



HAWAII DAV DEPARTMENT NEWS

April 2010



“Building better lives for all of our nation’s disabled veterans and their families.”

Regulation 10: National Constitution Bylaws and Regulations

Priority: To help veterans, focus on resolution and not perpetuate process.

A reminder and encouragement to finalize your plans to attend the 59th State Convention on Maui. Convention Chairman Ned Purdy and Chapter 2 are working very hard to make this convention as good as it can be. Members unable to attend the convention must rely on the delegates attending the convention, to be their representative.

The convention email address is: mauidav@live.com Contacts: Chairman Ned Purdy, 289-8914; Adjutant and Co-chairman Martin Anderson, 242-4016. Remember, active participation is the best motivation for those on the sidelines, and potential new members, for a successful department and chapter, let’s all do our part. Co-chairman Martin Anderson advised they will **TRY** to accommodate late registration until May 15th. Also, a reminder for the chapters to get their ads in and annual reports submitted for the convention manual. The convention will be what we as members make it, so please help make it a good one.

NSO: Chapter Service Officer Training (CSO) this year will be conducted from 8AM to 4PM on the 9th and 10th of June at the Keehi Lagoon Memorial, in the Tommy Kakesako Building. It is requested the letter mailed to all chapters on April 5, 2010, be returned not-later-than April 26, 2010, to the National Service Office with the information requested. This will allow ample time to order the needed supplies. For those attending the convention on Maui please schedule your flight for late afternoon on the 10th. Travel expenses and lodging will be the responsibility of the chapter and /or individual trainee. Ed. Note: This arrangement is possibly something to be submitted to the finance committees of the chapters and at department level in the future for consideration when the training and convention are not co-located.

BYLAW COMMITTEE: The bylaws committee has assembled the proposed changes and will be mailed to the respective Chapter Commanders in the coming week to comply with the bylaw requirement for proposed changes. There are some significant changes, so chapters, please distribute or make available the proposed changes to your members.

HSC: Hospital Service Coordinator, Orlando “Nalu” Perez, completed his first month as Hospital Service Coordinator, and an impressive month it was. A record number of veterans 126, were provided services and a record number of miles driven 4771, to accommodate them and 317 hours of volunteer labor. Conversely a number of veterans were also denied service due to lack of equipment and personnel. Consequently the need for further expansion and acquire more vans continues to be an ongoing challenge as represented in these denial of services.

This is a valuable service to veterans that have difficulty obtaining service from the conventional transportation resources available. This position, and service it provides, is the most successful and direct assistance to our fellow veterans the Department of Hawaii DAV provides. It deserves our focus and attention to expand and continue its success. Primary funding is from Columbia Trust to execute the program, and local donations are the support for funding of new vans. Point of interest, if you are approached regarding a donation to DAV, something you can tell them

that if they choose, they can designate their donation to be used for the “transportation fund” or “van fund” and their donation will be used for that purpose alone, and 100 percent of their donation will benefit another veteran.

The Welfare Service and Rehabilitation Committee, though not visibly active remains available for assistance. Last month on Kauai, a fellow veteran’s house burned down. Commander Keoho used his executive authority to ask the finance committee to make available the maximum amount as provided by our bylaws. Finance committee Chairman Kaiwi convened the finance committee immediately following the SEC meeting and had the funds approved and available for the Commander to present on his return. Also, fellow veterans took up a collection to supplement the gesture. This is one of the pleasures of doing this newsletter when we are able to report veterans helping veterans.

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL: Senior Vice Commander Dauer attended the March meeting of the Oahu Veterans Council, website; www.oahuveteranscenter.com . Several topics of interest were presented. This notation from Fred Ballard Chairman of OVC: It appears that all the mortuaries are adding between \$150 to \$300 to arrange military honors. The amount is added to the total bill. It really does not take that much time. If the survivor or family calls Punchbowl or the state veteran cemetery direct, they will arrange honors free of charge. We all consider it a benefit earned by the veteran and the family should not be charged for that benefit. I’m certain there are similar contacts on the outer islands. We will follow up on this and report more details at a later date.

VETERAN VOTING OPPORTUNITY: This is for the constituents living in District 1 of Hawaii. There is an upcoming special election replacing Representative Neil Abercrombie, who resigned and is running for governor. This election is a **mail in only ballot** you will receive in the mail the first week in May. It must be returned and **received before May 22**. Note here that it must be **received, not postmarked** by that date or it will not be valid. Note of interest, one of the three candidates running for that office is a fellow veteran. The veterans should not underestimate their power as a block of voters, and need to stay informed, and communicate with your government representatives. You can and do make a difference.

We would like to see some input to this newsletter from each chapter, so feel free to contribute by email, phone, letter or anyway you can. There are many talents in our department that could be well utilized for and by other veterans, if we just know of them. Please, if you have a talent or service you would like to make available, let headquarters know or pass the word anyway you can. Our number is 808-833-3746, fax 808-839-5376.

Chapters, please communicate with your department and your community, most of all your fellow chapter members, and let them know how they can help you. The Department has a binding machine capable of binding up to 100 sheets plus, and this service can be made available to the chapters with coordination. The department has a Mobi modem that is surplus. If you, or know anyone interested please contact HQ 833-3746

See you in May at the SEC.

Ed Keoho, Sr. Commander
Department of Hawaii Disabled American Veterans

