



**Fall Conference  
2<sup>nd</sup> DEC Meeting  
October 2022**

**Committee  
Reports**



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)  
Department of Virginia  
P.O. Box 7176  
Roanoke, Va 24019-0147  
Phone No. (540) 206-2575  
Fax No. (540) 206-2925  
E-Mail: [virginiadavhq@cox.net](mailto:virginiadavhq@cox.net)  
Department Website: [www.virginiadav.org](http://www.virginiadav.org)

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Fall Conference  
FROM: Rita Aberegg, Chair  
Subject: Report of the Audit Committee

This report is for the period June 20<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Audit Committee has not met since the Fall Conference of 2021. Stephen Perkins has reviewed all vouchers since then and the Audit Committee will not meet to review those that have been submitted while we are at the Annual Convention.

The Audit Committee members; John Simmons and Cynthia Bailey; have reviewed the Quarterly Distribution Reports of those chapters receiving funds from the Thrift Stores, as well as the Annual Financial Reports (AFR). We intend to review any discrepancies with the pertinent personnel of each chapter, to ensure the funds received are being used for Service to Veterans. This is a Work in Progress and the committee is open to suggestions on how we can make filing these Quarterly Reports as easy as possible.

The Audit Committee will meet 21 October 2022 in Roanoke to perform the Annual Department Audit. At that time, we will review those chapter AFR's submitted that are not Thrift Store Chapters. Any discrepancies will be shared with the Department Adjutants and Treasurer, and chapters will be notified. Those chapters failing to provide an AFR will be asked to provide one as soon as possible.

I look forward to meeting with as many comrades as feel comfortable attending the Fall Convention. It's been a hard year and I know the light at the end of the tunnel is fresh air and freedom for us all.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Aberegg



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)  
Department of Virginia Awards Committee  
E-Mail: [ac.virginiadav@gmail.com](mailto:ac.virginiadav@gmail.com)  
Phone: (757) 663-6629

October 5, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Fall Department Convention  
FROM: James Smith Jr., Awards Committee Chair  
Subject: Report of the Awards Committee

This report is for the period July 16, 2022, through October 14, 2022

The awards committee has completed the discussion and review of award nominations submitted by chapters. The following results are submitted:

The following Awards are presented for 2022 Fall Conference:

Outstanding Chapter of the Year- **Portsmouth Federal Chapter 22**  
Outstanding Community Service by a Chapter (W. Pat White Award): **No Presentation**  
Outstanding Community Service by a Member (W. Pat White Award): **Samuel Watkins (28)**  
Outstanding Volunteer Service (Emmanuel N. Vlattas Award): **No Presentation**  
Outstanding Chapter Service Officer (Phyllis B. Simmons Award): **David Clay (7)**

The following awards were based on reports from the National Membership System:

NSO Membership Recruiter of the Year: **Lewis Ramsey (60)**  
Membership Recruiter of the Year: **Will King (7)**  
Overall Membership Over Goal - **Chapter 22**  
Overall Percentage Increase - **Chapter 3**  
Under 500 Members, Over Goal - **Chapter 58**  
Under 500 Members, Percentage Increase - **Chapter 9**

The Committee will be presenting a seminar at the 2023 Spring Conference. We look forward to seeing Chapters submit members and others that deserve to be recognized.

Respectfully submitted,

*James Smith Jr*

James Smith Jr.  
Chair, Dept. Awards Committee



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October 6, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Department Fall Conference  
FROM: Shawn B. Ware, Chair  
Subject: Report of the Employment Committee

This report is for the period June 20 through October 6, 2022.

The Employment Committee remains steadfast in assisting veterans and their families with employment information, resources and opportunities. Our relationships with the Chapters, Department, Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) and Virginia Department of Veteran Services (DVS) continue to grow, and we are working collectively with to provide assistance.

During this quarter, I had the pleasure of visiting with Chapter 34, assisting Chapter 47 in preparation for an event they were attending, and communicating with other chapters on various matters. In addition, we are now building relationships with some employers around the Commonwealth. These efforts, collectively, will help us continue to grow the program and have access to more resources we can share.

We updated our Department committee webpage and plan to make more changes throughout the year. Our social media presence has grown almost 400%, a sharp increase from where we stood in June. If you haven't visited either page, please do so.

I am also excited to announce that we have coordinated and scheduled our Veterans Hiring Fair for Wednesday, October 12, 2022. This is our first hiring fair since the pandemic started. It will take place at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Chesapeake Norfolk. We have 13 employers and two state resources confirmed. There will be many career opportunities available, and we look forward to a memorable event!

Your committee members this year are Will Bible (60), Sha'ron Dorsey-Monroe (2), La Juanda Gray-Parks (2), Brandi Taylor (50) and PDC Lisa Gregory (7, Ex-Officio). Please contact us with any questions or requests for assistance.

We continue to work hard behind the scenes to strengthen the foundation and effectiveness of the employment program. Overall, the program is growing in content and effectiveness. As always, this is a collective effort, and we need your support to accomplish our goals of helping veterans and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn B. Ware



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Department of Virginia  
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Department Website: [www.virginiadav.org](http://www.virginiadav.org)

October 6, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2021 Fall Conference  
FROM: David Cuff, Chair, Finance Committee  
Subject: Report of the Finance Committee

This report is for the period June 20<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Finance Committee will meet virtually with Mr. Steve Mazer, Financial Advisor and Ms. Carrie Olsen Wealth Management Associate for the review the Department Investments on Friday.

Considering the instability of the economy and market the department investments have been negatively impacted. Department funds will continue to be invested in diversified funds with low to medium risk per the budget guidelines. It is important to be patient and not overreact. Looking at the stock market historically there will be an adjustment down the road.

Department Adjutant/Treasurer Cox advised me that the Annual Audit will be conducted at the department headquarters on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The CPA requested an extension due to the backlog of work at his office. The Annual Financial Report will be completed and sent to National Headquarters the first week of November and IRS 990 will be completed and mailed prior to the cutoff date.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cuff



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Department of Virginia  
P.O. Box 7176  
Roanoke, Va 24019-0147  
Phone No. (540) 206-2575  
Fax No. (540) 206-2925  
E-Mail: [virginiadayba@cov.net](mailto:virginiadayba@cov.net)

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Fall Conference  
FROM: Shamala B. Capizzi, Chair  
Subject: Report of the Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL)

This report is for the period June 20<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

On Thursday, August 25, 2022, I attended duties and responsibilities of the Benefits Protection Team Leader webinar conducted by DAV National Legislative Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Shamala B. Capizzi



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)  
Department of Virginia  
P.O. Box 7176  
Roanoke, Va 24019-0147  
Phone No. (540) 206-2575  
Fax No. (540) 206-2925  
E-Mail: [virginiadavhq@gov.net](mailto:virginiadavhq@gov.net)

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR: 2022 Fall Conference**  
**FROM: Irby Cotton, Chair**  
**Subject: Report of the Membership Committee**

**This report is for the period June 20<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

- 1. The Membership Committee held the following meetings:**
  - **Two Department Membership Committee Meetings (attendees Chapter Commanders, Adjutants, and/or Membership Coordinators)**
  - **One Monthly meeting – Topics Covered**
    - o **Ways to meet Chapter Goals**
    - o **Hot List**
    - o **Part Life**
    - o **Resources for Recruitment Success**
- 2. Department Membership goals:**
  - **To meet Department and Chapter membership goals**
  - **Educate Chapter Membership Coordinators on their duties and responsibilities**
  - **Provide Chapter Membership Coordinators with resources to be successful**
  - **Build a recognition program for Chapters to be recognized for recruitment achievements**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Irby Cotton II**

**Chair, Membership Committee, Dept of Virginia**



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**October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR:** Department Fall Conference 2022  
**FROM:** Cassandra O. Benson, Chair, Emergency Relief Committee  
**Subject:** Report of the DAV Emergency Relief Committee

**This report is for the period June 20<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Six (6) x Virginia DAV Chapters reported as follows:**

**DAV Chapter 2: Total Reported: \$2,366.09**

June: 1 x Vet and Family member experiencing Homelessness assisted w/Temp Lodging: **\$222.80**

August: 3 x ER (3 Veterans and 5 Dependents assisted w/2 x Rent/1 Utility assistance): **\$1,337.31**

September: 3 X ER (3 Veterans and 5 Dependents assisted with Rent/Utility/Misc assistance: **\$805.98**

**DAV Chapter 6: Total: \$7,209.86**

20 – 30 June 22: 2 x Veterans/4 dependents received **\$800.00** to cover Rent/Mortgage.

July 2022: 4 x Veterans/2 dependents assisted w/total of **\$1,615.85** to cover Rent/Utilities/Misc Bills

August 2022: 1x Veterans received a total of **\$285.54** to cover Rent

- *2 x Homeless Veterans/1 dependent received \$855.96 for Hotel Stays*

September 2022: 4 x Veterans/3 dependents received **\$1,968.18** to cover Rent/Utilities/Misc Bills

- *4 x Homeless Veterans/2 dependents received \$1,684.33 for Hotel Stays*



October 2022: In work; nothing paid as of submission on 4 Oct 2022

TOTAL: \$7,209.86 for 17 Veterans and 10 dependents

-- ER: \$4,669.57 for 11 Vets/7 dependents – Rent/Utilities/Miscellaneous

-- HOMELESS: \$2,540.29 for 6 Vets/3 dependents

**DAV Chapter 7: Total: \$831.00**

ER: Chapter assisted 1 x Vet with Moving Van, \$331.00 and 1 x Vet w/2 dependents with/Utility Bill (Electric): \$500.00

\*Chapter received a donation of 30 children's bikes from the Doloth Company. They in-turn donated them to 30 x local families.

**DAV Chapter 13: Total: \$3,887.56**

ER: Chapter assisted 1 x Vet with a Utility Bill (Water): \$941.90

Chapter also assisted 6 x veterans who presented as Homeless: \$2,945.66 (Hotels)

**DAV Chapter 20: Total: \$3,100.00**

ER: Chapter assisted 8 x Veterans w/Rent, Utilities, and Food: \$2,200

Chapter also assisted 3 x Veterans who presented as Homeless: \$900.00

\*Chapter reports assisting 51 x Veterans (via referrals)

**DAV Chapter 22: Total: \$3,560.09**

ER: Chapter assisted 11x Vet/4 Dependents w/Mortgage & Rent, Utilities (Electric, HRSD), and

Misc. .Bills: \$2,605.19

\*Chapter also assisted 2 x Veterans (1with a dependent) who presented as Homeless: \$954.90: Hotels

**ER GRAND TOTAL AS SHOWN: \$13,390.95**

**HOMELESS GRAND TOTAL AS REPORTED: \$7, 563.65**

**\*Note: Homeless Committee Chair may have slightly different numbers/dollar amounts based on how the chapters responded.**

Let me first say THANK YOU to all the chapters for what you do each day!

It has been a whirlwind of activity in the ER/Homeless Program since taking the helm of ER after the June 2022 Department Conference in Roanoke, VA. Soon after returning, I was able to do turnover with former ER Chair Tanya Canty. I appreciated her patience and guidance moving into this position. Our working relationship has always been good, so it didn't take long to jump right in! I must say it's been an eye-opener to see the span of ER issues from this vantage point!! What is most curious to me is the difference between the Tidewater Chapters and the rest of the state in regards to how ER/Homeless Program is addressed.

Almost immediately, packages were up-channeled for review and coordination. Again, with Tanya's oversight, I quickly learned how to best pivot -- whether my review be direct or send to my committee for their review and assistance. I greatly appreciate those who have leaned in to the reviews to determine recommendation to use Department Funds in a particular situation.

In the month of August 2022, our area began to show an influx of veterans calling and visiting chapters for not only Emergency Relief, but presenting as Homeless as well -- primarily as a result of this past Spring's ending of the Covid-19 Rent Relief Program and Landlords/Rental Agencies changing the way they do business. Many veterans (and residents in general) DID NOT take advantage of that program and are finding that their landlords are not asking them to stay and "work it out". Evictions are at an uptick. The chapters are seeing veterans with sometimes 2-3 month's back rent and no game plan to recover. This is also the case with utilities and other types of bills & expenses.

We've coordinated on several homeless women veterans as well as older veterans. Per coordination with the VA Hospital Homeless Coordinator and other local veterans' agencies, this uptick is just the beginning and the availability of "affordable housing" is even lower now based on Landlords/Rental Agencies changing the way they do business -- i.e. requesting up to 2-months Rent upfront as well as a deposit. Any red flags on a credit record are pretty much a show-stopper even more so.

Shelters are minimal and the ones available are full. Many of the organizations our chapters might reach out to for assistance with 1<sup>st</sup> Month's Rent and deposits are no longer receiving those funds and/or the vetting process has become more restrictive. We, the Department and the Chapters are taking a much harder look at these cases as well. There is a great need out here for affordable and stable housing, job security/income security, and mental health avenues. We must continue to put our best foot (and hearts) forward --and continue to give due diligence in what we do on a daily basis.

As I come to understand how to navigate this position, I have a few goals based on what I've seen experienced thus far as well as feedback received from some Chapter CSOs and some in leadership.

1. Create better communication between the Chapters and between Department Chairs and the Chapters. There are many hard-working CSOs out here doing this E/Homeless dance, and there are some who either are unsure of what exactly to do or are not as engaged for several reasons. Not a judgement; just an observation. Many are asking for guidance. Let's work together to lean into this and on each other.

2. I hope to provide continuity and clarity of the “basics” of how to engage our veterans/families that come in for ER/Homeless Assistance in regards to the “Investigation” piece AND using the numerous local and national resources that are available to call on for additional funding and/or any need. Hopefully, we’ll be able to codify some of these “basics” without being too restrictive.

3. I want us to seek ways to address tracking of the veterans who have a tendency to misuse the services offered them and become repeat visitors because they either are incapable or unwilling to gain sustainability. As we know, the funds we have are not necessarily bottomless, but throwing money at a situation is not always helpful either. We must be diligent to point our vets to viable resources as we do this task.

So, let’s work together to make this program not just a task to be endured, but one that extends our efforts collectively to have a solid program to help our fellow veterans and families during their most vulnerable time. Looking forward to learning and working along with you to continue to represent the DAV and uplift our veteran community! Let’s goooooo!!

Be Blessed, ALL!

Respectfully Submitted,

//“Kass”//

Kassandra O. Benson

Chair, DAV Virginia Emergency Relief



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)  
Department of Virginia  
P.O. Box 7176  
Roanoke, Va 24019-0147  
Phone No. (540) 206-2575  
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E-Mail: [virginiadavhq@cox.net](mailto:virginiadavhq@cox.net)  
Department Website: [www.virginiadav.org](http://www.virginiadav.org)

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Fall Conference  
FROM: Lisa Gregory, Chair Department Homeless Committee  
Subject: Report of the Department Homeless Committee

This report is for the period June 20<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Greetings,

During this period the Committee has worked to utilize local, state and federal resources to assist with temporary housing for Homeless Veterans and working to get them connected to the proper resources to meet their needs. This information may sound repetitive to many, but it is important since some needs of Homeless Veterans can be outside the scope or monetary amounts DAV Chapters can offer.

Working through this time with several organizations we are starting to see an increase of requests to cover hotel costs. I ask Chapters to do what you can, but to be mindful in utilizing the Homeless Grant application online to assist with the vetting process.

We ask that Chapters try to connect Veterans with 211 or the Homeless Veteran Hotline at 1-877-4AID VET. Many of the pandemic services are starting to go away and we are seeing an increase at a level that is beyond our scope and what the Veteran may be able to maintain and sustain on their own.

I would also like to thank the Line Officers for coordination across Chapters for support in several cases. We have to remember we are here to work together regardless of our locations.

Chapters that have assisted outside the Department scope have been Chapter 7 (\$818), Chapter 20 (\$900), Chapter 13 (\$3000) and Chapter 2 (\$75). Chapter 6 has been a focal point of assistance as well.

If we can utilize the services out there, such as the VA Homeless Transition Team, Local Shelters, Virginia Veteran and Family Support, The United Way, The Red Cross and many others, we can provide what is needed to help get Homeless Veterans into permanent and safe housing.

Thank you for all you do everyday!

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Gregory, Chair Homeless Committee



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)  
Department of Virginia  
P.O. Box 7176  
Roanoke, Va 24019-0147  
Phone No. (540) 206-2575  
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October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Fall Conference  
FROM: M.Tyrelle Felder, Chair  
Subject: Report of the Women Veterans Committee (WVC)

This report is for the period June 20<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

On 1 Sep 2022, the WVC leadership changed due to unforeseen events. Our inaugural meeting as a newly re-established committee was held on 12 Sep outlining plans and divisions of labor. On that call was the state's Dept of Veterans Services Women Veterans Program Manager, Ms. Beverly VanTull, who is also a DAV member. We will be collaborating with her and establishing opportunities for joint events that may open other doors for women vets.

Each chapter WVC will have a Department committee member as his/her direct representative for communication and collaboration. We have asked our Dept line officers to provide warm introductions to the chapter leadership who may, in turn, delegate communications to their WVC Chair or designee. Men are allowed and encouraged to be on WVCs and we ask that they inform us of their upcoming events so we may help disseminate advertisements. Your representatives are as follows:

- LaShawn Boyer:** Hampton Roads Peninsula (Ch 2, 6, 13, 34, 58, plus Suffolk Ch 5)
- Michelle Bradshaw:** Hampton Roads Southside (Ch 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 61)
- Shamala Capizzi:** Northern VA (Ch 9, 10, 11, 15, 48)
- Shaun Harrison:** Central VA (Ch 7, 17, 28, 47, 50)
- M.Tyrelle Felder:** SW Region (Ch 3, 19, 23, 24, 30, 31, 33, 35, 40, 45, 52, 56, 57, 60)

To aid in communication and collaboration, we will host a quarterly WVC-wide Zoom Roundtable allowing all chapters to join us and share their successes and struggles, ask questions of us, and hopefully get some answers. Currently, the tentative date for our first WVC-wide Zoom is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each quarter beginning 18 Nov 2022 at 1800. We look forward to your participation.

SVC Will King included me on two of his Zoom meetings as a guest speaker while he traveled to the SW Region and spoke with the collective group. About three of those chapters report having only one woman in their ranks who are older and non-participatory. This Committee hopes to aid them in recruiting more women and getting information out to them, so they remain included and current on events/activities in their areas or within the state.

On 6 Oct 2022, I and several committee members plan to participate in a roundtable hosted by Delegates Kathleen Murphy and Jackie Glass in Northern VA. Note to those who have previously utilized the committee's official email address, it has been changed and is accurate on the Department's website. Please update your contact data for that email account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Tyrelle Felder".

M. Tyrelle Felder



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October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Fall Conference  
FROM: Marcia Stewart, Chair  
Subject: Report of the Department Social Media

This report is for the period June 20<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

1. The Social Committee held one meeting - Topics Covered
  - Chapter Website Updates
  - Facebook Updates
  - Twitter Updates
  - Instagram
  - Hubspot
2. Department Social Media goals:
  - To build a larger footprint on social media platforms:
    - Facebook
      - 1.2K likes – Goal (2,000 likes)
      - 1.3K followers – Goal (1,400 followers)
    - Twitter
      - 5,211 tweets – Goal (8,000 tweets)
      - 964 followers – Goal (1,500 followers)
    - YouTube
      - 4 Videos – Goal (6 Videos)
      - 18 Subscribers – Goal (50 Subscribers)
    - Website
      - Total Visits 56,315 visits (Goal 68,315 visits)
      - Chat line and DAV Info e-mail: 169 requests submitted, mostly in reference to claims, thrift store donations, Homeless/Emergency Relief, or members looking for report forms, etc.
    - Instagram
      - New Social Media
  - Launch a photo Contest to be included in a 2024 – 2025 DAV VA Calendar
  - Educate Chapter Social Media about Chapter Websites
  - Educate Chapter Social Media Coordinators on the benefits of social media

- Provide Chapter Social Media Coordinators with resources to be successful

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Stewart





Disabled American Veterans(DAV)  
Department of Virginia  
P.O. Box 7176  
Roanoke, Va 24019-0147  
Phone No. (540) 206-2575  
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E-Mail: [virginiadavhg@cox.net](mailto:virginiadavhg@cox.net)  
Department Website: [www.virginiadav.org](http://www.virginiadav.org)

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Fall Conference  
FROM: Jeff Ogilvie, IVAC Chairman  
Subject: Report of the Incarcerated Veterans Committee

This report is for the period June 20<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

So far, the Committee has not been able to get into a facility anywhere due to Covid is still around and the Facilities that have been contacted were have issues with inmates. They have let Chaplains and some family members visit the inmates but for a limited time frame.

The Committee has been working on forms that we can take into any facility to hand out to the Veterans once we get these finished and approved by Bob Bent and John King.

The Committee has been having a virtual meeting every other month to see what each has been able to accomplish and what we need to do.

In November, this year, there is an event meeting at Rappahannock Facility to discuss with multiple agencies what resources that we have and what we can each offer while the Veterans are incarcerated and when they get released.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Ogilvie