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Disabled American Veterans Naomi Chapter 15 — Philadelphia, PA

NEWSLETTER

January/February 2015

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Junior Vice Commander

- Stephen D. Lacey

Adjutant/Treasurer

- Harding Byrd
 (267) 292-2082

Chaplain

- Gregory Cason
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Judge Advocate

- Richard D. Fields

Sergeant-at-Arms

- Charles B. Clarke

New Member Welcome

A hearty welcome to six (6) new members of Naomi Chapter 15. Joining our ranks since the last issue of the Newsletter were Comrades Ronald Burton, Richard O'Doughty and Gary L Wallace. Comrades Robert Ayers, Joseph Brown and Hugh J. Smith transferred in from other chapters. Welcome - **Come out and get involved.**



Sickness and Distress

Get well wishes to Comrades Victor H. Smith, Julius Bennett, Eugene Alexander, Samuel Howard, John A. Quann and Anthony K. Moody who have been reported under the weather. We extend condolences and a last salute to the family and friends of Comrades George Murphy, Charles E. Hope and Paul R. Micinec who passed away - they will be sorely missed. Special condolence to Comrade Lawrence Bolling who lost his mother. If you hear of sickness or distress give Chaplain Cason a call at 215 229-6819

Mid-Winter Conference Trip On Tap

Naomi Chapter 15 will sponsor a one (1) day trip to Wash. DC on Feb. 24, 2015 in support of our National Commander's testimony before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees. The trip will also allow all to schedule a meeting with their local congressional representative to lobby for their support of legislation of interest to veterans of America's wars. The bus will leave at 8:00 a.m from the parking area in the Olney Plaza at Front and Olney. Ticket cost will be \$50.00 ---- for further info call the chapter office and/or contact Leonard Johnson 267 254-9097

Newsletter Fund Donations

Commander Johnson and the entire membership of Naomi Chapter 15 send our thanks to those who responded to our request for donations to our Newsletter Fund. These are tough times and the cost of design, production and distribution of this newsletter is a burden Naomi may not be able to handle for much longer. We ask those who are able to help us spread the news to send a donation today! Thanks, its appreciated

Naomi To Host Veterans Town Hall

Mark your calendar! On February 25, 2015 Naomi will partner with the Philadelphia VA Medical Center and act as 'host' of a Veterans Town Hall. Specific details such as time, agenda and procedure are still in the process of development but will be discussed at our January 26, 2015 meeting where Fern S. Billet, Philadelphia VAMC Congressional Liason and Community Relations Representative, will be the featured speaker. Come out and support your commander -- come out and show you care!

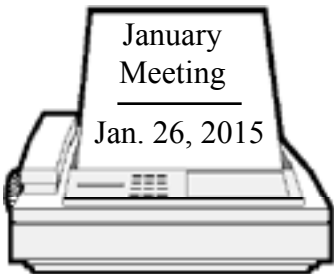
Scheduled VA Hospital Party

Naomi's first 2015 scheduled VA hospital party will be January 29, 2015. These parties are designed to brighten the day for hospitalized veterans. Bingo, refreshments and targeted camaraderie are offered to all. Volunteers are welcome --- come out and help us make this party a success.

Care — Volunteer



M. L. King, Jr. Day
 January 19, 2015



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JANUARY/FEBRUARY REPORT

From The Commander's Desk

Greetings, though the year 2015 will undoubtedly offer many difficult challenges I am confident that Naomi Chapter 15 will continue to be there for disabled veterans in need. As a new Congress convenes, we must be ever vigilant, making sure the benefits we earned because of damage to body, limb and/or mind are not decimated. We must constantly remind our representatives in Washington that the well earned benefits enjoyed by disabled veterans should not be bundled with partisan targets labeled as candidates for the budget ax. We must remind Congress that any increase in funding of the VA budget must meet the increased needs brought on by new users of the VA health system because of combat in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and other hot spots around the world. VA hospital parties, women veterans, the VAVS program and the homeless veterans in our midst are among the targets of our efforts to support veterans in need. Any program we embrace will cost money, that means we will be asking for membership support. That support can be in the form of the buying of a ticket, the giving of a donation, or volunteering your service in any way. Any membership help will be acknowledged and appreciated. Another project on our 2015 agenda is increased membership attendance at our monthly chapter meetings. Come out and contribute — come out and be heard.



New Veterans Choice Card

Three months ago Congress passed, and the President signed, the 'Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014' which directed the establishment of a new program to meet the short-term medical needs of America's veterans. The new Veterans Choice Card is designed to meet the short-term health care needs of eligible veterans, outside the VA system. For further details contact Service Officer Leonard Johnson or Legislative Chairman Larry Holman

New Meeting Location

Because of VA Medical Center renovations Naomi Chapter 15 now meets in the Social Services Room on the 7th floor (7A141). Time is the same, 3:00 pm, and the day is still the 4th Monday. See you there.

VA Toll-Free Number
1-800-827-1000

Support Our Troops

Chapter Meetings

Naomi Chapter 15 meets the fourth Monday of the month at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, University and Woodland Aves. The time is 3:00p.m. on the 7th floor. If you have any questions please call or write either your Commander or your Aduant/Treasurer at the phone number/address listed on page 1.

DON'T
FORGET
YOUR
VALENTINE!

Explore.VA.gov

Don't miss out on benefits you might have earned --- go to explore.VA.gov, sign up and learn more. Actually, you do not have to sign up unless you want info transmitted to your inbox. If you just want info, just drop by and explore! But signing up, providing your email, will guarantee you will not miss out on today's news.

VA, Women Veterans and Homelessness

VA is taking steps to improve and expand services for women Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Many women Veterans face challenges when returning to civilian life that are different from those of their male counterparts, including raising children on their own or dealing with the psychological after effects of events such as military sexual trauma. These issues, without intervention, can put women Veterans at greater risk of becoming homeless. This makes VA's efforts to provide housing and health care support all the more critical. It is a challenge VA continues to embrace. For more info on this or other programs benefitting women veterans contact our Service Officer, Commander Leonard Johnson.



Presidents Day
February 16, 2015

February Meeting — February 23, 2015