



**Spring Conference
3rd DEC Meeting
March 18, 2023**

**Elected and
Appointed Officer
Reports**



Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Department of Virginia
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March 3, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Francis Mitchell / Department Commander

Subject: Report of the Commander

This report is for the period October 17, 2022, through March 6, 2023

1. It has been a pleasure to be the Commander and public face of the Department of Virginia. I have been a part of key long range decisions of the Board of Directors and watched the successful accomplishments of varied department committees, and of course enjoyed vicariously the successes of Chapters across the board.
2. Following the Fall Conference in October 2022, the Department hit the ground running with the Golden Corral Fundraiser and Military Appreciation Night. Senior Vice Commander Wilton King spent several months organizing, training chapters and gearing up for a successful event. Along the way, Golden Corral added a few additional requirements to include us inviting the DAV National Commander to Virginia Beach for their anniversary celebration. We took full advantage of having Commander Parsetich in the area and had him visit the Chesapeake (Volvo Parkway) store hosted by Chapter 27 and the Newport News store shared by Chapters 2 & 6. Golden Corral raised over \$100,000 dollars for the 2022-year event.
3. Following the successful Golden Corral Military Appreciation Night, where tens of thousands of veterans across the state showed up for a free meal, we received center fold billing in the DAV Magazine. DAV National featured Commander Parsetich and the Golden Corral Anniversary event with a great story and photos of Department members and the students that supported us at the event.
4. As always, the DAV Thrift Stores have been doing outstanding. When briefed by our CPA, all of the stores have far surpassed their 2021 sales (even after coming out of the pandemic).
5. Not every organization has nine lives. We had to fold Chapter 29 in Christiansburg. The Chapter had not been meeting in three-years and its building was starting to deteriorate from lack of routine maintenance and upkeep. The Department in accordance with our Bylaws assumed ownership of the property and has spent a good deal of money to restore the property to make is sellable. The Board of Directors met and decided to sell the building. There is interest in the area to purchase the property.

6. The opposite of the nine-lives philosophy is that we had to suspend a chapter for dysfunctional operations. After a couple of months of being under suspension and a visit from the Department Inspector, they are back and open for business. A special note to Chapter Commanders, "You are not the final word—the membership has the final vote!"
7. As we head into February every year, the buzz is on getting to the 6th District Conference. This year being no different had a few hiccups with the registration and hotels. But as always, at the 11th hour, everything came together. Virginia has been selected to be a Primary on two National Committees (Employment and Constitution and Bylaws).
8. The Mid-Winter Conference hosted by the Commanders and Adjutants (C&A) Association was again well attended. I believe 11 chapters from the department sent members to the conference. The highlight of the Mid-Winter being the National Commanders presentation to Congress. It appeared that Congress was sincere in their receipt of his testimony and the information provided by the DAV Legislative staff. Different comrades have commented on the difficulty in attending the National Commanders hearing. From those that successfully navigated the trek using Uber and going thru the security process, it was uneventful and a worthwhile journey.
9. As many of you know, I am about getting department communications to the 30,000 DAV members in every corner of the department. I have been using Constant Contact to get the word out for several years. This year, I have had great success. Many of the communications we receive from DAV National are forwarded out and items we generate within the Department are reaching those distant corners and every member. There is still one issue with people unsubscribing my emails and another where people don't even read them. The information we send out is extremely important information on veteran issues and should be at least read.
10. My final topic is about "Decorum and Professionalism". As many have heard me speak about, "the DAV is larger than any of us"! When we attend meetings, conferences, and conventions, we represent our Chapters and our Department to the public. When we are at a DAV function and decide we want to be loud and boisterous we are bringing discredit to our Department and Chapter. If we want to argue to make a point—we lack professionalism. The bottom line is whatever we do in public—we are representing the Department and Chapter and DAV. Please give it some thought on how you present yourself to others and what you say when you are in the public sphere. With all this said, several members did not conduct themselves with decorum and lacked professionalism at the Commanders Coffee and when on Capital Hill. These incidents however isolated can and will give our Department a Black-Eye and cannot be accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

//Signed-fm-3 Mar 23//

Francis Mitchell
Commander
Department of Virginia



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February 10, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Wilton King, Department of Virginia Senior Vice Commander

Subject: Report of the Senior Vice Commander

This report is for the period October 20, 2022, through March 6, 2023

I will detail activities with the following DAV Chapters: 3, 9, 19, 23, 24, 29, 31, 35, 40, 45, 52, 56, 57 & 60. An after-action report for Golden Corral, Fall 2022 will be attached as a separate document. Additional activities will be detailed as well.

Communication with the Chapters in the Southwest (SW) Region has slowed. Currently, Chapters 3, 9, 19, 35, 56 and 57 are the most interactive. I am unable to reach anyone from Chapters 23 and 45. Phone calls made, voicemails left, and emails sent with no response.

Ch. 3: Schedule to meet with the Chapter on 02/14/2023. Chapter just completed a bylaws revision which was sent to the Department Judge Advocate. Chapter 3 has two members on the Department Incarcerated Veterans Committee and one representative for the Chapter to liaison with the Department Women Veterans Committee.

Ch. 9: Visited with the chapter on 02/01/2023. Positive interaction with Commander Lovett who completed his first Department Emergency Relief request in two years. Chapter is preparing for their elections. I expect turnover in some key positions. Chapter is working hard with their service officer program and is looking to add one to two more this upcoming cycle. A bylaw revision should be their next priority. I will communicate that with their executive committee post elections.

Ch. 19: Commander Roberson is a full-time professor and caregiver. Communication can be slow, but the Commander will respond accordingly. I plan to visit with their Chapter on March 6, 2023. I plan to request a NSO brief for the area during the summer.

Ch. 23: No communication but PDC Steve Perkins is now a member of the chapter.

Ch. 24: I planned to attend the Chapter meeting in January 2023 but the meeting was cancelled due to illness. I plan to attend the next meeting in March.

Ch. 29: Charter revoked.

Ch. 31: Spoke with the Commander in January, he was returning from cancer surgery. Communication is slow due to the illness.

Ch. 35: Communication with Adjutant Robbins is strong. We speak once a month. Commander Branham has an ongoing health concern. I plan to visit the area in May to work with the chapter.

Ch. 40: Adjutant McGuire is the lone person that responds. Since I met with Ch. 40 in September, have not seen much activity other than on social media. This is another chapter I plan to work with more in May.

Ch. 45: No communication with this chapter.

Ch. 52: Spoke with Adjutant Hayzlett in January. The challenge for this chapter is low interest by membership. Adjutant Hayzlett is the only Chapter Service Officer (CSO) and member actively engaging the community. I plan to work with this chapter more in May.

Ch. 56: A good commander hampered by geographical restrictions and aging membership. This chapter makes every effort to not only be compliant but active in the area. Fundraising suggestions were appreciated, but local business owners were not willing to support. Will focus on chapter operations and fundraising with them over the next few months.

Ch. 57: Most active CSO in the area is Commander Wilson. Ch. 57 owns their own building but maintenance and utilities create financial issues. Fundraising is low due to an economically depressed area which is still impacted by COVID. There may be changes coming to this chapter after their March meeting.

Ch. 60: Continues to be compliant with Department requirements.

I realize that I will not be covering the Hampton Roads area due to my accelerated progression through the Department line. For that reason, I focused my attention to the Hampton Roads area since December. This was made with the understanding that I will coordinate with the regional representative, 1JVC Rich Lehmann.

I met with Chapter 2 (Newport News) in October and December. I attended a Christmas parties hosted by Chapters 50 (Chesterfield), 28 (Blackstone) and 27 (Portsmouth).

I met with Ch. 27 during a membership meeting on 02/02/2023 and plan to visit with Ch. 21 (Norfolk) on 02/21/2023.

On 02/04/2023, I was part of a workshop coordinated by 2JVC Dwayne Ramey. The event took place in, Ch. 33's Charlottesville location. Ch. 30 (Waynesboro) sent representatives and we invited three other chapters to attend online. Social Media Chair and Membership Committee Representative Marcia Stewart (Ch. 21), Ch.21 Senior Vice Commander Valerie Gray and 1JVC Rich Lehmann were also in attendance. Both Vice Commanders, Comrades Stewart and Gray facilitated lectures on: Adjutant Responsibilities, Treasurer Responsibilities, and Social Media and Membership. The most important part of this workshop was the hands-on instruction delivered by Comrades Stewart and Gray.

I have also been asked to represent the Department on behalf of PDC John Simmons to attend and accept an award from Golden Corral in February 2023.

In summary, the Southwest Region will need more hands-on effort. I have spoken with PDC Steve Perkins to assist me where he can. I will also be focusing on chapter cooperation, which may help the chapters address issues more effectively.

I enjoy the opportunity to meet with other chapters that I have not met with yet in the Hampton Roads area and still keep in contact with the Northern Virginia Chapters.

I look forward to a productive and educational Spring Conference 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilton King

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DAV Department of Virginia
Senior Vice Commander



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February 10, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Wilton King

Subject: Report of the Senior Vice Commander

This report is the After-Action Report for Golden Corral 2022

TURNOVER/START-UP

The Golden Corral period began on 02SEP2022 thru 14NOV2022. The turnover between Commander Mitchell and I took place on 13JUN2022. I was provided all the after-action reports, memorandum of understandings, and fundraising requests he received during his time as Department Senior Vice Commander.

Our discussion regarding the event was that a few chapters did not submit all their paperwork, did not follow instructions for payment, and chapter cooperation needed improvement due to a lack of communication. Commander Mitchell and I discussed avenues to improve communication between cooperating chapters and paperwork collection. We also agreed it was a good idea to contact Mrs. Bernice Edgerton of the Both Incorporated Franchise by July.

BOTH INCORPORATED:

I contacted Mrs. Edgerton in July. She informed me it was too early to set up a meeting but 17AUG2022 would be a good time. Mrs. Edgerton asked me to assist her with one check because it was returned. In turn, I asked for her assistance with Chapters 2 and 6 (Ch.6 had not received a payment). Both issues were resolved in a timely manner.

Mrs. Edgerton asked to move the meeting to 24AUG2022 and to meet at the Virginia Beach store on Independence Blvd. PDC Lisa Gregory attended the meeting as well. All parties left the meeting satisfied with the schedule of events. We were to begin operations on 09SEP2022 but Chapters could start on Labor Day weekend if they preferred. Mrs. Edgerton called on 26AUG2022 requesting everyone start on 02SEP2022. I informed her we'd do our best, but several chapters had already met for the month and it was a week before Labor Day weekend. Chapters 15 and 48 started on Labor Day Weekend with Chapter 15 kicking off the month of October. The remainder of Both Inc. stores were stood-up by 09SEP2022 except for Chapter 7 which always begins the last Friday of September.

On or about 07SEP2022, Mrs. Edgerton called to inform me that Mr. Odum was contacted by DAV to film a commercial on Military Appreciation Night, 14NOV2022. I thanked her for the information and forwarded it to Adjutant Robert Cox. It was later learned that the filming was for a public service announcement (PSA) to be used by Golden Corral only.

PDC John Simmons, 2JVC Dwayne Ramey, Chapter 20 JVC Catina McIntosh, Chapter 21 SVC Marcia Stewart, and Chapter 21 JVC Edna Myers attended a meeting with Mrs. Edgerton to plan the commercial on 17SEP2022. The plan called for DAV to organize a band and a ROTC for both the Virginia Beach and Chesapeake store as the CEO of Golden Corral and DAV National Commander Parsetich were expected to attend.

Plaques were presented to Mr. Hugh Odum and Mrs. Bernice Edgerton for their dedication to the DAV for over 23 years.

Booker T. Washington provided both a ROTC and a Band that played three outstanding selections. Chapter 20 provided a microphone and a speaker. ABC News, the DAV, and Golden Corral filmed the event and conducted interviews. Department Social Media Chair Marcia Stewart was also in attendance interviewing department officers and Commander Parsetich.

We received a special write-up in the DAV Magazine for our efforts.

RECOGNITION/BRAVO ZULU:

Many thanks to PDC John Simmons, all members of Chapter 20 and Chapter 21, especially 2JVC Ramey for brainstorming and working with me to plan a more organized event. Chapter coordinators, Comrades Catina McIntosh and Edna Myers should also be recognized for coordinating the ROTC and bands and for ensuring enough members were available to cover the event at the Virginia Beach location. Iron Man award to Commander Mitchell for hosting the event after double knee replacements.

The Chesapeake store also deserves recognition. Commander Kim Barkley (Chapter 27), SVC James Wertz (Chapter 22), and Commander James Smith (Chapter 22) all remained in constant communication and staged the event with a strong ROTC presence. I was most encourage by the Chesapeake store uniform of the day guidance and the enforcement by Commander Barkley.

The PSA shoot went well despite a couple of last-minute changes. The Golden Corral CEO toured both Virginia Beach and Chesapeake stores and personally thanked me on behalf of all Golden Corral for the excellent work from DAV. He passed on the Military Appreciation Night around the country looked to be an overwhelming success.

Chapters 2 and 6 earned a Bravo Zulu for a surprise visit from Commander Parsetich.

Chapter 7 had two volunteers work one of two stores, 98% of the time, either alone or with just one another. Together, the two raised over \$7k. For their efforts, Michael Johnson and Bill

Rooney are considered family of the Ruther Glen store. Bill Rooney was recognized by Mr. Odum during Military Appreciation Night.

PAPERWORK

The Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) were sent in by all chapters on time minus two. All MOUs were collected by the end of the season. Four chapters had to rework their MOUs so that a second chapter could back-fill dates that were left open. We learned that MOU is not an approved document by Golden Corral; we will adjust to a memorandum of agreement.

All Chapters submitted their after-action reports on time. Some provided a memorandum with great detail while one chapter provided one sentence.

As of this writing, we are still waiting on two independent franchises to send their donation checks. One franchise owner acknowledged the request and confirmed the check will be mailed post-audit. Efforts continue to work through the store General Manager to receive confirmation from their headquarters.

Chapters 9, 30 & 33 (partnered for one store) and 57 also went above and beyond. All three stores raised a large sum with different challenges. A shortened season (Chapter 9 & 57 only worked less than a month) driving distances had an impact for Chapter 33 (average commute was an hour).

TOTALS

We had an exceptional season in our first full run since COVID. Final numbers are as follows:

Total Raised: \$82,025.66

Total for Department: \$14,394.46

Average number of volunteers for all participating chapters: 313

Average age of all volunteers for all participating chapters: 65 (not all chapters provided ages)

FINAL THOUGHTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Administratively, the memorandum of understanding is being replaced with a memorandum of agreement (MOA). This will be completed by the chapter outlining the dates they will stand-up a table, hours, points of contact and any other pertinent information. A signed copy of the MOA will be provided to the Golden Corral General Manager. The general manager is not required to sign the MOA.

It is recommended to replace the after-action report with an after-action report memorandum outline. If the current outline is kept, then it needs reformatting as a fillable PDF document.

Chapter training went well but all coordinators and commanders should be on the training call to ensure the information is received and reported back to their chapter executive committee and membership.

Chapters should start informing their membership to prepare for the upcoming Golden Corral season no later than July.

The Senior Vice Commander should make contact with Both Inc. in July to arrange a start date. The meeting with Mrs. Edgerton can still take place in mid-August but a start date needs to be made in July. This will allow chapters time to start on Labor Day weekend.

More emphasis must be placed on the independent franchises. We are now requiring all checks to be mailed to Department. It's recommended that a list of franchise owners be drafted and the new rule be addressed with them again before the next season.

The Bristol Golden Corral owner said they will not hold or count the money because they don't have the staff. If we enforce the rule, they will no longer participate. A new means of accounting must be created for this one store.

The raffle or drawing issues need to be addressed. Communication was received from Golden Corral corporate that stores were not supposed to hold drawings or raffles. The issue will need to be addressed with each franchise owner for the 2023 season.

Training on how to effectively work a table was requested by several chapters. This topic will be addressed during the Spring 2023 Conference under the fundraising presentation.

PSATables that were staffed by all women were often ignored. We may need to ask National to provide more advertising with women veterans and also ask Golden Corral to help us recognize our women veterans more so they are not ignored when working a table.

Literature for the tables. Chapters must ensure they have a chapter business card or palm card/pamphlet. DAV is an outstanding organization but customers were more interested when provided materials highlighting the local chapter. A sign-up sheet for service officer claims is also recommended, along with going paperless to sign up new members. Bring a device or use a personal phone to sign-up new members. Recruit for both the chapter and the auxiliary.

Engage more with the store employees. I was able to sign up the manager from Richmond because he explained how important Military Appreciation Night is to him. Long history of family that served. That is the type of member we want in our organization. Speak to the staff, get to know them, and they will help more if they get to know the volunteer.

The cheat sheet was effective when used. Chapters should look to train volunteers about DAV programs and the chapter's local presence.

Always take time to recognize the store. A certificate of appreciation, challenge coin, social media post, and/or anything that shows our gratitude. Several chapters did this. Thank you to all those that did.

We are aging out. Golden Corral is an issue for some chapters due to distance, age, and health of volunteers combined with the time of year. Alternate fundraising programs for chapters must be provided. However, we need to increase recruiting in our local areas. WE must engage the community, not wait for them to walk through our doors.

SUMMARY

A tremendous season overall. The chapters faced several issues but worked well with the Department and each other to overcome those issues. The PSA was a one-time event with national recognition. However, we cannot always put the extra effort into one franchise unless it is a special event. Our team put several hours with less than two weeks notice to organize the ROTC and band.

Very pleased with the efforts of all chapters. Communication was outstanding and the full support of the department and all chapters made this a great season. I could not have asked for a better group of chapter coordinators, chapter leaders and chapter volunteers.

Congratulations to all the chapters for putting in the work and receiving a healthy donation in return.

Last, Congratulations to PDC John Simmons for being recognized by Golden Corral for his continued service.

Respectfully submitted,

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Wilton King
DAV Department of Virginia
Senior Vice Commander



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February 28, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Richard Lehmann, First Junior Vice Commander
Subject: Report for Dept Spring Conference 2023

This report is for the period October 17, 2022 through March 15, 2023. I will detail activities with the DAV Chapters in the Tidewater Region: 2, 5, 6, 13, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 34, 58, and 61.

Chapter 58. Attended Chapter 58 monthly membership meeting on Tuesday, November 2, 2022. PDC Cynthia Williams facilitated most of the meeting which revolved around recent chapter events. Submitted my report to the Department Adjutant on November 7.

Golden Corral. Visited three Golden Corral locations on Military Appreciation Night, Monday, November 14, 2022. Chapters 28 and 47 in Colonial Heights, Chapter 17 in Midlothian, and Chapter 50 in Glen Allen.

Golden Corral – Tidewater Chapters AARs. Sent out an email reminding them to submit AARs.

Golden Corral AAR – attended an After-Action call hosted by Dept SVC Will King that recapped successes and opportunities.

Chapter 7 Holiday Party. Attended the Chapter 7 Holiday Party in Fredericksburg.

Fundraising guide. I've given feedback on at least two occasions to Dept SVC Will King on the Fundraising Guide that he has been drafting.

Workshop on Saturday, February 4, 2023. Dept 2JVC Dwayne Ramey organized a workshop for the benefit of chapters on the Charlottesville area. I presented materials regarding Treasurer duties and the top things you need to know about being a Chapter Treasurer.

February 9. At the request of the Dept Adjutant, I sent emails to the Commanders of Chapters 13, 20, 21, 26, and 61 reminding them of their obligation to send in their AFR to Department.

Provided advice to Chapter 13 about the process of filing an amendment to their Chapter C&B

Sent out emails encouraging the Tidewater Chapters to attend the 6th District NEC Meeting, DAV Mid-Winter Conference, and Dept of Virginia Spring Conference.

I attended the 6th District NEC Meeting and DAV Mid-Winter Conference

Overall, very satisfied with the progress from the Chapters. I will continue to reach out to each Chapter and communicate regularly with CDR Mitchell, SVC King, and 2JVC Ramey.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Lehmann



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March 3, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Spring Conference
FROM: Dwayne Ramey, Department 2nd Jr Vice Commander
Subject: Report of the 2nd Jr Vice Commander through March 6th

This report is for the period June 20th through March 6th, 2023

Ccommunications are ongoing with the I-95 corridor chapters on a regular basis. Attended meetings in person and virtually.

Helped coordinate the Independence Golden Corral 30th Anniversary with special guests our National Commander and the Chief Executive Officer of Golden Corral. Worked with Senior vice King, and Chapter 21 leadership to obtain the services of Booker T. Washington H.S. Honor Guard, NROTC Unit and school orchestra for the event. The children had the opportunity to sit down with our National Commander, Department Commander and other DAV members to discuss their futures. All indications are that the event was a success. Great community visibility for the national organization and local DAV Chapters 20 and 21.

During this period I was privileged to participate in training opportunities from the Department Membership, Social Media and Women Vets committees via zoom. Talking to comrades that participated in these sessions indicated that the membership likes this approach of sharing information and updates rather than waiting until Conferences.

Chapter 11 held a meeting that I attended because they voted to merge their chapter with Chapter 48. Chapter 48 had a subsequent meeting and voted to accept Chapter 11's merger request if approved by the Department DEC's during the Spring Conference.

Chapter 30 and 33 in Charlottesville, participated in a hands-on training opportunity. 1st Jr vice Lehmann, Department Social Media Chairman, Membership Committee Member Commander Stewart and myself. We were able to give quick briefings on Membership, Social Media, Treasurer and Adjutant responsibilities and respond to any specific questions they requested. There were other chapters on a zoom video hosted by Senior vice King. The chapters commented that it was useful information and completed a survey after the training session.

My first Mid-Winter Conference was very informative and gave another opportunity to meet some great DAV Comrades from our Chapters and others around the nation.

It has been a pleasure collaborating with the I-95 Chapters and look forward with cultivating more open and successful relationships with all the I-95 leaders and members. Still looking for good aspiring young leaders out there to replace all of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwayne Ramey,
2nd Junior Vice Commander



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March 10, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Stephen C. Combs, Department Judge Advocate

Subject: Report of the Judge Advocate

This report is for the period October 17, 2022 through March 15, 2023

During this reporting period I have continued my volunteer service with the Washington DC VA Medical Center Institutional Review Board and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Geriatric and Gerontology Advisory Committee. I have also continued to be active with my home chapter, General Washington #7, Fredericksburg, and we are in the process of writing up several new resolutions for the Department's consideration at the annual convention in Roanoke. The members of Chapter 7 challenge every other Chapter to attempt to develop a resolution or two for submission. I believe that last year there were only three chapters that entered resolutions to the Department.

As far as Judge Advocate activities I have fielded several inquiries from various chapters and Department Officers. I have received, reviewed, and forwarded to the National Judge Advocate the Chapter 3 request for Constitution and Bylaw changes. I will be conducting the annual Constitution and Bylaws Seminar at Spring Conference, tentatively scheduled to occur on Thursday March 16 at 11 am. Hope to see everyone there.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen C. Combs
Judge Advocate



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March 2, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Spring Conference
FROM: Patricia E. Coker-Bell, Chaplain
Subject: Report of the Chaplain

This report is for the period **October 17, 2022 through March 15, 2023**

The Chaplain and the Assistant Chaplain have endeavored to carry out the mission of DAV even in the midst of global, national, local and personal challenges. The following is a snapshot of our active ways of caring for comrades and their families:

- Monthly meetings were held to discuss, plan, and implement goals and objectives based on the duties of the Chaplain as outlined in the DAV Constitution and Bylaws along with the DAV Ritual manual.
- A monthly DAV Virginia Chaplains C.A.R.E. flyer continues to be sent to Department officers and chapters. We encourage everyone to share it with other comrades, family, and friends. Additionally, when chapters are celebrating special moments or any other events and activities, please send the Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain that information so that it can be shared on the monthly flyer.
- The Chaplain participated in the following:
 - Attended and in some instances, officiated at 12 Celebration of Life Services/Funerals
 - Attended and was the keynote speaker for the Second Annual Women's Empowerment Conference in Atlanta, GA sponsored by the Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc.
 - Attended 2 Veterans Day events
 - Attended 3 Christmas/Holiday DAV Virginia Chapter Celebrations
 - Attended the annual Horton Wreath Society Ceremony at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk, VA
 - Attended 2 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events
 - Sent approximately 70 greeting cards and/or letters to comrades and family members which included sympathy, get well, thinking about you, Valentine cards, etc.

The Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain continues to care for comrades and their families. We pray, encourage, and continue to seek other ways to show that we care. We care, because you matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Coker-Bell



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March 4, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Cynthia Bailey, IPDC

Subject: Report of the Immediate Past Department Commander (IPDC)

This report is for the period October 17, 2022, through March 6, 2023

During this period, I had the privilege of visiting several chapters and attend other functions in person and via social media. With each visit, I provided insight into the operations and management of the chapter. Since the visits, I have remained in contact with the officers to provide updates, guidance and support. More importantly, I see the growth within each chapter through their dedication and hard work.

We are currently in our March Membership Madness campaign so remember to use all online resources to sign up new members. This is the only way your chapter and the Department will earn credit for new members that you signup. Make sure you download the Recruit-A-Warrior QR code to your mobile device to assist you with your recruitment efforts. Remember, if you mail in a paper form it will count towards your chapters goal but will not be included in the March Membership Madness Challenge!!! The Department of Virginia are back-to-Back Champions so let's make it a 3-Peat and Happy Recruiting!

Finally, it is time to start preparing for annual elections. Anyone interested in running for a position at your chapter or the department level should read their Chapter's C&B, Chapter Officers Guide, Department C&B and speak with those who have held or currently holding the position you're interested in. It is very important that you understand the duties and responsibilities for the position. Please submit your packet to your chapter and/or department's Nominating Committee.

I look forward to seeing you all at the conference.

"The struggles along the way are only meant to shape you for your purpose. Press on with pride and press on with purpose."

Chadwick Boseman

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Bailey



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February 27, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Spring Conference
FROM: Robert D. Cox, PDC
Subject: Report of the Adjutant and Treasurer/Finance

This report is for the period October 17, 2022 through March 6, 2023

The department implemented a process several years ago which assigns each line officer as the liaison between the chapter and department. This process has worked very well so it is important that the chapters go through their liaison before contacting the department headquarters. Your assigned liaison will advise you and the department if any issue, concern, question, etc., needs to be addressed by the department. The liaison for your chapter should have been in contact with the chapter already. Here is a list of each line officer and the chapter they are the point of contact for:

Senior Vice Commander King – Chapters: 3, 9, 19, 23, 24, 29, 31, 35, 40, 45, 52, 56, 57, 59, and 60.

1st Junior Vice Commander Lehmann – Chapters: 2, 5, 6, 13, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 34, 41, 58, and 61.

2nd Junior Vice Commander Ramey – Chapters: 7, 10, 11, 15, 17, 28, 30, 33, 47, 48 and 50.

Since the department has implemented this process, I continue to hear a few chapters making the same old comment that the department “needs to stay out of the chapter business”. I would be remiss if I did not remind those chapters that “all chapters” fall under purview of the Department and are accountable to the Department. All chapters hold “their charter” at the pleasure of the Department and the Department Executive Committee. The Department will not tolerate this mindset/belief. If a chapter does not want to comply with requirements or requests by the Department as well as the National Organization action can be taken to have the chapter charter suspended or revoked. This would be the last course of action but will be taken if necessary.

The department continues to successfully use electronic mail for all mailings except when otherwise required. To continue this means of communication it is extremely important that the department has accurate information from **ALL** chapters. The department depends on information provided on the Officers Report for many tasks. Remember, in accordance with the bylaws, chapters have ten (10) days to submit the initial and/or revised Officer Report. Not submitting the report ten (10) days after officer installation or changes to the Officer Report is a violation of the National bylaws. Article 1, Section 1-4, Para 3(d) of the Department Bylaws states "Chapter Officers shall be elected and installed prior to the convening of the Department Annual Convention" which means that Chapter Officer Reports must be submitted to the Department prior to the convening of the convention. Please make sure the Chapter Officer Report is accurate, **legible** and has been sent to the department within the specified timeframe.

Please note, the department email will be changing due to continuing problems with Cox Communication. Additionally, we will be doing away with the virginiadavhq@cox.net email address. **Effective March 27th the only email address for the department will be davadjutantva@gmail.com**. Please make sure this is communicated to your chapter leadership. There will be a separate email address for the Department Treasurer: davtreasurerva@gmail.com.

To continue our efforts to reduce administrative costs the department we will continue our practice of posting Officer and Committee reports and minutes on the website prior to the conference/convention. It is the responsibility of the DEC and/or Alternate DEC to print the reports or read the reports online. This also allows the general membership the opportunity to read the various reports.

The Department website has been very successful and looks great. Kudo's to Jim Proconier who continues to take the lead and works hard to make sure we have an up-to-date quality website. The chat feature he added has been well received and utilized. Check out the site so you can become comfortable navigating the site and gain a knowledge of the reports and other information provided on the site. As we approach the convention all the reports required to be completed are on the site. If you have any feedback, positive or negative, please let the department know so concerns can be addressed. Since changes are made to the site to make it better and friendlier you may find brief times when the site is not accessible.

Also, chapters who have websites, check the site frequently so see if changes and/or updates need to be made. The social media committee is willing to help ANY chapter who wants to improve or start using the various social media modalities.

Please note that the website will be the **ONLY** source of information for future events and activities. Appoint a chapter member to check the site frequently and disseminate information. We have been able to get conference and convention information on the

site at least prior to the event. Do not go through the national website to get to the department website. The department website is:

www.virginiadav.org

Make sure you have the correct email address for the department, davadjutantva@gmail.com. The department office phone number is 540-206-2575 and the fax number is 540-206-2925. The mailing address is:

**Disabled American Veterans
Department of Virginia
P.O. Box 7176
Roanoke, VA 24019**

In conclusion, I would like to remind all DAV members of our mission and the purpose for which this organization was chartered by Congress to do: **“Building better lives for all of our nation’s disabled veterans and their families”**. Personal agendas and personality conflicts within chapters and the organization only distract from our mission. I challenge everyone to find ways to work together so you/we can move forward and serve the purpose for which this organization was chartered. It is also the chapter’s responsibility to protect DAV assets from theft or conversion. This requires good/sound financial management of DAV funds.

I hope the Spring Conference will be productive and enjoyable for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert D. Cox, PDC
Adjutant/Executive Director

**Disabled American Veterans
Department of Virginia, Inc.
Treasurer/Financial Report
July 1, 2022 thru March 10, 2023**

Income

| Item | Budget | Received as of 1010/23 | Balance as of 1010/23 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0100 - Membership Dues | \$70,000.00 | \$39,976.00 | \$30,024.00 |
| 0200 - National Fund Raising | \$150,000.00 | \$52,588.75 | \$97,411.25 |
| 0300 - Thrift Store | \$40,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$40,000.00 |
| 0400 - Earned Interest | \$150.00 | \$724.22 | -\$574.22 |
| 0600 - Conference/Convention Receipts | \$31,000.00 | \$19,715.00 | \$11,285.00 |
| 0800 - Donations | \$25,150.00 | \$104,589.92 | -\$79,439.92 |
| 1100 - Natl. Disabled Vet Sports Clinic | \$60,000.00 | \$43,875.00 | \$16,125.00 |
| 1200 - Chapter Funds | \$85,000.00 | \$119,619.13 | -\$34,619.13 |
| 1300 - Transfer from Savings | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 1400 - Transportation Network | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 1500 - Special Projects | \$10,000.00 | \$209,118.70 | -\$199,118.70 |
| 1600 - Miscellaneous Income | \$59,000.00 | \$10,357.25 | \$48,642.75 |
| Total Income | \$530,300.00 | \$600,563.97 | -\$70,263.97 |

Expenditures Service

| Item | Budget | Expended as of 1010/23 | Balance as of 1010/23 |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 101 - Department Service Commission | \$85,000 | \$23,248.96 | \$61,751.04 |
| 102 - VAVS Programs | \$30,000 | \$30,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| 103 - VAVS Activities | \$2,500 | \$0.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| 104 - State VAVS Chairman | \$2,500 | \$345.40 | \$2,154.60 |
| 105 - NSO Roanoke | \$5,000 | \$1,481.70 | \$3,518.30 |
| 107 - Membership Incentives | \$1,000 | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| 108 - DAV National Service Foundation | \$20,000 | \$20,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| 110 - Virginia Veterans Care Center | \$1,000 | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| 111 - Virginia War Memorial Fund | \$500 | \$500.00 | \$0.00 |
| 112 - Emergency Relief | \$1,500 | \$0.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| 113 - General Services Donations | \$0 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 114 - Social Media | \$4,500 | \$1,225.20 | \$3,274.80 |
| 115 - Homeless Veterans | \$2,500 | \$0.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| 116 - Natl. Disabled Vet Sports Clinic | \$60,000 | \$60,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| 120 - Transportation Network | \$0 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 121 - Special Projects | \$28,000 | \$207,256.46 | -\$179,256.46 |
| 122 - D-Day Memorial | \$500 | \$500.00 | \$0.00 |
| 123 - Womens Committee | \$2,500 | \$693.80 | \$1,806.20 |
| 124 - Incarcerated Vet Asst. Committee | \$2,500 | \$627.80 | \$1,872.20 |
| Total Expenditures - Service | \$249,500 | \$346,879.32 | -\$97,379.32 |

**Disabled American Veterans
Department of Virginia, Inc.
Treasurer/Financial Report - July 1, 2022 thru March 10, 2023**

| Item | Budget | Expended as of 10/10/23 | Balance as of 10/10/23 |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 201 - Commander | \$5,000 | \$0.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| 202 - Senior Vice Commander | \$3,500 | \$2,785.31 | \$714.69 |
| 203 - 1st Junior Vice Commander | \$3,000 | \$872.50 | \$2,127.50 |
| 204 - 2nd Junior Vice Commander | \$3,000 | \$984.80 | \$2,015.20 |
| 205 - Judge Advocate | \$2,500 | \$1,190.64 | \$1,309.36 |
| 206 - Chaplain | \$2,500 | \$1,309.46 | \$1,190.54 |
| 207 - Immediate Past Commander | \$2,500 | \$0.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| 208 - Inspector | \$2,500 | \$130.00 | \$2,370.00 |
| 209 - Finance Committee | \$3,000 | \$1,368.90 | \$1,631.10 |
| 210 - Time and Place Committee | \$3,800 | \$1,383.14 | \$2,416.86 |
| 211 - Legislative Committee | \$2,500 | \$0.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| 212 - Benefits Protection | \$0 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 213 - Employment Committee | \$2,500 | \$1,715.74 | \$784.26 |
| 214 - Audit Committee | \$3,000 | \$239.92 | \$2,760.08 |
| 215 - Commanders Appointments | \$10,200 | \$3,551.25 | \$6,648.75 |
| 216 - General Travel | \$1,500 | \$0.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| 217 - National Convention | \$10,000 | \$2,452.07 | \$7,547.93 |
| 218 - Mid-Winter Conference | \$15,000 | \$3,805.32 | \$11,194.68 |
| 219 - 6th District | \$6,000 | \$1,000.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| 221 - C&A Orientation | \$9,000 | \$2,430.50 | \$6,569.50 |
| Total Expenditures - Officers/Committees | \$91,000 | \$25,219.55 | \$65,780.45 |

Expenditures - Administration

| Item | Budget | Expended as of 10/10/23 | Balance as of |
|--|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 301 - Administration | \$55,000 | \$32,558.96 | \$22,441.04 |
| 302 - Dept. HQ Rent/Expenses | \$18,000 | \$17,425.88 | \$574.12 |
| 303 - Awards | \$1,000 | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| 304 - Adjutant Compensation | \$40,000 | \$25,149.38 | \$14,850.62 |
| 305 - Adjutant Travel | \$5,000 | \$708.50 | \$4,291.50 |
| 306 - Office Manager Compensation | \$22,800 | \$5,949.15 | \$16,850.85 |
| 308 - Treasurer Compensation/Travel | \$0 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 309 - Conference/Convention | \$40,000 | \$18,838.98 | \$21,161.02 |
| 310 - National Convention Activities | \$0 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 311 - Special Projects | \$5,000 | \$22,538.58 | -\$17,538.58 |
| 312 - Investments/CD | \$0 | \$250,005.00 | -\$250,005.00 |
| 313 - National Office Candidate | \$3,000 | \$1,226.20 | \$1,773.80 |
| Total Expenditures - Administration | \$189,800 | \$374,400.63 | -\$184,600.63 |

Disabled American Veterans
Department of Virginia, Inc.
Treasurer/Financial Report - July 1, 2022 thru March 6, 2023
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY AS OF 3/10/2023

| | Budget | Balance as of |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| | 3/6/23 | |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$600,563.97 | \$530,300 |
| Total Expenditures - Service | \$346,879.32 | \$70,263.97 |
| Total Expenditures - Officers/Committees | \$25,219.55 | \$97,379.32 |
| Total Expenditures - Administration | \$374,400.63 | -\$65,780.45 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$746,499.50 | \$355,500.63 |
| | | -\$387,099.50 |

| | Bank | Type of Account | Balance | Statement Date |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Bank Accounts | | | | |
| | Atlantic UnionBank | General Operating | \$38,374.25 | 2/15/23 |
| | Atlantic UnionBank | Dept Service Comm | \$25,611.10 | 2/15/23 |
| | Atlantic UnionBank | Money Market | \$321,351.95 | 1/31/23 |
| | | Subtotal | \$385,337.30 | |
| Investments | Market Value | Corporate Acct. | \$1,396,453.10 | 10/6/2022 |
| United Income | Market Value | TS Account | \$300,058.66 | 10/6/2022 |
| | Freedom First | CD Account | \$250,000.00 | |
| Total | | | \$2,331,849.06 | |



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)
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Department Website: www.virginiadav.org

March 2, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Denice T. Williams

Subject: Report of the Joint Leadership Council Representative

This report is for the period October 7, 2022 through March 6, 2023.

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations (JLC) met in Richmond at the Virginia War Memorial on December 15, 2022 to prioritize and strategize the 2023 Initiatives and to prepare for the JLC Virtual Day on the Hill scheduled for January 11, 2023. The Governor's Office and the General Assembly significantly supported the six legislative and budget initiatives. By close of the 2023 General Assembly session, four of the six JLC initiatives had been passed by both Chambers of the General Assembly; the remaining two initiatives may be revisited. This was an overwhelming success! Approved Initiatives were:

- JLC 2023-01: Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to also include "Died in the Line-of-Duty" – Identical resolution must pass the 2024 General Assembly in order to be on the ballot in the November 2024 General Election.
- JLC 2023-04: Eliminate Spouse/Dependent and Guard/Reserve Burial Fees
- JLC 2023-05: Virginia National Guard State Park Admission
- JLC 2023-06: Virginia National Guard Income Tax Exemption

In total, during the 2023 GA session, 52 pieces of military-related legislation were introduced; 30 made it to Crossover and at least 16 were approved by both Chambers. Thanks to an outpouring of support, the approval for Women Veterans license plate was successful.

It is again strongly recommended that Department of Virginia revise the current policy and submit any proposed position papers/initiatives no later than May 2023 in order to be considered in the JLC 2024 Initiatives.

The next JLC meeting is scheduled for May.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice Williams



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)
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Department Website: www.virginiadav.org

March 2, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Spring Conference
FROM: Ana Alicea, Department Inspector
Subject: Report of the Department Inspector

This report is for the period October 17, 2022 through March 15, 2023

At the present time there are no Chapters under suspension or otherwise. During this reporting period Chapter #58 was under suspension; however, after a full investigation by the undersigned the suspension was lifted as of January 2023, with the understanding that the Chapter would adhere to the recommendations made.

During the investigative process of Chapter #58, the following

- All members should read and be familiar with the Chapter, Department and National Bylaws. When an investigation is initiated the first document read by the Inspector is the Chapter Bylaws to determine if the bylaws are being followed. Most members can say that they have read the bylaws; however, they are not truly familiar with the bylaws to the point of following what is written. For example, if the bylaws indicate that every voucher must be accompanied by a receipt or some form of documentation explaining the expenditure, then every voucher must have a receipt or other document(s) attached.
- In order for a Chapter to safeguard their assets (National Bylaws, Article 14, section 14.9, Safeguarding Assets) an annual inventory of property should be conducted and documented upon new Commander taking charge.
- In order to avoid a conflict of interest a fair market assessment should be made when a contract for any service is anticipated. Obtaining proposals from at least three different sources is ideal. Furthermore, ensure that there is no indication of nepotism or bias by making sure that those members involved in obtaining the proposals are not related to or show favor towards the vendor(s).

Respectfully submitted,

Ana Alicea
Department Inspector



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)
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February 27, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Christopher S. Cheney/VAVS Chair

Subject: Report of the Department VAVS

This report is for the period June 20th, 2022 through March 6th, 2023

This has been another year of encountering issues with volunteer opportunities at the Veterans Affairs Health Centers due to the still ongoing COVID pandemic and the new variants which seem to pop up every other day.

We have not been driving the vans to pick up patients; and have not received any indication from any of the hospitals of an exact timeframe in which this would resume. However, Mr. Johnson from Richmond Medical Center recently told our DAV VAVS representative "he is hoping to start utilizing the DAV vehicles within a month or so" he continued to say, "and of course that is contingent on the availability of drivers." The Voluntary Service Staff at the various hospitals have been taking care of the vans by having the volunteer drivers come in and start them up and ensure they stay in good mechanical order.

I contacted the VAVS Chief at the Salem VA Medical Center and he stated "From my understanding the DAV is interviewing for HSC Candidates. As soon as someone is hired for that we will be needing drivers. We are reaching out to all of our past drivers to see if they are interested in coming back at this time." It is hopeful that all prior drivers will return once this is accomplished.

We have been working with the Department Adjutant and Treasurer Robert Cox in getting the annual donation checks to the various VA Medical Center VAVS Departments. I believe we have received everyone's line-item requests and the remainder of the checks should be enroute soon.

The current VAVS Representatives and their Deputies are as listed below:

Terry Early, VAVS Representative – Salem
James Barnette, VAVS Deputy Representative – Salem
Lee Bricker, VAVS Deputy Representative – Salem

Tanya Canty, VAVS Representative – Hampton
Lu Juanda Gray-Parks, VAVS Deputy Representative – Hampton
Keith Davis, VAVS Deputy Representative – Hampton

Richard Olivier, VAVS Representative – Richmond
Roger Overstreet, VAVS Deputy Representative – Richmond

If there are any questions or concerns in reference to this report, please email me or the appropriate VAVS Representative or their Deputy.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher S. Cheney