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February-March 2009

Michigan Disabled Veteran

Volume 58 No. 5

[USPS 344-940]

*"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."
- Henry Ford*

Shinseki sworn in as new VA Secretary



Eric K. Shinseki

Retired Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki took the oath of office on January 21st as the Nation's seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs, assuming the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs following confirmation by the Senate.

"The overriding challenge I am addressing from my first day in office is to make the Department of Veterans Affairs a 21st century organization focused on the nation's veterans as its clients," Shinseki said.

Shinseki plans to develop a 2010 budget within his first 90 days that realizes the vision of President Obama to transform VA into an organization that is people-centric, results-driven and forward-looking.

Key issues on his agenda include smooth activation of an

enhanced GI Bill education benefit that eligible veterans can begin using next fall, streamlining the disability claims system, leveraging information technology to accelerate and modernize services, and opening VA's health care system to veterans previously unable to enroll in it, while facilitating access for returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

Shinseki, a former Army Chief of Staff, takes the reins of a 284,000-employee organization delivering health care and financial benefits to millions of veterans and survivors.

Born in 1942 on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, Shinseki graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1965. He served two combat tours and was wounded in action in Vietnam. He served with distinction in Europe, the Pacific and stateside, eventually becoming the Army's senior leader from June 1999 to June 2003.

Retired from military service in August 2003, Shinseki's military decorations include three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

Shinseki succeeds Dr. James B. Peake as Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

DAV Department of Michigan planners combine Service Officer Conference, June 4 and State Convention, June 5-7, 2009

DAV Chapter Service Officers, and DAV and Auxiliary convention delegates, alternates and guests should be registering and making room reservations now for the Service Officer Conference and Department of Michigan's 83rd Annual State Convention being held June 4-7, 2009 at the Sault Ste. Marie's Kewadin Casino, Hotel and Convention Center. All events will take place at the Kewadin Convention Center, located at 2186 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie.

Service Officers gather Thursday, June 4

Michigan Service Director Thomas Wendel said a lot of states have changed their service officer training schedules to coincide with their State conventions to help cut down on travel expenses

and costs associated with it.

The Service Officer training session being held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, is designed to help DAV Chapter service officers become more effective in processing claims for veterans in their communities. New service officers and any that want to brush up on basic procedures are required to successfully complete the training program being conducted on June 4th in order to be certified and covered under the National organization's indemnification program.

Pre-convention activities begin Thursday night

Convention activities are set to begin on Thursday evening, June 4 with administrative meetings and an ice cream social, and wind

down on Sunday, June 7 following the election and installation of officers. The 2009-2010 State Executive Committee will meet following the installation.

Attendees are urged to pre-register as soon as possible. A Convention pre-registration form appears on page 5.

Call for reservation

Room reservations at the Kewadin Hotel can be obtained by calling the Kewadin automated voice system at 1-800-539-2346. The special DAV room rates are \$73 for a single and \$93 for a triple and \$93 per night for a quad or Suite. When making your reservation be sure to specify you are attending the Disabled American Veterans convention and mention Group Code **9CD9UR**.

Zone II set to meet March 28 in Owosso

Zone II members will gather on Saturday, March 28 in Owosso, reports Zone II Commander Frank T. Shepherd, Jr. of Battle Creek.

Hosted by Shiawassee County Chapter 63, the meeting will be held at the Shiawassee Council on Aging Building, 300 N. Washington Street in Owosso.

On-site registration opens at 8 a.m. where coffee and donuts will be provided. The day's schedule begins with a Joint

DAV and Auxiliary session from 9-10:30 a.m. Separate meetings will begin at 10:40 a.m. Linda Walters, Auxiliary Zone II commander will chair Auxiliary sessions and everyone will break for lunch at 12 noon. Separate afternoon Zone business sessions will begin at 1 p.m. where routine zone affairs will be conducted.

Overnight accommodations are available at:

Comstock Inn, 300 E. Main Street, Owosso (989) 725-0999

Double: \$65.00 per night. *Be sure to specify you're with DAV*

Pines Inn, 1730 E. Main Street, Owosso (989) 723-9000
Double: \$58.00; Single: \$48.00

Welcome Inn, 1513 E. M-21, Owosso (989) 723-5141
Double: \$46.00

A pre-registration form appears on page 3. The \$8 registration fee includes lunch and the deadline is March 14, 2009.

2009 Department Calendar

Mid-Winter Conference	February 22-25	Washington, D.C.
DAV and DAVA St Cmdrs. Joint Testimonial	March 27	New Lothrop
Zone II Meeting	March 28	Owosso
Zone I Meeting	April 4	Livonia
Zone III Meeting	April 18	Muskegon
Zone IV	April 25	Watersmeet
4th Ann. Golf Outing	May 16	Bridgeport
Service Officer Conference	June 4	Sault Ste. Marie
State Convention	June 5-7	Sault Ste. Marie
National Convention	August 22-25	Denver, CO

GET YOUR VERY OWN DAV MICHIGAN CHALLENGE COIN!

This is a beautiful collectible piece of Michigan DAV Memorabilia featuring the DAV personalized logo on one side and the insignias of all branches of military service on the other side. Minted in a thick shiny Gold finish, the coin is available at just \$10 and the actual size of the die struck coin is 1.5 inches in diameter x 2mm thickness.

A limited edition has been struck in a desirable shiny Silver finish at \$20 each plus shipping.

Any DAV member possessing this specialized challenge coin will be proud to show they are member of a group sharing

commitment, loyalty and dedication to our common goal.

Call 1-888-448-2328 today to order yours in Gold at \$10 or in Silver at \$20 plus \$1.50 shipping today. Proceeds will benefit Department of Michigan programs!



Challenge coins have been used as a valuable recognition tool dating back to the First World War. Military units began using challenge coins as a discreet way of claiming membership to a specific unit. The possession of a challenge coin was known to have saved the life of a captured American serviceman during a rescue attempt. The coin was the only form of identification in his possession that proved he was a member of the American military forces.

Michigan Disabled Veteran

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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.

NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

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Web page: <http://www.davmembersportal.org/mi>
E-mail: davdomi@aol.com



Comments FROM THE Commander

I hope you all had a great holiday season spent with family and good friends. I know I enjoyed being home with my family and getting some much needed R&R. I was in Iron Mountain for a scheduled appointment when I heard about the Governor's executive decision. I used a computer in the library to look it up and found the cuts listed on the state Web site – \$100,000 cut for the Jacobetti Home for Veterans, and \$200,000 cut for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. I know the economy is bad and getting worse, but one of the first cuts is against the veterans? Where are they going to go? As we face these and other cuts to our veteran benefits, we need to take a stand. We must be proactive and aware, not only on the state level, but also on the national level, of possible

changes. No matter whose name is on the bill, it is what is in the bill that matters.

This time of year gives us many things to keep us busy: snow removal, keeping warm, etc. but let's not let other very important tasks fall through the cracks. Be on your toes, keep your eyes open and also work on finishing up overdue projects!

Fund raisers

I'm pleased to announce that plans have been finalized to hold our 4th Annual "Thomas McMasters" Golf Outing on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at the Green Acres Golf Course, 7323 Dixie Highway in Bridgeport, Michigan. The price to play golf is \$85 per person or \$350 for a team. The price includes 18 holes of golf, a power cart, an early dinner and prizes. DAV Chapters will be getting more information, but I wanted to



Daniel S. Mulcahey

let our membership know they can get complete information by calling the Department headquarters at 1-888-448-2328.

We're also unveiling our own Department of Michigan "Challenge" coin in this issue of the newspaper. Right now, you can call 1-888-448-2328 to order a bright "Gold" finish coin for just \$10 plus shipping (\$1.50), or a limited edition "Silver" finish coin for \$20 plus shipping (\$1.50). Challenge coins will be available for sale at each of our upcoming Zone meetings, too.

Proceeds from both fund raisers benefit Department of Michigan programs.

It's important

Frank T. Shepherd Jr., State 1st jr. vice commander

When I first thought about writing this article, I realized most of you were probably tired of hearing about membership but it occurred to me that you should be weighed down with this subject, for you see, members are what we are about, and without members we are not.

To borrow the theme from the Minnesota recruitment team, we need young members to carry the

torch. I say that to remind you that the average age of our present members is in the senior-citizen group and if we are looking to leave a legacy, we should make that mark in our membership recruitment.

Suggested ways of implementing recruitment:

Acquiring a list of eligible members from National membership department.

Honor returning veterans by paying their first life membership payment or paying it up in full.

Focus on female veterans.

Check your local veterans and nursing homes for eligible members.

It is the responsibility of each chapter to establish your plans for recruitment. However we must initiate a program to get it done.

Make reservations to attend Joint Commanders' Testimonial Dinner on March 27th

Dinner ceremonies to honor DAV and DAVA State Commanders Daniel Mulcahey and Brenda Ott are being planned for Friday, March 27 at Gracie's Country Inn in New Lothrop.

Gracies Country Inn, a popular restaurant located at 9483 Genesee Street in New Lothrop, is about 18 miles from Owosso, where the Zone II Meeting will be held the following day, Saturday March 28.

A social hour (open bar) is set to begin at 6 p.m. followed by

dinner at 7 p.m.

The evening program will begin after dinner with Auxiliary Past State Commander Peggy Smith emceeding the Auxiliary portion of the program and State Chaplain Michael Knutson doing the honors on behalf of the Department. Plans for the event coincide with the Zone II Meeting being held in Owosso the next day.

Tickets at \$30.00 per person cover dinner and an open bar. A pre-registration form appears on page 7. The dinner reservation

deadline is March 13.

Overnight accommodations are available at:

Comstock Inn, 300 E. Main Street, Owosso (989) 725-0999
Double: \$65.00 per night. *Be sure to specify you're with DAV*

Pines Inn, 1730 E. Main Street, Owosso (989) 723-9000
Double: \$58.00; Single: \$48.00

Welcome Inn, 1513 E. M-21, Owosso (989) 723-5141
Double: \$46.00

SPECIAL NOTICE

TO ALL MEMBERS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY 13

Washtenaw County DAV Chapter 13 meets at American Legion Home 282, 117 S. Huron Street, Ypsilanti 48197

Meeting Dates:

March 17, 2009 - 7 p.m.
NOMINATION OF OFFICERS
April 21, 2009 - 7 p.m.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
May 19, 2009 - 7 p.m.
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

August Wallman, commander
Reuben Swisher, adjutant

SPECIAL NOTICE

TO MEMBERS OF CHAPTER & UNIT 114

Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Canton, Plymouth, Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Belleville, Wayne

Livonia Chapter 114
30905 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, MI 48150
Chapter & Unit Meet on the Third Monday at 7pm

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES FOR CHAPTER AND UNIT

April 20 • First Nomination of Officers
May 18 • Second Nomination, Election & Installation of Officers

Patrick Adams, Commander

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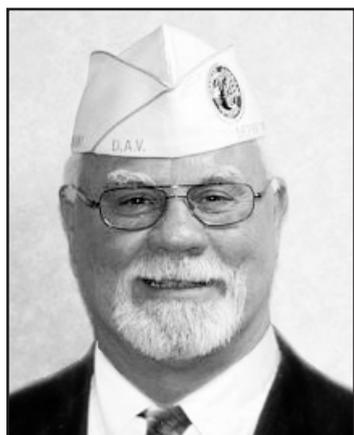
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Circulation of this issue is 28,325 copies.



Rolly D. Lee Sr.

Busy New Year

by Rolly D. Lee Sr., State adjutant

other chapters do things and conduct business. A zone meeting is also a good place for someone to learn about the DAV's mission and programs outside of the local chapter. It's also a good place to get your questions answered, learn about changes in VA benefits and get to know your Department officers. If you don't know what zone you're in, look in the Department directory or the Department Constitution and Bylaws.

Membership

It seems that to accomplish something, we need a goal of some sort to keep us focused and to help measure the success of our efforts. Without a "finish line" it seems like we just keep running. The 2008-2009 National membership quota is a goal that has been set to help a chapter increase full paid life membership over last

year's membership. Even meeting this quota will result in losing total membership.

One goal that we can accomplish is for each chapter to reach their goal set by National, and also to increase that goal by one member. We can do that! There's still plenty of time in this membership year. Let's all work a little harder and make it happen!

While we're on the subject... don't forget about the DAV Auxiliary - we need to continue to recruit Auxiliary members. Stronger Auxiliary Units will strengthen our Chapters!

These are challenging times and they afford us the opportunity to demonstrate the character of our Department and our commitment to each other. Be one of the Department of Michigan members who stands strong behind DAV efforts. *You can make a difference!*

Now is the time to plan on attending your Zone meeting and the Service Officers' Conference and State Convention. A good portion of this issue has been devoted to zone meetings and pre-registration forms for these meetings. The zone meetings help in preparing for the annual State Convention.

A zone meeting is a good place to bring your "up and coming" members and officers from your chapter to learn how

Zone I meets in Livonia on April 4

Plans are being finalized for the Zone I Meeting being held on Saturday, April 4 at the Livonia Elks Club, 31117 Plymouth Road, in Livonia.

On-site registration will be held from 8-9 a.m. followed by a Joint DAV and Auxiliary session from 9-10:30 a.m., reports Zone I Commander Christopher M. Sardo. Speakers at the assembly will include DAV State Legislative Chairman Ronald Schrieber as well as James Goldsmith of the VA's

Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Separate DAV and DAV Auxiliary meetings will begin at 10:45 a.m. The Auxiliary sessions will be chaired by Zone I Commander Loraine Connelly of Livonia. Lunch will be served at 12 noon, and if more time is needed for sessions they will commence again at 1 p.m.

Pre-register

The \$8 registration fee includes lunch and a pre-registration form appears in this issue

on page 3. Attendees are asked to use the pre-registration form so that adequate luncheon arrangements can be made.

Ten rooms have been blocked at the nearby Quality Inn and Suites located at 30375 Plymouth Road in Livonia at a special DAV room rate of \$67.49. Reservations can be made by calling (734) 261-6800. Be sure to mention the DAV Group Number 100430. Reservations must be made before the April 2 deadline to receive the special DAV rate.

Zone III meets April 18 in Muskegon

Arrangements are complete for the Zone III Meeting being held on April 18 in Muskegon reports Zone III Commander John Lamphere.

Meeting sessions will be held at DAV Chapter 11 Hall, 2415 Sheridan Drive, at the corner of E. Laketon Street, just 1-1/2 miles east of US 31.

Registration is set to begin at 8 a.m. and will be followed by a Joint Rap Session with the Auxiliary from 9 a.m. until 10:30

a.m. After a short break DAV and Auxiliary members will then go into separate sessions. DAV Auxiliary sessions will be chaired by Auxiliary Zone III Commander William Taylor.

A luncheon will be served at 12 noon to those who pre-register. Attendees will reassemble for separate afternoon Zone business sessions, if needed, at 1:30 p.m.

Chapter and unit members are urged to pre-register their

attendance, using the coupon provided on page 3. The Zone III pre-registration deadline is April 1.

Those planning to spend the night in Muskegon can consider one of the following motels:

Comfort Inn
1675 E. Sherman Blvd.
(closest to hall; also near mall)
(231) 739-9092

Holiday Inn, 939 Third Street
(231) 722-0100

Zone IV meets April 25 at Lac Vieux Desert Resort

The Zone IV Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 25 at the Lac Vieux Desert Resort Casino, N5384 US 45 in Watersmeet.

On-site registration opens at 8 a.m. where coffee and rolls will be available. A joint DAV and DAV Auxiliary session will be held from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. and then the DAV and Auxiliary will go into separate sessions until lunchtime, at 12 noon. Auxiliary sessions will be chaired

by Auxiliary Zone IV Commander Donna Henshaw. The afternoon business session will start at 1 p.m. where zone affairs will conclude.

"The Lac Vieux Desert Resort is located at a beautiful spot, in the heart of the Ottawa National Forest," reports Zone IV Commander Garry Henshaw, "about 8 miles from the Wisconsin/Michigan border in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula."

The \$8.00 registration fee

includes lunch. A pre-registration form appears on Page 3. The registration cutoff is April 17 and attendees are asked to pre-register so an accurate meal count can be provided.

Lodging

You can make a room reservation at the Lac Vieux Desert Resort by calling 1-800-583-3599. The special DAV rate is \$59.90 plus tax per night. Be sure to mention the DAV when making your reservation. The reservation deadline is April 17.

Pre-Registration Request

Zone I Meeting - Saturday, April 4, 2009 Hosts: Livonia Chapter & Unit 114 Livonia Elks Club Livonia, Michigan

Please register me (us) for the upcoming Zone I Meeting. Enclosed is Check No. _____ covering _____ registrations at \$8.00 each for:

NAME _____
CHAPTER/UNIT _____ PHONE NUMBER _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

If registering for more than two people, please provide the same information for each individual on a separate piece of paper.

Make check payable to: **DAV Chapter 114** and forward with this completed form to DAV Chapter 114, 30905 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150, Attn: Gary Busch, Treas.

Pre-registration deadline is March 21, 2009

Pre-Registration Request

Zone II Meeting - Saturday, March 28, 2009 Hosts: Shiawassee County Chapter 63 Owosso, Michigan

Please register me (us) for the upcoming Zone II Meeting. Enclosed is Check No. _____ covering _____ registrations at \$8.00 each for:

NAME _____
CHAPTER/UNIT _____ PHONE NUMBER _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

If registering for more than two people, please provide the same information for each individual on a separate piece of paper.

Make check payable to: **Shiawassee County Chapter 63** and forward with this completed form to: Les Schneider, 8499 East M-71, #222, Durand, MI 48429.

Pre-registration deadline is March 14, 2009

Pre-Registration Request

Zone III Meeting - Saturday, April 18, 2009 Hosts: Wood Tazelaar Chapter and Unit 11 Muskegon, Michigan

Please register me (us) for the upcoming Zone III Meeting. Enclosed is Check No. _____ covering _____ registrations at \$8.00 each for:

NAME _____
CHAPTER/UNIT _____ PHONE NUMBER _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

If registering for more than two people, please provide the same information for each individual on a separate piece of paper.

Make check payable to: **DAV Chapter 11** and forward with this completed form to DAV Chapter 11, P.O. Box 1, Muskegon, MI 49443.

Pre-registration deadline is April 1, 2009

Pre-Registration Request

Zone IV Meeting - Saturday, April 25, 2009 Host: Ironwood Chapter 66 Lac Vieux Desert Resort Watersmeet, Michigan

Please register me (us) for the upcoming Zone IV Meeting. Enclosed is Check No. _____ covering _____ registrations at \$8.00 each for:

NAME _____
CHAPTER/UNIT _____ PHONE NUMBER _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

If registering for more than two people, please provide the same information for each individual on a separate piece of paper.

Make check payable to: **DAV Chapter 66** and forward with this completed form to Carl Hayrynen, P.O. Box 52, Toivola, MI 49965.

Pre-registration deadline is April 17, 2009

The Bulletin Board

DETROIT 1, 2nd Wed., 6 p.m., DAV Home, 13221 Puritan St., Detroit 48227.

GRAND RAPIDS 2, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 4809 Eastern Ave., S.E., Grand Rapids 49508.

GENESE 3, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 4270 E. Bristol Rd., Burton 48519.

SAGINAW 4, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., American Legion Post 439, 5190 Weiss St., Saginaw 48603.

KALAMAZOO BUCK-CROSBY 6, 4th Wed., 6 p.m., VFW Post 1527, 1920 E. Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo 49001.

CALHOUN COUNTY CHAPTER 7, 3rd Tues., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 890 North Avenue, Battle Creek 49017.

CAPITOL CITY 8, 2nd Mon., (Except July and August), 7 p.m., Scott House, 125 E. Main, Lansing 48909. Mail: P.O. Box 24141, Lansing 48909.

BAY CITY 9, 3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m., DAV Clubroom, 1304 S. Wenona Ave., Bay City 48706.

WM. SPARKS 10, 2nd Wed., 6:30 p.m., American Legion Post 29, 3200 Lansing Avenue, Jackson 49202.

WOOD-TAZELAAR 11, 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., 2415 Laketon Ave., Muskegon 49442.

PORT HURON 12, 2nd Mon., Social 6 p.m.; Meeting 7 p.m., 2115 Military St., Port Huron 48060.

WASHTENAW COUNTY 13, 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Graf-O'Hara VFW Post 423, 3230 S. Wagner Rd. (between Saline & Ann Arbor Rds.) Ann Arbor 48106

HOLLAND 14, 1st Tues., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 1185 Matt Urban Dr., Holland 49423.

PONTIAC 16, 2nd Wed., 7 p.m., Oakland County Deputy Sheriffs Assoc., 581 W. Kennett Road, Pontiac 48340.

TWIN CITIES 17, 2nd Wed., 7 p.m., Moose Lodge 1570, 2180 Union Street, Benton Harbor 49022.

BIG RAPIDS 18, 2nd Thurs., 6:30 p.m., 402 N. Michigan Ave., Big Rapids 49307.

SOUTH OAKLAND 19, 2nd Wednesday, 1 p.m., American Legion Post 374, 2079 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley 48072.

LENAWEE COUNTY 20, 2nd Wed., 6 p.m., 141 E. Albert Street, Adrian 49221.

MARQUETTE COUNTY 22, 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m., Marquette Veterans Facility, 425 Fisher St., Marquette 49855.

CLOVERLAND CHAPTER 23, 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 1227 West Breen Avenue, Kingsford 49802.

DELTA COUNTY 24, 1st Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 904 Sheridan Road, Escanaba 49829.

MENOMINEE COUNTY 25, 1st Thurs., 6 p.m., Senior Citizen Center, 905 10th Street, Menominee 49858.

MANISTIQUE 26, 4th Thursday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 344 N. Maple, Manistique 49854.

ALLEN ALTO 38, 3rd Thurs., 1 p.m., VFW Hall, 3400 Veterans Drive, Traverse City 49684.

INLAND LAKES 39, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., AMVETS Hall, 127 W. Cass St., Cadillac.

SALT CITY 43, 1st Tues. of month, 7:30 p.m., VFW Post, 28th Street, Manistee 49660.

MACOMB COUNTY 44, 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Post 7573, 35011 23 Mile Road, New Baltimore 48047.

CPL. IAN M. GRAY 51, 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m., DAV Hall, 6117 Chase Road (near Ford Rd.), Dearborn 48126.

O'CONNOR-REINHART 52, 2nd Thurs., 7 p.m., National Guard Armory, 1170 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie 49783.

CASIMIR ZABIK 60, 2nd Tues., 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 25500 Sherwood (between 10 and 11 Mile Roads), Centerline 48015.

THUNDER BAY 61, 2nd Monday, 6 p.m., DAV Memorial Home, 1020 U.S. 23 North, P.O. Box 856, Alpena 49707.

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY 63, 1st Tues., 7 p.m., Council on Aging Building, 300 N. Washington St., Owosso 48867.

CLINTON COUNTY 64, 1st Wed., 7 p.m., American Legion Post 153, 110 E. Walker Street, St. Johns 48879.

NORTHLAND CHAPTER 66, 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 5, McLeod Ave., Ironwood 49938.

CHIPPEWA 67, 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., American Legion Post 21, 212 Washington Ave., Iron River 49935.

HILLSDALE 68, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., 228 East Main Street, North Adams, MI 49262.

MUNISING CHAPTER 69, 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., DAV/VVA Clubhouse, E.8025 Jingle Bell Lane, Christmas 49867.

OGEMAW HILLS 73, 3rd Monday, 5 p.m., Cummings Township Hall, 751 Morrison Rd. (South of Sage Lake Road), Rose City 48654.

THUMB MEMORIAL 75, 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m., American Legion, 110 W. Frank Street, Caro 48723

COL. HAMTRAMCK CHAPTER 83, 3rd Saturday, 4:30 p.m., PLAV Post 6, 9545 McDougall, Hamtramck 48212.

JACK JOHNSTON 88, 2nd Thurs., 6:00 p.m., VFW Hall, 264 W. Fawn River Road, Sturgis 49091

STRAITS 93, 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., N3984 Church Street, Moran 49760.

MIDLAND COUNTY 94, 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 3013 Bay City Rd., Midland 48640.

ROBERT BO MALISH CHAPTER 96, 4th Saturday, 12 Noon, PLAV Post, 4930 Central Ave., Detroit 48210.

STANDISH 100, 1st Tues., 2 p.m., VFW Post 3724, 3580 W. Huron Road, Standish 48658.

SYDNEY J. ALLEN 102, 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m., Trenton VFW Post 1888, 2763 Veterans Parkway, Trenton 48183.

WILSON-BLACKMER 105, 2nd and 4th Tues., 7 p.m., 9480 School St., Lake 48632; Second meeting is social meeting. Auxiliary meets at same time and place as chapter.

FLAT RIVER CHAPTER 106, 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., 8484 S. Mt. Hope, Carson City 48811.

EAST DETROIT 107, 3rd Wed., 3 p.m., VFW Post 6782, 17645 Nine Mile Road, Eastpointe 48021.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHAPTER 112, 4th Thursday, 11:30 a.m., Ponderosa, 1301 E. Pickard, Mt. Pleasant 48858.

REDFORD TOWNSHIP 113, 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., VFW Post 345, 37345 Schoolcraft Rd., Redford Twp. 48239.

LIVONIA 114, 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., DAV Home, 30905 Plymouth Rd., Livonia 48150.

DR. PERCY H. WILSON 115, 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m., Chassell VFW, U.S. 41, Chassell 49916. Auxiliary meets at same time.

JAMES V. PELLEGRINI/LINCOLN PARK 116, 2nd Wed., 3 p.m., American Legion Club, 1430 Southfield, Lincoln Park 48146.

HALEY BROTHERS CHAPTER 117, 1st Tues. of month, 6 p.m., Saginaw VA Medical Center, 1500 Weiss Street, Saginaw 48602.

ST. CLAIR SHORES 119, 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m., VFW Bruce Post 1146, 28404 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores 48081.

GOODRICH-SKIDMORE 122, 2nd and 4th Thurs., 7 p.m., DAV Home, G-3185 W. Pasadena Ave., Flint 48504.

A. REED-J.DaPRATO 125, 1st Mon., 7:00 p.m., American Legion Club, 3265 W. Grand River, Howell 48843.

BIEBUYCK-ROMANO 127, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., VFW Post 3130, 6782 Nine Mile Road (at Sherwood), Warren 48091.

ROBERT H. COX 129, 1st Tues., 8 p.m., 47326 Dequindre, Shelby Twp. 48317.

TAWAS BAY 130, 4th Mon., 7 p.m., East Tawas City Community Bldg., 760 Newman, E. Tawas 48730.

MID-STATE 135, 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m., Lyon Township Hall, 7851 West Higgins Lake Dr., Higgins Lake 48627.

New beginnings

by Ronald Schrieber, State legislative chairman

I am so proud to say I am an American and even more so, I am proud to be an American veteran. Nowhere else in the world would we be able to abolish slavery and elect an African American President in a short period of time in our country's history. This is democracy at work folks. No matter what your political persuasion you have to be awed by it all. GOD BLESS AMERICA.

I wish the 111th Congress all of the best and hope they can do what is right for veterans of this great country. The congress is already hard at work and in the process of putting together the 2010 VA budget. Don't let up the pressure for some kind of assured or advanced funding so the Department of Veterans Affairs can properly plan for the year ahead.

There are a lot of important issues to come before this congress that we need to keep a grassroots eye on so we can act when need be. There will be some pressures I'm sure to reform the rating schedule, make more veterans eligible for health care, increase the number of brain injury treatment centers, and many other issues that will affect veterans in one way or another. I would ask that each of you that have computers and e-mail addresses to register with at the National Web site at <http://www.dav.org> and get on the legislative alert list.

I received an e-mail on January 20th that Retired Army General Eric Shinseki has been confirmed as the Secretary of Veteran Affairs.

I received a message January 15th on The American Recov-

ery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009, (stimulus package), that would include a \$950 million provision for VA medical facilities and another \$50 million for repairs at VA monuments and cemeteries.

On January 23rd Chairman of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs, Bob Filner, led the committee's organizational meeting for the 111th Congress. Chairman Filner (D-CA) commented, "We have a remarkable opportunity as a committee to make significant progress when it comes to improving services and benefits for our veterans." I will list the complete committee in a future issue. There are no members from Michigan on the committee.

The enactment of S.3023, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, had a housing bill that may be beneficial to some veterans who are financially distressed. The law would allow veterans with conventional home loans new options for refinancing to a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) guaranteed home loan. Details appeared in last month's issue of this newspaper but it's worth mentioning again.

These changes will allow VA to assist a substantial number of veterans with subprime mortgages to refinance into a safer, more affordable, VA guaranteed loan. Veterans in financial distress due to high rate of subprime mortgages are potentially the greatest beneficiaries.

VA has never guaranteed subprime loans. However, as a result of the new law VA can now help many more veterans who currently have subprime loans.

The new law makes changes

to VA's home loan refinancing program. Veterans who wish to refinance their subprime or conventional mortgage may now do so for up to 100 percent of the value of the property. These types of loans were previously limited to 90 percent of the value.

Additionally, Congress raised VA's maximum loan amount for these types of refinancing loans. Previously these refinancing loans were capped at \$144,000. With the new legislation such loans may be made up to \$729,750 depending on where the property is located. Increasing the loan to value ratio and raising the maximum loan amount will allow more qualified veterans to refinance through VA, allowing for savings on interest cost or even potentially avoiding foreclosure.

Originally set to expire at the end of September VA's authority to guaranty ARM's was also extended under the new law through September 30, 2012. Unlike conventional ARM's and Hybrid ARM's VA limits interest rate increases on these loans from year to year as well as over the life of the loans.

Someone who is having mortgage payment problems may be eligible for this type of assistance. You may call a VA loan specialist at 1-877-827-3702.

Of course during the Presidential campaign there were many statements made about ending the disability tax on retirees and providing full concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability benefits. Let's see if this happens with the new administration. Stay tuned!

One million vets share \$320 million in VA Insurance Dividends

One million veterans are in line to share \$319.8 million in annual insurance dividends during 2009, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

VA operates one of the nation's largest life insurance programs, providing more than \$1 trillion in coverage to seven million service members, veterans and family members.

The dividend payments are being sent to an estimated one million holders of VA insurance policies on the anniversary date of their policies. Sent automatically through different payment plans, the amounts vary based on the age of the veteran, the type of insurance, and the length of time the policy has been in force.

The dividends come from the earnings of trust funds into which veterans have paid insurance premiums over the years,

and are linked to returns on investments in U.S. government securities.

VA officials caution veterans about a long-running scam in which various groups charge fees to "locate" veterans who are eligible for the dividends. Veterans eligible for the dividends have had VA life insurance policies in effect since they left the military and have received annual notifications from VA about the policies.

Dividends are paid each year to veterans who served between 1917 and 1956 and who hold certain government life insurance policies. The policies are known by letters that appear at the beginning of each policy's identification number.

World War II veterans holding National Service Life Insurance ("V") policies comprise the largest group receiving 2009 insurance dividend payments.

They are expected to receive total payments of \$243.8 million.

An additional group of World War II-era veterans, those who have Veterans Reopened Insurance ("J", "JR" and "JS") policies, will in total receive dividends of \$8.1 million.

Korean War era veterans who have maintained Veterans Special Life Insurance ("RS" and "W") policies can expect to receive dividends totaling \$67.2 million.

Dividends totaling \$725,000 will be paid to veterans who served after World War I until 1940 who hold U.S. Government Life Insurance ("K") policies.

Veterans who have questions about their policies may contact the VA insurance toll-free number at 1-800-669-8477 or send an email to VAinsurance@va.gov. They may also visit the Internet at www.insurance.va.gov

"KEEP YOURSELF INFORMED."



Thomas E. Wendel

2009 Service Officer Conference

by Thomas Wendel, Michigan service director

held on Thursday, June 4, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Kewadin Casino Hotel and Convention Center in Sault Ste Marie. The cost of the Conference will be \$20.00.

Each Chapter is allowed to send as many Service Officers to the Conference as they wish, but in order for a Service Officer to receive the Annual Service Officer Certification and to be covered under the Indemnification of Department and Chapter Service Programs, the Service Officer must be listed on your official Officer Report as a Chapter Service Officer. If the individuals attending the Conference are not listed on the report as Chapter Service Officer they will **only** receive a Certificate of Attendance and they will **not** be covered under the Indemnification of Department and Chapter Service Program. Therefore, it is important that all individuals attending the Conference as a Chapter Service Officer are listed on your report. If they are not listed on the report then you will need to amend your report to include them.

We know that this is a change

for everyone, but it is our hope that those of you who don't usually come to State Convention will stay and enjoy the Convention and Sault Ste. Marie since you're already there!

Some of you may ask: If I attended the Conference in September 2008, and I can't attend the Conference on June 4, 2009, when does my Certification expire? The answer is, September 2009; one year from the date on your Certificate. For the Conference this year, the Service Officer(s) we want the Chapter to send are those Service Officer(s) appointed by your new Commander, after this year's election of Officers. I know that some Chapters don't install their Officers until after State Convention, but I'm asking that the installation of Officer be completed prior to Convention, in order that we don't run into any problems.

National has updated the Training Course, and we plan on modifying our presentation this year. We hope that every Chapter will try and send at least one Service Officer to the 2009 Service Officer Conference.

This year the Service Officer Conference will be held in conjunction with the State Convention. As we are all aware, the Department has been facing financial difficulty the past few years. With this in mind, it was recommended to the State Administrative Board that the Service Officer Conference be held at the same time as the State Convention, in an attempt to save the Department money. The Board approved this recommendation. Therefore, the annual Service Officer Conference will be

Study offers hope for Parkinson's patients

Electrical stimulation of the brain – a treatment in which a pacemaker-like device sends pulses to electrodes implanted in the brain – is riskier than drug therapy but may hold significant benefits for those with Parkinson's disease who no longer respond well to medication alone.

That is the conclusion of researchers from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) who conducted a six-year study comparing deep-brain stimulation (DBS) to medication, along with speech, physical or occupational therapy, given as needed. The results of the trial, the largest of its kind to date, appear in the January 7 *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

"Deep-brain stimulation offers hope for a large number of patients with advanced Parkinson's disease who suffer from complications of long-standing medication therapy," said then Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake on January 13. "This finding could mean improved quality of life for some of our patients."

The study included 255 Parkinson's patients at seven VA medical centers and six university hospitals. The VA sites were Port-

land, Ore., Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Richmond, Va., and Philadelphia, all members of VA's network of Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers.

The JAMA article also noted VA's nationwide system of hospitals and specialized centers of excellence make the Department uniquely capable of conducting such large, multi-site trials of new therapies and medical devices. VA's patient population is especially suited for trials of treatments for chronic disease in the elderly.

Patients who took part in the study were on medication but are no longer seeing improvements in symptoms such as tremors or stiffness. Many were also developing side effects from the drugs, such as involuntary face, arm or leg movements.

Researchers followed the patients for six months, finding:

- Patients who received DBS gained an average of 4.6 hours per day of good motor control and few or no involuntary movements, compared with no gain for those on medical therapy alone;

- 71 percent of DBS patients showed significant gains in motor function, compared with only 32 percent of drug therapy patients; and

- Serious adverse side effects were nearly four times more common in the DBS group, but almost all of these effects in both groups were resolved during the six-month study. The most common side effects from

DBS were infections, falls, depression, gait and balance problems, and pain.

Lead authors and study co-chairs were Frances Weaver, PhD, a researcher with the Center for Management of Complex Chronic Care at the Hines VA Hospital near Chicago, and Dr. Kenneth Follett, a neurosurgeon at the Omaha VA Medical Center and University of Nebraska. They emphasize that besides the higher likelihood of serious side effects with DBS compared with drug therapy, another drawback of the procedure is that, although it generally improves movement, it does little to help other Parkinson's symptoms such as depression, decline in mental ability, gait and balance problems, and trouble with gastrointestinal, urinary or sexual function.

"The results of the study should not be over- or understated," said Dr. Michael Kussman, then VA Under Secretary for Health. "Still, there are many good candidates for DBS among patients with Parkinson's disease whom we treat in VA."

The trial was sponsored by VA's Cooperative Studies Program and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, part of the National Institutes of Health. Additional support came from Medtronic, which makes the DBS system used in the study.

Parkinson's disease, a progressive neurological disorder, affects some 1.5 million Americans, with 50,000 new cases diagnosed annually. VA treats at least 40,000 veterans with the disorder each year. Most patients are over age 50, but some forms of the disease can strike younger adults.

Pre-Registration Forms

2009 DAV Service Officer Conference & DAV/DAVA Convention Sault Ste. Marie, MI June 4-7, 2009

Service Officer Conference Pre-Registration June 4, 2009

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
 PHONE _____
 REPRESENTING _____
 (Title, Chapter No., County, Agency, Etc.)

Registration covers: Service Officer materials as well as admittance to Thursday's Pie & Ice Cream Social.

(DAV) Convention Pre-Registration June 5-7, 2009

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
 PHONE _____

Registering As: Chapter No. _____ E.C. _____
OR
 Chapter No. _____ DELEGATE _____

(If Department Officer – Print Title & Chapter Number)

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

(DAV) Choose ONE (1) ONLY:

Service Officer Conference Registration ONLY	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Convention Registration ONLY	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Convention Registration & Banquet	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Officer Conf. & Conv. Reg. ONLY	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Officer Conf. – Conv. Reg. & BANQUET – \$5.00 SAVINGS	\$55.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

(DAVA) Auxiliary Convention Pre-Registration June 5-7, 2009

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
 PHONE _____

Registering As: Unit No. _____ E.C. _____
OR
 Unit No. _____ DELEGATE _____

(DAVA) Choose ONE (1) ONLY:

Convention Registration ONLY	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Convention Registration & Banquet	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

** Extra Banquet Tickets \$30.00 Each _____
Make checks payable to: "Disabled American Veterans" (do not send cash) and mail along with completed registration form to: **Disabled American Veterans, 17779 E. 14 Mile Rd., Fraser, MI 48026**

All tickets will be enclosed in your registration packet to be picked up on your arrival at the Convention registration desk located at the Water's Edge at the Kewadin Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Tee it up for Michigan's Disabled Veterans!



Disabled American Veterans
 Thomas McMasters
 4th Annual Golf Outing
 Saturday, May 16, 2009

Green Acres Golf Course
 7323 Dixie Highway
 Bridgeport, Michigan

Call 1-888-448-2328 or visit our Web site at <http://www.davmembersportal.org/mi> to register!



by Michael Knutson, LTC, U.S. Army (Retired)
State chaplain

"The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like the first, namely this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is no other commandments greater than these."—MARK 12:29-31

The holiday season has come and gone and everybody is settling in for the winter season here in Michigan. Over the last couple of weeks it has gotten just down right cold. In the midst of these cold days there springs renewal of love because Valentines Day gives us all time to pause and show appreciation for the special people that we love. National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week is celebrated February 8th thru 14th. As we remember our hospitalized veterans in February it is also appropriate that we remember all of our veterans. Our Lord gave us two commandments, that we love God and love our fellow man. In a world of greed, "let others do it" and "me first" it is the veteran who has obeyed God's commandments by showing us how

much they love God, their country, their families, and their buddies. It is our veterans who have given so much of themselves so that we can enjoy our precious freedoms today. It is our veterans who have shown each new generation of Americans examples of faith, courage, trust, moral certainty, and love.

A friend of mine lost his leg due to a land mine while he was in Vietnam. One Saturday while he was watching a football game, his artificial leg was bothering him so he took it off. His three-year-old granddaughter came into the room and she stood in amazement. She had never seen her grandpa with only one leg. She crawled up into grandpa's lap and asked what happened. He tried as best he could to tell his granddaughter what happened.

When he finished, she put her arms around him and said, "Grandpa it's going to be okay because I love you." Those words spoken by a three-year-old child from her heart are the words our country needs to say to all of our veterans. It is going to be okay because we love you.

During National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans week, make time in your busy schedules to visit a hospitalized or a shut-in veteran, whether it is in a VA medical facility, a private sector facility or in their own home. It would also be most appropriate that when you meet a veteran, thank them for what they have given to our country. Let them know that you love them for the love they have shown us.

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

TAPS

Name.....	Chapter
Jerome M. LaVene.....	2
Earl E. Brahmer.....	3
Edward E. Burkhart.....	4
Willis G. Morse.....	4
Roland R. Boehm.....	13
William H. Bryant.....	13
Henry E. Edwin.....	13
Charles Lovelace.....	13
Raymond L. Nestor.....	13
Brodie Williams.....	13
Buddie Joseph Hull.....	16
Billy J. Martin.....	17
Fredrick D. Rardin.....	18
Clovis H. Peano, Jr.	22
Dave Harris.....	24
Dale A. Heidenreich.....	24
Harry Ray.....	24
William Roy Corey.....	25
John M. Nemetz.....	25
Eugene Chambers.....	33
Fred Mangiapane.....	33
Donald J. Truran.....	33
Carl T. Johnson.....	39
Clarence P. Jerumbo.....	43
Michael A. Grohowski.....	51
Jimmie Morris Parker.....	68
Eugene C. Clark, PDC.....	93
Donald E. Henning.....	105
Alphonse J. Staisil.....	115

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 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2008 with REPORT OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

WILLIAM I. MINOLETTI & Co., P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
4170N PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
30435 GROESBECK HIGHWAY
ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48066

WILLIAM I. MINOLETTI, CPA
LOUIS J. CARNAGHI, CPA

(800) 779-8010
FAX (566) 771-8970
E-MAIL: minoletti@ameritech.net

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position resulting from the cash transactions of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan as of June 30, 2008. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Department's administrative board. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, this financial statement was prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position resulting from the cash transactions of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan at June 30, 2008, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

William I. Minoletti & Co., P.C.

December 29, 2008

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
June 30, 2008

	2008					
	General Fund	Rehabilitation Fund	Transportation Program	Revolving Fund	Building Fund	Thrift Store
ASSETS						
Cash and cash Equivalents	\$ 60,896	\$ 17,457	\$ 39,188	\$ 23,151	\$ -	\$ 27,710
Receivable from other funds	15,805	-	-	30,000	21,611	-
Investments (Note 1)	203,274	-	-	-	-	-
Office condominium (Note 5)	-	-	-	-	245,925	-
Equipment & leasehold improvements (Note 1)	-	-	-	-	-	367,122
	<u>\$279,975</u>	<u>\$ 17,457</u>	<u>\$ 39,188</u>	<u>\$ 53,151</u>	<u>\$ 267,536</u>	<u>\$ 394,832</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE						
Sales taxes payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,936
Advances from management company (Note 4)	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Notes Payable (Note 5)	-	-	-	-	154,388	153,511
Funds held for chapters and/or due other funds	-	30,000	-	\$2,870	-	-
Fund balances	304,196	(12,543)	39,188	281	113,148	185,385
Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments (Note 1)	(24,221)	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$279,975</u>	<u>\$ 17,457</u>	<u>\$ 39,188</u>	<u>\$ 53,151</u>	<u>\$ 267,536</u>	<u>\$ 394,832</u>

See accompanying notes.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
NOTES TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
June 30, 2008

Note 1 - NATURE OF BUSINESS AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan is the parent organization of all the DAV chapters and zones in the State of Michigan. The Department is organized to promote disabled veterans membership and to service that membership, their families and communities through various programs.

The accompanying financial statement has been prepared on the cash basis of accounting. Under this basis, revenue is recognized as collected and expenses are recognized as paid. This basis differs from generally accepted accounting principles because the Department has not recognized balances of accounts receivable and payable and their related effects on the financial statements.

Investments are included in the attached statement of assets, liabilities and fund balances at market value. The unrealized appreciation or (depreciation) of these investments is reflected as a separate reserve until realized.

Investments at June 30, 2008 are summarized as follows:

General Fund:	Market Value	Cost	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Mutual funds	\$203,274	\$227,495	\$(24,221)

The Department's policy regarding equipment is to charge the appropriate fund in the year the expense is incurred and not carry the equipment as an asset of the fund, except for the Thrift Store Fund, see Note 3.

The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan is exempt from Federal income taxes under Section 501(c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
NOTES TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
June 30, 2008

Note 2 - REVOLVING FUND

The Revolving Fund is used principally as a clearing fund for cash receipts pending final distribution thereof.

Note 3 - THRIFT STORE FUND

During the year ended June 30, 2008, the Department established a Thrift Store Fund to finance the operation of a thrift store where donated merchandise is sold to raise funds for the Department.

Note 4 - ADVANCES FROM MANAGEMENT COMPANY

At June 30, 2008, advances of \$50,000 are due to the Management Company operating the Thrift Store. As of the date of this report, no repayment terms have been finalized.

Note 5 - NOTES PAYABLE

	Amount
Building Fund:	
Mortgage note payable - bank; collateralized by office condominium in Fraser, Michigan; due in monthly installments of \$1,604 including interest at 6.02% per annum.	\$154,388
Thrift Store Fund:	
Notes payable - finance company, collateralized by equipment; due in monthly installments of \$2,631 including interest at 6.35% per annum.	\$127,244
Capitalized equipment leases payable - due in monthly installments of \$686 with interest at 13.57 and 15.0% per annum.	26,267
	<u>\$153,511</u>



Brenda Ott

A year to be proud of

by Brenda Ott, Auxiliary State commander

ship quotas. It would sure be nice if all of our units made quota. This is not impossible if we all work together. I know my own unit, Unit 3, is prepared to make our quota. We also need to work with our chapters to make them the best they can be. There are so many people we can help.

It is frigid cold out right now and there are veterans that are sleeping on the street and also not getting enough to eat. Try to work extra hard so we can take care of all our veterans, as they took care of us. If you do not know where to

start, DAV Service Officers can help. They are bombarded with requests from people who need help. So let's make 2009 a year we can all be proud of. We just need a little help from everyone.

If there is anything I can do to be of service to you, please let me know. Last but certainly not least, we send our sympathies to the family of Auxiliary Past State Commander Viola Couillard. Viola will be sadly missed by our membership. Until the next issue, everyone please stay warm and work hard to help our veterans.

Greetings to all in 2009! As the New Year begins we have a lot of work to do. First and foremost is making our member-

Show that you care

by William A. Taylor, Auxiliary State membership chairman

Caring is defined by how you feel about helping others. Take every opportunity to talk with people about their past including their time in the service. Be sure and explain that the more members we recruit the stronger our organization becomes. Explain that we are not looking for a handout from the federal government, but looking for a better life for our veterans and their families. When recruiting mem-

bers, use some of these ideas:

- Listen intently to what you're being told. Don't interrupt and take as much time as needed to hear the whole story.
- You're not getting a commission, so don't make someone feel like they're just a number.
- One thing we all want from each other is respect.
- If you don't have all the correct answers, then tell that person. (People can tell when

you don't know what you're talking about.)

• Being honest with potential recruits will show them that you are in an organization that really cares and wants to make their lives better.

In conclusion, here are the latest state membership figures. Our state membership quota is presently at 4,756 with **4,758** currently paid members, leaving us at 100.04 percent.

You can benefit, too!

by Loraine Connelly, Auxiliary State community service chairman

I've been doing some reading about community service, good deeds and helping others. It doesn't matter what state or country the studies were done in, the results are always the same. Good deeds are good for your health. The good feeling it gives you even has a name, Helper's High. This "high" isn't just a temporary feeling. Various parts of your brain are activated as you ponder

someone's problem and try to form a solution. As you think about it and perform good deeds, the body gets a rush of endorphins, much like jogging, that are good for your immune system and your mental health.

If good deeds are performed on a regular basis, students tend to get better grades, those with illnesses tend to feel better and live longer, and it even suggests

that older adults get the same benefit as following a fitness regimen. Because people naturally want to help others it's good for the body and soul. Scientists say that "to give is better than to receive" is literally true. If you're thinking of doing something nice for someone or doing volunteer work each week, I suggest you get to it...for your health!

State legislation

by Linda Walters, Auxiliary State legislative chairman

When we think about legislation, government, bills and laws, our thoughts usually go to Washington, D.C. and national government, but there is also state government.

Sometimes we can find information about legislation in unusual places. While paging

through an energy co-op magazine, I came across an article about the 2009-2010 Michigan senators and representatives. Although it was a short article, it listed Web sites such as www.senate.michigan.gov and www.house.michigan.gov where you can find the state legislators

in your area, their schedules, committees, etc. I was impressed with the information provided at www.michiganlegislature.org where you can find bills, public acts and resolutions for the past 10 years, laws that have been repealed, legislator's e-mail addresses and much more.

Death of Past Commander Viola Couillard

Auxiliary Past State Commander Viola Couillard passed away at her home in Escanaba on Saturday, December 20, 2008.

Couillard served as DAV Auxiliary State Commander in 2000-01. A DAV Auxiliary service was conducted and funeral services were held on Tuesday, December 23, 2008 at the Anderson Funeral Home

Chapel, with burial taking place at the Bark River Cemetery.

She is survived by her daughters, Auxiliary Past State Commander Linda Reed (2004-05), Connie Couillard, Debbie Niemela, Cindy Waltz and sons Rod, Randy and Jerome Couillard; 27 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Service

by Donna Henshaw, Auxiliary State Mae Holmes chairman

Can you hear it? Opportunity is knocking at our door. We have a great chance to have many units make quota this year.

According to "Headquarters News" there were some problems with the 2008-2009 quota and in most cases the quotas were set lower than they should have been. So, let's take advantage of this unexpected gift and recruit as many new members as possible.

If your unit reaches quota by April 1st, your unit will be eligible to win the Mae Holmes award in your population category. Units can still help their state and national to achieve their quotas by turning in new membership forms by June 30, 2009.

Winning the Mae Holmes award is very special to a unit. It means that the members are striving for excellence in all our service programs. Take pride in completing your service reports and make sure they are received by State Adjutant Carol Gray. They should be postmarked by May 1, 2009.

Because of the downturn in the economy, we may be asked to give more of ourselves to our veterans, their families, and our communities. So, take a deep breath, square your shoulders and with opened hands and opened heart, reach out and open that door and do what you can.

ATTN: DAVA UNIT OFFICERS

ALL official Auxiliary State mail should be sent to Auxiliary State Adjutant Carol Gray, 3432 Pine Knob, NW; Grand Rapids 49544!

Reservation Request

Testimonial Dinner Honoring DAV State Commander Daniel Mulcahey and DAV Auxiliary State Commander Brenda Ott Friday, March 27, 2009 Gracie's Country Inn New Lothrop, Michigan

Social Hour (Open Bar) at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m.

Please hold a reservation for me (us) at the upcoming Testimonial tribute honoring DAV State Commander Mulcahey and DAV Auxiliary State Commander Ott. Enclosed is a Check or Money Order (No cash please) for _____ tickets at \$30.00 per person.

NAME _____ PHONE _____ CHAPTER/UNIT _____ NUMBER _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ CODE _____

Make check payable to Genesee Chapter 3 and forward with this completed form to: Cmdr. William Johnson, DAV Chapter 3, 4270 E. Bristol Rd., Burton 48519.

Reservation deadline is March 13, 2009

WAR RELICS WANTED

Private collector paying top dollar for daggers, swords, medals, uniforms, etc.

CALL OR WRITE: William Harbowy, 7247 Weddel St. Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 386-2384

Visit the DAV Store in Westland



8050 N. MIDDLEBELT RD. (AT ANN ARBOR TRAIL) WESTLAND, MICHIGAN Store Phone (734) 513-6020 Donation Line: (866) 520-5328

Funeral services held for Past State Commander Eugene Clark



Eugene C. Clark

Eugene C. Clark, past State commander, died unexpectedly Wednesday, January 14 at the age of 64.

Clark, DAV State commander during 1996-97, was a decorated U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam with the 2/14 Infantry and he was engaged in numerous conflicts including the Tet Offensive, Manhattan and Junction. During the 24 months Clark served, he received two Purple

Hearts, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, and four Presidential Unit Citations. Upon returning to the states he was employed as a superintendent at American Dredging Construction before retiring on disability.

A life member of the DAV since 1986, Clark held every office on the chapter level at Straits Chapter 93 and served in various State positions before being elected State commander in 1996. In 1997 he was elected to the State Administrative Board for nine years (3 three-year terms); 5 years of which he served as Administrative Board chairman.

A funeral service was held at Faith Baptist Church in St. Ignace on Monday, January 19, which was followed by a military service.

DAV 2004-05 Past State Commander Billie Clark, his wife of 13 years survives him; along with two grown children, Corina and Erick and two grandchildren.

New DAV VAVS Rep at Oscar G. Johnson VA medical center



Dale LaPalme

A new face on the scene at Iron Mountain's VA medical center

is Dale LaPalme, who was recently appointed to serve as DAV VAVS Representative there.

LaPalme, a Vietnam era veteran, has been a member of Delta County Chapter 24 since 1973.

All donations for the Iron Mountain DAV VAVS program should be made payable to VAVS Representative LaPalme and mailed to him at PO Box 253, N16575 Linden Street, Hermansville 49847.

Any DAV member interested in serving as a DAV volunteer at Iron Mountain can reach LaPalme by telephone at (906) 498-2407.



THE FRIENDLY AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION IS HEATING UP between Auxiliary State Commander Brenda Ott who has signed up 14 senior members and 3 Junior members to date and Department Vice Commander Garry Henshaw who has signed up five seniors and five Junior members in the DAV Auxiliary. Although Garry has to get crackin', both are doing great!



OVER 100 CHRISTMAS PACKAGES are collected by members of Chapter 11 for distribution at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Shown are, left to right, Chapter member Lenz Temple, Toni Garcia, branch manager of Consumers Credit Union and Chapter member Al Hekkema.



LAP ROBES ARE COLLECTED BY MEMBERS OF DAVA UNIT 11 and donated to Muskegon's Brookhaven Nursing Home to be passed out as birthday gifts. In December Auxiliary Unit 11 hosted a birthday party for all the residents with birthdays that month by providing a sheet cake and gifts. Shown are Unit 11 members, left to right, Phyllis Sirotko, Marie Hekkema and Bernice Sebring.

Don't Wait! Make your reservation today!
DAV SERVICE OFFICERS CONFERENCE THURSDAY, JUNE 4

DAV AND DAV AUXILIARY STATE CONVENTION FRIDAY, JUNE 5 THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Kewadin Casino, Hotel and Convention Center
2186 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783
<http://www.kewadin.com>

The Kewadin hotel, adjacent to the casino, features an indoor pool, whirlpool, game room and weight room. Guests can stroll through specialty shops or enjoy a meal or the buffet at the Dreamcatchers restaurant.

DAV Rates: \$73 - Single or Double \$83 - Triple \$93 - Quad \$93 - Suites

All single rooms have a king-size bed. Double rooms have two queen-size beds.

For room reservations call the Kewadin automated voice system at 1-800-539-2346. At the first set of options, press or say 2. At the second set of options, press or say 1. At the third set of options, press or say 1 to reach the hotel. Be sure to mention DAV and Group Code 9CD9UR.

*A credit card or one night's deposit is required.
Be sure to specify you are attending the DAV Convention*

The cut-off date for room reservations is May 8, 2009

SANTA AND A LARGE GROUP OF HELPERS consisting of members of Cpl. Ian M. Gray Chapter 51 and friends, pay an annual Christmas visit on December 13 to John D. Dingell VA medical center to distribute presents to hospital patients. The gifts included: 200 canteen books, sweaters and lap robes. Tom Roney and Fred Kinzel of Chapter 51 do weekly volunteer service year-round at the hospital.

