. CALIFORNIA DAVA NEWS

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COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Commander Joe Plescia

I have to say attending the National Mid-Winter Conference in Washington D.C. from Feb. 27th to March 2nd has been by far the most informative meetings that I have been to during my year as Commander. Some of the workshops were presented by former State and National Commanders who are now employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs so they were abreast of the needs of our disabled vets. The presentations were in PowerPoint and projected on a huge screen so they were interesting and easy to follow. The topics included Claims and Benefit Services, Budget Reforms, Caregiver Services, Health Care, Hospital Construction and Veteran Employment issues to name a few.

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Mid-Winter Conference

Adjutant Susan Linder

What a great Mid-Winter conference. I am sorry some of you missed it. As most of you have heard National passed the new eligibility rules for the Auxiliary. And I am happy to say we are signing up lots of new members. Keep up the good work and let's grow. During the finance meeting we worked together and put stickers on the flags that went off to Washington DC. We stuffed envelopes and put address labels on them trying to get members of four units that are on hold to come back and get involved. We have members but they no longer come to meetings. Does anyone have any ideas on that level? How do the active units in California get members to come to meetings? The members also worked on center pieces for the Forget-Me-Not Luncheon in June. It was wonderful to see everyone working and talking together.

The SEC's also discussed and passed new wording for the scholarship. It needed much clarification and hopefully this will end the discussion and confusion on the subject. The new applications were sent out and we hope that we get a great response. Remember they are due on May 1, 2011.

We had a luncheon for our NEC, Josephine Benner, PSC. It was at the hotel and went very well. Please try to come to the June Convention as you will be missed if you are not there.



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Secretary Shinseki stated that the Department's immediate goals include reducing veteran homelessness by making refurbished housing available, taking care of the claims backlog by switching from paper files to electronic so that 86% accuracy becomes 98%, having the Suicide Line changed to a Crisis Line to help PTSD patients as well, and have a cemetery program within 75 miles from home.

A couple of other very interesting presenters were from a Military Appreciation Program from the Golden Corral Restaurants who served 375,458 free meals to veterans in November and who are now sending children of the DAV to summer camp. The last workshop I went to was the showing of a new DVD from our communications division entitled "Who We Are and What We Do". A copy will be sent to all Chapters and Units. It was a fantastic overview of all our programs and is suitable for presenting at schools, companies, civic organizations, or service clubs in your community.

The Conference culminated with all attendees convening in the U.S. Capitol Building where DAV National Commander Wally Tyson addressed the Congressional Committee on Veterans Affairs. Everyone received a flag upon entering from the California DAV/DAVA that we put together at Mid-Winter. Thank you all for making this so very special. It was great to be a part of the California delegation and to listen to the dialogue that went on between the committee members and our DAV National representatives. We can look forward to a bright future if these congressmen keep their promises to make veterans issues a priority.

DAV Auxiliary Orders – New Procedure

Effective November 10, 2010, all DAV Auxiliary fraternal sales items will be ordered and processed through DAV. Auxiliary items can be found and ordered online by visiting www.davstore.org Of course, DAV Auxiliary orders must be sent directly to DAV. This change is a positive advancement and we appreciate the efforts put forth by all DAV personnel involved for their diligent project development efforts. This system will streamline the order process from inventory to delivery.

- Membership applications, transfer forms, and certificates of appreciation will still be requested from DAV Auxiliary. All other items will be handled by DAV.
- Checks for DAV Auxiliary orders are to be made payable to: DAV National Service Foundation and mailed to: 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cod Spring, KY 41076 Call 877-426-2838, ext 3252
- Order payments should not be combined with membership, Mandates or donations. This will only delay order and /membership/ mandate/ donation processing.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

This is a reminder for those who are applying for scholarships the deadline to turn them in is May 1, 2011. Let your children and grandchildren know about this and get the paper work moving.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CALIFORNIA CONVENTION
June 1-4. 2011
Radisson Hotel
500 Leisure Lane
Sacramento, CA 95815
Tele: 916-922-2020

NATIONAL CONVENTION
August 6 - 9, 2011
Hilton New Orleans Riverfront
2 Poydras St
New Orleans, LA 70140
Telephone: 504.561.0500
$124 Single/Double

FALL CONFERENCE
September 29 - October 1, 2011
Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza
35 West Fifth Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Telephone: 513.421.9100
Reservations: 1.800.HILTONS

NATIONAL CONVENTION
August 9 - 12, 2012
Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino
3645 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89109
Telephone: 1.800.634.3434
$112 Single/Double

FALL CONFERENCE
September 27 - 29, 2012
Lexington Downtown Hilton
369 W. Vine Street
Lexington, KY 40507
Telephone: 859.231.9000
$109 Single/Double

Fund Raising Chairman

Julie Weissman- Steinbaugh has announced at Mid-Winter that we raised $1000.00 on the Basketball baskets that we raffled off. Thank you everyone for buying tickets.

We will have the Convention State raffle tickets for sale in June.

Tickets are $1.00 each or six (6) for $5.00 dollars. Help us raise another $1000.00.

TEE-SHIRTS

We also have new tee shirts and based on popular demand they are masculine black and range in sizes small to 4XL. They are a bargain at $17.00. We are encouraging everyone to get one and wear it to fun night at the Casino.

AMERICANISM:

Chairman Jr. Vice Joel Adema

The Americanism program for 2011 will be an essay contest. This contest will be open to 6th graders in the state of California. The essay must be at least 300 words. The topic is," What is Americanism?"

All essays must be postmarked by May 1, 2011. They may be sent to the State Department Headquarters 13733 Rosecrans Ave., Santa Fe Springs CA 90670, or directly to Joel Adema, Jr. Vice Commander, 1529 Muir, Chico, CA 95973, 530-895-8389.

The essays will be judged and the winners announced at the State Convention, June 1-4 2011. The first



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Scripture Passage

12: Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror: then we shall see face to face. Now I

California State DAVA Convention June 1-4, 2011

I hope everyone is excited and ready to have a great time at convention. We will have our regular meetings and lots of fun. We will have the Joint session on Thursday then the Joint Memorial service. That night we will have the Sr. & Jr. Vice Reception followed by a Karaoke night. On Friday we will have our opening session in the morning then the Forget-Me-Not Luncheon. (Do not forget to buy your ticket). This will be followed by our 1st Business session. Friday night we will have our

"Fun Night", at the casino with transportation provided and a good price on the Buffet.

Saturday we have the 2nd Business session with elections in the morning so we will be able to attend the DAV elections of Officers in the afternoon. This is followed by the Commanders Reception and State Raffle.

Hope to see you there.

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