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| |  | | --- | | This spring 2022 DAV Chapter 21 newsletter provides information of benefit to all veterans. Please take time to read this newsletter.  Richard Hogue Adjutant and Newsletter Editor | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Greetings from DAV Chapter 21** | |

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| |  | | --- | | We hope you and yours have had a not too challenging winter season and are looking forward to Colorado springtime weather. | |

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| |  | | --- | | A picture containing text, outdoor, sky, sign  Description automatically generated | | |  | | --- | | **Flags Proudly Flying at Our Chapter Home** | | We continue to thank AC Flag and Banner for their generosity in donating the flag pole to Chapter 21 last year. Support them with your needs for a commercial or residential flagpole or for flags. You can reach them at 303-948-9774. | |

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| |  | | --- | | Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 21  8720 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80220-2234  720-379-3405 - dav21co@gmail.com  You can visit the Chapter's Facebook page to find information about the Chapter.  Chapter meetings are held on the first Wednesday monthly beginning at 6:30 pm with a meal served at 5:30 pm. Members may attend the meetings in person at the Chapter home or participate via Zoom. We encourage your participation in the Chapter meetings. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Commander's Corner**  Once again, elections have come and gone. I want to thank the Chapter for once again putting their faith in me to lead the Chapter for the coming year. I want to welcome Mary Jaramillo as our new Senior Vice Commander. Ralph Ellison has been fighting with ill health this year and Mary agreed to step up to assume this role in the Chapter leadership.  Al McNeill has stepped up to the position of Chapter Treasurer and we welcome him, as well. Many thanks to Floyd Phillips for his years of service as the Treasurer. I also want to welcome Clifton Marshall as a new member of the Chapter and our new Chapter Chaplain. We appreciate his efforts to serve. As many of you may be aware, Clifton is replacing John Joffrion who passed away earlier this year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gladys Joffrion, John’s widow, in this time of sorrow.  Things have been popping around the Chapter home recently! You can imagine my surprise as I opened a certified letter to find a whopping $40,000 cashier’s check for the Chapter. After I picked up my jaw from the floor, the letter stated that this was a *partial* distribution from an estate’s trust and that we would receive more funds once the trust’s liabilities are finalized. It is certainly an answer to prayer. Additionally, we have received notification of an award of a grant in the amount of $5,000 from the Energize Colorado Fund. I was ecstatic over the receipt of these funds. The additional funds are going to go a long way toward taking care of our needs for the coming year. There is more exciting news that we are waiting for. As the situations develop, we will keep you informed.  We have addressed some questions that arose concerning our annual membership goal. Senior Vice Commander Mary Jaramillo and I will be addressing that issue by pursuing a new membership drive.  Please keep in mind that we are trying to keep our Service Office open on weekdays from 9 to noon. We have only closed twice due to snow days. Any help we can get in the office would be greatly appreciated. There is a lot to do, and Jim and I are very busy most mornings. We need someone to do filing, answer phone calls, and do light cleaning. Anyone who might be interested in serving as a Chapter Service Officer is also welcome to come down and talk to me. Jim and I would appreciate the help.  Also, be aware that Department Convention will be held on May 11 and 12 this year. It will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Aurora off Parker Road east of I-225. If you plan on attending, call the office ASAP.  Please plan on attending meetings again now that we are approaching a new stage to this COVID situation. We “seem” to be heading into the endemic stage of things and, if true, we’d like to return to some semblance of normalcy. We plan on continuing the tradition of a meal before our monthly meeting, the first Wednesday monthly starting at 5:30 pm, and then our business meeting at 6:30 pm. Please consider getting active again!  Until next time,  Andrew Grieb | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Community Service Project - 9 Health Fair** | | In conjunction with KUSA TV channel 9 in Denver, the Chapter is happy to host a 9 Health Fair event at our Chapter home on April 30th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. A variety of health screening activities will be conducted some of which are no-cost and for other more thorough tests, a fee is charged. Visit https://9health365.org for more information about the 9 Health Fair. Take advantage of this opportunity to check your health. Anyone wishing to volunteer to assist at this event, please call the Chapter office and select option 4 to speak with the Commander. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Major Donations Received** | |

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| |  | | --- | | As Commander Grieb stated in his message, the Chapter recently received a $40,000 bequest from the trust of a woman who was a retired Denver school teacher and passed away recently at the age of 103. We have sent a thank you letter to the trust administrator. We have also recently received a $5,000 grant from the Energize Colorado Fund. The Chapter Executive Committee will determine how these funds will be used toward veterans service programs, building maintenance and renovation projects, and to increase our savings balance.  We have also applied for a grant from the Colorado Veterans Trust Fund. We hope to receive additional funds from that program to fund veterans service programs including direct assistance for needy veterans, donations to regional VA hospital patients, fund our durable medical equipment program, and other programs that directly assist veterans and their families.  Chapter officers continue to pursue other fundraising options which were presented to us by a Chapter member. We will provide additional details about those activities as we progress. If any member knows of other fundraising opportunities that may be available to Chapter 21, call the Chapter office and select Option 4 to speak with the Commander. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Rest in Peace John Joffrion** | | Long-time Chapter member and Past Chapter Commander John Joffrion passed away at the age of 82 on February 5, 2022, after a long battle with cancer.  John served as our Chapter Commander for seven years ending his last term as Commander in 2021. He served longer as Chapter Commander than any other member had. He was a dedicated Chapter member and actively involved in many activities over the years. John was also a dedicated member of the All Veterans Honor Guard, was a Deacon of the Solomon Temple Baptist Church, and was involved in other organizations which benefited his fellow person.  John will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him and we extend our condolences to his wife Gladys and his family. You can view John's obituary at the below link.  [John Joffrion Obituary - Denver, CO (dignitymemorial.com)](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/denver-co/john-joffrion-10579052)  [John Joffrion Obituary - Denver, CO (dignitymemorial.com)](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/denver-co/john-joffrion-10579052) | | |  | | --- | | A person wearing glasses  Description automatically generated with low confidence | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Three Long-Time Auxiliary Members Pass Away**    Three long-time Auxiliary Unit 21 members passed away recently.  Carol Ann Chapman passed away in January 2022 after dealing with deteriorating health. She had served in many Auxiliary Unit 21 positions and was a past State Auxiliary Commander. Services for Carol Ann are pending.  Joanne Hinton tragically passed away in February 2022 after a fall in her home in Virginia. Joanne and her husband Jimmy had been actively involved in the Chapter for many years prior to moving to Virginia. Joanne had served in numerous Auxiliary Unit 21 positions and had served as the Colorado Auxiliary State Commander. Joanne was laid to rest at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver.  Emma Perez passed away in February after dealing with failing health. Emma had also served in numerous Auxiliary Unit 21 positions and had served as the Colorado Auxiliary State Commander. Emma was laid to rest at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver.  We extend our condolences to the families of these three ladies. They will all be missed by those of us who knew them. May they rest in peace. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Chapter Membership Update**    As of March 23, 2022, the Chapter's membership our membership is 2,068. We have been fortunate during the past two years by having our Chapter membership increasing and hopefully, that will continue. Membership is critical to the future of the Chapter, so we all must diligently work to recruit new members and encourage current members to become actively involved with Chapter activities.  If any of you are not a fully paid life member and are not enrolled in automatic monthly payments, please call the national membership office at 888-236-8313 to arrange for automatic dues payments. If you do not make periodic payments toward your dues, you will eventually be dropped as a DAV Chapter 21 member. If you are not receiving the National DAV magazine you should contact the national membership office to ensure they have your correct mailing address. Any questions regarding your membership status should be directed to the national membership office at the above direct phone number.  If you need assistance regarding your membership, you may also call Adjutant Richard at the Chapter office and select option 3. He can provide your membership status or assist with other membership matters.    NOTE: There is a new DAV life membership application form showing the new dues amounts. That form must be used for all new memberships and is available at:  <https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/MembershipApplicationFillable.pdf> | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Van with Chairlift Available**    We have recently been donated a 2007 Buick minivan with a chairlift. If you know of anyone who is in need of such a vehicle, please contact the Chapter and leave a message for the Building Manager, option 2. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Electric Scooters to be Donated to the**  **Wings Over the Rockies**    During a visit to the Wings Over the Rockies facility located in a previous hanger on the former Lowry Air Force Base, it was noticed by a Chapter member that they had only manual wheelchairs for handicapped visitors to use while touring that large site. That news was presented to the Chapter Executive Committee who agreed to donate three electric scooters to the Wings Over the Rockies as a part of our durable medical equipment donation program. Many of those who visit the Wings Over the Rockies are veterans who will benefit from having electric scooters to use while touring the facility.  The three scooters are being refurbished and painted with lettering stating that they were donated by DAV Chapter 21, with our phone number. When the scooters are painted and fully operational we hope to have a donation ceremony at the Wings Over the Rockies to commemorate that accomplishment.  NOTE: As a reminder, we periodically have manual and electric wheelchairs/scooters and a variety of other durable medical equipment (including crutches, walkers, shower seats, and stairlift systems) donated to us, which in turn, we refurbish as needed and donate to veterans and their families. If you know of someone who has such items to donate to the Chapter or know of someone who is in need of durable medical equipment, call the chapter office and select Option 2 to speak with our Building Manager Russ Berget. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Happenings at the Chapter**  We continue to have all of our leased rooms fully occupied providing income to help maintain our Chapter home. Cost for utilities, property taxes, and other building maintenance costs continue to rise making it a challenge to keep pace. Fortunately, the recent new income as has been discussed will help to cover some of those increased costs. Our new paster is operating his church out of our facility and the Street Fraternity continues to offer its weekly food giveaway program in our parking lot. We continue to offer our facility for use by our tenants in support of programs benefiting the community, many of which are veterans. | |

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| |  | | --- | | Interior finish work on the Chapter's storage building is continuing with our building contractors making progress. We have much of the materials in place thanks to the generosity of Home Depot and they will continue to donate other materials needed to complete projects at our facility. Support Home Depot with your purchases as they have donated approximately $3,500 in materials to the Chapter during the past year.  We recently had new signage installed on the front building windows which looks great and with patriotic pictures and improved Chapter identification. Signage was also placed in the front entrance doors to identify the east door as the main front entrance. Pictures of some of the signage are below.  We also hope to use some of the newly receive funds to further improve the appearance of the front of the building. | |

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| |  | | --- | | A picture containing text, window, indoor, aquarium  Description automatically generated | | [Front Office Window] | | |  | | --- | | A sign on a wall  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | [Our name and meeting date and time.] | | |  | | --- | | Calendar  Description automatically generated | | [East Front Windows.] | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Chapter Service Officers' Update**  Chapter Service Officers Jim Sharp and Andy Grieb continue to support the needs of area veterans. They continue to accept appointments for in-person consultations and will continue to serve veterans virtually if desired. Jim and Andy are in the office most weekday mornings and are serving numerous veterans or family members daily. Jim and Andy had over 200 contacts with veterans during the past month, thanks, guys.  Because of the number of veterans seeking service officer assistance, our chapter service officers are asking for a member to "step up" to become a third service officer to assist with the workload. Additionally, assistance is welcomed from any member to come into the office during weekday mornings to help answer the phone and answer the door while Jim and Andy are on the phone or occupied with in-person meetings with veterans. If you have time to assist our service officers, please call the Chapter office and select option 1 to speak with Jim or Andy.  We are the only Denver metro area DAV Chapter that has Chapter Service Officers, so we all should be thankful for their dedication and willingness to donate their time to serve us all with benefits and claims-related matters.  Members are encouraged to contact Jim or Andy at the Chapter office or send an email to Jim at [davserviceofficer21@gmail.com](mailto:davserviceofficer21@gmail.com) or Andy at [dav21co@outlook.com](mailto:dav21co@gmail.com)  The process of working with the VA can be complicated so members are encouraged to contact Jim or Andy for no-cost assistance. Members are reminded that they can also contact the DAV National Service Office at 303-914-5570 or it is preferable to send them an email to [dav.vbden@va.gov](mailto:dav.vbden@va.gov) and they will contact you. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Legislation of Interest to Veterans**    Below is a summary of veterans-related legislation that we are aware of. Members may conduct further research regarding veterans legislation of particular interest.   * The Colorado State disabled veteran property tax exemption is available to veterans who are 100% disabled and provides limited relief for paying property taxes on their homes. If you desire additional information in this regard please contact Beth Maxwell at the VA at 303-914-5832. * National legislation is proposed to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to service members killed in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation efforts (HR 5142). * There are numerous individual national legislative bills proposed dealing with expanded benefits for service members exposed to toxic/hazardous substances, atomic weapons, Agent Orange, burn pits, herbicides, Camp Lejeune and Fort McClellan, and others. If you believe you (or family members in certain cases) may have entitlement related to exposure to toxic/hazardous substances, contact one of our Chapter Service Officers to discuss. * Colorado State legislation is proposed to Extend the Homestead Exemption (partial property tax relief) for Gold Star spouses (spouse of a service member killed in the line of duty). * National legislation would expand GI Bill benefits to National Guard and Reserve members (HR 1836). * A proposed VA regulation recommends veterans not having "copays" for certain mental health care services and medications. This matter has not been finalized, so if you have a need for mental health services or medications from the VA, check with the regional VA office if you have questions in this regard. * The 2022 National Defense Authorization Act provides authorization for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial to be constructed on the National Mall in Washington, DC. No further information was found in this regard. The Act also updated the Uniform Code of Military Justice regarding sexual assaults and established a commission to study America's withdrawal from the Afghanistan War requiring recommendations based upon lessons learned from that effort.   I routinely send email updates regarding State and National veterans-related legislation and other matters of interest to veterans to those of you who are on our "active" Chapter's email list. Please contact the Chapter and select option 3 if you wish to be added to our "active" email list. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Support Chapter 21 by Joining the King Soopers Community Resource Program Today.**  Chapter 21 is now registered under the King Soopers/City Market Community Rewards Program, making us eligible to receive funds when individuals designate DAV Chapter 21 under the program when they shop at a King Soopers/City Market store. The amount of money distributed is determined by the number of individuals designating DAV Chapter 21 as their organization under the program and how much individuals spend at their stores.  To participate in the King Soopers/City Market Community Rewards Program you must create an online account if you do not already have one.  ﻿Go to:[http://www.kingsoopers.com](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kingsoopers.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C8327c41ebb5344bd65b408d9ee6b9104%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637802968031554515%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=5sQBBRr2%2FYLuKiXl8fWEpNpSx5aVE7uzvmPpWHManEs%3D&reserved=0) If you have an online account you can sign in, or if not, you can create an account. NOTE: Although you may have a King Soopers/City Market loyalty card, you must also create an online account to register under the Community Rewards Program. This program works at King Soopers and City Market stores. If you use City Market stores, you can enroll at: [http://www.citymarket.com](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.citymarket.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C8327c41ebb5344bd65b408d9ee6b9104%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637802968031554515%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=40IeipOtF6RWVGw%2B29cG9K8kj1fVML36QrdZ0TX0z5g%3D&reserved=0) If you enroll at either site, the program should work at both King Soopers and City Market stores. It only takes a few minutes, so start now.    When you reach the website, go to the upper right of the page and click "Sign-in" to sign in or create an online account using your email address. After you are signed in, move the cursor by your name at the top right of the page and select "My Account" from the drop-down menu. At the "My Account" page you will find a list of links on the left, go to "Community Rewards". You can then select Disabled American Veterans, Clyde Seiler Chapter 21 as your designated organization under the Community Rewards Program (use the search bar to help you find Chapter 21, search by name our number TU428). When you find the box listing Disabled American Veterans, Clyde Seiler Chapter 21, click on "Enroll" to select Chapter 21 as your designated organization.    When checking out at a King Soopers/City Market store, use your loyalty card or your alternate ID (normally your phone number) to record your purchases, enabling DAV Chapter 21 to benefit under the Community Rewards Program.    If you have questions, you may call the Chapter office and select option 3 or stop by the Customer Service desk at a King Soopers/City Market store for assistance.    Please pass this message on to family members and friends and encourage them to also designate DAV Chapter 21 as their organization under this program. Registering under the King Soopers/City Market Community Rewards Program is an easy way for everyone to help support Chapter 21.  Please enroll TODAY! | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Elections for 2022-2023 Chapter Officers was Conducted at the March 2022 Meeting**    New Chapter officers were elected and/or appointed at the March 2022 Chapter meeting. Your new elected Chapter officers are as follows:  Commander – Andy Grieb  Senior Vice Commander – Mary Jaramillo  Junior Vice Commander – Mackenzie Carey  Chapter Treasurer – Albert McNeill  Three Executive Committee Members-at-Large  -      Bonnie Lindsey  -      Jim Sharp  -      Steve Holman  Department Executive Committee – Richard Hogue  Alternate Department Executive Committee – Maria Whitten    The following appointments were made by newly elected Chapter Commander Andy Grieb:    Adjutant – Richard Hogue  Chaplain – Clifton Marshall  Officer of the Day – Maria Whitten  Sergeant of Arms - Jefrey Sipple  Judge Advocate – Steve Holman  Chapter Service Officers- Jim Sharp and Andy Grieb  Benefits Protection Team – Richard Hogue  We congratulate the new officers for their election or appointment and we wish them the best during the coming year. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **A New Chapter Website Planned**    The Chapter is planning to develop a new website to improve our public communications regarding the operations and mission of Chapter 21. We have an individual who is willing to help design our new website; however, if there are other members who have the talents to assist in this effort, please call the Chapter office and select option 4 to speak with the Commander. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)**  **This article is being repeated from the previous newsletter because many eligible veterans are not aware of this benefit. Please pass this information on to other veterans who may be eligible for CRSC.**    I recently shared lunch with a friend and Marine Corps veteran and several other Marine Corps veterans. Two of those veterans had serious combat-related disabilities and were not aware of CRSC.  CRSC was enacted in 2002 to provide military retirees who have combat-related disabilities to a portion of their military retirement in addition to receiving VA disability compensation. CRSC applies to those retired based on longevity, generally, 20 years or more, and those medically retired based upon their service-connected disability (Chapter 61).  Retiree payments under CRSC will be discounted based on your military rank and length of service. So, if you were a lower grade enlisted service member with less than four years of service, like me, your CRSC entitlement will likely be approximately $100 monthly. However, if you are eligible and have not applied for CRSC, that is more than you are receiving today.  If you believe you may have entitlement under CRSC, contact one of our Chapter Service Officers. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **The Chapter is Helping the All Veterans Honor Guard**    Last year the Colorado State Legislature passed legislation that authorized a state-funded stipend to honor guard units providing military honors for veterans as they are laid to rest. The legislation requires that payments be made to a veterans service organization that sponsors an honor guard unit. Several Chapter 21 members serve on an All Veterans Honor Guard (AVHG) team (the A-Team as we call ourselves) who provide military honors primarily at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver. In 2021 the five AVHG teams performed over 1,300 military honors for deceased veterans.  Chapter 21 has registered itself as a State of Colorado "vendor" to receive stipend payments on behalf of the A-Team. A separate accounting of those funds will be made and funds will be distributed to the A-Team.  The stipend funds will be used by the A-Team to cover expenses for uniforms, rifle maintenance, meals and refreshments, and members' mileage reimbursement.  Chapter 21 is proud to have several members who serve as AVHG members. Anyone who is interested in joining the A-team, please contact me, Richard Hogue at 303-263-1241. Or, if you are not willing or able to join the A-Team, please pass this need on to other veterans whom you believe may be able to join the team, thanks.  And ladies, don't hesitate, we have had female members on the team in the past and currently have two female members on the A-Team. Serving as an AVHG member is a proud and honorable opportunity to serve your fellow veterans by providing the "final honors". | |

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| |  | | --- | | **The Chapter's Auxiliary Unit Continues to Need**  **New Active Members**  Chapter 21's Auxiliary Unit was Chartered in 1975 to assist Chapter 21 in supporting DAV's mission. Our Auxiliary Unit has actively supported the Chapter with fundraising efforts, volunteering at VA facilities, donating thousands of dollars toward veterans programs, and assisting the Chapter with numerous projects and activities over the years.  Unfortunately, the time has taken its toll on the Auxiliary's membership and the number of members who are active. There is literally only a hand full of Auxiliary members who attend their meetings, and some members serve in dual roles because there are not enough members to individually serve in all officer positions.  Auxiliary Unit 21 is struggling to survive and there is no certainty the unit will continue to function without more eligible members joining Auxiliary and becoming active.  Any immediate or extended family member of a current or past DAV member is eligible to join the DAV Auxiliary. DAV Chapter members are also eligible to join the Auxiliary.  All Chapter members are encouraged to speak with family members and encourage one or more of them to join the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary also has a "Juniors" program where kids high school age and young can participate in Auxiliary programs. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Continue to be aware of Scams and Robocalls**    This article is being repeated from the last Chapter newsletter because many continue to receive these types of inquiries.  I have been contacted via a text message and via Messenger about receiving grants ranging up to $200,000. The messages are from people I know but are not valid, someone had "hacked" their accounts and is using their identities to contact me. It is a scam, don't fall for it!  You may also receive a call claiming they are with your electric utility company, and unless you bring cash to a designated location, they will turn off your power. It's a scam! You may receive a call claiming to be the IRS stating you owe them money and to send a check. It's a scam! I recently received a call claiming to be the Social Security Administration stating I would no longer receive benefits unless I contacted them, It's a scam. Most federal agencies will not attempt to reach you by telephone, rather they will send you a letter with any issues.  The latest scam deals with not receiving a stimulus check unless you contact them. Also, you may be notified your Amazon account is locked and you must call them. Don't do it, it's a scam!  Some of you may also have received unsolicited/robocalls offering new windows or siding, reduced mortgage rates, or extended vehicle warranties. Here are some sites you can visit that will provide information regarding robocalls and how you may possibly stop those calls:  - [www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/stop-unwanted-robocalls-and-tests](http://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/stop-unwanted-robocalls-and-tests)  - [www.fcc.gov/call-authentication](http://www.fcc.gov/call-authentication)  - [www.fcc.gov/covid-19-robocall-scams](http://www.fcc.gov/covid-19-robocall-scams)    You can also report potential scams to:  [www.consumerfraudreporting.org/statereporting/CO\_reporting\_scams.php](http://www.consumerfraudreporting.org/statereporting/CO_reporting_scams.php)    Scammers are using local area codes rather 800 numbers when they call trying to make you think it is someone locally trying to reach you. Be careful if you receive an unsolicited inquiry that sounds strange or sounds too good to be true. It is likely someone trying to take advantage of you. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Editor's Comments**  **Do You Want to be Only as a "Card-Carrying" Member or are You Willing to "Step-up" and Become Actively Involved to Enable Chapter 21 to Continue to Fulfill its Mission?**  While I am excited about the recent unexpected donations to the Chapter and how those funds will greatly assist in supporting our mission and am happy that our membership continues to grow, there are challenges on the horizon that must be addressed.  Chapter 21 has 2,068 members but there are only five (5) members who are truly actively involved and keep the Chapter operating. That is not only sad, but the Chapter will not survive in the long term with such limited active participation. The average age of us five truly active members is 72.  Two of us have been actively involved with Chapter 21 for over 45 years and have seen our ability to fulfill certain tasks for the Chapter diminish over the years as our age and disabilities have slowed us down. Unfortunately, in a few years, some of us active five members will not be able to continue our active Chapter involvement. What will happen then? Will the Chapter relinquish its Charter and no longer exist?  The number of living veterans has decreased from 26 million in 2000 to 18 million living veterans today and the number of living veterans is projected to continue to decrease in years to come. Hundreds of American Legion, VFW, and DAV posts/chapters have closed since 2000, and many more are closing every year primarily because the older generations of veterans are passing away or are no longer able to keep those organizations active, while younger generations are not stepping up and taking over to keep those veteran service organizations active as many of us Vietnam veterans took over the reins many years ago from WWII and Korean War veterans. Us Vietnam veterans are in our 70s and need younger veterans to take over the reins from us.  I also realize that life is more complex than it was when I was a young man. A veteran today who is married with a family and a job could say "that's enough for me" and not be willing to devote time and effort toward volunteer activities. While actively involved with Chapter 21, also I served as a volunteer firefighter many years ago while I was married, had a son, and had a job. Yes, it was challenging to balance family and work obligations along with my firefighting duties; however, I continued my service as a volunteer firefighter because of my desire to serve my community.  And so I ask many of my fellow DAV Chapter 21 members who may be in a situation similar to mine as an active DAV member and volunteer firefighter, to find a way to fulfill your personal obligations and also become involved with supporting DAV's mission of serving our fellow veterans and keeping Chapter 21 active.  The average age of Chapter 21 members is 67, with ages ranging from our youngest member being 23 to our oldest member being 104 years old. The average age of US veterans nationally is 58. Of the 2,068 Chapter 21 members, 301 are 50 years old or less and 575 are 60 years old or less. 1,098 Chapter 21 members are 70 or more years old and 395 members are 80 or more years old. The Chapter lost one of our most loyal members when Past Chapter Commander, John Joffrion passed away last month and we are aware of at least 65 other members who died during the past 18 months.  The long-term future of DAV Chapter 21 is primarily in the hands of the 582 members who are 60 years old or younger and the more so the 295 of you who are 50 years old or younger. You may ask, What does the Chapter need from me?   * Attend monthly Chapter meetings in person or via Zoom to learn about the Chapter's mission, activities, and operations. * Meet with a Chapter officer to learn further details about our mission, activities, and operations and how you may contribute. * Offer to assist with specific needs such as membership activities, building operations, and maintenance tasks, assist with developing and maintaining a Chapter website and Facebook page. * Help our service officers during weekday mornings by answering the phone and helping with other administrative duties at the Chapter office. * Assist the Adjutant with publishing this Chapter Newsletter. * Become a Chapter Service Officer. * Assist with shopping for food and preparing monthly meals prior to Chapter meetings. * Assist with fundraising activities including grant requests and soliciting donations from businesses and individuals.   As the Chapter Adjutant, I spend time working in the office; however, I fulfill most of my duties at home using my personal computer and cell phone. You could do the same depending upon the role you would choose to fulfill.  ﻿I encourage those of you who are much younger than me (75) to reach out to me either through the Chapter email address or by calling the Chapter office at 720-379-3405 and selecting Option 3 (adjutant) to speak with me further about your ability to actively support Chapter 21. The younger generations of veterans will need veterans service organizations like the DAV for many years to come and you don't want the situation to arise when you call Chapter 21's office and hear this message "This number has been disconnected." DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN! | |

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