

# March/April Report

## From The Commander's Desk

Greetings Comrades, In case you missed the bus, on February 23, 2016 Naomi sponsored a trip to Washington DC in support of 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. We thank those who supported us, and encourage those who didn't to get on board - the next benefit cut may be your own. Our next VA hospital party is scheduled for March 24 -- see you there. The VA Volunteer Services Program is seeking volunteers who can spare time and skills to help veterans get through a difficult day. Show you care -- Volunteer! I want to congratulate our National leadership team, Commander McIntosh, Adjutant Burgess and Legislative Director Ilem who kept their eyes on the ball until the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015 was signed into law. I also want to thank those of you who have sent in donations to help Naomi help veterans We could not do it without you - Thanks! Another encouraging area of chapter interest is Naomi's membership growth. We are approaching the end of our 2015/2016 membership year and we may meet our stated goals. Membership growth is a team effort, we will meet those goals only if we pull together. We need every member to become a recruiter - if you know a disabled veteran, recruit him/her. Bring him/her to our next meeting - Help Naomi Grow!



### Service Officer Report

Burial benefits for eligible veterans include a gravesite in any of 134 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a headstone or marker, a burial flag and a Presidential Memorial Certificate at no cost to the family. Some veterans may also be eligible for burial allowances. Cremated remains are handled in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. Burial benefits for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care and the spouse or dependent's name and date of birth inscribed on the Veteran's headstone at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. For more info or specific details contact Chapter Service Officer Johnson 267 254-9097

### Veterans Advisory Commission

The Philadelphia Veterans Advisory Commission is located on the first floor of City Hall, Room 127. Scott Brown is the Director, the phone # is 215 686-3256 and the contact person is Joyce McKeown. Drop by for info on city, county and state benefits.

### My HealthVet

A nifty online access is available for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care System. After you have completed the registration process you can renew prescriptions online, print available lab results and interact with your primary. For more info contact Len Johnson at 267 254-9097.



### Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 (Press 1)

### Chapter Meetings

Your Chapter meets the fourth Monday at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, University and Woodland Aves. The time is 3:30p.m, the location is the 7th floor (7A141-back). 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.

### The Affordable Care Act And You

Veterans enrolled in VA health care programs have health coverage that meets the new Affordable Care Act's (ACA) standards. ACA does not change VA health benefits or veterans' out-of-pocket costs. Starting in 2016 (2015 tax year) US tax payers will need to declare that they have health coverage on their tax forms. For further details on how ACA affects you contact Legislative Director Larry D. Holman 215 601-6263

### Federal Leave Act of 2015

The Wounded Warrior Federal Leave Act of 2015 was signed into law November 5, 2015 and provides up to 104 hours of sick leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with service-connected disability rated at 30% or higher. For further info or specific details contact Larry Holman (215) 601-6263

### 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 2016/2017 organizational year will be in order at the March 28, 2016 chapter meeting. Nomination and election of officers for the same term will be in order at the April 25, 2016 chapter meeting

Phila. Regional DAV NSO Phone Number  
**215 381-3065**

## April Meeting – April 25, 2016