



HAWAII DAV DEPARTMENT NEWS

September 7, 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.

Your newsletter editor had the pleasure of attending the **89th National Convention** in Atlanta, Georgia. I highly recommend to anyone if they get the opportunity to attend either the Convention or Winter Conference to do so. I would even go so far as to recommend consideration in the individual Chapter budgets an allocation to assist one of their members to attend and participate.

Statistically the National DAV consists of 21 districts, with 1.2 million plus members. It is truly a privilege to see the professionalism of the National officers and our representatives in our federal government that are truly representative of DAV. The support of corporate America is very inspirational. For example, Ford Motor company has donated 148 vans to transport veterans. They also made a \$220,000 donation to our National Service Fund and Columbia Trust. Harley Davidson Motorcycle Company donated \$1,000,000 for the second time. Many departments and chapters also made sizable donations, the largest \$225,000 by a department.

The seminars and work shops are very informative. The DAV is introducing many technological advances to streamline many of the administrative and organizational requirements, and to attract new and younger veterans into the organization. Considerable use of teleconferencing and other electronic media is encouraged not only to reduce travel

expenses, but to involve new members as much as possible.

In our district 18, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii, Bill Baumann from Nevada was elected as our NEC representative. His term is for two years.

It is with mixed emotion we bid farewell to our NSO, Bert Erwin. He will be retiring at the end of September. Bert we appreciate all you have done for us, and serving faithfully. While we regret your leaving, we also wish you well as you retire, hopefully to a less demanding schedule. We will keep a spot on the beach open for you, so come see us when you can.

As mentioned in the Convention report of this news-letter, reducing expenses is not only encouraged, but necessary as we budget ourselves to help our fellow veterans. Every dollar we spend on administration and

internal expenses is one less dollar to use to assist our fellow veterans. To that end we have reduced the number of SEC meetings from 6 to 4 effectively saving \$9,000 per year. The department travel expenses (airplane tickets) are 40 plus percent of our entire budget. A portion of these savings can be applied toward our van transportation system that is supplemented by the Columbia Trust. Eventhough the Columbia Trust assists us in funding this program, it must be realized this



assistance is temporary in nature, and that the department's share of the expense should be increasing each year, through fund raisers and efficient management of internal administrative expenses. For your information, most departments hold only two SEC meetings per year. All business requiring SEC action between these meetings can be handled with electronic means email, fax, conference calls etc. or mail ballot if necessary. It is very successful in other departments. Any cost-cutting ideas and suggestions are appreciated and should be submitted to your chapter and or department.

DAVA Commander Lorna Kakesako reports several National Bylaw changes have been submitted for approval. In summary the membership eligibility for DAVA has been expanded significantly to include some allied forces participants, and less stringent requirements for domestic veterans that have served.

In short, if interested in becoming a member of DAVA submit an application for consideration. The number of required unit meetings has also been reduced to four per year. Support your local DAVA unit.

HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATOR Nalu Perez continues to expand the service of the VA van transportation system by carrying more veterans and adding more miles each and every month. Along those same lines, the demand for more van service is also expanding, so chapters please increase your efforts in your fund raiser plans to support this very important service.

The Maui van should return to service some time this month. Perhaps a lesson learned, vigilance and diligence is necessary to monitor the daily operation of this service by all concerned to be certain our veterans are receiving the service they are entitled to with this system. Veterans helping veterans!

Potentially at this juncture, it appears the department will be pursuing the acquisition of two vans this year.

Adjutant Penn, 2nd Jr. Vice Dauer, and Commander Chapter 1, Phillips attended the monthly meeting of Oahu Veterans Council. Part of their program included a presentation by the United States Department of Labor. The presentation was a disclosure of procedures and assistance available should there an issue of any kind of "non compliance" of companies that are federal contractors, regarding labor practices. The Department of Labor is responsible for assuring that employers doing business with the Federal government comply with the laws and regulations requiring nondiscrimination and affirmative action, in employment. If as a veteran and employee of such a company, and you believe there is an issue, your are encouraged to contact the the Department of Labor; local representative, Halemia Jones, MS MA 808-541-2931, Fax 808-541-2904, email, jones.halemia@dol.gov. Their area of responsibility is the nine western states, the Pacific region extending to Guam and American Samoa.

In memorium, Past National Chaplain Gerald V. Stump (2001-2006) passed away 8-31-2010.

A reminder, don't forget to support and vote for you your candidate of choice in the upcoming primary election, September 18, 2010. No vote, No complain!

Please give us your feedback and/or offer of assistance, PLEASE, on this newsletter; 808 833-3746/Fax 808-839-5376; or HIwebmaster@davfrat.org

Edward K Keoho, Sr. Commander,
Department of Hawaii DAV