By PNC Norman Rosenshein, Coordinating Committee Chairman

It is no secret that the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) is struggling. Many of the nation’s veterans’ service organizations are fighting for survival. With an aging veteran population, no draft, and fewer enlistments, our membership levels are the lowest they’ve ever been. It is time for change.

Over the next few years, things will be different. They have to be, for our survival. Here are some of the things you can expect:

- Our NEC meeting in February 2017 (see page 6) will be part of what we are rebranding as a Leadership Conference. Are you a leader in your Post or Department, or hope to someday hold a leadership role? Then this is for you.

- There is a brand new schedule, with workshops and trainings on topics such as fundraising, non-profit management, and Post administration.

- There will be very few committee meetings. Our committees have become defunct. Many of the chairmen hold the position in name only.

- From now on, there will be expectations and requirements for committees. If you want to hold a position, you have to follow through. You have to be a real leader.

- Our 2017 Convention in San Antonio, TX, is our first ever five-day convention. There will be committee meetings, but only for those committees who prove in the months between NEC and Convention that they can work together to be productive. We recognize that as our first shorter convention, it won’t be perfect.

- The results of the Convention survey that was sent out in September (see page 15) further detail some of the discrepancies that we at National face when planning such an event. In order to create change, we need you to attend.

Survey: Women Troops Feel Undervalued and Unappreciated

By Leo Shane III, Military Times


Female troops and veterans want the public to know their military service is much more than just discussion of sexual assault in the ranks, according to a new survey released Monday.

Almost three in four women in the new Service Women’s Action Network survey said they do not believe their military service is understood or valued among the general public, and only 24 percent said they think military leadership does enough to publicize their work.

While 42 percent of women surveyed saw sexual harassment and assault as a common issue confronting the female servicemember community, far fewer listed it as a personal obstacle to their service.

Instead, 43 percent said their biggest military hurdle is assignments and job opportunities, 35 percent said family policies, and 36 percent said general gender bias problems.

And despite the perception of widespread problems for women serving in the military, 80 percent said they would recommend enlisting to other women.

“We were pleasantly surprised...
Display your JWV Membership proudly!
The JWV supplies store isn’t just for pins and poppies! You can also buy polo shirts, Post flags, badges, caps and jackets!

If you currently do not receive our emails, SIGN UP NOW!

There are two ways to get your name on our mailing list:
1) Go to www.jwv.org. On the right hand side about halfway down the page, there’s a box that says “Stay Connected.” Enter your email, and you’re on the list!
2) Send an email to jwv@jwv.org requesting to be added, and one of our staffers will send you a subscription email. Click the link and you’re good to go!

A few things to be aware of:
• We will never sell or share your email address
• If you hit “unsubscribe,” then you stop receiving ALL of our emails. If that wasn’t your intention, follow one of the two steps above. If you think we send too many emails, please let us know!

Publicize the good name of JWV!
Show your JWV spirit with our JWV buttons and fans!
Wear the buttons at festivals. Sell the fans as a fundraiser at parades.
Supplies are limited. Orders are filled on a first come, first serve basis.
Contact Melody Jackson at JWV Headquarters for prices and ordering information. 202-265-6280

Get Social with JWV!
Use JWV’s social media to share pictures and keep in touch with JWV members and friends.

facebook.com/JewishWarVeterans
twitter.com/JewishWarVets

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Jewish Chaplains in the Military

I am an observant Jew who spent 26 years of active duty in the U.S. Army. I had the greatest opportunity to attend Shabbat services on many posts throughout the world. I found that most Jewish military cannot read Hebrew, were not Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and couldn’t explain the simplest parts of the Torah, holidays, or the Jewish belief system. In fact, we were lucky to have ten people attend the Friday evening Shabbat service and almost no one came to the Saturday morning Torah readings. My Jewish religious needs were never met in the military. I had to attend a synagogue off post for services, holidays, and programs.

I now read in the paper that the military is sadly deficient in Jewish chaplains. In order to attract more rabbis into the chaplaincy, restrictions are being lifted and regulations are changing. Beards for Jewish chaplains are now allowed, opening the door for Orthodox rabbis. Scholarships for rabbinical students are being offered. Cantors now have a pathway to become chaplains.

I want to voice my strong objections to allowing Jewish chaplains to grow beards. This could result in a very negative attitude towards Jews in the military. No career military man or woman will accept a man in uniform with a beard!

There are other ways of solving this program. Trained Jewish lay leaders, reservists, and volunteers as well as cantors might assume these roles. The Jewish Chaplains should change and adapt to the military culture instead of the military adapting to Orthodox rabbis. Allowing a military officer to grow a beard is wrong!

All chaplains are officers and should have leadership ability. Therefore, they should be able to pass the PT test by running two miles in less than 18 minutes, do 20 pushups and 20 sit-ups at one time. This is what the military demands of its leaders.

The JWB Jewish Chaplains Council can do a better job for the 100,000 Jewish men and women serving our great country.

Joel Batalsky, US Army retired
Member of JWV; Post 256

Combating PTSD

As a veteran U.S. Army Officer and former Executive Director of the New England Region of the Friends of the IDF (FIDF), I read with great interest Adam Lammens’s article in vol. 70, no. 3, “Israeli Innovations in Combating Veteran PTSD.”

Similar to the U.S. Armed Forces, the IDF has recognized PTSD as a neurobiological and psychophysiological condition that can afflict veterans exposed to any traumatic situation—whether or not combat related. While Mr. Lammens’s article described some of the programs the IDF has initiated to help their servicemen and women who suffer from the debilitating effects of PTSD, he glossed over a fundamental difference in how our two countries seek to reduce, recognize and ultimately treat PTSD.

In Israel, about 60% of the population serves in the military. Combat soldiers have a high social standing. When these warriors return to civilian life, most Israelis understand what they experienced under fire. By contrast, in the U.S., only 1% of the population serves in the military. When a soldier returns to civilian life, only a handful of people can relate to what he or she has endured. Expected to “fit in” and misunderstood when they don’t, returning U.S. combat soldiers have few resources who understand the true nature of their service and sacrifice. In the U.S., war is a world away. In Israel, war is next door.

No article on Israeli innovations in combating veteran PTSD is complete without highlighting the consequential efforts nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and in Israel are undertaking to complement those of our respective militaries.

In most cases, these nonprofit efforts are conceived, designed, implemented and operated by veterans (or families of veterans) who are personally familiar with or affected by PTSD: Prominent among these are Achim L’Chaim (Brothers for Life), Heroes to Heroes, Shoulder to Shoulder, and many others (large and small) which bring together veterans from both countries who suffer from PTSD.

These gatherings are “safe zones” for PTSD sufferers; through candid discussions, inspirational group activities, and ongoing correspondence, PTSD sufferers advance their personal recovery and healing and aid the recoveries of fellow warriors. These organizations also play a major ancillary role in strengthening unofficial ties between our two militaries.

Earlier this year I attended an Achim L’Chaim event at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachussets. Hosted by the Kraft Family Foundation, the event was part of a week-long series of activities that connected in meaningful and enduring ways wounded warriors from the IDF and the U.S. Armed Forces. I was incredibly moved by the authenticity of their interaction and the nurturing care offered by organizational representatives.

Those who served at the tip of the spear understand the unique bond combat veterans share—a bond that transcends country, race, and religion. These organizations understand the healing that can be drawn from the strength of this bond, and they tap that strength to help those with visible and invisible combat injuries.

Organizations like Achim L’Chaim bring together IDF and U.S. military veterans in structured settings to aid their respective recoveries. They are worth further mention and endorsement in publications such as The Jewish Veteran.

Bruce Mendelsohn, The Hired Pen
LinkedIn@brm90

National Achievement Program

Did you know that The Jewish War Veterans of the USA Foundation (JWVF) sponsors an annual essay contest for current service members and veterans who plan to attend (or are currently attending) an accredited Associate’s, Bachelor’s, nursing, or graduate-degree program? Selected winners will be awarded one of four grants.

All veterans or active duty service members are eligible regardless of race, religion, creed or culture. The 2017 essay theme is “What was your military experience AND how will that experience help you pursue your academic studies?”

The application and more information can be found at jwwusafoundation.org. Click on “National Achievement Program” under “Grants.” The deadline is May 30, 2017.

National Youth Achievement Program

Attention high school seniors! The Jewish War Veterans of the USA Foundation’s (JWVF) annual grant program is now accepting applications and our committee is eagerly awaiting your submissions. JWVF is offering three grants to graduating high school seniors who are a direct descendant of a JWV member in good standing.

What a fantastic opportunity! Where can I find the application and the eligibility requirements?

Go to jwwusafoundation.org and click on the tab “National Youth Achievement Program” under “Grants.” On this same page you will see a link labeled “Department Commander” which contains the contact information for your relevant Commander, to whom you will submit your application.

When is the application due?

All required application materials (listed in the application) are due to the appropriate Department Commander by May 27, 2017.
I finally fulfilled every Jewish mother’s dream and went to medical school – but I was only visiting. JWV was invited to participate in a dedication ceremony in memory of Dr. Mathew Francis Olstein, who was killed in World War I. It was my privilege to represent our organization and say a few words. My hosts were the NYC Health + Hospitals / Metropolitan Hospital and New York Medical College (NYMC), a member of the Touro College and University System.

First, let me tell you about Dr. Olstein. For this I thank Edward C. Haperin, MD, MA, a physician, scholar, and historian who is Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Medical College for his in-depth presentation.

A 1916 graduate of Albany (New York) Medical College, Dr. Olstein traveled to Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn to begin his internship. He was welcomed not with open arms, but with closed fists – bound, gagged, and thrown onto a train out of town with the warning that should he ever come back he would end up in the East River. Such were the times – Jews and Catholics were not welcome – the first question on applications asked for your religion. Jews, Catholics, women, blacks, and other minorities. This long tradition of inclusion continues today.

Dr. Olstein served with the 314th Infantry Regiment of the 79th Division. He was killed by a German artillery shell a scant three months before the war ended. He is buried in the Jewish Cemetery in Courtland Manor, New York.

Let me tell you a bit more about the “military history” of Metropolitan Hospital. There is evidence that nurses and physicians from the Metropolitan Hospital served in the Spanish-American War. During World War I, they established a U.S. Base Hospital in France and stayed until the war ended. After Pearl Harbor, the entire class at New York Medical College signed up for reserve commissions. Some joined the Army, some the Navy.

During the Korean War, Dr. Walter Mersheimer, then the Chief of Surgery at Metropolitan Hospital and a combat surgeon, was credited with the introduction of the MASH unit – a 100 bed surgical field hospital that could be folded up onto a truck and moved. During the Vietnam War, Dr. Joseph Dursi received a Bronze Star for operating his MASH unit while under heavy enemy fire. Dr. Louis Del Guercio enlisted at age 65 and served as a frontline trauma surgeon during Desert Storm.

I truly felt that I was among fellow veterans and friends when I showed up at NYMC. Many physicians and dentists have served. When I arrived at the ceremony, I struck up a conversation with Dr. Bill Frishman, an Army Medical Corps veteran of both the Vietnam and Desert Storm eras and chairman of the Department of Medicine and professor of pharmacology at New York Medical College. Bill served both on active duty and in the reserves. He told me that “it was a great privilege and honor to serve my country as a physician caring for active duty personnel, the bravest of the brave, their spouses, their children, and retired veterans of all branches of the military.”

In my presentation, I noted that Jews have suffered discrimination in the military, including in the awarding of medals for honorable and heroic actions. I spoke of William Shemin, a WWI soldier who posthumously received the Medal of Honor – but it took an act of Congress over 90 years later. A similar situation occurred with Tibor Rubin, a Korean War Veteran.

I spoke of the founding of JWV, about how although Jews fought on both sides during the American Civil War and six Jews received the Medal of Honor, despite that Mark Twain and others said that Jews didn’t serve. To fight that lie, in 1896 Jewish Civil War veterans organized the Hebrew Union Veterans – at the old Lexington Opera House – today a DoubleTree Hotel stands at that site, 51st & Lexington Avenue in New York City. I invited those in attendance to stop by and see the plaque in the lobby.

The medical profession and the military profession may seem to be at odds with one another. Physicians are the healers in our society – both preventing illness and treating disease and injuries. The military is a means of projecting national power – often through the use of violence. Yes, there are military missions that help in times of disaster, or to protect innocent civilians in the face of aggression – and between hospital ships and aircraft carriers there is significant medical capability afloat. But still, the two professions are not necessarily bosom buddies. One might say that the military assures a free society, where physicians practice and the medical world keeps our military healthy and alive.

Lastly, there is another tie-in. Of necessity, the military has been a source of medical advancements. We associate Army Major Walter Reed, MD, with combating yellow fever. For better or worse, the cauldron of war has also been an incubator of medical advances. I highlighted two:

• One lasting legacy of the Vietnam War is the popularization of medical evacuation helicopters and other means to expedite medical care for those in need.

Dr. William Frishman dismounting a Huey. Photo courtesy of Dr. Frishman

• In the mid-1980s when I reported to the Chief Scientist of the Army, I worked on projects under an umbrella called telemedicine. How can a physician in an Army field hospital get timely advice and guidance from a specialist who is stateside? Analogously, how can a physician in a rural hospital obtain needed guidance from a specialist at a major teaching/research hospital? Digital x-rays and high definition video are part of this solution.

In war and in peace, countless lives have been saved because of such lessons learned. And thus went my trip to medical school.
We have recently elected a new President. Some of us were glad and some were unhappy, but that is the United States for all Americans. By the time you are reading this Veteran, adjustments will have been made and we will get on with our lives. The major focus for us at JWV is the treatment and care of our veterans, the homeless, the inability to make timely appointments at VA Medical Centers, and the delay with new veterans and finally receiving treatment. The major talk is reducing taxes, but that in and of itself will affect treatment at the VA.

A common refrain on Capitol Hill is that all veterans will be taken care of. We will seek to hold our politicians to that promise. Our focus is to bring that message to all of Congress when we meet at the next National Executive Committee meeting in February.

If you have never attended a NEC, you are urged to consider this immediately and make arrangements to join us so that this message can be brought to the new Congress. At the same time, if you haven't visited our nation's capital at this time of the year, all of the most fascinating museums and public buildings are merely a Metro station away.

Join with us for your benefit, see all our comrades together again, learn about this organization, and send the most important message to Congress- that we will always stand up and fight for our veterans.

See you in Washington, D.C.!
An Evening Honoring Gold Star Families

By Dr. Robert Pickard, PNC

On February 18, 2017, the JWV Foundation, Inc. will host an evening to honor Gold Star Families at the Crystal City Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom. The Keynote speaker for the event will be Mrs. Karen Kelly, wife of General John F. Kelly, and mother of 1st Lt. Robert Kelly who was killed in action in 2010. Mrs. Kelly is a much sought after speaker who can electrify an audience made up of representatives of members of JWV USA from all departments, states and regions of America, many who have come to our annual National Executive Committee meeting and/or to lobby Congress for all veterans' issues. There will be music provided by Pershing's Own, a sumptuous cocktail party with open bar and delicious food all to honor our fallen heroes, our sons and daughters who gave their last measure of selfless service so that we can all enjoy the freedoms of democracy here in America.

The Gold Star Wives of America (GSW) will be a beneficiary of this event. The GSW are widows/widowers whose spouses died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, or as the result of service-connected disabilities. Members of Gold Star Wives appear before various House and Senate Committees on issues concerning compensation, educational benefits, medical care and other programs pertaining to the welfare of military survivors.

GSW have members and local chapters in all parts of the United States. Their programs help the children and families of Gold Star families.

All JWV echelons, posts, individuals, departments, states, regions, counties, etc. are encouraged to support this stupendous patriotic evening honoring not only our own Jewish fallen heroes, but all sons and daughters who have been killed in action in all our wars and the sacrifices of those heroes' families.

If you are not able to attend this event in person, please know that seats and tables purchased for this evening which would be empty otherwise will be filled with active duty personnel from the DC area who are asked to attend free of charge to witness and learn about Gold Star families and those like JWV Foundation, Inc. which would honor them.

The history of a blue star displayed in the window of a home where a son or daughter was serving in the US Armed Forces is a tradition going back to WWI. The Gold Star was applied over the blue star should a member of the family be killed in action starting in WWI. American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was started by Grace Seibold whose son, George, was killed in action in 1917. Mrs. Seibold understood that self-contained grief is self-destructive. To just sit around mourning and feeling understandable grief over the loss of her son was not her style. This gracious lady donated time and energy to visiting servicemen coming home from Flanders' Fields. She formed the American Gold Star Mothers with the purpose of comforting her fellow grieving parents, but also to give loving care to hospitalized veterans, thereby honoring their dead children. In 1936, the last Sunday of September was designated by the President and Congress as official Gold Star Mother's Day.

Please put this Evening to Honor Gold Star Families on your Post's agenda, and your counties' agendas, and departments', states', regions', and all other echelons of JWV USA. Remember that we honor all Gold Star families, Jewish and non-Jewish, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity etc. We are veterans all and we stand by our families. Stand with us, please!
MEMBERSHIP CORNER  By PDC Bob Richter, National Membership Chairman

Passing on the Torch: YOU can be the National Membership Chair

The National Manual of Ceremonies tasks the Membership Committee to “plan membership campaigns, properly induct new members, and maintain their interest and their development for leadership” (pg. 32). The Membership Committee could then alternatively be titled the Recruitment Committee. Workers (you must be dedicated to getting your hands dirty) on this Committee not only recruit new members, but also mobilize current members to take part in Post administration and leadership. The Committee Chair need not be a Commander, but certainly a member who is enthusiastically involved with JWV.

If you are that type of member, then now is the time to step up to the national level! JWV seeks a National Membership Chair to forge new paths for recruitment and member motivation. I have thoroughly enjoyed the position – recruiting at least 500 new members during my decade-long tenure. Now I am passing the torch on. The new Chair will begin right away as my Vice-Chair, learning the process before I retire in August.

Membership Chair is a volunteer position, requiring 4 – 12 hours/week of service. The Chair engages with members, potential members, JWV leaders, and National staff. S/he must be sociable and happy to communicate through emails, teleconferences, Facebook events, in-person workshops, etc. As with any membership-based organization, the Membership Committee is the heart of the group and the Chair exudes that love.

Below are the five skills necessary to complete the job. If you possess these skills and will commit to three years of service, send a letter detailing your qualifications and your ideas for JWV growth to membership@jwv.org no later than January 27, 2017.

1. Interpersonal Skills
   a. Friendly demeanor – enjoys interacting with a variety of people
   b. Motivational speaker – comfortable speaking to crowds and getting them fired up
   c. Mediator – seeks to resolve conflicts and find amicable solutions for all involved

2. Inquisitive Mind
   a. Researcher – reads articles, watches films, attends talks, etc. regarding membership recruitment, active duty needs, veteran needs, and the Jewish community
   b. Analyst – reviews membership statistics and reports, finds areas of growth or improvement
   c. Experimenter – interested in trying a variety of recruitment tactics, analyzing the results, and building a path to success

3. JWV Experience
   a. At least three years of continuous JWV membership
   b. At least one year of leadership – such as Post Commander, Council Sr. Vice Commander, or Department Membership Chair
   c. Studies JWV history – learns from local JWV historians, asks current JWV leaders about their past experiences, etc.

4. Commitment
   a. Must attend NEC meetings – held biannually in February in Washington, DC and August at National Convention
   b. Organize teleconferences, Facebook Live events, etc. – engage the membership across the nation in real time
   c. Write articles and recruit others to write articles – for our quarterly publican, The Jewish Veteran, and periodic e-newsletters

5. Comfortable with Technology
   a. Corresponds daily via email
   b. Uses Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, or other social media – might be a beginner, but is excited to learn
   c. Takes digital photos and/or records videos and can easily share them

Thank you for continuing the good work of JWV. Here’s to the next generation of veterans!

Retaining Members

While I have dedicated countless hours and articles to recruiting members, I do not want to neglect the importance of retention – keeping our members involved! To put it in perspective, cutting our retention losses in half is equivalent to recruiting 260 new members. Whether recruiting or retaining, our mission remains the same: keep JWV relevant, inviting, and above all else, helpful to veterans.

To accomplish our mission, we have two clear goals. One, ensure our Posts have at least two developed programs that enrich the lives of veterans and our members. Second, publicize our efforts to both our communities and our members. The latter is what the Membership Committee is turning its attention to.

What follows is an easy-to-use template for keeping current JWV members engaged with their Post. Prior to the January membership renewal letter sent by National, send this letter to all members of your Post, going back at least 4 years, who have not renewed their membership. Type it, handwrite it, whatever means you choose, simply take the time to make it personal. Avoid using labels. Finally, be specific! Illustrate why the member should renew with the Post. Inform about all the good things the Post has done. Highlight the social aspects of the Post. Camaraderie is our ultimate appeal.

Dear (First Name),

We at Post (###) want to thank you for your membership and loyal support. Your membership renewal is vital to our Post’s operations. With your involvement, our meetings remain lively and our programs continue to help our fellow veterans and active duty troops.

Our records indicate that your dues have not yet been paid. If this is incorrect please call our Quartermaster (Name) at (Phone Number) or the National Membership Department (202-265-6280) to verify your payment.

If there is a reason for not renewing your membership, please let us know so we may take corrective action. For example, if you are enduring a financial hardship, our Quartermaster may be able to help reduce your dues.

As our WWII members pass on and the next generation of veterans decline to join VSOs, JWV is in a tough spot. A robust membership gives us a strong voice with our legislators, who fund the VA and are responsive to voting blocs. To be sure, new members are a welcome breath of fresh air. But returning members like yourself? You are precious to JWV. You ensure that funding for veterans’ needs are not shortchanged.

In case you missed it, here are a few of our Post’s recent accomplishments:

• (List Post events and programs, use SPECIFIC numbers. Use quotes from members or those you served.)

Continued on page 14
Brooklyn Wall of Rememberance

In Coney Island, NY, there is a remarkable memorial to the First Responders who heroically gave their lives on 9/11. That Memorial is the work of Jewish veteran Sol Moglen, who knew that he had to find some way to honor those who gave their lives that day. Along with a team of volunteers, he went to work and the first of three sections were completed in 2003. With the 15th anniversary of 9/11 this year, the Wall of Remembrance is a testament to Sol's faith and persistence.

The new Post Commander of Kaufman-Harris-Cone Wayne Post 695 in Wayne, New Jersey, Sol Moglen was named an honorary Deputy Fire Chief for FDNY in recognition of his work in making sure the nation never forgets these heroes. Every year the Wall of Remembrance Foundation hosts a Hero's Night at MCU Stadium in conjunction with the Brooklyn Cyclones. Co-sponsored by the generosity of his Post for the last two years, 100 Wounded Warriors and military personnel from Fort Hamilton, Walter Reed, and Bethesda Naval Hospital were brought to the stadium to enjoy a baseball game at which time several people were honored in a pre-game ceremony with one of them chosen to throw out the first pitch.

The Brooklyn Wall of Remembrance is a unique memorial. Besides being the first major 9/11 Memorial in New York City, it has 417 granite engraved portraits of the First Responders who died that day. Today the wall is visited by people from all over the world. All it took was a promise from a Jewish veteran who never forgot.
7 Questions with a JWV Member

Want to know what an every-day JWV member is like? Get to know one through an easy game of 7 questions! Contact Cindy P. Chambers (cchambers@jwv.org) if you wish to be featured.

1. What was a special moment for you, as a Jew, serving in the military?
In 1969, I was working on the USS Ashtabula, an oiler that fueled carriers in the Gulf of Tonkin. Out of a crew of 300, I was one of eight Jews and we wanted Jewish services. There was a Catholic service and Protestant service, but no Jewish service. I went to the Christian chaplain and he let me basically serve as a lay leader. We even got a write-up in Stars and Stripes because we had 720% attendance! Meaning, the vast majority of the congregation was not Jewish. It was educational for them and meaningful for us. I was proud that I created something out of nothing.

2. For what one thing is JWV Post 29 best known?
Our oral history program. A local public access channel films and records our members’ oral histories of their military service. These interviews are shown on the channel and copies are given to the families of the members for posterity.

3. What is one of your fondest JWV memories?
The process of completing the oral history project. The interviewer had me talk about my youth and then my service. I had never pieced my history together like that or explained my military history to my family. It was reflective. Made me feel like I gave back to my community and to my family.

4. In your opinion, how could JWV serve the veteran better?
We could be better at connecting veterans to their benefits and their rights. Better at communicating and educating. I didn’t know all of the benefits I was eligible for as a Vietnam veteran until I needed more medical treatment. It was confusing. We should work on helping others avoid that type of confusion.

5. What patriotic act occurs in your community that makes you the proudest?
JWV switches off with a few other VSOs to host Memorial Day and Veterans Day at the park. I like that we share the task of teaching the community and honoring veterans. The cooperation makes me as proud as hosting does.

6. What is your favorite Chanukah tradition?
Lighting the Menorah and having latkes with the grandchildren. We sing songs and spin the dreidel. It brings joy to the kids, they celebrate Jewish life. And you can’t ask for anything better – Jewish children enjoying being Jewish.

7. Favorite Mel Brooks film?
Blazing Saddles. No question.

Open Call for The Jewish Veteran Volunteer Committee

Dear readers of The Jewish Veteran, is there a topic related to JWV and veterans that you have a burning desire to write about? Have you been told that your writing prowess is second to none? Do you enjoy drafting, revising, and editing compelling articles to enlighten the masses?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this is the perfect opportunity for you to get involved in JWV’s new The Veteran Volunteer Committee! JWV needs assistance in writing and editing substantive articles and soliciting content from members such as anecdotal stories and compelling photographs.

If you are interested, please send an email to Jordana Green Laurent at jgreen@jwv.org or Adam Lammon at alammon@jwv.org or call 202-265-6280 and ask for the Development Department.

JWV remembered those killed 75 years ago at Pearl Harbor by laying a wreath on December 7 at the USS Arizona memorial. Pictured are Master Chief Ronny German, USCG, and JWV representative Rabbi Aryeh Oberstein. The wreath was donated by the Department of New York.

JWV Kings County Council of the Department of NY honored PNC Jerome Cohen and Disabled American Veterans Service Officer Richard Chan at its annual JWV Veterans Day Luncheon on November 10th with over 130 persons in attendance. Senator Martin Golden spoke at the event to honor Cohen for his military service in the U.S. Navy during WWII.
JWV IN ACTION

At the Rocky Hill Veterans Home, Post 51 CT Arthur Meyers gave each participating veteran a certificate in honor of Veterans Day, with a U.S. postage stamp in the center reflecting the person’s military service. Army veteran Pete Harder took the group photo.

Members of Post 54 IL and the 9th Grade Class of Congregation Etz Chaim in Lombard, IL, clean the headstones and place flags of identified veterans at nearby Oak Ridge Jewish Cemetery. For the second year, Post 54 also spent time sharing their military experiences with the high schoolers in the classroom and at the cemetery.

On Thursday, November 10th, the Great AZ Challah Bake was held at the JCC in Scottsdale, AZ. The Jewish War Veterans had three members attending: Rochelle Hayman and Rhonna Bolton from Post 210 and Lenore Katz from Post 194.

At Cindi’s NY Deli at the Post’s Sunday Poppy Drive on Veterans Day weekend. Post 256 members staffed 14 locations in North Dallas and surrounding suburbs and collected just over $7,000 to benefit hospitalized veterans at the Dallas VA.

JWV Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth and Coordinating Committee Chairman PNC Norman Rosenshein with the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Glenn Walters (c), at the Marine Corps birthday luncheon. The Marine Corps turned 241 years old on November 10th!

Post 210 AZ had numerous members pounding the pavement to collect donations during their Veterans Day Poppy Drive. Thanks to FRY’s they were able to collect funds needed to help support the Arizona State Veterans Home, The Maricopa Stand Down, Mary Ellen’s House, and other Veterans Organizations in the Phoenix area. Pictured are volunteers Terry and Fred Lipovitch.

Department of Minnesota Commander Peter Nickitas at an annual dinner with guest speaker, former US Senator Rudy Boschwitz and his wife. Over one hundred Jewish War Veterans members and their spouses were in attendance. Photo credit: Lou Michaels.
JWV IN ACTION

Post 239 PA assembled care packages for soldiers to have a taste of home for the upcoming holidays. Items were donated by the local Allentown Jewish community, and the Jewish Day School and JCC students made cards. Eight boxes were sent to Operation Gratitude!

Jewish War Veterans Post 178 and Auxiliary and the Department of New Jersey honored the Lakewood Police Department for their quick action in arresting juveniles who placed swastikas on a yeshiva playground this past summer. A plaque was given to the Lakewood Police chief and a $500 donation was given to the Lakewood PBA. Pictured are PNC Michael Berman, Department President Marcia Jacobs, police chief Greg Myers, DC Al Adler, PDC Bob Jacobs, chief of staff Hal Moses and the mayor of Lakewood, NJ, Menasche Miller.

The Beachwood Historical Society and the City of Beachwood partnered to commemorate Veterans Day 2016 at Beachwood Cemetery on Sunday, November 6. Speaking is Post 14 IL member Michael Blain, a Holocaust survivor who served in Korea soon after arriving in the US, and before becoming a United States citizen.

TALO’s Post 757 Honor Guard has been in existence for about four years. They honor not only the veterans, but participate in other events in the Jewish community. From left, Barry Mann, Mike London, Earle Sherrod, Mike Miller, Gregg Philipson, and Audrey Mann.

Members of MO-KAN Post 605 participating in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial Ceremony.

JWV Post 112 visited the US Army Fort Benning regimental chapel for their weekly Sunday morning services. What a great turn out!
Capital District Council JWV Makes Merry with Mitzvahs

By Dr. Sheldon Goldberg, Docent/Historian
at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and member of Post 692

There are a variety of ways that Jewish Veterans approach the calling of Tikkun Olam, the repairing of the world. Jewish War Veteran posts around the country assist in veteran homelessness, volunteer at local VA Hospitals, support active duty troops overseas and volunteer in countless ways to promote Americanism and support to veteran causes.

So why should the Christmas holiday season be any different? The ideals of JWV are big enough to share across faiths and especially in a time of holiday cheer.

Here in Upstate New York, JWV members across the Capital District Council have taken on mitzvahs to help veterans “make merry” during the holiday season. With the first lights of Chanukah falling on Christmas Eve, December 24th, it would seem that the effort makes even more sense than ever before.

The Capital District Council for JWV takes the view that no veteran, no service member, should feel alone for the holidays. We have three major efforts underway that include the support of the leadership of Jewish War Veterans, many are familiar to posts around the country and we encourage other JWV posts to adopt these ideas.

What better mitzvah than to help contribute to our service members this holiday season than to assist in the shipment of some 150 Christmas trees heading out from Upstate New York. JWV will join with volunteers from fellow veteran service organizations, elected officials and members of the National Guard on November 29 to load trees bound for military families, bringing holiday cheer and a visible sign that today’s veterans continue our support for the newest generation of American heroes and their families.

And just as important to the newest veterans, JWV honors the sacrifice of past generations on December 17 with another wonderful mitzvah, the Wreaths Across America campaign (wreathsacrossamerica.org).

The holiday season is a terrific reason to reach out and support our fellow veterans, noted Albany Post 105 Past Commander Dr. Howard Pressman, the coordinator for Operation Jingle Bells. Pressman spent a career at the VA as a dentist seeing patients and continues his support in arranging for the Christmas Eve visit.

The holiday season is a time for cheer and gathering with friends and loved ones. The Jewish War Veterans of the Capital District Council in Upstate New York are proud to join with fellow veteran organizations and show our own support during the holidays and extend our best wishes to JWV members and fellow veterans around the nation.

Chag Sameach!

REDEDICATION OF JEWISH VETERANS MEMORIAL

By Richard Goldenberg, Capital District Council Commander, Albany Post 105 Adjutant; Assistant Editor

A committee and approached the new JCC CEO, Michael Feinstein, to seek permission to improve the site. A new design that included a “Wall of Honor,” and a “Remembrance Walk” was approved but the cost to improve the existing site proved to be exorbitant. Mr. Feinstein then offered another site, on the east front of the JCC, near the main entrance that was open, level, and visible to all who came to the JCC.

Three years later, on November 13, 2016, in a ceremony attended by just over one hundred people and in the presence of the two daughters of the original donor, Mr. Feinstein accepted the enhanced memorial. The sculpture now stands in the middle of a blue stone Magen David embedded in a red brick plaza. The “Wall of Honor” faces the sculpture and the ADA compliant “Remembrance Walk” and both are available for those who wish to purchase pavers and/or plaques to honor loved ones who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces.
The Changing Laws That Impact Us

By Colonel Nelson L Mellitz, USAF, Ret.
JWV National Chief of Staff

Thousands of United States active duty personnel, Reserves, and National Guard are currently “forward-deployed” to 39 countries in support of U.S. combatant commanders. There are nearly 300,000 additional military members in direct support of the forward-deployed troops. Additionally, one-third of forward-deployed troops rotate to new assignments “on average” every six months. Since September 11, 2001 the United States has been actively involved in wars that have involved millions of U.S. military personnel and there is seemingly no end in sight for these wars.

As Jewish War Veterans, we have an obligation to support all active duty, Reserves, National Guard, and veterans – past, present, and future! The following are great resources for veterans and servicemembers:

- DoD Office of Warrior Care Policy Military Caregiver Support
  warriorcare.dodlive.mil/caregiver-resources/
- VA Caregiver Peer Support Mentoring Program www.caregiver.va.gov
- National Family Military Association (Young Families Overcoming Stress) www.militaryfamily.org
- Military Spouse Employment Partners https://msejobs.militaryonesource.mil
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation (Camps for Kids in Military Families)
  www.elizabethdolefoundation.org

As I write this article, the federal government is operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) because the two branches of Congress have not compromised on the Fiscal Year 2017 authorization and appropriation bills. Military, veterans, and branches of the Department of Veterans Affairs are directly impacted because authorized spending under a CR is less than under the approved federal budget, and the CR could be extended through mid-March 2017. We, as military members and veterans, must be aware of changes in current military and veterans’ programs and prevent erosion of benefits whenever possible.

Congressional Bills and Impact on Veterans

- TRICARE fee hikes (Military Retirees): The Senate bill would phase in substantial increases in fees for retirees under 65 years old.
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Veteran Health Administration (VHA) is funded with a two-year budget and will not be “significantly” impacted by the current CR. However, the other branches of the VA including the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) claims and appeals processing could immediately be impacted.
- Defense Commissary Agency’s (DeCA’s): Congressional efforts continue to commercialize the domestic commissaries system.

Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Authorization Bill

- House and Senate leaders still have to compromise on the Defense Authorization bill before it can be sent to the President for a signature. The House and Senate bills are so different that I would run out of space comparing the differences. However, one of the major blockages is use of the “Overseas Contingency Operations fund (OCO)” for domestic base defense budget operations. Both houses want to use the OCO for something that it was not initially intended to be used. Another bill stoppage is the proposed Senate defense bill cap on military pay raise of 1.6 percent compared to the House full funding (in accordance with law) of 2.1 percent.

Please refer to your Congressperson’s website for additional details.

The Jewish War Veterans appreciates your work as a member or patron to establish a national and local JWV presence. Without you, JWV would not be heard in your communities and it would be more difficult for us to support military members, veterans, Israel, and the Jewish community.

The Government’s Fight Against Anti-Semitism

By Adam Lammon

On December 2nd, I was fortunate enough to represent JWV alongside National Chief of Staff Col Nelson Mellitz, USAF (Ret), at a quarterly meeting at the U.S. State Department to discuss the government’s most recent efforts to combat global anti-Semitism. The discussion was led by Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Ira Forman, whose office was established by the passage of the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004. As a political appointee, Mr. Forman is nearing the end of his tenure as the Special Envoy, but he assured the representatives who had gathered on that brisk Friday afternoon that the office’s work would continue under a new political appointee after the Presidential transition in January.

The meeting was primarily concerned with the U.S. government’s efforts to advance a working definition of anti-Semitism at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which represents 57 nations including the United States, Canada, Europe, and many Central Asian states. In addition to Mr. Forman, Rabbi Andrew Baker, Director of International Jewish Affairs at the American Jewish Committee and Personal Representative of the OSCE Chair-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, spoke at length about the difficulty of adopting a working definition due to the OSCE’s institutional bylaws which require consensus on all pending resolutions. Rabbi Baker positively noted that although requiring unanimity made this process rather arduous, the fact that these countries’ foreign ministers were deliberating a working definition for anti-Semitism showed that this issue has been elevated in importance. The OSCE’s adoption of a universally recognized working definition will be crucial towards coordinating a comprehensive push to both monitor anti-Semitic incidents over time and persecute offenders through legal and societal means.

Moreover, Special Envoy Forman was optimistic that the Office of Religion and Global Affairs’ new database compiling the “best practices” of domestic and global organizations promoting religious and cultural tolerance and fighting discrimination will lead to better coordination among nongovernmental organizations. One of the more interesting parts of the discussion focused on the differences between punishing verbal and written anti-Semitism in Europe, which has historically relied on punitive legal measures, and the United States, where prosecution is far more difficult due to the robust free speech protections provided by the 1st Amendment. Interestingly enough, some European countries like France are looking to the United States as an example of how civil society can be inspired to organically condemn anti-Semitism so perpetra-

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The Unesco Resolutions – Further Reducing A Toothless United Nations

By LTC (USA, Ret) Lance Allen Wang, Associate Editor

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

There’s an old saying that “the road to hell is paved with good intentions.” Probably nowhere is this more evident than in the United Nations (UN). The UN was formed with the intention of sustaining peace by promoting international cooperation. While preventing global war has been a success – indeed, it was a showdown in the UN which helped bring the Cuban Missile Crisis to a close – the organization has hardly met its full promise.

Part of the challenge of the UN is that its moral clarity is often obscured by the biases of its members. While some of the overt bias is almost laughable, such as allowing China and Saudi Arabia on the United Nations Human Rights Council, at other times the bias is dangerous. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, freely admitted in 2013 that the UN does have a bias against Israel, although he later walked back his remarks. Regardless, Israel has inevitably found itself on the losing end against coalitions of anti-Israeli elements within the UN for many years, and considering the recent actions by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), this trend will remain unchanged.

While the recent UNESCO resolution, called “Occupied Palestine,” really doesn’t carry a tremendous amount of impact as it has no enforcement mechanism, it does again codify the bias that Mr. Ban spoke about. A week later, a follow-on resolution regarding the “Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls” passed with slightly more conciliatory language, only through some last-minute maneuvering by Israel. The crux of the issue in both of these resolutions is that they delegitimize Israeli claims on ground sacred to the Jewish people is another element of Israel’s destruction. With the understanding that wherever politics and religion meet is a very messy place indeed, one would hope that an organization that maintains “Educational Scientific and Cultural” in its title as a UN agency would, at the very least, acknowledge the cultural basis for Jewish interest in Jerusalem. But it is not to be - sometimes, far more can be achieved or destroyed with the scratch of a pen than has ever been done with explosives.

I still remember as a kid in the early 1970s trick-or-treating with a little box from UNICEF, collecting change to support UN programs to feed starving children. These sorts of efforts from the UN are laudable. However, the UN has zero credibility when it comes to wielding political power - they do not represent the “honest broker.”

Still, despite our frustrations with the UN, all agree that it is better to have a forum for discussion than not. However, until that forum can focus on the true impediments to the peace process – such as ensuring that all parties are willing to accept that Israel has a right to exist, does exist, and will continue to exist – only then can parties move forward towards peace. For now, we are stuck with incremental delegitimizing resolutions such as we see from UNESCO, which only further diminishes an already-diminished UN.
This fall, we sent out an online survey to help us determine how we can best serve your needs and interests. This is especially pertinent as we head into our first year with a five day convention in San Antonio, TX. While it garnered a disappointingly low number of responses, we gathered enough data to help us determine the future of our conventions and NEC conference.

We understand that the system of meetings that may have worked ten years ago does not necessarily fit the organization we are now. However, we cannot give the membership what they want if they don’t show up. Change is a difficult topic for all, and requires some compromise on both sides. You want change? Help us create it, but also understand our limitations.

Transparency is key to building understanding. We are writing about this data in an effort to move forward and give you, our members, what you want.

This survey skews older right off the bat-80% of respondents are over the age of 65, while only 20% are below. Ninety-nine percent of respondents are male. Immediately we see that we are dealing with an older generation whose age is a major factor, and who want change but are unwilling or unable to directly participate.

Fifty percent of the survey was completed by members in New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Texas. Eighteen states in total were represented. These statistics and responses tell us that while many people want change, they do not always see the value of certain meetings. Some workshops and meetings are necessary, however, even if they are unpopular with the attendees. We must change the conversation and the frame of reference.

For example, 13% of respondents are not interested in learning how to file their Post’s taxes, but this is essential for the Post to remain in good standing, legal with the IRS, and the Membership Department spends a large amount of time guiding people through the process. Thirty percent are not interested in the Insurance meeting, but every echelon must have insurance. Twenty-one percent see no reason for the Iraq and Afghanistan meeting, yet these are the people we are actively trying to recruit.

Sixty-four percent would like more social gatherings, but 62% want more opportunities to learn about Post administration, duties, and policies. There is simply not enough time for both. We are not ignoring you concerns and requests, but we have to be cognizant of everyone’s time and purpose.

Over 50% of respondents cited their main reason for not attending Convention or NEC is due to cost. Comments ranged from geographic issues to the cost of “frills” to the use of non-hub cities as convention locations. We certainly understand the frustration, but here is our reasoning:

It’s not easy to choose a Convention location. Contracts have to be signed at least a year prior, and are heavily negotiated after months of research and site visits to different locales. We have to take a number of things into consideration, including number of handicap rooms, price per night, price based on time of the week, proximity of both the airport and restaurants, food and beverage minimums, meeting space, and other concessions. Given that we have an aging membership and our Convention attendees are almost always over the age of 60, we also have to take walking and transportation into account.

To hold the Convention in a “hub city” would increase the rate per room night by $50 or more, which adds up quickly. There is certainly a tradeoff- perhaps it’s a bit cheaper to fly to New York City, but it would cost a lot more overall to book a hotel block there. We are more likely to get a better turn out if the majority of our members live within a few hours of the location, whether by flight or by car. This is one of the major reasons it’s been several years since a Convention was held on the West Coast.

We also found that while most respondents had attended at least one Convention, most did not attend NEC because they thought it was only open to the National Executive Committee (NEC) member from their Department. This is not the case.

We call the February conference “NEC” because it’s easy to say, and because its purpose originally centered about the NEC business meeting itself- while only NEC representatives can vote at this meeting, any and all members are welcome to attend and listen! There are numerous meetings and sessions that are open to all members- in fact, 2017 will have an all new NEC schedule. There’s also Capitol Hill Action Day when we “Storm the Hill” to advocate for our veterans, Shabbat services, and the NMAJMH board meeting.

Progress can be slow, and change can be difficult. We ask that you have patience with both, and if you have concerns- we want to know because your opinions, as members of this organization, matter. You can contact us at jwv@jwv.org.

The Sharon Helman Case - Why It’s Not So Easy to Get Rid of Corrupt VA Employees

By Harvey Weiner, JWV National Judge Advocate

The JWV, along with eleven other veterans organizations, have intervened in the case of Sharon M. Helman v. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which is pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C. According to the briefs and our own pro bono (free) counsel, the facts are as follows: Sharon Helman was a senior executive at the Phoenix VA hospital and was fired on November 25, 2014, for retaliating against a VA whistleblower, for accepting $50,000 in gifts from federal contractors including a trip to Disney World and a ticket to a Beyoncé concert, and for filing false financial disclosure forms. She appealed her firing to the Administrative Law Judge, who affirmed her firing. In the companion criminal matter, she pled guilty in 2016 to making a false financial disclosure to the federal government and received two years’ probation.

After her various acts took place and in response to problems with the VA nationally, on September 26, 2014, the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (“VACAA”) was signed into law, which cuts off any rights of appeal for individuals like Sharon Helman after the Administrative Law Judge’s decision. Formerly, she would have had a right to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board, which reviews decisions by the Administrative Law Judge. She responded by filing an appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Court and argued that Congress could not take away her right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The major legal argument is interesting (for lawyers, anyway) and intertwined with the Constitutional balance of power between the executive and legislative branch. Sharon Helman was an appointee of the executive branch. The second paragraph of Article II, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution (“the Appointments Clause”) vests the power to appoint “Officers of the United States” (query, was Sharon Helman an “Officer”?) solely in the president. Does this act of Congress infringe upon the executive’s powers under the Appointments Clause and is thereby unconstitutional? The Department of Justice apparently thinks so and has refused to defend the elimination of the appeal aspect of VACAA and the VA in court. The twelve veterans groups moved to intervene in the case so that someone would defend the statute and the VA, because they believe that they are helping veterans by upholding a statute which facilitates the prompt and final firing of incompetent or corrupt VA senior employees. It is unusual but not unprecedented for a court to allow intervention by nonparties in this type of situation.

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DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY
Burton Schaffer-126 • Allan Linder-311 • Louis Oringer-609 • Jon Windholz-609 • Robert Yenk-609 • Alan Kloon-609 • Max Silverstein-538 • Leonard Mayersohn-178 • Allen Delevett-133 • Harvey Urman-651 • Stanley Saal-538 • Arnold Kimmel-126

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
Marc Sommers-336 • Bernard Arzt-717 • Jack Fishman-717 • Stanley Levin-717 • Stephen Siliznol-717 • Eli Sfoves-625 • Stephen Appelbaum-69 • Herbert Steinberg-336

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
George Goodman-697 • Stephen Salkof-697 • Jerome Gottesman-697 • Michael Shapiro-575

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST
Elliot Rubenstein-320 • Arnold Tillinger-320 • Millard Biloou-320 • Andrew Ames-320 • Martin Karp-320 • Irwin Leon Aronson-320

DEPARTMENT OF TALO
Peter Marcus-256 • Judy Minkin-256 • Yosef Ben Yisrael-749 • Jeff Reichman-757 • Violet Lawson-795

Survey: Women Troops
Continued from page 1

by that, because that is how most of us feel about our experiences,” said Ellen Haring, director of the SWAN’s Service Women’s Institute. “Even if you had some bad experiences, for most of us the positives have outweighed that.”

Group officials said they don’t want the results to minimize the problems with misogyny and sexual assault in the ranks. But they do hope the survey results help broaden public understanding of what female servicemembers have done while serving, and create a broader appreciation of their sacrifices.

The survey drew responses from nearly 1,200 active-duty troops, reservists and veterans over the last 45 days.

When asked to rank the three most pressing issues facing women troops and veterans, access to women-specific health care in the Defense Department, access to women-specific health care in VA and access to mental health programs topped respondents’ list.

But when asked their own most pressing challenges, the women answered differently. About 35 percent still said access to mental health care was of top importance, but that was followed by finding ways to connect with other women veterans (32 percent) and ensuring their families’ financial stability (32 percent).

Roughly 68 percent said the military needs to take a bigger role in improving awareness of women’s military and veterans contributions, and 57 percent said veterans groups need to do more.

Forty-seven percent said the media needs to do a better job with that. When asked how often the entertainment industry portrays servicewomen, 78 percent said they rarely or never see those roles.

Results of the survey are available online at SWAN’s website.

Sharon Helman Case
Continued from page 15

The case was argued on December 5, 2016, before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which took the case under advisement. Because of the importance of the issues, the Court allowed the parties to argue more than twice the normal time allotted. A decision is expected within four to six months.

If Sharon Helman wins, she is not necessarily reinstated in her job. It just means that she has a further right of appeal, but the process drags on. Veterans groups must stand up in court for veterans, particularly where it affects the most vulnerable veterans—those under the care and protection of the VA. Even if the J WV is ultimately unsuccessful, it is worth the fight. Stay tuned.
NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Development Committee Report
PNC Monte Mayer, Chairman

I am pleased to report that the 2017 Annual Calendar is ready for your direct mail reception. Since this is the 100th anniversary of the United States entering World War I, we remember with pride those members who served this country during that conflict. There were Medal of Honor recipients and many unspoken heroes who preceded us in JWV. We honor these individuals, both male and female, who served our country in its need. From the walls in New Amsterdam to Iraq and Afghanistan today, our Jewish-American brethren have always served admirably.

Our programs for the 2016 year were well received and accomplished their primary function, raising the funds necessary for JWV to continue its activities. Our 2016 Calendar, Mailing Labels, the Defenders program for our donors only, and our High Holiday Cards are the mailings that went out this year.

We do know that the High Holiday cards were received late this year, and for that we sincerely apologize. There was a degree of circumstances out of our control, but I hope you were still able to appreciate the beautiful cards.

If you are a member or Patron and have not received these mailings, then please contact JWV by mail or e-mail. Make sure to tell our Development Department that you are not on the mailing list.

If you have a story to tell, please take the time to send us a copy of your story with photos of your service so that we can consider it for publication in the Calendar or The Veteran.

Scouting Committee Report
Dr. Barry J. Schneider, National Scouting Chair

The Scouting Committee is beginning to make progress because of the workshop held during National Convention. I have also received two inquiries about membership on the committee, and several requests for certifications or information on how to get certificates because of the article published in the last issue of The Veteran.

A new form to request Eagle Scout certificates was developed by JWV Program’s Assistant Adam Lammon. The form will give us consistency and provide a record of recipients. You can find the form at www.jwv.org/programs/patriotic/boy_scouts or by emailing Adam at lammon@jwv.org.

I certainly recommend that we continue to have workshops at National Convention, and that we keep publishing articles in the Veteran as events dictate. Please keep us up to date if you are active within the Boy Scout or Girl Scout community in your local area!

NMI Certificates
Hannah Deutch, NMI Certificates Chair

This is the first time in a long time that I am happy to make this report. From the convention in August through November 15, we received the following requests:

JWV $1,556 plus JWVA $50 for a total of $1,606. This is for a period of three months. If you keep up the good work, the nine month period ahead should give us a total of $6,424 for a year. Please JWVA, can you try to do a little better?

If we take the figures from NEC in February until November 15, it looks quite different. JWV $5,292 plus JWVA $299 for a total of $5,491 for a nine month period. Both totals take us above the requested budget.

Thank you one and all until the next report.

I wish you all a happy, safe, and joyful Chanukah!

OFFERED TO OUR VALUED JWV MEMBERS AND SPOUSES AGE 65 AND OLDER

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

CAN YOU COVER WHAT YOUR COVERAGE DOES NOT?

After you’re discharged from the hospital, what plan covers your costly “recovery care” services? Possibly, your personal or retirement savings plan.

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS! PLEASE CALL: 1-800-503-9230 or visit www.jwvinure.com

Plan information includes costs, exclusions, limitations, reduction of benefits and terms of coverage. Coverage may not be issued in some states. All benefits are subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. Policies underwritten by Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company. Company detail exclusions, limitations, reduction of benefits and terms under which the policies may be continued in force or discontinued.

Underwritten by: Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company, Hartford, CT 06155
The Hartford® is The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., and its subsidiaries, including issuing company Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company.

Program Administered by Mercer Health & Benefits Administration LLC
AR Insurance License #100102691CA Insurance License #0G39709
In CA d/b/a Mercer Health & Benefits Insurance Services LLC

GET THE FACTS — NOW!

FACT #1 MEDICARE limits the home health care it will pay for.

FACT #2 TRICARE has strict criteria to qualify and does not cover home health aide, homemaker or companion services at all.

ALERT! If you need more than what Medicare or TRICARE covers, you may either pay for it yourself — or go without.

The JWV Hospital Income and Short Term Recovery Insurance Plan can help put you in charge, with CASH BENEFITS for hospital AND at-home recovery care.

• Affordable JWV-negotiated group rates for members/spouses
• Cash benefits paid directly to you or anyone you choose, in addition to any other coverage you may have
• Use the money any way you want — no restrictions
Dear Sisters,

It has been truly a wonderful experience for me the past three months since I was elected and sworn in as your President. Your caring and commitment towards me has been selfless.

Your support of our organization shows the love we have for our country and the respect for past and present Veterans. Our community programs, our love for children and our support of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History is just a brief synopsis of what we are all about.

I have been speaking to our Past National Presidents and many of our sisters. Our PNP, Marcia Kantorwitz, shared with me that she wore her JWVA uniform on Veterans Day at her new residence.

The residents were very impressed and she shared with them her experience as President and the background of the National Ladies Auxiliary of the JWV. She was so honored to represent us and we have so much to be proud of for all the great deeds we do.

The NEC is February 16 - February 19, 2017 at the Marriott in Crystal City and I am looking forward to seeing and spending time with my JWV and JWVA family.

A very Happy Hanukkah and I am wishing for the festival of lights shine down upon you and your loved ones. May your New Year be filled with Peace, Love and Harmony. Happy New Year 2017!

Loyally,
Linda

Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower for Military Women

By PNP Elaine Bernstein, Chairman

This coming year at our convention in San Antonio, Texas we will be holding our annual baby shower for the benefit of pregnant military women. It is our way of saying Thank You to these women for serving our country.

We fill the baskets with items needed for a newborn. If you would like to make a purchase of these items yourself, you may do so, but remember we need neutral colors that can be for either girls or boys. If you would like us to do the shopping, kindly send your monetary donation by check payable to PNP Rita Panitz, 858 Cardinal Pointe Cove, Sanford, FL 32771 and earmark Baby Shower.

The JWV Ladies Auxiliary National President, Linda Colon, honored at Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital Presentation.

JWVA says thank you to all JWV and JWVA members and friends who purchased a box in our annual World Series Pool. The winner of the $250 prize was PNP Joanne Blum.

PNP Charlene Ehrlich, Chairman

Thank you to all who remembered me after my fall. Your thoughts and support were greatly appreciated.

Loyally yours,
Barbara Greenberg, PNP

HAND IN HAND WE STAND TALL
SAVE THE DATE!
August 27 - September 1, 2017
We will be having our National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Please set these dates aside because this will be one of the best yet! Information will be forthcoming.
Rita Panitz • PNP Convention Chairman
Barbara Greenberg • PNP Convention Co-Chairman

WOW!
The next time you go to our Museum in Washington, check out the PNP Paver. At the Convention in Savannah, the Past National Presidents voted to buy a large paver. Join us with yours!
Joanne Blum, PNP, President, PNP Club

AID TO ISRAEL
By Verna Rosenzweig, AP • Chairman, Aid to Israel
JWVA proudly supports the Chaim Sheba Medical Centre in Tel Hashomer, Israel through the purchase of bricks, donation of equipment, funds for nurses’ scholarships.

The hospital was established in 1948 as Israel’s first military hospital to treat casualties of Israel’s War of Independence. It was founded in a cluster of abandoned military barracks and was originally known as Army Hospital No. 5. In 1953 it became a civilian hospital and Dr. Chaim Sheba became its director. Following Dr. Sheba’s death the hospital was renamed in his honor.

Chaim Sheba includes an acute care hospital which is one of the largest rehabilitation hospitals in the world, a women’s hospital, a children’s hospital, an eating disorder clinic, a PTSD clinic for soldiers, a laboratory division, an outpatient division, and an academic campus.

Chaim Sheba Medical Centre provides services to patients from across the Middle East including many patients (especially children) from the Palestinian Authority. It also provides guidance and mentoring in the planning, construction and operation of healthcare systems and hospitals around the world.

We are asking for your support of our Aid to Israel Program and your prayers for their safety.

FUNDRAISING
Dear Sisters,
We will have many things for sale at the NEC in February. Just think how much fun you can have choosing from many items and at the same time support your National Ladies Auxiliary.

If you knit or crochet, please take home the instructions for the crutch covers. This is our newest fundraiser which benefits the military at Camp Pendleton, California and our National Ladies Auxiliary. We will have a variety of watches, Las Vegas tear-offs and woolen scarves for sale.

Don’t forget to bring your check or cash for all the change that you have collected in your “Every Penny Counts Box” since August. Then, you can start all over again collecting from the NEC until our National Convention in August.

I hope to see many Sisters from all over the Country in Crystal City, VA in February.

Loyalty,
Linda P. Singer, NJVP
Chairman, Fundraising

CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Be a wise consumer! This advice is more important now than ever before. Our modern technology that is so helpful, can also be a source of identity theft and scams of many types. Here are some resources to help you stay informed:

The United States General Services Administration Federal Citizen Information Center produces a wonderful Consumer Action Handbook full of information from the Federal Trade Commission about a wide range of issues. Their list of Better Business Bureaus, state and local Consumer Protection Offices, and Corporate Consumer Contacts is invaluable. They also have many other specialized brochures. Make note of your state or local Consumer Office right away for future use. You can contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP or www.ftc.gov to order these free materials.

AARP produces an excellent series of free consumer brochures on subjects such as “The Top Frauds and Scams” and “Avoiding Investment Scams and Frauds.” To order these, call 1-888-687-2277 or visit www.aarp.org/money.

Harriet Epstein, PAP, Consumer Affairs Chairman

Editor’s Note: The next deadline is February 24, 2017.
Attention all chairmen: please send captions with your photos designating the event and naming the people in the photo.
Mail to: Marion Chasen
64 Lawrence Drive, Apt. A,
White Plains, NY 10603
OR email marionchason@gmail.com.
President’s Message

The connection between Jews in the American military and Israel goes way back. Isaac N. Cohen served in the Civil war from 1862 – 1865 with the 14th New Hampshire Infantry. Cohen was an immigrant born in Jerusalem. He entered the Army from Kensington, New Hampshire, where he worked as a cigar maker. His discharge paper issued at the end of the war in Savannah on July 8, 1865, lists his birthplace as Jerusalem, Syria. It’s fascinating to think about what Cohen’s journey from Jerusalem to the War Between the States must have been like.

It’s important to maintain our connection to Israel in the tradition of Isaac Cohen. In today’s America, too often Jewish service in the military is associated exclusively with Israel and the IDF. It’s equally important to remember how many Jews, like Israel Cohen and every member of the Jewish War Veterans, have contributed to the American military. That’s our mission at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Help us to tell the stories of men and women who served their country. Help us to discover more about men like Isaac Cohen and those who served before and after him.

The Our Heroes photo kiosk is just one opportunity to be represented at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Support the museum by placing your photo or your hero’s photo on the kiosk with a $180 donation. This is a way to help ensure that Jewish service in the American military gets recognized. Show your place in this important history.

The easiest way to order is on our website at https://nmajmh.org/product/our-heroes-photo-kiosk/. You can enter the name, branch of service and other information directly on the website and upload a photo of you or your hero. We’ll get everything printed and installed on the kiosk in the museum’s exhibit space. Thanks for your continued support of the museum!

Program Updates

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

We continued our author talk series with Douglas Stark on September 18th. Stark is the author of The SPHAS: The Life and Times of Basketball’s Greatest Jewish Team and Wartime Basketball: The Emergence of a National Sport during World War II. He discussed the history of Jews in basketball and how war changed the game as it emerged as a professional sport. Some of the best teams in basketball during the 1940s were service squads including the Great Lakes Naval Station team. Another Navy team at Norfolk Naval Training Station included some Jewish all-time greats of the game like Red Auerbach and Red Holzman.

Author Samantha Horwitz joined us on October 16th. She wrote The Silent Fall: A Secret Service Agent’s Story of Tragedy and Triumph After 9/11. She took us through her dramatic experiences on 9/11. Sam was in the parking garage below One World Trade Center when the plane hit the building. She worked to evacuate people from the other buildings amid the chaos of that day. The trauma she experienced had a tremendous impact on her life. Sam described her continuing journey to overcoming the post-traumatic stress. Today, she devotes herself to helping others with PTSD, including veterans.

The week of Veterans Day was busy! We put together care packages for hospitalized veterans at the museum. It was nice to work with several partners on this one. Our thanks to Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation’s Capital, MoEd/סינוד: A Jewish Afterschool Community, Sephardic Heritage in D.C., and Moishe House Capitol Hill. Our “Erev Veterans Day” activity including a concert of Sephardic music from Judith Cohen. The concert attendees brought books, games, toiletries, and other materials to include in the care packages.

On Veterans Day, we had children, adults, locals, and visitors from around the country helping with the project. It was great to see our Education Center filled with a couple hundred completed care packages by the end of the day. Thanks to all who participated!

Most of the visitors got tours of the museum and were excited to learn more about the contributions of American Jews to the military. We want to continue to use the museum to connect the Jewish community to their history as well as provide a link to living veterans. More than one visitor commented that it was great to have a Jewish connection to Veterans Day.

A Veterans Day card made by a student from MoEd/סינוד: A Jewish Afterschool Community.
Nearly every household has photographs scattered about in drawers and boxes. You know you should take proper care of them, but are not sure how.

First and foremost, one of the simplest (and arguably the most important) things that you can do to preserve your photos is to caption them. Identify who is in the picture, and when and where it was taken. When labeling photos use a felt tip pen or a pencil; many stores sell specific film and photo marking pens. A ballpoint pen can leave an impression on the reverse side of your photo, so avoid using them. If you can only do one thing to help preserve your photos, caption them. Captioning photos preserves the information about and within the photos, enabling the photo to tell its story to future generations. Keeping a photo in pristine, but unlabeled, condition is of no use to future generations if they do not know who is in the photo and when and where it was taken. If you do nothing else, caption those photos!

Store photographs in cool, dry areas. Damp conditions can encourage the growth of mold, attract insects, and cause photographs to curl or to stick together. Avoid hot attics or damp basements or garages. Hot storage conditions can speed deterioration, resulting in staining, discoloration, and embrittlement. The worst place to store your photos is in an attic or basement as high temperatures and high relative humidity will accelerate deterioration.

Exposure to visible and ultraviolet light is potentially damaging to photographs. Light can cause brittleness, discoloration, and fading in prints and hand-colored surfaces. For this reason, you should avoid long-term display of photographs. If you have photographs that you are particularly concerned about preserving, consider having copies made and displaying those instead so that you can safely store (and preserve) the originals.

Small groups of photographs of the same size and type can be kept together in small groups within folders or envelopes within boxes. Use preservation-quality folders and boxes that are large enough to fully enclose and support the photographs. Avoid materials such as acidic paper or cardboard (no shoeboxes!). Choose materials that say “archival” on the label. Photographs in poor condition or that have special value can be individually stored in stable plastic sleeves made from preservation-quality polyester or polyethylene. Do not laminate photographs as this can permanently damage them.

Finally, many people these days are amassing huge collections of digital photographs. It is important to also think about how those photographs will survive into the future. You will want to consider having multiple copies of the photos stored on external hard drives. This will protect you in case anything catastrophic should happen to your computer. As with print images, you will want to preserve the information about your photographs so future generations can decipher them. Create a directory structure for storing your pictures. You can organize your photos by year, location, person, or any other method that makes sense to you. Captioning is still important, and one of the easiest ways to caption a digital image is to name the files with a description of its contents, such as “jacob_wedding.jpg” or “washington-sunset.jpg.”

Make sure to delete any spaces in a file name; some programs have trouble when they encounter file-name spaces. An even better naming practice is to include the date of the photo in the file name. “Year-month-day” is one way to do it. So, if I took a photo in Washington on November 13, 2016, I might name it “20161113-washington.jpg.”

Keep in mind that if your digital photos are difficult for you to manage, how will your loved ones be able to make sense of them in the future?
Anti-Semitism

Continued from page 13

and American values. Affairs for their unwavering support for Jews Forman and the Office of Religion and Global its many allies has been instrumental in mov- ing us towards a brighter future. On behalf of JWV, I would like to thank Special Envoy

Despite that the world has a long way to go for its many allies has been instrumental in moving us towards a brighter future. On behalf of JWV, I would like to thank Special Envoy of religion and global affairs. Despite that the world has a long way to go before Jews no longer have to endure the prejudice and conspiracy-laden diatribes of anti-Semites, the work of the U.S. government and its many allies has been instrumental in moving us towards a brighter future. On behalf of JWV, I would like to thank Special Envoy of religion and global affairs.

after nearly seven years of effort, the new Korean War Memorial in the Presidio of San Francisco has now been completed. On the morning of Monday, August 1, 2016, hundreds of the dwindling number of Korean War veterans and their families and descendants gathered in the Presidio for the long-awaited Opening Ceremony. They were joined by government and business leaders, donors, supporters, and friends from all over the United States, the Republic of Korea, and other nations. In all, more than 1,000 people participated in this landmark event.

The speakers and other dignitaries in attendance included former U.S. Congressman Pete McCloskey, former U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Korea Kathleen Stephens, Republic of Korea ambassador to the United States Ahn Ho-young, U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, and JWV member Judge Quentin L. Kopp, of Post 688 CA and current President and Chair of KWMF. The ceremony began in the San Francisco National Cemetery, where 2,273 Americans who fought in the Korean War are buried. After remarks by the distinguished speakers, the crowd then moved to the adjacent Korean War Memorial for the ribbon-cutting and official opening of the Memorial to the public. Now that the Memorial has become a reality, KWMF is funding and developing an education program to ensure that today’s Bay Area youth and future generations remember the so-called “Forgotten War.”

The main Memorial wall, polished black granite laser-etched with iconic images from the Korean War.
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Happy Chanukah!

Allan & Sheila Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

PNC Lou & Gloria Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

Any Jewish WWII person captured and
sent to Aushcwitz, etc., and survived

PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw
Eugene Baraw • Post 336

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach

Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger
Naples/Denver • USFA/USASETAf

Jerry Berns - Chicago Post 153
In Memory of my Ethyle and Evelyn

PNC Jerry & PNP Joanne Blum
Good Health & Happiness to All

In Memory of All who gave their lives
Post 652-Merrick, NY

In Memory of Harold Cohen • Post 212
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Marshall & Diane Duberstein
Gerald H. Elkan • North Carolina
Harold Engleman, K.C.C. / NEC
Nat’l Chaplain Jerry Farris • Post 239
Arthur Fleischman • PPC 717 & 258
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In memory of Sam Goldberg

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Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz
Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) • Post 62 OH
In appreciation of Rabbi&Myra Feinberg
In Memory of PCC Harry Kreiger, DEC
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L’chaim - To Life

PNP Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

Bernie Rader • Post’s 20 and 642
In loving memory of those who served

From Ed Robins, in Honor of Helene
Your memory will stay with me forever

Jerry & Lea Rosenberg • Post 740 NJ
Good Health & Happiness to All
Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

PNP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
Good Health & Happy Holidays
IMO Post 42’s Four Legs of the Table
Marty, Morris, Murray & Warren

Stephen & Helen Sax
To the 2%
Irv Schildkraut PPC Post 440
USMC-USN-R-USA

Harriet & Norman Schnitzer PDC
PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

PDP Linda & Stuart Singer
In memory of PDC Bill Singer

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129 NY
Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWW

CH Murray Stadtmauer • Post 648
In loving memory of Clare Studtmauer

Shalom & Mazel Tov to all Veterans
Greta & Jerry Stoliar • Post 346

To All Surviving Jewish WWII prisoners
L’Chaim!

NEC Paul and Norma Warner

NJA Harvey & Linda Weiner
Be Well!

Major Stuart Adam Wolfer
www.msawi.org

Jeri Zweiman
In loving memory of Bob Zweiman

David S. Zwerin, PDC
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To All Our Troops • Be Safe, Be Well!

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