



*Disabled American Veterans  
Department of Colorado  
September 2019*

## Your Voice From Headquarters

*COMMANDER ~ Darla Sanders*

Hello everyone!



This has been a couple of busy months here at the Department. I've been able to get started on my chapter visits. For those I've visited, thank you for being so gracious and helpful; for those I have yet to visit, I look forward to meeting you. I hope to get to everyone before the snow flies...guess I had better hurry!

The National Convention was informative...as you probably already know, dues are going up to \$300.00 for all new members (except those over 80). Originally they said the increase would take effect on August 1, 2019, but they have changed that to January 1, 2020. That's an excellent tool for recruitment...don't let potential members wait.

We have been looking at how we can open lines of communication between Department and our chapters; and we are taking our first step. All of our Sub Executive Meeting minutes will be distributed to our Department Executive Committee (DEC) members. We hope this will help the chapters stay informed on what's going on in the Department.

If you don't see or get feedback on those minutes, ask your chapter DEC to share them with you.

We have added an additional van this year at Dunger-Smith Chapter #44. It will allow us to expand our network by starting a new run from Cortez to Moab, Montrose, and Grand Junction. We hope to expand it more over the next few years. The Department was given the opportunity to buy another van, but for the first time we were told by DAV National we need to pay full price. Unfortunately, we did not have the funds budgeted to pay for it.

I think that's it for me...wishing everyone the best.

**One Team...One Goal...Helping Veterans**

### MISSION STATEMENT

“Empowering veterans, their widows and dependents to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity

(from the DAV Mission Statement)

## ADJUTANT ~ *Andrew Grieb*

Next month, October 12, 2019 is the Finance Committee Meeting at 9am to be followed by the Department Executive Committee meeting at 10:00 am. We have a lot of important business to discuss, therefore, I hope each Chapter's DEC will make it a priority to be in attendance.

Collectively we must continue to work together and set an example for the many returning soldiers who will, hopefully, follow in our footsteps in building better lives for disabled veterans and their families. We veterans have a genuine need to help our fellow veterans. We must do our part by accepting new members and supporting open discussions about how to keep this wonderful organization viable for many years to come. To regain our focus of why Disabled American Veterans was founded and this organization's purpose will ultimately benefit those who rely on the DAV, disabled veterans and their families.



## Department Chaplain ~ *Rev. Garry Turky*

Hello Everyone!



First off I would just like to say that I am very grateful and thankful to be a part of this great organization. It is so much more than a club or a fellowship. It is very humbling to work with you all because we have a common goal and that is to help the veterans in our state and anywhere else we can be of service as part of the DAV Department of Colorado.

I have been attending several Veteran Job Fair's in the metro area and it was great to see the turn out of local veterans at each Job Fair I attended. There is a rising number of unemployed vets in our community that need help, lets help where we can.5

Being the DAV State Chaplain keeps me very busy, I attend the legislative meetings, I'm a new board member for the Governor's & Mayor's Veteran's Conference, I am on the VA Council of Veterans Affairs and I am often called on to give the invocations at various meetings and events. All that I do leaves little room for any new responsibilities, but I remain open to help with any project that the DAV is a part of.

I have been very busy since the May 2019 Convention with numerous Chapter/Chaplain visits. I attended and performed three eulogies at local funerals and the repast of DAV Members.

I had the most gracious times attending and officiating at the weddings of our local veterans and also taking part in the awesome STAND DOWNS throughout the western slope, including Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

I just want to thank you all for the cards, your prayers, and your calls and visits during my time of dealing with a heart condition. They all meant a lot to me and my beautiful wife Naomi.

Finally, I want to thank the staff at DAV Department of Colorado Headquarters, for their hard work and all they do to hold it down.

## **AUXILIARY STATE COMMANDER ~ Jay E. Alexander**

Greetings Everyone!



Congratulations are in order for two of our units that received recognition at this year's National Convention. **Murphy-Borelli-Klumker Unit #7**, for receiving the National Jr. Activities award, and to **Knob Hill Unit #26**, for receiving the National Special Americanism award for membership of 201 and over. Great job!!

The Pueblo State Fair parade brought special recognition to **San Isabel Chapter and Unit #2** for their 1st place entry in the float division. Their float showcased early Colorado, bringing to life this year's theme, "Horsing around since 1869". The float was on point, complete with wooden horses tied to a split-rail fence, miner 49ers panning for gold, a dance-hall girl, cowpokes, and a live Colorado blue spruce. This was my first state fair parade and we had such a blast! It was so much fun being with everyone that was able to attend and participate. I'm already planning to attend next year !

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have already completed our annual outreach to the VCLC @ Homelake Summerfest (9/14) and All Patients Day @ the Pueblo VA CLC (9/21). During these events, our chapters and units interact with veterans as they visit booths, play games, and select prizes based on a needs list that we receive from the staff at each facility. It's truly a wonderful time of fellowship, food and fun. Then it's time to catch our breath, pack our bags, and head off to Lexington, KY for Fall Conference. The conference provides the opportunity to receive instruction and information on recent changes within the organization, and to pick up the revised 2019-2020 Constitution and Bylaws. As with National Convention, it's also a time to reconnect with friends from other areas outside of Colorado. It is the best "school of instruction" you will attend.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your dedication and commitment in service to our veterans and their families. You continue to serve with pride, enthusiasm and compassion. We should always remember that even the smallest acts of service can have lasting effects in the lives of those that we serve. I remain honored to serve long-side of you. Let's finish 2019-2020 as strong as we started! None of us can accomplish the incredible things that we do alone, and we continue to prove that we are at our best when we work together! We never know just how much time we have to love each other; so let us continue to serve well and love well.

**Comradeship, Loyalty, Devotion, and Service.**

## **AUXILIARY STATE ADJUTANT ~ Susan Miller**

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. Many holidays are coming up so please take time to remember the veterans. Many have no family around them. You can brighten their day with a friendly hello, a smile, a few homemade cookies, etc.

The DAV Auxiliary National Fall Conference will be held at the Embassy Suites, 1801 Newtown Pike, Lexington, Kentucky on September 26-28, 2019. This is a great learning opportunity. I encourage all who are able, to attend.

Thank you for all you do for the veterans, their families and in your community.



## ***Career Opportunity***

**The DAV Department of Colorado has a opportunity to assist veterans as a Department Service Officer. This position is at our Colorado Springs Transportation and Service Center. Call Department Headquarters for more information.**

### **Department Service Officer:**

A Department Service Officer is a full-time employee, who is employed by the Department, a local, non-profit, veteran service organization. The primary function of this position is advocacy for veterans, their dependents and survivors. This person schedules appointments for completion of paperwork, and assists with gathering, compiling, and submitting information to the DAV National Service Office located in the VA Regional Office in Denver. Gives counsel and/or instruction to veterans regarding paperwork or correspondence they may receive regarding their claim. The Department Service Officer is also responsible for monthly reporting of contact data, which is recorded and compiled at Department Headquarters in order to maintain our non-profit status. This position requires certification as a Department Service Officer, which is part of the training for this position, with re-certification annually. This training is given by the DAV National Service Office and will require travel to the Denver area. Travel expenses for this training will be reimbursed. Professional demeanor and attire is essential.

The required work hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday (except Federal Holidays)

### **Required Skills:**

Minimum of two years general office experience  
Two years of customer service experience  
Experience using Internet, document scanner, email, MS Word and Excel  
Ability to stay motivated and on task with limited supervision  
Ability to communicate clearly and concisely with a wide variety of individuals

### **Salary and Benefits:**

Please contact Department Headquarters for information regarding annual salary and benefits.

*Email [davcohq@gmail.com](mailto:davcohq@gmail.com) or call Department Headquarters for inquiries  
or an application.*

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## **FINAL DAV MOBILE SERVICE UNIT SCHEDULE**

**Below are the dates and times and locations for the last Mobile Service Office Events in Colorado.**

**CO Thursday, 10/10/2019 - 9am - 3pm: Potters House Church of Denver**

**CO Friday, 10/11/2019 - 9am - 3pm: Joseph S. Gordy, Jr. Chapter #8 in Greeley**

**CO Tuesday, 10/15/2019 - 9am - 3pm: San Isabel Chapter #2 in Pueblo, CO**

**CO Wednesday 10/16/2019 - 8am - 4pm: Peerless Tires - 6730 N. Academy Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner for the State Fair Parade

## **San Isabel Chapter & Unit #2 in Pueblo**

*Congratulations to San Isabel Chapter and Unit #2 on being awarded the 1st Place Civic/Community Award in this years 2019 Colorado State Fair Parade for best float. The chapter members put a great deal of dedication and effort into their float and helped keep the positive image of the DAV in the community alive and well. San Isabel Chapter & Unit #2 were joined in the parade by Don Hammond of Joseph S. Gordy, Jr. Chapter #8, Department Sr. Vice Commander John Carmona, Department Jr. Vice Commander Joe Bilodeau, as well as Auxiliary State Commander Jay Alexander, Sr. Vice Commander Sharon Bilodeau, Past State Commander Kathy Hanner, and Adjutant Earnestine Bennett of S.L. Brown Unit #11. The chapter was also assisted by members Ieshia Jiron, Paulette Anaya, Juan Gonzales, Gerald Sanchez, Corrinia Sprauge, Leonard and Barbara Berry, Matt and Frances Walmer, Roman Alvarez, Minta Garrison, the Chapter's Sr. Vice Commander Ken Mestas and Past State Commander Leslie Mestas and many others. At the conclusion of the parade everyone who participated were treated to a BBQ picnic at Mineral Palace Park. San Isabel Chapter & Unit #2 look forward to next year and would encourage all DAV members from across the great state of Colorado to be actively involved.*



## **Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital Now Able To Care For Our Vets!**

Your Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital is now a member hospital in the Patient-Centered Community Care Program or PC3!! This translates to the fact that Kit Carson County Health Service District with its hospital, clinics and home & hospice are all able to care for our veterans as of August 5, 2019.

President Trump signed the Mission Act into law on June 6, 2018. This paved the way for our veterans to remain in their communities and utilize private hospitals as an extension of the VA hospitals as long as each community hospital is a recognized member. They may also continue to use the VA hospitals if they choose.

Formerly known as the VA Choice Program, the Patient-Centered Community Care program provides our nation's veterans the ability to walk into a local hospital or clinic and receive treatment, rather than being required to use the Veteran's Administration hospitals and clinics, which are commonly located in metropolitan areas and are hours away.

"We are ecstatic that we were able to make this happen for our area veterans", said CEO Kelly Duke. "Our board of directors also saw it as an important step to bring quality healthcare to our community's veterans" he continued.

"We are so excited to be able to offer quality healthcare in our extended Tri-State area to all of our veterans saving them the need to make the long trip to Denver or Colorado Springs! This is just one more step that helps our community members stay here, so they can heal here, close to home", said Duke.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Volunteer hours are tied to dollars and are important when the DAV goes to Congress to let them know all the areas that we continue to assist veterans.”**

**~ Stephen “Butch” Whitehead**

**Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)** encourages DAV Members and the community to volunteer time to assist veterans in their community with their skills, talents and resources to help with everyday needs. DAV established this program to aid in the mission to serve disabled veterans and their families in the community at the local level.

**Examples of LVAP** - that can be reported to Department are as follows:

Fundraising – Chapter fundraising efforts such as Forget Me Nots

DAV Outreach -- Direct assistance to veterans, widows, or families (professional services, yard work, painting, home repairs, grocery shopping, involvement in community projects that support veterans, etc.)

Veteran Assistance – Are you a working professional? How about offering free services, to a veteran using those skill sets you have?

CSO – Chapter Service Officer work (training & certification required)

**Veteran Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS)** encourages volunteering through the Veterans Administration.

**Examples of VAVS** - that can be reported to Department are as follows:

**Volunteer Drivers** -Transporting veterans to and from medical appointments at VA Hospitals is a critical piece of the DAV Volunteer Programs. A volunteer does NOT need to be a DAV member or a Veteran to participate. It is a process to become a Volunteer Driver through the DAV, if you or someone you know is interested, contact Department to get connected to the Transportation Coordinator in your local area.

**Hospital Volunteers**-Volunteering at the VA hospitals and clinics includes socializing with and getting to know patients, supporting patients through their recovery process, aiding nurses, helping at the front desk and escorting patients to and from their rooms. Each facility has opportunities available.

### **Volunteer Reporting**

It's very important to report the number of hours for each volunteer. It serves as a barometer to let us know how we're doing as an organization. It provides analytic data on where we are providing help, and it lets us know where more volunteers are needed. If you want to start serving fellow veterans, or know someone who does, but just need some help getting started, Department is here to help. We can't stress enough the importance of reporting this data to Department Headquarters.

“I promise you, voluntary service in veteran communities is something many find themselves very passionate about once they get started. I invite you to join me in this very rewarding experience.”

~John H. Kleindienst

**DAV National Voluntary Services**

**LET US ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW PRICELESS VOLUNTEERS ARE TO THE VETERANS AND TO DAV”**