

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
ANTHONY L. BASKERVILLE
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

**To the
Disabled American Veterans
90th NATIONAL CONVENTION
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
August 6-9, 2011**

**NATIONAL COMMANDER WALLACE E. TYSON, NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
AND DELEGATES TO THE 90TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN
VETERANS:**

Our history demonstrates that since the end of the First World War, men and women leaving the military, whether due to disability, retirement, or career change, stepped into a world lacking in programs to accommodate their needs and the needs of their families and survivors.

This painful fact spawned the demonstrations of the Bonus Army and has solidified veterans of every era. Our sense of duty to our community is the soil on which the DAV was planted and remains the motivating reason for membership. The DAV's Legislative Programs are funded through membership dollars, and it takes a strong and active membership base to ensure our success in Washington, D.C. and in our communities throughout this land.

We have seen multiple generations of veterans make their mark upon our great cause. Each has built upon the legacy we enjoy today. But never in our history has our need for a united membership been more apparent than it is today. As our brave young men and women are engaged in multiple combat tours in two wars, they represent a small percentage of our population that carries a heavy burden in terms of our national defense.

Meanwhile, in the past five years the DAV has experienced the passing of more than **180,000** of our comrades. This past year we saw **41,379** members pass into the great beyond, and we sadly can project a loss of **3,000** members per month.

This comes at a time when the DAV must look to increase in size to proportionately maintain our representation with the nation's growing population. To honor the contributions of those who've passed, we must make a steady push forward.

We are fortunate to have maintained our numbers thus far. I believe the foundation of our success is rooted in our commitment to service as an organization. Our National Service Officers and excellent recruiters, through their diligent work, have done an amazing job of communicating the value of membership and augmenting our ranks with new veterans.

But the need remains, and now is a time for each of us to recommit our efforts on recruiting, retaining and engaging veterans and their families in our communities.

Commander Tyson, I'm pleased for the opportunity to report that we exceeded our 2010-2011 membership year goals by **2,867** life members. Some 34 Departments exceeded their goals by at least **3,349** additional life members, with **907** Chapters either meeting or surpassing their annual goals.

I'm equally pleased to report that our National Service Officers and Transition Service Officers, under the guidance of National Service Director Garry Augustine and his incredible staff, once again demonstrated the importance of just asking the question: "Would you like to join?"

Our NSOs recruited **6,469** partial life and **5,586** full life members for a total of **12,055** new members in addition to **547** DAV Auxiliary members. TSOs were able to recruit 223 part and 103 full life members for a total of 326 new members.

Later this week we will recognize our NSOs for their achievements in membership recruitment. As with all of our recruiters there are those who excel over others and deserve our recognition. I'm pleased to announce the names to **25** NSOs who recruited **100** or more new members. When you hear your name announced please stand and be recognized.

Your top NSO recruiter for 2010/2011, with a total of **351** new members, is Nicholas Bernardi, from Newark, New Jersey.

Also noteworthy are the accomplishments of some of his colleagues around the nation. John Rodriguez of Chicago brought in 267. Tony Craig of Indianapolis recruited 178 members. **The list goes on:**

Clay Saucier, Columbia, South Carolina – 178
Lamarr Couser, Baltimore – 164
Bryan Kerouac, Columbia, South Carolina – 152
Justin Hart, Newington, Connecticut – 136
Richard Vaccari, Providence, Rhode Island – 134
Robert Anderson, Bay Pine, Florida – 134
Eric Van Emmerik, Sioux Falls, South Dakota – 126
Andrew Edwards, St. Louis – 122
William Gibney, Albany, New York – 122
Jon Price, Denver – 120

Denise DeBlois, Manchester, New Hampshire – 117
Timothy Grossman, Philadelphia – 115
Judy Orosco, Phoenix – 114
Colleen Sullivan, Newington, Connecticut – 109
Linda Mingo, Columbia – 108
Andrew Smith, West Palm Beach, Florida – 102
Darrell Brandon McKinney, Togus, Maine – 101
Michael Mills, New York City – 102
Daniel Rioux, Salt Lake City – 102
Jacob Drost, Cleveland – 101
And Donald Reed of Salt Lake City with 101 members.
Thanks to each of you for a job well done.

Commander Tyson, congratulations to you for such a successful membership year, and to those NSOs, TSOs, and hardworking members throughout this organization that helped bring our 2010/2011 total membership to **1,221,994**.

Commander, please join me as we present to our delegates and guests DAV's 2010/2011 Membership Recruitment award winners:

From the *Tar Heel State* of North Carolina, please welcome the 2010/2011 Recruiter of the Year: **Ronald Holtberg**. Ron recruited **252** new members to overtake Delbert Musgrave of Texas, who had an impressive 190 members to his credit; Prospero Sodano of New York, who gained 167 members to his department; Sheila Sanders of Florida, who signed up 128; Michael Granger, of the Department of Massachusetts who brought in 117; and Karl Pfaehler, South Carolina, who brought in 116 members. Please, let's give each of them a hand for their hard work and dedication.

In the Division race for the coveted title of Department Commander of the Year:

From Division I—Departments with more than 35,000 members, please join me in welcoming Past Department Commander Michael Steinbaugh of California;

From Division II—Departments with 18,000 to 34,999 members, please welcome Past Department Commander Alfred L. Holtan of Minnesota;

From Division III—Departments with 10,000 to 17,999 members, please welcome Past Department Commander Silas J. Dawson of South Carolina;

From Division IV—Departments with 5,000 to 9,999 members, please welcome Past Department Commander Thomas E. Mullalley of Nevada;

And, from Division V—Departments with less than 5,000 members, the award is presented to Past Department Commander H.G. Krosschell of South Dakota.

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The **General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award** is presented to the Department whose members recruited the highest number of eligible veterans, part and fully paid. This year the award is once again presented to the Department of Texas, which added 1,721 new part and fully paid members to their ranks.

The **Judge Robert S. Marx Award** is awarded to the Department with the highest percentage increase of Life members over goal. With a 103.59 percent increase, the year's award is presented to the Department of South Dakota.

Each year, three recruiters and three National Service Officers who've recruited 100 or more new members during the membership year are randomly selected and given the opportunity to choose some great prizes. This year lucky winners are:

Delbert Musgrave, Texas

Michael Granger, Massachusetts

George Antee, Louisiana

NSO Clay Saucier, South Carolina

NSO Bryan Kerouac, South Carolina

And NSO Eric Van Emmerik, South Dakota

Congratulations to all of you, and to all of our award recipients. Thanks to all of you who've signed at least one new member, your unselfish loyalty and dedication to our organization guarantees our long and stellar history of *Building Better Lives* will be prevalent in the coming year.

In closing, I want to repeat a mantra I've repeated for years: You never know who is willing to join unless you ask.

I encourage each of you here and all of your members to try and bring in, at a minimum, one new member to join our cause. It's one way you can shore up our mission of advocacy and comradeship for all who've served and sacrificed.

Commander Tyson, this concludes my report on the National Membership Department, thank you!