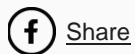




[Check the Website for DAV Chapter #23](#)



Share



Tweet



Forward

**Next Monthly meeting is:**

**Wednesday April 24, 2024**

# 2023-24 E-board Please Wear "BLUE" Shirts

(We wore RED Last Month)

Setup Volunteers Please arrive at 4:00 PM  
to assist with the meeting room setup.

1700 E-board meeting (back room)  
1800-1900 Social Hour (Meal Time)  
1900-TBA 2024-25 E-board Installation

---

**Feeling Generous and want to make a Donation to our chapter?**

## **Donate by Mail**

**Make Checks Payable to: "DAV - Chapter #23"**

**DAV Chapter #23  
PO Box 10335  
Santa Ana, CA 92711**

Your gift gives ill and injured veterans the opportunity to live a life with respect and dignity. Help change the lives of even more veterans in need with a donation to DAV today.

[About Your Gift](#)

By making a gift to DAV you are empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## DAV Chapter 23 2024-2025 E-Board

### Installation of New E-Board

Commander Ron Counts  
Sr Vice Commander Bob Sanchez  
Jr Vice Commander Craig Abbott  
Adjutant/Secretary Ed Sherlock  
Assistant Adjutant Secretary Mona Marche  
Treasurer Richard Sundell  
Judge Advocate Joe "Nightrain" Gramoglia  
Jr Past Commander Mel Forbes  
Chaplain #1 Doug Zimmer  
Chaplain #2 Charles Frost  
Executive Committee Member #1 Denice Marquez  
Executive Committee Member #2 Steve Marsh  
Sergeant-At-Arms Anna "Rain" Bouchard

Membership Admin/Web/Newsletter John "Mack" Mackus  
Officer Of The Day Manuel Alvarez



## RESOURCES

### VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities Update

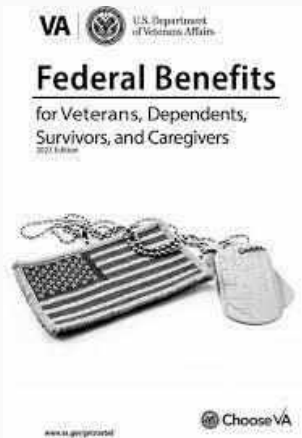
New or adjusted evaluations for several digestive conditions will begin May 19, 2024. Full details on the changes and the link to apply are available in [our blog](#).



### A Veteran's Vulnerability Unlocks Mental Healing

Yasmeen became severely depressed after witnessing a fellow Sailor die while in the Navy. After attempting self-harm, she knew it was time to seek help. Watch Yasmeen describe the crucial role that VA counseling played in her mental health journey.

[Learn More](#)



## VA Federal Benefits Booklet

The [VA Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents Survivors, and Caregivers booklet](#) is a thorough guide that explains the numerous VA benefits and services to Veterans, their families and caregivers, and includes several helpful phone numbers and websites.

[View the VA Benefits Booklet](#)

Check out your Benefits

<https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/>



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Annual Veterans Creative Arts Local Competition**

# You're invited to enter in the annual Veterans Creative Arts Local Competition

**ART | CREATIVE WRITING | DANCE | DRAMA | MUSIC**

Participating Veterans must be enrolled to receive care at VA Long Beach  
Only recent work created after October 1, 2023 are accepted

**Registration Deadline  
July 19, 2024**

For complete rules, eligibility information, and entry forms contact BRC Recreation Therapists:  
[elizabeth.greco@va.gov](mailto:elizabeth.greco@va.gov)  
[vineeceflorabe.whitener@va.gov](mailto:vineeceflorabe.whitener@va.gov)

**Judging & Exhibition  
August 9, 2024**

The Egg  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Entries will be on display to the public.  
Come support your fellow Veterans and learn more about art resources!



NATIONAL VETERANS  
CREATIVE ARTS  
COMPETITION



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
VA Long Beach Healthcare System

Registration for the 2024 Creative Arts Local Competition is now open! VA Long Beach Veterans are welcome to enter their work in the Arts, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, and Music Divisions.

Registration deadline: July 19, 2024

Judging & Exhibition: August 9, 2024, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., The Egg, Bldg. 165

For complete rules, eligibility information, and entry forms contact BRC Recreation Therapists:

[Elizabeth Greco](mailto:elizabeth.greco@va.gov)

[Vineece Florabe Whitener](mailto:vineeceflorabe.whitener@va.gov)



Many VA health care travel expenses are eligible for reimbursement. Are yours?

## VA's Travel Reimbursement Program

VA wants to make it easy for you to receive care, and to help you travel to and from your appointments. VA offers many options for quality health care tailored for

Veterans, from VA medical centers and community-based outpatient clinics to virtual care and telehealth appointments.

If you do need a face-to-face appointment, you may incur a cost to travel to see a provider. Did you know you may be eligible for reimbursement of some or all of those travel

expenses?

VA's travel reimbursement program can help.

[Read more on VA News](#)



## **Veteran Career Resource Summit - April 19**





# VETERAN CAREERS RESOURCE SUMMIT

- Coastline alumni veteran panel
- Employer panel
  - We'll be inviting employers who are have preferential hiring for veterans and those who serve in the military
- Breakfast and lunch are included
- Networking opportunities

**FRIDAY APRIL 19**  
**8:30 AM - 12 PM PDT**

**IN PERSON AT FOUNTAIN VALLEY  
STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING  
ROOM 109**



**REGISTER  
HERE**

**When:** Friday, April 19, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** Coastline College, 11460 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, Fountain Valley Student Services Building, Rm 109

[Register](#)





# RESOURCES

## [VA Podcast Network](#)

The [VA Podcast Network](#) offers a diverse selection of top-quality podcasts made with a Veteran community in mind. Each podcast specializes on a different topic and covers gripping content that no Veteran should want to miss out on.



## Free Service to Help Preserve and Share Your Military Service Story

Together We Served is offering Veterans a free service to help preserve and share your memories and photos of key people and events from your military service. You can share this presentation with friends and family.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Your Claim Exam Questions Answered

After filing a disability claim, you may have some lingering questions about what comes next in the claims process. Many Veterans wonder what will happen at their [VA claim exam](#) (also known as a compensation and pension, or C&P exam). To help answer these questions, VA has updated two websites to [provide current information on frequently asked questions](#).





## Join DAV California for our Upcoming Convention!



The 2024 Annual Convention of the Department of California will be held May 15-18, 2024 at the The Hotel Fera in Anaheim (100 The City Dr. Orange, CA 92868)! *Committee meetings will begin May 15th and the convention festivities begin on May 16th.*

Room rates are \$129+tax. You must make your reservations for the Hotel Fera before the Friday April 19th, 2024 cutoff date in order to receive our group rate. Contact the hotel to make reservations directly by calling (833) 301-0994. Please make sure that you request the group rate for the “Disabled American Veterans Department of California 2024 California State Convention.”

Click here to register for convention and learn more details (And share this link with anyone who might be interested):

<https://www.davcal.org/convention-2024.html>

For all questions regarding convention, please contact [Events@davcal.org](mailto:Events@davcal.org)

Hope to see you all there!

DAV Dept. of California  
13733 Rosecrans Ave.  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
[hq@davcal.org](mailto:hq@davcal.org)



**MIA Update: See website**

<https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaRecentlyAccountedFor>

**Claim Shark companies** have made statements that they aren't breaking the law because they don't charge fees for "preparing" veterans' claims. Claim Sharks state that they "assist" or "consult" for veterans' claims, and this how they rationalize why they should be allowed to

charge thousands of dollars for their services.

This is still illegal. Using creative semantics to skirt the law is not innovative, and it is not honest or transparent.

There are no “good actors” or “bad actors”. Every company that charges for initial claims assistance is doing it illegally.

Claim Sharks say veterans should have the “choice” to be fleeced out of thousands of dollars. No matter how much money these companies spend on Capitol Hill, We will not allow them to dismantle consumer protections and normalize harming veterans.

**VETERANS, GET ON THIS TODAY:**

**DON'T MISS OUT ON WHAT BENEFITS ARE  
AVAILABLE TO YOU.**

**"You can only blame yourself if you are  
not receiving the VA benefits you rate"**

**The VA will only give you what you ask for,  
So ask for every injury you know you received in service,  
remember most injuries get worse over time for most of us  
aging veterans**

**(Yes, We know a Few of you are Extremally healthy)**

**You can do this yourself Online,  
Just need to create a VA.Gov account if you have not already done so.**

## **DAV Veteran Service Officer (VSO)**

Were here to help you submit your claim/s.

**Long Beach VAMC**

5901 E. 7th St.

Bldg. 8, Room 107

Long Beach, CA 90822

Hours: 8-3 M-F

(562) 826-5711

**Department Service Officer:**

**Bryan Root**

562-826-8000 x8587

bryan.root@davcal.org

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## Disabled American Veterans Department of CA

Address:

13733 Rosecrans Ave, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Hours:

Friday 8 AM–4 PM

Saturday Closed

Sunday Closed

Monday 8 AM–4 PM

Tuesday 8 AM–4 PM

Wednesday 8 AM–4 PM

Thursday 8 AM–4 PM

Phone: [\(562\) 404-1266](tel:(562)404-1266)

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### Your Local DAV National Service Officer (NSO) can help with:

- Assisting veterans in filing claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs for compensation, pension, healthcare, and other benefits.

- Caregiver benefits
- Guidance on state and local veteran benefits
- Burial benefits for qualified veterans and their spouse
- Vocational Readiness and Employment benefits

SAN DIEGO, CA YOUR OFFICE  
VA Regional Office  
8810 Rio San Diego Dr, Ste 1160  
(619) 299-6916

Have Ideas for the New Website / Newsletter,  
Please send them in.

I am always looking for new content for the website  
and our Newsletters,



### ***Link's to things you need to know***



Careers and Employment



Life Insurance



Disability



Pension



Burials and Memorials



Education and Training



Housing Assistance



Records

**VA is here for you.**

[1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411) ([800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411)) is always the right number



[DAV Helps Keep the Promises Made to Veterans](#)

DAV--Disabled American Veterans--is a nonprofit charity that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than 1 million veterans in positive, life-changing ways each year. The organization provides more than 500,000 rides for veterans attending medical appointments annually and has assisted veterans with more than 12 million benefit claims since the organization was chartered by Congress in 1932. In 2022, DAV helped attain more than \$26 billion in earned benefits to care for veterans, their families and survivors.

**Hello New DAV Chapter #23 Partial & Full Life Members  
You are a Life Member once you pay \$325.00,**



If you are a Paid up for Life Member, Come to our  
meeting  
(4th Wednesday of each month)  
Show the Commander (Mel Forbes) your Life  
Membership card,  
and receive a DAV Chapter Tee Shirt.



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**For any Information that needs to be put into our  
newsletter. Please email Newsletter editor:  
[Past Commander John "Mack" Mackus](#)**

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**JOHN "Mack" MACKUS**  
MEMBERSHIP | WEBMASTER | NEWSLETTER | PAST COMMANDER  
Sponsor # 0402315006895

JACK FISHER CHAPTER #23  
PO BOX 10335  
SANTA ANA, CA 92711

Cell: (949) 716-6400  
GySgtMackus@msn.com  
www.DAV23.com

**ORANGE COUNTY DAV CHAPTER #23**  
MONTHLY MEETING'S: 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
LOCATION: VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3173  
805 E. SYCAMORE ST., ANAHEIM, CA 92805

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check recruited, use Sponsor # & Info on front of this card

**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES**  
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED



WEBSITE: [www.DAV23.com](http://www.DAV23.com)  
Facebook.com/DAVchapter23



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[Join DAVA Unit #23 Now](#)

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[WWW.AWARDCREATIONS.COM](http://WWW.AWARDCREATIONS.COM)

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Appreciation in Words**

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**Our mailing address is:**

**DAV Chapter #23  
PO Box 10335  
Santa Ana, CA 92711**

