

2024 BPTL Updates

Good morning – Commander and attendees.

This is the Benefits Protection Team Leader or BPTL Report for the 2024 Fall Conference.

I'm Ed Wenzel, Wisconsin Deputy BPTL. Al Labelle, Wisconsin BPTL sends his regrets that he is unable to attend the Conference due to a recent illness.)

Team DAV Wisconsin

DAV is a nonprofit charitable veterans service organization which is VA accredited. We were founded in 1920 and congressionally chartered in 1932. DAV has nearly one million members nationwide. In Wisconsin, we have more than 14,000 members.

Our mission is to empower veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We do this through our Service Programs which are all free and open to any veteran. Each year, DAV helps more than one million veterans, with Benefits, Transportation, Advocacy, Employment, and Volunteerism.

To be an effective organization, we must always act as one. The number one goal of Team DAV Wisconsin is to always make the organization better.

Membership

We will use Membership as an example of how to make the organization better. According to the State Bylaws, the Senior Vice Commander is responsible for Department Membership recruitment. It is the responsibility of the Senior Vice Commander to formulate a Membership Program and educate members how best to best implement it.

The success of the Program will ultimately depend on the actions of the members. If each member takes the time and effort to recruit one member, our membership will double.

Advocacy

DAV fights for the rights of injured and ill veterans, their families, and survivors on Capitol Hill in Washington and at the State Capitol in Madison. Similarly, our success depends on the actions of our members and supporters.

Commander's Action Network (CAN)

If you are a CAN member, thank you! If not, please join at: dav.quorum.us/sign_in/

You do not have to be a member to join. Advocacy is not a spectator sport. Get involved.

Dos and Don'ts

Within a month, we have an important congressional election. So, everyone knows their responsibilities as DAV Members, this short video will be played,

Click on video link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRqICQOVXuM>)

Vision for Veterans for the 119th Congress

Recently, DAV National sent out their *Vision for Veterans for the 119th Congress*. A Department email was sent to each Chapter discussing the program. The Vision priorities were also placed in your registration bag.

Here to talk more about this important program is Joy Ilem, DAV National Legislative Director.

Click on video link -

<https://www.facebook.com/DAV/videos/387790267716478/>

The goal is to deliver the following materials to incumbents and challengers seeking congressional offices.

1. [Vision for Veterans for the 119th Congress handout](#)
2. [DAV identity brochure](#)
3. [DAV by the Numbers](#)

These materials can be found at the DAV Registration table or at the DAV National website. The Vision for Veterans for the 119th Congress materials have been presented to the incumbents.

If anyone has contact information on the following congressional challengers, please contact Al Labelle.

CD 1: Peter Barca or Chester Todd, Jr.

CD 2: Erik Olson

CD 3: Rebecca Cooke

CD 4: Tim Rogers or Robert Raymond

CD 5: Ben Steinhoff

CD 6: John Zarbona

CD 7: Kyle Kilbourn

CD 8: Tony Wied or Kristin Lyerly

Senate Challenger: Erik Hovde (meeting scheduled)

Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans

Recently, DAV and MOAA released their groundbreaking report, *Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans*. This Report reveals that on average, toxic-exposed veterans wait 34 years to receive access to health care and benefits. Some die before that ever happens.

Click on video link - <https://youtu.be/cEtd8lE0d-I?si=oRO9pgH2PAbveZEt>

Materials were placed in your registration bag, can be found at the DAV table, or accessed at:

<https://www.dav.org/ending-the-wait/>

This concludes the BPTL Report. Thank you for your time and attention.