

COMMANDERS COLUMN



Greetings!

Election of new officers are coming up, and all nominations have been made. There is one name missing from the usual list....Gary Grosskopf; Gary has decided to step aside and turn the reins over to a younger group. Gary has been a long time member of DAV and a staunch supporter of all veterans. His expertise at board and executive meetings will be greatly missed. Gary has held most offices including but not limited to, Senior Vice Commander and Chapter Commander. Gary has had great support from his wife Beth (who is an auxiliary member), who has been at his side. Gary and Beth are not going anywhere; just slowing down a little. To both, an exceptional job well done!

We will be electing our new officers for upcoming year and their nominations are listed in this newsletter. Be sure to get to the chapter house and vote from 2-7 PM on April 7th.

The Southwest High School Wrestling club held a meet and for each "take down" for troops, a donation was made to Robert Flansburg DAV Chapter #7. Their contribution, plus corporate and local sponsor pledges totaled \$3,847. An event well done and very much appreciated.

The front door has been fixed and window replaced. The Binswanger Glass Company 27 2740 north 27th street donated the closer and labor to our chapter. A very special thanks to Eric and his company.

All of you know, Irv is back and going full steam ahead. His special dinners as well as Friday Nights are a huge success. Lets all get our and support him and the lounge.

Our chapter adjutant, Bill Van Setten has been a blessing to this chapter and myself. We are very fortunate to have not only a well informed adjutant, but also a DAV National Service Officer. If you have any questions, I am sure he can answer them. His door is always open!

Bernie Koehne – Commander

The Chapter #7 newsletter and the Chapter calendar of events is available on line at: ne.dav.org/7 and clicking on the "News" and "Events" buttons.

ADJUTANTS COLUMN



Members and Families,

Spring has sprung and summer is around the corner.....just as the seasons change, it is that time of the year where we have our own change in the DAV. As you all know, April each year brings an event for any member to bring his or her ideas, mentorship, and professionalism forward to assist this great organization by either self-nomination or being nominated for consideration of an officer or board position within our local chapter. With that being said, our election will be Monday April 7th. Ballot casting will be done from 2-7 PM at the local chapter house at 3901 North 70th Street. There will be local DAV staff on site to assist you with membership validation and voting. Don't forget to bring your membership card for voting validation. If your card has been lost or just worn out, please contact me directly at 402-420-4025 and I will reorder a new membership card for you. You may also let one of the staff know at the validation roster that you are in need of a new membership card and they in return will notify me to order one for you. The General Monthly Membership Meeting will convene at 7 PM sharp following the ballot casting. During the meeting an election committee will be assigned to count the ballots and then announce our 2014-2015 chapter officers and committee members. Good luck to those on the ballot as well as a thank you to all who have put forth an effort to be considered. Our nominated candidates are posted on a copy of the official ballot on page 2. Your support is much needed and welcomed, so come out, vote, and attend the meeting!

Membership has a no bigger champion, than all of you who have helped get the word out about the DAV. This is obvious, as our membership goal for the year was surpassed at the 6 month mark of our recruitment year and has continued to climb to 105% at the 9 month mark with a full quarter to go yet in the closing year. You may not have personally signed a new member up for which you were a sponsor and received credit, but your positive voice for others to hear was infectious and has resulted in energizing veterans to come forward and join on their own accord. Due to this combined effort of all members, Chapter 7 was nationally recognized by the National Commander Joe Johnston. CDR Johnston has presented a signed membership letter for outstanding membership recruitment by achieving our goal and has presented our chapter with another membership streamer for our guidon!

I have been contacted by a quite a few members regarding not receiving the chapter newsletter. I apologize in advance for this. I reviewed the mail roster closely and it was discovered that the majority of you had moved and never updated your mailing address with the DAV Membership Department. This can be done four ways: fill out a

change of address form at chapter house, call the National Membership Department at 888-236-8313, call me directly at 402-420-4025, or go to DAV.org and click on membership, then click on maintain a member, and then update your information. The only other reason for not receiving a chapter newsletter was due the individual being an inactive member. You may ask what an inactive member is.....well, it is a DAV member who has an unpaid balance remaining on their membership, who has not made a payment for over a year. Once a payment or a full payment is made the member will be in good standing and start receiving his/her newsletter again. Remember, the chapter nor the DAV state department receive credit or financial mandates for you as a member unless you are a member in good standing.

Inclosing, I would like to remind you that the 2014 Nebraska State DAV convention is just around the corner. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Kearney this year, from June 13-15. If you wish to be a delegate and represent Chapter 7 on the floor of the general session, please contact me or CDR Koehne directly. We will assist and inform you of what to expect and what can be accomplished by having our chapter's voice at convention. In addition to the general session, there will training seminars for chapter officers. This is for anyone wishing to attend to familiarize themselves with a deeper understanding of the DAV and its structure. You do not need to be an officer to attend, any member may attend. Remember, it is your DAV! Inform yourself as to incorporate strength through knowledge to others in the organization.

Bill Van Setten - Adjutant

Special Occasion ADS

Anyone wishing to extend "Special Occasion Wishes" to family and friends may do so in the newsletter! Send \$10 and your announcement by the 15th of the month preceding the quarterly newsletter, and it will appear in the that upcoming newsletter.

Do you need to retire an American Flag? If so they can be taken to the DAV Transportation Office at the Lincoln VA Medical Center or to the Chapterhouse at 70th & Seward.

They will be retired with honors and according to protocol by the Dwight American Legion. We want to thank them for their help on this endeavor.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER # 7
BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS
APRIL 7, 2014**

COMMANDER

Bernie Koehne

Vote For One

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Greg Holloway

Vote For One

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Matt Burke

Vote For One

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Vote For Four (4)

Bob Martin

Joy Dughman

Danny Reese

Tony Gallardo

James Pierce

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

James Bartels

Vote For One

CHAPLAIN

Paul Carpenter

Vote For One

THRIFT STORE BOARD
Vote For Three (3)

Kenny Lempka

Steve Sehi

Jim Landstrom

TREASURER

Irv Cidlik

Vote For One

**TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR
Flex Van Update!**

Lincoln Hospital Service Coordinator Tom Vodvarka and all Lincoln area drivers efforts have landmarked a milestone for the local VA Hospital Transportation Network and local Robert Flansburg Chapter #7.

As a result of their hard work and steadfast dedication, donations and pledges exceeded \$15,000. This amount met the goal for purchase of a new Ford Flex Vehicle in conjunction with The DAV Columbia Trust Foundation and its \$5,000 contribution.

Special thanks are in order to Tom Vodvarka, all Lincoln Drivers and a special thanks to driver Larry Taylor for securing the largest contribution from a single source of \$5,000.

GRATEFUL VETERAN

DAV Chapter #7 Lifetime Member, Bernie Milton would like to thank each and every member in the chapter for helping make his desired wish to see the Korean War Memorial in Washington DC. Comrade Milton was overwhelmed with gratitude and emotion when he was presented with a donation from our chapter to help assist with his expenses of going to the memorial in Washington DC. Comrade Milton also wished to express that he is very honored to be among the Korean Veterans that will be going to Washington DC on the 25th of March.

DAV NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE

Greetings from the DAV National Service Office! FYI we are located within the VA Regional Office at 3800 Village Drive, Lincoln, NE 68501. Our office hours are 8AM to 4 PM, Monday thru Thursday and 8 AM to 12 PM on Friday. Our phone number is 402-420-4025.

On Friday April 17th, 2014 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM we will have the Mobile Service Officer (MSO) at the chapter house. Anyone needing claims assistance, VA questions answered, general information, or just want to say hello.....come and see us!

Lastly, if you are not enrolled on eBenefits, you need to consider going electronic to keep up with the new VA and how claims and claims information is shared and processed.

Thanks for your Service!

NAS Mark Moore, NSO Bill Van Setten, and Kelly Paulsen

AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Looking forward to State Convention in Kearney June 13,14,15. Past National Commander Donna Adams will be our National Representative. Come out and join us. Unit # 7 Chaplain Loretta Hanson is our State Commander. There is lot of important information that is past out at these meetings.

Drawing for the Dept. Raffle will be at State Convention at the Banquet on Sat. the 14. There are three great prizes \$500 gift card, a Commander's basket with Nebraska products, and two tickets to a Husker Game. Contact number 402-489-6447. There are several Unit members selling raffle tickets.

Unit members if you are on Facebook check out the DAVA Nebraska website. Unit member and Junior Vice Rene Holloway set up our site. It is Awesome. A big thanks to Rene.,

National Convention is in Las Vegas Aug 9-12. Be thinking ahead if you would like to attend. District meetings is generally held on Friday morning., Saturday morning there are committee meetings where you might be judging reports and Sunday is the DAVA opening session..

Respectfully,

Rebecca Bowman, Unit # 7 Commander

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/4/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	\$2.50 Hamburger Night
4/7/2014	2:00-7:00 PM	Election Ballot Casting
4/7/2014	7:00 PM	DAV/DAVA Meeting
4/8/2014	7:00 PM	Marine Corp League
4/11/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	Regular Friday Night Menu
4/14/2014	7:00 PM	Rats Meeting
4/16/2014	5:30-8:00 PM	Fish Fry, \$8
4/17/2014	7:00 PM	Fleet Reserve
4/18/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	Regular Friday Night Menu
4/22/2014	7:00 PM	VFW 7722
4/24/2014	5:30 PM	Thrift Store Board Meeting
4/25/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	Regular Friday Night Menu
4/28/2014	7:00 PM	Executive-Board Meeting
4/30/2014	5:30-8:00 PM	Windsor Pork Loins, \$8
5/2/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	\$2.50 Hamburger Night
5/5/2014	7:00 PM	DAV/DAVA Meeting
5/9/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	Regular Friday Night Menu
5/12/2014	7:00 PM	Rats Meeting
5/13/2014	7:00 PM	Marine Corp League
5/14/2014	5:30-8:00 PM	Wings and Rings, \$7
5/15/2014	7:00 PM	Fleet Reserve
5/16/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	Regular Friday Night Menu
5/23/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	Regular Friday Night Menu
5/27/2014	7:00 PM	VFW 7722
5/28/2014	5:30-8:00 PM	Bull Fries and Fish Fry, \$8
5/30/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	Regular Friday Night Menu
6/2/2014	7:00 PM	DAV/DAVA Meeting
6/6/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	\$2.50 Hamburger Night
6/9/2014	7:00 PM	Rats Meeting
6/10/2014	7:00 PM	Marine Corp League
6/11/2014	5:30-8:00 PM	Windsor Pork Loins, \$8
6/13/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	Regular Friday Night Menu
6/19/2014	7:00PM	Fleet Reserve
6/20/2014	5:00-8:00 PM	Regular Friday Night Menu
6/22/2014	11:00AM-1:00PM	DAV Breakfast, \$6
6/24/2014	7:00 PM	VFW 7722
6/27/2014	5:00 PM	Regular Friday Night Menu

LOUNGE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Your support and patronage of our local chapter's lounge has been an overwhelming success as of recent. This is reflective, by all your participation at the weekly Wednesday feeds and continued support of the Friday Night Open Menu! The lounge business as a whole in the Lincoln area has declined drastically due to new local and state laws restricting activities of patrons and public services to include taxing prepared meal services. This decline has had a large effect on our lounge operations as well. We are doing well as in part to one individual and his staff.....our lounge manager Irv Cidlik. It is Irv who has implemented additional meals through out the month in addition to the normal scheduled meals. This extra, above and beyond effort is and has made a turning point difference in our lounge operation. Irv is not an individual that likes attention or credit, but I feel we all need to give him a big hand for all he does. Especially for this past month of March; Irv's Wednesday Night Pork Loin feeds and the Record Sunday Corned Beef and Cabbage feed. The proceeds from these events almost doubled previous months. Don't forget to send thanks to his lovely wife Pat, whose always by Irv's side, laboring and assisting. Thanks Irv! Job well done to you and your staff.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Robert Flansburg Chapter 7
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402-464-4475

3901 N. 70th



APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2014

COMMANDER	BERNIE KOEHNE	402-416-3608
SR. VICE COMMANDER	GARY GROSSKOPF	402-328-8890
AUX. COMMANDER	REBECCA BOWMAN	402-489-6447
AUX. ADJUTANT	BREANNE CHANDLER	402-770-9355
ADJUTANT	BILL VAN SETTEN	402-525-0002
	E-MAIL ADDRESS:	wvansetten@windstream.net
CHAPTER HOUSE		402-464-4475

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Advertisement Section Announcement
Anyone wishing to have their company's business Card or advertising published in the Chapter Newsletter, may do so by the issue or a full year! To have your company advertisement is a nominal donation of \$25 per issue or \$80 for the entire year. Please submit your business cards to the lounge staff, commander or adjutant by the 15th of the month in March, June, September and December newsletter, and it will be displayed in the upcoming newsletter. If your business has a custom logo or advertisement, we can work with you to fit your needs.

TAPS

Albert Klein
Member 15 Years

Leo B. Miller
Member 30Years

Lee A. Whitcomb
Member 30 Years

May They Rest In Peace
Joy Dughman, Chaplain

 **NEED A NEW FLAG?**
THE DAV HAS FLAGS FOR SALE
AT THE BEST PRICE AROUND!!
3' x 5' NYLON STICED & EMBROIDERED FLAG
\$15.00 EACH