

March/April Report

From The Commander's Desk

Greetings Comrades, I just came back from Washington DC, where I was part of the support team for our National Commander as he advocated for continued budgetary support of the needs of veterans of America's wars during testimony before a joint committee of Congress. I was there to welcome Naomi's group that came down on February 28, Sr. Vice Johnson and Jr. Vice Lacey are to be commended for a job well done. I also appreciate the support of the membership, we could not have done it without you. In case you have forgotten it is March and time to start the process of choosing our leadership team for the 2012/2013 organizational year. Nominations will be in order at the March meeting and nominations and elections will be in order during the April meeting. Sorry, no voting by proxy, you have to be present to vote. As State VAVS Chairperson I am looking for volunteers for the VA Medical Centers around the state. Share those skills in ways that benefit hospitalized veterans. We could also use drivers for the DAV vans that shuttle veterans to and from appointments at the hospital. Interested in helping out? Give Leonard Johnson a call at 267 254-9097. Thanks ---- see you at our next meeting!



Service Officer Report

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced its participation in the \$25 billion settlement that addresses past mortgage loan servicing and foreclosure abuses, while providing substantial financial relief to borrowers and establishing significant future homeowner protections. Available to eligible beneficiaries are cash payments, principal forgiveness, interest-rate-reduction refinancing and forbearance during unemployment.



Interested veterans - even those without a VA guaranteed loan - may call a national toll-free number, 1-877-827-3702 to speak with a VA loan specialist. More info is also available at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans>. For videos of veterans who reached out to VA and were able to keep their homes or avoid foreclosure visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/alt-foreclosure.asp>. For info on this or any other benefit related matter please contact our Chapter Service Officer, Leonard Johnson, 267 254-9097.

PA Seniors Benefits

A new Pennsylvania law, Act 112 of 2011, will allow more senior citizens to remain in their homes or apartments by expanding the types of caregivers eligible for financial support under Pennsylvania's Family Caregiver Support Program. Under the new rules non-relatives or relatives living outside the senior's home are eligible to access benefits.

Support Our Troops

Chapter Meetings

Your Chapter meets the fourth Monday at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, University and Woodland Aves. The time is 3p.m, the location is the 3rd floor. If you have any questions please call or write, either your Commander or your Adutant/Treasurer, at the phone number/address listed on page 1.

VA Hotline Has Birthday

Feb. 1 marked the one-year anniversary of the toll-free National VA Caregiver Support Line. The call center staff has helped connect more than 25,000 veterans, family members and caregivers to earned services and resources. Veterans, friends, family and caregivers can continue to access these resources by calling 1-855-260-3274 or sending an email query through the VA's main page, www.va.gov. Local caregivers support coordinators assess the caller's needs and provide guidance and information VA programs and benefits, as well as brief supportive counseling when needed. The staff can also directly connect callers with the VA's other support lines, such as the Veteran Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255) and the Coaching Into Care Line (1-888-823-7458).

Chapter Website

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/Pa/15/default.aspx>

Just A Reminder

Just a reminder ---- your chapter needs your help. We are in need of your support in the form of any donation you can afford to give. Help us help others ---- help us make difference. Give what you can afford.

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

Nominations and Elections Set

Nominations for election of chapter officers for the 2012/2013 organizational year will be in order at the March 26, 2012 chapter meeting. Nomination **and** election of officers for the same term will be in order at the April 23, 2012 chapter meeting

Phila. Regional DAV NSO Phone Number
215 381-3065



April Meeting — April 23, 2012

