

**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES**  
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

February, 2017 Newsletter

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**FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER DAVID BILINOVICH**

**EARLY SPRING**



No matter whether the groundhog sees its shadow or not, February is always the shortest and coldest month of the year. Winters reminds us that it is still that time of year and most people slow down their activities and try to stay warm and home as much as possible. Yet, for our DAV, there is much to be done this month. Please be weather cautious, but do not become complacent as our organization needs you to continue to be active and supportive. For there is much to do this month.

Chapters were sent a checklist to do a self-survey in December and to send a copy of their results to our Columbus office by February first. These self-evaluations will be compared against both the information on file and against a preferred model of a well-run Chapter. Those Chapters recognizing a need for support or guidance were encouraged to submit requests for assistance with their survey. Those Chapters identified by our office as deficient in some area

will be notified and offered assistance and support. The goal is to understand the true status of our Chapters and then to correct deficiencies and to standardize operating procedures.

Every Chapter was recently sent our list of Chapters that have filed Articles of Incorporation with their status. Many Ohio Chapters do not have current articles filed or have never filed with them. These articles incorporate your Chapter as a business entity and are a low cost means of protection against personal liability for our Chapter Officers and members offered by the State of Ohio. It is recommended that all Chapters file and keep their articles and their designated agent current. Please call our Columbus office if you need assistance or have any questions.

Later this month, the Adjutant and I will travel to the annual Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, DC to meet with our elected representatives. I am proud to say that even when I cut the budget authorizing how many Officers could attend at Department expense, many of your Officers and Past Commanders stepped up and agreed to go at their own expense. They realized how important this grassroots lobbying effort is and wanted to support our efforts. So they could have stayed warm and safe at home, but they instead elected to continue to support the DAV, they are to be commended. Hopefully, the weather will not unduly hamper our efforts.

Also, this month, it is time to start considering your Chapter Officers nominations. If you have not been an Officer or have not been one in quite some time, please consider running. Complacency and stagnation in the ranks are two of the main reasons we see Chapters get in trouble. We can teach competency but we have a hard time dealing with complacency or a lack of support. Those that are serving or have served well, congratulations, but 2017 may now be the right time to train a new corps of Officers to help our organization to continue to grow.

February is always the shortest and coldest month of the year, but it does not have to be hibernation from the DAV. Your Chapter, your local VA Hospital and your community still need a vibrant working DAV. Let us not consider February as the dog days of Winter, but more of as an early Spring

*David Bilinovich*  
State Commander

## **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

<b>National Headquarters</b>	(877) 426-2838
<b>NSO Office, Cleveland</b>	(216) 522-3507
<b>NSO Office, Cincinnati</b>	(513) 684-2676
<b>Washington D.C. Office, DAV</b>	(202) 554-3501
<b>Cincinnati DSO</b> , Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443
Tuesday, Thursday	
Lisa Wilson (513) 475-6443	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	
<b>Chillicothe DSO</b> , Charles Knipp	(740) 773-1141
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	
Ext. 7916	
<b>Dayton DSO</b> , Nikki Cochran	(937) 268-6511
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	
Ext. 2962	
<b>Wade Park DSO</b> , Walter Dryja	(216) 791-3800
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	
Ext. 3395	
<b>Columbus DSO</b> , Henry Snodgrass	(614) 257-5487
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	
<b>Parma DSO</b> , Richard Healy	(216) 739-7000
Monday-Thursday	
Ext. 2405	

## **2016-2017 STATE OFFICERS**

State Commander:	David Bilinovich
Sr. Vice Commander:	James Bailey
1 <sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander:	John Parker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander:	John Plahovinsak
Executive Committee:	David Weeks, Timothy Dibble
PDC (2015-2016):	Phillip Alexander

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2017	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
March 19, 2017	<i>District 3 Meeting</i> , VFW 8445, 712 N. Dixie Hwy, Wapakoneta, OH at 2 p.m.
March 26-31, 2017	National Disabled Veterans Winter Sport Clinic, Snowmass Village, CO. <a href="http://www.wintersportsclinic.org">www.wintersportsclinic.org</a>
April 1, 2017	<i>District 5 Meeting</i> , Huron County Ch. #62, 1544 US Highway 20 West, Norwalk, OH at 1 p.m.
April 2, 2017	<i>District 6 Meeting</i> , Brooklyn-Parma Ch. #116, Memorial Hall, Parma, OH. Time TBA
April 8, 2017	<i>District 9 Meeting</i> , Dovel Myers Ch. #141, 108 Liberty St., Gallipolis, OH Lunch at 12 p.m. & Meeting at 1 p.m.
April 8, 2017	<i>District 10 Meeting</i> , Capital City Ch. #3, 280 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
April 15, 2017	<i>District 1 Meeting</i> , Northern Hills Ch. #115, 1500 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH. Meeting at 12 Noon and lunch to follow.
April 22, 2017	DAV & DAVA Commanders' Testimonial Dinner, Wadsworth, Ohio. More information to follow.
April 29, 2017	<i>District 2 Meeting</i> , Champaign County Ch. #31, 220 E. Court St., Urbana, OH 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
April 30, 2017	<i>District 4 Meeting</i> , American Legion, 500 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, OH. Meeting at 1 p.m., Lunch at 2 p.m.
April 30, 2017	<i>District 7 Meeting</i> , Alliance Ch. #50, 9540 McCallum Ave., Alliance, OH with Lunch at 12 noon & Meeting at 1 p.m.
April 30, 2017	<i>District 8 Meeting</i> , Bellaire Ch. #117, 3134 Guernsey St., Bellaire, OH with Lunch at 12 noon & Meeting at 1 p.m.
June 22-25, 2017	96 <sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
July 29-Aug. 1, 2017	National Convention, New Orleans, LA.
September 30, 2017	<i>Chapter Financial Reports are due!</i>
November 3-5, 2017	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, OH.
Feb. 25-28, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
June 7-10, 2018	97 <sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.

## **DEPARTMENT OF OHIO MEMBERSHIP**

As of *January 30, 2017*, the Department Membership Report stands at 32,077 members. The Department is 98.43% of goal and 465 members below the yearly goal of 29,571. Total full life membership is 29,106.

## **NOTES FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT KENNETH MARCUM**

### **ASSUMPTIONS? YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY!**



According to the National Institute of Health, 7.7 million Americans deal with PTSD in a given year. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that between 300,000 and 500,000 service members have dealt with PTSD across twelve years of combat. Thus, conservatively, more than 95 percent of Americans with PTSD are civilians; (we don't own the market on this condition!) Moreover, less than 10-percent of those who have served in the military since 9/11 have dealt with PTSD at any time—and many of them have fully recovered. PTSD is a human condition that sometimes affects Veterans, not the other way around.

In general, the survey revealed that Americans perceive most Veterans as “broken” or “damaged.” This has become the cultural norm. The results of predispositions like this are detrimental to veterans as they reintegrate and are damaging to a society that fails to recognize

Veterans' potential.

Unfortunately, cultural perceptions can be tightly held and difficult to shift. Looking for solutions, the survey explored the role of the entertainment industry and revealed that film and television play a pivotal role shaping the public's perception of Veterans. Nearly half of the sample population reported that the entertainment industry has a strong influence on the way they perceive Veterans. And not surprisingly, when asked how Veterans are currently portrayed in film and television, respondents were more likely to say something negative than something positive.

The study showed that portraying veterans as “broken” on television leads the audience to believe that Veterans are broken in real life. However, depicting a Veteran as either a “hero” or in a neutral way elicits increased positive perceptions.

The big breakthrough was that the study showed that the rarely used neutral portrayal was actually more credible than the often-used hero portrayal. The neutral portrayal depicted veterans as everyday Americans who are assets to the

community—images that are more in line with the data on the Veteran community. For respondents, this resulted in more and stronger positive feelings than even the hero depiction.

The other encouraging finding is that cultural perceptions of veterans aren't necessarily deeply held. Initial impressions of the word Veteran led to very literal interpretations—such as “served in the military” and “defended our county.” This indicates that perceptions of veterans are not tied to strong beliefs and there are opportunities to shift current thinking.

Perhaps most importantly, respondents believe that a post-9/11 veteran is five times more likely to be a strong leader or a valuable community asset than an average comparable citizen. So, while the cultural perception of the damaged veteran prevails, Americans still see potential in those returning from military service.

The stereotypes and misconceptions that Americans hold for Veterans create a barrier for successful reintegration. Whether it occurs in a neighborhood, a workplace, a school, or a Hollywood writers' room, we must begin to reshape the way we think and talk about Veterans.

A national narrative that helps Americans become less likely to relate homelessness, unemployment, and PTSD to Veteran status will empower those leaving the military and reintegrating into their communities. In the long run, the country will benefit and be strengthened by the increased leadership, team building, and problem solving skills that Veterans will inevitably bring home with them.

### **VETERAN'S ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR A DEPENDENT PARENT**

**WHAT IS A DEPENDENT PARENT BENEFIT?** Veterans whose parent(s) are dependent upon him/her for financial support may be paid additional benefits. Dependency of a parent is based on need. Both the parental relationship and financial dependency of the parent must be established to qualify for this benefit.

**WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?** 1. Veteran is in receipt of compensation with a combined evaluation of at least 30%, or 2. Veteran is in receipt of VA educational benefits based on enrollment of ½ times or more.

**WHO ARE ELIGIBLE PARENTS?** The term “parent” means a biological father or mother, or adoptive father or mother, or a person (i.e. foster parent, stepparent, etc.) who for a period of not less than one year stood in the relationship of a parent to a veteran at any time before his or her entry into active service. The term “dependent parent” means that either:  
- the parent's income and net worth meet certain limits as defined by law or – a parent with substantial income or assets has correspondingly high expenses.

**WHY IS THE DEPENDENT PARENT BENEFIT BASED ON INCOME AND NET WORTH?** Since the benefit is based on need, VA cannot pay additional benefits for a dependent parent(s) whose countable income is greater than the limit set by law, or whose net worth is sufficient to meet basic needs without assistance from VA. To determine need, the parent(s) must report their income from all sources, such as gross wages, Social Security, retirement, pension, insurance, interest, and dividends for the last 12 months. The parent(s) must also report the current value of all assets, such as annuities, stocks, bonds, businesses, and bank accounts. They do not have to report personal property such as a home, car, furniture, or clothing. Contact us: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or 1-800-827-1000 Compensation Service – December 2012.

**CAN PARENTS INCOME BE REDUCED?** Yes. A portion of medical expenses may be used to reduce the amount of income VA considers when determining eligibility. The dependent parent(s) should report the amount of expenses paid that were not reimbursed by insurance. Expenses for rent (or housing), home repairs, maintenance, clothing, medical care, utilities, groceries, taxes, etc., should also be reported.

**HOW MUCH DOES VA PAY?** Please refer to VA Compensation Rate Tables at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/> for current rates.

**HOW CAN YOU APPLY?** Fill out VA Form 21-509, Statement of Dependency of Parents, and submit it to your local VA regional office. Call the toll-free number 1-800-827-1000 for information about supporting materials that VA may need to process your claim.

### **THE GOOD NEWS**

Despite the struggles of veterans in the US, there is still a lot of positive news for veterans whether it's the dedication Americans show each year through assistance or remembrance.

1. About 11.1 million veterans 18 years and over are covered by employer-sponsored health insurance. Four out of five veterans 65 and over had more than one type of health insurance coverage.

2. Over one million veterans and/or their family members have used the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill to attend college and pursue higher education. The Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 aids tuition and other expenses for those who served after the September 11, 2001 attacks.
3. In 2007, U.S. military veterans owned 2.4 million businesses, which accounted for 9 percent of all businesses nationwide, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. These businesses generated \$1.2 trillion, or about 4.1 percent of all business receipts nationwide and employed nearly 5.8 million people. In FY 2013, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) supported \$1.86 billion in loans for 3,094 veteran-owned small businesses. Since 2009, the dollar amount of SBA lending support to veteran-owned firms has nearly doubled.
4. Advancements in prosthetic and robotic limbs are making life after injury much easier for veterans who suffered the loss of a limb and other disabling injuries.
5. The rise in PTSD since the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts prompted advances in medical treatment for the disorder. Several therapy methods and medicinal advancements have helped those who suffer.
6. Americans continue to pay their respects to our veterans. The National World War II Memorial and Vietnam War Memorial both receive well over 4.4 million visitors every year.
7. In 2010 alone, more than \$291 billion was donated to Veterans charities according to the Giving USA Foundation.

*Kenneth Marcum*  
State Adjutant

### **LEGACY OF SERVICE, HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**



Nobody knows a veteran like another veteran. And for the local chapter of Disabled American Veterans, the service to those they served with is both a calling and a privilege. Representatives from Disabled American Veteran's - Wayne County Chapter 44, recently visited with a few of our Veterans. They had an opportunity to share stories and enjoy refreshments provided by our Life Enrichment Staff. Seeing the look in their eyes and hearing the joy in their voices when they shared stories about their time in the military was inspiring to our staff. Listening to them talk about their experience, while both laughing and sometimes crying is priceless. It's such an honor to be a part of their lives each day," says Tammy Cruise, the Director of Development at West View. Disabled American Veteran's (DAV) is a nonprofit charity that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families. The organization provides rides for veterans attending medical appointments and assists veterans with more than their benefit claims annually. DAV is also a leader in connecting veterans with meaningful employment, hosting job fairs and providing resources to ensure they have the opportunity to participate in the American Dream their

sacrifices have made possible. With almost 1,300 chapters and 1.3 million members across the country, DAV empowers our nation's heroes and their families by helping to provide the resources they need and ensuring our nation keeps the promises made to them. West View is grateful for the Wayne County Chapter 44 –DAV.



*West View Healthy Living*  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2016 "The West View" Newsletter

### **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE BENEFITS PROTECTION TEAM LEADER PROGRAM**

In the last issue of the Department Newsletter, we discussed the importance of the Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL) Program and how it transitioned from the Legislative Chair position. This issue we will address the initial development of a Strategic Plan for the implementation of the BPTL Program at the Department of Ohio level.

The National DAV Legislative Staff has developed a pathway for passing pertinent information concerning pending federal legislation – and that pathway is the Commander's Action Network (C.A.N.). Once a DAV member (or DAVA member) is electronically enrolled in the C.A.N., they will receive important information concerning pending federal legislation affecting veterans.

The Legislative Staff will provide a brief summary of the proposed veterans' issue, along with a tailored e-mail addressed to a specific Representative or Senator from Ohio. If the DAV member agrees with the drafted e-mail, all they have to do is click the "send" button and the e-mail is forwarded directly to their member of Congress.

The electronic enrollment process for the C.A.N. takes only 2 to 3 minutes and the action on the proposed draft e-mail takes less than a minute. The C.A.N. is an excellent method for the Chapter's BPTL to acquire vital legislative updates and to inform other Chapter members at monthly meetings.

E-mail was selected as the best method of transmitting a message to your Congressional Representatives, concerning pending federal legislation, because of its' speed.

However, before the Department of Ohio can fully participate in the BPTL Program, we must: (1) get everyone on board; (2) BPTLs trained; and (3) an effective "grassroots organization" established in every Chapter.

The Chapter's Legislative Chair position has been transitioned to the BPTL position on the 2016 Officer Report in 2016. However, according to the Department's 2016-2017 Official Directory, only 18 Chapters have identified a Chapter representative with an e-mail address for the BPTL position.

Thirty (30) Chapters have only identified a BPTL representative without an e-mail address and 28 Chapters have not identified an individual to represent their Chapter as the BPTL. An e-mail address is crucial in transmitting information concerning pending federal legislation.

It is important that an organized network of BPTL Chapter representatives be established in order to provide meaning training in the future and to ensure that they are enrolled in the C.A.N. This network also extends to our respective DAVA Chapter members.

Therefore, the first task for the Department is to ensure that all BPTL Chapter positions are filled with representatives, with valid e-mail addresses. Hopefully, with determined diligence, this key task will be accomplished by the DAV Mid-Winter Conference.

*John J. Plahovinsak*  
2nd Junior Vice Commander

### **WILLIE MARCUM CHAPTER #72**

Saturday, January 21, 2017 the Medina County Commissioners recognized DAV Willie Marcum Chapter 72 for their service to the county in 2016. DAV was the only VSO so recognized by them that night. Pictured from left to right; Commander Marvin Stevens, Adjutant Curtis Schwehm, Senior Vice Randy Schmidt and State Commander David Bilinovich. Not bad for a small Chapter with little in their treasury. Medina County Commissioner, Adam Friedrick, not pictured, presented the award to the Chapter after the recognition dinner.

*David Bilinovich*  
State Commander



### **VETS INVITED TO STAND, SALUTE**

*"Saluting the Flag"*

It's customary if you're in the military, to stop whatever you're doing and salute the American flag at any ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag, at revelry or when it is passing by in a parade or review. For those who have spent time in the military and then gotten out, or retired, that habit is one that is difficult to break.

In the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, (Public Law 110-181) Congress changed Section 9, Title 4, US Code, which covers "Conduct during hoisting and lowering of passing of the flag." Don't hesitate to share this information with veterans you know, so that they're aware of the change. The section of US Code that was changed, reads as follows:

'During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag, or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans, who are present but not in uniform, may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their

right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the same moment as the flag passes.'

I've often heard veterans express their desire to be authorized to salute the flag. Even though they're retired or no longer in the military, doesn't mean that their respect for our country and its symbol, the Stars and Stripes, is any less. This was a great move by Congress."

*From Army Echoes*



### **BIKER CLUB HONORS VETERANS**

The Second Brigade Motorcycle Club honored five veterans; four of which are members of DAV Trumbull County Chapter #11 for their years of service and community support for veterans at an event held at Aulisio's Banquet Center in Warren. Seated from left in front are, Robert Marino, Pat Robbins, Stanley Ainsworth, Robert Orr and Raymond Unger. On Veterans Day the Second Brigade made coffee and cooked breakfast for Veterans before the Parade.

### **EAST LIVERPOOL DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS JOHN W. COVERT CHAPTER 47** dedicated their new Memorial in Honor of "ALL DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS WOUNDED IN ALL WARS AND CONFLICTS"



Pictured: (L) DAV NEC 11th District Robert Bertschy, John W. Covert Chapter 47 Commander James Jenkins, and Treasurer Marlin Talbott.



### **FUNDRAISING TIPS**

We get a lot of questions about just who can the Chapters donate to and the running of fundraisers. The District Commanders have been given the task to go over the Articles and Regulations that govern activities at their Spring District Meetings.

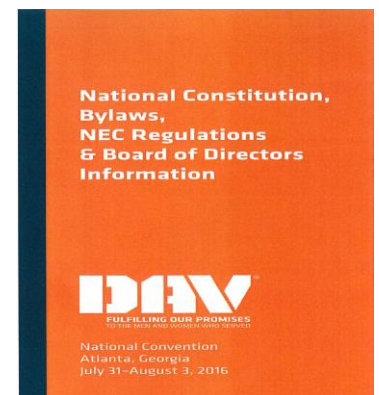
In order to have your own copy follow the below instructions:

Go to [www.DAV.org](http://www.DAV.org) and go to "Membership" and click on "Members Only" link. This will require you to login with your Membership Number. Once at this page, click "Quick Links" and then "Elected Officers Resources." The first option on this list will be "National Constitution and Bylaws."

Or you can use the following link:

<https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/2016ConstitutionBylaws.pdf>

The District Commanders have been asked to go over **Article 15- Sources of Income**, Sections 15.3 for Chapters, DAV Auxiliary and NOTR, Para. 1-13 (page 60-63) and **Regulation 5: Income from Fundraising**, a & b (pages 78-79). On the Department side, **Article V Finances** (page 117) of Department of Ohio Directory 2016-2017, which every chapter has been issued.



*Happy Valentine's Day*