



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

**Minutes  
90<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
Department Service  
Commission Meeting**



# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT SERVICE COMMISSION (DSC)

## DSC Meeting Minutes June 16, 2022

1. **Meeting Convened:** 3:15 P.M. at Holiday Inn Tanglewood, Roanoke, VA by Chairman, John W. King (2).
  - A. Opening Prayer given by Chaplain, Patricia Coker-Bell (22).
  - B. Salute our nation's flag led by Commissioner, Bob Bent (48).
  - C. Chairman, John King, went over the basic etiquettes and administrative instructions for the meeting as follows:
    - 1) This meeting is primarily for Commissioners and Service Committee Chairs and Programs.
    - 2) Request everyone either shut off Cell phones or put them on vibrate.
    - 3) All attendees may ask questions but only Commissioners and Committee Chairs may vote.
    - 4) The proceedings are being recorded.
    - 5) It is absolutely **essential for a speaker to identify** himself /herself **BEFORE speaking**.
    - 6) Speakers **must speak up** in order that the recorder clearly picks up their reports, comments, etc.
    - 7) Try to **stay on the subject matter**. Let the speaker finish his or her presentation. Do not interrupt.
    - 8) Wait until the Chair recognizes you to interject a related comment.
    - 9) Commissioners are expected to review the contents of the committee reports online before the DSC meeting is convened and be prepared to vote as appropriate on the prior minutes.

Note: All information for the DSC is now found on the Department Website at [www.viriniadav.org](http://www.viriniadav.org) . All of the Forms can be found here along with most of the information you will need about Conferences/Conventions, Meeting Minutes, Archived Reports and much more. Everyone needs to get familiar with this website.

**2. Distinguished Visitors(s)/Attendees:**

- A. Department Commander, Cynthia Bailey (20)
- B. National Legislative Director, Shane Lierman (10)
- C. National Area Supervisor Area 3, Oscar Olguin (3)

**3. Roll Call of Commissioners (by DSC Secretary Debbie Wood):**

Commission Chairman, John W King, II (2), (Term expires Convention 2022)	P
Department Service Director (DSD), Oscar Olguin (3), NSO Supervisor	P
Deputy DSD, Assistant NSO Supervisor	Vacant
Commissioner/Director Projects and Special Programs, Bob Bent (48) (Term expires Convention 2023)	P
Commissioner, Terry Bohlinger (13) (Term expires Convention 2022)	P
Commissioner, Roger Overstreet (50) (Term expires at Convention 2022)	E
Commissioner, Tanya Canty (21) (Term expires at Convention at 2023)	P
Commissioner – <b>Vacant</b> (Term expires at Convention at 2021)	Vacant
Commissioner – <b>Vacant</b> (Term expires at Convention at 2021)	Vacant
State VAWS Chairman, Chris Cheney (60)	P
Homeless Veterans Committee Chair, Lisa Gregory (7)	P
Employment Committee Chair, Shawn Ware (7)	P
Women’s Committee Chair, Philissa Marabel (20)	P
Emergency Relief Committee Chair, Tanya Canty (21)	P
Incarcerated Veterans Assistance Committee Chair, Jeff Ogilvie (7)	P
Finance Committee Chair, David Cuff (60) (without vote)	E
Department Commander, Ex Officio member, Cynthia Bailey (20)	P
Department Adjutant, Bob Cox (60), Ex-Officio (without vote)	E
DSC Secretary, Debbie Wood, LVAP Coordinator (without vote).	P

DSC Secretary Debbie Wood reported “**Chairman, we have a quorum.**”

**4. Meeting Goals:**

**5. DSC Business Matters:**

**A. The Department Service Commission (DSC):**

The DSC was established on June 20th, 1987, by the Department of Virginia, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Bylaws to "have jurisdiction and control over all service related and rehabilitative activities of the Department, subject to the general supervision of the Department Convention and the Department

Executive Committee." The mission, directed by the Department Bylaws, is accomplished by:

- 1) Developing, organizing, and perpetuating a Department Service Program to aid and assist worthy veterans, their dependents, and survivors throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- 2) Exercising control and coordination, and general supervision over all service and rehabilitative activities within the Department.
- 3) Developing rules, regulations, policies, and such other procedural practices necessary to effectively carry out its duties and responsibilities.

**B. DSC Publications:**

- 1) Policy and Procedures (P&P): As directed by the preceding Bylaws task, the DSC Policy and Procedures describes how the DSC provides services to disabled veterans and their families here in Virginia. This document is an excellent "living document," and will be updated as required, based upon realistic "lessons learned." The P&P is available on the Department Web Site ([www.viriniadav.org](http://www.viriniadav.org)), at each Chapter, the Department Headquarters, and the DSC. However, this policy and procedure will be changed for the benefit of the program.
- 2) Employee Handbook: The "Employee Handbook" sets forth the terms and conditions of employment of all DSC employees. The document establishes the official policy for all DSC employees. Employees of the Department of Virginia DAV who have entered into separate contracts are not covered by the terms of the DSC "Employee Handbook." The "Employee Handbook" is available on the Department Web Site ([www.viriniadav.org](http://www.viriniadav.org)). This document will also be updated for the betterment of the program.

**C. Legislation**

- 1) S. 514—The Deborah Samoson Act

The Deborah Sampson Act is a comprehensive omnibus bill intended to improve women veterans' health care and to remove barriers many women face to accessing care. The House version of the bill—H.R. 3224—passed late last year. In August, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs took up and passed its version of the bill (S. 514) and marked up the legislation adding a number of key provisions from H.R. 3224. Now, it heads to the Senate floor for consideration. If enacted, this legislation would increase the number of women's health providers in the VA; provide additional funding for the women veterans' health care mini-residency training

program for primary and emergency care clinicians; permanently authorize women veterans' counseling retreats; and examine the effect of intimate partner violence on women veterans.

2) S. 2950—The Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act of 2019

This requires veterans to provide sufficient evidence of burn pit exposure, the list of toxins emitted from the burn pit and a statement of nexus between the exposure to toxins and their current disability.

This bill would concede exposure to burn pits to any veteran who served in the locations recognized by the VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. It would also concede exposure to specific toxins, as currently accepted by the VA in their adjudication manual. This would remove obstacles for veterans establishing claims based on burn pits exposure and ensure the VA conducts a medical exam and provides an opinion as to the association of the toxic exposures and the claimed disease.

The Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Act of 2019 now heads to the Senate for a vote.

3) S. 785—The Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019

The Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act is a piece of comprehensive bi-partisan legislation that aims to expand eligibility and improve access to mental health services for transitioning service members and veterans in order to reduce suicide rates and improve mental health among veterans.

The VA mental health program experienced tremendous increased demand for services over the last decade. Troops returning from deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan required mental health care readjustment services including treatment for PTSD, substance use disorders, depression, and anxiety. Despite VA efforts and increased resources for mental health care and specialized services, suicide rates among veterans have not declined.

VSOs urges members and supporters to contact your Senators and ask them to pass these vital veterans bills—S. 514, S. 2950, and S. 785. You can follow along with legislative updates by joining DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) at [davcan.org](http://davcan.org).

4) Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021 or the Honoring our PACT Act of 2021 Summary: H.R.3967 — 117th Congress (2021-2022)

VSOs statement on Senate agreement on Honoring our PACT Act posted on MAY 18, 2022:

Passed House (03/03/2022). This bill addresses health care, presumption of service-connection, research, resources, and other matters related to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during military service. The bill provides eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care, including mental health services and counseling, to veterans who (1) participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (a qualifying activity that requires a corresponding entry in an exposure tracking record system), (2) served in specified locations on specified dates, or (3) deployed in support of a specified contingency operation. V SOS are pleased that the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee have reached agreement on the Honoring our PACT Act and calls on all Senators to support this long overdue legislation. A coalition of veteran's organizations have worked for years to develop and pass comprehensive military toxic exposure legislation to ensure every generation of veterans exposed to burn pits and other battlefield toxins receive the medical care and disability benefits they have earned. This breakthrough announcement is a major step toward moving the PACT Act through Congress and onto the president's desk for his signature.

#### D. Commissioners

Term expires for commissioner Roger Overstreet. He would like to resign his commission.

Commissioner Bent asked if commissioner Overstreet had a recommendation for a replacement. Commissioner Overstreet recommended Richard Olivia (50) as his replacement. No other recommendations were made.

All committee chairs accepted the appointment of Richard Olivia to replace Roger Overstreet as the new commissioner of Richmond.

Chairman King announced that there are still open positions for an HSC and a DSO in Salem and a DSO in Richmond. No recommendations were made and no volunteers stepped up at this time.

Chairman King announced that an individual, Pat Morgan, is on standby to be accepted by Richmond VA to be the HSC for Richmond. This individual has been on standby for a long period of time so we hope this will take place soon.

### **6. Commissioner and Committee Reports:**

#### **A. Deputy DSC Director, Oscar Olguin (3) Report:**

The numbers report is on the website, [virginiadav.org](http://virginiadav.org), so I will not discuss the numbers. A new TSO, Sandra Almond, was hired in Norfolk.

Our office will be holding 6 information seminars throughout the state of Virginia between now and the end of the year. Chapter 60 and Chapter 3 have already contacted us to do an information seminar at their chapter. If any other chapters want to do a seminar, please contact us. We can do a mailing, which will notify all veterans in the area. If you want us to do a mailing, we will need 8 weeks notice. If the seminar will be held at the chapter, there is no need for a mailing. Our DC Supervisor, Jeremy Yost and his office NSO's can do a seminar for the Northern Virginia chapters. John Reed, Lewis Ramsey, Jeremy Ellis and I are all here to answer any questions anyone might have. We would prefer to do these seminars in September and October and stay away from November and December.

**Question** – What type of information seminar are you talking about?

**Answer** – We have been doing information seminars for the past 10 years or longer. We basically provide information on service-connected benefits, death benefits and benefits that veterans are entitled to. The seminars can be done at the chapter or at a location that will accommodate the amount of people planning to attend.

**Statement** – Chapter 21 would like to schedule an information seminar.

This concludes my report.

**B. Patches and Pin Sales, Terry Bolinger (13) Report:**

During the Spring Conference at Virginia Beach, VA., \$148.00 of pins and patches were purchased. This money was given to the Department Headquarters.

DAV 14" patch - \$23.00

DAV Pin with Red, White and Blue - \$3.50 each or 3 for \$10.00

DAVA 12" patch - \$23.00

DAVA Pin with Red, White and Blue - \$3.50 each or 3 for \$10.00

No 4" patches available at this time.

This concludes my report.

**C. Emergency Relief (ER) Committee Chair, Tanya Canty, (21) Report:**

Report can be found online at [virginiadav.org](http://virginiadav.org)

**D. Homeless Committee Chair, Lisa Gregory (7) Report:**

Report can be found online at [virginiadav.org](http://virginiadav.org)

**E. Women Veterans Committee Chair, Philissa Marabel, (20) Report:**

Report can be found online at [virginiadav.org](http://virginiadav.org)

**F. Employment Committee Chair, Shawn Ware, (7) Report:**

Report can be found online at [virginiadav.org](http://virginiadav.org)

**G. Incarcerated Veterans Assistance Committee (IVAC) Chair, Jeff Ogilvie (7) Report:**

Report can be found online at [viriniadav.org](http://viriniadav.org)

**7. Service Program Reports, DSC Chairman, John W. King, II (2):**

**A. Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP), DSC Secretary, Debbie Wood, report:**

Congratulations to everyone for your participation in the LVAP program. The hours being reported have increased considerably since the COVID downfall but we still have some chapters that are not reporting their hours. I am working with these chapters to get them back on board with reporting their hours monthly.

The DAV chapters reported 150,252 hours from July 2021 through May 2022 which is an increase of 39,448 hours from the previous FY. The Auxiliary reported 71,879 hours from July 2021 through May 2022 which is an increase of 77 hours. We hope we are in the running to win the LVAP award again this year. National has finally switched their program from calendar year to fiscal year so the award will now be based on hours turned in from July 2021 through June 2022. I will need all hours sent to me by the first week in July in order to get them entered and sent to National so they will count toward this year's award.

**Top 5 chapters that reported volunteer hours from July 2021 – May 2022:**

• 1 <sup>st</sup> place:	Chapter 6	57,054 hours
• 2 <sup>nd</sup> place:	Chapter 20	11,592 hours
• 3 <sup>rd</sup> place:	Chapter 57	11,562 hours
• 4 <sup>th</sup> place:	Chapter 22	9,575 hours
• 5 <sup>th</sup> place:	Chapter 31	8,547 hours

**Top 5 units that reported volunteer hours from July 2021 – May 2022:**

• 1 <sup>st</sup> place:	Unit 47	13,416 hours
• 2 <sup>nd</sup> place:	Unit 56	11,095 hours
• 3 <sup>rd</sup> place:	Unit 58	9,614 hours
• 4 <sup>th</sup> place:	Unit 15	8,556 hours
• 5 <sup>th</sup> place:	Unit 20	6,765 hours

Individual awards were presented to individuals that met volunteer hour goals of 5K, 10K and 15K hours.

This concludes my report.

**B. Legislative National Representative, Shane Lierman (10):**

I am the current commander of chapter 10 and I am the DAV Deputy Legislative Director For the National Organization in Washington DC.

The Senate voted 85 to 14 to pass the Honoring our PACT Act. This act deals with toxic exposure to our veterans that served and have been exposed to toxic chemicals. We have



been working on getting this passed for 4 years now. It actually passed the house in March however, the version that passed the Senate was different than the version that passed the house so it has to go back to the house for another vote. The bill should go back to the house on Tuesday and should be voted on by Wednesday or Thursday of next week. We are expecting it to pass but the minority party is planning to block the vote. The minority party is about 40-50 votes short to be able to block the vote. The bill should go to the President the following week and could be signed as a law by July 4<sup>th</sup> 2022. There were 14 Senators that voted against this bill. Tom Wendell will share who voted against the bill in tomorrows BPTL meeting. I am happy to announce that both of Virginias Senators voted for the bill.

This is the largest toxic exposure bill ever and will cost over 240 billion dollars over the next 10 years and we were able to get them to pass it without taking away from any other veterans' benefits.

**8. Closing Remarks:**

**9. Good of the Order:**

**10. Closing Prayer:** Given by Patricia Coker-Bell (22).

**11. Final Salute to the National Flag:** Led by Commissioner Bob Bent (48).

**12. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:17 PM.