



FULLFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans Department of New Mexico **NEWSLETTER**

Volume #1 Issue #1 Sept. 2015

State Convention 2015 A Rousing Success!

This year's State Convention had the best turnout in recent years thanks to all the Officers and Members that participated. All of us at Department would like to thank the representatives from District 17 (Colorado, Utah and Wyoming) for joining us and give special thanks to National Representatives Dan Clare (Director of Communications-DAV) and Bunny Clos (Assistant to the National Adjutant - DAVA) for participating in our event.



Your Department Officers 2015-2016 (from left): Judge Advocate Rick Madera, Treasurer Ed Holbrook, Adjutant David Alderete, Commander Gene Weber, Sr. Vice Commander George Perez, 1st Jr. Vice Commander Eddie Maestas, 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Tim Talley and Chaplain Maurice Graff



From The Desk of the State Adjutant

I want to thank all the members that joined us at the State Convention held in June 2015. In my assessment, it was definitely one of the best that we have had and hope that the Department can continue to provide viable information and entertainment for your enjoyment. The National Convention this year was held in Denver and it was also informative. Newly elected National Officers include: Moses McIntosh, Commander and David Riley, Sr. Vice Commander. On the Auxiliary side the newly elected officers include: Linda Stake, Commander and Frances J. Costa, Sr. Vice Commander. Also of note is that New Mexico's own Ellen Timmerman was elected 2nd Jr. Vice Commander. Ellen has been steadily moving up at the National level and is currently the State Auxiliary Adjutant. **CONGRATULATIONS, ELLEN!**



(Above left) Ellen and Tim Timmerman celebrating Ellen's election to the National 2nd Jr. Vice office. at the National Convention in Denver, CO. (Above right) State Adjutant David Alderete, Chapter 3 Sr. Vice Antonio Segura, Jr. and Chapter 3 member Frank Mestas taking it easy at the National Convention.

NEWSLETTER?!?

We here at Department thought a good way to disseminate information between Department, Chapters, Units and Dugouts would be to start up a quarterly newsletter. We hope to put out issues in September, December, March and June. We would love for all of you to submit articles about upcoming events, fundraising ideas, kudos or anything else you might like to share with the New Mexico DAV Community. Please send ideas to 2511 Utah NE Albuquerque, NM 87110 or email to davnm@qwestoffice.net. The deadline for the next issue will be November 15th and we will try to include as many submissions as possible. We look forward to your submissions!

I want to congratulate all the new Chapter Officers and State Executive Committee members that were elected this year. We are placing a lot of responsibility on their shoulders to enhance recruitment efforts and definitely solicit any and all new ideas and support endeavors that are undertaken by their Chapters and Department. I would also like to stress that if any Chapter is having difficulties or needs help, please call Department.



THE DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IS IN NEED OF A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN TO VOLUNTEER AS POV DRIVERS TO HELP OUR STATE'S VETERANS GET TO AND FROM THEIR NECESSARY MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS. TO VOLUNTEER, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LUPE CRUZ, TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, AT (505) 265-2821

Department Gun Raffle

Department has kicked off our handgun raffle ticket sales for the drawing that will be held at the 2016 State Convention Banquet June 10th, 2016. We will be raffling off a Springfield XD Mod 2 .45 APC (pictured below, left) and a Ruger LC9 Lasermax (pictured below, right) with the first draw winner getting first pick and the second draw winner receiving the remaining firearm. Tickets are \$5 per ticket or \$20 for 5. If you would like to buy tickets or pick up some to sell, please contact Department.



Convention 2015 Raffle Winners



This past Convention's winners are: Christopher Patscheck (pictured above left with rifle) and Daniel Trujillo (pictured above right with shotgun). Both winners are pictured with Department Commander Gene Weber.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Department has set up dates at Sportsman's Warehouse to sell tickets for the abovementioned raffle and are looking for people willing and able to volunteer. The dates are as follows:

- *Wed., Sept. 23rd 9am-6pm
- *Sat., Oct. 17th 9am-6pm
- *Sun., Oct. 18th 10am-5pm
- *Sat., Oct. 24th 9am-6pm
- *Sunday, Oct. 25th 10am-5pm
- *Sat., Nov. 14th 9am-6pm
- *Sun., Nov. 15th 10am-5pm

Come and participate for the whole day or just a few hours. Any time you could give would be greatly appreciated. Contact Commander Weber for details at (505) 401-5907

Commander's Notes

Comrades: I hope you all had a good time at our state convention in June and found the information available helpful to bring back to your individual Chapters. My desire for my term as Department Commander is to improve communication between the Chapters, Units, Dugouts and Department. Hopefully you have seen this already with my letter to each Chapter/Unit/Dugout congratulating them on their annual elections. If you haven't gotten one please let me know personally and I will send one.

Also, I sent out a membership listing (Cactus Chapter 7 New Mexico state at large with 1700 members) to each Chapter's person authorized to receive mail. It was sent to the e-mail address listed in the Department phone directory which was provided by your chapter officer's report. Please use it if you can. We all need to recruit new members when we are talking to veterans as we are losing our current membership at an alarming rate. Membership is the only way this great organization can survive and help other veterans as we have been helped along the way to receive our benefits.

I recently emailed information about a possible fundraising event for Chapters with a Ford dealership in your part of the state. The program is called "Drive 4 UR Community" and Chapters can earn \$20 for each validated test-drive for the event. The maximum donation is \$6,000. The dates available are August 29 through December 31, 2015 so if you are interested, contact the dealership as soon as possible. For more information, go to www.drive4urcommunity.com. I encourage you to check it out and see if that is something in which your Chapter would be interested.

It is my personal goal to visit each chapter during my term as Department Commander. If you have a particular monthly meeting that you would like me to visit, please let me know and I will see what I can do to accommodate. Thank you for what you do for the DAV and veterans.

Engene (Gene) Weber, Department Commander
(505) 401-5907 or (505) 294-6193

Local Veterans Assistance Program

The LVAP was created to recognize volunteers that contribute to the lives of our nation's ill and injured heroes. Do you report your DAV volunteer hours for assisting veterans? If you are part of the DAV Community (Chapters, Units, or Dugouts) or an unpaid volunteer helping out our Disabled American Veterans, you can log your time and show National that New Mexico cares. Even travel time counts as volunteer hours! Department will be compiling monthly reports for National, so forward your individual or Chapter's/Unit's/Dugout's hours to us at the beginning of the month and we will take care of the rest. More comprehensive information will be distributed via email in the next few weeks. As always, if you have any questions, give Department a call.

Luchetti-Castner Chapter #15's Annual Picnic

Chapter 15 will be holding their Annual Picnic on September 12th at Hyde Memorial State Park just northeast of Santa Fe. Festivities will begin at 10am at Shelter 1. Hamburgers, hot dogs and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Alcoholic beverage are permitted if you would like to bring your own. Everyone is welcome and don't forget to bring your sunscreen ☺ If you have any questions, contact Manuel Quintana at (505) 929-0405 or Eddie Maestas at (505) 901-9220. Bring your friends and family and see you there!



Stitches of Love

The women of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church's Stitches of Love Program have once again donated a plethora of beautiful handmade blankets to

Department for suction at State Convention 2016. Pictured above (from left) are Carmela Maes, granddaughter Arabella Maes, and Stitches of Love Ladies Colfita Sanchez, Patsy Maez and Candy Dunlap. Not pictured are Isabel Albers, Luge Aragon, Stella Bernie, Emily Brito, MaryAnn Gonzales, Marlene Monteith, Elsie Otero, Ramona Otero and Coby Sanchez all who put their skill and love into creating these beautiful, one-of-a-kind blankets. Special thanks to Carmela Maes who was instrumental in putting the DAV in touch with this great group of ladies!



The GOLDEN CORRAL and the DAV Department of New Mexico are once again proud to announce the annual MILITARY APPRECIATION tribute to honor all veterans and current military personnel with a free THANK YOU dinner to be held VETERANS' DAY, Wed., Nov. 11th, 2015 from 5-9pm. This is the 15th year of DAV's partnership with Golden Corral and we're hoping this year's event will be as successful as last year's. The 2014 Military Appreciation Monday dinner was a huge success, serving over 342,000 complimentary 'thank you' meals to our veterans and military men and women and raising over \$1.4 million dollars for the DAV Department and Chapters for use in assisting veterans. Members of local Chapters will be out at Golden Corral's starting the beginning of November raising money and getting the word out about our organization. There are seven locations throughout the state: three locations in Albuquerque (2701 Coors Blvd, 5207 San Mateo NE, 10415 Central NE), one in Farmington (1715 E. Main St.), one in Gallup (600 N. 11th St.), one in Las Cruces (601 S. Telahor Blvd.) and one in Roswell (2624 N. Main St.). Come and visit one of the locations throughout the state and celebrate with us!

DAV Auxiliary News

Welcome to the DAV Department of New Mexico Newsletter. Thank you to the DAV for the invitation to post DAV Auxiliary news and events in this publication. Through this invitation, the DAV reflects the theme of DAV Auxiliary Immediate Past National Commander LeeAnn Karg, "Together as One" and incorporates the theme of recently elected National Commander Linda Stake, "DAV/DAVA Partners Pulling Together."

Other national officers elected during the DAV/DAVA National Convention: Sr. Vice Commander Fran Costa, 1st Jr. Vice Commander Craig Johniken, 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman, 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Diane Franz and 4th Jr. Vice Commander Lynn Prosser.

DAV/DAVA Department of New Mexico officers elected at State Convention in June: Commander Victoria (Vicky) Salazar, Sr. Vice Commander Teresa Barr, 1st Jr. Vice Commander Diana Wong, Treasurer Ruth Roberts and Judge Advocate Jerry Hernandez. Ellen Timmerman was appointed as our Adjutant and Diane Smith was appointed as Chaplain. Congratulations to all our officers.

Upcoming events include: DAV Auxiliary Fall Conference will be held October 1-3, 2015 in Louisville, KY and the DAVA Department of NM SEC meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2015 at Department HQ at 2511 Utah NE in Albuquerque. Please remember to file your 990N with the IRS.

God Bless America, our veterans and you, the members who make DAV/DAVA successful!

Do you have information you'd like to share with the DAV Community? Do you have a fundraiser or event coming up? let us know and this space could be yours the next issue! Coming December 2015...