



Department Minutes

**Fall Conference
2nd DEC Meeting
March 15, 2022**

**2nd Department Executive Committee Meeting
October 16, 2022**

Commander Mitchell

Call to Order

Time 11:05

Assistant Chaplain Fred Moore

Invocation

“God, be merciful unto us, and bless us. Cause Your Face to shine upon us, that Your way, may be known upon the Earth, and Thy saving strength among all people. Let the people be glad and sing for joy, for You shalt judge them righteously, and govern the Nations upon earth.

We pray today for our comrades, families and friends who are going through difficult times and times of grief. We pray for our troops, veterans and families that are abroad and in harm’s way. We pray for Your peace, safety, and guidance over the current conflict in the world.

**Especially do we pray that we may have Your guidance to the end, and that each of us firmly uphold the great principles of this organization, may God bless our DAV leadership and bless our servitude to all veterans across our great nation.
Amen.**

Sr. Vice King

Oath of Allegiance to the Flag

**MISSION STATEMENT
Read by Adjutant Cox**

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

The entire mission is on the department and National webpage.

RULES OF THE CONFERENCE

I will only read the first six rules of the 31 (A copy of the 31 rules are in the DEC packets)

Rule 1: Robert's Rules of Order, revised, will govern except as hereinafter specifically stated, and when not in conflict with the Disabled American Veterans Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules of the Convention.

Rule 2: For the purpose of recognition, a member of the Convention must (a) address the chair as Comrade Commander; (b) state name and chapter or title; (c) proceed only after recognition from the chair.

Rule 3: Debate on any question shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker except by consent of two-thirds of the delegates present.

Rule 4: Not more than two (2) representatives from any one Chapter shall be permitted to discuss any one subject except by a two-thirds (2/3) consent.

Rule 5: Recognition shall be granted only once to any one speaker on any one subject. A rebuttal of not more than two minutes may be permitted. Additional recognition may be granted by two-thirds (2/3) consent.

Rule 6: No person who has spoken for or against any motion, resolution or report on the Convention floor shall be permitted to make a motion to table. A motion to table is not debatable and shall require a majority affirmation vote. A tabled motion may be taken from the table for reconsideration by a majority vote.

Roll Call

Present

Elected Officers:

Commander Mitchell	X
SVC King	X
1st JVC Lehmann	X
2nd JVC Ramey	X
Judge Advocate Combs	X
Chaplain Patricia Coker-Bell	Exc
Immed. Past Commander Bailey	X

Appointed Officers:

Adjutant Cox	X
Treasurer Cox	X
Inspector Alicea-Diaz	X
Officer of the Day Early	X
Sergeant at Arms Giles	X

Department Commanders:

John Simmons	X
Lisa Gregory	X
Denice Williams	X
John King	X
Cynthia Madison	X
Rita E. Aberegg	X
Dan Miller	X
Stephen D. Perkins	X
Robert D. Cox	X

Chapter DEC:

2 Vincent Remson	X
3 David Raborn	X
5 Murphy Coleman	X
6 Newt Smith	X
7 Dave Clay	X
10 Shamala Caprizzi	X
13 Timothy Valentine	X
15 Joel D Courtemanche	X
17 William B Hill	X
20 Earl Bailey	X
21 Marcia Stewart	X
22 James Smith, JR.	X
26 Mark A. Moten	X

27 Cynthia Madison	X
28 Michael L. Bagley	X
30 Wayne Godby	X
33 Delton L. Everton	X
34 Charles L. Morris	X
47 Robert McPhaul	X
48 Julie Hoyte	X
50 Jack Bolan	X
58 Daniel Miller	X
60 Christopher Cheney	X
61 Thomas Riley	X

Adjutant Cox: Comrade Commander, we have a quorum.

COMMANDERS APPOINTMENTS: Commander Mitchell

I make the following appointments:

Tellers of Election: PDC Rita Aberegg, Chapter 7

PDC Steve Perkins, Chapter 29

DEC Newt Smith, Chapter 6

Adjutant Interview Committee: PDC Dan Miller

PDC Steve Perkins

PDC Cynthia Madison

PDC John Simmons

Motion to accept the appointment was made by Julie Hoyte, chapter 48 and second by PDC Bailey, chapter 20.

COMMUNICATIONS

Adjutant Cox: The department received a letter from DAV National Adjutant/CEO Marc Burgess dated October 13, 2022 regarding the National Disaster Relief Fund.

Adjutant Cox prepared to read the following minutes:

Minutes of the 3rd DEC Meeting

Minutes of the 4th DEC Meeting

Minutes of the 90th Annual Convention Business Session

Minutes of the 1st DEC Session

All the minutes were posted on the website prior to the conference for review.

Motion to suspend reading of the minutes was made by Rita Aberegg, chapter 7 and second by Dan Miller, chapter 58.

DEPARTMENT OFFICER REPORTS:

The following Elected and Appointed Officer Reports were provided to the conference prior to convening:

Commander
Senior Vice Commander
1st Junior Vice Commander
2nd Junior Vice Commander
Judge Advocate
Chaplain
Immediate Past Commander
Adjutant
Treasurer/Financial
State VAVS Chair
Department Inspector
JLC Representative

There were no addendums to any of the reports. A motion to accept the reports was made by James Smith, chapter 22 and second by Julie Hoyte, chapter 48.

DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The following committee reports were provided to the conference prior to convening:

Department Service Commission
Awards Committee
Finance Committee
Audit Committee
Emergency Relief Committee
Homeless Committee
Women's Committee
Employment Committee
Membership Committee
Incarcerated Veterans Committee
Legislative/Benefits protection Team Leader
Social Media Committee

Each Committee had an opportunity to provide an addendum to their report. The following addendums were provided.

Finance Committee met at 0800 on October 14th; they approved \$50,000 for Disaster Relief to National and \$50,000 from Thrift Store contributions. They made an approval to pay for a new laptop computer for the Adjutant/Executive Director and to support the DAV 5K with a donation of \$2,000.

The Employment Committee This addendum to the report is for the period October 6, 2022 through October 16, 2022. On Wednesday, October 12, 2022, the Employment Committee hosted a hiring fair on behalf of the DAV Department of Virginia. There was great employer presentation, and the Virginia Employment Committee (VEC) and Department of Veteran Services (DVS) were both present to assist veterans with employment opportunities and

available state resources. In attendance, there were: • Employers (10) • Candidates (33) • Employment Committee (4) • VEC Staff (4) • DVS Staff (1) • DAV Members (16) There were 68 total in attendance. From personal observation and initial feedback from those present, the event went well. In speaking with the VEC staff, DVS staff and employers present, foot traffic at hiring fair events has been down since the pandemic but showing signs of improvement. Today was evidence of that improvement based on the numbers in attendance. However, the true measurement of success will be determined by those seeking jobs actually gaining employment. Feedback will be solicited from all involved parties as a unit of measure to track placement and to enhance and improve the next hiring fair event. Thank all of you who helped coordinate, promote and host this event. A good foundation is in place to carry this effort forward, and we look forward hosting another event in the future!

A motion was made to accept the reports and addendums by Marcia Stewart, chapter 21 and second by Newt Smith, chapter 6.

The Time and Place Committee presented their report. Chair PDC Madison presented the following

Registered Attendance (DAV)	<u>117</u>
Registered Attendance (DAVA)	<u>46</u>
Past Department Commanders	<u>10</u>
Chapters	<u>24</u>
Units	<u>15</u>
Banquet Attendance	<u>128</u>

Commander Mitchell: Is there any unfinished business?

Adjutant Cox: None

If your chapter/or anyone is going to make a donation(s) to any of the service programs, please get the donation slip from Sgt-at-Arms Giles or the registration table. We will be following the same process as the last couple events. We will have line officers /PDC's take the donations at tables in the registration area at 1:00. I will read the donations during the afternoon session.

PDC Luncheon will be in Woodlake 1.

Commander Mitchell: We will recess until 1:30. Recess began at 11:35.

Commander Mitchell: The 2nd DEC is reconvened at 1330.

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjutant Cox: I read a letter earlier from National Adjutant/CEO Marc Burgess regarding the need for disaster relief funds. Yesterday morning the Board of Directors met and authorized a contribution of \$50,000 from our Thrift Store funds to support the National disaster relief funds. The Finance Committee met yesterday morning and approved that the department match the \$50,000 from department funds.

Therefore, I make a motion the DEC approve the authorization by the Board of Directors of \$50,000 from Thrift Store funds and the approval by the Finance Committee of \$50,000 from department funds to the National Organization Disaster Relief program. Motion second by Rita Aberegg, chapter 7.

Commander Mitchell: The Bylaws of the Department of Virginia state that the terms of office for two members of the Finance Committee expire at the Fall Conference. The two positions on the Finance Committee created by the expirations are the terms of office for Steve Perkins (23) and Tonya Culbert (10) resigned from the Finance Committee due to personal reasons. At this time, the floor is open for nominations for the two Finance Committee vacancies. Rita Aberegg, chapter 7 nominated Steve Perkins, chapter 23 and Terry Bohlinger, chapter 13 nominated Lee Everton, chapter 33. There were no other nominations. Nominees were accepted.

Commander Mitchell: Adjutant Cox will present proposals for the 2024 Fall Conference.

Proposals were also sent to the:

Holiday Inn Charlottesville – Not able to bid that far out due to football schedule which has not been released.

Doubletree By Hilton Charlottesville – Same as above

Holiday Inn Staunton Conference Center did not respond.

Two proposals received were from Delta Hotels by Marriott Chesapeake Norfolk and Sheraton Four Points Richmond Airport, dates were the same for both Wednesday 10/16 – Sunday 10/20 or Wednesday 10/23 to Sunday 10/27. Rates were the same for both, \$98.00 plus tax. Food and beverage was \$7,000.00 minimum plus service charge.

Commander Mitchell: I will entertain a motion to accept a location of your choosing for the Spring 2024 Fall Conference.

A motion was made by PDC Bailey, chapter 20 for the Richmond location for 10/16/2024 through 10/20/2024 and second by PDC Miller, chapter 58.

I will now install the new Finance Committee members and any DEC member or appointed positions who were not installed at the 1st DEC meeting. Please come forward to be installed.

Please Rise (Rap the Gavel Three Times)

Raise your right hands and repeat after me:

I, State your name Upon my word and honor, as a member of the Disabled American Veterans, in the presence of almighty God and my comrades, and before the flag of my country, accept the office to which I have been elected, I promise to perform the duties of such office, to the best of my ability. I promise to conduct myself in such a manner, at all times and places as will only affect the good of the order, I promise to sustain and enforce the constitution and Bylaws of this organization. When my successor has been duly elected or appointed, and installed, I promise to surrender to him or her, all the property of this order, in my possession, all of which I now affirm.

You may lower your hands

Please return to your seats (Rap the Gavel 1 time)

Is there any other new business?

Incarcerated Veteran Committee:

Donations: Chapter 34, \$500; Chapter 58, \$500; Chapter 30, \$100; Chapter 13 \$500.

Pledges: Chapter 21, 200

Total \$1600 \$200

Winter Sports Clinic:

Donations: Chapter 34, \$500; Chapter 13, \$1000; Sam Watkins, \$40.

Pledges: Chapter 26, \$125.

Total \$1540 \$125

Golden Age Games:

Donations: Chapter 34, \$500; Chapter 13, \$500.

Pledges: \$0

Total \$1000 \$0

Department Service Commission:

Donations: Chapter 34, \$500; Chapter 58, \$500; Chapter 27, \$1000; Chapter 13, \$500.

Pledges: Chapter 5, \$500.

Total \$2500 \$500

Women Veterans Program:

Donations: Chapter 34, \$500; Chapter 58, \$500; Chapter 13, \$500; Chapter 2, \$100.

Pledges: Chapter 21, \$200; Chapter 26, \$125; Chapter 5, \$500; Chapter 17, \$50.

Total \$1600 \$875

Employment Committee:

Donations: Chapter 34, \$500; Chapter 13, \$500; Chapter 2, \$100.

Pledges: Chapter 21, \$200.

Total \$1100 \$200

Homeless Program:

Donations: Chapter 34, \$500; Chapter 30, \$100; Chapter 13, \$500; Chapter 22, \$1000; Chapter 27, \$1000.

Pledges: Chapter 21, \$200; Chapter 26, \$125; Chapter 5, \$500; Chapter 17, \$50.

Total \$3100 \$875

Wheel Chair Games:

Donations: Chapter 34, \$500; Chapter 13, \$1000.

Pledges: \$0

Total \$1500 \$0

Social Media:

Donations: Chapter 34, \$500; Chapter 13, \$500; Chapter 2, \$100.

Pledges: \$0

Total \$1100 \$0

Emergency Relief:

Donations: Chapter 34, \$500; Chapter 27, \$1000; Chapter 30, 100; Chapter 13, \$1000; Chapter 22, \$2000.

Pledges: Chapter 21, \$200; Chapter 26, \$125; Chapter 5, \$500.

Total \$ 4600 \$825

Other Donations:

L. Joan Lowe – Adopt a Chapter - \$100

Chapter 13 – Disaster Relief - \$500

Chapter 2 – Membership Committee - \$100

Chapter 2 – DAV 5k Movers & Shakers - \$100

Total \$800

Total Program Donations Received \$19,640.

Total Pledges Received \$3,600.

Adjutant Cox announced that it had been discussed by the PDCs and line officers to remove the hospitality rooms at conferences and convention due to lack of monetary support by some chapters and rising food costs.

Commander Mitchell: Anything for the Good of the Order?

Thanks to Chapter 27 for the hospitality room.

Commander Mitchell: Are there any announcements?

Adjutant Cox: Yes

Reception will be from 5:30-6:30.

Banquet doors will open for those using carts, wheelchairs, or other assistive devices at 6:30.

Remember to wear your favorite Halloween Costume.

Spring Conference 2023 will be at the Delta Hotel by Marriott Virginia Beach Bayfront Suites on Shore Drive from March 16th thru the 19th.

Commander Mitchell:

Motion to Adjourn

Chaplain Fred Moore

Closing Prayer

**May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and now unto the Eternal and All-wise Creator of the Universe, and Preserver of our nation, be honor and glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

Commander Mitchell

Final salute to the flag

Commander Mitchell:

Adjourn

TIME 1530