



# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

232 Union Ave Somerville, NJ Chapter 16

## Last Meeting Minutes



January 28, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the DAV, Somerville Chapter 16 was held on Saturday, January 28. The room was secured and our colors were posted by our Sergeant at Arms. Our meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by our Commander. Roll call of DAV Chapter 16 Officers: 7 present, 1 excused. Total Attendance: 55. Guests: 3 = Ed Muller, Frank Perlizak, Carole Pierce

### Minutes Report:

Minutes (November) read by Dwight were accepted as read, with one correction. (1<sup>st</sup> Shilo 2<sup>nd</sup> Walter)

### Treasurer's Report:

Reports for November, December and January were read.

(Nov minutes - 1<sup>st</sup> Ernie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe D; Dec minutes - 1<sup>st</sup> Phil, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gabe; January minutes - 1<sup>st</sup> George, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale.)

MONTH:	START BALANCE:	END BALANCE:	CHANGE:
November 2016	\$8,406.22	\$6,363.00	\$14,769.22
December 2016	\$6,363.00	\$6,009.85	
January 2017	\$6,009.85	\$3,628.61	

Our Chapter saving account balance is \$4,214.05.

### Regular business:

Our new e-mail address for contacting the Commander or for chapter business is [davchapter016@gmail.com](mailto:davchapter016@gmail.com). Jim Velcheck asked about the two different e-mails. The other one is [dav.nj.ch16@gmail.com](mailto:dav.nj.ch16@gmail.com) which is used for broadcasting messages to our members. Mailings via USPS were discontinued to save the chapter about \$350/month.

Many members have received the January USPS mailing which included Ch 16 calendar cards and a reminder we are switching to email. Forget-Me-Not drives, have been approved for IHOP and Wal-Mart in Piscataway. We have secured the locations of Wal-Mart in Piscataway in March, and Wal-Mart in Watchung. Also, IHOP in Piscataway is scheduled for May 6/7 2017. Volunteers will be needed for all these locations. We will also have our regular Forget Me Not event in Warren on Father's Day weekend, 6/17-18<sup>th</sup>.

Help from the Geiger Foundation enabled us to expand our service for Veterans. Our Chapter is now up to 760 members. Thanks to all the members for their help and attendance each month. Chapter Notification letters are based on the Calendar year, DAV Finances are based on a July to June Fiscal Year. Thanks to Ray and Shilo for cleaning the DAV monument out front. Tim and Connie will do flowers in the spring.

See Doc Wilson for all clothing requests. See Dwight for hats. APPA (American Pool Players Association) donates money to the chapter twice a year and helps us serve the Veteran community. Our 2016 Holiday party was a success and a good time was had by all. Last year we participated in a wide variety of Veterans assistance programs. Our focus included assistance to Operation Chill out, Hope for Veterans and the Women Treatment Unit at Lyons.

Operation Chill out also donated 15 Christmas Gift bags. Ten were distributed to female veterans at Lyons. Five bags filled with male items were given to Tim O'Brien for distribution to needy veterans visiting the Lyons DAV VSO office. Tim and Steve will also give out Canteen Books good for purchases at VA Patriot stores. Catholic Charities will now accept Veterans who are homeless and assist them in finding housing. The Commander received a new VA list of 14 diseases that may be affiliated with Agent Orange or herbicides. The VA has put in place senior Women advisors to deal with many Women's issues. There is a new suicide law (Public Law 114-188). Copies are available from the Commander.



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Hope for Veterans sent us a thank you for the donations we made to Stacie McDonough, who with the help of Harriete Doll, purchased items which we provided to Veterans at Lyons. Veterans at Lyons sent our Chapter a Thank You card for the R&R parties we have sponsored. New DAV members have been contacting the Commander and he has invited them to join us at a monthly meeting. The Commander read correspondence from the VA Women's Treatment Unit.

New Jersey has new rules and changes for tax laws which are helpful to veterans. The Commander mentioned there was a DEC meeting today which we could not attend as all our officers are here at today's Chapter meeting. Service officers from the DAV handle more veterans from both the DAV and other organizations that fall short. The Commander discussed the Service Officers role and how the certification classes are handled. We donated to Joe K a Purple Heart Recognition Award, from Vic Griguoli's wife Marsha. Dwight discussed benefits being expanded to veterans by DOD to use online shopping at PX/BX sites. Costs of Medications provided by VA will change February 27, 2017. There will be three tiers similar to outside insurers.

Dwight read a list of Chapter 16 accomplishments in 2016. These include donations to Veterans groups and causes to assist veterans. Doc covered the clothing issues. See him if you need Chapter clothing. The Marine reserve unit, gave the Chapter a certificate of recognition. A suggestion was made that the wording "Occurred within or aggravated by" should be added to VA claims. Middlesex County is providing assistance to homeless veterans. Ernie talked about establishing new programs with donations from corporations for children's dental needs.

Commander discussed the 100% permanent information letter he created for deceased Veterans spouses. Please read it and get the necessary forms and paperwork together. Keep it with your important paperwork.

### **The Adjutant:**

Read several letters of communications that were received during the month.

### **Chaplains Report:**

N/A

### **Service Officer Report:**

N/A

### **Sr. or Jr. Vice Commander Report:**

N/A

### **Chapter Old Business:**

N/A

### **Membership:**

N/A



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## Chapter New Business:

N/A

**Closing:** A chapter member made a motion to close the meeting. The motion was seconded. The Commander closed the meeting and our chaplain said the closing prayer. The colors were retired at 12.08PM. Next meeting will be on February 25, 2017