theme of the Veterans Summit this year was "*Strengthening the Foundation: Building a Better Future for Texas Veterans*" and highlighted how federal, state and local government agencies in Texas are working collaboratively with Veteran organizations to implement solutions directed by past state Legislatures.

The Veterans Summit featured a series of panels of subject matter experts examining critical issues facing the Veteran community from both a programmatic and policy perspective, including:

- *A Sustainable Legacy*: The Future of the Texas Hazelwood Exemption
- *Justice 4 Veterans*: Examining Four Initiatives related to Justice-Involved Veterans
- *Preserving the Network*: Continuing to build upon the network of Veterans Mental Health resources in Texas

During the summit I represented the DAV at the Texas coalition of Veterans Organizations meeting. There was a lot of discussions of legislative issues. The Coalition decided the four main priorities to concentrate on would be:

□ SB 540 - Adjust (double) the dollar amount that will be used to reduce the appraised value of the principal residence/homestead of a veteran disabled less than 100% based on recommendations from the 2012 Comptroller's Study.

□ Veterans Preference and Employment: legislation to require State and Federal agencies to increase the number of veterans they hire to a 7% veteran hire rate.

□ □Hazelwood Act: to remove the age limit on dependent children using the veterans Hazelwood benefits.

□ □Military absentee voting: If military absentee ballots go out late by any time frame (eg: hours or days), the grace period will double to allow military absentee voters extra time to return the absentee ballot to the local clerk's office to compensate for the late shipment and subsequent receipt from local election offices.

I have visited several state and federal legislators discussing Veterans issues, most are willing to support Veterans issues, **especially when their constituents ask for their support. They need**



to hear from the people they represent. They also need to receive thanks when they support Veterans issues. I would be happy to visit your legislators with you.

I will be sending updates on legislative issues. If you want to be included, send your email to:
rws1945@gmail.com

REMEMBER: You represent the DAV in your community, the DAV's reputation is in your hands!

Robert Squyres
Legislative/BPT Chairman

★ Ralph Marchesano, Chaplain

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A DAV CHAPLAIN: What is a DAV chaplain? A DAV chaplain is not a pastor, a chaplain is not a leader a chaplain is a minister in the service of another. A chaplain in the DAV or in the military is clearly not the highest ranking member of the institution, clearly not the person in charge of running things. The chaplain's job is defined by service—service to the institution's needs and goals, service to the individuals who come for spiritual help. The chaplain prays for people in distress, administers sacraments to those in need, performs memorial services, and leads prayer for those desperate for God. In short, the chaplain is at the beck and call of those who are hurting for God. He's not his own man. She is not her own woman. There's no mistaking a chaplain for a leader, or a charismatic preacher because the chaplain is unmistakably a servant. Please also note that in the scriptures many people of God were not 'Formally' trained ministers. No they did not have divinity degrees, PHD's, etc., they were NOT among the religious elite. They were common folks, they were among the despised, a group with diverse backgrounds and various education levels. So don't let anyone tell you different. The call of God is the most important factor when serving as chaplain, the rest is academic. The good chaplain recognizes that the ministry he or she has of comes directly from God, His Word and has many dimensions. Take King David's chaplain, Nathan. It's clear that Nathan is at

the beck and call of his king, and that he sees himself as a spiritual presence to comfort and affirm his patron. At one point, he tells David, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you" (2 Sam. 7:3). But he also knew that if he was truly going to serve his king, he was going to have to challenge him from time to time—like when he confronted David about his adultery. But note how the conversation went: Nathan tells David that he has "despised the word of the Lord," and David admits, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan is acting as a chaplain, to heal the sinful soul of his king (2 Sam. 12). A chaplain is someone who is the Lord's means of ministering and healing, his or her role is primarily therapeutic. It includes therapy-like moments, for example, in helping members deal with their ordinary fears and worries. But it is fundamentally about the healing of souls—helping men and women, to become right with God, and therefore, right with others. This will happen in a variety of ways, as the chaplain leads prayers, performs ceremonies or simply spends time with the membership. This happens even when presiding over those functions we tend to think are token ceremonies. When the chaplain is present, you see, people get this intuitive reminder that God is present and often puts people on their best behavior. When the chaplain communicates in word and deed the graciousness of God, then his presence can be a great comfort to people. The DAV chaplain should be ministering to the individual as well as the group, by visiting members that are ill or those in nursing homes. Home and hospital visits are important as well as visiting those that have lost a loved one. As a chapter chaplain on many occasions I visited the families of those members that had passed away, asking them if they needed anything, in a few cases I was there to assist them to insure their loved one received the military honors they earned at the memorial service and put them in contact with a Service Officer regarding benefits. I offered my services to officiate at the funeral, or just say a few words about the deceased comrade. But most of all I was there to let them know that we cared and we 'The DAV' was there for them. That personal one on one ministry is key in serving our comrades and their families. During the many years in the church, the times I remember most when I was personally ministered to, is when my troubled soul was comforted on a one on one basis by my pastor. Yes it was the rare occasion when a minister or pastor pulled me aside in his office, put his arm around me, and prayed with me about some matter; when he made personal visits to come see me in the hospital

or elsewhere. When in unhurried conversation I felt less alone, because I knew in a deeper way that God was present through him. During such moments, is when a chaplain has a positive impact on others and the membership. Again I will repeat myself, it's all about 'Service' to others; it's all about being at the beck and call of those who are hurting for God. A chaplain is not his own man. Be thankful that you have been called to be a chaplain. May God richly bless you, your ministry, the DAV and the United States of America!

Rev Ralph Marchesano
Chaplain



Submissions and Pictures

Reservation Information for State Convention

Where: Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Austin
When: June 10, 2015 through June 13, 2015
Hotel Address:
6505 IH-35 North
Austin, TX 78752

Phone
1-800-347-4870 – Reservation Line

Reservations must be made by **May 18, 2015** in order to receive the contracted price. (see below for prices)

\$ 104- Room Rate

You must use the group name and code when making reservations.

**Group Name: Disabled American Veterans
Department of Texas
Group Code: DVT**