

Convention 2024

Committee Reports





Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Department of Virginia
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May 30th, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92nd Convention

FROM: Cynthia Bailey, PDC, Chair, Department Service Director (DSD)

Subject: Report of the Department Service Director (DSD)

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

Since the Spring Conference there have been some changes to a long-standing traditional item and the return of another. In the past we have talked about trying to order patches for members to wear and I can say that goal has been achieved. With the amount of LVAP hours the Department has constantly reported, it is only fitting that we bring back the Department of Virginia LVAP Pin to recognize each of you for your volunteer efforts. With the new patch and pin, we will now be aligned with the National colors. Last but not least in FY-25, the Department will be purchasing new vans for the Hampton, Richmond and Salem VAMC Transportation Network. The service committees have continued to be a lifeline for our injured and ill veterans, their dependents and family members. The chairperson for each committee are:

Department Service Director & Chairs of Committees
Department Service Director Chairman, Cynthia Bailey (20)
National Service Officer, Andrew Dilbeck (60)
State CDCE "VAVS" Chairman, Chistopher Cheney (60)
Emergency Relief Committee Chair, Kassandra Benson (6)
Employment Committee Chair, Marcia Stewart (21)
Homeless Committee Chair, Francine James (6)
Incarcerated Veterans' Assistance Committee Chair, Jeff Oglivie (7)
Women's Committee Chair, Tyrelle Felder (50)
Department Commander, Ex-Officio, Wilton King (33)
Department Adjutant, Ex-Officio, Lisa Gregory (7)
DSD Secretary & LVAP Coordinator, Debbie Wood
DSD Fundraising, Terry Bohlinger (13)

Department Service Director Assistant, Regina Lawrence (50)
Department Service Director Assistant, Sharon Dorsey-Monroe (2)

During this period, the committees have been working hard assisting our veterans and their families.

through various means of communication and activities. A few of the highlights from each committee are:

- **Emergency Relief:** Kass continued to provide assistance to the various chapter emergency relief chairs, chapter line officers and service officers on how to properly fill out the emergency relief packet and answer many questions they may have had to allow them to better assist veterans and their families. The committee has worked tirelessly assisting 53 veterans and 18 dependents, totaling \$16,113.93. Your dedication is greatly appreciated! Thank you!
- **Employment:** Marcia hosted various online committee meetings to keep veterans aware of the many changes happening in the job market. She partnered with the regional VEC offices in Virginia to help formulate a plan to better assist veterans in gaining employment as they transition from the military or from the hardships of life. More importantly, she has collaborated with the Women's and Incarcerated Veterans Committees to find additional ways they can jointly reach out to assist our veterans seeking employment. Kudos!
- **Homeless Committee:** Francine and her committee have continued to work hand in hand with the emergency relief committee. The efforts are shown in the number of veterans that has been assisted as well as the amount of money that has been spent this quarter alone assisting veterans. Thank you!
- **Incarcerated Veterans:** Jeff continues to work on gaining access (easier access in most cases) to the various prisons and/or local jails throughout the state. The restrictions have not prevented him in his efforts to assist those veterans as he has used email and virtual platforms to communicate with the inmates. He has had several meetings along with resource fairs trying to find ways the DAV can assist veterans while incarcerated but more importantly once they have come home. Awesome Job!
- **Women Veterans:** Tyrelle established a regional area of responsibility for her committee, and it has worked great. The committee members were able to deliver more information to the chapters regarding women veteran's initiatives. Those efforts have pushed chapters to be more active supporting women veteran programs by hosting events online and at their chapters. The committee has had great success, but it has also had some challenges, however they continued to bounce back. One of the ways they have bounced back is by working with Women Veterans on telling their stories and having them archived. The committee could use help from all of you by spreading the word or simply having Women Veterans contact the committee chair. Thank you to Chapters 20 & 21 for hosting a Women Veterans Luncheon (20) and a Women's Mental Health Self-Care and Wellness Seminar (21), that was well received and very much needed. I look forward to the next event. As I have previously stated, the committee has been working hard to host the first Department of Virginia Women's Retreat. The committee needs help from everyone to make this happen. I ask that you reach out to your regional committee member or the committee chair to help them gather more data to make this

event a reality. Be on the lookout for this as more details are being prepared. Awesome Job!

Local Volunteer Assistance Program (LVAP): The LVAP program is a great way for our members to get credit for the volunteer hours they are doing to help our veterans. Debbie has worked VERY hard to make sure that our hours are accurately reported each month. Debbie is the main reason Virginia is the standard when it comes to LVAP that other departments have tried to emulate. The DAV and DAVA LVAP hours have improved since the Spring Conference, and it is greatly appreciated. Keep submitting your hours as we still have time to make up ground before the end of the fiscal year on June 30th. Chapters and Units should be reporting their hours to Debbie NLT then close of business on the 6th of each month. If you have any questions about how to report your hours, contact Debbie Wood at davlvapva@gmail.com.

Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC): We are still seeking HSC Coordinators and drivers for the Richmond VAMC. I have spoken with several potential candidates as well as held some interviews but nothing yet. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please let me know or give them my contact information. Again, I would like to thank PDC Cuff for his efforts in helping to get the Salem VAMC transportation network up and running. As I previously stated, the VAMC's will be receiving new vans for the transportation network in FY-25 and I am very excited about this as it has been a long time coming.

Department Service Director Outstanding Service Award "Bob Bent Award": During the Spring Conference I announced the creation of this award. It will be based on an individual DAV or DAVA Department of Virginia Member for their contributions above and beyond service to veterans, their families, and the greater good of the DAV. This award will be presented by the Department Service Director, annually during the Fall Conference. The criteria and application for the award will be made available at the convention during the DSD meeting.

In conclusion, there is still much work to be done. Veterans still need our help, and although we are not a welfare organization, the many benefits DAV provides will go a long way in how we help and service our injured and ill veterans and their families. The hard work and the long hours you have all put in shows your dedication to helping build better lives for our nation's Disabled Veterans and their families. For that unwavering dedication and selflessness, I sincerely THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Bailey
Department Service Director

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May 30th, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92nd Convention
FROM: PDC Denice Williams
Subject: Report of the Joint Leadership Council Representative

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

During this reporting period, several military/veteran Bills were signed by Governor Youngkin. Specifically, HB 523 Charitable Gaming (amending gaming laws for certain organizations) and HB 1513 Guard Medical Protections (JLC #4): maintaining active-duty status for service members injured while in the line of duty will become effective July 1, 2024. Significantly, JLC #1, (Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses to also Include Died on Active Duty), will be included on the November 5, 2024 ballot for voters to approve or reject an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia. This marks the end of a three-year effort by JLC.

JLC #2 (HB 736: Claim Sharks) resulted in establishment of a working group whose report is due to General Assembly in November, 2024.

JLC #3 (HB 366: Guard Tuition Assistance Waiver) was continued to 2025 in Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

The Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) as we now know it was subjected to severe restructure in the budgetary process. The new policy would make VMSDEP a need-base benefit rather than an earned benefit for veterans and their families. It did not address including stepchildren or part-time students. Actions by concerned groups and some legislators are currently ongoing to challenge the proposals. Accordingly, JLC will have a special meeting on May 29 to focus on this issue.

The next scheduled meeting of the JLC is June 27 and will be my last as your DAV representative. It has truly been an honor to serve in this capacity for the past six years. I have learned much about the legislative process in our Commonwealth and I have endeavored to share ideas and information with our Department. I stand ready to assist the in-coming DAV Rep wherever I can.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice Williams



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May 30th, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92nd Convention

FROM: Rita Aberegg, Audit Chairman

Subject: Report of Audit Committee

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

The Audit Committee has not met since the Fall Conference of 2023. Stephen Perkins has reviewed all vouchers since then and the Audit Committee will not meet to review those that have been submitted while we are at the Annual Convention.

The Department Line Officers are responsible for reviewing the Quarterly Distribution Reports of those chapters receiving funds from the Thrift Stores. We intend to review any discrepancies with the pertinent personnel of each chapter, to ensure the funds received are being used for Service to Veterans. This is a Work in Progress and the committee is open to suggestions on how we can make filing these Quarterly Reports as easy as possible.

I look forward to meeting with many of you and I'm always available if you have questions about your Chapter Financial Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Aberegg



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May 30th, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92nd Convention
FROM: Kimberly Barkley, Awards Committee Chairman
Subject: Report of Awards Committee

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

Two committee members resigned from the committee during the Spring conference. One has not responded to any correspondence, leaving myself and Ed Ortiz. Comrade Coleman from chapter 5 agreed to assist until the June convention.

The Committee completed the review and selection of the awards to be presented at the Department Convention.

As the chair I was contacted by several chapters concerning submissions of awards, unfortunately only 5 submissions were received. Which 2 of the 5 were not covered during this award season. This leads me to believe that chapters are not using the awards manual.

I contacted several chapters that submitted during the previous award season asking why the chapter didn't submit anyone for an award. The two main responses I received were:

I

I ran out of time and the Chapter expects me to submit awards and I'm overloaded with other obligations

Some recommendations that can be made are to continue to promote the Awards manual, possibly consider adding a monetary award and to be sure the members of the Awards committee are available to answer questions.

As the Awards Committee chair I would like to submit an additon to the Awards manual. I'd like to add an email for award submissions to ac.virginiadav@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted

Kimberly Barkley, Chair



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May 24, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92nd Convention
FROM: Comrade Stewart / Employment Committee
Subject: Report of the Employment Committee

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

Social Media Initiatives

- Facebook Posts
 - Employment opportunities posted weekly
 - Employment Job Fairs posted weekly
 - Veteran Benefits Posted as available

Employer Awareness Emails

- DAV benefits for Employers – Awareness information provided to employers about DAV job postings and employer awards.
- Informational emails (DAV Employment site and more) sent to all employers requesting Veterans for hire and job postings.

Employment Committee Relationship Building Efforts

- Created a joint Incarcerated Veteran and Employment Committee flyer for Chapters to use as a way to spread the word about the benefits of each committee. A QR code was created for anyone to request information or ask questions.
- Collaborated with all regions of the VEC in VA to come up with how the Employment Committee and the VEC could collaborate.
- Invited the Greater Roanoke LLVER as a guest speaker for the Convention

Employer Committee Meetings

- Committee meetings held in April and May

Respectfully Submitted,

Marvin Stewart



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June 6, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 91st Annual Convention - 2023
FROM: David Cuff, Chair
Subject: Report of the Finance Committee

This report is for the period March 20, 2023 through June 7, 2024.

The Finance Committee will meet on June 3rd in the Department Headquarters and/or via Zoom to prepare a draft budget for the 2024-2025 accounting year. Treasurer Cox will present a draft budget based on financial data from the prior two fiscal years and year-to date data. All budget guidelines will be reviewed, and changes made as appropriate. The committee will meet, if necessary, prior to the convention to finalize the draft budget and budget guidelines for presentation at the 4th DEC.

The committee will not meet with our investment advisors for the annual meeting at this convention since the committee had the meeting at the Spring 2024 Spring Conference due to scheduling problems.

I hope that the convention will be productive and enjoyable for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cuff



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May 29, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Shamala B. Capizzi/Benefits Protection Team Chair

Subject: Report of the Benefits Protection Team Leader/Legislative Committee

This report is for the period March 2024 through June 2024.

April 8, 2024 – Emailed April BPTL to department, chapter commanders and chapter BPTL chairs.

May 2, 2024 – Emailed May BPTL to department, chapter commanders and chapter BPTL chairs; reminder of resolutions submission due date for department.

Respectfully submitted,

Shamala B. Capizzi



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May 22, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2024 Annual Department Convention
FROM: M.Tyrelle Felder, Chair
Subject: Report of the Women Veterans Committee (WVC)

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

The Women Veterans Committee has experienced some additional challenges. As our size initially shrank then grew, we've shrunk again. Several of our committee members are struggling with challenges that prevent them from consistently connecting with our membership. As we make our way forward, the challenges we face today will continue to present themselves as we figure out how to maneuver.

As you're aware, each chapter WVC has a department committee member as his/her direct representative for communication and collaboration. Men are allowed and encouraged to be on chapter WVCs and we ask that all inform us of their upcoming events so we may help disseminate advertisements and offer ideas on how to enhance. For this reporting period, none of the chapters have requested assistance nor have we heard that they are planning any events in their areas. We often recommend that joint events be held so women veterans can collaborate on any projects and get to know one another better. This has yet to happen at the chapter level during the past quarter plus.

Your representatives are as follows:

- LaShawn Boyer:** Hampton Roads Peninsula (Ch 2, 6, **13**, 34, 58)
- Samuel T. Watkins:** Hampton Roads Southside (Ch 5, **20**, 21, 22, 26, 27, 61)
- Rhonda Rawson:** Northern VA (Ch 9, 10, 15, 48)
- Shaun Harrison:** Central VA (Ch **7**, 17, 28, 50)
- M.Tyrelle Felder:** SW Region (Ch 19, 23, 24, 30, 31, **33**, 35, 40, 45, 52, 56, 57, 60)

On 3 May, we posted the quarterly newsletter which focused on the women veterans' national report on mental health. It continues to be the **3rd Monday** of the following months: **Feb, May, Aug and Nov** at **1900 hours**. Put it on your chapter calendars so you can join us. We look forward to your participation. To date, we've hosted a quarterly during November 2023, February and May 2024. At our last quarterly, 20 May 2024, our very own comrade, Dr. Marcia Stewart, conducted a workshop on self-check-in for our mental health. The participants worked through a shortened version of the whole health chart and learned some tactics to slow down and concentrate on how our actions and surroundings are affecting us. We received outstanding feedback. There is a form that you can access if you weren't there to help you do this self-check.

<https://www.va.gov/WHOLEHEALTH/docs/PHI-long-May22-fillable-508.pdf> and
<https://www.va.gov/WHOLEHEALTH/docs/PHP-WalletCard-May22-fillable-508.pdf>. Use the Wallet Card
(second link) to create an action plan that helps you focus on what's important to you.

Here is a breakdown of the following activities this committee has hosted and/or participating in during this report's timeframe.

LaShawn: 1 March - forwarded The Special Edition Women Veterans Newsletter to the DAV Virginia Women Veteran Committee Representatives for Hampton Roads.

3 - forwarded Virginia Women Veterans Week schedule of events for March 17, 2024 thru March 23, 2024 to DAV Virginia Women Veterans Committee Representatives for Hampton Roads.

13 - forwarded the DAV Virginia Women Veterans Committee Special. Women's Month Edition.

15 - Women Veterans Online Forum I facilitated an interactive discussion on how to tell our stories from a position of strength via Zoom. Meeting ID:8851220 6852 Passcode: 204564

15 April - sent an email to Hampton Roads DAV Virginia Women Veterans Committee Representatives concerning Women Veterans Forum on Mental Health on April 19,2024.

19 – Conducted and assisted in facilitating DAV Virginia Women Veterans Committee Zoom forum for Part 2 of Storytelling in writing Memoirs.

Samuel: 31 March - Supported a proposition for the BEST for Vets Act, with letters to Virginia's congressional leadership. DAV | S. 280 and H.R. 7434, the BEST for Vets Act

5 April - Received a response from Congresswoman Jen Kiggans on a previous DAV issue of concern in reference to Veteran's benefits.

11 - Spoke to Gov't Civilians and Veterans at HQ TRADOC, Ft. Eustis concerning the only Female Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Mary Edwards Walker, Lunch and Learn

16 - Advocated support of Woman Veterans to Veterans and Reserve personnel at HQ, TRADOC Accessions Directorate.

20 - Supported a proposition for S.2256 and H.R. 6524, the Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Expansion Act with letters to Virginia's congressional leadership.

20 - Reached out Congresswoman Jen Kiggans (office) IRT the Women Veterans Roundtable held in 2023. Requested a copy of the final report consisting of input, findings, concerns, and possible resolutions identified from all roundtables conducted.

Michaun: 26 March - Participate with FreedomUSA Women Trailblazers song writing group. The group consists of women veterans sharing their story through songs. Held by Zoom at 7PM DST every Tuesday.

28 - Member of The Blinded Veterans Association Women's Veteran Support Group. Mentor, and recruit low and blind female veterans. Meeting is held the 4th Thursday monthly at 7 PM DST.

31 - Assisting homeless, visually impaired, MST survivor, TBI female veteran with benefits, claim, and resources.

26-27 April - Hosted Mid-Atlantic Regional Group Blinded Veterans Association Convention. Held at Pilgrim AME Church in Washington, DC. Recruited female veterans and shared resources regarding claims and benefits with low vision and blind female veterans.

Tyrelle: 30 March – Coordinated with Comrade Dr. Marcia Stewart for her panel on mental whole health by including Dr. Vaneada Harvey on the panel. We are also planning a joint committee event where we help our community of veterans in employment and wellness simultaneously.

19 April – Hosted the WVC workshop on writing our stories with a wellness focus. Comrade LaShawn Boyer led the workshop. We had great participation, and many wanted to have continued workshops on this topic in the future.

27 – Participated in Dr. Stewart’s follow-up Patient-Centered Self-Care and Wellness workshop

1 May – Published and distributed WV Newsletter focused on National Women Vets’ latest report.

Rhonda: 31 March - Planned and organized a road trip to the Military Women’s Memorial in Arlington on Wednesday 12 June 2024. We have a 12-passenger van with 3 seats still available if anyone would like to join. The cost is \$42.00 per person. We have a second vehicle following the van with four women in it.

1 April - Secured a Quick’s Bus from Staunton to take veterans and guests to the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford on Saturday 08 June 2024. After the presentation from April Cheeks-Messier at the DAV Department Spring Conference in March I was inspired to make this event happen for the veterans in our area to visit the Memorial during its 80th Anniversary of the invasion at Normandy. The cost for this trip is just \$8.00 per person which includes transportation to and from the Memorial, snacks, and a guided tour. I am in the process of securing 8-10 wheelchairs for veterans with limited mobility and/or fall risks, as well as organizing a catered lunch for the veterans. Now that I have organized this event, I realize I cannot participate in it because I will be at the DAV Department Convention in Roanoke. To date there are 35 seats out of 55 filled and four who wish to be included in the group but want to drive their own vehicle.

20 April - Veterans’ Feed & Connect at Augusta County Expo Center. This is a family friendly resource fair for veterans and their families. We had over 300 people come through.

28 - There was a Mother’s Day Sale & Event at Ox-Eye Vineyard’s in Staunton, and I thought it would be a good opportunity to set up a table with DAV information, WOVEN (Women Veterans Network), and Military Women’s Memorial information. It was not a huge event, and I was put on the second floor of the event which got considerably less traffic than the main floor; however, I did engage with 3 female veterans, 4 male veterans, and 2 family members seeking information for their loved ones.

22 May - UPDATE: As of this date, the sign-up for the National D-Day Memorial trip with a total of 48 participants is closed.

Beginning 22 May 2024 I will be a co-facilitator for SMART Recovery which will meet for one hour weekly for 12 weeks at the Waynesboro Public Library with this first group consisting of all veterans. Other groups in the future will be open to everyone.

Also on 22 May 2024, I participated in a Health & Wellness Fair held at Dynamic Aviation in Bridgewater, Virginia. I had a table containing DAV information, Women Veterans Network information, Salem VAMC information, and Military Women’s Memorial information. I spoke to more than sixty people in the four hours I was there.

The WVC continues to work toward improving benefits for women veterans and will tirelessly continue to develop resolutions to that end. Earlier in the year, we worked on resolutions to go forward and sent to chapters for approval and forwarding. I could not locate those previously dropped that we wanted to use for re-work.

However, going forward, we would like to recommend to the incoming Department line officers having a standing Resolutions Committee so that we can submit throughout the year and consistently support women veterans' needs.

Finally, it has been both my privilege and honor to have served as the WVC Chairperson these past two years. I will be moving on to other challenges but will continue to support the committee in their future endeavors. I hope each of you will also continue to lift them up and offer your skills and talents.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Tyrelle Felder, Chairperson
Women Veterans Committee



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30 May 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92nd Convention
FROM: Francine James, Chairperson, Dept. Homeless Relief Committee
Subject: Report of the Homeless Relief Committee

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

*To meet DSD/Adjutant deadline, chapters were given a 24 May 2024 cut-off for data. Any info received between 31 May 2024 and 8 June 2024 will be included in any ADDENDUM Report prior to June 2024 convention close per the Pre-Convention Committee Reports guidance.

Homeless Assistance by Chapters (as reported) for this period's First Call for data:

- **9 Chapters responded to the call for reports.**
- **Total Chapter Funds Expended (As Reported): \$5,573.13 (Hotels and a Bus Pass)**
- **Total People Assisted (As Reported): 9 Veterans and at least 6 Dependents**

BREAKDOWN BY CHAPTER:

DAV Chapter 2:

Total Homeless Amount Dispersed: **\$1,162.62**

Total Veterans Assisted: **1**; Total Dependents: 0 -- NOTE: Vet had a support dog.

Types of Assists: 2 x Hotel Stays (**\$581.31**; **\$581.31**)

DAV Chapter 6:

Total Homeless Amount Dispersed: **\$2,330.91**

Total Veterans Assisted: **3**; Total Dependents: At least **1** as reported; 1 vet had a support dog

Types of Assists: 4 x Hotel Stays (**\$600**, **\$600**, **\$581.31**, and **\$549.60**)

DAV Chapter 13:

Total Homeless Amount Dispersed: **\$0.00**

Total Veterans Assisted: **0**; Total Dependents: **0**

Types of Homeless Assists: N/A

DAV Chapter 20: No Homeless Assists

DAV Chapter 22: No Homeless Assists

DAV Chapter 27:

Total Homeless Amount Dispersed: **\$1,000**

Total Veterans Assisted: **2**; Total Dependents: **5**

Types of Homeless Assists: Hotel Stays (**\$500**; **\$500**)

DAV Chapter 33: No Homeless Assists

DAV Chapter 34:

Total Homeless Amount Dispersed: **\$1,079.60**

Total Veterans Assisted: **3**; Dependents: Not Reported

Types of Homeless Assists: 2 x Hotel Stays (**\$350.00**, **\$708.60**) and 1 x Bus Pass: **\$21.00**

DAV Chapter 48: No Homeless Assists

DEPARTMENT HOMELESS FUNDS DISPERSED THIS PERIOD: \$ 0.00

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE JAMES



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30 May 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92nd Convention
FROM: Cassandra O. Benson, Chairperson, Dept Emergency Relief Committee
Subject: Report of the Emergency Relief Committee

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

*To meet DSD/Adjutant deadline, chapters were given a 24 May 2024 cut-off for data. Any info received between 31 May 2024 and 8 June 2024 will be included in any ADDENDUM Report prior to June 2024 convention close per the Pre-Convention Committee Reports guidance.

ER ASSISTANCE BY CHAPTERS (as reported) for this period's First Call for data:

- **9 Chapters responded to call for reports.**
- **Total Chapter ER Funds Expended (As Reported): \$16,113.93**
- **Total People Assisted (As Reported): 53 Veterans and at least 18 Dependents**

BREAKDOWN BY CHAPTER:

DAV CHAP 2:

Total ER Amount Dispensed: **\$2,785.27**

Total Veterans Assisted: **7**; Total Dependents Included: **4**

Types of ER Assists: 3 x Rent (\$1,535.27); 2 x Dominion Energy (\$1,050);

1 x Waterworks (\$200)

DAV Chapter 6:

Total ER Amount Dispersed: **\$4,252.07**

Total Veterans Assisted: **8**; Total Dependents: **13**

Types of ER Assists: 4 x Dominion Power (\$1,903.37); and 1 x Car Payment (\$600.00); and

3 x Rents (\$1,748.70)

DAV Chapter 13:

Total ER Amount Dispersed: **\$3,700**

Total Veterans Assisted: **5**; Dependents: Not Reported or Not Applicable

Type of ER Assists: Rents (\$3,200.00); Utilities/Gas: (\$500)

DAV Chapter 20:

Total ER Amount Dispersed: **\$1,041.32**
Total Veterans Assisted: **3**; Dependents: Not Reported
Types of ER Assists: Not Reported

DAV Chapter 22: No ER Assists

DAV Chapter 27:

Total ER Amount Dispersed: **\$4,000.00**
Total Veterans Assisted: **29**; Total Dependents: Not Specified
Type of ER Assists: Rents/Mortgages (\$2,000); Utilities (\$1,000); Cash Cards (\$1,000)

DAV Chapter 33: No ER Assists

DAV Chapter 34:

Total ER Amount Dispersed: **\$335.27**
Total Veterans Assisted: **1**; Total Dependents: **1**
Type of ER Assists: Rent (\$335.27)

DAV Chapter 48: No ER Assists

DEPARTMENT ER FUNDS DISPERSED THIS PERIOD: \$ 521.70

These funds were spent in addition to Chapter Funds to assist with Rents (\$335.26) and Utilities (Dominion: \$186.44) for 2 x veterans and their dependents (1 each).

Requests sent directly to Dept ER from either the veterans or via the Department staff remain steady. I continue to reach out to community partners and other Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) such as Virginia Veterans and Family Support, Department of Veterans Services, as well as national organizations to help bring down the balance of some requests before requesting chapter or Department funds or in tandem with asking our chapters for assistance.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION:

HUD-VASH Program Meeting Follow-Up

Dept ER and Dept Homeless Committee Leads were invited to a Hampton VA HUD-VASH meeting on 25 March 2024 with Case Managers and Supervisors to clarify how/when the DAV can or cannot assist veterans in the HUD-VASH Program. We explained that because veterans in this program are already on a “budget-plan” of sorts, DAV isn’t likely to assist without notification being made to Case Managers. The Case Managers/Supervisors were advised that some veterans by-pass them because they don’t want to let them know they’re mismanaging funds. In those cases, we will directly contact the Case Manager or tell the veteran to return to their Case Manager for alternate referral(s).

Case Managers/Supervisors are aware of this and report they do brief their veterans. However, because the HUD-VASH program doesn’t always have funds for Deposits/Partial Rent for a new apartment (i.e. if coming out of the Domiciliary, veteran has no income, etc.), they may seek our assistance. We advised that the veteran would need to have a Welcome Letter or Tentative Lease to show a Move-In Date before Department ER/Homeless would consider asking our chapters or request Department Funds.

EXCEPTION: Assisting a HUD-VASH veteran *with Furniture Assistance* is still good to go.

The HUD-VASH personnel appreciate organizations like the DAV and have a better understanding of what the Tidewater DAV Chapters can or cannot do and they want to foster future connections between our chapters and their office.

As you can see by the numbers assisted and funds expended, you continue to answer the call when you can. I appreciate you all.

Respectfully submitted,

“KASS”

KASSANDRA O. BENSON



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May 30,2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92nd Convention 2024
FROM: IVAC Committee Chairman
Subject: Report of the Incarcerated Veterans Committee

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

On March 28th, we will be attending a Veteran Stakeholder Meeting that will be virtual for Veterans and resource representatives in Virginia. We meet every other month. 75 personnel from (VDOC), Virginia Department of Corrections were on the virtual call.

April 13th Right Road Reentry Resource Fair at Germanna College, Fredericksburg, Va for all Veterans that were just released and their spouses.

April 15th received a call from Clayton Parrish that he needed help, The Veteran was just released from Prison after 25 years. M4L- Marine for Life, DAV Chapter 50 and a local Richmond Chaplain to help get this Veteran his ID card, Housing and Employment.

April 18th received a call from a Veterans spouse about her Veteran husband Robert Gerke that is incarcerated needs help with his Disability claim and back pay issue as well as other issues. We have been in touch with Donna Harrison at DVS Department of Veterans Services. This will be a long process.

April 26th, spoke to Marcia Stewart about putting the 2 resources (Employment and IVAC) together on the DAV Facebook page for Veterans and Spouses.

Jeff Ogilvie

(S)

Respectfully submitted,



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May 16, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department 92nd Convention
FROM: Dwayne Ramey, Department Second Junior Vice Commander
Subject: Report of the Membership Committee

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

Greetings,

This report is for the Department Membership Committee

March Membership Madness: Virginia won the competition this year. We won the competition because of all the hard work of chapter members going outside of their comfort zone recruiting for the first time in some cases and our stellar recruiters who continue to bring in new members to join our family. The Membership team continues to work on new ideas on how to keep the momentum going. Our Virginia 24 challenge is working well with 4 members already reaching the goal with others close behind. Remember you have until 30 June 2024 to reach the 24-recruit status. Our other major program Getting to know your neighbor also was a contributing factor in winning. The more DAV is seen in the local community being involved in programs, drives, community projects, working with local business and hosting membership events in the chapter or community the easier recruiting will become.

Department Membership Goal: We are currently 152 away from meeting the goal for this year. The final numbers will not be available until late June. As of this report twelve (12) chapters have met and or exceeded their membership goals for the year. Our push until June 30th is that each member recruit one (1) new member.

Monthly Chapter Membership Meetings via Zoom. Meetings continue to be conducted monthly focusing on ideas for recruiting new members. We discussed how to attract younger members from age 38-50. This group would require childcare and children / teenager activities to allow the parents to attend meetings and actively participate in chapter activities and community engagement. It is also acknowledged that prospects in this age group are actively working and have limited availability to help lead or volunteer at the chapters.

Membership Committee Meetings: The committee actively engaged with chapter leadership and outreach efforts to assist chapters in recruiting efforts. Chapters were informed weekly as we competed in the National Membership Madness competition. We finally had all line officers take a day in the final days to encourage the membership in recruiting.

Membership emails. We continued sending out emails on a regular basis to help keep the chapter membership teams informed, motivated, and engaged to stay actively involved in recruitment. A joint project with direct chapter involvement to help chapters and individuals gain confidence in understanding the various programs and resources available from the DAV. Members have found that when they can convey what the DAV can do for the member, they are more likely to listen to what the DAV can do for them.

Officer Election Reports OER. Training was conducted. Zoom training was conducted for each region by myself. I conducted step by step instructions for SW Chapters in person during mobile training opportunity as part of the line officer traveling training team.

Current status of chapters: We currently have 30 active chapters, one chapter at large, one chapter on hold, and 2 chapters suspended. Eleven chapters have met or exceeded their goal as of this report and fifteen chapters require 10 or less members to reach goal. The Department needs to recruit 152 members before the end of June to reach goal. We need everyone to recruit to meet the goal. If every member of chapters that have reached their goal recruit one person between now and the end of June and or all the chapters that are 10 or less remaining meet their goal, the Department will meet and or exceed our goal.

Summary: We won Membership March Madness competition. We can reach or exceed Department Membership Goal with all chapters actively participating. We have reached all but one goal established for this year and that goal is within reach. Chapters are doing more community outreach events; more members are recruiting, and the Department is reaping the benefits. Membership had the direct support of all line officers, committee members and chapter leadership working together to achieve our goals. Both membership initiatives were successful. Our “Get to know your community” and our Virginia 24 competition were successful and should be continued in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwayne Ramey
2nd Junior Vice Commander
DAV Department of Virginia