

Commander Ascheman

e-News

The 88th annual convention at the Radisson in Rochester is now history and it goes down in the records as one of the best. We sincerely thank Mayo Chapter 28 for being terrific hosts.

1st... I want to sincerely thank all of the delegates who have allowed me to serve the organization as State Commander for the year 2008-2009. I served in this position 32 years ago and I look forward to it once again.

Our new Minnesota State officers are:

Dean Ascheman	-	Commander
Al Holtan	-	Senior Vice Commander
Shawn Shoen	-	1 st Junior Vice Commander
Greg Waldorf	-	2 nd Junior Vice Commander
Bob Ekeberg	-	Treasurer
Rod Erickson	-	Judge Advocate/Inspector General
Larry Mattfield	-	Chaplain
Bill Wroolie	-	Past State Commander

Tim O'Connor was reappointed as the State Adjutant. George Ebbers will continue to serve as the Assistant State Adjutant and Gina Lindell will continue as the Administrative Assistant to the HQ Staff. I welcome the new members to the Executive Board (Shawn, Bob and Greg).

My focus areas for the years will be:

- Membership recruitment.... Building a bridge to the future for the DAV of MN.
- Leadership development... for both Chapters and the Department appointed/elected officers. This will include identifying and mentoring members with strong leadership skills and have a desire to play leadership roles in the DAV.
- Look closely at Chapters who need to get more active in their communities and determine ways, and take actions to find solutions to these challenges.
- Build a stronger partnership with our Auxiliary..
- Continue our outreach efforts with the benefits seminars and the mobile vans.

- Continue improving our relationships with the other veterans service organizations, the MN Dept of Veterans Affairs, the VAMC VAVS, and the veterans homes.

Some quick news:

- We continue to lead the nation in membership recruiting with close to 450 Life Members over quota. There is no doubt we will finish 1st in our membership division and be recognized at our upcoming national Convention. Thanks to our NSO's and our outstanding Chapter recruiter Teddy Erickson of Cloquet.
- The NSO's will be out on the Mobile Service Office (DAV Van with several stops across MN). Adjutant O'Connor will be notifying you soon about that. Plz plan to visit them when they are in your area.

Scheduled stops in near future are:

July, 8, 2008
Host chapter 23
US Bank Place
230 1st St. S.
Virginia, MN 55792

July 9, 2008
Host chapter 11
Aitkin County Courthouse
217 2nd St NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

July 10, 2008
Host chapter 12
Morrison County Courthouse
213 SE 1st Ave
Little Falls, MN 56345

We have a Harley Davidson MSO Stop in Elk River on July 12, 2008. In addition the mobile service vans will be out again in MN July 15-17

- The DAV of MN Foundation received over \$25,000 from Chapters and individuals at our State Convention. Our Foundation now has over \$300,000 in assets with approximately \$230,000 of it in designated funds.
- The Foundation has three major programs on going:
 - Assisting Counties in purchase of vans transporting veterans to the MN VAMC's. Counties can get a \$2,000 grant to assist them in the purchase. The fund is \$30,000

- Replacing TVs throughout the MN Veterans Homes (over 750 TV's) over the next 18 months. This fund is now over \$175,000.
- Assisting Chapters with matching grants for service to veterans programs in their communities.
- The Minneapolis VAMC will be getting a new Transportation van donated to them from the DAV of MN and the National organization. National provided about 1/3 of the \$22,000 needed for the new van. The van will be delivered during the month of May.
- DAV of MN received another grant of computer equipment recently from IBM of Rochester. Over the last 5 years, IBM has donated over \$50,000 worth of computer equipment to the DAV, the Auxiliary, the Veterans Homes, and the MOPH. IBM received the DAV National Commanders Award for IBM employee / retiree volunteerism and for the contributions of technology they gave to MN DAV.
- Some important dates/events to put into your calendars:
 - National Convention – Aug 9-12th, Las Vegas, NV
 - DAV Day at the Twins - Sunday Aug 3rd
 - State Fair Aug 21 – Sept 1
 - DAV of MN Fall Conference- Oct 10-11, 2008 Brainerd, MN

I hope to ensure the State Officers visit our chapters so please take the time to arrange for a visit and invite us through Adjutant O'Connor.