



Disabled American Veterans Department of Florida Newsletter

By Al Linden, Executive Director

July 31, 2016



As of July 28, 2016 our membership was 60,982. Needed to make goal are 1795 life members.

State Commander Jack Johnson Message

IT'S A NEW YEAR, AND ALL CHAPTERS HAVE NEW MEMBERSHIP QUOTAS. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO SELECT A MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE AND START WORKING NOW. TRY TO BE THE 1ST CHAPTER TO MEET YOUR QUOTA, NOT THE LAST. CALL YOUR PROPERTY TAX OFFICE AND GET A LIST OF ALL DISABLED VETERANS IN YOUR AREA WHO ARE RECEIVING A PROPERTY TAX DISCOUNT BECAUSE OF A SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY. THIS IS PUBLIC INFORMATION AND THEY WILL GIVE IT TO YOU. DIVIDE THE NUMBER OF NAMES BY 12, AND THAT IS HOW MANY LETTERS YOU NEED TO MAIL EACH MONTH OR DO A WEEKLY MAILING BY DIVIDING THE LIST BY 52. CALL ME AND I WILL EMAIL THE LETTER TO YOU.

I JUST RETURNED FROM THE COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS MEETING AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, AND HAD A GREAT TIME, AND RECEIVED A LOT OF GOOD INFORMATION THAT WE'LL BE SHARING WITH ALL CHAPTERS.

I WILL BE TRAVELING TO ATLANTA FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION AND HOPE TO SEE A LOT OF DELEGATES FROM FLORIDA. WE HAVE OUR CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL JR VICE COMMANDER, ANDY MARSHALL, AND COULD USE YOUR HELP SPREADING THE WORD AT THE CONVENTION.

I REMIND ALL CHAPTERS THAT OUR MISSION IS "BETTERING THE LIVES OF THE AMERICAN VETERAN AND THEIR FAMILY." CHAPTER SERVICE OFFICERS NEED TO BE VISIBLE IN THE AREA. PUT A NOTICE IN YOUR NEWSPAPER, THAT THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST VETERANS WITH THEIR BENEFITS.

JACK JOHNSON, COMMANDER, 352-250-4743 OR DAV150JACK@GMAIL.COM

National Convention News

Andy Marshall was elected 4th JVC of Nation and Diane Franz was elected National 2nd JVC of the National Auxiliary. Richard Tolfa was elected National Treasurer of National DAV.

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

Service School and Midwinter Conference

The Service School and Midwinter Conference will be held January 16-22, 2017 at the Lake Mary Marriott.

BALANCE SHEET	
As Of July 31, 2016	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,300,087
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$110,346
TOTAL LIABILITIES&FUND BALANCES	\$1,300,087

Bay Pines VAVS	\$2304
Gainesville VAVS	\$1000.00
Tampa VAVS	\$1950
Lake City VAVS	\$2225
WPB VAVS	\$1000
MiamiVAVS	\$2200
Orlando VAVS	\$7550
Eglin CBOC	\$0



about
**Disabled
American
Veterans**

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drivers license application,
then they know you care!**

Federal Times: Rand study finds VA care equal or better than private sector

[Carten Cordell](#), Federal Times 2:08 p.m. EDT July 19, 2016

A new report from the Rand Corporation said that VA health care was often better than or equal to the care offered in the private sector, especially when it came to outpatient procedures. (Photo: Federal Times staff file photo)

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A new study from the Rand Corporation examining the Department of Veterans' Affairs health care system has found that the health care provided by the agency is equal to or better than its private sector counterparts. The study focused on the VA's supply and demand capacity in the wake of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, which provides veterans the opportunity to seek health care through private providers.

Related: [Read the report](#)

In examining the VA's performance in health care procedures versus its private sector counterparts, the report found that "in a tally of 83 different measures covering a variety of types of care, including safety and effectiveness of treatment, the quality of VA health care exceeded that of non-VA care."

VA did best in outpatient procedures, with the report noting that the agency outperformed the private sector on 45 of those measures, with both providers scoring equally on two of the measures.

The field was more mixed when it came to inpatient procedures. VA was equal to the private sector when it came to 17 measures, but scored worse on 11 measures. The agency was only better than the private sector on eight inpatient measures recorded. The report added that there was a wide variation in the level of care across VA facilities.

But while VA facilities can provide quality care to veterans, its ability to meet the level of demand over time may be another question entirely.

The report predicted that veteran populations would decline 19 percent between 2014 and 2024, but the health care of those veterans would continue to become more complex and, in turn, more demanding.

VA health care needs are projected to grow through 2019 before leveling off 2020, but the range of those needs could put resource strains on the system, the report found.

"In particular, demand for specific types of care — including pain medicine, neurology, dermatology and many others — is expected to grow," the report said. "Overall, the near-term increase in demand for care may outpace VA's capacity to provide timely care to all veterans."

One way to meet that demand is by using more of the purchased care options made available by the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act.

But the report also noted that while VA's use of purchased care is growing, it's often acquired through complex means and without a clear strategy for its use.

"Our analysis identified a number of inconsistencies in how purchased care was administered, how referrals were made and how claims and payments to providers were handled. It also uncovered inconsistent procedures for purchased care decisions at the local level."

The report offered a number of recommendations, including more strategic use and oversight of how purchased care is procured and administered in the VA system.

Purchased care could also be of benefit after 2019, when the veteran population is set to decline, to provide coverage without having to overextend VA resources.

VA health care could also be improved with more veteran data, the report said, recommending that the 2020 Census include questions about veteran status that were not in the 2010 Census.

Overall, the report calls for more systematic improvement standards to reduce the variations in the quality of VA health care, while also providing more clear goals for purchased care to compliment the agency.

A copy of the report can be found [on the Rand website](#)

INCOME / EXPENSES VS BUDGET
July 31, 2016

Actual Budget Difference

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

6001 · Convention Income	0.00	5,130.31	-5,130.31
6030 · Midwinter Income	0.00	7,858.06	-7,858.06
6050 · Dues from National	149,080.00	126,451.61	22,628.39
6100 · Donation fr Service Fd-Principl	0.00	346,563.22	-346,563.22
6140 · National Fund Raisers	0.00	162,580.65	-162,580.65
6200 · Chapter & Unit 10%	0.00	36,129.03	-36,129.03
6310 · Chapter Closeouts	0.00	3,612.90	-3,612.90
6311 · Donations	0.00	4,516.13	-4,516.13
6330 · Lake Panosofkee	0.00	3,612.90	-3,612.90
6331 · Lakeland Bldg Mortgage	0.00	10,838.71	-10,838.71
6333. · Orange City Mortgage	0.00	11,741.94	-11,741.94
6350. · Drivers License Income	0.00	45,161.29	-45,161.29
6410 · 2015 Service Officer's	0.00	9,032.26	-9,032.26
6411 · Service Program Donations	0.00	90.32	-90.32
6450 · VAVS Donations	0.00	18,154.85	-18,154.85
6800 · Miscellaneous	0.00	903.23	-903.23

Total Income

149,080.00 792,377.41 **-643,297.41**

Gross Profit

149,080.00 792,377.41 **-643,297.41**

Expense

7000.2 · Convention Expense	1,835.94	14,541.93	-12,705.99
7030.1 · Midwinter Expenses	0.00	17,793.55	-17,793.55
7040.1 · Service Expenses	58,023.83	620,335.50	-562,311.67
7570.1 · Legislative Expenses	0.00	4,606.45	-4,606.45
8000.3 · VAVS Expenses	1,000.00	25,516.14	-24,516.14
8260 · Headquarters Expense	2,080.07	108,929.02	-106,848.95
9500.1 · Foundation expenses	118.34	654.84	-536.50

Total Expense

63,058.18 792,377.43 **-729,319.25**

Net Ordinary Income

86,021.82 **-0.02** 86,021.84

Other Income/Expense

Other Income

11001.4 · Testimonial Income	0.00	4,516.13	-4,516.13
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Total Other Income

0.00 4,516.13 **-4,516.13**

Other Expense

11000.4 · Testimonial Expenses 2015	0.00	4,516.13	-4,516.13
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Total Other Expense

0.00 4,516.13 **-4,516.13**

Net Other Income

0.00 0.00 0.00

86,021.82 **-0.02 86,021.84**



**MEMBERSHIP
FOR
July 31, 2016**

Chapter	Last yr	trial	part life	full life	total	Goal	% goal	needed	chapter name	6/30/16
001		1,906	8	144	1,703	1,855	1,779	95.73%	-76	JACKSONVILLE #1
002	G	10,759	1,277	966	8,099	10,342	8,094	100.06%	5	EVERGLADE STATE #2
004		2,567	3	145	2,386	2,534	2,463	96.87%	-77	JOHN C MCCARTHY II #4
005		583	1	57	519	577	548	94.71%	-29	THE TALLAHASSEE #5
006		291	1	26	260	287	274	94.89%	-14	ST AUGUSTINE #6
007		849	2	239	617	858	741	83.27%	-124	W WASHINGTON #7
011		1,681	1	76	1,532	1,609	1,574	97.33%	-42	CLEARWATER #11
012		1,497	1	95	1,368	1,464	1,420	96.34%	-52	CORAL GABLES #12
013		2,503	0	105	2,339	2,444	2,396	97.62%	-57	BAY PINE HLDY ISL #13
014		315	0	18	287	305	297	96.63%	-10	JOHN D STROUD #14
016		2,777	1	162	2,541	2,704	2,629	96.65%	-88	CENTRAL #16
017		761	0	35	719	754	738	97.43%	-19	PANAMA CITY #17
018		1,780	1	136	1,613	1,750	1,682	95.90%	-69	MANATEE COUNTY #18
020		356	0	22	331	353	343	96.50%	-12	LAKE CITY #20
022		309	0	13	289	302	296	97.64%	-7	JACKSON COUNTY #22
023		2,151	3	93	2,008	2,104	2,056	97.67%	-48	AL GRAY #23
029		617	1	48	565	614	590	95.76%	-25	PEMBROKE PINES-MIRAMAR #29
030		1,303	0	102	1,174	1,276	1,228	95.60%	-54	SEMINOLE #30
032		1,361	2	89	1,198	1,289	1,244	96.30%	-46	J L GOLIGHTLY #32
038		1,502	1	188	1,288	1,477	1,388	92.80%	-100	ORANGE PARK #38
042		1,834	0	84	1,728	1,812	1,772	97.52%	-44	WEST PALM BEACH #42
049		322	0	22	293	315	305	96.07%	-12	RIDGE #49
050		238	1	9	221	231	226	97.79%	-5	CENTRAL BREVARD #50
057		445	5	28	400	433	413	96.85%	-13	CRESTVIEW #57
063		164	0	7	151	158	155	97.42%	-4	TRI-COUNTY #63
065		555	0	31	507	538	524	96.76%	-17	ZEPHYRHILLS #65
067		1,249	0	56	1,160	1,216	1,190	97.48%	-30	HERNANDO COUNTY #67
070		597	0	35	541	576	560	96.61%	-19	GERALD A SHONK #70
073		367	2	26	329	357	343	95.92%	-14	TAMARAC #73
078		1,205	0	61	1,109	1,170	1,141	97.20%	-32	NEW PORT RICHEY #78
082		1,120	0	54	1,052	1,106	1,082	97.23%	-30	R L COCHRAN JR #82
083		1,042	2	138	898	1,038	969	92.67%	-71	C W BYERS SR #83
084		1,282	3	64	1,180	1,247	1,213	97.28%	-33	GREATER DAYTONA #84
085		1,141	0	43	1,057	1,100	1,080	97.87%	-23	SOUTH MARION #85
086		632	0	67	550	617	587	93.70%	-37	JIM BOOE #86
087		759	2	38	703	743	723	97.23%	-20	SGT W M E HILL #87
090		891	1	76	803	880	845	95.03%	-42	GATOR #90
094		1,059	0	37	1,001	1,038	1,021	98.04%	-20	C GUSTAFSON #94
097		564	0	39	497	536	518	95.95%	-21	BEE RIDGE #97
098		243	1	12	227	240	233	97.42%	-6	EUCHEE VALLEY #98
101		809	0	44	750	794	774	96.90%	-24	VENICE GULF #101
108		658	0	61	600	661	633	94.79%	-33	JAMES D RADER #108
109		509	0	24	476	500	488	97.54%	-12	TITUSVILLE #109
110		507	0	29	474	503	490	96.73%	-16	SUN CITY CENTER #110
111		90	0	2	87	89	88	98.86%	-1	PEACE RIVER #111
112		790	6	39	739	784	760	97.24%	-21	BAY AREA #112
113		710	1	38	652	691	673	96.88%	-21	PORT ST LUCIE #113
119		368	0	13	351	364	357	98.32%	-6	ANTHONY P DADDI #119
122		540	0	68	457	525	493	92.70%	-36	MARATHON #122
123		637	0	17	589	606	596	98.83%	-7	SPACE COAST #123
125		548	2	20	525	547	536	97.95%	-11	CPL P D LYON JR #125
126		179	0	7	169	176	173	97.69%	-4	SUWANNEE MEM #126
129		358	0	16	335	351	343	97.67%	-8	SO BREVARD BCHS #129
133		951	0	75	870	945	909	95.71%	-39	THE GOLD COAST #133
144		99	0	9	86	95	91	94.51%	-5	LA BELLE #144
148		834	3	82	750	835	795	94.34%	-45	AGNES M TAYLOR #148
150		945	0	33	944	977	961	98.23%	-17	ORANGE BLOSSOM GDNS #150
152		708	0	39	655	694	674	97.18%	-19	SOUTH PALM BEACH #152
155		367	0	14	343	357	350	98.00%	-7	SEBASTIAN RIVER AREA #155
158		201	0	32	187	219	202	92.57%	-15	CRYSTAL RIVER #158
159		20	0	20	0	20	11	0.00%	-11	Miami Springs Chapter #159
Dept		62,405	1,332	4,368	55,282	60,982	57,077	96.86%	-1,795	



**Legislation
FOR
July 31, 2016**

VA Named "Most Wired" Hospital System

“Hospitals are breaking-out of their traditional four walls and providing care where and when patients need it,” said Rick Pollack, president and CEO of the AHA. “These Most Wired hospitals exemplify this transformation by harnessing technology, engaging patients and offering services remotely.”

As a Most Wired health care system, VA offers more than seven apps in mobile marketplaces to help Veterans address Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), connect with health care providers, and leverage technologies to track and manage their health. VA is using technology to build patient engagement with that Veteran’s lifestyle in mind, which includes online access to their health care teams via Secure Messaging available on its personal health record. Also critical is to ensure that patients get the right care; Most Wired hospitals are using predictive modeling to eliminate preventable problems. For VA, advanced analytics to support population health has been a central focus of VA for nearly a decade. VA’s Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) serves as a repository for patient-level data aggregated across the VA national health delivery system. Clinical summaries and reports created using CDW are an indispensable part of how VA delivers care.

“Receiving the Most Wired designation acknowledges VA’s continued commitment to using information technology innovation to improve the health outcomes for our Veteran patients,” said VHA Under Secretary for Health, David J. Shulkin, M.D. “We are pleased to have been selected a ‘Most Wired’ hospital system by our industry peers. This recognition affirms our leadership in the use of health technology that improves quality and coordinated care.”

HealthCare’s Most Wired® survey, conducted between Jan. 15 and March 15, 2016, is published annually by *Health & Hospitals Networks (H&HN)*. The 2016 Most Wired® survey and benchmarking study is a leading industry barometer measuring information technology (IT) use and adoption among hospitals nationwide. The survey of 680 participants, representing an estimated 2,146 hospitals—more than 34 percent of all hospitals in the U.S.—examines how organizations are leveraging IT to improve performance for value-based health care in the areas of infrastructure, business and administrative management; quality and safety; and clinical integration.

Detailed results of the survey and study can be found in the July issue of H&HN. For a full list of winners, visit www.hhnmag.com.

Secretary Takes Action to Ensure Project ARCH Veterans Continue to Receive Care Closer to Home - As the Project ARCH pilot program comes to an end next month, Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert A. McDonald today announced that Veterans enrolled in the program will be able to continue receiving care closer to home. Taking advantage of options available under the Veterans Choice Program, such as the “unusual or excessive burden provision” and Provider Agreements, Veterans receiving care under Project ARCH will continue care without interruption when the pilot program ends August 7. (7/21/16)

VA Conducts Nation’s Largest Analysis of Veteran Suicide - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has undertaken the most comprehensive analysis of Veteran suicide rates in the U.S., examining over 55 million Veteran records from 1979 to 2014 from every state in the nation. The effort extends VA’s knowledge from the previous report issued in 2010, which examined three million Veteran records from 20 states were available. Based on the data from 2010, VA estimated the number of Veteran deaths by suicide averaged 22 per day. The current analysis indicates that in 2014, an average of 20 Veterans a day died from suicide. (7/7/16)

VA Schedules 2 Million Appointments Using Veterans Choice Program - The Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) Veterans Choice Program has reached a key milestone in improving access to health care for Veterans. More than two million appointments have been scheduled through the program. (7/14/16)

VA Secretary Provides Relief for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald has granted equitable relief to more than 24,000 Veterans following a national review of Traumatic Brain Injury medical examinations conducted in connection with disability compensation claims processed between 2007 and 2015. (6/1/16)

Glenn Sutphin, now the agency's interim head, will become the next permanent director of the [Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs](#).

Gov. **Rick Scott** and the Florida Cabinet made the hire at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting.

Sutphin, himself a National Guardsman for over 30 years, was the only person interviewed for the position out of [more than 300 applicants](#).

He told Cabinet members he wants the state to focus on building more nursing homes for veterans and doing more outreach to let them know what benefits they're entitled to.

More and more service members, when they retire, want to stay or come to Florida, Sutphin said.

"I've spent my life helping people in uniform," he said. "What we have to do is network so everyone is getting the right information ... I don't mean emails; I mean getting out there and looking them in the face."

The vote for Sutphin was unanimous by Scott, Chief Financial Officer **Jeff Atwater**, Attorney General **Pam Bondi** and Agriculture Commissioner **Adam Putnam**.

He had been chief of staff and legislative affairs director of the state's Department of Military Affairs since 1999, according to his bio. That department includes the Florida Army National Guard and Air National Guard.

Sutphin was awarded more than "50 medals including the Legion of Merit and the Florida Cross, the highest award in Florida, for exceptional performance in outstanding service and achievement," the bio says.

The department's last head, **Mike Prendergast**, stepped down to run for Citrus County Sheriff as a Republican. He was Scott's first chief of staff.

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