CALIFORNIA DAVA NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 5 FEBRUARY 2012

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Commander Joel Adema

To all members, unit officers, line officers and staff, happy New Year and a big Thank You for what you are doing to help a veteran and their families.

Since October, I have been busy visiting some units and getting the word out. I made it to some unit Christmas parties, this lead up to the start of a good year. I attended a workshop hosted by Unit 7 in Oakland. The NSO from the Oakland VA office, Stephen K. Garrett explained information on death benefits for survivors of deceased veterans. This was all organized by senior vice Commander, Julie Steinbaugh. It was a good program, Thank You.

The "Same Team, Same Dream" theme by National DAVA Commander Patty Rapisand is working here in California. Our DAVA team is working on the dream of helping Disabled Veterans and their families. The Midwinter Conference in San Diego was a great success. The conference

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Sr. Vice – Membership - VAVS

By Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

I hold a state office and two chairmanships: Senior Vice Commander, Membership Chairman, and VAVS Chairman. During our Mid-Winter SEC meeting, I realized that these three positions actually complement each other. As Senior Vice Commander, I am responsible for assisting our State Commander to ensure that the business of our organization gets carried out in an effective manner which serves the best interests of our Auxiliary membership. As Membership Chair, my focus is to help increase our numbers and provide support to Disabled Veterans and their families. The Veterans Administration relies on VAVS volunteers to care for sick and disabled veterans who are in VA hospitals and clinics.

No one wants to join an organization that doesn't do anything. At our meeting in San Diego we spent a lot of time talking about the fact that our state membership is growing while units are folding. The common reason given is a lack of involvement by members. Two years ago our national bylaws were amended to only require four meetings a year to keep a unit's charter. Instead of holding monthly meetings where the same script is read, units might think about hosting four to six activities a year. For instance, in the fall, invite your membership to come make holiday cards for either active duty personnel or disabled or injured veterans in VA hospitals. Many chapters host annual picnics or holiday parties. Auxiliary units can work together with their chapters to invite Blue Star Moms to these events. These are only a few ideas of ways to increase participation. And do not forget Memorial Day or Veterans Day.

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was well organized by our Adjutant, Susan Linder. The attendance was fair. We are experiencing these at all levels of the organization. The members that attended had a great time and we accomplished a lot. The department is doing well. We need to raise some money for the Freedom Foundation Program. It looks like the program will be an every other year event. We received a $500.00 check from Boy Scout Troop 2, Chico, CA. There have been at least ten scouts from the troop that has attended Freedom Foundation. All of these scouts have gone on to become Eagle Scouts. Thank You Troop 2! We had a good discussion about the scholarship program. There are funds for several scholarships. We also discussed the National Scholarship program and the moneys available. DeDe Cole presented the theme for Americanism, Good Job! The membership program was covered by Julie Steinbaugh. We need to work on recruiting new members into the units that can participate. We have many members that are unable to participate for a variety of reasons. I can go on about the conference because it was great.

Since I was in San Diego, I stayed there for a few days and was given a tour of the area. I toured the San Diego VA Healthcare under the direction of DAVA Representative, Joan Christiansen , PSC. It is a wonder facility. We also went to the DAV store in Chula Vista and stopped in on Leroy Acosta, DAV Commander. It had a good time and I learned a lot. Thank you Joan.

My next stop was the Dedication of the Major Charles Robert Soltes, Jr. Blind Rehabilitation Center in Long Beach. It was well attended by all Veteran service groups, dignitaries and local community members. After the function DAVA member, Joel Plante, DSO, gave me a complete tour of the Long Beach VA Hospital Facilities. Thank You Joel.

I have also made it to the AT&T Pro Am golf Tournament in Monterey CA. Thanks to John Whitacre, and James Bogan, PSC.

My next stop was to the Palo Alto VA Medical Center. I got a great tour of the facility by William Ball, Chief of Voluntary Service. I also got to make rounds of the hospital and hand out valentines with Miss California, Noelle Freeman, from San Diego. We had a great time.

It has been a busy time visiting these facilities. We need to let the Veterans with disabilities and their families know that they are important and need.

Thanks for your support.

Joel Adema

AMERICANISM:

Chairman Jr. Vice DeDe Cole:

Hope all your Holidays went well and that this printing finds you and yours happy and in good health.

According to Theodore Roosevelt, "Americanism means the virtue of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity, and hardihood - the virtues that made America. The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, peace-at-any-price, and safety- first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life."

One of the responsibilities of this office to our Auxiliary is to sponsor an Americanism Contest every year. I am very excited about our theme this year. "What being an American means to me". All of our flyers were mailed early January. The flyer is also available on our new website WWW.DAVA-CA.com under services than under Americanism. If you're Unit or Chapter did not receive the mailing – please let me know. Winners will be announced at out June Convention.

Thank you to all who participate. It is great to be an American that is for sure!

DeDe

Call – *818-992-5693*

(Continued from page 1 Sr Vice)
We must think outside the box and find reasons for members to want to participate in our activities. That was the theme of the Mid-Winter conference. It's sometimes hard to think of new ideas with only a few people. The exciting part of our winter meeting was having input from members all over the state with our new portable microphones. The SEC meetings are excellent forums for new ideas. Please come and join us in June.
Julie or J

ADJUTANT:

Susan G. Linder

What a great Mid-Winter conference. We had only 25 members in attendance however the work we accomplished could compare to over 100. My theme for setting it up was to "Think outside the box." We had an open forum on all the programs not for reports but for ideas to enhance the programs on unit and state level. And with the help of the new wireless microphones we were able to let everyone give input without jumping up and down. It was easier to listen, really listen to everyone's ideas and comments. Great respect was given to the person with the microphone. They had the floor. There were no right or wrong comments and suggestions. I do want to say when you speak into the microphone that your comments are recorded and able to be put on record.

Please come and join us at the convention in San Diego, on June 6-9. Get your voice heard and learn with us. We all have so many ideas and suggestions of way to help our Veterans and each other.

Start up your computers!!

WWW.DAVA-CA.COM

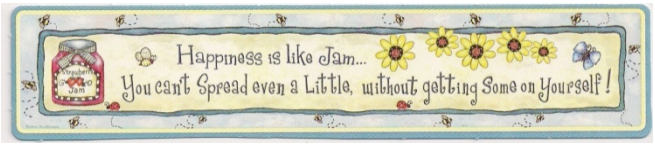
Well it is done. Our website is up and running. It is in its infancy but we have a lot of great ideas to implement. And there is no limit to what we can do with it. Right now you can get the flyer for the Americanism contest, Scholarship application, the Auxiliary Support Fund application for State and National. I will be putting this newsletter on it and then downloading old issues to an archive file. I want to get a calendar of events on it to advertise what Units and Chapters are doing. This is a big state and this should make it easier to bring us together. I would also like to have every Unit have a place for events they want to advertise as well as how to reach every Unit.

Also join us on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/DAVA-Calif/217382165024231

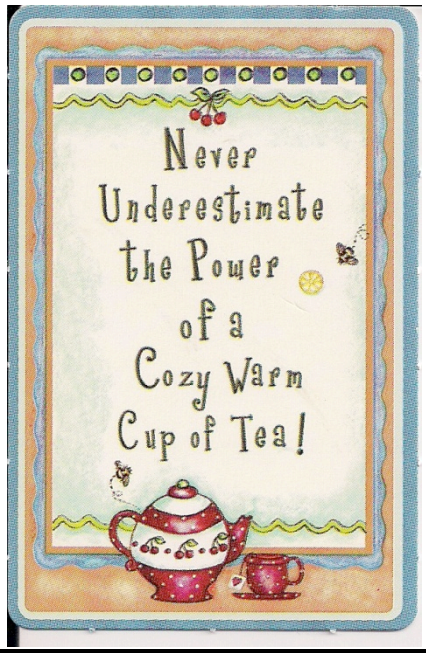
Note from Scholarship Chairman:

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. If you do not know anyone that has internet access then I will be happy to send an application to you. Just call myself or the adjutant.

Download applications at WWW.DAVA-CA.com on the tool bar select services then to scholarship.



Debby Adema – State Scholarship Chairman
Call 530-895-8389



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

FALL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 27 - 29, 2012
LEXINGTON DOWNTOWN HILTON
369 W. VINE STREET
LEXINGTON, KY 40507
TELEPHONE: 859.231.9000
$109 SINGLE/DOUBLE

E-MAIL:
suelinderdava@gmail.co

WEB: WWW.DAVA-CA.COM

Jeanie White – moved to Paradise

The Virtual Wall

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

www.VirtualWall.org

Follow this link and sort by name, State, Town, Etc.

On Independence Day we celebrate the freedoms earned by those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Join us on Facebook:

http://www.facebook.com/pages/DAVA-Calif/217382165024231

Directory correction:

I am not publishing the details but if you need to get in connect with these members let me know and I will give you the details.

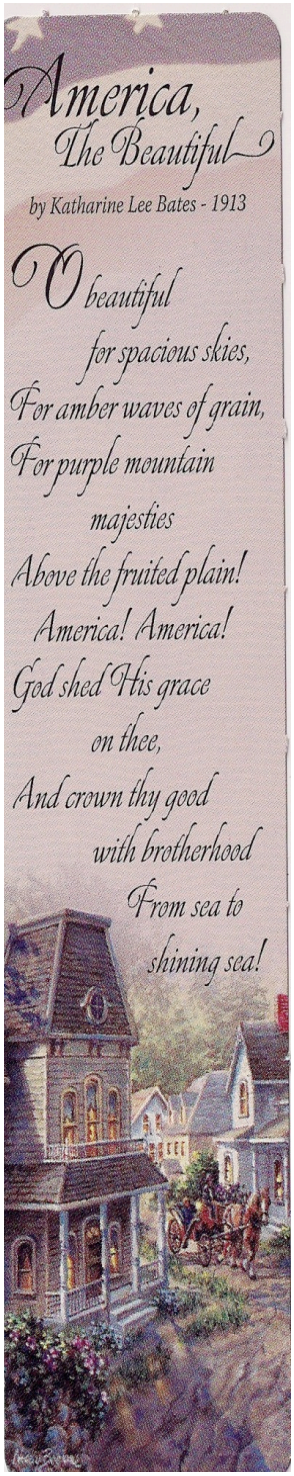
Colleen Armelin – moved to Aliso Viejo

Jeanie Price – moved to Riverside

Debby Adema – is spelled with a y not an ie.

Sue Gill – moved out of state

Leona Galloway – moved to Arizona


America,
The Beautiful
by Katharine Lee Bates - 1913
O beautiful
for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain
majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace
on thee,
And crown thy good
with brotherhood
From sea to
shining sea!