



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

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

October, 2017

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### **FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER JAMES BAILEY**



There is so many important events occurring in October and November, that it is best that I address some of these activities at this time before they pass.

**District Meetings:** These meetings are important because we can pass on significant information to Chapters, which then can be forwarded to our DAV members. Normally these meetings are conducted in October and a representative of the Executive Committee attends to pass on the State Commander's Message to the attending Chapter representatives. Although I would like to attend all ten (10) District Meetings, it is impossible for me to do so. Therefore either I, or my representative, will attend to discuss key items, such as membership, new federal and state veteran-related legislation, Chapter Evaluations, the DAV 5K and our pending Fall Conference. I am going to recommend that our next round of District

Meetings be spread out over two (2) months to avoid two or more Districts meeting on the same day.

**Fall Department Conference:** We will address the relative importance and structure of the Fall Department Conference during our pending District Meetings, therefore I will not discuss this event (in detail) at this time. However, this Conference (in Columbus) is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and we certainly will make it meaningful for all DAV and DAVA attendees. You are encouraged and urged to have one or more of your Chapter's members to attend the Fall Department Conference.

**DAV 5K 2017:** The National DAV will be sponsoring their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, November 11, 2017, in downtown Cincinnati. Many of our DAV members have attended this event in the past, including our Department's Color Guard. The registration cost for a veteran is only \$15 and this includes a long-sleeve shirt with your branch of military service on the back. As State Commander, I will be participating in the walk which is only 3.2 miles long. For additional information on this event, you should contact, on your computer: **"DAV 5K 2017 Cincinnati At Sawyer Point."**

**Golden Corral Effort:** Every year, all twenty-four (24) Golden Corral Restaurants, within the Department of Ohio, provide a free dinner to veterans in recognition of Veterans' Day and allows the DAV to accept donations. This year the free dinner will be on Monday, November 13, 2017. Although all 24 restaurants are covered by our Chapters for the Veterans' Day dinner, the restaurant manager allow **and encourage** DAV members to solicit donations at least a week ahead of the free veterans' dinner. Last year, all the donations collected from the Golden Corral effort went to the purchasing of a van for the Fisher House in Cleveland. The Golden Corral Corporation is a proud supporter of the DAV and we should definitely take advantage of the wonder opportunity!

I will address my perception of the meaning and significance of Veteran's Day in my November Message to you.

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

*James Bailey*  
State Commander



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

## 2017-2018 STATE OFFICERS

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

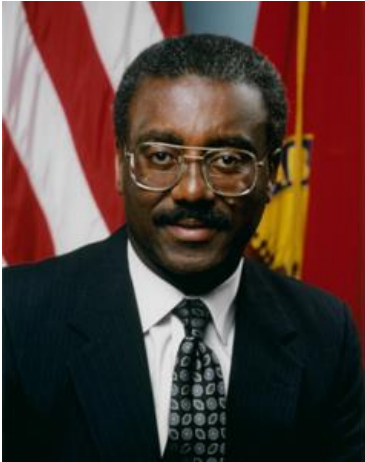
## DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1, 2017	<i>6th District Meeting</i> , Trumbull County Ch. #11, 2044 Youngstown Rd, SE, Warren, Meeting at 1 p.m. and lunch at 2 p.m.
October 6, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Trumbull County Ch. #11, Brookfield Sparkle, Warren, Ohio.
October 6-7, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Darke County Ch. #57, Eikenberries South Grocery Store, Ace Hardware, Marsh's Union City, John's IGA Versailles & Marathon Greenville, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
October 7, 2017	<i>5th District Meeting</i> , Huron County Ch. #62, 1544 US Hwy 20, Norwalk, OH at 1 p.m.
October 8, 2017	<i>3<sup>d</sup> District Meeting</i> , Am. Legion, 1245 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Sidney, OH at 2 p.m.
October 8, 2017	<i>4th District Meeting</i> , Defiance Ch. #36, 201 Clinton St., Defiance, OH, Meeting at 1 p.m. and dinner at 2 p.m.
October 8, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Dovel Myers Ch. #141, Golden Corral, Gallipolis, OH
October 13, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Trumbull Co. Ch. #11, Brookfield Sparkle, Warren, OH
October 14, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Putnam County Ch. #77, Walmart, Ottawa, OH
October 14, 2017	<i>9th District Meeting</i> , Dovel Myers Ch. #141, 108 Liberty St., Gallipolis, OH, Lunch at 12 p.m. and Meeting at 1 p.m.
October 18, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Cincinnati Ch. #1, Texas Roadhouse, 7860 Montgomery Rd., Cincinnati, OH
October 20, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Trumbull Co. Ch. #11, Cortland Sparkle, Warren, OH
October 21, 2017	<i>8th District Meeting</i> , Pioneer City Ch. #52, 835 DAV Rd., Whipple, OH with lunch at 11 a.m. and meeting at 12 noon.
October 28, 2017	<i>2nd District Meeting</i> , Am. Legion, 5700 Kentshire, Ketterington, OH with lunch at 12 noon & meeting at 1 p.m.
October 28, 2017	<i>10th District Meeting</i> , 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Capital City Chapter #3, Franklin County VSO, 280 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH
November 3-4, 2017	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, OH.
November 10-12, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Dayton Ch. #9, Wright Patterson Air Force Base.
November 11, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Wayne County Ch. #44, Buehler's Food Market, Orrville, OH 9 a.m.-4p.m.
November 11, 2017	DAV 5k – Run/Walk to Honor Veterans, Cincinnati, OH
November 13, 2017	Golden Corral, Military Appreciation Monday.
February 25-28, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
June 22-24, 2018	97 <sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
November 2-4, 2018	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott Northwest, Dublin, OH.

## DEPARTMENT OF OHIO MEMBERSHIP

As of *September 5, 2017*, the Department Membership Report stands at 32,081 members. The Department is 97.18% of goal and 842 members below the yearly goal of 29,889. Total full life membership is 29,047.

## **JESSE BROWN SCHOLARSHIP**



Service is the cornerstone of DAV's mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality and fulfilled lives. But we would not be able to serve our nation's heroes without thousands of dedicated youth volunteers across the country.

From volunteering at a local Department of Veterans Affairs medical center to assisting veterans within their local communities—and everything in between—DAV youth volunteers across the country are committed to serving our ill and injured heroes.

Jesse Brown

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program honors young volunteers who are dedicated to serving veterans. Each year, one outstanding applicant receives the top scholarship in the amount of \$20,000 to help fund their higher education. In addition, the top winner and parent receives an expense paid trip to DAV National Convention to receive the award and be recognized for their dedication and commitment to veterans. Additional scholarships are awarded in the amounts of \$15,000, \$10,000, \$7,500 & \$5,000.

2017's top honor went to Jonathan Lee of Brookfield., who has spent a total of 730 hours spanning a five-year period volunteering at the Milwaukee Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

"Jonathan is a remarkable young man and very deserving of this scholarship," said DAV National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst.

The scholarship is open to volunteers age 21 or younger who have contributed a minimum of 100 hours credited through DAV or DAV Auxiliary. Nominations for this award may be submitted by the Voluntary Service Program Manager at a VA medical center, DAV Department Commander, or students may self-nominate themselves with inclusion of an essay on what volunteering for veterans means for them.

Named after former National Service Officer and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown, this award honors the memory of a DAV leader dedicated to serving veterans through recognition of those who carry on his legacy of service.

### **Eligibility**

-Scholarships can be awarded to any volunteer who is age 21 or younger and has volunteered for a minimum of 100 hours at a VA medical center. Volunteer hours can accumulate over time and 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.

-Scholarships can be used at any accredited institution of higher learning; to include universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational schools, etc.

-Scholarships must be utilized in full prior to the recipient attaining the age of 25, or within 6 years of receiving the scholarship, whichever is later.

-Nominations for this award may be submitted by the Voluntary Service Program Manager at the VA medical center, DAV Department Commander, or the student may complete a self-nomination.

-All nomination packets should include a nomination form, essay, and any supporting documentation which you would like to have considered by the Selection Committee.

## **MEMORANDUM FROM NATIONAL ADJUTANT MARC BURGESS**

As most of you know by now, the Imperial Board of the National Order of Trench Rats (NOTR) met earlier this month and decided to separate from DAV at all levels (national, sector and dugout). Unlike DAV departments and chapters which have charters issued by the National Organization and are included under our Group Exemption with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), NOTR has always been a separate organization and merely mentioned as an auxiliary within DAV's Constitution.

We've had many questions from members at the department and chapter level in terms of how the decision of the NOTR will affect DAV activities moving forward.

- Q: *Are members of the NOTR still members in good standing of the DAV?*  
A: Yes. Although membership in NOTR has been limited to DAV members in the past, NOTR is amending their membership requirements to remove the specification that their members also be members of DAV. Although an individual may be a member of DAV and NOTR, it is much like their affiliation with any other veterans' organization.
- Q: *Can NOTR still participate in DAV related functions such as department conventions or chapter meetings.*  
A: No. NOTR may not take part in any DAV related activity. NOTR is to be considered their own independent organization and may not rely on any support or affiliation with DAV.
- Q: *Are DAV entities permitted to participate in NOTR events?*  
A: No. Every effort should be made to completely disassociate the activities of DAV and NOTR.
- Q: *What should we do if NOTR is referenced in our Constitution and Bylaws (C&B)?*  
A: DAV Departments that recognize NOTR in their C&B should take immediate steps to amend its bylaws removing any reference to NOTR. This can be done by way of proposals submitted by the Department's Interim C&B Committee so the corrections may be made during the Department's next annual convention. Chapters with references to the NOTR in their C&B should take action to amend the document at any monthly chapter meeting. Proposed changes to Chapter C&Bs should be read at two separate meetings before being voted upon by the Chapter.
- Q: *What should we do if DAV and NOTR own property or other assets jointly?*  
A: It is a violation of the National Bylaws if any DAV entity owns property or assets jointly with any other organization. It is required that any and all assets of any DAV entity be held or titled solely in the name of such DAV entity. Should this not be the case, and any property or assets of DAV were held jointly with any NOTR entity (or any other organization for that matter), corrective action must be taken to remove any other entity from legal documents related to ownership.

We hope this document is useful to you. Should you have specific questions or concerns which have not been addressed above, please do not hesitate to contact Inspector General Edward Hartman at our National Headquarters.

## **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES ANNOUNCES NEW OHIO VETERANS HOMES SUPERINTENDENT**

Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Chip Tansill recently announced Tyron A. Pannell III as Superintendent of the Ohio Veterans Homes. Pannell replaces Interim Superintendent Andrea Klausing who will return to her previous role as Domiciliary Administrator at the Sandusky location.

"Tyron brings years of experience in the healthcare industry and a deep understanding of the veteran community as he joins our team of administrators at the Ohio Veterans Home. I am confident that he will provide expert leadership and attentive management of our facilities in both Sandusky and Georgetown," said Tansill.

Pannell, a decorated United States Marine Corps veteran, is currently the Wound Care Program Director for Fisher Titus Hospital of Norwalk, Ohio. Pannell received his bachelor's degree in Sociology and Law Technology from the University of Akron, graduate certificate in Health Care Administration and Management from Western Governor's University, and certification in Business Law from the Marine Corps University.

Pannell lives in Wellington, Ohio with his wife and children. He will begin duties as Superintendent on October 2.

## **FIRST RECIPIENT OF ACT OF RECOGNITION AWARD SELECTED**

*John Plahovinsak, Sr. Vice Commander*

Starting in September of 2017, State Commander James Bailey had enacted an "Act of Recognition" (AoR) Award, which will be issued on a monthly basis. The purpose of the award will be to recognize DAV members for **single** Acts of Service and Distinction for our disabled veterans.

The first issuance of this Award will be to Andrew Matheny, who is employed full-time as a nurse, resides in Marietta. A full-life member of the DAV, he also serves as the Department's District 8 Commander. His award will be presented at the Department's Fall Conference in November.

Andrew Matheny was selected for his rendering of distinguished service to Herman Zerger, a 94 year-old former POW and WWII veteran. In April of 2017, Mr. Zerger, a non-DAV member, had a medical appointment at the Chillicothe VA Medical

Hospital. He resided in Woodsfield (in Monroe County) but had no transportation to the VA Medical Hospital, since the County Veterans Service Commission had no vehicle to transport veterans.

Mr. Matheny took decision action, stepped in, took a vacation day and, at his own expense, drove to Woodfield, transported Mr. Zerger to the Chillicothe VA Medical Hospital for his appointment. This was a trip of 150 miles one way. After his appointment was completed, Mr. Matheny then drove Mr. Zerger back to his residence in Woodsfield, after buying him a dinner on the return trip.

In June of 2017, Mr. Matheny again took another vacation day to perform the same transporting service for Mr. Zerger, for his follow-up medical appointment in Chillicothe. "I was happy to perform this service for Mr. Zerger and enjoyed our conversations during the trips," stated Matheny.

"Our DAV volunteers perform hundreds of these acts of service to our veterans on a daily basis," said State Commander Bailey, "and it is the purpose of this Act of Recognition State Award to recognize our DAV members' efforts. Comrade Matheny went above and beyond and he should be commended for his rendering of service to Mr. Zerger."

To submit a nomination of a worthwhile individual, any DAV member may mail a postcard or letter to **Executive Committeeman Robert Habern, 12181 Bend Road, Defiance, Ohio 43512-9049**, with only two or three sentences identifying the (1) DAV member, and (2) what single act the DAV member performed to warrant an Act of Recognition (AoR) Award; and (3) a valid telephone number of the nominator. In the future, Executive Committeeman Habern may contact the application for additional information concerning the single act.

### **THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL "PADDLING FOR A CAUSE" BENEFITS DAV CHAPTER #63**

The 3rd Annual Paddling for a Cause was a 10 to 21 mile kayak event down the Ohio River that was held on Saturday, September 16, 2017. The organizers of the event selected DAV Chapter #63 (Clermont County) to be a recipient for all the net proceeds collected during the event.

Seventeen (17) kayakers, including two (2) kayakers made entirely from compressed cardboard, completed the journey. There were many designed stops along the Ohio River for the kayakers to rest before they proceeded down the Ohio River.

Ms. Angie Williams, program organizer, said that DAV Chapter #63 (Clermont County) was selected as the recipient for the net proceeds because of all the positive work it has accomplished for disabled veterans in Clermont County. The Chapter's Annual Report for 2016, listing the Chapter's accomplishments, was posted on the Paddling for a Cause webpage and Facebook.

The Paddling for a Cause organization created t-shirts with DAV Chapter #63 on the back with a listing of the sponsors of the event. Chapter #63 Adjutant Doug Fike entered his own kayak in the event (representing the Chapter) and completed the journey down the Ohio River.



Angie Williams, Chairperson of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Paddling for a Cause event. Three (3) of the Participants were wearing white Disabled American Veterans Chapter #63 (Clermont County) t-shirts, Before putting on their life jackets. In addition To the safety information, Ms. Williams briefed the Participants on the six (6) stop points along their Journey.



DAV Chapter #63 Adjutant Douglas Fike, along with participants, launches his kayak into the Ohio River during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Paddling for a Cause event. All the collected donations for this event went to DAV Chapter #63 to continue its' mission of serving our disabled veterans in Clermont County.

## OHIO 2017 FALL CONFERENCE

The 2017 Fall Conference will be held Saturday, November 4, 2017 and Sunday, November 5, 2017 at The Columbus Marriott Northwest, 5605 Blazer Parkway Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43017. Room rates are \$113.00 per night plus tax. Please contact The Columbus Marriott Northwest at 614-791-1000 to reserve a room. The room cut-off date is October 9, 2017. If you need additional information about hotel reservations or registration for the 2017 Annual Fall Conference, please contact Department Headquarters at 614-221-3582.

Our Fall Conference, although somewhat shortened compared to previous years, will be very important to all Ohio DAV Chapters. We will have Committee Meetings, Seminars and Training Sessions covering all aspects of the duties and functions of elected and appointed positions. We value your thoughts and suggestions as well as your input in many of these meetings and seminars. Help us do our best to meet and exceed our goals and fulfill our Mission to help make better lives for Ohio's Disabled Veterans and their families.

