

COMMANDERS COLUMN



Greetings!

The past several months since our last newsletter was published has been somewhat busy. Due to costs, the newsletter was voted on by the general membership to be reduced to twice a year. Irv Cidlik resigned as lounge manager, and our new lounge manager and adjutant Kylie Olds has also resigned. However, good news is at hand with these issues.

We found a new company that will publish the newsletter at a reduced rate, which will result in newsletter being published four times a year again. Irv Cidlik has come back as lounge manager, and Bill Van Setten was appointed as our new adjutant.

We raised new flags at Seacrest Football Field and also at the new Lincoln Public Schools Administrative Building. Wreaths were donated to the Wyuka Cemetery on Veterans Day and approximately 20 meals were delivered to needy veterans for the Christmas Holiday by chapter volunteers.

Take note of new hours for the lounge on Saturday's is 2pm to close and please remember that chapter and lounge depend on your support for its continued success and operation.

In closing I hope all of you had a blessed Christmas and safe New Year!

Bernie Koehne – Commander
(P.S. N.Y. 35 Georgia 17)

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR Announcement

Lincoln Hospital Service Coordinator Tom Vodvarka in conjunction with all Lincoln area drivers have made a tremendous selfless service by knocking door to door with their personal and business contacts outside the DAV to solicit donations for a new Ford Flex Vehicle for the Lincoln Hospital Transportation Program.

As a result of their hard work and steadfast dedication, donations and pledges currently exceed \$9,000. This falls short the original goal by \$5,300. Anyone wishing to donate to help with this shortfall may contact Tom Vodvarka or any of the Lincoln HSC drivers.

Special thanks are in order to Tom Vodvarka, Danny Reese, Bob Martin and Don Bartlett for going above and above the call of duty.

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,

This is the first time authoring the Adjutants column as Chapter Adjutant. Commander Koehne appointed me to the position last November. Since that time, it has been a very busy but productive partnership assisting the Commander, Chapter Executive Staff and Chapter Committees maintaining current business strengths and moving forward with future business goals for the success of our chapter.

Many of you know me personally or have met me through the DAV National Service Office at the VA Regional Office here in Lincoln, where I serve as area National Service Officer. For those of you I haven't had the opportunity and pleasure to meet, an introduction is in order. I served in the US Army as a Paratrooper from 1984 till my retirement in 2010. I was medically retired from active duty due to injuries incurred during my last 24 month deployment to Iraq. I have been a lifetime DAV member since my return from Iraq in 2007 and have served on the Chapter Executive Committee, Chapter Thrift Store Board Committee and as Chapter Service Officer. I also plan and organize the delivery of the Chapter's Holiday Meals Program for Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition to the DAV, I have another family; my wife Jill, daughter Jacque, son Jake and nephew Hunter, who all keep me very busy at home and help me balance my time between being a Father, a National Service Officer, Chapter Service Officer, Thrift Store Board Chairman and Chapter Adjutant.

Back to business.....

Chapter #7 had a great closing with the calendar year in many areas. Membership recruitment was one of those areas that championed. The closing fiscal year exceeded it's goal in June 2013 with 105% of the national goal and is currently already at goal with the membership year not ending until 30 June of this new year. All due in part to our chapter members striving to recruit new members into our organization. Chapter members Bill Van Setten, Irv Cidlik and Mark Moore who were the chapters top recruiters for the chapter,

Membership is an area that I would like to address. As our efforts as a whole need to not only recruit for the DAV, but recruit for our local DAVA as well. Their member strengths compliment our strengths. Recruitment for the DAVA is not just for spouses (both men and women) but for the children 18 and under as a DAVA Junior member. Getting the DAV word out to all ages will only compliment our organization for its future success. Membership is now very streamlined due the internet; you may now enroll online and pay online eliminating the need to mail checks and money orders due to receiving cash. The online method will enable the new or existing member to receive their membership card and information packets approximately 30 days sooner.

The Chapter's Holiday Meals Program went very well this year, due in part to our meals vender who helped streamline our pick up method by being able to pull up and have their staff load the ready meals to our vehicles. A big hand to those who donated funds to help sustain this program is greatly appreciated. Approximately 20 meals were delivered to needy veterans and their families by chapter members who volunteered for the effort. A special thanks to the Ray Ayars Family, Beth and Gary Grosskopf, Kenny Lempka, Danny Reese, and the J.T. Von Hoff Family who all donated generously and delivered meals.

The annual election of the leaders for Chapter #7 for the 2014-2015 year is coming near. In February there will be nomination forms available for you use as we are very fortunate to have an outstanding group of leaders who will need to be nominated and re-nominated to lead this chapter for another year. To the right of this column you will find a sample ballot for the future election. Balloting will commence at 2:00 P.M. on March 31st at the Chapter House on 70th & Seward St. and close at 7:00 P.M. at the start of the regular monthly meeting. Please come out and vote. It's your chapter!

Bill Van Setten - Adjutant

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER # 7
BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS
APRIL 1, 2014

COMMANDER

Bernie Koehne

Vote For One

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Greg Holloway

Vote For One

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Gary Grosskopf

Vote For One

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Vote For Four (4)

Bob Martin

Joy Dughman

Danny Reese

Paul Carpenter

Tony Gallardo

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

James Bartels

Vote For One

CHAPLAIN

Joy Dughman

Vote For One

TREASURER

Irv Cidlík

Vote For One

THRIFT STORE BOARD
Vote For Two (2)

Kenny Lempka

Ray Ayars

Flag Ceremony and Fundraiser

On 22 January at 6:30pm, Lincoln Southwest High School Wrestling program will be sponsoring a fundraiser in which all proceeds will go to DAV Chapter #7. There will be a beginning flag ceremony that the Dwight Legion Color Guard will be conducting presentation of the colors. Your attendance in support of event in our honor would be greatly appreciated.

TAPS

Ruben Quenzar
Member 3 Years

Paul Heiser
Member 42Years

John Rotert
Member 29 Years

Eugene Bench
Member 8Years

Larry Sorge
Member 11 Years

Earl Closson
Member 29 Years

Warner Dale
Member 6 Years

Jerry Gass
Member 24 Years

May They Rest In Peace
Joey Dughman, Chaplain

SAMPLE

 **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

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 proceeding 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.

JANUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 \$2.50 Burger Night	4
5	6 DAV/DAVA Meeting 7PM	7	8	9	10 Regular Friday Menu	11
12	13 Rats Meeting	14	15 Fish Fry	16 Fleet Reserve	17 Regular Friday Menu	18
19	20	21	22 Thrift Store Board Mtg 5:30pm	23	24 Regular Friday Menu	25
26	27 Executive Board Meeting	28 Marine Corp League	29 Wings & Rings	30	31 Regular Friday Menu	

FEBRUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 DAV/DAVA Meeting 7pm	4	5	6	7 \$2.50 Burger Night	8
9	10 Rats Meeting	11 Marine Corp League	12 Bull Fries & Fish Fry	13	14 Regular Friday Night	15
16	17	18	19 Thrift Store Board Mtg 5:30pm	20	21 Regular Friday Night	22
23	24 Rats Meeting	25	26 Windsor Loins	27	28 Regular Friday Night	

MARCH 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 DAV/DAVA Meeting 7PM	4	5 Fish Fry	6	7 \$2.50 Burger Night	8
9	10 Rats Meeting	11	12	13 Fleet Reserve	14 Regular Friday Night	15
16 Corn Beef and Cabbage	17	18	19 Thrift Store Board Mtg 5:30pm	20	21 Regular Friday Night	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Regular Friday Night	29
30	31 DAV/DAVA Election 2-7 PM					

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

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 Lincoln NE 68529
 402-464-4475

 3901 N. 70th



Jan-Feb-Mar 2014

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SR. VICE COMMANDER
AUX. COMMANDER
AUX. ADJUTANT
ADJUTANT

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GARY GROSSKOPF
REBECCA BOWMAN
BREANNE CHANDLER
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CHAPTER HOUSE

AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S COLUMN

DAVA ADJUTANT NEWS

Hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas with the love of family and friends. Well it is now a New Year, a time for new beginning as well a time to buckle down and get busy.

Our election is coming up at the first Monday in April. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for office. Officers must keep their membership current while they are holding office and not allow it to lapse. There will be a current list of candidates running for office in the Chapter House.

Now is a good time to start thinking about attending State Convention in June. Our State Commander is Past Unit #7 Commander Loretta Hanson. Loretta also serves currently as our Unit #7 Chaplain. It would be nice to have a large delegation from Unit #7 in attendance.

I would like to THANK the auxiliary members that helped shop for Veterans for Christmas and the delivery of the gifts to the various Nursing Homes. We service approximately 200 Veterans with a Christmas wish. Also a thank you to the auxiliary members that delivered poinsettias to VA facilities and shut-ins as well as a thank you to Ree Cain and Mary Jo Hendricks for delivering decorative candy holders with special messages to Veterans at the VAMC during the Christmas Holiday. Many of our auxiliary members participating with the Salvation Army Bell ringing. It was very much appreciated.

Unit #7 is selling Raffle Tickets for the annual auxiliary department raffle. Prizes are \$500 Gift Card, Commander's Basket filled with Nebraska made items and two Huskers Football Tickets. Tickets are being sold for \$1 a ticket or six for \$5. Contact number: 402-489-6447.

As we conclude this holiday season, I would like to share that for the past four years our auxiliary, along with other local Veterans organizations have donated money to Center Pointe 's Veterans Transitional House. The money is collected by my family and me to buy gifts and meals for the Veterans living in the house. One of our dedicated members made and gave several lap robes to Veterans at the VAMC in Lincoln and 34 to Veterans in non-VA facilities in Seward. We have received many thank you notes for grateful veterans \$150 for Christmas Dinner from our unit this year as well. I am very proud to be a part of a Unit that cares and does so much for our Veterans and families, especially during the holiday season. A special thank you to all of our members who have given their time to make sure we can make this happen each year. Fun was had by all at our holiday gathering after the December meeting with the Chapter. I hope each and everyone of you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Because of the new delivery schedule of the newsletter this will be the last newsletter you receive prior to elections. The Nominations Committee has nominated the following candidates for office; Becky Bowman-Commander, Ree Cain-Sr Vice; Rene' Holloway-Jr Vice; Eileen Rich and Mary Jo Hendricks-Treasurer; Phyllis Vensky, Marie Smith, and Patti Bennett-Executive Committee.

I urge all members to come to our meeting the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. I understand that not everyone is above to make all of the meeting but please try to come to those you can make.

Wishing you a Happy and prosperous New Year!

Best Wishes in the New Year

Rebecca Bowman Unit #7 Commander

Breanne Chandler, Unit #7 Adjutant