



California: A Leader in Service



SEE PAGE 13

California Adjutant Announces Run for National Office (More on Page 4)

*Join DAV in Sacramento for
MIDWINTER CONFERENCE
January 18-19, 2019*

PAGE 8



DAV DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NEWS

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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

DAV California 2019 Midwinter

January 18-19, 2019
Hilton Sacramento Arden
2200 Harvard St.
Sacramento, CA 95815
(800) 445-8667
\$109 Single/Double
Reservation Cutoff Date:
January 1, 2019

DAV National 2019 Midwinter Conference

February 24-27, 2019 (Tentative)
Crystal Gateway Marriott
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
(800) 266-9432
\$199 Single/Double

DAV California 2019 Convention

June 5-8, 2019
Grand Sierra Resort & Casino
2500 East Second St.
Reno, NV 89595
(800) 648-5080
\$94 Single/Double
Reservation cutoff date:
May 19, 2019

DAV National 2019 Convention

August 3-6, 2019
Rosen Shingle Creek
9939 Universal Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32819
866-996-6338
\$137 Single/ Double

IN THIS ISSUE



PAGE 7

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE.....	3
ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE	4
SR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE.....	5
- AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S MESSAGE	
AUXILIARY ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE	6
- JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE	
SAVE THE DATE!	7
- CHAPLAIN'S CORNER	
MIDWINTER CONFERENCE.....	8
- CONFERENCE SCHEDULE	9
CALIFORNIA VETERANS' LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!	10
CHAPTER #1 AND THE WORLD FINANCIAL GROUP	11
2018 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION	12
DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION	13
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: KAITLYNN MCGRIFF	14
- FINANCIAL STATEMENT	
DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICES & TRANSPORTATION COORDINATORS.....	15
DAV THRIFT STORES	16

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ON THE COVER: California leads division in LVAP hours

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Outreach Through *Community Service*

I t's my privilege and honor to have been elected as Commander for the Department of California. I am proud to be able to serve and represent injured and ill veterans in this great state of California and take the responsibility of this title very seriously. I want all of our members in California to feel that their interests are being represented and that their voices are being heard.

Shortly after being elected as Commander, I went to National Headquarters to attend the Commanders' and Adjutants' meeting, which proved to be an enlightening experience. I learned a lot about how this organization operates and performs the tasks needed to provide service and claims assistance to so many veterans around the country. These lessons were valuable and I'd encourage anyone with the time to educate themselves further on the DAV to do so.

I also attended the DAV's National Convention. I was very proud of our state and all of our members, and feel privileged to tell you that, in Division I, the Department of California received an award for the serving the most hours through our Local Veterans Assistant Program (LVAP). Thanks to all of our members big hearts and hard work, California reported 559,025 hours of service to veterans through a variety of means. My hat goes off to each and every member that participated. This not only shows that our department here in California is leading the way in assisting veterans, but also provides incredibly valuable services to veterans in our communities. Also, when our members are out, displaying the values of service that this

organization stands for, this lets our towns and cities know that we exist, that we mean what we say and that we care about our fellow veterans. This promotes connection, recruitment, outreach and overall participation for our chapters. With the help of each and every one of our members, we can become a powerful force for good.

As I start my journey in visiting chapters and participating in their events, I will continue to promote an effort that is close to my heart, membership recruitment. We want our DAV community to thrive and continue to enthusiastically serve injured and ill veterans and their families for years to come.

I would like to remind everybody about our Midwinter Conference in Sacramento, California on January 18-19, 2019. If you're a Chapter Service Officer, this is the time to get certified. It's a very intense seminar but the knowledge it provides is well worth it.

In closing, please reach out to me and let me know of any events your local chapters have planned. It would be my honor to attend them and to connect with all of you. To all the DAV & DAVA members, have a happy and safe time with your families throughout the upcoming holidays. And, let's always remember that our job is not done until we fulfill our promises to the men and women who

...please reach out to me and let me know of any events your local chapters have planned.

Ron Vogel, COMMANDER



ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

Department Adjutant Announces his Run for National Office



W

hen I became the Adjutant of the DAV Department of California, a strong foundation had already been set for me. Had we stayed the course, we would have continued to succeed and function. I didn't want to settle though, I wanted to push, innovate and evolve.

Over the course of my time as Adjutant we've worked to improve our outreach, our infrastructure, support of our fraternal organization and better utilize the time we spend with our members. We've improved participation and began our Chapter Convention Attendance Program (CCAP).

I believe that it's important for us here at the DAV to invest in our legacy but what is the point in investing in a legacy unless it's one that's worth having? Here at the DAV the most important legacy we can leave is that we served veterans to the best of our abilities. In order to do this, we have to maintain vitality and momentum.

I care deeply about the DAV, about my fellow injured and ill veterans and about their families. This is my community, and one in which I want to inspire enthusiasm, participation and revitalization. I believe that I've brought something to the table here in California and have felt privileged to learn in turn from all of you here. That is why, I am announcing that I will be running for National office.

During my time here with you all, we have accomplished much together. Our department has often led the way in a variety of ways. We're financially sound, growing in membership, have increased our

member participation and, our latest accomplishment is leading the way in LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) hours. We are strong, stable, enthusiastic, and helping each other. I think that the energy and momentum here in California is powerful, and I want to bring that to our National organization. I want to share what wisdom we've gained with other departments and, in turn, learn from our brothers and sisters about what has or hasn't worked for them in their departments, and through this collaborative spirit, we can all move forward together.

...the most important legacy we can leave is that we served veterans to the best of our abilities.

The DAV is the greatest organization for service to veterans. But, there are still lots of veterans that are unaware of us and the impact we could have on their lives. The spirit of the DAV here in California is one of innovation.

Based on my experience as Adjutant of one of the largest departments in the nation, through increased emphasis on outreach and collaboration, and an enthusiasm for the mission and values of this organization, I'm ready to work to inform, inspire and entertain our members as we work together to carry out this important mission. I love this state and all the wisdom and support you've given me throughout the years. I hope that you'll support me as I work to bring our successes here in California to the National scale by running for National office, and that, together, we can reach as many veterans as possible. Thank you, and I look forward to innovating with, collaborating with, and investing in you all in the future.

Daniel Contreras, PSC, CEO/ADJUTANT



SR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I was honored to be elected as your new Department Sr. Vice Commander this past June and I have been busy getting out to see our members in this great state.

I would like to thank the members of my home chapter, Homer Blevins in Fresno for all their support over these years.

Like many of you, I had the opportunity to attend the national convention in July. It was a wonderful event and there was much to take away. One helpful tip was the reminder of how easy it is to recruit new members just by having the membership page on my smartphone.

I would also like to thank Chapters #7 and #154 for their hospitality in allowing me to participate in their barbeque that was held in August at the Martinez Outpatient and Community Living Center. The support and sense of community between the DAV, DAVA, and the patients and staff of the facility was truly inspiring.

Also, I was happy to host our Department Adjutant for a night of celebration of our local Valley veterans on our Armed Forces Night. We raised awareness regarding many local resources for our veterans and we reached many people that would otherwise not have known about our great mission and people. It is my hope that this event will

continue to thrive and grow throughout the years and there are discussions about creating similar events on behalf of other chapters in our Department.

Years ago, like many veterans, I was unaware of the good work done by the DAV. I was content to get my care at the Fresno VA Medical Center and I was oblivious to the pain and loss around me.

Then, one day, PNC/PSC, George Steese, struck up a conversation with me over coffee in the lobby of the hospital. It was a life-changing moment. Soon after, I began regularly attending meetings and ascended through the chapter chairs. As he often reminds me, he was not optimistic that I would attend any of the meetings because many people told him that they would attend only to fail to show up to the next meeting. I offer this to remind you that your next leaders may be just a cup of coffee away. All you have to do is reach out, open up, and meet them.

Once again, thank you for your trust in electing me to the leadership group of this amazing department. I look forward to seeing many of you again at our Midwinter Conference.

...one day, PNC/PSC, George Steese, struck up a conversation with me over coffee in the lobby of the hospital. It was a life-changing moment.

MICHAEL KERR, SR. VICE COMMANDER



AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Fall is upon us and soon the holidays will be too. These are times that are often very difficult for many of our veterans.

For some, these times may be filled with painful memories or reminders of loss. And, it's at times like these that small displays of care and appreciation can matter the most.

A simple "thank you for your service" can go a long way. If we appreciate veterans for serving our country and doing what they can to keep our country free, now is a good time to acknowledge them and share those

words of appreciation.

So, to help our veterans through these difficult times let's all keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Many of the men and women who served have missed out on special moments while they fought for our country. Let's help make up for any lost time, and reach out to the veterans in our lives and communities, to offer them thanks, kindness, and to care for them as best we can while we can. Join me in making veterans feel loved this holiday season and let's help them enjoy these times as they should. Bless them all.

Christine Castillo, AUXILIARY COMMANDER



AUXILIARY ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

In the September 2018 National DAV Auxiliary Headquarters Newsletter, I wrote about the difference between “vacations” and “holidays”. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a vacation is “a period spent away from home or business in travel or

recreation”, while a holiday is a “a day marked by a general suspension of work in commemoration of an event”. As DAV and DAVA members, we have an opportunity to create traditions that will ensure that current and future generations commemorate and pay respect to our American heritage. For instance, how can we make our Thanksgiving Day about more than eating turkey and shopping? Instead of simply saying thank you, we can be thankful. Being thankful requires one to truly acknowledge how your life has been positively impacted by the person, organization, or event you are recognizing. Allow me to give some examples from my heart:

- Thank you to all the men and women who have served, continue to serve, and will serve in our armed forces. Your strength and courage enable me to live in a country that values freedom, indi-

viduality, and equality.

- Thank you to the veteran who became disabled or injured while in service. Your sacrifice for your country will not be forgotten.
- Thank you to the members of DAV and DAV Auxiliary. Your enthusiastic support of our veterans and their families has created a community that I am proud to be part of.
- Thank you to the future members of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary. Your membership will ensure that future generations of veterans and their families will continue to receive much needed support.
- Finally, I'd like to thank the members of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary Department of California for welcoming me and being my rock as I move through this organization.

Take a moment and consider what you are thankful for. As you count your blessings on Thanksgiving Day, I hope our organization and its ideals are among them.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, AUXILIARY ADJUTANT



JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

What I appreciate most about my position as your new Jr. Vice Commander, is that I have the privilege of visiting the local chapters of our organization. It is in these meetings that I am blessed to witness the diversity, intensity and strength of what it means to be a disabled veteran.

At the Chapter #60 Morongo Basin meeting, Commander Wade Leming, and Sr. Vice, Allen Pagdilao, showed great excitement as they did their final preparation for their annual Air Rifle Shooting Competition at 29 Palms Marine Corp Base. This is a yearly family-oriented event specifically designed to enable the shooting capabilities of participants with disabilities. With the energy of their chapter and the help of some Marines, I'm sure their event will be a success for years to come. Chapter #12 of San Bernardino invited me to partake in their annual September 11th, National Day of Service and Remembrance at the Veterans Exploration Garden. After a meaningful ceremony conducted by Jose Mendoza, area beautification was performed by over 75 volunteers in attendance.

This included members of Chapter #12, student veterans from Cal State San Bernardino, and veterans bussed in from VA Loma Linda. This was an inspirational example of how a chapter can collaborate with their local community, colleges and VA Medical Centers in creating opportunities for positive interaction and cohesiveness. I was also able to attend a meeting in Riverside in which Commander, Johnny Barnes, gave me a tour of the donated home that members of Chapter #28 wonderfully transformed into a brilliant DAV veteran center. Through hard work and sensational leadership, Chapter #28 has created a well-managed, well-designed and well-maintained meeting location for their membership and auxiliary to eat, cook and congregate.

Lastly, I would like to say goodbye to our good friend, DAV District #11 SEC, Michael Baca. You were one of the great ones and will be greatly missed. For an incredible year, I want to salute all our DAV veterans and family members. Thank you for all of your hard work and devotion to the organization and to each other.

Joseph Moseley, JR. VICE COMMANDER

SAVE THE DATE

Join the DAV Department of California in Reno!



Come to the DAV Department of California 2019 Convention
June 5-8, 2019
At the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Lou Williams



Hello and many blessings to all our members, all of whom served, and to their families as well. I've been blessed to be a Lay Chaplain for the DAV Department of California for quite some time now. I love the opportunity, and all

that comes with it, but sometimes the waters are rough. However, God is far greater than all of our hardships, and with him in our corner how can we go wrong?

In previous articles, I've stated that if God brings us to it, He will see us through it, and that, through the ups and downs of life, we should always be reminded to say a prayer, keep the faith and "keep on truckin" as they say. I say this because I want all of our members to know that, no matter what, no matter where and no matter when, we must keep moving forward and never back. In times of struggles and sorrow, our God, our country and community, and our family mean so much to all of us, but especially to those who are ill, grieving, lonely, isolated, or distressed. Remember, it is so important to reach

out and to keep our arms ready and our hearts open to receive those in need. Thank you all for being there and for your great service to this organization. Reaching out to serve the needs of those who served us so well will, at times, seem impossible but please don't stop trying. Keep your chin up and your hopes high knowing that God watches over us all and wants us to carry out this good work with humility and hope.

Many may want to do more for veterans and may not realize how much our DAV is already accomplishing, however, the task is worthy but difficult and the work is far from over. It will take all of us working together if we hope to stay on top of it all. We accomplish the most when we function as a team. We're the DAV and together we can climb mountains, cross oceans and most important of all, take care of our veterans and their families. In the meantime, don't give up or give in. Hope to see you at Midwinter. You are all in my prayers. I leave you all with this: God is good all the time and all the time God is good. He hides in plain sight. We are never alone. Amen and Amen.

God is far greater than all of our hardships...

*Join us for our upcoming
Midwinter Conference
in Sacramento!*

Jan 18-19, 2019



We are excited to bring our members yet another informational event this upcoming January in Sacramento at the Hilton Sacramento Arden.

We hope that you will join us in our state's capitol. Sacramento is chock full of museums and California history. Local attractions include the Old Sacramento State Historic Park, the California State Railroad Museum, the Crocker Art Museum, Sutter's Fort, where costumed docents re-enact pioneer life, the California State Capitol Museum, the California Automobile Museum, and the Sleep Train Arena, which is where the Sacramento Kings play. Sacramento is also home to the California Museum, which

holds California's Hall of Fame. Other attractions include the California State Indian Museum, and the Eagle Theatre, which was built back in Gold Rush-era Sacramento and is the first permanent theatre built in California. You can also go see a play at the B Street Theatre or the Crest Theatre or take a tour of Sacramento's art murals.

For those of you who have been to our previous conferences and conventions, you will know that these are great times to build community and comradery within our organization. We will once again offer our expanded Chapter Service Officer training. The second day will only be available upon invite, but the first session is open to all who are interested in attending. If you're interested in signing up, please see page nine for more information.

Our annual department Midwinter Conference has always been a great way to learn more about the inner machinations of our department. If you've found yourself wanting to be more aware of our practices or wishing you had more in-depth information to share with your chapters, the Midwinter Conference is a great opportunity to educate yourself. To be effective members of the veteran community, we need to not only be aware of the issues that impact us, but also be knowledgeable about the best way



Railroad Museum

Chapter Service Officer Training Certification Program



Virginia City

to tackle and address those issues. Being a part of a community with numbers and pull like DAV gives us more power to make a real difference, but it's important to be educated.

Those aren't the only reasons to join us for the Midwinter Conference in Sacramento. The Hilton Sacramento Arden West is a full-service Sacramento hotel centrally located in the Sacramento Point West Marketplace. It is conveniently located near the Arden Fair Mall and Cal Expo. The hotel has everything you could possibly need within easy reach with downtown Sacramento only a short four-mile drive away. The Sacramento Arden West is the only full-service high-rise Hilton Hotel in the Sacramento area. Their accommodations include a pool area, fitness center, on-site dining, over 18,000 square feet of meeting space, and they are 100% non-smoking.

We hope you will consider joining us next year in Sacramento. Meet your DAV brothers and sisters from throughout California, learn more about our organization and the issues affecting veterans, visit the state capitol, and have a good time while doing it!

Midwinter Conference Schedule

Friday, January 18th

8:00 AM	Membership Committee Meeting	Eagle/Berressa/Tahoe
9:00 AM	Claims & Service Commission Meeting	Eagle/Berressa/Tahoe
10:00 AM	Finance Committee Meeting	Eagle/Berressa/Tahoe
12:00 PM	Chapter Service Officer Training & Re/Certification Seminar PHASE I	Eagle/Berressa/Taho

Saturday, January 19th

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Chapter Service Officer Training Re/Certification Seminar PHASE II*	Eagle/Berressa/Tahoe
9:00 AM-12:00 PM	VAVS Workshop	Zinfandel
1:00 PM	State Executive Committee Meeting SEC Brief	Eagle/Berressa/Tahoe Eagle/Berressa/Tahoe
5:00 PM	Commander's Reception	Eagle/Berressa/Tahoe

*Invitation only

Every year, at our Midwinter Conference, we provide a Chapter Service Officer Training and (Re)Certification Program. This year, the CSO training will be a two-part program. The first section will

be open to all who wish to attend and RSVP, however the second day of training will be held by invitation-only. Part I of CSO training will take place at 12:00 PM on January 18, 2019 and Part II will take place at 8:00



AM on January 19, 2019. Please note that only elected or appointed chapter service officers will be able to receive CSO certification. Attendance at Level 2 training is by invitation only.

These training sessions are designed to clarify the often-complicated system of VA claims. We deeply appreciate those of you who work hard in your communities helping your fellow veterans file claims. To register for Part I of training, please mail or fax your registration form to the address or fax number provided by December 22, 2018.

Fax: (562) 404-8044

Mail: 13733 Rosecrans Ave. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

YES!

Please register me for the Chapter Service Officer Training/(Re)Certification Program!

Guest #1

Chapter

Elected Position

Email Address

Guest #2

Chapter

Elected Position

Email Address

CALIFORNIA VETERANS' LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



For veterans, now is a time to celebrate what we've achieved as well as to steel ourselves to keep up the fight for much-needed veterans' benefits. In June, legislation passed creating Public Law 115-182: the VA Mission Act of 2018. This contains Health Care Reform, Caregiver Program Expansion, and Infrastructure Modernization. All of this will affect disabled veterans' healthcare and benefits, including the Choice Program, Caregiver support for pre-9/11 veterans, new Claims and Appeals (RAMP) processing, and IT Modernization.

for years to allow 100% service-connected disabled veterans to fly Space A Travel like retirees and their spouses. The National Defense Appropriation Authorization of 2019 (NDAA) was recently passed and authorizes the DoD the authority to grant this privilege to certain 100% service-connected disabled veterans, but with one major exception: the privilege is not extended to spouses as it is with retirees. This is likely to reduce the number of disabled veterans looking to utilize Space A Travel, since I imagine keeping peace on the home-front will be worth more than taking a Space A flight for many veterans.

Our efforts supported bills that are affecting veterans and the judicial system by making veteran treatment courts more accessible to veterans...

This is encouraging, but we must remain focused in the coming months on the VA Mission Act's implementation timelines and eligibility requirements, which are currently in development. If we step back now, we may find ourselves with less than what we need and the possibility that some of our brothers and sisters who served are left without any noticeable improvements to the quality of the healthcare and services they've earned. To give a couple examples, there are still unresolved hot-button issues involving the Blue Water Navy Agent Orange exposure and Iraq/Afghanistan veterans suffering from Burn Pit exposure.

I know there are those within our organization who have used our resolutions process to petition the DoD

Regarding our legislative activities here in California, we are making inroads. Our efforts supported bills that are affecting veterans and the judicial system by making veteran treatment courts more accessible to veterans, and a bill designating a highway as a "Medal of Honor Memorial Highway." We've also brought the "DAV's Guide to Hiring and Retaining Veterans with Disabilities" to our legislators' attention for use by the Employment Development Department (EDD) and state government hiring authorities and employers.

Those who never change their mind, never change anything. We should be in the business of helping those who seem least-inclined to change to see the benefits of change and the positive effect it will have on improving the lives of injured and ill veterans, their spouses and dependents.

-Richard Valdez, DAV California Legislative Director

CHAPTER #1 **AND THE** WORLD FINANCIAL GROUP TEAM UP TO HELP VETERANS!

In celebration of Armed Forces Day on September 19th, WFG (World Financial Group) and Homer Blevins Chapter #1, teamed up and threw a fundraiser benefitting the DAV. Held at Gazebo Gardens in Fresno, the event included a silent auction, live DJ, taco truck, beer garden and more. DAV Department of California CEO and Adjutant, Daniel Contreras, PSC,



and DAV California Sr. Vice Commander, Michael Kerr, spoke at the event. Overall, the event was a hit and a sizable donation was made to the DAV. Thank you to Chapter #1, WFG, Jessica Cruz, Juan Campos, Department Adjutant Contreras, Sr. Vice Kerr and everyone else who came out and helped make this event a success.

It's always exciting to see compassionate individuals get together and have a great time for a meaningful cause!

COMMANDER'S AWARDS - Recognize Excellence in Your Community!

Sometimes our lives as injured or ill veterans can be difficult and stressful. But we here at the DAV want to celebrate the individuals in our communities and in our state that make things a bit easier. We want to recognize excellence and reward those who give so much to veterans. That is why we have the Commander's Awards program. The available awards are as follows:

■ **Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year** - Nominee must be a service-connected disabled veteran, current member of DAV or eligible for membership, and have overcome his/her disability to become an inspiration to others.

■ **Outstanding Member of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VHA)/ Outstanding Member of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)/ Outstanding Member of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (NCA)** - Nominees must be a member of the VHA, VBA or NCA, exemplify DAV's mission and motivate others to serve veterans and their families also.

■ **Large Employer of the Year (200 or more employees) /Small Employer of the Year (less than 200 employees)** - should recruit and hire veterans, nurture a sense of community with and build an environment of success for

veteran employees, and participate in outreach efforts to support veterans within their community.

■ **Local Veterans Employment Representative/ Disabled Veterans Outreach Program** - Nominee must be a Local Veterans Employment Representative or Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist who has excelled in outreach, counseling, job development, training, placement or employer contact on behalf of veterans. They should also motivate others to serve and effectively connect employers, veterans and appropriate community organizations.

■ **Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship** - Nominee must be 21 years of age or younger and have a minimum of 100 hours annually credited to the DAV through the VAVS Program, DAV Auxiliary, or DAV's LVAP.

■ **DAV & DAV Auxiliary George H. Seal Memorial Awards** - Nominee must be a DAV or DAV Auxiliary member and should be an extraordinary volunteer through the VA Voluntary Service Program

If you know someone who fits any of these descriptions, please reach out to us at Department Headquarters for a nomination application. Help us reward kindness and excellence in your community!

2018 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

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Thanks again to all who came out to our Department Convention this past June in Anaheim and to all who worked hard to bring this exciting event together.

This year, we were joined by several informative and enlightening guests, including the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in California, Vito Imbasciani, Director Prieb of the San Diego Veteran Benefits Administration, and Director Brown of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. We were also joined by our DAV and DAVA national guests, DAV National Voluntary Services Director, John Kleindienst and Auxiliary National 2nd Jr. Vice Commander, Lynn Helms Prosser.

This year, Mirtha Villareal-Younger was recognized as our Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Joel Plante, Sr. as Employee of the Year, Antonio Morabito as Outstanding Member of the Veterans Benefits Administration, and Rex Kern as Outstanding Member of the National Cemetery Administration. We were also very proud of all of our chapters who met their membership recruitment goals and especially of our membership recruitment awardees: Chapters #117, #35, #95 and #6. Also, congratulations to our top NSO recruiters at the Oakland National Service Office and to our Department Service Officer with the



responsibilities of chapter leaders as well as extensive and detailed information on the roles of chapter officers and how to introduce and orient new members into the DAV. Penni Turner provided a presentation on issues impacting women veterans today which covered the Women Veterans Call Center, which helps connect women veterans with appropriate care, current proposed national legislation that could provide helpful benefits to women veterans, and other issues such as homelessness, single motherhood, education, employment and outreach. She also reminded us that we here at the DAV are an inclusive family

It wasn't all business. This year's convention featured a memorable Fun Night: DAV under the Big Top.

most recruited members, Leigh Polzin.

As always, there were ample opportunities to learn more about our organization and how we conduct business, attend committee meetings and craft resolutions and to interact with other members at district meetings and from all over the state. We were also pleased to see a great turnout of our women veterans. We hope to see you all again next year!

One particular highlight was the Chapter Leadership Forum which was packed to the brim with helpful information and given by Adjutant, Daniel Contreras, PSC, Richard Valdez, PSC and State Legislative Director, and Women Veterans Advisor, Penni Turner. This forum included lots of dialogue on the roles and

for all veterans and we want continuity of care for all, women as well as men.

It wasn't all business. This year's convention featured a memorable Fun Night: DAV under the Big Top. DAV members and their families donned circus-themed costumes, played carnival games and had an overall fantastic time.

Finally, at the last business session, elections were held, bringing in a strong roster of leaders for our department in 2018. Ron Vogel was elected Commander, Michael Kerr as Sr. Vice Commander and Joseph Moseley as Jr. Vice Commander. Congratulations to these gentlemen! We look forward to working alongside you all for the betterment of veterans in California.

Thanks again and hope to see you all next year!



DAV

NATIONAL CONVENTION

This latest national convention in Reno was one for the books and California was front and center with Delphine Metcalf-Foster, PSC, running the convention as National Commander, and she did a fantastic job. As always, the DAV national convention is a great opportunity for members from all over the country to connect and collaborate for the good of one another, our DAV and DAVA members, and for injured and ill veterans and their families from all around the country.

As always, there were multiple informative workshops and seminars, covering topics such as the membership portal, the benefits protection team, emotional wellness, social networking, women's issues, legislative issues and much more. There were guests from the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the VA there who provided seminars on the current state of veterans' issues at a national level. The district meetings and the committee meetings always provide important opportunities to connect, brainstorm and formulate invaluable resolutions.

This year, registration had been streamlined and excellent entertainment was provided as well. Not only did frequent guest, Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band, perform for members and their families, but also, there was a special free Frankie Valli concert, which provided many members, especially those of the baby boomer generation, with a wonderful surprise.

This year's convention had more resolutions submitted than ever before. This is a true testament to the positive impact of the Benefits Protection Team Program.



We were incredibly proud of California this year. After placing an increased emphasis on our Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP), I'm happy to say that our department was recognized and awarded for logging the most LVAP volunteer hours of any state in our division. It's a good reminder that if we all set a goal and work hard together, we can achieve what we put our minds to.

Additionally, the Department of California had sixteen resolutions on the various committee agendas this year. Of those sixteen, two were adopted. Six were rejected as they were duplicates of other adopted resolutions, and eight were rejected due to being outside the scope of DAV policy. So, all-in-all, California was on the right track with 50% of its resolutions.

Also, our own Past State Commander, Kirk Johnson, became the District #16 NEC and our Auxiliary Adjutant, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh moved up the chairs to become the National Auxiliary's Third Jr. Vice Commander.

We're proud of our state and all we've accomplished together and it was great to see all those of you who came out to support Commander Metcalf-Foster, to work, to learn, to connect and to celebrate another year with the DAV!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Kaitlyn McGriff – Department Event Coordinator

Kaitlyn McGriff joined the army at 17 and started her military career as an unmanned aerial vehicle operator (15W) and later switched to become a veterinary technician (68T).

When she got out of the military, she moved to southern California where her grandfather, Joel Plante, Sr., former field supervisor and convention director for the DAV Department of California, lived. Knowing that she was looking for work, he suggested that she spend some time looking at the DAV. She wound up volunteering at the headquarters office for eight hours a day, five days a week for a month, after which she was offered a job as the receptionist in late 2016. Earlier this year, she was promoted to the job of DAV Department of California Event Coordinator and states that she couldn't be happier with her progress within the organization.

As Event Coordinator, Kaitlyn enjoys working on the behind-the-scenes magic to create and execute great conventions and events for DAV members. She

considers it an amazing opportunity to do her part in helping the men and women who served, as well as their spouses and dependents. She feels privileged to be able to do this as a job.

In the couple years that Kaitlyn McGriff has been with our organization, she has already progressed immensely. As she looks forward to what the future holds, she feels excited to continue serving veterans and their families with the DAV. She is currently working on her college degree and hopes to go back into the service as a reservist once she graduates. She looks forward to a future of balancing two roles that she thoroughly loves, service to her country and service to veterans through the DAV.



**DAV Department of California
UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
June 30, 2018 and 2017**

ASSETS	2018	2017
Cash	\$ 251,843	\$216,418
Due from Auxiliary	-	2,406
Deposit	669	
Prepaid Expenses	17,296	
Long-Term Investment	4,568,608	4,280,283
Property & Equipment	245,555	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,068,113	\$4,744,662
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 143,842	\$111,842
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	4,885,342	4,632,820
Undesignated	38,929	-
Temporarily restricted	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 4,924,271	\$4,632,820
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 5,068,113	\$4,744,662

Department Service Offices & Transportation Coordinators

A. MATHER VAMC

10535 Hospital Way
Mather, CA 95655
Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Pam Goto-Transportation Coordinator
Bldg. 650, Room 1B052
Phone: (916) 843-7001

B. SAN FRANCISCO VAMC

Bldg. 7, Room 120
4150 Clement St.
San Francisco, CA 94121
Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Transportation Coordinator:
Gary P. Curtaz
Phone: (415) 379-5612

C. MARINA VADOC

201 9th St.
Marina, CA 93933
Hours: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday - Friday
Michael A. Silver Jr.
Department Service Officer
(831) 884-1156

D. FRESNO VAMC

Fresno, CA 93703
Mon.-Fri. 7:00 AM-3:00 PM
Mario Flores- DSO
Phone: (559) 241-6418
Cristina Vaxter- DSO
Phone: (559) 241-6401
Susan Bertolani- Transportation Coordinator
Phone: (559) 241-6424

E. SEPULVEDA VAOPC

Bldg. 22, Room 213
16111 Plummer
Sepulveda, CA 91343
Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Leigh Polzin-DSO
Phone: (818) 891-7711 Ext. 36176
Marie Pounds- Transportation Coordinator
Phone: (818) 895-9408

F. WEST LOS ANGELES VAOPC

Bldg. 500, Room 1613
11301 Wilshire Blvd.
West Los Angeles, CA 90073
Mon.-Fri. 5:00 AM-2:00 PM
Transportation Coordinator:
Blas Barragan, Sr.
Phone: (310) 268-3344
or (310) 478-3711 Ext. 49062

G. LOS ANGELES VAOPC

351 E. Temple St. Room B-306
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Audie Reyno- Dept. Service Officer
(213) 253-2677 Ext. 24604

H. VA LOMA LINDA ACC

26001 Redlands Blvd.
Redlands, CA 92373
Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Eric Porche- DSO
Phone: (909) 583-6016
or (909) 894-7857
Steven Salazar- Transportation Coordinator
Phone: (909) 583-6014

I. LONG BEACH VAMC

5901 E. 7th St.
Bldg. 8, Room 107
Long Beach, CA 90822
Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
L. Duke Medeiros- DSO
Phone: (562) 826-5711
Liza Thornton- Transportation Coordinator
Phone: (562) 826-5796

J. VA ESCONDIDO CLINIC

230 E. Park Ave
Escondido, CA 92025
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 AM-3:30 PM
(Closes at 1:00 PM Friday)
Carlos Gallardo- DSO
Phone: (760) 741-1746

K. LA JOLLA VAMC

Room 1598
3350 La Jolla Village Dr.
San Diego, CA 92161
Mon.-Fri. 8:15 AM- 3:15 PM
Richard Randolph- DSO
David Strobehn- Transportation Coordinator
Andrea Butler- Transportation Coordinator
Phone: (858) 642-6454

L. SAN DIEGO MCAS MIRAMAR

PO Box 452005
Area 5, MCCS Bldg. 5305
"The Hub" Miramar Way, Rm. 120
San Diego, CA 92145
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 AM-3:00 PM
Bruce Hillman-DSO (Fridays)
Phone: (858) 689-9637

L. SPRING VALLEY - DAV INDUSTRIES

Spring Valley, CA 91977
Mon.-Friday. 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Bruce Hillman-DSO
Phone: (619) 337-9257





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**★★★THRIFT
OPERATIONS**

Help DAV help veterans!

Clean and organize your home while helping injured and ill veterans in California! Your donations of clothing or goods to the following thrift stores provide rehabilitative services and financial support to injured, ill or impoverished veterans and their families through the DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation!

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Northern California: | 800-238-8387 | Donatedav.org |
| Fresno Area: | 559-237-0273 | Davcharities.com |
| Pomona Area: | 800-238-8387 | Donatedav.org |
| San Diego Area: | 800-894-2486 | Davveteransthiftstores.com |