



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio
Newsletter

February, 2018

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FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER JAMES BAILEY



Every progressive organization has developed a Mission Statement to guide its overall purpose and activities. The DAV is no exception. The DAV Mission Statement is: **We are dedicated to a single purpose of empowering disabled veterans to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity.**

One of the ways the DAV accomplishes the Mission Statement is by **“fighting for the interest of America’s injured heroes on Capitol Hill.”** The DAV has been actively “fighting for the interest” of veterans since 1920. We have an obligation, as members of the DAV, to protect the rights that veterans have earned through their military service. We take this responsibility very seriously.

In February of every year, DAV members across the United States journey to Washington, D.C. to participate in the annual three day DAV Commanders and Adjutants Mid-Winter Conference. The purpose of this Conference is to inform and educate our congressional legislators of the DAV’s Critical Legislative Policy Goals and to encourage support of pending legislation for disabled veterans.

These Legislative Policy Goals are formulated by the DAV National Legislative Director and Staff, (who are based in Washington, D.C.) from resolutions that are passed at the Annual DAV Convention in 2017. The DAV National Legislative Staff relies on the overall DAV membership to communicate these Policy Goals to our Congressional leaders.

In 2017, five DAV Legislative Policy Goals were ranked as high priority items for discussion with our federal legislators. They were as follows: (1) Support Sufficient Funding for Veterans Benefits and Health Care; (2) Strengthen and Sustain the VA Health Care System; (3) Reform the VA Appeals Process; (4) Ensure Support for Veteran Caregivers of All Eras; and (5) Improve Women Veterans Services.

Last year, the DAV Department of Ohio Team visited all sixteen Ohio Congressional District Offices and both Senatorial Offices on Capitol Hill. In addition, the DAV Ohio Team met with ten other Congressional District Offices that were not scheduled to be briefed by DAV representatives during the entire three day Mid-Winter Conference.

The DAV Ohio Team met with official staff representatives of the States of Washington (Reps. Larson and Smith); Texas (Rep. Ruiz); Nevada (Rep. Titus); New York (Reps. Rice and Stefanik); and California (Rep. Brownley), along with the Territories of Guam (Rep. Bordallo); American Samoa (Rep. Radewagen); and the Northern Marianas (Rep. Sablan). Disabled American Veterans are residing within these three territories, **but** this was the first time any Veterans Service Organization had ever briefed them on pending issues. The Department of Ohio is visits were their **first**.

When not visiting with Congressional Legislators, the DAV Ohio Team attended legislative seminars where the DAV passed resolutions and Policy Goals were discussed and updates of pending legislation was provided.

We are doing important work in going to Capitol Hill and explaining to our legislators (and their legislative policy staffers) how our DAV Legislative Policy Goals impacts veterans in their respective Districts. If we can secure a commitment of support from the legislators, we will have accomplished our mission!

Legislation that is passed by Congress into law impacts all veterans wherever they reside. We would be negligent in our duty if we did not “fight for the interests of America’s injured heroes on Capitol Hill.” Last year, we were successful in having legislation passed which

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

National Headquarters	(877) 426-2838
NSO Office, Cleveland	(216) 522-3507
Washington D.C. Office, DAV	(202) 554-3501
Cincinnati DSO, Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443
<i>Tuesday, Thursday</i>	
<i>Lisa Wilson</i>	(513) 475-6443
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	
Chillicothe DSO, Charles Knipp	(740) 773-1141
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	Ext. 7916
Dayton DSO, Nikki Cochran	(937) 268-6511
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	Ext. 2962
Wade Park DSO, Walter Dryja	(216) 791-3800
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	Ext. 3395
Columbus DSO, Henry Snodgrass	(614) 257-5487
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	
Parma DSO, Richard Healy	(216) 739-7000
<i>Monday-Thursday</i>	Ext. 2405
Toledo DSO, James Bell	(419) 259-2000
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	Ext. 56245
Veterans Crisis Hotline	1-800-273-8255 Press 1

2017-2018 STATE OFFICERS

State Commander:	James Bailey
Sr. Vice Commander:	John Plahovinsak
1 st Jr. Vice Commander:	John Parker
2 nd Jr. Vice Commander:	David Weeks
Executive Committee:	Timothy Dibble Robert Habern
PDC (2016-2017):	David Bilinovich

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO MEMBERSHIP

As of February 14, 2018, the Department Membership Report stands at 32,475 members. The Department is 98.24% of goal and 525 members below the yearly goal of 29,889. Total full life membership is 29,364.

reformed the entire VA Appeals Process. Let us continue the fight for **veteran caregivers of all eras and improving and enhancing Women Veterans Services**. Our disabled veterans and their families and Women Veterans depend on us!

Remember, WE SHOULD, WE CAN, and WE WILL!

James Bailey
State Commander

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 25-28, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
March 3, 2018	Forget-Me-Not, Dovel Myers Chapter #141, Golden Corral, Gallipolis, Ohio
April 7, 2018	9 th District Meeting, Ross County Chapter #18, 317 E. Main St., Chillicothe Lunch 12 noon, Meeting 1 p.m.
April 15, 2018	3 rd District Meeting, Allen County Chapter #19, 330 N. Elizabeth St., Lima at 2 p.m.
April 15, 2018	4 th District Meeting, The Buddy Chapter #43, 606 Fishlock Ave., Findlay, Meeting at 1 p.m. and Dinner at 2 p.m.
April 21, 2018	DAV Commander James Bailey and DAVA Commander Marlene Zwiebel Testimonial Dinner, VFW Hall, Wapakoneta, OH
April 21, 2018	Willie Marcum Chapter #72, Forget-Me-Not, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Buehler's, 175 Great Oaks Trail, Wadsworth, OH
April 28, 2018	8 th District Meeting, Pioneer City Chapter #52, lunch at 11 a.m. and meeting to begin at 12 noon, Marietta, OH
May 12, 2018	Forget-Me-Not, Allen County Chapter #19, WalMart, Lima, Ohio
June 8-10, 2018	97 th Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
July 14-17, 2018	2018 National Convention, Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada
November 2-4, 2018	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott Northwest, Dublin, OH.
February 24-27, 2019	2019 Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA.
August 3-6, 2019	2019 National Convention, Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, Florida

CHANGED DATES FOR STATE CONVENTION CORRECT DATES: JUNE 7 – 10, 2018

In January, DAV & DAVA members reported that our convention hotel would not reserve rooms for them for the dates of our State Convention. We checked and discovered that we were using different dates than the hotel. We provided a copy of our contract to the hotel, to show what we thought to be the correct Convention dates, but instead were corrected ourselves: the hotel produced a signed copy of a 2016 addendum to that contract, with the dates of the convention changed to those being used by the hotel. We had no copy of the addendum, and no idea that the convention dates had been changed.

The contract addendum changed the Convention dates to Thursday June 7th through Sunday June 10th, with the Joint Opening Ceremony scheduled Friday June 8th, at 8:30 a.m. Those are the correct convention dates

We apologize for providing different dates. The Columbus Marriott Northwest stands ready to reserve rooms for the Department of Ohio's upcoming 97th Annual Convention. The hotel can be reached by an internet search, or by phone at 614-791-1000, or through Marriott reservations, at 888-236-2427.

We look forward to seeing those of you who are able at the Department of Ohio Convention!

DAV SERVICES OFFERED AT TOLEDO VA CBOC
DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER JAMES BELL

The VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Toledo is in the VA's Ann Arbor, Michigan health care region. Previous attempts to secure Toledo office space through Ann Arbor for a DAV Service Officer were unsuccessful.

Recently, DAV NSO Supervisor Steven Strodbeck renewed our attempts to open in Toledo. Steve asked Director Susan Fuehrer of the Louis Stokes VA Hospital, Cleveland, for assistance. Based on Director Fuehrer's description of the good we do, we were received with appreciation and offered very suitable office space.

After in-person, on-site training by Assistant NSO Supervisor Jacob Drost, that space is now being used by the Department's newest addition, Department Service Officer James Bell.

For those of you who receive care at the Toledo VA CBOC, please stop by and welcome DSO Jim Bell to our fold!

DAV VOLUNTEERS
PISTON & POWER SHOW
CLEVELAND IX CENTER, MARCH 16TH – 18TH

Chapter volunteers, led by Department Executive Committee Member / National Service Officer Tim Dibble and by Department Junior Vice Commander / Retired National Service Officer John Parker, will advise veterans and members of the public of the mission and activities of the Disabled American Veterans, at the upcoming IX Center's annual Piston & Power Show.

The show will run daily, from March 16th – 18th. The IX Center is located at 6200 Riverside Drive, Cleveland. That location is off State Route 237, south of Cleveland-Hopkins Airport.

Due to restrictions, service connected disability claims cannot be discussed there, but appointments will be scheduled for such discussions.

If you attend the show, look for Tim and his crew!

HOSPITAL VAN ON ORDER
NOBLE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

The DAV Transportation Network has no equal! When speaking of the DAV, we can remind others that they already know us, from our vans that they see on the road.

The Network's foundation is our volunteer drivers, who drive DAV vans to and from VA hospitals and clinics.

In Ohio, the Network is supplemented by Veterans Service Commissions ("VSCs"). By law, each county has a VSC, which is required to provide veterans regularly scheduled transportation to VA hospitals.

The DAV assists in this county effort as well, by allowing VSC's to purchase vans through the DAV's Columbia Trust, at an incredible savings. VSC's without sufficient funds may petition for DAV financial assistance for van purchases, while those with sufficient funds may purchase vans for the "full" reduced price at which our partner, Ford Motors, generously offers them to the DAV.

The Noble County VSC, through the efforts of Chapter #87, applied for, has been granted, and has paid the "full" reduced price of a new DAV van, set for delivery this Summer. Look forward to seeing another DAV van on the highways!

DAV & OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

DAV NATIONAL SUPPORT OF VA SECRETARY DAVID SHULKIN

Since 2015, Dr. David Shulkin has served the VA, first as its Undersecretary for Health, and since January 2017 as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. His credentials are impeccable. During the last year, he has been responsive to and proactive for the improvement of VA health care.

Recently, certain travel expenses of Secretary Shulkin were found to have been improperly charged to the VA. While he may have relied on others to prepare or in preparing his expense reports, Secretary Shulkin admits to having made a mistake, has personally apologized for it, has ordered an audit, and plans to repay any improper expenses disclosed by the audit. In addition, he has directed the VA to review and enhance training regarding use of public funds and receipt of gifts.

DAV National, along with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Vietnam Veterans of America and other veterans service organizations, ask their members and the public to review the situation and to accept his apology, allowing Secretary Shulkin to move on to the important work of maintaining and improving the VA's health care system.

DAV National Executive Director Garry Augustine asks that we contact our congressional representatives and express support for VA Secretary David Shulkin.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION VISIT PLANNED BY PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOE JOHNSTON

National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster's designated representative at the upcoming Department of Ohio Convention will be none other than one of our own. Past National Commander Joseph Johnston is returning to visit his DAV comrades and friends.

Attend or visit during the convention, to welcome "Ranger Joe" back home for a visit!

CAN VETERANS FIX OUR PARALYZED CONGRESS? They understand how to put country over self

The words written above are the title and byline of an article written by former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral (retired) Mike Mullen and Marine veteran / novelist Elliott Ackerman, published in the February 7th issue of USA Today.

While the DAV is forbidden from partisan politics, the article is non-partisan. It describes veterans of both major political parties running for office on platforms with a unifying theme: a pledge to join with one another annually on at least one piece of major legislative, and a second pledge to meet with a member of the opposing party at least once a month, for one-on-one discussions of issues. The goal of the pledges is to "create a cross-party congressional caucus capable of surmounting what has become a debilitating partisan divide in our nation."

In the 1960's and '70's, about 73% of our congressional representatives were veterans. Today, the percentage is 20%. The writers contend that veterans know how to work with one another, and understand the real cost of allowing national interests to be subordinate to our differences.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?"

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.