



# Disabled American Veterans Department of Florida Newsletter



By Al Linden, Executive Director

January 31, 2016

As of January 31, 2016 our membership was 60,769. The goal for life membership for this year 1,012 are needed.

## STATE COMMANDER RICKMAN MESSAGE

The 2016 State Mid-Winter Conference and CSO Seminar came to a close on January 10<sup>th</sup> at Lake Mary, Florida. We had a record setting seminar with 190 CSO's that were certified. These CSO's will help us serve our veterans and their families more efficiently and quickly. Congratulations! Job well done.

The Mid-Winter was a Great Conference. The information that was given out can be used to better serve our chapter members, veterans and their families. More of our CSO's need to stay the extra day and a half so they can learn what is going on in the Department, at National and take the information back to their chapters and its members.

Fun was had by all at the Saturday night dinner hosted by Master of Ceremonies Past Dept. Commander Andy Marshall. Assistant NSO Supervisor Dan Anderson did an excellent job in setting up the seating. He received a new Pet for his effort.

Hope to see you all soon.

Buddy Rickman  
State Commander

## Andy Marshall Announces for National Office

Andy Marshall is retiring as National Service Officer in February 2016 and it was announce at the Florida DAV Mid-Winter conference that he will be running for National Office at the upcoming National Convention. Andy has over 40 years as a National Service Officer and is well respected leader of veterans. Any donations for the Committee to Elect Andy Marshall for National office should be sent to:

Dan Anderson  
3449 Fairchild Trail  
Clearwater Florida, 33761

Let's all get on board and support Andy Marshall.

Also be reminded that **Chapter Annual Financial Reports are due by September 30 each year.** **Chapter Officers Reports** are due within 10 days after installation each year or when changes are made. ALL chapters make \$50,000 and less and do not file any other IRS form must file a N990 by November 15 each year. Last year 4 chapters failed to do so and their tax exempt was removed and it cost them over \$400 to get it reinstated.

## Reminder

All financial disbursements of the chapter must be made by check. All checks must include the signature of at least two officers. **There should be no debit or credit utilized by the chapter.**

Source: National Chapter Officers Guide

	<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	
	As Of Jan 30, 2016	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,231,634	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$80,512
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TOTAL LIABILITIES&FUND BALANCES	\$1,231,634	

Bay Pines VAVS	\$1900
Gainesville VAVS	\$1000
Tampa VAVS	\$1370
Lake City VAVS	\$3809
WPB VAVS	\$0
Miami VAVS	\$2600
Orlando VAVS	\$2900
Eglin CBOC	\$0



***about***  
**Disabled  
American  
Veterans**

**☒ on your next  
drivers license application,  
then they know you care!**

**FROM:** J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant  
**SUBJECT:** DAV BENEFIT PROTECTION TEAM  
**DATE:** January 4, 2016

I announce today a new, reinvigorated Benefit Protection Team to take our advocacy efforts to a new level. I believe we already have the strongest grassroots advocates in the business, but given the current political environment in Washington, D.C., we must redouble our efforts on behalf of the nation's veterans, their dependents and survivors. The threats are real and cannot be ignored.

Currently in place we find a strong network of department and chapter legislative chairpersons. Also, our National Legislative Department employs the DAV Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN) as a solid foundation for grassroots advocacy. Under this new initiative our department and chapter legislative chairs will be transitioned to "Benefit Protection Team Leaders." In the coming weeks, National Service and Legislative Headquarters (NSLH) will make available new tools to assist in our federal legislative efforts -to unify and solidify DAV's critical message across the nation. These same tools, which will be located on the DAV website, can also be used to bring about legislative change on the local and state level.

Over the next several months NSLH will be reaching out to Departments individually to solicit advice and help identify individuals who would be ideal candidates for Benefit Protection Team Leaders. These leaders should be interested and motivated to broadcast DAV's sustained message to our elected officials and the general public. No legislative experience is necessary; the tools they need to accomplish our unified goals will be available on the website. All that is necessary is that a team leader be ready, willing and able to promote and cultivate a relationship among DAV, our Auxiliary, the general public and Members of Congress. They will be provided all the technical information needed to arm themselves for success.

Now is the time to become proactive; now is the time to prepare -before others decide it may be a good idea to dismantle the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or take away hard-earned benefits and services from those who have served and sacrificed for this nation.

Thank you in advance for your support on behalf of our nation's ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors, and for your attention to this vital matter. We are all responsible to help ensure that our government does not renege on its promises to the nation's veterans and their families. This reinvigorated effort is one of DAV's top priorities in 2016. Please join us to make it a resounding success.

## Orlando VAMC Surgery Services Open at Lake Nona

Thursday, January 7, 2016

ORLANDO, Fla. – As part of its on-going activation effort the Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Nona has relocated its surgical and medicine services from Lake Baldwin to Lake Nona.

Wednesday's activation is the beginning of expanding ambulatory surgery and Endoscopic procedures at Lake Nona for Orlando's more than 105,000 Veterans, including eight operating rooms and two Cystoscopy suites in surgical services.

The opening offers ambulatory surgeries for various surgical specialties, including ENT, general surgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pain Management, Podiatry, Plastic Surgery, Urology, and Vascular Surgery.

Orlando's Medicine Service includes eight endoscopy suites, which offer ambulatory procedures for Gastroenterology and Pulmonary Medicine.

"Today's opening represents another milestone in our journey to fully activate this medical center for our Veterans," said Timothy W. Liezert, medical center director. "Our surgical capabilities are core to the many services we offer Veterans, and we intend to keep moving forward in expanding services to meet the needs of Central Florida Veterans."

The opening continues the Orlando VAMC's aggressive efforts in opening its 134-bed hospital tower and Emergency Department, both set to open in early 2016.

**INCOME / EXPENSES VS BUDGET**  
**Jan 29, 2016**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
6001 · Convention Income	550.00	740.00	-190.00
6030 · Midwinter Income	9,275.00	6,138.42	3,136.58
6050 · Dues from National	146,506.00	147,898.37	-1,392.37
6140 · National Fund Raisers	183,006.00	176,668.75	6,337.25
6200 · Chapter & Unit 10%	35,273.52	19,593.05	15,680.47
6300 · Department Publication	0.00	178.75	-178.75
6310 · Chapter Closeouts	9,072.38	7,949.50	1,122.88
6315 · Orange City Income	10,500.00	10,354.84	145.16
6330 · Lake Panosofkee	2,391.76	2,700.37	-308.61
6331 · Lakeland Bldg Mortgage	10,920.00	7,955.25	2,964.75
6332 · Sarasota rent	0.00	2,451.61	-2,451.61
6350 · Drivers License Income	15,504.52	31,790.28	-16,285.76
6410 · 2015 Service Officer's	14,631.00	11,318.87	3,312.13
6411 · Service Program Donations	1,055.99	2,483.33	-1,427.34
6413 · Service Income	0.00	15,000.00	-15,000.00
6450 · VAVS Donations	17,929.00	4,230.86	13,698.14
6800 · Miscellaneous	34,631.18	33,352.84	1,278.34
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>491,246.35</b>	<b>480,805.09</b>	<b>10,441.26</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>491,246.35</b>	<b>480,805.09</b>	<b>10,441.26</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Testimonial Expenses	0.00	120.60	-120.60
7000.2 · Convention Expense	336.01	0.00	336.01
7030.1 · Midwinter Expenses	15,066.78	14,623.76	443.02
7040.1 · Service Expenses	351,602.78	342,620.47	8,982.31
7570.1 · Legislative Expenses	459.09	0.00	459.09
8000.3 · VAVS Expenses	6,960.00	4,100.00	2,860.00
8260 · Headquarters Expense	30,593.38	17,605.61	12,987.77
8545 · chapter 30 trustee legal	0.00	28,246.66	-28,246.66
8562.2 · National Convention Expense	0.00	6,457.26	-6,457.26
9500.1 · Foundation expenses	614.58	654.84	-40.26
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>405,632.62</b>	<b>414,429.20</b>	<b>-8,796.58</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>85,613.73</b>	<b>66,375.89</b>	<b>19,237.84</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
11001.4 · Testimonial Income	0.00	4,025.32	-4,025.32
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,025.32</b>	<b>-4,025.32</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>			
11000.4 · Testimonial Expenses 2015	4,983.50	4,112.30	871.20
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>4,983.50</b>	<b>4,112.30</b>	<b>871.20</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-4,983.50</b>	<b>-86.98</b>	<b>-4,896.52</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>80,630.23</b>	<b>66,288.91</b>	<b>14,341.32</b>



**MEMBERSHIP  
FOR  
Jan 31, 2016**



Chanter	Last yr	trial	part life	full life	total		Goal	% goal	needed	chanter name 1/
001	G	1,923	4	173	1,688	1,865	1,757	96.07%	-69	JACKSONVILLE #1
002		10,503	1,435	905	8,208	10,548	8,182	100.32%	26	EVERGLADE STATE #2
004		2,544	1	152	2,375	2,528	2,429	97.78%	-54	JOHN C MCCARTHY II #4
005		572	0	61	504	565	532	94.74%	-28	THE TALLAHASSEE #5
006		271	1	26	253	280	259	97.68%	-6	ST AUGUSTINE #6
007		748	0	238	579	817	683	84.77%	-104	W WASHINGTON #7
011		1,679	1	88	1567	1,656	1,590	98.55%	-23	CLEARWATER #11
012		1,472	0	94	1,370	1,464	1,405	97.51%	-35	CORAL GABLES #12
013		2,486	0	107	2,345	2,452	2,383	98.41%	-38	BAY PINE HLDY ISL #13
014		310	0	21	284	305	294	96.60%	-10	JOHN D STROUD #14
016	2,765	0	183	2,532	2,715	2,593	97.65%	-61	CENTRAL #16	
017	730	0	31	696	727	704	98.86%	-8	PANAMA CITY #17	
018	1,716	1	157	1,557	1,715	1,607	96.89%	-50	MANATEE COUNTY #18	
020	348	0	19	326	345	333	97.90%	-7	LAKE CITY #20	
022	312	0	16	288	304	295	97.63%	-7	JACKSON COUNTY #22	
023	2,131	1	98	2,027	2,126	2,055	98.64%	-28	AL GRAY #23	
029	592	1	45	551	597	558	98.75%	-7	PEMBROKE PINES-MIRAMAR #29	
030	1,305	0	98	1,164	1,262	1,195	97.41%	-31	SEMINOLE #30	
032	1,351	1	86	1,229	1,316	1,244	98.79%	-15	J L GOLIGHTLY #32	
038	1,527	0	201	1,266	1,467	1,345	94.13%	-79	ORANGE PARK #38	
042	1,818	0	83	1,716	1,799	1,738	98.73%	-22	WEST PALM BEACH #42	
049	313	0	25	282	307	288	97.92%	-6	RIDGE #49	
050	234	0	10	220	230	222	99.10%	-2	CENTRAL BREVARD #50	
057	431	1	31	392	424	401	97.76%	-9	CRESTVIEW #57	
063	166	0	9	152	161	157	96.82%	-5	TRI-COUNTY #63	
065	542	0	30	504	534	512	98.44%	-8	ZEPHYRHILLS #65	
067	1,265	0	62	1,160	1,222	1,184	97.97%	-24	HERNANDO COUNTY #67	
070	611	0	28	549	577	562	97.69%	-13	GERALD A SHONK #70	
073	354	2	23	325	350	329	98.78%	-4	TAMARAC #73	
078	1,201	0	44	1,121	1,165	1,132	99.03%	-11	NEW PORT RICHEY #78	
082	1,094	0	61	1,035	1,096	1,048	98.76%	-13	R L COCHRAN JR #82	
083	958	0	138	859	997	887	96.84%	-28	C W BYERS SR #83	
084	1,325	0	55	1,199	1,254	1,219	98.36%	-20	GREATER DAYTONA #84	
085	1,150	0	46	1,083	1,129	1,101	98.37%	-18	SOUTH MARION #85	
86	605	0	58	548	606	566	0.9682	-18	JIM BOOE #86	
87	740	0	34	692	726	701	0.9872	-9	SGT WM E HILL #87	
90	880	0	77	795	872	822	0.9672	-27	GATOR #90	
94	1069	0	43	1007	1050	1017	0.9902	-10	C GUSTAFSON #94	
97	545	0	32	514	546	521	0.9866	-7	BEE RIDGE #97	
98	242	0	10	227	237	230	0.987	-3	EUCHEE VALLEY #98	
101	796	0	43	748	791	763	0.9803	-15	VENICE GULF #101	
108	589	0	56	559	615	572	0.9773	-13	JAMES D RADER #108	
109	498	0	27	473	500	479	0.9875	-6	TITUSVILLE #109	
110	483	0	26	459	485	464	0.9892	-5	SUN CITY CENTER #110	
111 G	89	0	2	85	87	85	1	0	PEACE RIVER #111	
112	755	1	42	718	761	721	0.9958	-3	BAY AREA #112	
113	687	1	34	646	681	652	0.9908	-6	PORT ST LUCIE #113	
119	383	0	14	349	363	354	0.9859	-5	ANTHONY P DADDI #119	
122	499	0	63	455	518	467	0.9743	-12	MARATHON #122	
123 G	620	0	18	603	621	600	1.005	3	SPACE COAST #123	
125	542	0	20	518	538	520	0.9962	-2	CPL P D LYON JR #125	
126	176	0	9	166	175	169	0.9822	-3	SUWANNEE MEM #126	
129	365	0	15	338	353	344	0.9826	-6	SO BREVARD BCHS #129	
133	922	0	78	847	925	874	0.9691	-27	THE GOLD COAST #133	
144	97	0	7	88	95	91	0.967	-3	LA BELLE #144	
148	803	0	69	732	801	753	0.9721	-21	AGNES M TAYLOR #148	
150 G	788	0	41	860	901	835	1.0299	25	ORANGE BLOSSOM GDNS #150	
152	692	0	30	651	681	658	0.9894	-7	SOUTH PALM BEACH #152	
155	369	0	9	347	356	351	0.9886	-4	SEBASTIAN RIVER AREA #155	

152	692	0	30	651	681	658	0.9894	-7	SOUTH PALM BEACH #152
155	369	0	9	347	356	351	0.9886	-4	SEBASTIAN RIVER AREA #155
158	118	0	36	150	186	161	0.9317	-11	CRYSTAL RIVER #158
Dept. Total	61099	1451	4337	54981	60769	55993	0.9819	-1012	



# Legislation FOR Jan 31, 2016

**Contact:** Bobby Carbonell  
**Carbonell@veteransflorida.org**  
(850) 898-1331

## **News Release**

January 13th, 2016

*For Immediate Release*

### **NEW GRANT PROGRAM HELPS FLORIDA BUSINESSES HIRE AND TRAIN VETERANS**

A new state grants program will reimburse businesses for part of the cost they incur to train veteran employees. Florida employers seeking to enhance their work force can now get a leg up on the competition with a new grants program designed to help them hire and train veterans. By providing easy access to an incredibly valuable talent pool, this grant program will make it easier for employers to sharpen their competitive edge and enhance their bottom line. The program will also open more doors to veterans aiming to gain a foothold in Florida's thriving business environment—Florida ranks #2 for "best state for business" and industries ideally suited to veterans, among them aerospace, aviation, defense systems, logistics and distribution, serve as cornerstones of the Florida economy.

#### **Features of the FL VETS Business Training Grants**

The Florida VETS Training Grants Program provides grant funding to qualifying businesses for existing or customized educational programs through partial reimbursement to businesses hiring and training veterans.

Florida businesses have the opportunity to work face-to-face with a representative of a training institution in their local community. Grants are performance-based reimbursable grants and cover a 24-month maximum term.

Businesses are reimbursed for 50% of training cost, up to \$8,000 per new, full-time veteran employee and the training can be completed in-house or through a third-party training provider.

#### **How to Qualify**

To qualify for a FL VETS Training Grant, the Florida business must demonstrate a need for customized skills, degree- or certificate-based training of up to 24 months for new veteran employees. Preference will be given to enterprises working in a targeted Florida industry, which is typically high skill.

#### **How the Grants Work**

The business pays for the approved direct training, degree or certificate education program and is reimbursed quarterly by Veterans Florida upon the completion of training and submission of required documentation.

Veterans Florida has partnered with training institutions across the state to help process grant applications. Florida businesses therefore have the opportunity to work face-to-face with a training institution representative in their local community.

Businesses interested in a VETS Business Training Grant should request an application at [www.veteransflorida.org/grant](http://www.veteransflorida.org/grant). Veterans Florida or a state educational representative will help them apply for and obtain grant reimbursements through the program.

For more information about the grant, visit [www.veteransflorida.org/grant](http://www.veteransflorida.org/grant).

#### **About Veterans Florida**

Veterans Florida was established by the Florida Legislature in 2014 as part of the Florida GI Bill to serve as an innovative corporation to encourage recently retired or separated military personnel to make Florida their permanent residence. The 501c(3) corporation will reinforce Florida's standing as the most veteran-friendly state in the nation by helping veterans to bring or develop the skills needed by Florida businesses to the state. The board of directors is comprised of nine individuals from across the state.

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

## **Florida is for Veterans, Inc. Names Carbonell Executive Director**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The board of directors of Florida is for Veterans, Inc. today announced its selection of Roberto "Bobby" Carbonell as the corporation's executive director. As executive director, Carbonell will be responsible for the operation and general management of the non-profit organization.



**FROM:** Moses A. McIntosh, Jr., National Commander

**SUBJECT:** SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

**DATE:** November 24, 2015

As each DAV and DAVA Department and their Chapters and Units should be aware, the practice of soliciting contributions via the internet, social media or any other way which reaches donors outside of their geographic boundaries is strictly prohibited. DAV and DAV Departments, and their subordinate entities are limited to operate within the boundaries of their chartered territories in accordance with *Article 15, Sections 15.2, 15.3 and 15.4 of the National Bylaws*.

As I have become aware of instances where DAV and DAVA Departments and their Chapters and Units are operating outside their geographic boundaries, and it is my responsibility to oversee and enforce the National Constitution, Bylaws and National Executive Committee (NEC) Regulations, I must require all online solicitations be terminated immediately.

As a reminder, any and all fundraising activities of a Department must first meet with the prior approval of the NEC in accordance with *Article 15, Section 15.2, Para. 1 of the National Bylaws*. Chapter fundraisers which appeal to the general public must meet with the prior approval of their Department in accordance with *Article 15, Section 15.3, Para. 1 of the National Bylaws*. DAVA Department and Unit fundraisers are governed by *Article 15, Section 15.4 of the National Bylaws*. As the DAV Department has overall authority to approve or disapprove fundraising requests by DAV Chapters and DAVA Units, in no instance should a Department approve any such fundraising activity which involves solicitation via the internet, social media or in any other way which gains access to support outside of their geographic boundaries.

## Governor Scott Proposes \$7.4 million for Three New State Veterans Nursing Homes

January 27, 2015

ST. AUGUSTINE – Governor Rick Scott announced Jan. 26 proposed funding for three new state veterans nursing homes as part of the 2015-2016 “KEEP FLORIDA WORKING” budget. One of the new homes, the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans’ Nursing Home, has already been approved by the Florida Cabinet to be located in St. Lucie County. The location for the other two new homes will be considered by the Florida Cabinet upon approval.

Governor Rick Scott said, “Florida is the most military friendly state in the nation and as a Navy veteran, it is incredibly important that we do all we can to help our veterans and their families. My father was a member of the 82nd Airborne and we will never forget the selfless sacrifice all of our veterans have made to ensure we have the opportunity to live the American Dream. I am proud that we are going to continue to support our heroes by adding new nursing homes and we will keep working each day to ensure all of our veterans have a great quality of life in Florida.”

Florida currently has state veterans’ nursing homes in Daytona Beach, Land O’ Lakes, Panama City, Pembroke Pines, Port Charlotte and St. Augustine. All six 120-bed skilled nursing facilities have earned the coveted Five-Star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

**SUBJ: Staff Appointment of Robert E. Lougee**

**DATE:** January 14, 2016

With the full support of National Commander Moses A. McIntosh, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Robert E. Lougee to the position of Assistant National Employment Director, effective March 21.

Rob brings more than 20 years of service experience as a member of DAV's professional staff and has served in numerous leadership capacities throughout his career. In his current position as National Area Supervisor for Area 8 and National Service Office Supervisor for Seattle, he is responsible for ensuring national service offices in his region meet the highest standards in DAV's core mission of representing veterans, their families and survivors before the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A service-disabled combat veteran of the United States Army, he served in Operations Desert Saber, Shield and Storm. Leaving the service at the rank of specialist, he earned the Meritorious Service Medal and numerous achievement medals and decorations related to his deployments.

In 1993, he joined DAV's professional staff as a national service officer trainee in Waco, Texas.

In 1996, he was reassigned to Fort Harrison, Montana and promoted to NSO supervisor. Two years later, he was transferred to Muskogee, Oklahoma to supervise DAV's service office there. In 2001, he was transferred to Denver in the same capacity and was subsequently promoted National Area Supervisor for Area 8.

From 2008 to 2009, he served as Adjutant and Executive Director of the DAV Department of Colorado. He then returned to the NSO corps in Portland, Oregon and was promoted to supervisor of the office there in 2010. In 2012, he assumed duties in his current capacities.

From 2013 to present, he has served on the Washington Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, representing DAV and advising the governor on state programs related to veterans, their dependents and survivors. In 2015, he was appointed to the Community Veteran Engagement Board for the Department of Veterans Affairs' myVA Community Model. Additionally, he currently serves as the DAV Department of Washington Service Director. He's held various leadership positions at the Chapter level as a DAV member.

Rob will succeed current Assistant National Employment Director Danny Soto, who will return to the NSO corps to serve veterans and their families through DAV's flagship program.

Since the inception of the DAV Employment Department in early 2014, DAV has become the most prolific service organization in the area of veteran employment. This year, DAV is adding online career fairs, improving digital resources and hosting 60 traditional job fairs throughout the country. We thank Danny for his assistance developing this program nearly from its inception and welcome Rob to an exciting and growing venture where he will assist veterans and their spouses in a new capacity.

J. MARC BURGESS

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Miguel H. LaPuz, M.D., as the new director of the Sunshine Healthcare Network based here. Dr. LaPuz will oversee delivery of health care to nearly 600,000 Veterans and an operating budget of \$4.7 billion.

"We are excited to bring Dr. LaPuz on board as the new director of the VA Sunshine Healthcare Network," said Ms. Janet Murphy, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management. "His sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the health care network, the employees and volunteers, and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve.

Dr. LaPuz has been the director at the VA Medical Center in Salem, Va., since 2011. He is responsible for the medical center's administrative and clinical operations. Dr. LaPuz supervises executive team members and is responsible for meeting performance measures and quality of care. His implementation of VA Central Office and network directives and policies has reengineered clinical and administrative operations to meet budgetary constraints while expanding operating inpatient beds and outpatient services.

The Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 8) based in St. Petersburg, Fla., encompasses 7 health care systems that include 8 large medical centers, more than 57 outpatient clinics, and 7 community living centers. VISN 8 serves 1.5 million Veterans in 79 counties spanning 63,133 square miles in Florida, southern Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.