



## MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

April 30, 2008

DIVISION	COMMANDER	DEPARTMENT	% OF GOAL
<b>I</b>	<b>Daniel Contreras</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>100.31</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>William Wroolie</b>	<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>102.53</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>Billy R. Worley</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>100.11</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>Richard C. Amos</b>	<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>102.16</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>Gary A. Lucus</b>	<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>99.54</b>

### **NATIONAL CONVENTION CREDENTIALS PROCESS REVISED**

In an effort to make registration smoother, faster and more accurate, the credentials registration process is undergoing some key changes at this year's National Convention.

As usual, Chapter Commanders and Adjutants will designate delegates and alternates and provide full names and membership code numbers of participating representatives. The yellow 2008 National Convention delegate and alternate delegate credentials form should be returned to National Headquarters as soon as possible.

Once these forms are received, delegates and alternates will be notified by letter of their status as delegates. That notification will serve as convention credentials for those key individuals.

Each delegate and alternative will be asked to bring that letter to convention and present it at the DAV Registration Desk. A bar code on the letter will be scanned to confirm the credentials and attendance will automatically be registered in the database as a convention badge is printed out for the delegate or alternate.

Blue delegate and pink alternate forms will no longer be required.

The goal of these changes is to speed up the registration process and make it more accurate through the use of available technology.

### **NATIONAL CONVENTION SCOOTERS NO LONGER FREE**

Golden Technologies, supplier of more than 130 scooters for DAV conventions annually at no cost to the DAV members, will no longer provide the scooter free of charge. An \$80 fee will be charged for scooter use beginning this year in Las Vegas.

Requests for scooter should be made in advance of the National Convention. If no reservation is made there is little likelihood of a scooter being available for use at the convention.

To request a scooter, forward the name, address, telephone number and DAV chapter or unit affiliation to Michael J. Walsh, DAV Deputy Inspector General, toll-free, at 877-426-2838, ext. 2065, or e-mail [mwalsh@davmail.org](mailto:mwalsh@davmail.org); requests may also be sent to Rojean Long, Membership Administrative Assistant, toll-free, at 877-426-2838, ext. 1342, or e-mail [rlong@davmail.org](mailto:rlong@davmail.org). The information will be forwarded to Golden Technologies who will contact individuals for confirmation and arrange for payment of fees.

This new fee-based service remains a reasonable accommodation for those who need it. However, members are welcome and encouraged to bring their own scooter to the National Convention.

Members who decide to purchase their reserved scooter may apply the \$80 fee toward the purchase price.

## Above and Beyond

On December 26, 2007, Sergeant Chris Burrell, a member of the 108<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, lost his leg as a result of an explosive formed penetrator in an attack near Sadr City, Iraq.

From a hospital bed at Balad Air Base, he called his daughter for the first time since his injury and said, “daddy had a boo boo.”

Chris had a lot on his mind. He thought of his buddies who saved his life and who would stay in harm’s way. A single father, he wondered how he would take care of his daughter. A career soldier, he didn’t know what the future would hold.

After speaking with his daughter and knowing they would be reunited, a smaller concern annoyed him enough that he complained out loud. His pack had been blown away and burned in the attack. When a soldier is wounded, the sole focus of his fellow troops and medics centers on lifesaving care. Boots and belts -- trousers and tops -- are cut away and discarded.

Eventually, most of a troop’s personal effects make it home. But Chris knew his kit was gone. He’d grown sentimentally attached to the small items he kept in the bag. It was mostly small stuff, a pair of sunglasses, a tactical ballcap, a few other things he kept with him on patrols.

When past DAV Auxiliary National Commander Renée Jones found out what items Chris had lost, she went on a mission to find and replace the entire inventory of missing equipment. And at the Midwinter Conference in Washington, D.C., PNC Jones delivered the items to the recovering soldier in person at Walter Reed.

The service that Mrs. Jones offered was not a traditional service offered by the DAV or the DAVA. It doesn’t compare to the nearly 200,000 veterans who receive claims assistance with the VA through DAV Service Officers at every level. It had nothing to do with the advocacy the DAV provides the entire community of disabled veterans through our legislative and voluntary services.

But it shows the commitment that DAV and DAVA members have for the young men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. It shows a level of initiative that overcomes the

generation gap that separates existing members with the future generation who will depend on the DAV for service and a voice on the national stage.

A small donation by a generous individual will not address our concerns about future funding of the VA or mean the difference between life and death for anyone.

But it made a difference for Chris. It showed that the DAV and DAVA cares about him. It made us relevant in his life. And it may be the introduction that leads him to using the DAV's services for benefits support in the future. It might be the introduction to a role in our leadership and a future of serving his fellow veterans.

The DAV "bread and butter" services of advocacy and volunteerism helps hundreds of thousands of veterans in meaningful, life changing ways every year. But sometimes the little touches can make a big difference in the future.

When members hear about recently-wounded veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan, there may be an opportunity to reach out to a family who needs to know about the services we offer. The more we can do to invite and engage this returning generation, the more we accomplish toward ensuring the lasting legacy of hope and service we've enjoyed for generations.

## **SECOND LIFE HOSTS CONGRESSIONAL HEARING**

The House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet conducted the first-ever Congressional hearing simulcast in an Internet-based virtual world on April 1. The hearing addressed the increasing popularity of future virtual worlds such as Second Life.

The hearing was held in a virtual re-created committee hearing room and Chairman Edward J. Markey was represented in the room by an avatar. He recognized another avatar who represented a group of individuals with Cerebral Palsy.

The DAV is becoming increasingly involved in Second Life, and will soon open its own real estate to DAV members and supporters in the virtual community. The congressional interest in the realm shows that the DAV is capitalizing in a very visible, important realm of internet technology.

As the DAV's involvement in Second Life increases, we envision new growth and greater membership participation through the metaverse. As technologies cultivate over the next several years, virtual worlds will be used for all types of purposes and DAV will be there on the cutting edge. For more information on Second Life, visit [www.secondlife.com](http://www.secondlife.com) .  
<<http://www.secondlife.com>> .

## **RECRUITERS REMINDED TO OBTAIN ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION**

As recruiters push to renew our ranks, it is important that they obtain and provide complete information on all applicants. Full dates of birth, dates of service, and complete information for

applications is necessary and critical. Recruiters need to ensure that every piece of information required in the application is provided in full.

Ironically for recruiters, one of the most common gaps in the information provided on applicants is the sponsor code that gives recruiters credit for their prospective members. By ensuring that the Membership Department gets all the required information, you expedite your applicant's membership and ensure you get the credit for your efforts!

### **MEMBER BENEFIT: DELL COMPUTER DISCOUNT PROGRAM**

Dude, DAV members can save on Dell Computers! DAV and Dell have teamed up to offer you the benefit of participating in the Dell Employee Purchase Program.

Through the program, members receive:

- Up to 12% off Dimension, Inspiron and XPS products
- Dell's award-winning 24-hour online and telephone technical support
- Frequent special values and promotions in addition to standard discounts

Members are required to provide the DAV's program identification when ordering:  
MEMBER ID: PS58767394

Orders can be placed through the Internet, where members can choose a system, add upgrades, and use Dell's Secure Employee Purchase Store.

Dell's sales representatives can help members place their orders over the phone at 1-800-695-8133.

Customer Service and Telephone Technical Support is available through Dell's toll-free technical service and 24-hour customer support line at 1-800-695-8133.

### **LEADERSHIP ADVICE: THE BUCK STOPS HERE**

Harry S. Truman, the 33rd President of the United States, enlisted in the Missouri National Guard in 1905 and served until 1911. With the onset of World War I, he reenlisted and was commissioned. He became a battery commander in an artillery regiment in France.

During a sudden attack by the Germans in the Vosges Mountains, Truman's battery reportedly began to disperse. The future president rallied the men using curse words he had "learned while working on the Santa Fe railroad." The language got the men's attention and the young commander reassembled his battery and led them to safety.

President Truman is known for his lack of pretense, his ability to form a consensus, and the critical decisions he made that ended World War II. The following quotes from this veteran and historic leader give us a glimpse of his unique style:

"Carry the battle to them. Don't let them bring it to you. Put them on the defensive. And don't ever apologize for anything."

“I always remember an epitaph which is in the cemetery at Tombstone, Arizona. It says: 'Here lies Jack Williams. He done his damndest.' I think that is the greatest epitaph a man can have - When he gives everything that is in him to do the job he has before him. That is all you can ask of him and that is what I have tried to do.”

“I never did give them hell. I just told the truth, and they thought it was hell.”

“A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.”

“America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.”

“I do not believe there is a problem in this country or the world today which could not be settled if approached through the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount.”

  
ANTHONY L. BASKERVILLE  
National Membership Director



# MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

As of 04/30/2008

Present Standing	State	Life Member Population	Life Goal	% of Goal	Goal Variance
<b>Division I - Over 35,000 Members</b>					
1	CALIFORNIA	81,413	81,160	100.31%	253
2	MASSACHUSETTS	37,112	37,055	100.15%	57
3	NEW YORK	62,378	62,459	99.87%	-81
4	FLORIDA	68,784	69,138	99.49%	-354
5	PENNSYLVANIA	41,785	42,005	99.48%	-220
6	MICHIGAN	30,519	30,725	99.33%	-206
7	OHIO	38,633	38,977	99.12%	-344
8	VIRGINIA	25,973	26,256	98.92%	-283
9	TEXAS	62,577	63,299	98.86%	-722
10	NORTH CAROLINA	33,895	34,479	98.31%	-584
<b>Division Totals</b>		<b>483,069</b>	<b>485,553</b>	<b>99.49%</b>	<b>-2,484</b>
<b>Division II - 18,000 To 34,999 Members</b>					
1	MINNESOTA	17,929	17,486	102.53%	443
2	COLORADO	18,608	18,489	100.64%	119
3	WISCONSIN	17,181	17,146	100.20%	35
4	MISSOURI	19,146	19,118	100.15%	28
5	KENTUCKY	21,550	21,593	99.80%	-43
6	WASHINGTON	20,329	20,394	99.68%	-65
7	NEW JERSEY	23,275	23,366	99.61%	-91
8	OKLAHOMA	18,811	18,915	99.45%	-104
9	ARIZONA	19,550	19,669	99.39%	-119
10	INDIANA	17,311	17,419	99.38%	-108
11	MARYLAND	15,592	15,692	99.36%	-100
12	TENNESSEE	16,451	16,634	98.90%	-183
13	SOUTH CAROLINA	13,674	13,848	98.74%	-174
14	ILLINOIS	21,115	21,387	98.73%	-272
15	ALABAMA	16,868	17,177	98.20%	-309
16	GEORGIA	18,578	19,126	97.13%	-548
<b>Division Totals</b>		<b>295,968</b>	<b>297,459</b>	<b>99.50%</b>	<b>-1,491</b>
<b>Division III - 10,000 To 17,999 Members</b>					
1	LOUISIANA	10,755	10,743	100.11%	12
2	CONNECTICUT	9,942	9,931	100.11%	11
3	KANSAS	8,159	8,190	99.62%	-31
4	NEW MEXICO	11,199	11,249	99.56%	-50
5	ARKANSAS	13,492	13,621	99.05%	-129
6	OREGON	9,216	9,316	98.93%	-100
7	WEST VIRGINIA	9,758	9,879	98.78%	-121
8	PUERTO RICO	7,884	8,058	97.84%	-174
<b>Division Totals</b>		<b>80,405</b>	<b>80,987</b>	<b>99.28%</b>	<b>-582</b>



# MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

As of 04/30/2008

Present Standing	State	Life Member Population	Life Goal	% of Goal	Goal Variance
<b>Division IV - 5,000 To 9,999 Members</b>					
1	SOUTH DAKOTA	4,684	4,585	102.16%	99
2	IOWA	8,335	8,284	100.62%	51
3	NORTH DAKOTA	4,423	4,405	100.41%	18
4	MAINE	7,778	7,750	100.36%	28
5	NEBRASKA	6,703	6,690	100.19%	13
6	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,824	5,821	100.05%	3
7	NEVADA	6,119	6,120	99.98%	-1
8	RHODE ISLAND	5,704	5,706	99.96%	-2
9	UTAH	5,088	5,107	99.63%	-19
10	HAWAII	4,910	4,928	99.63%	-18
11	MONTANA	4,284	4,308	99.44%	-24
12	MISSISSIPPI	7,627	7,675	99.37%	-48
13	IDAHO	4,970	5,036	98.69%	-66
<b>Division Totals</b>		<b>76,449</b>	<b>76,415</b>	<b>100.04%</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Division V - Less than 5,000 Members</b>					
1	WYOMING	1,930	1,939	99.54%	-9
2	D C	2,316	2,335	99.19%	-19
3	VERMONT	2,760	2,787	99.03%	-27
4	DELAWARE	2,545	2,575	98.83%	-30
5	ALASKA	2,559	2,604	98.27%	-45
<b>Division Totals</b>		<b>12,110</b>	<b>12,240</b>	<b>98.94%</b>	<b>-130</b>
<b>National Totals</b>		<b>1,043,346</b>	<b>1,047,261</b>	<b>99.63%</b>	<b>-3,915</b>