Disabled American Veterans

Blind Veterans National Chapter #1

www.davbvnc1.com

May/June 2017 Newsletter

Editor: Dennis O’Connell

Bvnc1@verizon.net

"IF I CANNOT SPEAK GOOD OF MY COMRADE,

I WILL NOT SPEAK ILL OF HIM OR HER."

OFFICERS OF THE BLIND CHAPTER

Commander James Hogan (CA)

Phone (661) 251-7870Email: ja2paroses@aol.com

Senior Vice CommanderRon Lester (AZ)

1st Junior Vice Commander Leonard Pope (NJ)

2nd Junior vice Commander Herschel Harris (GA)

3rd Vice Commander Dennis O’Connell, PC (NY)

Judge Advocate Dennis O’Connell, PC (NY)

Chaplain Rev. Tony Martino, PDC (IL)Phone 847 736 2111

Email: deaconmartino@gmail.com

Adjutant/Treasurer Paul Kaminsky (FL) (also webmaster)

Phone 904 291-0576Email: pkjax@kaminsky.com

PLEASE, if you know of any member who is sick or deceased inform one of the officers whose contact information is listed above ASAPP.

**MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER**

Wow, how time flies. Seems like just yesterday we were in Washington D.C up on Capital Hill working with the Senate & Congress to preserve our Veteran Benefits. Time for us to warm up! Get moving, Chase off those winter doldrums and get active. We need to build up our stamina for The Big Easy! So it is definitely not too early to start planning to attend our DAV National Convention in New Orleans July 29 – August 1, 2017.

Group Name: Disabled American Veterans. These rooms fill up fast. I know we have already booked ours and our airfare. Looking forward to an active and productive convention. We do have plans for creating a higher visibility for our Blind Chapter. We welcome your participation and we’ll keep you posted on what is happening.

**REPORT FROM Paul Kaminsky, Adjutant/Treasurer**

The call for Delegate nominees was mailed to all Chapter members in good standing. There were 7 nominees. The Chapter is authorized 4 Delegates and 4 Alternate Delegates. Since the nominees submitted were all acceptable nominees and the positions available were not exceeded there was no need to expend the funds in order to distribute election ballots. Delegates and Alternates names are shown in order of Chapter seniority.

Delegates:

• James Hogan Commander • Dr. Ron Lester Senior Vice • Leonard Pope 1st Junior Vice • Dennis O'Connell Judge Advocate/Past Commander

Alternate Delegates:

• Paul Kaminsky Adjutant/Treasurer •Herschel Harris 2nd Junior Vice • Richard Lane Life Member

**VA Disability Ratings**

The VA compensation procedures are quite confusing to most disabled veterans. That process makes it difficult for veterans with a number of lower rated disabilities to ever be rated at 100%. When it comes to VA disability ratings, one plus one does not equal two. With service connected disability claims, the VA takes the view that it should not add whole numbers together to get the S.C. rating, instead the VA takes percentages of percentages. The VA says if you are 10% disabled, you are 90% healthy. Thus the next rating is not added but is used to take a percentage of the “healthy” 90% or 9%. So the combined rating would be 19%. The percentages are all rounded up or down to the nearest 10%, thus the rating would be rounded to 20%. The combined rating system starts to work against a veteran when he gets closer to 100%. It gets harder and harder to get that higher rating, especially when a veteran is over 50%. For example, if a veteran has two ratings of 50% and two of 20%, the combined rating is 80%. The first is 50%, the second is 25% (50% of 50%). The first 20% is times the remaining 25% or 5% and the second 20% is times the remaining 20% or 4%. Thus the total would be 84% and would be rounded down to 80%. So, even though 50%plus 50% plus 20% plus 20% equals 140% in real math, it is only 80% in VA math. The difference that it leads to in compensation is huge. According to the VA compensation rating table, a single veteran with no dependents, rated at 80% would receive $1,551.48, On the other hand, a single veterans rated at 100% would receive $2903.83 per month. The 100% SC veteran is only rated at 20% above the 80% rated veteran but gets almost 100% more than the veteran rated at 80%. If a veteran has too many ratings on one arm or leg, then VA stops counting those ratings. Further a veteran could be increased to 100% by being determined unemployable. That veteran must be able to show that he cannot work. However, to be considered unemployable a veteran must have a single rating of 60% or more or a combined rating of 70% or more, one of which must be at least 40 %. Generally, a 100% rating for individual unemployability is a temporary rating and subject to review if the VA receives other information. Having a hip replaced, VA can authorize for 12 months a 100% rating if service connected.

**FUTURE DAV NATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

• **2018 National Convention**

Saturday, July 14 – Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Grand Sierra Resort & Casino

2500 East Second Street, Reno, Nevada 89595

$84 Basic or $104 Summit Single/Double
•**2019 National Convention**

Saturday, August 3 – Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Rosen Shingle Creek

9939 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819

$137 Single/ Double

•**2020 National Convention**

Saturday, August 1 – Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Hilton Anatole

2201 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75207

$149 Single/ Double

•**2021 National Convention**

Saturday, July 24 – Tuesday, July 27, 2021

**Grand Sierra Resort & Casino**

2500 East Second Street, Reno, Nevada 89595

$105 Basic or $125 Summit Single/ Double

•**2022 National Convention**

Saturday, August 6 – Tuesday, August 9, 2022

Hyatt Regency Orlando

9801 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819

•**2023 National Convention**

 Harrah’s Resort

Atlantic City,  New Jersey

July 31 – August 9

$149 with no resort fee.

**Ask DAV Blind Members To Join The DAV Blind Veterans National Chapter #**1

**Do you know any blind DAV members who are not active with their local Chapters?** Ask them to transfer into the Blind Veterans National Chapter #1. Help the Chapter grow so it can better represent our blind veteran’s concerns during National events. The following page is a Transfer Application, they can fill it out and mail it to the address listed on the form or scan it in and email it to the email address listed on the form. There is no cost associated with a transfer from one Chapter to another. Matter of fact a blind veteran can print on the mailing envelope in the corner where the stamp goes “Free Matter for the Blind” and since the letter is going to another blind veteran no stamp is required.

***GOD BLESS AMERICA***!

**Official Membership Transfer Form**

**BLIND VETERANS NATIONAL CHAPTER #1**

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

**4295 Powderhorn Ct - Middleburg, FL, 32068 - (904) 291-0576**

**pkjax@kaminsky.com - www.bvnc1.com**

**PLEASE PRINT**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City- State-Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Member Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I request transfer of my Membership,

From: Chapter (Chapter Name and Number): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In City/State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Transfer To: BLIND **VETERANS NATIONAL CHAPTER #1 - DAV**

Member’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

------------------**Following For Use By National Blind Chapter**-------------------------

N0TE: Approval of this transfer, by the receiving Chapter, is required under Article 11, Section 11.10 of the current National Constitution and Bylaws.

APPROVED: YES/NO (Circle One) DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Title of Chapter Officer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_