

September/October Report

From The Commander's Desk

Greetings Comrades, let me begin by thanking all who offered condolences to my wife and I on the loss of my brother Alfred. You are appreciated and he will be sorely missed. We start the new membership year counting our blessings and marshalling our resources to tackle the challenges that are sure to cross our fraternal door. We have started the year by donating \$2,000.00 to Phila. Stand Down's 2011 'Hand Up' to the homeless veterans in our area. Our \$1,000.00 donation to the Phila. VA Voluntary Services Program was ticketed to support therapeutic activities at the local VA Vet Center. I have just returned from our National Convention in New Orleans where I represented the chapter as the official Disabled American Veteran's position on issues important to you and I was established. We are committed to reminding those who represent us in Washington, that the debt owed the veterans of America's wars must not be sacrificed on the altar of expediency during the upcoming debate on how to reduce the nation's debt. In order to be effective the chapter needs your help. Your active participation in chapter affairs is indispensable and an occasional donation would increase our ability to pay our bills. Mark your calendar -- attend our meetings ---- get involved!



Naomi Service Officer Certified

Sr Vice Commander Leonard Johson has been recertified by National as our official chapter service officer. Questions regarding claims or benefits should be directed to him at 215 765-4921 (H) or 267 254-9097 (cell).

COLA Will Stay The Same

The news out of Wahington is that this year's COLA for Social Security recipients and veterans will be greater than 0%. That's right it is almost certain that you will get an increase in cash benefits for the 2012 year unless the facts bundled in the CPI index are sacrificed on the altar of debt reduction. Don't wait for fate to hit you in the wallet -- let your congressperson know how you feel, and then don't spend it all in the same place

Hospital Party Scheduled

Naomi Chapter 15 will sponsor a hospital party at the Philadelphia VAMC on Thursday October 27, 2011. Members are asked to be on hand to help lift the spirits of hospitalized veterans. Refreshments, bingo, and an upbeat atmosphere are part of the plans being developed. Time is 7:00 pm, place is the 3rd fl multipurpose room.

PA State and County Veterans Benefits

Veterans seeking info on available benefits offered by the state of PA, or Phila. County, should contact the Phila. Veterans Advisory Commission. The principal contact at the Commission is Executive Director Edgar Howard, Rm 494, City Hall, (215) 686-3256 or (215) 563-3162 [edgar.a.howard@phila.gov]. Info, guidance and/or required forms are available upon request.

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 3:00 p.m., the location is the 3rd floor. If you have any questions please call or write either your commander or adjutant/treasurer at the phone number/address listed on page one.

Naomi Q & A

Q. If my service-connected condition becomes worse, will the VA automatically increase my rating?

A. No. You must reopen your claim if your condition has worsened. The best way to do this is to contact a veterans service organization, like the DAV, or your County Director of Veterans Affairs. To request an increase in your percent of disability file a VA Form 21-4138 "Statement in Support of Claim." You may also use a blank sheet of paper to provide the pertinent information. The first paragraph should begin with "I am requesting reevaluation of my service-connected disability."

To persuade the VA to authorize a VA examination you need only to submit evidence that leads the VA to conclude there is the "reasonable probability of a valid claim. The VA may accept a private medical statement, a lay statement, or even your own statement that the condition has increased in severity. Even a sketchy medical statement that you are being treated for the service-connected condition will almost always result in a VA examination.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY VA BENEFIT OR SERVICE, CONTACT VA BY CALLING 1 800 827-1000 OR THE PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL DAV NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE AT 215 381-3065



October Meeting — October 24, 2011

