



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

# February 2008 E-Newsletter

Department of Minnesota  
State Veterans Service Bldg, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 291-1212

[www.davmn.org](http://www.davmn.org)

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## MN DAV Convention Rochester May 1-3, 2008

The Convention will be held at the beautiful Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Rochester. Please make your reservations early (507-281-8000), the cut off date for the discounted rate will be April 9<sup>th</sup>. After this date, our block of rooms will be released and we cannot guarantee you will get a room or a discount if you book after April 9<sup>th</sup>. Room rates are \$82 per night, complimentary parking will be provided by the hotel in their parking ramp. We are also working with the hotel to provide some sort of grab and go breakfast to be available at a cost to the attendee for Friday and Saturday Mornings.

For more information on the hotel please visit [www.radisson.com/rochestermn](http://www.radisson.com/rochestermn) or for other convention news please visit our website at [www.davmn.org](http://www.davmn.org).

Convention information packets were sent to all Chapter Commanders and Adjutants in the last part of January. We ask that you pass this information on to your members. We hope to have a great turnout in 2008!

Please visit our website for more details, the most current Agenda is posted, there have been some changes since the mailing in January. Please note the committee meeting times have changed on Thursday.

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## Chapter 28 Gala Event Saturday Night May 3

The Rochester Mayo Chapter 28 is planning a Gala Event for Saturday Evening following the Convention. Plans include a local "oldies" band, comic and more!! Details will be provided as plans are made. Please check our department website for updates!

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## New Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC) at the Minneapolis VA

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Joe Seifert, DAV life member of Minneapolis Chapter 1, took over duties as our HSC. Joe resides in Rosemount with his wife Arlene, (Member of Chapter 1 Auxiliary), their 3 children and their 2 dogs.

Joe served in the USMC from 1991-1995 and also as the State VAWS

## Dates to Remember

- March 2-5, 2008: DAV National Mid-Winter Conf. – Arlington, VA
- May 1-3 2008: MN DAV Convention – Rochester, MN
- August 9-12, 2008: DAV National Convention – Las Vegas, NV
- Aug 21-Sept 1, 2008 Minnesota State Fair, DAV Booth, Volunteers needed!
- October 2-4, 2008 DAVA National Fall Conference - Cincinnati, OH
- October 10-11, 2008 MN DAV Fall Conference Brainerd, MN
- February 22-25, 2009 DAV National Mid-Winter Conf. - Arlington, VA
- April 30-May 2, 2009 MN DAV Convention Duluth, MN
- August 22-25, 2009: DAV National Convention – Denver, CO
- October 2-3, 2009 MN DAV Fall Conference Lake Elmo, MN

representative from 2005-2007. He will be a great addition to the DAV staff and we are happy to have him aboard and excited with his vision of the direction of the Minneapolis HSC office.

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## MN DAV Members/Executive Officers Announce Intent to Seek Office at the Dept. Convention

**Dean Ascheman**, member of Mayo Chapter 28 and former State Adjutant of the MN DAV has announced his intent to seek the Commander position. Dean served as State Commander 32 years ago in 1976-1977 and as a National officer in 1980-1983. He has also served as State Judge Advocate. He currently serves as Sr. Vice Commander of the MN DAV, Secretary of the MN V4V Trust Fund and as the Executive Director of the DAV of MN Foundation.

**Al Holtan**, member of Red Wing Chapter 5 has announced his interest for the Sr. Vice Commander position. Al is currently serving as the 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander for the DAV of MN. Al is a retired CVS0 and served 2 terms as the State Commander of the MOPH from 2003-2005. Al serves on the V4V Board of Directors and serves veterans in many other leadership and volunteer positions.

**Bob Ekeberg**, former Commander of Saint Paul Chapter 2 has announced his intent to seek the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander position

**Rodney “Rod” Erickson**, member of Carlton County Chapter 18 and presently the Judge Advocate for the Dept of MN, would like to run for the Judge Advocate position again at this year’s Convention. He is a past Commander of Chapter 18 and also active in the Twin Cities Area Army Retiree Council (Secretary and Parliamentarian), The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) central Minnesota Chapter 115 (Secretary), The Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees (USDR) (National Parliamentarian), The United Veteran’s Legislative Council (UVLC) (Alternate representative for TREA MN Chapter 115), Member of the Military Action Group (MAG), Volunteer as the audio/visual individual for the Military Retiree Appreciation Days (RAD’s) at Camp Ripley and in the Twin Cities area and Volunteers in his church activities and is the Secretary for his church’s annual meeting.

**Scott Berndt**, member of Anoka Chapter 39, has announced his intent to seek re-election as the Treasurer of the Department of MN. Scott also currently the Commander of Anoka Chapter 39. He also serves as the Chairman of the Anoka County Veteran Council, a Member of the Anoka County Homeless board and a volunteer Driver for Veterans in Anoka County.

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## Upcoming National Service Office Seminars

Dates are subject to change, please contact your Chapter or the NSO Office at 612-970-5665 for more information. If you chapter is interested in hosting a seminar please contact the NSO Office for dates available.

## Important Numbers

National Headquarters:  
(877) 426-2838

Mailing Labels:  
(877) 426-2838

MN Department Office:  
(651) 291-1212 or  
(888) 317-2291

MN NSO Office (Ft. Snelling):  
(612) 970-5665

Minneapolis Transportation Office:  
(612) 467-2768

St. Cloud Transportation Office:  
(320) 255-6480

Fargo NSO Office:  
(701) 451-4636

Metro Used Clothing Pick-up Service:  
(651) 487-2002

Vehicle Donation:  
(651) 251-7668

Veteran Linkage Line  
(888) Link-Vet (546-5838)

Chapter 1(Minneapolis)	March 15
Chapter 39(Anoka)	March 29
Chapter 37(Hutchinson)	April 19
Chapter 7 (Bemidji)	April 26
Chapter 22(Brainerd)	May 17
Chapter 32(Fairmont)	June 7
Chapter 6(Duluth)	June 28
Chapter 13(Grand Rapids)	July 12
Chapter 4 (Pine County)	July 26

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## DAV Department and St Cloud Ch. 9 Host Super Bowl Party for St. Cloud VA Patients

On February 2, 2008 around 70 veterans attended "DAV Super Bowl Sunday". The event was sponsored by the DAV Department of Minnesota and St. Cloud Chapter 9.

Activities were planned and implemented by a Coordinated effort of the St. Cloud VAMC Volunteer Services and Chapter 9 volunteers. Activities included: Big screen broadcast of the game, game board paying off each quarter, door prize drawings during time outs, catered "tailgating" snacks by Coborns, INC.

Last year's showing of the Super Bowl drew 20 guests. With the DAV sponsorship this year the attendance more than tripled.

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## DAV Day with the Twins August 3rd, 2008

The date has been set, so mark your calendars, the DAV Day with the Twins will be on Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. Game time is 1:10 PM against the Cleveland Indians. No price set yet on tickets, more info will be provided. Everyone is invited to go, bring your chapter members, friends, family and neighbors!

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## MN DAV at the Great Minnesota Get Together

You heard it here first, the DAV will be having an informational booth at the Minnesota State Fair again this year! We are looking for volunteers to help, please contact the Department HQ if you are interested in volunteering. The dates for the fair are August 21-September 1, 2008. We normally have 2 shifts from 9am-2pm and 2pm-7pm. We need 2 volunteers per shift each day. Tickets will be provided by the Department for the volunteer only.

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## DAV Dept. of Minnesota Annual Report FY 06-07

Below is the DAV Dept of Minnesota abbreviated annual report. If you would like to view the full report, please visit our website at [www.davmn.org](http://www.davmn.org) or call the

## Monthly Newsletter

Please print this paper for your membership or pass it on via e-mail.

If you know of any veterans who would like to be added to the distribution list please provide the e-mail address to:

E-Newsletter Editor  
Gina Lindell –  
gina@davmn.org

DAV Adjutant  
Tim O'Connor –  
adjutant1@davmn.org

Dept. HQ 651-291-1212 and we can mail you a copy.

**DAV DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA, INC.  
ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
6/30/07**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**ASSETS**

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS	\$213,030
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	51,118
FIXED ASSETS, NET OF DEPREC.	<u>56,084</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$320,232</u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$20,449
NET ASSETS, 6/30/06	303,582
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (BELOW) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 6/30/07	<u>(\$3,799)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$320,232</u>

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

**INCOME**

GRANTS AND ALLOCATIONS	\$213,341
BEQUESTS	11,412
OTHER INCOME	23,744
ENTERPRISE INCOME (Net of Expenses)	<u>156,085</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$404,582</u>

**EXPENSES**

VETERANS SERVICES	\$115,284
COMMUNICATIONS	69,692
TRANSPORTATION NETWORK	69,641
HOSPITAL / COMMUNITY	19,250
MEMBERSHIP	37,040
CHARITABLE GIVING	2,500
MGMT & VETERAN SUPPORT SERVICES	<u>94,704</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$408,381</u>

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

(\$3,799)

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## MN DAV VAVS Sunday Visitation Minneapolis VAMC- 4th Sunday of each month

Minneapolis VAMC VAVS Representative for the DAV (Dean Ascherman) hosts and coordinates a Sunday visit on the 4th Sunday of each month. The volunteer team meets at 1:00 PM in the VAMC Atrium by the flag to plan the afternoon visit to the veterans in the wards and rooms. They present the veterans with small tokens of appreciation but more importantly, they share their time to converse, thank and make the day a better day for these hospitalized soldiers and veterans.

We invite all and any interested volunteers to join us because if we have enough we would like to split up and visit those in the Minneapolis Veterans Home as well.

Spouses, children are invited to join!!!

Contact : Dean Ascheman VAVS Representative at: (612) 481-1510 or  
George Ebbers VAVS MN Chairman at: (651) 291-1212

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## Volunteer Drivers Needed

Fred Anderson, HSC at the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud (320-255-6480) and Joe Seifert, HSC at the Minneapolis VAMC (612-467-2768) are in need of volunteer drivers to pick up and deliver veterans in the Twin cities metro area and the St. Cloud area.

Our vans are available to these volunteers. All volunteer drivers would receive a medical checkup and driver certification from the VAMC and be registered as a VA Volunteer. Each day lunch is provided to the volunteer drivers at the VA and a lounge is available as they wait for their veteran patients to complete their medical appointments and receive a ride home.

Drivers can volunteer to drive as little as one a week or multiple days, we can certainly use the volunteers. Call Joe or Fred for more information!!!

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## St. Cloud VA Announces 4th Annual Physically Disabled Veterans Turkey Hunt

The St. Cloud Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota National Guard, Camp Ripley, will conduct the Fourth Annual Physically Disabled Veterans Turkey Hunt April 22-24, 2008 at Camp Ripley in Little Falls.

This special hunt is provided for physically disabled veterans who are currently receiving outpatient treatment at a VA Medical Center or who are eligible for care and who cannot hunt during the regular firearms season.

Limited space is available. Applications will be available beginning Monday February 18, 2008 and must be received by Friday, March 14, 2008. To receive an application, contact Dennis Erie (320) 255-6394, at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center

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## LinkVet - Your Link to Experts

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) offers the LinkVet call center provided by trained staff. During business hours, MDVA staff will provide information on veterans' benefits, healthcare, education and reintegration. The line will roll to Crisis Connection counselors for 24-hour, seven days a week coverage (including holidays) for immediate crisis intervention and psychological counseling.



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## VA Increases Travel Reimbursement for Eligible Veterans

WASHINGTON (January 31, 2008) - Over a million eligible veterans will see their mileage reimbursement more than double starting February 1, 2008, for travel to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities.

"This increase helps veterans -- especially those living in rural areas offset some of the gasoline costs as they travel to VA's world-class health care," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Increasing the mileage reimbursement is one more step by VA to help veterans access the health care they deserve."

The 2008 appropriations act provided funding for VA to increase the beneficiary travel mileage reimbursement rate from 11 cents per mile to 28.5 cents per mile. The increase goes into effect on Feb. 1.

After little more than a month on the job, Secretary Peake used his authority to establish the first increase in the mileage reimbursement in 30 years, fulfilling a pledge he made during his Senate confirmation hearing last month.

While increasing the payment, VA, as mandated by law, also equally increased the deductible amounts applied to certain mileage reimbursements. The new deductibles are \$7.77 for a one way trip, \$15.54 for a round trip, with a maximum of \$46.62 per calendar month. However, these deductibles can be waived if they cause a financial hardship to the veteran. Please contact the Department of Veterans Affairs for more information 651-296-2562.