

MILITARY

FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE HEROES WHO SERVED



Michigan Disabled Veteran Second Edition

Volume 63 No. 1

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Outfitting the Returning Vet EMPLOYMENT OPPS THROUGH SUITS FOR SOLDIERS



FEATURE STORY PG. 5



"I was online and came across an article about a soldier who didn't get a job because he didn't have proper business attire," Fader remembers. "I read the whole article and I found out that his buddy got the job. They'd been doing the IT circuit for a while and his buddy had a worse GPA, worse schooling, not all the certifications needed."

But the less-qualified buddy had a professional looking suit for his interview, while the more-qualified vet did not.

"I thought it was a joke. Of all fields — IT — he didn't get a job because he didn't have a suit."

SUITS FOR SOLDIERS
FOUNDER/CHAIRMAN SCOTT FADER

New Horizons

As the daughter of a Marine, and the daughter-in-law of a Navy veteran, Christy Rowe possesses a strong inner passion for assisting local veterans in the Metro Detroit area. Employed by New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Livonia/Troy by day, Christy's role as a Senior Veterans Career Consultant allows her the opportunity to assist veterans in pursuing training and National Certifications in rapid-growth fields such as: Information Technology, Cyber Security, Network Administration, and Project Management.

Whether the veteran is new to the IT field or tenured and attempting to create marketability and increase current skillset, Christy is able to devise a customized training program to fit their needs. With day and evening courses available in an open enrollment format, as well as, onsite and online modalities, it proves a flexible option for continuing education. Job placement and resume assistance available as well.

New Horizons holds the Military Friendly School designation for 2013/2014. GI Bill (Chapter 33) and Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31) accepted.

For more information on enrolling into an Information Technology program, contact:

Christy Rowe
734-853-2077 direct
Christy.Rowe@nhgreatlakes.com



New Horizons has been awarded the 2014 Military Friendly Schools® Designation!

Our Career Consultants are here answer your questions and guide you through your training from beginning to end. As part of your career development process, students will have access to a career skills assessment, resume and cover letter development, resume distribution, interview coaching, job search assistance, and other services. We'll even help you find a job while enrolled in one of our training programs. This quick jump start on your career will give you the edge over thousands of candidates looking for similar jobs.

VA Approved Training Provider Military Friendly School
Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Chapter 33 GI BILL accepted



Christy Rowe
Senior Veterans Career Consultant
734-853-2077 Direct
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Veterans helping Veterans



L-R: MVAA deputy director Jim Dunn, Ron Schreiber, MVAA Director Jeff Barnes

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State Commander's Message



Les Schneider

In the last eight months, the Department and many of the chapters have actively been moving ahead to make this a stronger Organization. In this month's publication, you will read all about many of the accomplishments the Department has made. This magazine is a prime example of what we are attempting to do. We have updated from a newspaper, and are working on getting a new website up and running along with many other new programs. We are all actively working towards having this Organization prosper and grow.

I have visited and communicated with many of the chapters in the state, a few have had personnel problems or financial problems. None of them have had anything wrong that cannot be discussed and resolved. There are a number of the chapters that I visited and really enjoyed, Chapter 3 has a great group of Veterans that are doing a great job in public relations and very active in the community, Chapter 64 their officers and Commander have decided to merge with another chapter after careful consideration and how to help the Organization as a whole instead of closing the chapter. Chapter 12 in Port Huron is another chapter that is doing well and staying active in their community, and does everything to make Veterans feel welcome.

As always, our Department personnel are doing an excellent job. Shawn has been very busy promoting the DAV, and has signed many sponsors to our magazine, he has been very busy working with chapters and other Veterans groups as well as working on updating the Department Constitution and Bylaws and getting the 501C3 status. Make sure you attend your District meetings for updates prior to convention.

Michelle and Kelly are both keeping pace with Shawn and keeping the office running smoothly and efficiently, I am confident that without the present staff doing their best in the office that our Department would not exist, I am very pleased and happy to have them working for us.

I would also like to let you know that Sr. Vice Commander Jo Linda White and 1st Jr. Vice Commander Beth Gonzales have been out to visit chapters and have been keeping very busy with Veterans activities and working with chapters to solve problems or offer their advice, the ladies have been doing a fine job as Vice Commanders this year. Beth has visited almost all chapters in District 1 and will have gotten to all of them by Convention. Great Job Commanders.

I am looking forward to seeing a lot of you at the District meetings and the State Convention, this year's convention will be one for the books, and we have a lot of new speakers and a parachute jump at the opening session at the Kewadin. ■

Sr. Vice Commander's Message on Membership

Happy Spring! It is getting closer to convention time and I am concerned about our membership numbers. I would like for everyone to ask yourselves, "Have I signed up anyone this last year?" If you haven't, then why not? If you have, Congratulations! I asked of everyone last June to sign up one new member in the coming year. I have signed up three as of the writing of this article. We are losing members at a very fast rate and need not only to replace those losses but to also grow in numbers. Membership is important to our organization, it's how we grow. Growth is important and there are plenty of men and women veterans out there that are eligible. New people bring in new ideas, and yes I understand that change is difficult.

Growth and change are our future.

I once had someone ask me about 30 years ago did I change my clothes each day? Of course my response was "Yes." That person then informed me that I change each day and that change can be a good thing. Since that time I often ask others the same question when they complain about change.

There are hundreds of men and women coming home from overseas that fit the qualities we are looking for. There are also hundreds of veterans of other conflicts that fit the qualities we are looking for. Talk to people - you never know when you will meet the next new member of your chapter.

I urge as many of you as possible to become Service Officers. Come to State Convention this year and participate in the



Jo Linda White

two (2) day service officer training, helping veterans with their claims is one of the ways to talk to people about membership. In closing, there is still time to sign up a new member.

Remember, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP. ■

Estate Planning

For information on including the DAV Department of Michigan in your estate plans, please contact us at 1-888-448-2328 or return this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please complete and mail to:
**Disabled American Veterans
Department of Michigan
17779 E. 14 Mile Road
Fraser, MI 48026**

Prepping for State Convention

— by Shawn M. Wilson, State Adjutant



There has been a lot of work going into the state convention this year and many positive changes have taken place as well. As many of you know we have been in a series of publications that included the Rose Bowl official souvenir program (Stanford vs. Michigan State). This particular publication was sold to each person who attended the game including many Michiganders. We will be in the official Detroit Tigers and Lions Yearbook that will be sold at each home game this year as well. This will be sold to hundreds of thousands of Michiganders who will see the MI DAV logo and all that we offer, and continue to have offered for 92 years and counting.

There has been plenty of positive feedback on the first MI DAV magazine throughout the state and from as far away as Florida, (where we have some “snow bird” Veterans). In this publication you will read about education and employment. Both of these topics are crucial to the Veteran community and the state of Michigan as a whole. In the future you will read and see much more about VA Benefits, Education, Employment and Quality of Life and how MI DAV plays an active role in all of these important aspects for our Veteran community.

Some of you have sent in pictures of active and non-active military family members to our website www.davmembersportal.org/mi along with other pictures that are amusing to say the least. I will do my best to put in some these pictures in each of our publications, going forward.

Our 501 (c) (3) has been submitted to the IRS and now we have to “hurry up and wait”, as many of you are aware of that sort

of system. Wish us luck.

I will be at each District Meeting before State Convention as I am aware that some of you attend the District Meeting and not the State Convention due to travel or having other commitments. I can assure you that the State Convention this year will be one of the best in sometime and will have very good guest speakers to include former Army Special Forces and Golden Knight Dana Bowman who will sky dive into the convention, Teria Dowdy from the VARO, Bonnie Hilberer from Toast Masters International, Brigadier General Fausone and Berry Jesenowski from National H.Q in Washington D.C amongst many others.

There will be top-notch training for our Service Officers for those who attend the two-day seminar. There will be an emphasis on women Veterans as well from some of the guest speakers who were previously mentioned as well. We have no shortage of motivational speakers and the convention should be a good time for all who attend.

MI DAV is working closely with Camp Liberty a.k.a Operation Freedom Outdoors and I have attended the Camp Liberty Gala along with Tom Dempster. Over 200 people showed up that night and a good time was had by all.

As you can see from the cover story MI DAV is also working with Suits for Soldiers as well. This is an outstanding organization that directly impacts Veterans obtaining employment when they go out and interview for jobs once they have completed their education beyond the military.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the District Meetings and State Convention. ■

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POLICY

To bond the disabled together as a unit.
To acquaint the members of the DAV and the public with the problems of the disabled and what the Department of Michigan, Disabled American Veterans, is doing to assist in overcoming their handicaps.
To keep alive the Fires of Freedom that American ideals shall not perish from the earth.
To promote the welfare of the Disabled American Veterans of the State of Michigan and the Nation.

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DAV Thrift Store

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New DAV Thrift Store

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Douglas Wells
Service Director

As America's disabled veterans, their families, and survivors continue to deal with the life-long realities of disability and death imposed upon them by their wartime service and sacrifice; our elected officials seem content to perpetually play games of political brinkmanship with the benefits that have been earned by these deserving citizens. This needs to stop now!

Currently, Congress has yet to receive the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget request. Indications are the Administration's budget will be submitted at the beginning of March 2014. DAV is urging Congress to provide a total discretionary budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of \$72.9 billion. Failing to pass VA's budget on time and at adequate funding levels simply leads to one sad fact: our government is failing to meet its obligations to the heroes of our nation.

The government shutdown last October confirmed what has become increasingly clear: the Federal budget and appropriations process is broken. Over the past 25 years, the full-year budget for the VA has

been enacted by the start of the fiscal year only three times. Consequently, VA has been hampered by dozens of short-term continuing resolutions (CRs) that have created financial uncertainty and prevented efficient planning and execution of funds for veterans programs. Without knowing how much funding would be available before the fiscal year begins, VA has been hindered in hiring new employees, procuring major equipment, signing contracts or starting new initiatives to improve the delivery of benefits and services to our men and women who have served.

In 2009, as the result of a multi-year grassroots advocacy effort by DAV and other veteran service organizations, Congress passed, and the President signed, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act (Public Law 111-81) to provide advance appropriations for veterans medical care programs. Advance appropriations allow Congress to approve funding one year in advance of each fiscal year, guaranteeing timely and predictable funding is available, even during budget stalemates or government shutdowns.

While many VA offices and services were closed during the recent shutdown, VA hospitals and clinics were able to provide uninterrupted health care. By contrast, the shutdown delayed, disrupted and suspended other critical services for veterans. Claims processing to reduce the backlog was slowed, activities at national cemeteries were scaled back, and vital medical research projects were nearly suspended.

Despite this fact, VA unbelievably issued a statement last fall saying that it opposes

expanding advance appropriations for the remaining portion of the VA's annual budget that is not funded one year in advance. This heartbreaking position puts veterans and their families at significant risk of harm should the government shut down again, and it reflects very poorly both on the VA and our nation as a whole.

Building on the universally acclaimed success of advance appropriations for VA medical programs, House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) and Ranking Minority Member Mike Michaud (D-Me.) last year introduced the Putting Veterans Funding First Act (H.R. 813) to extend advance appropriations to all VA discretionary programs. Senators Mark Begich (D-Alaska) and John Boozman (R-Ark.) introduced companion legislation (S. 932) in the Senate. On August 1, 2013, the House VA Committee approved H.R. 813 unanimously. On November 19, 2013, the Senate VA Committee approved S.932, with an amendment to include mandatory VA benefits, by a 13 to 1 vote. Including mandatory accounts would ensure that even during a prolonged government shutdown, veteran's benefits, such as disability compensation, would be paid on time without interruption.

Advance appropriations will not increase spending or add to the deficit since the funding levels are still set by Congress every year; however the law authorizing that spending will be approved well before annual budget battles begin. In addition, after approving the funding levels in advance, Congress has an additional year

— WELLS continued on page 11

“Our lives are found in what is profound, are discovered in what otherwise is covered, are revealed in what forever seems sealed.”

It is in every one of us to become, to be, to belong and to be significant. We do not wish to be a “glob,” rising to the surface of some boiling sauce as a comma that is upside down, only to disappear as swiftly as we rose in the boiling turmoil. From our earliest moments, we wanted arms around us, arms spread to let us run, and arms closed around us again when too much running was enough.

Over time, the urge to become somebody got to us. We were urged to succeed, to be bold and brave, to make others proud, to ultimately become a legacy, or at least a noble memory. How many people would think well of us? How many people at

home would truly love us? What uniqueness in us would, if used and pursued, impress notice of us in stone and bronze and silver picture frames? Could it be said that cases of medals, walls of plaques testimony, and shelves of gleaming trophies prove our worth in good and faithful service or some pretended piety?

But then we heard a new voice. The voice that said we must merge. We must consciously merge our energy we become a creative force for good. We must merge our energy to help those who are struggling, those who are left behind, and those who feel like a piece of straw being driven by a hurricane. We must resist the urge to become somebody or the urge to abandon those who are in need, who are sick, or who are dying. We must slow the “urge” until we make the “merge”. “We must become the “Oh” in hope, the

leaven in love, and the grace in the chase”. The work of merging our energy to help those who need our help locks us in creation forever.

There is one more step — to emerge. Belonging to that to which all life belongs, our gifts, our destinies, and our realizations' are completed. “Our lives are found in what is profound, are discovered in what otherwise is covered, are revealed in what forever seems sealed.” Our goodness is universal goodness and we are there in every moment made memorable by love.

Go and be of service to God, go and be of service to our country and communities, go and be of service to the Disabled American Veterans, and go and be of service to your fellow veterans and their families.

God bless each of you. God loves you and so do I. ■

— by Michael Knutson, Chaplain



Founder/Chairman Scott Fader

Scott Fader was astonished. And a little outraged.

It was 2012, and he was deployed in Afghanistan. After a few missions he'd earned a trip to Kandahar Air Force Base for a bit of R & R. While surfing Internet news sites he read a story that struck him as enormously unfair.

"I was online and came across an article about a soldier who didn't get a job because he didn't have proper business attire," Fader remembers. "I read the whole article and I found out that his buddy got the job. They'd been doing the I.T. circuit for a while and his buddy had a worse GPA, worse schooling, not all the certifications needed."

But the less-qualified buddy had a professional looking suit for his interview, while the more-qualified vet did not.

"I thought it was a joke. Of all fields — I.T. — he didn't get a job because he didn't have a suit."

Fader wasted no time; after all, when would he next have access to the Internet and phone lines? "I made a few calls out of curiosity after I'd talked to my wife, Sara, online, and I actually got some suits so this guy could go out and interview in professional clothing."

As far as Fader was concerned, it was a simple gesture. It surprised him to learn that people had been talking stateside about what he'd done before he even got home from deployment.

He'd planned to accept a management-level position that Comcast offered him. As is the case for so many veterans in the modern job market, things didn't work out as planned when he returned to Michigan in 2013. "I show up day one; Comcast says, 'Oh — we're changing what we offered you. You're now going to be \$11-an-hour,' like an 18 year-old kid behind a desk."

He shook off the disappointment quickly. That very day, Fader bought an Internet

domain name for what he was now called Suits for Soldiers. After a discussion with his wife, he decided to take the money he'd earned from his Afghanistan deployment and attempt to make a 24/7 vocation out of providing professional clothing to vets who needed help suiting up for interviews.

"I've always been entrepreneurial, to tell the truth," Fader confesses. "My father and I had an accounting firm years ago, a real estate company, and then I decided that I wanted to serve my country, so I left all that behind and served four years in the Army."

Not your typical recruit, Fader joined up at the ripe old age of 34. Lest you believe the teenaged recruits around him left him in the dust in basic training, he has news for you.

"The first morning they woke us up at 3:30 in the morning to run our test mile for the health assessment," he remembers. "I came in at about five minutes-thirty seconds after not running for almost 20 years — there was no reason to run. All the 18 year-olds were huffing and puffing at the half-mile mark."

His age and experience meant that he could converse comfortably with everyone from a private to a four-star general, and he felt that they respected what he said. He became the recruit who made sure things were done right and didn't shy away from pointing out deficiencies when he saw them.

Fader applied this same experience and grit to Suits for Soldiers after his tour. He created a website on his own and slowly expanded and improved it as he learned more and more about the nuts-and-bolts of site design for a nonprofit.

Meanwhile, the same growth and expansion of services was happening to his brainchild. It turned out that vets needed more than just a nice suit jacket in order to re-assimilate into the civilian workforce.

"We do job placement, resume writing, I.T. training, basic everyday life skills; help them figure out their budget, how to actually balance a checkbook, stuff like that," says Fader. "If they went in at eighteen, they probably didn't pay attention to money issues since the Army or whatever branch you're in pays on a bi-monthly basis. Why pay attention when money is coming in regularly?"

"We help family members as well, and

we help people use their VA loan benefits. We've teamed up with a number of mortgage lenders who we've vetted, saying, 'Hey, you guys aren't trying to scam them by asking for money under the table, so we'll refer business to you.' So, vets can actually utilize the full potential of all of their VA benefits, from mortgages to their education."

Between his personal email and website, Fader began getting requests for resumes from businesses in all fifty states, as well as persons asking for whom they could act as a mentor. "We have thirty businesses across the country that are hiring vets like crazy," he notes. "It's blossomed to where it is now — we've gotten over eighty people jobs and given away over 500 suits since we started."

WWW.SUITSFORSOLDIERS.ORG

Anyone interested in supporting veterans Suits for Soldiers can log in at www.suitsforsoldiers.org. The "Donate" link allows for one-time donations or sponsorships, and visitors can also read about the organization's mission, upcoming events, and where to drop off suits and business attire for the project.

Contributions by mail: Checks can be made payable to "Suits for Soldiers," and sent to 4180 Center Street, Metamora, MI 48455 (Phone: 248-757-8829).

Growing Beyond Suits

While "suits" used to mean presentable jackets and slacks, Fader tells people that Suits for Soldiers now means covering all aspects of a veteran, not just clothing. Whether it be cutting through red tape at a local VA hospital via a high-ranking contact ("If your friend is suicidal on a Saturday, you can't wait until Monday to get checked in") or explaining benefits ("The military does a terrible job of educating soldiers about their benefits").

When it comes to jobs, Suits for Soldiers puts in the advance work to make sure vets are not wasting their time putting resumes into piles "for future consideration."

"We put a lot of restrictions on employers," Fader explains. "They must have jobs readily available now; they can't say, 'Oh, we're just looking to collect resumes, we might be hiring in six months.'"

— SUITS continued on page 12

**Information Application for Members
Seeking a Department of Michigan
Disabled American Veterans State Office**

Please complete and forward to:
DAV State Adjutant, 17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026

This form MUST be received by the State Executive Secretary/Adjutant 10 days prior to the Annual State Convention.
Attach additional pages with application if needed.

Office Sought: Cmdr. Sr. Vice 1st Jr. Vice
 2nd Jr. Vice Chaplain Treasurer

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Your Chapter No. and Location _____

_____ District _____

Why do you want this position? _____

Are you a member in Good Standing? _____

Do you belong to an active chapter? _____

Do you attend chapter meetings? _____

Are you active in your chapter? _____

How long have you been a DAV member? _____

Are you a chapter officer now? _____

If yes, what Office? _____

To what other veteran organizations do you belong? _____

Have you served as an officer in any of them? _____

What offices and when? _____

Are you now employed? _____

If yes, where and what type of work? _____

Are you reasonably free to travel? _____

Can you spend your own money? _____

Add any information you desire concerning training, education and experience _____

Signature _____

CHAPTER ENDORSEMENT

The members of DAV Chapter # _____ recommend that the above candidate be considered for a Department Office as indicated. We will give him/her our support.

Chapter Commander _____ Date _____

Chapter Adjutant _____

District Commander _____

THIS INDIVIDUAL ENDORSED BY DISTRICT _____



**PRE REGISTRATION FORM FOR DAV
DEPARTMENT, CHAPTERS AND UNITS
2014 DAV STATE CONVENTION AND 2 DAY
SERVICE OFFICER CONFERENCE
CONVENTION: JUNE 6-8 ~ SERVICE OFFICER
CONFERENCE JUNE 4-5**

**DAV/DAVA
SERVICE OFFICER CONFERENCE AND
CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Chapter/Unit Number: _____

****Certified Credentials must be presented at Registration Desk****

(If you are a Department Officer, Print Title and Chapter Number)

() I would like to be considered to serve on a DAV Convention Committee

*Note: Service Officer Registration covers all materials, as well as admittance to Thursday's Pie & Ice Cream Social

Service Officer Conference Registration Only: \$35.00

Convention Registration Only: \$30.00

Convention Registration and Banquet: \$55.00

Service Officer Conference & Convention Registration: \$60.00

Service Officer Conference, Convention Registration and Banquet: \$80.00

Extra Banquet Tickets: \$35.00 each
Number of Extra Tickets _____

NEW MENU ITEMS (Choose one (1) from the choices below)

() Bistro Filet paired with parmesan crusted chicken breast with lyonnaise potatoes and green bean almondine followed by strawberry shortcake for dessert

() Whitefish meal with with lyonnaise potatoes and green bean almondine followed by strawberry shortcake for dessert

**NO REFUNDS ISSUED FOR CANCELLATIONS
MADE AFTER MAY 23, 2014**

CHECK OR VISA/MASTERCARD ACCEPTED
CALL 1-888-448-2328 FOR ALL CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS
MAIL FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO:
DAV DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN AND MAIL TO:
DAV Department Headquarters
17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026
DEADLINE IS MAY 23, 2014**

DAV member Ron Schrieber honored for his service to Michigan veterans

Ron Schrieber, an Air Force veteran and member of the Disabled American Veterans, has served Michigan veterans since becoming a veteran himself in the 1980s, most recently serving as Chairman of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Board.

In February, Ron was presented with a Distinguished Service Medal honored for his exceptionally meritorious service as a Trustee and Chairman of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund from May 2008 to February 2014 and his years of skillful leadership and dedicated support for the Trust Fund and its mission of providing financial assistance to Michigan's war era veterans.

"I have been very fortunate to work with some great individuals who have a lot of compassion for Michigan veterans," Ron said. "I hope the board continues in the direction it is headed in and keeps the assistance going for those who need it."

During Ron's tenure on the board, the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) corpus grew from \$46 million to \$54 million, and the board implemented several changes that made it easier for veterans to benefit from the Trust Fund, including raising the limit for grants that could be administered at the county level from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and making it possible for veterans to request two grants in the same year. He also played a key role in expanding the representation on the Trust Fund Board to include independent representatives, opening up board membership to an additional 550,000 veterans who were not previously eligible.

"Ron has devoted his life to veterans' service, and we have been fortunate to have him on the Trust Fund board" said Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director Jeff Barnes. "The Trust Fund has benefited

greatly from his leadership and dedication to Michigan's veterans."

The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund awards emergency grants to combat veterans when an unforeseen situation has caused a temporary financial emergency or hardship that a grant, if approved, would resolve. Applicants must be able to show they will be able to meet future expenses after the grant. Applications are accepted in the veteran's county of residence. For more information, visit www.michiganveterans.com or call 517-284-5298. ■



L-R: MVAA deputy director Jim Dunn, Ron Schrieber, MVAA Director Jeff Barnes

Past Commander's Message



I would like a few minutes of your time. When I got active in the DAV over twenty years ago, we would have several people run for all the positions. As time has passed we are in a situation where the highly skilled won't run. The main reason is the complete disrespect given to anyone of authority. So what we end up with in many cases is not the best person for the job but the one that raised their hand.

Good intentions don't get the job done. It's easy to get elected but the position requires more than that. I've witnessed this more and more lately please if you step up to the podium and get sworn in remember we are depending on you. Every member in the DAV counts on you to fill your position to the best of your ability. Without your full commitment we will fail and most of you have been a witness to this.

Knowledge is not just something that you have but something you can retrieve from others. We have many Past Department Commanders willing to help. In the event you don't know one to call pick up the phone and call the office. You have no excuse for not knowing the answer to something.

In the months of April, May, and June we are required to have our elections. I ask you are we going to run off the most qualified? Or is one of you going to take a position only for the title? Please if you feel you can do the job then do it and remember we don't take the position to promote our personal agenda. ■

John P. Lamphere
10th District NEC, PDC

Guest Speaker at upcoming State Convention



Bonnie Hilberer is from Ann Arbor, Michigan. She has presented dozens of workshops; written numerous articles, having several of them published, and is currently working on her first book. While she is officially retired, she works part time and is very active in a variety of programs. One of these is Toastmasters, a public speaking organization, which keeps her polished on what she loves to do most – speak. She has used her skills to start two small businesses, one is presenting

personalized, life-celebrating eulogies, and the other is a support group for the families of prisoners.

She loves to inspire her audience and sometimes may surprise them with painless participation. Focusing on the positives, her presentation will enlighten you with thoughts that may change your perspective on your everyday life. She believes that everyone has a story to be told and today, you'll get to hear hers. ■

CORRECTION: PDC BOB BLEVINS JANUARY ARTICLE

Previously the announcement received by the Veterans Coalition in Marquette regarding the State Parks and Campgrounds was that totally disabled Veterans would be allowed Free Access into State Parks and Campgrounds beginning May 2014. While that date is correct, the assumption the camping would be Free is NOT correct, Free Parking and Free access into the Campgrounds is correct. The Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs provided this information to PDC Blevins on February 13, 2014. ■

— PDC Bob Blevins

Auxiliary
Commander's Message



Anna Lockwood

I hope everyone got to through the winter ok. State Convention is coming up in June, and our Testimonial dinner in April as well as the District meetings. I hope to see you all there.

As your State Commander, I have had a very nice and busy year. I have seen and met a lot of nice people and have enjoyed my year so far.

I have a few words about our Auxiliary regarding membership. We have low attendance at most unit meetings, and the survival of our remaining units is being threatened.

I am reaching out to our Auxiliary members as we need all of you. I ask that Junior members take the extra step to help our Veterans. They took the time to step up for us to keep the peace, so please help now and let them know that we thank them for their service to the USA.

Please remember to get all of your reports in on time. If I can be of any help to any of you, please call me.

See you at State Convention and District meetings. ■

AdLibs

by Linda Walters
AUXILIARY ADJUTANT

Well if any of you are like me, you are now doing the happy spring dance and I still might be doing at State Convention in June!

Your unit adjutant should have received your report forms in February and you should be completing them soon. They need to be post marked no later than May 1, 2014.

Remember to make three (3) copies of each report and four (4) copies of the Mae Holmes report, one copy is for your unit records, and the rest are sent to me.

You should have also received your Officers Report Forms and Financial Report forms from National along with instructions on how to complete the forms, the White copy is sent to National, the Yellow copy is sent to DAVA State Department (me), Pink copy is sent to DAV State Department, and the Green copy is for your records.

I hope to see many of you at State Convention. I am pleased to announce that our National Representative will be National 2nd Jr. Vice Frances Costa. ■



by Sr. Vice Commander
Jo Linda White

As Chairman of the Women's Veterans Committee I have been asking the women on the committee to write an article. We have wonderful women involved with DAV and I wanted you to hear from some of them. Here is the first of what I hope will be many.

by 1st Jr. Vice Commander
Beth Gonzales

As a women veteran that has been in the VA system since 1984 I have seen a host of changes towards women veterans, some good, some not. The end result has still not been obtained, and that is that we are veterans and deserve the respect afforded that status.

Women clinics that see to health needs specific to women are great and are needed, but to lump all women veterans into this category causes a greater separation of treatment for other service connected issues.

In my opinion this should be a clinic like all the others and not a place to dump all female veterans causing them to feel as if they are not good enough to be part of the main stream of the hospital. Changes that are for the good of the veteran are the ones that recognize her for being what she is a Veteran. ■



AUXILIARY FORGET ME NOT LUNCHEON AT STATE CONVENTION

SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2014 AT 11:30 A.M.
TAHQUAMENON FALLS ROOM
TICKET PRICE \$17.00

Number Of Tickets Needed:

Name: _____

Unit #: _____

Address: _____

Menu: Deli Buffet W/ Various Meats And Breads,
Various Salads, Petit Fours And Brownies

Ticket(s) Will Be Placed In Your Convention Registration Envelope
Pre-Registration Deadline Is May 23, 2014
Tickets Will Also Be On Sale At Convention

Make Check Payable To: DAV Dept. of Michigan and Mail
Along With Your Payment To:

DAV Department of Michigan, 17770 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, Michigan 48026

Governor Snyder recently signed into law P.A. 161 of 2013.

Submitted by
1st Jr. Vice Commander Beth Gonzales

This Act amends MCL 211.7b regarding Veterans Exemptions to read as follows:

Sec. 7b.

(1) Real property used and owned as a homestead by a disabled veteran who was discharged from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions or by an individual described in subsection (2) is exempt from the collection of taxes under this act.

To obtain the exemption, an affidavit showing the facts required by this section and a description of the real property shall be filed by the property owner or his or her legal designee with the supervisor or other assessing officer during the period beginning with the tax day for each year and ending at the time of the final adjournment of the local board of review. The affidavit when filed shall be open to inspection. The county treasurer shall cancel taxes subject to collection under this act for any year in which a disabled veteran eligible for the exemption under this section has acquired title to real property exempt under this section. Upon granting the exemption under this section, each local taxing unit shall bear the loss of its portion of the taxes upon which the exemption has been granted.

(2) If a disabled veteran who is otherwise eligible for the exemption under this section dies, either before or after the exemption under this section is granted, the exemption shall remain available to or shall continue for his or her un-remarried surviving spouse. The surviving spouse shall comply with the requirements of subsection (1) and shall indicate on the affidavit that he or she is the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran entitled to the exemption under this section. The exemption shall continue as long as the surviving spouse remains un-remarried.

(3) As used in this section, "disabled veteran" means a person who is a resident of this state and who meets 1 of the following criteria:

(a) Has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.

(b) Has a certificate from the United States veterans' administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.

(c) Has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as individually Un-employable.

The purpose of this communication is to make Assessors and Equalization Directors aware of this new Act and to provide some basic guidance. The State Tax Commission will issue additional guidance following their December meeting.

1. This exemption is only available to disabled veterans or, if the veteran has died, to their unremarried surviving spouse who own and use the home as their homestead.
2. The disabled veteran or their surviving spouse must be a resident of the State of Michigan.
3. Assessors are advised that eligible disabled veterans will be able to apply for a 2013 exemption at the December 2013 Board of Review. An exemption will cancel the July and December 2013 taxes, but will not cancel any taxes levied before 2013.
4. The Act requires an Affidavit be filed but does not require this Affidavit to be an official State of Michigan form. A standard Affidavit is not planned to be developed at this time. ■

DAV DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN STATE CONVENTION KEWADIN CASINO & HOTEL, SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN JUNE 5 – JUNE 8, 2014

Motor coach services are available this year to take members to the convention. This is a great opportunity for members that are not able to drive, or do not want to pay the high cost of gas to attend the convention. Sit back and enjoy the beauty of Michigan and leave the driving to Kewadin.

We will be having the following pick up locations, pick up will be Thursday June 5, and return trip on Sunday June 8

- Henry Ford Library in Dearborn
- Community Center Park & Ride in Troy
- Sam's Club In Flint
- Meijer's in Bay City
- Charlie's Country Corners in Grayling



**COST FOR ROUND TRIP WILL BE \$ 80.00
HOWEVER WE MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 50 PERSONS
TO KEEP THAT PRICE AND THE MOTOR COACH AVAILABLE.
DEADLINE IS MAY 1, 2014**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL THE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS AT 1-888-448-2328 TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION**

**Make your reservations for
convention today**

**Kewadin Casino and Hotel
2186 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
Phone: 1-800-539-2346**

**Mention DAV group code 1152
for discounted room rate**



IT'S CONVENTION TIME!

DAV Department of Michigan
State Convention
Kewadin Casino & Hotel
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
June 5 – June 8, 2014

Chapter Corner

Capitol City Chapter 8

Meeting Location Update:

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. the 2nd Monday of each month (except June, July and August)

Location:

Forty ET Eight Chateau, 2949 S. Waverly Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48911 on Waverly Road, immediately south of Miller and north of I-96 overpass (no Waverly exit off I-96), behind the ball park. Ring front doorbell at right side of door of entry.

Thank you,
Commander Lino Pretto



Delta County Chapter 24 donated \$500 to the DAV Hospital Chairman, Garry Henshaw (left), to purchase items from the D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans Wish List. Accepting some of these items is Ken Arseneau (right), Activity/Volunteer Coordinator.

— VA News Release —

New Online GI Bill Comparison Tool Available — will help users of Post-9/11 GI Bill become more informed Consumers

Released February 4, 2014

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs launched an online GI BILL COMPARISON TOOL to make it easier for Veterans, Service members and dependents to calculate their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits and learn more about VA's approved colleges, universities, and other education and training programs across the country.

"We are pleased that Post 9/11 Veterans are taking advantage of this significant benefit program," said Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "The new GI Bill Comparison Tool will help future beneficiaries as they make decisions about what education or training program best fits their needs."

The GI Bill Comparison Tool provides key information about college affordability and brings together information from more than 17 different online sources and three federal agencies, including the number of students receiving VA education benefits at each school.

The GI Bill Comparison Tool is one item in a series of resources VA is launching in response to President Obama's Executive Order 13607, which directs agencies to implement and promote "Principles of Excellence" for education institutions that interact with Veterans, Service members and their families; and to ensure beneficiaries have the information they need to make educated choices about VA education benefits and approved programs. Recently, VA also instituted a GI Bill online complaint system, designed to collect feedback from Veterans, Service members and their families who are experiencing problems with educational institutions receiving funding from Federal military and Veterans educational benefits programs, including benefits programs provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the DoD Military Tuition Assistance Program.

The executive order, signed April 27, 2013, directs federal agencies to provide meaningful cost and quality information o schools, prevent deceptive recruiting practices and provide high-quality academic and student support services. VA works closely with partner institutions to ensure the needs of GI Bill beneficiaries are met. More than 5,000 education institutions have agreed to the

Principles of Excellence.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a comprehensive education benefit created by Congress in 2008. In general, Veterans and Service members who have served on active duty for 90 or more days since September 10, 2001 are eligible. Since 2009, VA has distributed over \$ 30 billion in the form of tuition and other education-related payments to more than one million Veterans, Service members and their families, and to the universities, colleges and trade schools they attend.

The GI Bill Comparison Tool can be found at: <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison>.

TAPS

Chapter 6	Gene Blair
Chapter 6	Wilford Buckout
Chapter 13	Barbara Durski
Chapter 13	Harvey Musure
Chapter 13	Leonard Motsinger
Chapter 13	Jakob Repholz
Chapter 43	Joseph H. Hagerty
Chapter 51	Mike Uida
Chapter 94	Maurice Badley
	WWII Veteran Calvin Lockwood
Unit 6	Sharon L. Castle
Unit 6	Norma Crane
Unit 6	Henrietta Dekema

Entries for this column must be submitted to Department headquarters, in writing, no later than 45 days after the member's death. Send notice to: DAV, Attn: TAPS, 17779 East Fourteen Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026. You may also send entries via e-mail to: michelle@davmichigan.com

9th Annual Thomas McMasters Golf Outing

Disabled American Veterans / Department of Michigan
 Welcomes everyone to our
9th Annual Thomas A. McMasters III Golf Outing
Saturday, September 13, 2014
Golden Hawk Golf Club

9861 Meisner Lane, Casco Twp., MI 48064
8:30 a.m. Shot Gun Start "Scramble Format"
Golf - \$400 Per Team (\$100 Per Person)

Includes 18 Holes of Golf, Power Cart and lunch at the Turn.
Dinner buffet, prizes, raffles and Silent Auction
Foursomes or Single Golfers Welcome

HOLE SPONSORSHIP - \$100 PER HOLE OR
CART SPONSORSHIP - \$25 PER CART

Number of Holes / Carts []

Name(s) Displayed at Holes and/or Carts

Name: In Memory of or In Honor to

TOTAL: \$

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SPONSOR EVENT INCLUDE
GOOBIE BAG ITEMS, GIFT CARDS, AUCTION ITEMS
MONETARY DONATIONS START AT \$150 UP TO
\$2,500 are available

CONTACT 1-888-448-2328 FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED
CALL 1-888-448-2328 OR COMPLETE ABOVE REGISTRATION
AND MAIL ALONG WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO:
DAV DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, 17779 E. 14 MILE ROAD,
FRASER, MICHIGAN 48026 

1. Captain: _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 2. Name _____
 3. Name _____
 4. Name _____
 Total: \$ _____

DAV Van Transportation Network



DETROIT VAMC
 Voluntary Services
 313-576-1000

ANN ARBOR VAMC
 Voluntary Services
 734-845-3467

SAGINAW VAMC
 Voluntary Services
 989-497-2500

**BATTLE CREEK
 VAMC**
 Voluntary Services
 269-966-5600

**GRAND RAPIDS
 CBOC**
 Voluntary Services
 616-365-9575

**IRON MOUNTAIN
 VAMC**
 Voluntary Services
 906-774-3300

DAV Member Steve Lent honored by Goodwill Industries

*(Article pulled from The News-Herald Community,
 written by Laura Hipshire)*

Life member at chapter 102, Steve Lent was recently honored as "2013 Volunteer of the Year" by Goodwill Industries. Steve has been volunteering at Goodwill Industries headquarters since 2012 helping Veterans with issues such as claims, services and career searches.

Steve volunteers weekly helping Veterans learn how to properly format a resume, create a job portfolio, interpret military discharge documentation, demonstrate how to navigate the job interview process and various Veterans Administration websites and teach basic computer skills.

"It makes me feel good to help Veterans", he said, "I do research on my own time, and am always available to talk to them, or get them what they need."

Congratulations Steve! ■

DAV Department of Michigan Contribution Card

All donations are tax deductible.

Enclosed please find my contribution of \$ _____

Please use this contribution for:

- Membership Program
- VA Hospital Program
- Hospital Transportation Program
- Service to Veterans
- Use my contribution as needed

 Visa and MasterCard also accepted, Please call
 1-888-448-2328 to make a donation with your credit card.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please complete and mail to:
Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan
17779 E. 14 Mile Road
Fraser, MI 48026



tao make adjustments if the need for resources rises or falls leading up to that year. Furthermore, every oversight tool Congress uses today for regular appropriations will be available for advance appropriations.

It is unfortunate that VA leadership still opposes this reasonable legislation. It is time for them to understand that loyalty to America's veterans and their families is more important than loyalty to the Administration or other political considerations. President Lincoln admonished our nation "to care for him who shall borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." As such, both the House and the Senate must quickly bring the Putting Veterans Funding First Act up for a vote and send it to the President for approval. ■



That's what happens at so many veteran's career fairs — there's some 19 year-old on his iPhone texting his girlfriend while collecting resumes, not even looking at the veteran, and the veteran goes away discouraged."

Suits for Soldiers put these guidelines in place to good effect when it recently teamed with the John Dingell Veteran's Hospital and a variety of like-minded organizations for their first job fair.

As for the immediate future, Fader is considering purchase of a building whose owner is offering the first-floor pizza shop/ice cream store to the organization as theirs to run. "We could hire up to 15 vets to work there," he explains. "All the money from the ice cream and pizza shop would then be donated to Suits for Soldiers. In my business plan, all the workers have a one-year employment contract to teach them how to go run their own business. Teach them that their everyday actions impact the bottom line; teaching them the ups and downs of business so that when they go off they already went through the hell."

Also, a large Michigan web development company has offered to re-do the Suits for Soldiers web site to allow companies nation-wide to automatically upload available jobs. Fader's goal of 20,000 jobs posted becomes much more attainable with that kind of automation.

So, the disappointing job bait-and-switch that occurred when he returned stateside was all for the best. "I'm a Karma believer," says Fader. "There had to be a reason why that happened, and that's what I keep telling people who ask why I didn't get a 'real' job. It's Karma — everything I'm putting out is going to come back." ■

Department of Michigan Service Officers

Ann Arbor VAMC
2215 Fuller Road
Room B157A

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105
Phone: 734-845-3839
Scott Redman

Battle Creek VAMC
5500 Armstrong Road
Building 2, Room 077

Battle Creek, Michigan 49037
Phone: 269-223-5106
Kristen Harper

Detroit VAMC

4646 John R St., Room A1013
Detroit, Michigan 48201
Phone: 313-576-3508

Toni Moses

Grand Rapids

VA Outpatient Clinic
3019 Coit NE, Room 1115
Grand Rapids, Michigan
49505

Phone: 616-365-7576
Annette Dennis

Grayling

Crawford County Building
200 W. Michigan Avenue
Grayling, Michigan 49738
Phone: 989-344-3861

Terry Fillmore

Iron Mountain VAMC
325 East H Street
Iron Mountain, Michigan
49801

Phone: 906-779-3194
Joe Marczak

Saginaw VAMC

1500 Weiss Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48602
Phone: 989-497-2500 Ext. 13382

Ron McNally

Transportation Chairman
and DSO David Downer

Detroit

National Service Officers
Patrick V. McNamara
Federal Bldg.

477 Michigan Avenue,
Rm. 1200

Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: 313-964-6595

Fax: 313-964-6576

Director: Douglas K. Wells
Asst. Director: Kwan Tillman

NSO Rick Barenbrugge

NSO Todd Peddle

NSO Albert Hughes

NSO Jason Zielke

NSO Robert McClellan

NSO Nicholas Koulchar

Department of Michigan Thrift Store Locations



NEW DAV Thrift Store NOW OPEN

8050 E. Middlebelt Road
Westland, Michigan 48185
Store Phone: 734-513-6020

New Store Address:
36660 Gratiot Avenue
Clinton Township, Michigan 48038
Store Phone: 586-790-4143

DONATION PICK-UP LINE: 1-866-520-5328



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2014

Care and Benefits for Veterans Strengthened by \$164 Billion VA Budget

WASHINGTON – Continuing the transformation of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) into a 21st century organization, the President has proposed a \$163.9 billion budget, a 6.5 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2014, that will support VA's goals to expand access to health care and other benefits, eliminate the disability claims backlog, and end homelessness among Veterans. The budget includes \$68.4 billion in discretionary spending, largely for healthcare, and \$95.6 billion for mandatory programs – mostly disability compensation and pensions for Veterans.

"This budget will allow us to continue the progress we have made in helping Veterans secure their place in the middle class," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "It is a tangible demonstration of the President's commitment to ensuring Veterans and their families have the care and benefits they've earned and deserve."

The \$68.4 billion total in discretionary spending includes approximately \$3.1 billion in medical care collections from health insurers and Veteran copayments.

"We remain committed to providing Veterans the opportunity to pursue their education, find meaningful employment and access high-quality health care," Shinseki added. "From the men and women of 'the greatest generation' to the Veterans who have returned from our most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, no one deserves it more."

VA operates one of the largest integrated health care systems in the country with nearly 9 million enrollees; the ninth largest life insurance program; monthly disability pay, pensions and survivors payments to more than 5.1 million beneficiaries of monthly pay, pensions and survivor benefits; education assistance or vocational rehabilitation benefits and services to 1.2 million students; mortgage guaranties to over 2 million homeowners; and the largest

cemetery system in the nation.

Here are highlights from the President's 2015 budget request for VA.

Health Care

With a medical care budget of \$59.1 billion, including collections, VA is positioned to provide care to 6.7 million patients in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. The patient total includes over 757,000 people whose military service began after Sept. 11, 2001.

Major spending categories within the health care budget are:

- \$7.2 billion for mental health;
- \$2.6 billion for prosthetics;
- \$561 million for spinal cord injuries;
- \$229 million for traumatic brain injuries;
- \$238 million for readjustment counseling; and
- \$7.0 billion for long-term care.

Expanding Access

The President's proposed budget would ensure that care and other benefits are available to Veterans when and where they need them. Among the programs that will expand access under the proposed budget are:

- \$567 million in telehealth funding, which helps patients monitor chronic health care conditions and increases access to care, especially in rural and remote locations;
- \$403 million for health care services specifically-designed for women, an increase of 8.7 percent over the present level;
- \$534 million for the activation of new and enhanced health care facilities;
- \$562 million to continue on-going major construction projects;
- \$86.6 million for improved customer service applications for online self-service portals and call center agent-assisted inquiries; and
- \$3.6 million to open two new national cemeteries in Florida and prepare for the opening of two new rural national Veterans burial grounds.

Eliminating Claims Backlog

The President's proposed budget provides for full implementation of the Veter-

ans Benefits Administration's (VBA) robust Transformation Plan -- a series of people, process and technology initiatives -- in FY 2015. This plan will continue to systematically reduce the backlog and enable the Department to reach its 2015 goal - to eliminate the disability claims backlog and process all claims within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy.

Major transformation initiatives in the budget proposal invest \$312 million to bring leading-edge technology to the claims backlog, including:

- \$173 million (\$137 million in Information Technology and \$36 million in VBA) for the next generation of the electronic claims processing system Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS); and
- \$139 million for Veterans Claims Intake Program (VCIP) to continue conversion of paper records into electronic images and data in VBMS.

Eliminating Veterans Homelessness

A major strategic goal for the Department is to end homelessness among Veterans in 2015. The budget request targets \$1.6 billion for programs to prevent or reduce homelessness, including:

- \$500 million for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) to promote housing stability;
- \$374 million for the HUD-VASH program wherein VA provides case management services for at-risk Veterans and their families and HUD provides permanent housing through its Housing Choice Voucher program; and
- \$253 million in grant and per diem payments that support temporary housing provided by community-based organizations.

Other Services for Veterans

Other features of the administration's FY 2015 budget request for the department are:

- \$257 million to administer the VA-run system of national cemeteries;
- \$3.9 billion for information technology; and
- \$1.2 billion in construction, cemetery grants and extended care grants. ■

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announces May 1 debut of new driver's licenses for veterans

New licenses will carry special "Veteran" designation for honorably discharged vets



New Michigan Veterans License

As a proud U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq, Shawn M. Wilson, state executive director/adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, says he is definitely going to get one of the new Michigan driver's licenses for veterans.

"I think many of our members will too," said Wilson, who served from 2007-2010. "I'm proud of honorably serving my country and having the license is one more way to show that pride."

Today, the Disabled Americans Veterans include 30,000 members in Michigan and more than million across the country.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson says her department's new driver's licenses for veterans, marked with the word VETERAN in bold red on the front, will help those who served their country get the benefits and discounts they have earned and deserve.

"We are indebted to these courageous men and women," said Johnson. "I hope every store clerk, every bank teller who sees these licenses will take a moment to thank that veteran for their service and sacrifice."

Michigan Veterans Affairs Director Jeff Barnes also supports the new veteran's designation.

"This is one more way Michigan can honor our state's veterans and make their day-to-day lives a little easier," Barnes said. "I look forward to being able to display the veterans' designation on my license after May 1."

Veterans can sign up for the new driver's licenses and state ID cards at their local Secretary of State branch. If they are renewing their license, they'll only have

to pay the normal renewal fee. If it isn't time for them to renew, they can order a duplicate driver's license or state ID.

Bob VanFleet, commander of American Legion Post 24 in Waterford and a Vietnam-era veteran, says he's getting one of the new licenses. Plenty of his fellow Legion members, from World War II vets to Gulf War vets, are interested too.

VanFleet, who served in the U.S. Air Force and the National Guard, says the reason is simple: "I think all veterans should stand up and be proud."

When asked if he's going to get the new driver's license, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Steve Striggow of Holly, a member of American Legion Post 149, said "You bet I will! I'm a veteran and I'm damn proud of it."

Dick Rossell wants one of the new licenses too.

He said for 40 years, he never really talked about his military service. But times and attitudes changed. Today he's even got a veteran's license plate on his battered old Jeep outside.

"A lot of us had mixed feelings," said the U.S. Army veteran. "I never did talk about it much, but it was always important to me." ■

MURDER MYSTERY



Friday, June 6, 2014

At Annual State Convention/Water's Edge

6:30 p.m. - Sign In

7:00 p.m. - Event Starts

Call Loraine Connelly for more information:

734-546-6968

Convention Reminder ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Friday June 6, 2014 Dana Bowman will be parachuting in with a 2000 foot American Flag just outside of the Kewadin to kick off the joint opening session, and will be our guest speaker at the session. Make sure you attend to see this event



Seven Secrets of a Successful Speech

1. **Know your audience:** Even seasoned professional speakers sometimes forget to do all their homework and wind up feeling foolish. Don't make the mistake one well-known writer did when she gave a presentation on preparing for Easter, from making the baskets to what to serve for Easter dinner, to a group of Jewish women who did not celebrate the holiday.
2. **Focus your topic:** Given the limited attention span of even the most interested audiences, your presentation will be more successful if you explore one topic in great detail rather than give perfunctory information about a number of topics. Be sure you have determined in advance if your objective is to inform or to persuade your audience.
3. **Prepare adequately:** Make sure your information is relevant and on the level of the people in your audience. Collect your information by putting ideas on small pieces of paper or sticky notes. Then organize them considering our purpose, audience, and logistics (How will the room be set up? Will you be speaking first or last? Will anything else be going on during your presentation?)

When making your main points, be certain to have supporting data, have it available even if you don't use it all. Keep your language simple, avoiding jargon and buzz words. Use examples, stories or anecdotes to highlight key points.
4. **Write the introduction and conclusion:** Your audience will remember most what was said first and last. On an airplane flight, takeoff and landing are when a crash is most likely to happen. In your presentation, the same holds true. You want your introduction and conclusion to be memorable- not for their "crash and burn", but for their impact and strength. The introduction should include the benefit of your speech. The conclusion should summarize your key points and end with a strong finish.
5. **Practice. Practice, practice:** Rehearse your speech at least three times out loud. Practicing in your head where you are eloquent won't work as well. If you will be delivering your speech standing up, then practice the same way. Tape record yourself and take notes on how to improve. Remember, if you don't find your presentation interesting, no one else will.
6. **Arrive early:** Make sure the room is set up correctly, and that the microphone and any visual aids are working. Make sure an extra bulb is available if you will be using a projector of any kind. If possible, be available to introduce yourself and shake hands with your audience as they arrive. This will make them more receptive to you.
7. **Handle questions and answers with tact:** Having prepared your speech thoroughly, you will be ready for most questions. Answer them as briefly and concisely as you can. However, occasionally there will be someone whose only objective is to stump you or put you on the defensive. If you don't know the answer, say so. Don't try to make one up. Tell the questioner that you will find out the answer and get back to them.

Knowing how to create and deliver an effective speech helps you to project a positive image of yourself and your organization. Use these Seven Tips as a valuable tool to help you achieve your goals.

Taken from "the Toastmaster", written by Marjorie Brody, president of Brody Communications, Ltd. ■



7 Negative Behaviors Successful People Avoid

Story taken from *Forbes Magazine*, Written by Kathy Caprino

• Engaging in “below the line” thinking

“Below the line” thinking refers to a particular mindset that shapes how you view the world in a limiting way. It leads to your believing that what’s happening to you is outside your control and everyone else’s fault—the economy, your industry, your boss, your spouse, etc. Below the line thinking says, “It’s not fair what’s happening, and I don’t have what it takes to overcome these challenges. I didn’t expect this and I can’t handle it” Above the line thinking, on the other hand, says “I clearly see the obstacles ahead, and I’m addressing them with open eyes. I’m accountable for my life and my career, and I have what it takes to navigate through this successfully. If I fail, I will still wake up tomorrow exactly who I am, and will have learned something critical.”

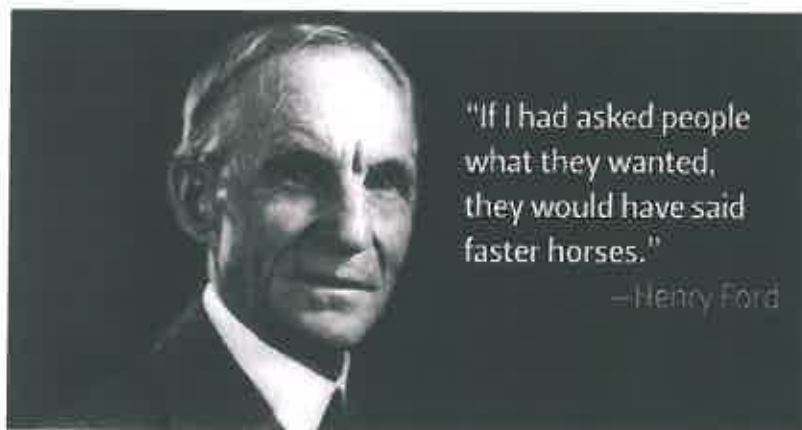
• Mistaking fantastical wishful thinking for action

Successful professionals pursue outcomes that flow organically from their current actions. Unsuccessful individuals attach to fantasies that may relieve them momentarily of their situational pain but have no basis in reality. For instance, I’ve heard from corporate professionals who share “I really hate my job and desperately want to leave. I’ve been wanting to write a book or become a motivational speaker for several years now, what’s your advice?” I will respond, “OK Great. Are you writing and speaking?” and more often than not, the answer will be, “Uh...no”. You can’t write a book if you are not writing anything, and you can’t speak in public if you have not developed any material to speak about. It’s critical to take bold action toward your visions, in order to create success. Successful people develop huge goals too, but they crush them down into smaller, digestible (but courageous) action steps that they then build on,

which leads naturally to the end goal they are pursuing.

• Remaining powerless and speechless

Successful people are in touch with their power, and are not afraid to use it and express it. They advocate and negotiate strongly for themselves and for others, and for what they are about, and don’t shy away from articulating just how they stand apart from the competition. They know how they contribute uniquely and the value they bring to the table. In addition,



they don’t wait to bring up concerns—they tackle challenges head on, speaking about them openly, with calm, poise and grace.

• Putting off investing in themselves

I see this behavior over and over in those who feel thwarted and unsuccessful—they are incredibly reluctant to invest time, money and energy in themselves and their own growth. They are comfortable only when putting other people’s needs ahead of their own. They will make any excuse for why now is NOT the time to invest in themselves or commit to change. They feel guilt, shame and anxiety over claiming “I’m worth this.” Successful people do not wait—they spend money, time and effort on their own growth because they know without doubt it will pay off—for themselves and everyone around them.

• Resisting Change

Successful people do not break themselves against what is or drown in the changing tides. They go with the flow.

They follow the trends, and embrace them. They are flexible, fluid and nimble. They react to what is in front of them, and improvise deftly. Those who are unsuccessful bemoan what is appearing before them, and stay stuck in the past or in what they “expected” complaining about how life is not what it should be and why what is feels so wrong.

• Honoring other people’s priorities over their own

Successful people know what matters most to them—their priorities, values, concerns and their mission and purpose. They don’t float aimlessly on a sea of possibility—they are masters of their own ship and know where they want to head and make bold moves in the direction of their dreams. To do this, they are very clear about their top priorities in life and work, and won’t be waylaid by the priorities and values of others. In short, they have very

well-defined boundaries, and know where they end and others begin. They say “no” to endeavors and behaviors (and thinking) that will push them off track. They know what they want to create and the legacy they want to leave behind in this lifetime, and honor that each day.

• Doubting themselves and their instincts

Those who doubt themselves, lack trust in their own gut or instincts, or second-guess themselves continually find themselves far from where they want to be. Successful professionals believe in themselves without fail. Sure, they acknowledge they have “power gaps” or blind spots, and areas that need deep development. But they forgive themselves for what they don’t know and the mistakes they’ve made and accept themselves. They keep going with hope and optimism knowing that the lessons from these missteps will serve them well in the future. ■



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