



**Fall Conference  
2<sup>nd</sup> DEC Meeting  
October 2023**

**Committee  
Reports**



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)  
Department of Virginia  
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October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department Fall Conference  
FROM: Rita Aberegg, Audit Chairman  
Subject: Audit Committee

This report is for the period June 19<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Audit Committee has not met since the Fall Conference of 2022. 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 consist of Rita Aberegg (7), Stephen Perkins (23), Cecil (60) and Sharon Dorsey Monroe (2).

The Audit Committee will meet 20 October 2023 in Roanoke to perform the Annual Department Audit. The Line Officers have been assigned the job of reviewing all Chapter Annual Financial Reports (AFR) under their purview. Any discrepancies will be shared with the Department Adjutant 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 I can, and if you have any questions about your Chapter financial issues, you can reach me at [ms\\_dav@cox.net](mailto:ms_dav@cox.net), or 540-538-9956.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Aberegg



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October 3, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

FROM: Comrade Stewart / Employment Committee

Subject: Report of the Employment Committee

This report is for the period July 1, 2023 – October 15, 2023

### **Department Fall Conference – Employment Fair EVENT DETAILS**

- Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023
- Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Location: Hilton Richmond/Short Pump; Richmond, VA

### **Confirmed Employers**

- CarMax
- Department Of Veteran Services (DVS)
- Farmers Insurance: Steele Insurance Agency
- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Hampton Roads Transit
- Opportunities for A Better Tomorrow
- Pride Industries
- Ross Industries Inc.
- Virginia Employment Commission (VEC)

### **Social Media Initiatives**

- **Facebook Posts**
  - Employment opportunities posted 2-3 a week
  - Employer posts (from Job Fair)

### **Employer Awareness Emails**

- DAV benefits for Employers – Awareness information provided to employers



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October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Fall Conference  
FROM: David Cuff, Chair, Finance Committee  
Subject: Report of the Finance Committee

This report is for the period June 19<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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 the week of October 16-20.

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 20<sup>th</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 mid-November and IRS 990 will be completed and mailed prior to the cutoff date.

The Board of Director's approved the selling of the Chapter 29 property located in Christiansburg, VA. The property was assessed for \$143,000. The property was put on the market on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> for \$175,000 and received a cash offer for \$170,000 on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. The finance committee approved the sale of the property for \$170,000.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cuff



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October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Francine James, Chairperson, Dept Homeless Committee

Subject: Report of the Homeless Committee

This report is for the period 19 June 2023 through 04 October 2023

- Funds assisted 5 veterans and 4 families.
- Needs included Hotel Stays for Homeless Veterans
- Special shout-out to Chapters 2, in their emergency assistance to pay two hotel stays in a short notice.

**Assistance by Chapters (as reported) for this period:**

**DAV Chapter 5:**

Total Amount Dispersed: \$172.29  
Total Veterans Assisted: 1  
Total Rental and Utilities: 0  
In-Kind Donations:0

**DAV Chapter 6:**

Total Amount Dispersed: \$1946.85  
Total Veterans Assisted: 5 Veterans; 4 Dependents.  
In-Kind Donation: Target Gift Card \$20.00, Cash \$257.00 from chapter members.  
Food: From The Peninsula Food Bank 7 baskets, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Temple 9 baskets, Six House 3 baskets.  
Bus Passes: Eighty-Five donated from Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Temple. 50 given out to 5 veterans.  
Money for Bus Passes: 1 veteran \$168.00 donated by a chapter 6 comrade.

**DAV Chapter 7:**

Total Amount Dispersed: \$70.00 hotel stay.  
Total Veterans Assisted: 1  
Total Rental and Utilities Assistance: 0  
In-Kind Donations: 0

**DAV Chapter 9:**

No Report.  
Total Amount Dispersed: 0  
Total Veterans Assisted: 0  
Total Rental and Utilities Assistance: 0  
In-Kind Donations: 0

**DAV Chapter 34:**

No report.  
Total Amount Dispersed: 0  
Total Veterans Assisted: 0  
Total Rental and Utilities Assistance: 0  
In-Kind Donation: 0

**DAV Chapter 48:**

No Report.  
Total Amount Dispersed: 0  
Total Veterans Assisted: 0  
Total Rental and Utilities Assistance: 0  
In-Kind Donations: 0

**NOTE:** All other Virginia chapters not reported will be contacted and offered the chance to include their numbers in an ADDEMDUM Report after conference completion.

**Community Partnerships:**

Shout out to my committee members who continued to fill the gap in vetting packages.

Respectfully submitted,

PCC Francine James



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October 1, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Fall Conference Report

FROM: Dwayne Ramey, Department Second Junior Vice Commander

Subject: Report of the Membership Committee

This report is for the period June 19<sup>th</sup> through October 6, 2023

Greetings,

This report is for the Membership Committee

During this period the Membership Committee Chairman resign his position during the month of September due to personal reasons. I assume this position on the Committee until a new chairman can be identified. Other members of the Committee were not able to take over as chairman due to other obligations.

All members have remain positive and are eager to work on expanding our chapters, department and organization with new members. The Committee designed a plan and presented the plan via Zoom to members of the Department. There are two areas that have been expanded and designed to boost membership for the Department and local Chapters.

**Areas of Expansion:**

**Virginia DAV 24:** We are introducing the concept that each member of the DAV is a proud member and would want to invite their friends and Veterans within their community to join our family. The plan is simple in that to be a member of Virginia DAV 24, each person would have to recruit 24 members during the year to join DAV. The goal would be for each member to recruit 2 members per month but can take up to 30 June to complete. The idea is that each member of the Department of Virginia would speak to 48 people each month about the DAV and ultimately convincing 2 to join. To identify those members of the Department recruiting 24 or more members and provide special recognition with an item designed and paid for by Department Membership Committee. The expectation is that if each member is convinced to take this challenge, every chapter in the Department would reach or exceed their Annual Goal presented by National.

**DAV Local Community Awareness Month:** This plan would encourage each Chapter to focus on their local community during the month of December. Chapters would be encouraged to hold events focused on learning about their local communities. They would also be encouraged to walk the blocks of the community close to their chapter with DAV flags or banners, hand out literature (pamphlets/flyers) and network with people and companies. They would provide information about the DAV's mission and

what the organization has to offer to the veteran community. Another form of community engagement would be for chapters to provide bags of food during the holiday season, provide small handouts with DAV paraphernalia (bags, pens, calendars, etc..) that would be used toward encouraging others to join the DAV family and improving community relations. Events like these can also assist chapters in discovering Veteran owned and/or operated businesses.

The Committee's plan is to advertise and be ready for March Madness by pursuing all contacts made during our Virginia DAV 24 and our DAV local community awareness month events. This is also a great opportunity for our Chapter Service Officers to shine, as they could engage every member that has been assisted regarding their benefits the opportunity to join our family.

//Signed //

Dwayne Ramey

Membership Chairman (Acting)





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October 6 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Fall Conference  
FROM: Jeff Ogilvie  
Subject: Report of the Incarcerated Veterans Committee Chair

This report is for the period June 19th through October 6, 2023

June, Helping 2 Inmates at Green Rock Correctional Facility with their disability and claims.

July, Zoom meeting with IVAC members. Go over what I recommend them to do to be successful.

July, Zoom meeting with Virginia Cares and Veterans on the meeting as well as Chaplains and other businesses that help Veterans.

July, Helping a Veteran that is incarcerated in West Virginia that was moved to Kentucky. Getting in touch with a DAV Chapter near him.

Aug, Zoom meeting with IVAC members. Lost one member Sherri Peck, Chapter 13, moved out of state.

Lost another member Rodney Craig, Chapter 27, due to no contact with him via email or phone calls returned.

September, We tried to speak to the Program manager at Nottoway Correction Facility located in Burkesville, VA. Ms. Sims was not available at the time.

September, We Participated with Virginia CARES in a Statewide 3-day information Zoom call. with Director Chadwick Dotson, VADOC, Trauma-Informed Care, DCJS and Reentry, The Art & Science of Living by Design (Jarvis Bailey), Veteran Returning Citizens and Their Eligibility for Benefits: Disabled American Veterans (Angela Jameson and Jeff Ogilvie)

Looking for DAV Members that would like to volunteer on the IVAC Committee.

Jeff Ogilvie

(S)

Respectfully submitted,



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October 12, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Jeff Ogilvie

Subject: Report of IVAC Incarcerated Veterans Committee Chairman

This an addendum to the IVAC Fall Conference Report 2023

I was invited to attend a virtual meeting On September 28, with 126 VADOC members around the state of Virginia to speak about what the (DAV) Disabled American Veterans org has to offer to the Incarcerated veterans and VADOC.

The meeting lasted for 1 ½ hours with a few of us speaking about our organizations.

Mr. David Wingfield VADOC, was the organizer of this meeting.

Jeff Ogilvie

//S//

Commander



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October 6, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR:** Department Fall Conference  
**FROM:** Aaron J. Whittington, Social Media Committee Chair  
**Subject:** Report of the Social Media Committee (SMC)

This report is for the period June 19<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Greetings,

This report addresses the Facebook (FB) and X (formerly Twitter) Social Media platforms.

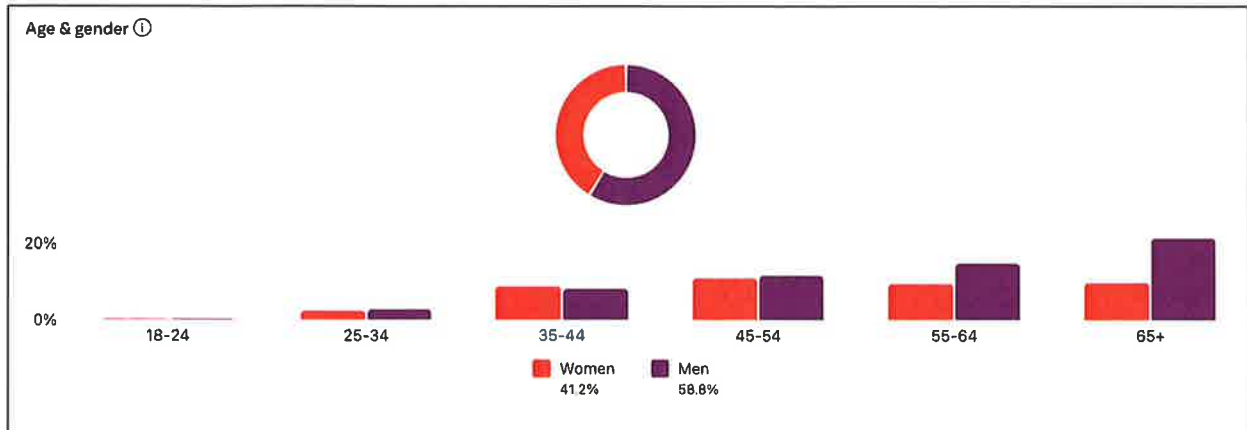
**FACEBOOK**

**Analytics:**

Metric	Count	Percentage	Definition
New Posts	175	▲ 29%	Published posts
Reels	11	▲ 1000%	Published reels
Reach	6508	▲ 325%	How posts are performing and how many people are seeing them is reach. Reach is the number of people who saw posts at least once.
Page & Profile Visits	1393	▲ 42%	Number of times page or profile were visited
Total Likes	1324		Total likes of page
New Likes	19	▼ 14%	New likes of FB page
Total Followers	1403		Total followers of profile
New Followers	58	▲ 176%	New followers of profile
Post reactions, comments and shares	411		Total reactions, comments, and shares

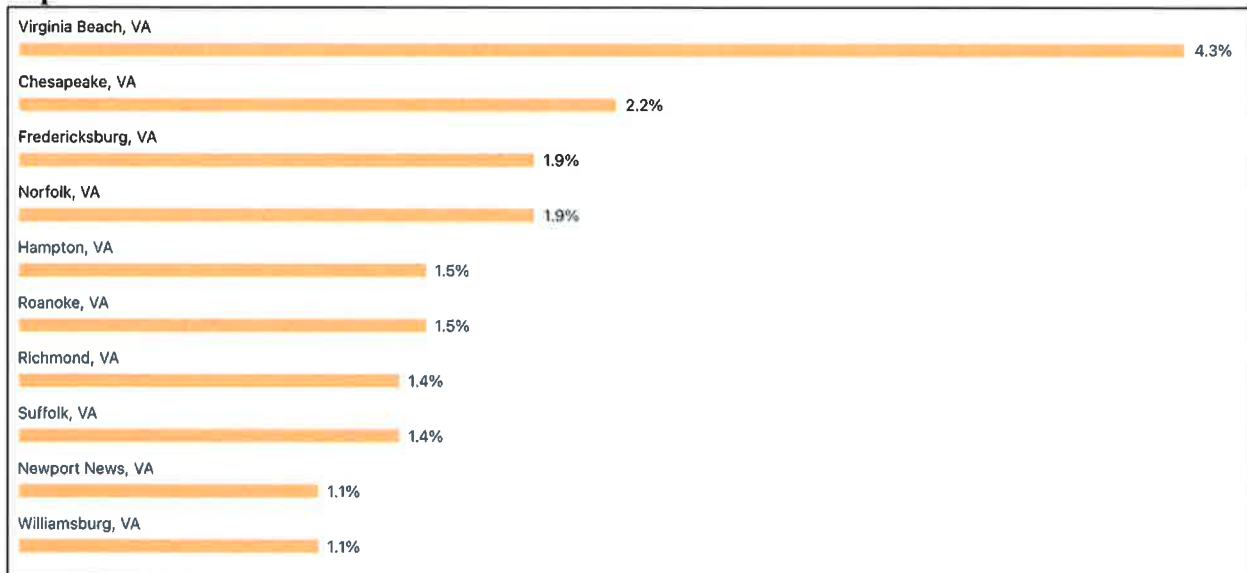
**Note:** These values are based on content performance.

## Current Audience:



Note: These values are based on total followers.

## Top Cities:



Note: These values are based on total followers.

## Top Countries:



Note: These values are based on total followers.

## **X (Formerly Twitter)**

### **Analytics:**

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Definition</b>
New Tweets	187	New Tweets published on X
Total Posts	5637	Total tweets published on X
Following	1000	Total followings of profile
Followers	963	Total followers of profile

**Note:** X is working on improvements to analytics.twitter.com. In the meantime, some metrics are missing.

### **Notable Accomplishments:**

1. Published numerous high-quality posts and videos from the National Convention to Facebook and X.
2. Initiated Reels (videos) publications on Facebook.
3. Discussed current and future social media subscriptions with Department leadership.

### **Campaign Objectives:**

1. Boost brand awareness by getting more people to recognize who we are and what we offer. Metrics will include number of posts, reels/videos, and followers.
2. Grow online community by posting engaging content. Metrics will include number of posts reach, visitors, followers, and likes.
3. Improve community engagement by posting positive and relevant content. Metrics will include number of post reactions, comments, likes, and shares.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron J. Whittington, Social Media Committee Chair



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October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department Fall Conference  
FROM: Voluntary Services Chair  
Subject: Report of the Committee

This report is for the period June 19<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

During the specified reporting period, the Department has collected the information from the VA Medical Centers within Virginia and sent out the annual donations for items so desperately needed by our veterans who visit or reside at the Medical Centers. These items may include Canteen books, newspapers, as well as supporting different areas of the VA Medical Centers such as palliative care, recreational therapy, and their chapels.

One area which is still deficient is the Transportation Network at the Salem VA Medical Center and Macguire Medical Center. There is no Transportation Coordinator located at these facilities. We are actively searching for eligible candidates for these positions so if you know someone who can fill the positions, please let your Department Commander or the Department Service Commission Chairperson know.

As of this report, the only VA Medical Center who has been transporting veterans is the Hampton VAMC.

The Voluntary Services Representatives and Deputies (and assigned Chapters) are:

Tanya Canty, Representative, VAMC Hampton (21)  
La Juanda Gray-Parks, Deputy Representative, VAMC Hampton (2)  
Keith Davis, Deputy Representative, VAMC Hampton (2)

Richard Olivier, Representative, VAMC Richmond (50)  
Roger Overstreet, Deputy Representative, VAMC Richmond (50)

Terry Early, Representative, VAMC Salem (3)  
James Barnett, Deputy Representative, VAMC Salem (3)  
Lee Bricker, Deputy Representative, VAMC Salem (3).

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher S. Cheney, VAVS Chair



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October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 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>, 2023

The Women Veterans Committee has experienced some new challenges. As our size initially shrank then grew, we've continued to move forward and support one another and all of the women veterans in the Department. We welcomed a new member, Rhonda Rawson (Ch. 30 Skyline) recently appointed to the committee. She's already begun reaching out to her chapters' leadership.

Each chapter WVC has a department committee member as his/her direct representative for communication and collaboration. For the first time, we have a male representative on this committee. He has done a phenomenal job of reaching out to the community on behalf of women veterans. Men are allowed and encouraged to be on chapter WVCs and we ask that all 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)  
**Samuel T. Watkins:** Hampton Roads Southside (Ch 5, **20**, 21, 22, 26, 27, 61)  
**Rhonda Rawson:** Northern VA (Ch 9, 10, 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 continue to post a quarterly newsletter and 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. It continues to be the **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday** of the following months: **Feb, May, Aug and Nov** at **1800 hours**. Put it on your chapter calendars so you can join us. We look forward to your participation.

Here is a breakdown of the following activities this committee has hosted during this report's timeframe.

**LaShawn:** 24 Jun 2023 - DAV Chapter 13 hosted the DAV Virginia Hampton Roads Women Veterans PTSD Awareness Roundtable Discussion. Guest Speakers: Dr. Tamara Lazenby, MD, Staff Psychiatrist PTSD Clinical Team, Hampton VAMC and Dr. Sonya Anthony MSW, LCSW, CCM, Ambulatory Care Mental Health Integrated Therapist. Virtual attendance by Dept CDR King, in-

person attendance by two members of Ch. 6 and three additional Ch. 13 members and Department Cmte Chair.

Some of the Topics of Discussion:

Prescription for Behavioral Health Mobile and WEB Resources  
AIMS for Anger Management  
Beyond MST  
Couples Coach  
Insomnia Coach or Path to Better Sleep  
Mindfulness Coach  
Moving Forward  
Parenting

July 15, 2023 - hosted Suicide Awareness Roundtable Discussion. With guest speaker: Ms. Janelle Amezcua MSW LSW, Suicide Prevention Case Manager Mental Health & Behavioral Services. This was attended by members of Ch 5, 7 and 13 along with two potential members.

Some of the topics discussed:

DAV Virginia Women Veterans Wellness Retreat Sign-up List  
Suicide Risk & Protective Factors  
Suicide is a National Public Health Problem  
Facts about Veteran Suicide  
Common Myths & Realities of Suicide  
What is Lethal Means Safety?

**Samuel:** 11-14 Jul 2023 - Attended Excelsior University Commencement, Albany, NY.  
Advocated and networked for Veterans / Women Veterans

20 Jul 2023 - (Cyber Webinar) Women Veterans' Experiences of VHA Care:  
Intersection of Sex and Race-Ethnicity in the National Veteran Health Equity Report

23 Aug 2023- Attended Congresswoman Kiggans' Roundtable on. Some of the topics were:

1. The Women's Advisory Committee is a product of the V.A. Center for Women Veterans.
2. The Women Veterans Task Force is co-lead on Investing Veterans Act which supports veterans' small business ownership.
3. TAP needs more exposure and encouragement for Transitioning Service Members to participate and understand their benefits, entitlements and other resources available upon transition.
4. Briefly spoke about the PaYs program the Army has in place to assist transitioning service members with future job opportunities prior to separation.

19 Sep 2023, Installed two new Woman Veterans to Chapter WVC at Chapter 20, Va. Beach.

**Michaun:** Attempted to hold in person town-hall for my chapters in July which was canceled due to lack of participation. In August, the virtual town-hall had only 6 participants predominantly from the committee.



**Tyrelle:** July: Continued to settle on a location for the first Women Vets' Wellness Retreat. Visited a Richmond location.

21 August 2023 - Hosted the quarterly WVC Zoom with poor attendance from the chapters.

5 September 2023 - Met with Mobile Vet Center representative to set up new quarterly events. The first is scheduled for November in the Lynchburg area.

25 Sep 2023 - Attended the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council meeting with Dept Commander King and 1JVC Lehmann, introduced myself and our program/committee, and opened the door to collaboration with them on behalf of women veterans in the SW region.

**Rhonda:** Newly appointed to the Dept WVC as of 1 Sept 2023. She has reached out to her chapters in Northern Va.

14 Sep 2023- reached out to Staunton CBOC Office/Business Manager and asked about setting up a table in front of the CBOC with DAV information and applications and especially women veterans benefits. As of 04 October 2023, no reply received.

The WVC continues to work toward improving benefits for women veterans and will tirelessly continue to develop resolutions to that end.

Respectfully submitted,

Women Veterans Committee



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October 1, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Fall Department Convention

FROM: Shamala B. Capizzi, BPTL committee chair

Subject: Report of the Department BPTL committee  
(David Alexander – Ch50, Shay Odom – Ch13, Shawn O’Neill – Ch3, Zeola Brady – Ch20, Rich Lehmann – Dept 1JVC (ex-officio))

This report is for the period from May 2023 through October 2023.

Greetings,

Committee report will discuss the BPTL committee chair overview of activities and/or events.

On August 4, 2023, completed DAV Legislative Webinar which was hosted by DAV National Legislative department.

On August 29, 2023, completed initial committee meeting via Zoom.

On September 18, 2023, emailed BPTL newsletter to chapter Cdrs, chapter Adj, chapter BPLTs and Auxiliary Cdrs.

On September 20, 2023, Shamala B. Capizzi virtually attended Senate Veterans Affairs Committee: Invisible Wounds of War: Improving Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Measures for our Nations’s Veterans.

On September 20, 2023, Shay Odom attended the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service with over 24 veteran service organizations were in attendance including Virginia Commissioner Daniel M. Gade.

On September 25, 2023, Shay Odom attended the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council - Southwest Virginia Legislative Forum, to address Military issues in SW Virginia, including discussions on I-81, the General Assembly, The Tri-Annual Virginia Budget, and other veteran issues.

On September 30, 2023, Shay Odom attended the Virginia Women’s Conference held in the Webb Center in Old Dominion University.

Upcoming committee's activities:

- Schedule BPTL committee Zoom meeting – topic Mid-Winter conference
- Create representatives contact spreadsheet for Commander's coffee invitation.
- BPTL November/December newsletter.
- Arrange meeting for Chapters with representatives
- Promote attendance of the Commander's coffee.

Respectfully submitted

Shamala B. Capizzi



October 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department Fall Conference 2023  
FROM: Kimberly Barkley, Awards Committee Chair  
Subject: Report of the Awards Committee

This report is for the Period of June 2023 to October 11, 2023

The awards committee was open for Fall conference awards from June 2023 to September 22, 2023. The awards committee communicated via email and Zoom. The awards committee conducted one question and answer zoom with the following chapters participating 7, 10, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 30, 33, 34 and 50.

The following Awards will be presented at the fall conference:

- Outstanding Chapter of the Year
- Outstanding Community Service by a Chapter (W. Pat White Award)
- Outstanding Community Service by a Member (W. Pat White Award)
- Outstanding Volunteer Service (Emmanuel N. Vlattas Award)
- Outstanding Chapter Service Officer (Phyllis B. Simmons Award)
- Golden Corral Medallion

Awards not previous presented:

Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year (Al Bartraw Jr. Award)- Denice Williams, Chapter 22  
Lifetime Achievement Award (Charlie Craft Award)- John C. Simmons, Chapter 22

The awards based on reports from the National Membership System:

- NSO Membership Recruiter of the Year
- Membership Recruiter of the Year
- Double digit Recruiter Awards
- Membership Award for the Chapter/Highest Numerical Increase

-Membership Award for the Chapter/Highest Percentage Increase

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kimbelry Barkley*

Chair, Dept. Award Committee