



July 2020

Disabled American Veterans
Willie Marcum Chapter 72 Medina, OH

Dear Chapter Members,

I hope all of you are well and safe during these unusual times. The last few months have been challenging, to say the least, but we will keep our heads up, keep moving forward, and adapt to our new *normal*.

Meetings

National and Department of Ohio DAV organizations canceled their respective conventions to protect members from COVID-19. Accordingly, our Chapter meetings for April, May and June were canceled. National and Department of Ohio offered the option of allowing current officers to remain in place and serve until holding a meeting for elections after restrictions were lifted. That time has now come; and at our August 11, 2020 meeting, the last round of nominations will take place, elections will be held, and officer installation will occur. Additionally, minor changes are proposed to the Chapter's bylaws. Proposed changes include Executive Committee member clarification, attendance requirements for the Veterans Hall Trustees, and attendance prior to election as an officer.

Note from DAVA #72 Commander, Sherry Bilinovich

Dear Auxiliary Members:

Just a short update on the status of your DAVA Unit 72. Because of our winter break and then the following virus impact on social gatherings, we have not met in quite a while. Additionally, both the State and National DAV / DAVA Conventions have been cancelled. Also, the Medina Veterans Memorial Hall had been closed until very recently, hence no meetings could be held. Our next scheduled meeting will be held on August 11, 2020 at 7pm in the Hall.

Just because we have not been able to meet does not mean that your Auxiliary Unit has been totally inactive. We have supported Chapter 72 and their requests. We have donated gift cards to the Medina County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) for needy veterans in our County. Unable to do a traditional Forget-Me-Not (FMN) drive because of the virus, we recently ran an FMN mail solicitation to our members and the Chapter 72 members residing in Medina County. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Despite trying times, your Auxiliary Unit is continuing to support the needs of Medina County veterans and their families. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to bring them to our next meeting. Masks will be available at the meeting. Thank you for your support and I look forward to being able to see you in person soon.

2019/2020 Overview

2019 was a very busy year! A HUGE thank you goes out to Brian Krusz, a veteran Marine and owner of Sgt. Clean's Car Wash, for donating 200 car wash gift cards and enabling us to raise

\$1,000.00 for Fisher House. The gift cards vanished quickly with just a \$5 donation for a \$10 car wash! If your car needs to be washed, please keep Sgt. Clean's in mind.

Another HUGE thank you goes out to Brian Williams and Williams on the Lake for their generosity! I was humbled to accept a donation of \$1,000.00 in conjunction with the Diamond Project event. The Neil Diamond music was amazing; and as usual, the meal was delicious!

Tank the Truck was tremendously successful in 2019! In conjunction with Feeding Medina County, Chapter 72 supplied laundry soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste in December. Additionally, fifty Christmas dinners were given to local veterans. Many thanks to Ed Zackery, Director/Service Officer, and the staff of the Medina County Veterans Service Office for spearheading this cause.

Along with Forget-Me-Not drives, the Medina County Fair, Medina County Home flag raising, Medina County Veterans Coalition, 2019 Memorial Day Parade and hosting the last MSO van for claims, Chapter 72 is active and involved in the community and continues to faithfully serve the veterans of Medina County.

Moving Forward

We are all stewards of Chapter 72 – and we need your help! It is my job to keep the chapter viable, relevant and engaged in supporting the veterans of Medina County. I don't have a crystal ball to see into the future, but I envision the need for flexibility as we navigate through the coming months.

The Chapter is financially strong; however, to keep the Chapter moving forward, your precious time is needed. Can you spare eight to twelve hours a year? Please consider helping out with the Forget-Me-Not drives, pulling Colors at the County Home or other activities. Your assistance is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

Chapter meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and typically last approximately one hour. Please consider joining us several times a year and signing up for our telephone and/or email list.

The pitch is simple, please help your Chapter support the veterans of Medina County!

Contact Information

www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/oh/72/default.aspx

www.facebook.com/DAV72MedinaOH

dav72medina@gmail.com

Closing Thoughts

It is an honor to serve as Willie Marcum #72 Commander. The chapter is well respected in the community and will continue to serve Medina County veterans for years to come.

Challenges will inevitably make us stronger!

Curt Schwehm
330-241-3555
dav72curt@yahoo.com