CALIFORNIA DAVA NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 4 OCTOBER 2011

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Commander Joel Adema

Let me start with a Thank You to all of the units and members that have supported me. It was an action packed state convention that put me in the position of Auxiliary Commander. I am proud to be in that position. I am looking forward to the year ahead. Past State Commander Joe Plescia, the first male commander of the DAVA, and his line officers did an excellent job. We must not forget the role of the Auxiliary. We are here to help Veterans in any way possible. Julie our new Sr Vice, has an idea to change the Auxiliary's delivery of their message, that is to have information fairs. Both of these ideas are aimed at helping support the families of vets. These are great ideas. I am open to all

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Membership Chairman

I am so proud to have been elected our State's Auxiliary's Sr Vice Commander. I never thought I'd ever be a part of the DAVA Department of California. My husband Michael became an active member on the Chapter side. DAV was *his* thing. An Auxiliary was something my mother joined when we were kids; she had time on her hands. I certainly did not. What's more, the whole idea of the Auxiliary seemed like the place men sent their wives while they did "real" business, and that made me mad!

I'm not even sure why I went to my first meeting. I do remember that I was welcomed. This has not always been true in my life. You may or may not know that I have cerebral palsy and use a wheelchair. Much of my life I have struggled to find a community where I am accepted. The DAV Auxiliary is a special group. You listened patiently as I spoke. You invited me to join in on all of your activities without hesitation. You had the confidence in my abilities to appoint me to various positions. Most importantly, you became my friends.

I know that this newsletter is the only contact many of you have with DAVA. I share my personal experience in hopes

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MEMBERSHIP

Commanders message continued from page 1

ideas that will make our organization more visible. I am prepared to help where ever and whenever I can.

We must not forget membership is the life blood of the organization. This last year there was an exciting change made nationally in membership eligibility. We can now compete with other groups for new members. Now is the time.

The other programs we need to promote are The Freedom Foundation, Scholarships, Americanism and Support our Troops. We must focus on them. These programs need financial support from our units. We need to make sure the participants in these programs are members.

I am looking forward to the National Convention in New Orleans, LA. I plan on gathering as much information as possible. I want to learn how we can make DAVA Department of California stronger better. We need to always Be Prepared and help a Vet.

Thanks for your support.

Joel Adema

Directory correction:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STATE MID-WINTER

January 20th and 21st 2012
Crowne Plaza San Diego*
2270 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, Ca 92108
(619) 297-1101
*Reservation cut off is December 28th 2011

NATIONAL MID-WINTER
February 26 - 29, 2012
Crystal Gateway Marriott
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703.920.3230
$190.00 Single/Double Occupancy

NATIONAL CONVENTION
August 4 - 7, 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

CALIFORNIA STATE CONVENTION

June 6-9 2012
Crowne Plaza San Diego
2270 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 297-1101

Membership
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that some of you reach out to us, so we may include you in our community.

The DAV Auxiliary is our nation's best kept secret. Not enough people know about our organization. Worse yet many of those who do, share my original impressions and stay away. I don't believe we can talk too much about the importance of membership and belonging to this organization. We, the family members of disabled veterans, are a force that cares for veterans, supports the caregivers, and provides scholarships to eligible members. We can serve more people and in turn, bring in more members and volunteers. *By Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh*

Note from Scholarship Chairman:

It will soon be time for the application process to begin. By late January the applications will be available. Hopefully they will be accessible on-line thru a link on the DAV website. This will certainly decrease the postage costs of mailing the application to the chapters and units. As well as speed the time to get the applications to the applicants. Please remember the application deadline is May 1, 2012. Any contribution to support the scholarship program is greatly appreciated.

Debby Adema – State Scholarship Chairman

AMERICANISM:

Chairman Jr. Vice DeDe Cole:

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Hello there! Dede K. Cole here newly elected California DAVA State Jr. Vice Commander, and the newly elected Birmingham Hospital Chapter DAVA Unit #73 Commander. Thank You! Thank you! I have been preparing, for what feels like all my life… years to be blessed with an opportunity to serve. The men and women serving today in our military armed forces, live in my mind, heart and prayers 24/7.
I light a candle *every night* to thank all the service men and women who came before, came to serve this great country America paying the ultimate price to insure freedom for all within our borders.
I light a candle *every night* to thank all the injured service men and women, more than 37,000 in service today were injured in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, I thank them for carrying out this perpetual mission;



To insure that no man or woman serving today or in the past served the United States of America in vain.
I am ready for a great year. The California State DAVA 2011 conference and convention held in Sacramento, CA, here this past January and June respectively were a huge success. Thank you to the Adema family on so many levels for their efforts. I look forward to serving with each and every one of the officers and committee people, Joel, Julie, Joe, Dori, Mary Lou, Sue, Donna and Colleen. I will keep you all posted on the Americanism Program as we get dates set and so on.
God Bless our Troops, God Bless America, and God Bless You.

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THE VIRTUAL WALL
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
www.VirtualWall.org

Follow this link and sort by name, State,

There is a job to do!

This is a story of four people named, EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY, AND NOBODY. There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was asked to do it. ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did it. SOMEBODY got angry about that, because it was EVERYBODY'S job. EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it. But NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it. Consequently, it wound up that NOBODY told ANYBODY so everybody blamed SOMEBODY.



On Independence Day
we celebrate
the freedoms earned
by those who