

# Convention 2024

## Officer Reports





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

May 30th, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92<sup>nd</sup> Convention  
FROM: Wilton King, Department Commander  
Subject: Report of the Convention

This report is for the period March 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The 2023 – 2024 year as your Department Commander is at an end, and what an exciting year we had together.

Looking back all the way to June 2023, I started organizing our year with the Vice Commanders. Our mission was to educate chapters by focusing on chapter operations, to encourage increased participation by our membership, and increase department line officer visibility and access.

The 2023 Fall Conference was the kick-off point for several of our future initiatives. The workshop highlighted a few areas: 1.) thirst for knowledge, 2.) working together to resolve issues will yield better results, and 3.) that we still had to overcome internal chapter challenges. Election turnovers and fostering a strong work ethic in chapter leadership (not always relying on the Commander and or Adjutant) chapter training are examples of those challenges.

Our suspicions were confirmed after we held our first Department-level Northern Virginia (NoVa)/Central Virginia Regional Training. The workshop reinforced my assessment, so the Vice Commanders and I decided to overhaul installations/turnover training for one chapter.

Materials such as the turnover guide and annual calendar build-out became more important as we focused on chapter turnovers. Many chapters did not maintain accurate property inventory and several did not have turnover books to pass on to their relief. After a few months of training, we are heading in the right direction.

We then added to our focus the need for line officer development and line succession training. Many chapters do not have a Senior Vice Commander (SVC) that can run a meeting. Several chapters have addressed this by having their SVC run executive board meetings. Junior Vice Commanders (JVC) are more involved whereas in the past, most JVCs occupied a seat. Our chapters understand the importance of mentoring and succession now more than ever.

This year, our Legislative Committee and Membership Committee brought the trophies back to Virginia. Our 1JVC Richard Lehman (Ch. 50) and 2JVC Dwayne Ramey (Ch. 20) did an excellent job as ex-officio's for their assigned committees, and in 2JVC Ramey's case, acting as the chair.

Starting with our Legislative Team, composed of Chair and BPTL Sha'Mala Capizzi (Ch. 10), Shay Odom (Ch. 13) and Zeola Brady (Ch.20), I set the tone right away. Increased interaction with chapter BPTL's, increased Commanders Action Network (CAN) registrations and an increase in chapter resolution submissions. We did so well with the first two steps that Virginia returned from the Mid-Winter Conference with the Outstanding Performance in Advocacy Award. Our Legislative Committee exceeded expectations.

At our 2024 Spring Conference, we dedicated three (3) hours to legislation to include how to write a resolution. As my report is due at the same time as resolutions, I expect to see an increase in chapter submissions.

Our Membership Committee turned the page this year. I asked 2JVC Ramey what his plans were for the committee this year. He replied, "Win March Madness and reach your goal, again." We started March Madness preparation in January. We had two setbacks which were unexpected but understandable. The Committee chairperson needed time away to focus on health. Our alternate resigned from the committee a few weeks prior to the turnover due to new employment. I decided not to pursue a chair and tasked 2JVC Ramey to get us over the finish line with the assistance of Ed Ortiz (Ch.15) and Marcia Stewart (Ch.21). He did an outstanding job. We won March Madness and as of May 24, 2024, are 130 people shy from meeting membership goals.

Kudos to our Time and Place, Awards, and Social Media Committees. All three performed above and beyond this past year. Time and Place worked with Adjutant Gregory on hotel site visits, Awards communicated all requirements and deadlines, and our acting Social Media Chair stepped in as needed.

Representation is important to not just us but to those that walk in our doors for service. Veterans need to feel welcome and know that someone they can identify with is serving alongside another volunteer. At the first DEC meeting, it was an honor to appoint thirteen (13) of Virginia's finest women veterans to positions of leadership in our Department. Within the Department, we are proud to recognize six (6) women veterans elected to the position of Commander in the 2024 – 2025 cycle.

History was made at our 2024 Mid-Winter Conference. As Department BPTL Sha'Mala Capizzi and I were waiting to be called to receive our award, I nudged Sha'Mala and explained that the picture we were about to take with National Commander Espinosa was a special moment. Commander Espinosa is the first Latina Commander in DAV's history and Sha'Mala Capizzi and I were the first Asian to hold our respective positions as BPTL and Department Commander. We embraced the significance of the moment when we took the picture with Commander Espinosa and highlighted the diversity within our department and organization.

Mentoring is a key component to future proof our department. For the 2023 -2024 year, Commander King mentored M. Tyrelle Felder, Senior Vice for Chapter 33 and Dwayne Ramey, 2nd Junior Vice Commander (2JVC) for Chapter 20.

M. Tyrelle Felder transferred from Chapter 50 to Chapter 33. Comrade Felder was elected to her first leadership role in several years as the Senior Vice Commander (SVC). We concentrated on chapter operations and other significant areas, which led to her being elected as the first ever female Chapter 33 Commander.

Second JVC Ramey sought further guidance in Department operations, communications, and committee leadership. I encouraged him to formulate methods to interact with his extensive area. 2JVC Ramey created and implemented a "Commander's Forum," where all Tidewater chapter leadership met monthly (virtually or in person) one day per month. The overall effectiveness was recognized by several members of the region to include Past Department Commanders.

I worked together with several chapters and their membership throughout the state. I was in communications with Chapters 2, 5, 9, 13, 28, 30, 31, 33, 56, and 57. I ensured they had my attention by listening and encouraging feedback on topics such as fundraising, membership, and chapter operations that assisted in forming the basis for regional training. Many of the topics were then passed to the regional vice commander for follow-up.

Recognizing a leadership issue was developing in Chapter 48, I took the initiative to assign a PDC to mentor the chapter. This was the first time such a mentoring program was implemented. A higher level of stability and leadership were returned to Chapter 48 after the new Commander and Adjutant were installed. PDC Madison and Chapter 48 were grateful for being part of the new mentoring program.

I worked with numerous chapters to increase membership and assisted others with obtaining funding approval for various needs to include broadband installation for Chapter 28. This initiative helped the chapter open their building for Chapter Service Officer and Department Service Commission needs such as emergency relief. Chapter 30, 31, 33, and 57 also benefited from my mentorship by attending conferences, creating new membership drives, and sponsoring fundraising events. My mentoring extended to Chapter 28 in opening a new Auxiliary Unit which was chartered in Fall 2023.

I spoke at numerous events throughout this past year. An important part of my message was how DAV provides more services to veterans than other veteran service organizations and that Virginia's services are nationally competitive against any other Department in the country. We lead through process improvement and innovation from our chapters like the QR code being used to collect cashless donations. Our Joint Leadership Council led by PDCs Williams and Gregory pushed for our 100% Permanent and Total Service-Connected Veterans to no longer have to pay Virginia personal property tax.

Our training program has been shared with the Departments of North Carolina and Wisconsin. Most importantly, I was invited to the Department of Maryland Convention in May 2024 and facilitated the workshop from the Fall Conference over a two-day period. Commander Mattie Whitfield received praise for having the courage to invite me up to their convention and host a training program that hasn't been done in over twenty years.

Understand Comrades, this wasn't just me. If you as a member did not believe in the training, did not participate in the regional training, did not provide valuable feedback through surveys, and did not provide support in such large numbers (30-person average), then the opportunity would not have faded. Commander Whitfield from Maryland and Adjutant Weathers from North Carolina attended our fall conference. They saw who we were, how we are passionate about providing a service to our veterans, and they saw that the Department of Virginia is the best at what we do.

Thank you PDCs Bailey, Cox, Madison, and Gregory for your mentorship over the past year. Thank you to all our PDCs for your guidance to the entire line. Thank you to Debbie and Brittany for all the internal support. Thank you to our National Service Officers, especially the flexibility of hosting briefs the day before our fall and spring conferences. Those briefs helped chapters more than you know.

Thank you to the Vice Commanders, my fellow road warriors, for the number of hours, miles and commodes that we all felt sorry for after a burrito (wink-wink). We did this together, despite your baldness.

Special thanks to all the chapters for your hard work and dedication. I appreciate all of you welcoming me to your meetings, giving me time to speak with your members and their families, and allowing for shared fellowship.

And to my wife, Krystal, the one person I can always count on in life, thank you for your unwavering support through my entire line-officer journey.

Wilton King

//S//

Department Commander

DAV Virginia



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

May 30, 2024

## MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92<sup>nd</sup> Convention  
FROM: James Smith Jr. Senior Vice Commander  
Subject: Report of the Department Senior Vice Commander

This report is for the period March 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

This has been a year to remember in the Department of Virginia Disabled American Veterans. During my tenure as Department Senior Vice Commander, I have been extremely fortunate and blessed to experience growth, training, and leadership with my comrades across the Commonwealth of Virginia. In many ways similar to previous Senior Vice Commanders, there has been a full slate of activity and assignments.

- Since March 2024, the Department Line Officers have continued to provide detailed regional training workshops to chapters within the department. Our focus was to address the need for officer positional development and line succession training continues to be a priority. Each session has provided the necessary training development that will positively impact the strength of DAV Virginia in the future. This was an opportunity to begin the rebuilding of chapters and to establish the importance of better communications within the department and chapter levels.
- As the Coordinator for department fundraising, DAV Virginia is committed to fundraising initiatives that will allow us to “Keep the Promise” to our fellow veterans and their families in need. I was able to approve 28 fundraising request this year. This year’s efforts have led to several rewarding campaigns, which have resulted in positive outcomes; however, there are several key areas such as improved communications and document reporting from chapters, we will need improvements in submitting Memorandum of Agreements, After-Action Reports, and Tracking Sign-in. Additionally, this achieved collaboration between department chapters and the Golden Corral organization will surely lead to many successes in future campaigns. Overall, the Department’s participation in the Golden Corral fundraiser raised over \$82,000.00 and the Just “B” Kids fundraiser is currently in session. Mrs. Bernice Egerton has continued to provide valuable support to DAV Virginia campaign efforts.
- Since the Spring Conference, I’ve had the privilege to visit Chapters 9 and 13 to conduct their elections and installations and work directly with many of our chapters during in-person regional training events. Additionally, I was acknowledged by the Portsmouth City Mayor as the Department’s Disabled American Veteran Leadership at the 140th Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade.

In summary, the Department of Virginia will excel to higher heights and have many successes, if we communicate better and continue with the internal development and growth of elected and appointed officers at the chapter and department levels. I would like to personally express my sincere “Thanks and Appreciation” to

PDC John Simmons, PDC Denice Williams, PDC Stephen Perkins, PDC Cynthia Bailey , PDC Bobby Cox, PDC Lisa Gregory and PDC David Cuff for direct mentorship and support for me during my tenure.

Respectfully submitted,

//Signed-js-28 May 2024  
James Smith Jr.  
Senior Vice Commander  
Department of Virginia



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

May 30, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92nd Convention 2024  
FROM: Richard Lehmann, Department First Junior Vice Commander  
Subject: Report of the First Junior Vice Commander for Department 92nd Convention 2024

This report is for the period March 15, 2024 through May 30, 2024. I will detail activities with the DAV Chapters in Northern & Central Virginia: 7, 10, 15, 17, 28, 30, 33, 47, 48, and 50.

**March 20-24** – attended the Department Spring Conference in Harrisonburg, VA

**March 25** – attended a screening of HERE. IS. BETTER., a DAV sponsored PTSD documentary hosted by Chapter 30 and Team RWB at Common Ground in Fishersville, VA

**March 26** – wrote an email to Chapter 24 Commander Conley to set up time to discuss ideas regarding current Member engagement (and attracting new Members)

**March 29** – call with Deloitte regarding ways in which Deloitte could provide service to Veterans.

**March 30** – Chapter 30 Coffee Social in Chesterfield, Chapter 28 Turkey Shoot fundraiser in Blackstone, and initial call with Golden Corral in Glen Allen Manager Better regarding upcoming Just-B-Kids fundraiser.

**APRIL 2024**

**Apr 2** – Officiated the Chapter 28 elected and appointed installation and dinner in Blackstone

**Apr 3** – Zoom call with Shay Odom, Dept Legislative Committee Co-Chair regarding the plan to encourage Chapters to submit resolutions prior to Department Convention.

**Apr 4** – hosted optional monthly Zoom call for the Northern/Central Virginia Chapters.

**Apr 6** – attend Chapter 34 Elected/Appointed Officer Installation at Golden Corral in Williamsburg

**April 8** - attend Chapter 48 Executive Committee Zoom call to discuss upcoming Chapter elections

**April 9** – attend the Department Just-B-Kids Zoom call hosted by SVC James Smith

**April 11** – facilitate the Chapter 50 Executive Committee Meeting



**April 13** – attend the Chapter 48 General Membership Meeting / Chapter Elections in Dale City  
**April 15** – attend the second Department Just-B-Kids Zoom call hosted by SVC James Smith  
**April 16** – install the Chapter 7 Elected and Appointed Officers in Fredericksburg  
**April 20** – Chapter 50 Membership Meeting / Chapter Officer Election in Chesterfield  
**April 22** – Dept Zoom call regarding upcoming Tidewater Workshop  
**April 23** – attend Bingo at Richmond VAMC Polytrauma Ward hosted by DAV Auxiliary Unit 50  
**April 27** – attend Chapter 15 Election and Installation in Manassas  
**April 30** – attend Fundraising Focus Group Zoom call

## **MAY 2024**

**May 4** – Tidewater Regional Training at Chapter 20 in Virginia Beach. Facilitated breakout sessions on Treasurer Responsibilities, a beginners guide to using Zoom, and the importance of taking ownership of a Chapter's Google Business listing.

**May 7** – conduct installation of Chapter 30 Officers in Waynesboro, VA

**May 11** – attend Chapter 48 meeting in Alexandria, VA

**May 14** – attend Chapter 50 Coffee Social in Chesterfield, VA

**May 15** – as Ex-Officio, attend Chapter Fundraising ideas working group Zoom call

**May 16** – attend Chapter 6 Membership meeting in Hampton, VA

**May 17** – attend Department of Virginia Zoom call

**May 18** – attend Chapter 10 Membership meeting in Fairfax, VA

**May 21** – attend Chapter 17 Membership meeting in Richmond, VA

**May 25** – attend Chapter 50 coffee social in Chesterfield, VA

**May 27** – participate in Memorial Day ceremonies at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, VA

This year, the Legislative Committee brought the trophies back to Virginia. Composed of Chair and BPTL Sha'Mala Capizzi (Ch. 10), Shay Odom (Ch. 13) and Zeola Brady (Ch.20), I set the tone from the first meeting. We needed increased interaction with the chapter BPTL's, increased sign up and participation in the Commanders Action Network (CAN), and an increase in chapter resolution submissions. We did so well with the first two steps that Virginia returned from the Mid-Winter Conference with the Outstanding Performance in Advocacy Award. I believe that our Legislative Committee exceeded expectations.

To encourage maximum participation from the Chapters, at the 2024 Spring Conference we dedicated three (3) hours to legislation to include how to write a resolution. As my report is due at the same time as resolutions, I am hopeful that we will see an increase in chapter submissions.

My consistent message to all Chapters has been that we should encourage our Members to participate more. We need active Members! Having 31,000 Members on paper doesn't do us much good if a Chapter can't find enough motivated individuals to fill their elected and appointed positions.

As a member-driven organization, I believe that information is key. I have done my best to spread the word that each time we get together at a Department Conference or Convention, we do important work and that all Chapters should be encouraged to participate.

We need to continue to encourage Chapter to make connections at all levels. They should connect with their communities through events hosted by DAV and others, attending Veteran resource fairs, and reaching out to other service organizations. They should connect with new Members through new member orientations, assigning them Mentors, and encouraging them to participate in activities. They should connect with existing

Members by soliciting their ideas for how to improve and challenging them to participate at the Chapter and Department levels. And finally, they should connect with other Chapters. Bridging the gap between Chapters is key to sharing ideas and resources – and building on our strengths and addressing our opportunities.

I continue to believe that a huge part of being a leader is building and maintaining relationships. I've been fortunate enough to get to know most of the leadership from Chapters 7, 10, 15, 17, 28, 30, 33, 48, and 50 (obviously) over the past year. I've also been fortunate to be able to communicate with various Chapters from the Tidewater and Southwest Regions.

Building relations is the essential work of any organization. Getting to know the people, breaking down barriers, building trust, providing consistent information, communicating a vision, so that the free flow of information and ideas can take place.

It is the job of the Department to foster the creation, growth and sustainment of the Chapters and the development of current and future Chapter leaders. Strong, functioning Chapters are our key to success and continued growth and we must continue to seek ways to help them grow. I look forward to continuing to serve at the Department level with these goals in mind.

Respectfully submitted,

*Richard Lehmann*

First Junior Vice Commander  
DAV Department of Virginia



Disabled American Veterans (DAV)  
Department of Virginia  
P.O. Box 7176  
Roanoke, Va 24019-0147  
Phone No. (540) 206-2575  
Fax No. (540) 206-2925

May 16, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: [OBJ] 2024 Convention  
FROM: [OBJ] Dwayne Ramey, Department Second Junior Vice Commander  
Subject: Report of the Second Junior Vice Commander

Greetings,

This report is for the period Jun 15, 2023, through May 15, 2024.

This report is for the Tidewater Chapters, 2, 5, 6, 13, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 34, and 61.

**Membership:** The Department of Virginia won the March Membership Madness Competition this year. The Department needs to recruit 152 additional members to meet this year's goal. I believe we will accomplish this task before June 30<sup>th</sup>. We need members to recruit one (1) member. Both primary plans worked well this year. Our DAV Virginia 24 program and our Chapters get to know your community programs are working. Twelve (12) chapters have met and exceeded their requirements.

**New Chapters:** There were no applications to establish new chapters within the department this year. However, there were several questions concerning the process. This was primarily based on chapters being suspended and or closed. I contacted the National Membership Director after searching the National Constitution and Bylaws and he provided additional information along with informing me that there is a new chapter package which must be requested from National when a group of new DAV members want to establish a new chapter. National Membership Director Doug Wells addressed new chapter process at our Spring Conference. Since his presentation there have not been any new questions.

**Chapter Visits:** I have been privileged to make over 40-chapter visits during this year. The chapters were very positive, leadership engaged and working toward being a part of the community. During my visits I was able to present presentations on various National and Department programs to assist veterans. Provided updated information on current and future events scheduled within the department.

**Established and implemented a Tidewater Commanders Forum this year.** This forum provides the opportunity for chapters to exchange ideas, gather peer to peer feedback, discuss challenges and success as well as improve communication and relationships with the leadership of their fellow chapters. This forum allowed Chapter Commanders to travel to the various chapters in the Tidewater area and observe how other chapters are structured. Chapter Leaders were able to gain ideas and insights from each other in an open and safe environment. This environment facilitated open and honest communications between Chapter Leaders and as the Department Liaison. During these forums, attendees had the opportunity to gain knowledge and develop a better comprehension of various challenges that local chapters were being confronted with in continuous cycles that were not being reported to the Department. This platform allowed experienced and new officers to discuss and gain perspectives on experiences that were not unique.

**Chapter Training:** Participated as an integral member of the Department Line Officer's Training Team for the Southwest, I-95 Corridor and Tidewater Chapters. I facilitated hands on training opportunities for regional chapters in the same area. As the Coordinator for the Tidewater event, I implemented a key element to the Commanders objective for inter-generational mentoring by inviting Department PDC's together with the Department Line officers to be instructors for critical topics that would impact the management of chapters within this region. This event attracted over 35 attendees and nine (9) of eleven (11) chapters participated. According to the feedback received via event surveys from attendees

the hands-on opportunity was well received with additional chapters requesting similar hands-on training opportunities in conjunction with attending Department Conferences and Convention.

This has been a great year of working with various types of leadership at the Department and Chapter level. It was a good experience working with chapters to help them connect with other chapters and encouraging them to work together to do events and fundraisers. Participated in some face-to-face hands-on demonstration and guidance to chapters who went to the Conference but still wanted more direct contact and the ability to ask questions as they were learning how to use tools that they heard or read about during the Conferences or support material available on the Department and or National websites.

Totally enjoyed visiting, zooming, and speaking to our chapter leaders and community organizations. This allowed me to gain a better insight into how effective DAV is in supporting and working with the local communities and law makers. I have learned a great deal from our department leadership team, Past Department Commanders, Adjutant, and others involved in shaping and making the Department of Virginia a better organization and family. My chapter insights listed below:

Chapter 2: Commander Cotton reelected to Commander. Chapter is on track to reach its membership Goal for the year. Positive outlook for the future. There is a lot of talent in this chapter that can be developed with continued focused leadership.

Chapter 5; Commander Coleman reelected. A lot of new faces in the chapter, great opportunity to develop leaders for the chapter and the department. This chapter is in a strategic location that can represent the DAV well into the future.

Chapter 6: Reelected Commander Major to lead the chapter. This chapter is heavily involved in the department as they have the Homeless and Emergency Relief Chairpersons as part of their chapter leadership team. This chapter is always involved with their local community but could use more service officers.

Chapter 13: Chapter 13 has a very family-oriented membership who like each other. Chapter 13 has exceeded its goal by over 70 people as of this report. This is a chapter you want to visit.

Chapter 20: New Commander E. Bailey, chapter has exceeded membership goal for the year. All positions filled. Chapter is poised to have another great year. Chapter was recognized as the Chapter of the year. Chapter held an outstanding Women Veteran and sporting events incorporating active, reserve, and retired veterans. Every event is treated as a membership opportunity.

Chapter 21: Commander Stewart reelected for her 2<sup>nd</sup> term. The chapter is actively involved in community outreach with several projects to include mental health outreach sessions and women's health. This chapter knows how to engage the community with social media at its best.

Chapter 22: Commander Smith reelected. This chapter is involved in all aspects of DAV. This chapter has exceeded its membership goal by over 50 recruits. This chapter continues to have a bright future.

Chapter 26: Chapter is currently in trusteeship and closed until further notice.

Chapter 27: Reelected their commander. The chapter is focused on community outreach. This chapter has exceeded its membership goal for the year. This chapter has officer's working at each level of the DAV and making a difference.

Chapter 34: Chapter 34 elected a new leadership team. I believe they will reach their membership goal for the year as they are only 7 down. They can do it. This chapter is in an underreached community ample and ready to be DAV family members. This chapter is working on doing more outreach.

Chapter 58: Elected new leadership team this year. The chapter has exceeded its membership goal for the year. This is an aging chapter membership but hard workers. Involved in the local communities for various events. They support events in other local areas that do not have a DAV presence.

Chapter 61: Reelected commander. This is a small, aging chapter that is the only representation on the Eastern Shore.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwayne Ramey

2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander

DAV Department of Virginia



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

May 30th, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92<sup>nd</sup> Convention  
FROM: Stephen C. Combs  
Subject: Report of the Department Judge Advocate

This report is for the period March 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. As many of you may know, Veterans Benefits in Virginia were recently attacked in the State Legislature during the budget process. Our elected leaders have rolled back the education benefits under the Virginia Military and Survivor Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP), changing it from a gratuitous benefit for veteran's rated at 90% and higher, to one that is a last resource, dependent upon the income status of the veteran. Only after the dependent expires all potential scholarships and federal benefits, and the state assesses how much the veteran should be expected to pay, will VMSDEP be for application, and it may not be used for any program beyond the 4-year level. The program was also removed from the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. To my knowledge, this is now the only state benefit that is for veterans but not administered by the state's Department of Veterans Services. While the assertion was that the program became too expensive, I anticipate that the state will need to hire additional employees to work through the now complicated processing, eating into any alleged savings. If you have not yet expressed your concerns to your State Representative, State Senator, and Governor, please do so now. The last I heard was that the Governor signed the budget but was calling for a work group to discuss and manage the changes.

During this reporting period I have responded to inquiries from several chapters and Department Officers concerning either the Department or Chapter Constitution & Bylaws (C&B), and the applicability to the various circumstances presented. During this reporting period I have also reviewed and submitted to the National Judge Advocate proposed C&B changes for Chapter 27 (April 2024) and Chapter 22 (May 2024). Those chapters should hear back from National soon, if not already. If you believe your chapter has submitted changes that have not yet been addressed, please speak up, or resubmit them now.

Please remember that when you submit proposed changes for your chapter, you need to include copies of the minutes for the two meetings when the proposed changes were read and approved. The initial submission should be sent to the Department Adjutant, who will then forward the documents to the Judge Advocate. As your chapter works on revisions to its C&B, please keep in mind a few points.

**Clarity** – use simple terminology. There are no extra points for creativity in the wording selected. You want it to be written in a manner that is understood by everyone who reads it. Be transparent. Avoid hidden or intentionally ambiguous phrasing. Where there is room for different interpretations, there is room for conflict.

**Conciseness** – If you can clearly make your point with a single sentence, there is no need to provide several additional sentences on the point. Short and sweet. Excess language runs the risk of confusing the point. Where there is room for different interpretations, there is room for conflict.

**Consistency** – make sure that you do not have any paragraphs that are in conflict, either between the Constitution and the Bylaws, or within the Bylaws. Best practices here are to simply copy and past the paragraph from one section into the other. The most common mistake here is when the Constitution gives a list of who is on the Chapter Executive Committee, then the Bylaws have different members. Where there is room for different interpretations, there is room for conflict.

In reviewing the agenda for the Convention, I see that we are slated for a C&B Seminar on Thursday June 6 at 11 am. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen C. Combs  
Department Judge Advocate



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

May 30th, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92<sup>nd</sup> Convention  
FROM: Patricia E. Coker-Bell  
Subject: Report of the Chaplain

This report is for the period March 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

*We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.*

The Chaplain and the Assistant Chaplain (Frederick Moore) have endeavored to carry out the mission of the DAV. We CARE because veterans and their families matter.

The following is a snapshot of our active ways of caring for comrades, and their families:

- Meetings were held via telephone, and/or Zoom for planning and executing the duties of the Chaplain based on the Constitution and Bylaws.
- The March, April, and May, Chaplains C.A.R.E. newsletters were shared, via email, to the DAV Department/Chapter officers, and Chaplains. They were encouraged to share the newsletter with others.
- Calls were made to comrades and their families; along with the calls, numerous greeting cards were sent via US mail (“thinking about you,” “get well,” “sympathy,” etc.).
- The Chaplain attended and/or participated in the following . . .
  - Invited women from each branch of the US military to the Chapter 22 General Business Meeting in recognition of Women’s History Month 2024; Theme: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; (Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority President, Grove Church Congregational Care Pastor, two Grove Church Military Members, and one Zion Baptist Church Military Team member).
  - Attended the Southwest Regional Zoom Team meeting.
  - Attended the Just B Kids Fundraising Zoom informational meeting.



- Escorted a family, of a deceased WWII Army veteran, to the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery to view their loved one's newly placed grave marker.
  - Attended the Tidewater Regional Zoom Meeting.
  - Participated in the Grove Church Military Ministry Baby Diaper Drive. Items were donated to "new mothers" at the Hampton VA Medical Center.
  - Attended funerals for comrades and family members.
  - Attended the DAV Chapter 21 Zoom Meeting.
  - Attended the Dept. Membership Monthly Meeting.
  - Volunteered at the 2024 Virginia International Tatto sponsored by the Virginia Arts Festival.
  - Attended and was one of the facilitators at the Tidewater Regional Team Forum at Chapter 20.
- 
- Commander Will King introduced Chaplain P. Coker-Bell to B. Nelson, the Chaplain of the DAV Dept. of Maryland. The Chaplains discussed ways to enhance the roles of Chaplains as it relates to being more involved in chapter, department, and national matters that will continue to enhance ways to accomplish the mission of the DAV.
  - Met with the newly elected Chaplain (Ch 22) regarding the roles and responsibilities of a Chaplain.
  - Attended and completed the Respecting Choices Advanced Care Planning Training. The training has qualified the Chaplain as an Advanced Steps ACP Certified Facilitator.
  - Attended the DAV Dept. of Virginia Women's Committee Quarterly session. The focus of the gathering was mental health awareness.
  - Met with Asst. Chaplain Moore (Ch 28), Commander Schofield (Auxiliary), and Chaplain Hoagland (Ch 7) for pre-planning for the 92<sup>nd</sup> Convention Memorial Service.
  - Attended the Line Officer's Planning Meeting in preparation for presentations at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Convention.
  - Attended the Commonwealth Senior Living presentation for veterans and others; Topic: "What I Should Do, What I Need to Do, What I Want to Do: Making Plans That Makes a Difference for Me as I Get Older."
  - Attended a Mental Health Awareness Session hosted by Chapter 21.
  - Attended the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Patricia E. Coker-Bell, Chaplain



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

May 30, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 92nd Department of Virginia Convention  
FROM: Francis Mitchell / Immediate Past Department Commander  
Subject: Report of the Immediate Past Department Commander

This report is for the period March 17, 2024 through May 30, 2024

As the Immediate Past Department Commander, I have not had any input in the routine activities of the Department this period. I did however serve as one of the Trustees for the J. Robert Graham, Chapter 26 in Chesapeake, Virginia that is currently under suspension.

Due to being a full-time DoD civilian, I have had several overseas traveling requirements dictating my being inaccessible for routine matters. I still however completed our report on Chapter 26 and I am waiting for the results of their review of the Chapters future. Additionally, I officiated the election and installation of officers at Chapter 6 (Hampton, VA), and the special elections at Chapter 50 (Chesterfield, VA).

There was no other activities.

Respectfully submitted,

//signed-frm-28 May 24//

Francis Mitchell  
Immediate Past Department Commander  
Department of Virginia



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

May 30th, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92<sup>nd</sup> Convention  
FROM: Lisa Gregory, PDC  
Subject: Report of the Adjutant

This report is for the period March 23rd through May 30th, 2024.

Welcome to the 92<sup>nd</sup> Department Convention. I first want to thank all the Chapters for their hard work and continued support to the Department. Convention is always a busy season, not only for the Department but for our members and their families as well. Thank you again for submitting your reports on time and working with us to gather the information needed to assist you. We are working to simplify some processes to make reports more manageable for the Chapters and with the new Officer Report System we have been able to eliminate duplicate forms.

The Department has a line officer liaison program with each of the Chapters. Each Chapter has been contacted by their specific line officer multiple times since last June. This process has worked very well so it is important that Chapters go through their liaison first before contacting the Department headquarters. Your liaison will advise you and the Department if any issue, concern, question, etc., needs to be addressed by the Department. If you still are not certain of who your Chapter liaison is contact the Department.

Even with this program in place we still have Chapters making the comment that the Department “needs to stay out of Chapter business.” I remind you that all “Chapters” fall under the purview of the Department and are still accountable to the Department. All Chapters hold “their charter” at the pleasure of the Department and the Department Executive Committee. This type of mindset will not be tolerated. If a Chapter does not want to comply with the requirements or requests by the Department, as well as the National organization, actions can be taken to have the Chapter charter suspended or revoked. We are here to work with the Chapters and would not like to have to take this course of action as a last resort.

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 and complete information from **ALL** Chapters. In accordance with the Department and National Bylaws, Chapters have ten days to submit the initial and/or revised report. Any Chapter not submitting a report is in violation of the Bylaws. Further, 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.” Please make sure your report is complete.

To continue our efforts to reduce administrative costs the Department will continue our practice of posting all Conference/Convention reports and minutes to the website prior to the Conference/Convention. It is the responsibility of the DEC or ADEC to either print them or review them online.

The Department website has been very successful and contains a lot of useful information from the Department and National. Our webmaster, PDC Jim Proconier works hard to make sure the latest information is posted and updated for our members. Should there be something you think members would benefit from on the website please let me know. The chat feature has been a great tool for those wanting to reach out to the Department or other committees for assistance.

Also, Chapters with websites, please compare what you are posting to the Department site and update as necessary. Appoint a Chapter member to check the site frequently and disseminate information. All conference/convention information is posted prior to the event to include Hotel links and agendas. The Department website can be accessed at this address: [www.virginia.dav.org](http://www.virginia.dav.org).

The Department email address is [davadjutantva@gmail.com](mailto:davadjutantva@gmail.com). The Department Office Manager can be reached at: [yadavom22@gmail.com](mailto:yadavom22@gmail.com). Please be sure to submit reports to both emails. The mailing address is: Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of Virginia, PO Box 7176, Roanoke VA 24019. The Department phone is 540-206-2575 and the fax is 540-206-2925.

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 we all can move forward and serve the purpose for which this organization was chartered.

I hope the Convention will be productive and enjoyable for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Gregory, PDC  
Adjutant/Executive Director

Department Treasurer Financial Report – May 30, 2024

**Income**

Item	Budget 7/1/2023	Received as of 5/30/24	Balance as of 5/30/24
0100 - Membership Dues	\$40,000	\$40,444.00	-\$444.00
0200 - National Fund Raising	\$151,308	\$123,237.14	\$28,070.86
0300 - Thrift Store	\$40,000	\$288,612.00	-\$248,612.00
0400 - Earned Interest	\$1,500	\$1,670.40	-\$170.40
0600 - Conference/Convention	\$31,000	\$28,284.00	\$2,716.00
Receipts			
0800 - Donations	\$25,150	\$36,331.00	-\$11,181.00
1100 - Natl. Disabled Vet Sports Clinic	\$60,000	\$41,000.00	\$19,000.00
1200 - Chapter Funds	\$140,000	\$0.00	\$140,000.00
1300 - Transfer from Savings	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
1400 - Transportation Network	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
1500 - Special Projects	\$78,000	\$108,214.71	-\$30,214.71
1600 - Miscellaneous Income	\$30,000	\$206,925.32	-\$176,925.32
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$596,958</b>	<b>\$874,718.57</b>	<b>-\$277,760.57</b>

**Expenditures Service**

Item	Budget 7/1/2023	Expended as of 5/30/24	Balance as of 5/30/24
101 - Department Service Commission	\$50,000	\$46,141.10	\$3,858.90
102 - VAVS Programs	\$30,000	\$31,590.00	-\$1,590.00
103 - VAVS Activities	\$8,000	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
104 - State VAVS Chairman	\$2,500	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
105 - NSO Roanoke	\$6,000	\$3,447.08	\$2,552.92
107 - Membership Incentives	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
108 - DAV National Service	\$20,000	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Foundation			
110 - Virginia Veterans Care Center	\$1,000	\$3,000.00	-\$2,000.00
111 - Virginia War Memorial Fund	\$500	\$1,000.00	-\$500.00
112 - Emergency Relief	\$16,000	\$12,500.00	\$3,500.00
113 - General Services Donations	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
114 - Social Media	\$6,500	\$3,732.52	\$2,767.48
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	\$76,000	\$52,000.00	\$24,000.00
122 - D-Day Memorial	\$500	\$1,000.00	-\$500.00
123 - Womens Committee	\$3,500	\$1,050.90	\$2,449.10
124 - Incarcerated Vet Asst.	\$2,500	\$1,180.72	\$1,319.28
Committee			
<b>Total Expenditures - Service</b>	<b>\$286,500</b>	<b>\$236,642.32</b>	<b>\$49,857.68</b>

**Expenditures - Officers and Committees**

Item	Budget 7/1/2023	Expended as of 5/30/24	Balance as of 5/30/24
201 - Commander	\$5,000	\$3,072.19	\$1,927.81
202 - Senior Vice Commander	\$4,000	\$2,906.81	\$1,093.19
203 - 1st Junior Vice Commander	\$3,000	\$4,217.28	-\$1,217.28
204 - 2nd Junior Vice Commander	\$3,000	\$2,646.90	\$353.10
205 - Judge Advocate	\$3,000	\$1,053.40	\$1,946.60
206 - Chaplain	\$3,000	\$1,325.02	\$1,674.98
207 - Immediate Past Commander	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
208 - Inspector	\$2,500	\$2,247.39	\$252.61
209 - Finance Committee	\$3,000	\$2,838.06	\$161.94
210 - Time and Place Committee	\$3,800	\$6,225.81	-\$2,425.81
211 - Legislative Committee	\$2,500	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
212 - Benefits Protection	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
213 - Employment Committee	\$2,500	\$1,328.48	\$1,171.52
214 - Audit Committee	\$3,000	\$464.46	\$2,535.54
215 - Commanders Appointments	\$11,000	\$9,631.13	\$1,368.87
216 - General Travel	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
217 - National Convention	\$10,000	\$2,074.74	\$7,925.26
218 - Mid-Winter Conference	\$15,000	\$2,782.22	\$12,217.78
219 - 6th District	\$6,000	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
221 - C&A Orientation	\$9,000	\$2,376.78	\$6,623.22
Total Expenditures - Officers/Committees	\$92,300	\$45,190.67	\$47,109.33

**Expenditures - Administration**

Item	Budget 7/1/2023	Expended as of 5/30/24	Balance as of 5/30/24
301 - Administration	\$55,000	\$55,716.10	-\$716.10
302 - Dept. HQ Rent/Expenses	\$18,000	\$18,788.76	-\$788.76
303 - Awards	\$1,000	\$520.00	\$480.00
304 - Adjutant Compensation	\$33,733	\$26,065.53	\$7,667.47
305 - Adjutant Travel	\$4,000	\$3,872.60	\$127.40
306 - Office Manager Compensation	\$22,800	\$11,858.29	\$10,941.71
308 - Treasurer Compensation/Travel	\$6,625	\$1,636.60	\$4,988.40
309 - Conference/Convention	\$55,000	\$51,362.96	\$3,637.04
310 - National Convention Activities	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
311 - Special Projects	\$15,000	\$382,270.83	-\$367,270.83
312 - Investments/CD	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
313 - National Office Candidate	\$7,000	\$10,847.56	-\$3,847.56
Total Expenditures - Administration	\$218,158	\$562,939.23	-\$344,781.23

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY AS  
OF 10/8/2023**

		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Balance as of 6/7/23</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$874,718.57</b>	<b>\$596,958</b>	<b>\$277,760.57</b>
Total Expenditures - Service	\$236,642.32	\$286,500	-\$49,857.68
Total Expenditures - Officers/Committees	\$45,190.67	\$92,300	-\$47,109.33
Total Expenditures - Administration	\$382,270.83	\$218,158	\$164,112.83
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$664,103.82</b>	<b>\$596,958</b>	<b>\$67,145.82</b>

<b>Bank Accounts</b>	<b>Bank</b>	<b>Type of Account</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Statement Date</b>
	Atlantic UnionBank	General Operating	\$340,142.89	5/15/2024
	Atlantic UnionBank	Dept Service Comm	\$20,941.35	5/15/2024
	Atlantic UnionBank	Money Market	\$247,061.41	9/30/2023
		<b>Total Bank Accts</b>	<b>\$608,145.65</b>	
Investments				
United Income	Market Value	Corporate Acct.	\$1,628,946.65	4/30/2024
	Market Value	TS Account	\$350,741.08	4/30/2024
	Freedom First	CD Account	\$258,780.75	5/1/2024
		<b>Total (Investments)</b>	<b>\$2,238,468.48</b>	



May 30th, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92<sup>nd</sup> Convention  
FROM: Christopher S. Cheney, VAVS Chair  
Subject: Report of the Committee

This report is for the period March 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Good news! The transportation network is up and running at all Virginia VA Medical Centers.

The VAVS Representatives and Deputy Representatives for the Hampton VAMC:

Keith Davis, VAVS Representative  
Sharon Dorsey-Monroe, VAV Deputy Representative  
Cynthia Madison, VAVS Deputy Representative

The VAVS Representative and Deputy Representative for Richmond VAMC are:

Richard Olivier, VAVS Representative  
Roger Overstreet, VAVS Deputy Representative

The VAV Representative and Deputy Representative for Salem VAMC are:

Terry Early, VAVS Representative  
James Barnett, VAVS Deputy Representative  
Lee Bricker, VAVS Deputy Representative

We've requested the annual Line Item Expenditures list from the VA Medical Centers in order to send our annual donation to them. We should have the lists by June 28, 2024. Once we have a response from all of the Medical Centers the donation checks can be sent out.

The VAVS Representatives from the Hampton VAMC recently attended the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement National Advisory Conference held in St Louis, MO from 13-17 May 2024. Training included the roles and responsibilities of VAVS Representatives and

Deputy Representatives as they navigate and interact with local VA sites. Participants learned how their organization contributes to the healthcare of our Veterans and the unique relationship they will have with local VA sites. Participants took back with them creative ideas to support their local Veterans, better understanding of their responsibility, and ways to challenge their group to greater involvement with the VA.



In addition, the Hampton VAMC held their patients Country Fair on May 2, 2024 and their Volunteer Appreciation Month.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Cheney



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

May 30, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2024 Department Convention  
FROM: Ana Alicea, Department Inspector  
Subject: Report of the Department Inspector

This report is for the period March through June 2024.

At the present time there are two chapters under Trusteeship and one suspended by National.

During the investigative process of chapters this past year the following needs mentioning again.

This is the best time of the year when newly elected and appointed officers come on board at the Chapters, to ensure all newly and appointed officers read and become familiar not only with their respective Chapter Bylaws but those of the Department and National. In addition, all newly elected and appointed officers need to read the Chapter Officer Guide (Chapter bylaws often include duty descriptions) to know their responsibilities in their elected and/or appointed positions. Robert's Rules of Order is another publication elected and appointed officers should be familiar with. Most line officers the undersigned interviewed were not fully aware or informed of their duties even though the above documents were available to them.

Mismanagement of funds and the lack of documentation such as vouchers and receipts are also an area of concern with the chapters. Chapter bylaws often indicate the Treasurers responsibilities when it comes to expending monies available to the chapter; however, the chapters often violate their own bylaws. All newly elected Commanders and their budget committees should meet with their newly elected or appointed Treasurer to ensure funds are being handled accordingly and that there is accountability for all the funds received and expended by the Chapter. Ensure vouchers are submitted, signed, and accompanied by receipts for all expenditures and that members are voting on expenditures when required and documented in the Chapter meeting minutes.

To safeguard the Chapter's property, all newly elected Commanders should take a 100% inventory of property within the facility to include keys for purposes of accountability.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ana Alicea*

Ana Alicea  
Department Inspector