



**Fall Conference
2nd DEC Meeting
October 2023**

**Elected and
Appointed Officer
Reports**



Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
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October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Fall Conference

FROM: Will King, Department Commander

Subject: Report of the Department Commander

This report is for the period June 19, 2023, through October 6, 2023.

In June 2023, Senior Vice James Smith, Jr., Assistant Adjutant Lisa Gregory, and I had a short turnaround from our summer convention as we attended the 2023 Commanders and Adjutants Association Orientation. The orientation was held at DAV National Headquarters located in Erlanger, KY. Then 4th National Junior Vice Commander (JVC) Cynthia Madison joined us as we enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the retirement of National Adjutant J. Marc Burgess.

In August 2023, the Department of Virginia was well represented at our National Convention in Atlantic City, NJ. We are proud to announce that Virginia boasts two Past Department Commanders (PDC) on our national line. Our very own PDC Madison is now 3rd JVC and PDC James Procnier (serving in the Department of North Carolina) is now 4th JVC. Thanks to the tremendous work of our Department Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) Coordinator Debbie Wood and the entire LVAP team from 2022 - 2023 as we took home another LVAP award. Most important, everyone there took part in history as we elected our first Hispanic Woman National Commander Nancy G. Espinosa.

This year, my focus for our Department Line Officers is chapter engagement. They are to visit as many chapters as possible in their assigned regions by the end of 2023. Challenges for our Vice Commanders are their individual work schedules and chapter meeting dates and times.

The Southwest region will be more challenging as this region is assigned to our Senior Vice Commander. Senior Vice Commander Smith, Jr., just finished one round of visits and will continue this fall. Our First Junior Vice Commander has contacted all the chapters in his region and offers a monthly online call to meet with the regional commanders. 2nd JVC Ramey is meeting with individual chapters and hosts a monthly Commanders Huddle. The Commanders Huddle moves from chapter to chapter each month to encourage maximum attendance. I attended the Commander Huddle this past September. It was an enjoyable experience sharing information and meeting new comrades.

In July 2023, 1st JVC Lehmann, 2nd JVC Ramey and I hosted a regional training session in Remington, VA. Senior Vice Smith, Jr., was excused due to prior arrangements but was involved in all pre-planning calls. In attendance were representatives from chapters 7, 9, 10, 15, 30, 33 & 48. Twenty total members were present to include PDC Rita Aberegg (Ch.7) and Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director (Ch.10). The session was four hours long, with many members wanting to stay longer than the time allotted. The consensus was the Department needs to hold more training sessions. More sessions are being planned throughout the year.

We are also placing a direct focus on smart growth. Change is difficult. However, if we focus on growing at a steady pace with obtainable benchmarks, change will follow. Many chapters are operating in the same method they did five years ago. We must redirect our thinking and place a larger emphasis on community engagement. The first example is our 2023 Fall Conference. Scheduled on October 11 is our employment fair hosted by our Employment Committee. We are working with the Virginia Employment Commission in contacting employers and advertising the job fair.

Our Vice Commanders each held voluntary Annual Finance Report training in September. 2nd JVC Ramey coordinated with PDC Simmons of Chapter 22 to host his region's in-person AFR training session. Senior Vice Commander Smith, Jr., organized a video call and 2nd JVC Lehmann also held a video call. The attendance was fair. The importance of the call cannot be understated. The more proactive we are at educating our membership, the less likely we'll have chapters experience financial issues. All the Vice Commanders appreciated those that attended and will continue to host the calls each year going forward.

A National Service Officer (NSO) briefing at Chapter 17's meeting location is scheduled for October 11, 2023. Thank you to DAV National Service Office Roanoke Supervisor, Andrew Dilbeck for organizing the NSO Brief on short notice.

The training sessions, the employment fair, and the NSO brief are examples of community engagement. More events like this will increase the exposure of our brand.

The LVAP team will need to be active this year as we face stiff competition. Thanks to Debbie Wood, we have several chapters working to create new ways to collect and submit their volunteer hours. One example is from Chapter 50. Their LVAP sheet is located on their website and immediately available to the LVAP Coordinator. The information is then automatically shared with Mrs. Wood through a shared link. Another method a few chapters are using is sending out one sheet with a shared link to their membership. A reminder is sent every month, then the link is automatically shared with Mrs. Wood. Both ideas demonstrate our ability to embrace technology.

In late September, Chaplain Pat Coker-Bell, 1st JVC Lehmann, Virginia State Department Auxiliary Commander Sue Schofield and I attended the first meeting of Auxiliary Unit 28. Members of the Department observed the installation of Unit 28's Officers. The meeting and celebration were hosted by Ch. 28 Commander Samuel Watkins and Department Assistant Chaplain Fred Moore. I was privileged to speak on behalf of the Department. As our Immediate Past National Commander Joe Parsetich mentions in every one of his speeches, we must embrace and work with our auxiliaries. This event was special as it was endearing to see Unit 28 Commander Nadine Pryor honor her late husband by organizing and assuming the position of Unit Commander.

The last of my area visits was with the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council (RVVC). The RVVC President is Chapter 3 member Perry "Ace" Taylor. I was accompanied by Legislative Committee member Shay Odom (Ch.13), Women Veterans Committee Chair Tyrelle Felder (Ch.33), and Legislative Committee Ex-Officio 1st JVC Lehmann. It was great to see so many area Veteran Service Organizations and a Salem VA Medical Center leader in attendance. Our legislative team and women veterans group will place more emphasis on the Southwest Region. We are expecting to work with the area representatives in drafting several new resolutions.

Our department represents a high level of diversity and inclusion. This past June, I appointed a total of sixteen (16) women veterans to either elected or appointed positions of leadership. More impressive, we are represented by women of varying ethnicities, experience and service state wide.

I am pleased to accept so many compliments about our Vice Commanders regarding visits with their regional Chapter Commanders. The comment I hear the most is how they appreciate a line officer visiting. Either during meetings or arranged calls. The chapter membership is also thankful as a visit provides them with an opportunity to interact with our team. We will continue to visit chapters and be part of more events that chapters host.

Our team is working extremely hard. We've excelled in communication, chapter outreach, and providing innovative models for technology. I'm excited to see how we progress from Fall Conference 2023 to Spring Conference 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilton King

Commander

DAV Department of Virginia



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October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department Fall Conference
FROM: James Smith Jr., Department Senior Vice Commander
Subject: Report of the Department Senior Vice Commander

This report is for the period of June 19th through October 6th, 2023.

My goal was to assume the full responsibilities and assignments of the Department's Senior Vice Commander. I have the privilege to report that since June 19th, 2023, I've represented the Department of Virginia at the Commanders and Adjutant Conference at DAV Headquarters in Erlanger, Kentucky, and at the National Convention at Atlantic City, New Jersey and numerous other department events and activities. I am proud to represent the Department of Virginia as your Senior Vice Commander.

July 17th was the occasion to attend Comrade Bob Bent's celebration of life services. The funeral services were in Springfield, VA and well attended by DAV and Auxiliary representatives.

My initial communications with the department Chapters began in July 2023. I've contacted the Southwest region chapters including Chapters 3, 9, 19, 23,24,31, 35,40,45,52,56, 57 & 60 via Constant Contact, telephone and email platforms to share pertinent information about fundraising and upcoming events within the Department. As chapters across the Department begin to re-open, after the summer break, I am expecting that communications will improve. I am preparing for my upcoming visits to the Southwest region and other department chapters. In September, I began my visits to Roanoke with our Adjutant and staff.

DAV Virginia's leadership team met with Golden Corral Both, Inc at the Independence Blvd store in Virginia Beach. Speaking with Mr. Hu Odom and Ms. Bernice Edgerton, we've confirmed the responsibilities and expectations for the upcoming Military Appreciation Night Fundraising events. I have maintained contact with Ms. Edgerton on a weekly basis to sustain communications. In September, I've had a chance to visit several of Golden Corral locations at Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Colonial Heights, and Roanoke.

Additionally in July, I was invited to attend the Veterans Benefits Seminar “ Serving Those Who Served America”. This seminar was presented by the National Bar Association-Veterans Affairs and Military Law Section and Virginia State University-Department of Social Work. The event was held on the campus of Virginia State University. The sessions were informative. Topics and presentations included.

- VSU Homefront Readjustment for the Armed Forces Certificate Program by Dr. Jimmie Fedrick, VSU Social Work Department Chair
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Benefits Administration presentation by Acting Veterans Service Center Manager-Mr. Matt Clarke
- Board of Veterans’ Appeals Presentation by Honorable Paulette Vance Burton
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Administration presentation by Ms. Kelley Anthony and Mr. Jose Illa
- Virginia Department of Veterans Services Presentation-Mr. Leeiron Meredith, Mr. John Hall, and Mr. Ben Shaw

PDC Denice Williams (22) and Comrade Michael Bagley (28) were in attendance. This event was well attended and provided valuable information about developing veteran support programs and projects.

As the Chapters across the Department continue their fundraising activities ,I have approved 12 memorandums this year. The primary fundraiser is Forget Me Not .

During August and September, I’ve conducted several zoom training presentations for the Department’s Golden Corral Fundraiser and Annual Financial Reporting. These training presentations were well attended and informative. Additionally, I’ve attended and supported the Women’s Veterans Committee Quarterly meetings, the Portsmouth’s Mayor’s Military Affairs Committee meetings and several veteran’s outreach activities in the Tidewater region.

The Department Commander and Vice Commanders continue to meet weekly and as needed to discuss and evaluate the department’s ever-changing climate and ongoing activities. These communications are extremely effective and have strengthened our department’s leadership. I will look forward to additional support from and communications with our Department Past Commanders (PDC). We are extremely fortunate to have senior leadership that remains actively engaged.

The Future of DAV Virginia

The future of the Department will require a more aggressive approach and direct focus on membership. My goal is to establish a more dynamic method to increase the quality of membership. This initiative will focus on recruitment and preparation for our future leadership and member participation. As we know, we are an aging organization, our ability to impact the veteran community is something that we cannot afford to lose. I believe that we must seek and recruit new members and then provide them with the necessary tools and support to maintain our position as the best veterans’ service organization in the world.

Respectfully submitted,

James Smith Jr.
Senior Vice Commander



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October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

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

This report is for the period June 19 through October 15, 2023. I will detail activities with the DAV Chapters in Northern & Central Virginia: 7, 10, 15, 17, 28, 30, 33, 47, 48, and 50.

June 19 – delivered a report to the Dept Adjutant regarding Chapter 47. Commander Thomas stated that the chapter is barely meeting and that they have not yet held elections this year. Provided recommendations on next steps.

June 20 – attended Chapter 7 monthly Membership meeting via Zoom. A nice introduction to the chapter leaders and the members that were in attendance.

June 29 – attended Department Zoom call to discuss roles and responsibilities of the Department Line Officers and to plan committee ex-officio duties.

July 4 – helped coordinate DAV participation in the Independence Day activities at Richmond VAMC and DAV participation at the Chesterfield County Fourth of July Celebration.

July 11 – represented DAV Chapter 50 at a VetNet RVA lunch meeting. VetNet RVA creates opportunities for Veterans through Networking by connecting with local resources for Jobs, Benefits, Education, and Family Support. They are 1 of 3 programs operating as a part of Veterans & Athletes United - a local Richmond, Virginia 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to physically, mentally, and emotionally empowering all generations of Combat & Disabled Veterans.

July 11 – attended Chapter 26 Membership Meeting via Zoom to evaluate Dept 2JVC Ramey's ten-minute presentation about the DAV mission, history, purpose and activities.

July 12 – as ex-officio of the Department Legislative Committee, I hosted a Zoom call where we discussed roles and expectations for the coming year and set performance goals. Reported out take aways from the meeting with Department leadership. Next meeting planned for mid to late August to begin planning for the Department Fall Conference.

Understanding the vital importance of promoting DAV CAN and the resolution writing process, I initiated individual conversations with Shamala Capizzi (Ch7), Shay Odom (Ch13), and Shane Liermann (DAV National Deputy Legislative Director) prior to the Committee Zoom call. We discussed metrics and goals for the coming year and I intend to maintain regular communication with them.

July 13 – attended the quarterly Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations meeting in Mechanicsville where they discussed several pieces of proposed legislation and held their annual elections. Next meeting is on September 20 at the Virginia War Memorial.

July 25 – attended a Department Zoom call that served as a final preparation and instructions meeting for the upcoming Chapter Line Officer Training

July 29 – coordinated a Chapter Line Officer Training in Remington, Virginia. The training consisted of breakout sessions for Commanders (facilitated by Dept Cdr King), Adjutants (facilitated by Dept 2JVC Ramey) and Treasurers (facilitated by Dept 1JVC Lehmann), then group practice of Emergency Relief scenarios and a group discussion and video examples of How to Run a Meeting. Leadership from Chapters 7, 9, 10, 15, 30, 33, and 48 attended. Survey responses indicate that the training was needed and valuable, and there is a desire to attend further training.

July 29 – coordinated a DAV presence at Military Appreciation Night for the Richmond Flying Squirrels baseball team.

July 30 – represented DAV throwing out the first pitch at the Richmond Flying Squirrels baseball game.



August 2 – met with John Maxwell, the Chair of the Veteran Community Network of Central Virginia – a community veteran engagement board that's loosely associated with the US Dept of Veterans Affairs Veteran Experience Office. Their purpose is to address systemic challenges facing veterans, National Guard personnel, Reservists, and their families in a broad area that encompasses greater Richmond along the I-95 corridor down to the Tri-Cities and into PG County.

They have a small, 3-person Board, a planning committee, and we are organizing working groups around five areas of focus: transition, veteran treatment dockets, behavioral health, housing, and end-of-life. They encourage non-profits, government, businesses, and anyone else who wants to connect to help the veteran community to join them at in-person meetings, a planning meeting, and/or be part of one of the working groups.

August 3-8 – DAV National Convention in Atlantic City. Attended the 6th District NEC meeting where Convention Delegates were appointed. Attended the Joint Opening Session and National Commanders' Reception. Attended the DAV First Business Session, Membership and Inspector General Seminars, and National Candidates Reception in support of Cynthia Madison.

In support of my ex-officio duties to the Department Legislative Committee, I introduced myself to Al Labelle, Wisconsin BPTL and Chair of the National Interim Legislation Committee. We discussed the importance of not just getting people signed up for DAV CAN, but getting them to participate. We agreed to speak after the Convention via Zoom to share ideas.

I also spoke with Joseph Lemay, NSO Supervisor of the Washington, DC office. I asked if it was possible to host an NSO information session sometime this fall in the Richmond area. We will continue the discussion after the Convention but agreed on a preliminary plan to have Shamala Capizzi host the session on the Wednesday before the Department Fall Conference.

SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION (sent to the Northern & Central Chapters by email)

We returned from the national convention in Atlantic City late last week. What an amazing convention this year. There were many events and activities that went on during the convention to include the following:

1. Comrade Nancy Espinoza from Layton, Utah, was unanimously elected National Commander. The service-connected disabled Army veteran is the first Hispanic woman to hold DAV's highest post.
2. The Department of Virginia received another LVAP Award, and we came very close to receiving another Membership Award.
3. Comrade Cynthia Madison assumed higher office as National 3rd Junior Vice Commander.
4. They shared that the Officer Election Report will be submitted electronically starting next year!
5. The Department of Virginia was well represented and actively engaged in many of the sessions, committees, and events during the convention.

We'll keep you updated and share information as it develops.

August 12 – attended the Department Membership Committee Zoom call. Dept 2JVC Dwayne Ramey facilitated the call and Ed Oritz and Marcia Stewart were in attendance. Dwayne started the call by reviewing his thoughts on goals for the year, then allowed the other participants to add their thoughts. I recommended leverage high performers (members who routinely sign up new members) to see what lessons we can learn and also encourage chapters to define a strategy that they believe will work for them – and then have the committee assist in implementing it.

August 16 – attended the quarterly meeting of the Veteran Community Network of Central Virginia. The group completed a SWOT analysis of the issues facing veterans in central Virginia and will meet next in mid-November.

August 18 – attended the GC Zoom call hosted by SVC James Smith. A well-hosted meeting that was organized with a PowerPoint presentation. A few questions from the participants, especially around the beginning dates – which seem to creep earlier in the calendar each year.

August 29 – hosted a Legislative Committee Zoom call to discuss the plan for the Department Fall Conference.

September 4 – assisted Chapter 28 Adjutant Michael Bagley with IRS paperwork. Partnered with Cdr King to refer them to someone to compile the last three years financials.

September 7 – met with Chapter 15 Commander Ed Ortiz and Thomas Grant, Jr., Loudoun County Veterans Services Coordinator in Culpepper to discuss how DAV can better serve the veterans of Loudoun County. Discussed the possibility of forming a Chapter there.

September 8 – attend Chapter 7 Executive Committee meeting in Fredericksburg. Discussion revolved around upcoming events and membership activities.

September 11 – attend Dept Line Officer Zoom Call. Discussion about committee planning and the upcoming Fall Conference.

September 16 – attend Unit 28 Installation of Officers in Blackstone with Unit 50 Commander Nancy Laughter and Unit Past Commander Patti Whitlow. It was inspiring to hear the story behind the Unit founding and great to see the support from the Chapter as they get underway.

September 18 – attend Chapter 47 membership meeting in Petersburg. I had been in discussions with Isaac Thomas regarding the future of the chapter. There was a desire among the members present to continue operating the chapter, so I facilitated the election of new officers. I also communicated with the new Adjutant the need to quickly come into compliance with the IRS, the Virginia State Corporation Commission, DAV National and Department.

September 19 – attend Chapter 7 membership meeting in Fredericksburg. I was excited to see that the Executive Committee planning carry through to the membership meeting agenda. Much discussion about the Buy a Vet a Beer fundraising.

September 25 – attend the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council meeting in Salem. It was great to finally meet Perry (Ace) Taylor as he chaired the meeting of several VSOs and other veteran support groups. A well-run meeting that focused on recent and upcoming activities. Schedule permitting, I look forward to attending the Southwest Virginia Legislative Forum in December.

October 3 – attend Skyline Chapter 30 in Waynesboro membership meeting. Commander Mark Durland ran a great meeting discussing recent and upcoming activities, scheduling Golden Corral and gathering members for the planned Auxiliary Unit. Dept Cdr Will King and myself addressed the membership regarding the upcoming Fall Conference and reviewing the vital mission that the Department fulfills – and how members can assist in growing our organization.

So concludes my report.

I've always believed that a huge part of being a leader is building and maintaining relationships. I've been fortunate enough to get to know some of the leadership from Chapters 7, 10, 15, 28, 30, 47, and 50 (obviously) and I look forward to continued monthly leadership Zoom meetings and individual follow ups.

This 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Lehmann

Dept 1JVC



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October 1, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Fall Conference Report

FROM: Dwayne Ramey, Department Second Junior Vice Commander

Subject: Report of the Second Junior Vice Commander

This report is for the period June 19th through October 6, 2023

Greetings,

This report is for the Tidewater Chapters, 2, 5, 6, 13, 20, 21, 22, 26, 34, 58 and 61

Chapter 2: I visited with Commander Cotton and his the chapter on 9/12/2023. The Commander is experiencing health issues, however due to the presenting issue, the members in this chapter has maintained its quality of service. All reports have been completed which was credited to the hard work and collaboration of the Adjutant, Past Commander and other leadership team. The leadership provided a lot of timely information to the members on local resources. I had the opportunity to meet and converse with a number of their members, who proudly complimented their chapter leadership on the management of the chapter. The chapter is actively coordinating the Golden Corral event.

Chapter 5: This was a lively crew who enjoyed their membership with the chapter. It was clear that this Commander knew how to facilitate a meeting and demonstrated a smooth process. Although this chapter is located in a low income area of the city, the Chapter is highly involved in the local community. For example, the Chapter is preparing to participate in the local Peanut Festival next month. I had an opportunity to meet and converse with a number of their members and held discussions regarding the DAV as an organization. The Commander commented that he likes how the department officers are getting out, meeting the regular membership and not just the leadership at Conferences and Conventions. He stated that he looks forward to leadership coming to any of their meetings and/or events. I was also provided an opportunity to converse with a female member in the parking lot who felt like the women of DAV voices are still going unheard unlike the men of the organization. However, I did observe at least 5 females at the meeting openly participating in discussions.

Chapter 6: I visited with Commander Major and his chapter on 9/21/2023. The meeting attendance was a large for their first meeting since June. The members were upbeat and ready for another year. They were focused on Golden Corral which they started the week of this visit. This chapter has the Department ER and Homeless Committee Chair persons who provide a great amount of helpful information to their members. During my debrief with Commander Major, I gave insights on what I observed during my visit.

Chapter 13: I have scheduled a visit for this chapter in October. Commander Brewer is open to change and eager to put the work in to improve his chapter and work along side his members. He has attended the Commander's Forum and was very open about where he believes we need to focus in the future.

Chapter 20: This chapter is doing well. My chapter is focused on upcoming major events,, such as the Neptune Festival and Golden Corral.

Chapter 21: I visited this chapter during their CEC Special Meeting. Commander Stewart held the meeting due to the Treasurer resigning. The Treasure stated that her reason for resigning was due to personal issues. I look forward to attending a General Meeting at this chapter. The leadership is engaged and has positive communications on making the chapter better. Commander Stewart and I have regular communication regarding events and matters at this chapter.

Chapter 22: I did not have the opportunity to visit this chapter. Senior Vice Commander Smith is the Commander. We routinely communicate regarding events and matters at his chapter. He attends the Commanders Forum and participates in most events. His chapter hosted the AFR training for the Tidewater chapters. He has PDC Simmons and PDC Williams as a great support and mentorship team.

Chapter 6: I visited this chapter on June 26, 2023. This chapter just completed a successful membership event which showed in their meeting attendance. The chapter appeared to be heading in the right direction for the year, however, in September the chapter was closed and placed on probation by the Department Commander.

Chapter 27: I have not visited this chapter to date. However, I have scheduled a visit, which will occur within the next two months.

Chapter 34: Scheduled Visit – 9/2/2023. Due to the Labor Day holiday the General Meeting was rescheduled to a later date. The Commander has invited me to attend their meeting in October or November.

Chapter 58: Scheduled Visit 9/6/2023. The Commander of this chapter resigned prior to my visit. The Senior Vice Commander assumed the leadership with all other officers moving up to the next position. This event was followed up by a special election. The team appears to be working well together. They have submitted most of the reports with the exception of their directory. I have communicated with the Commander via email regarding this specific report to submit to the Department Office. They are actively involved in community events around their area. They are actively working and developing ideas to partner with other entities in raising funds in unconventional and exciting new arenas. I believe they are showing progress for the future and are producing a chapter with unlimited potential to include a diverse group of members.

Chapter 61: It has been challenging to get ahold of the Commander for this chapter. They've experienced a loss in their line. Their Senior Vice Commander, a fellow comrade, passed away recently and I believe it has affected the overall morale of the leadership team. There have been numerous messages left, without a return call. I recently was able to communicate with the chapter's adjutant, who confirmed that the chapter's emotional morale has been low since the passing of this senior vice commander. I discussed with the adjutant, plans for a future visit. Currently, there is not a confirmed date.

This year we started a Tidewater Commanders Forum which has received positive comments. This forum allows Commanders and other line officers the opportunity to share their ideas and challenges with each other along with discussing possible solutions. This event also allows the Commanders of this area to develop innovative ideas on how to be progressive as an organization. It is an opportunity to share upcoming events and reports. Department Commander King and Senior Vice Commander Stewart have been our guest presenters. Commander King was able to sit down with each member and share his vision for the Department and listen to their future plans and ideas. Senior Vice Commander Stewart focused on Golden Corral. I have opened this forum up to other line officers within the chapters, who can also participate if invited by their Commander. This has been well received by new Commanders who in some cases are learning their new roles.

This has been a great new quarter 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 an information session with chapters in the same geographic area. We were able to provide some face to face hands on demonstrations and provide 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.

I attended the National Convention this year as a Chapter Delegate. I presented to multiple sessions and was educated in various areas as to the progression and changes within the organization. I was really interested in the Membership and Legislative sessions as it gave tools for being successful at the Department and Chapter levels.

I'm expecting continued progress in visiting other chapters during the next quarter. The Commanders Forum has been received by Chapter Commanders as a tool to enhance their development and extend their working knowledge of the DAV. The plan is to incorporate all line officers with the intent of growing their leadership skills and confidence in their progression up the line. This Forum will assist in identifying leaders who are interested in continuing their DAV career at the Department and possibly the national level. My plan is to encourage all chapters to proactively complete all reports on time. Encourage better relationships between chapters in working toward common goals in membership, fundraising and shared legislative concerns.

I enjoyed visiting/speaking via zoom or face to face to chapter leaders and other community organizations. This allowed me to gain a better insight into DAV's presence and impact 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 better.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwayne Ramey

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DAV Department of Virginia

2nd Junior Vice Commander



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October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department Fall Conference

FROM: Patricia E. Coker-Bell, Chaplain

SUBJECT: Report of the Chaplains

This report is for the period June 19th through October 6th, 2023.

The Chaplain and the Assistant Chaplain (Frederick Moore) have endeavored to carry out the mission of DAV. We are dedicated to a *single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.*

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

Meetings via telephone and/or Zoom were conducted as needed to continue to follow the duties of the Chaplain based on the Constitution and Bylaws.

The July, August, September, and October Chaplains C.A.R.E. newsletters were sent to DAV Department/Chapter officers, and Chaplains to be shared with others.

The Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain made **CHAPLAIN CARE CALLS**. The purpose of the calls were to check on and connect with every Chapter. When there was no connection made, the Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain left voicemail messages. Along with making the phone calls, over fifty greeting cards (“thinking about you”, “get well”, sympathy, etc.) were sent via US mail.

The Chaplain attended a . . .

- Celebration of Life Service for Robert “Bob” E. Bent. The Chaplain read a scripture passage.

- Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc. Annual Women's Convention in Atlanta, GA. The Chaplain was the keynote speaker.
- personal spiritual retreat in July. The purpose of the retreat was to enhance personal self-care so that individuals can equip others to practice self care as well.
- DAV & Auxiliary National Convention in Atlantic City, NJ, August 5-8, 2023. The Chaplain attended eighteen seminars which included the Chaplains', Women's, Members, and others.
- Celebrate Recovery session in September. The Chaplain was the keynote speaker.
- Commonwealth's Patriot Day Ceremony on September 11, 2023 at the Virginia War Memorial.
- DAV Auxiliary Unit #28 Installation Ceremony on September 16, 2023 in Blackstone.
- Virginia Women's Conference hosted by Senator Mark R. Warner at the ODU WEBB Center in Norfolk. The theme was entitled, "Harness Your Power".

Thanks to Commander Will King other officers, past and present leaders, and all DAV members for all you continue to do to meet the needs of comrades and their families. Thank you for supporting the Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Coker-Bell

October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department Fall Conference
FROM: Department Judge Advocate (JA)
Subject: Report of the JA

This report is for the period June 19th through October 6th, 2023.

Following the Department Convention I had the privilege of traveling to Atlantic City to attend DAV's National Convention. Congratulations to Cynthia Madison and Jim Proconier for their elections to the National Line. In September I participated in the Fall meeting of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Geriatric and Gerontology Advisory Committee (GGAC) where I was able to ask some questions of concern about the qualifications necessary for participation in the Caregiver Program.

As far as the duties specific to the office of the JA I have fielded general questions from a couple of chapters, in July I reviewed and submitted proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) for Virginia Chapter 26, and in August I did the same for Chapter 7. I believe both chapters have since received a response from the National JA. At present I have proposed changes for Chapter 28 and Chapter 34, but am awaiting additional documentation to assist in my review. Please remember two things: the Department C&Bs require chapters to include a copy of the meeting minutes for the two meetings where the first and second reading of the C&Bs was conducted. Also, after I send your documents to the National JA, the National JA responds to the Department HQ and to the Chapter, I do not receive a copy. If you are making changes in response to communication from the National JA, please provide me with a copy of the correspondence so I know what to look at in reviewing your updates.

It is also time for our annual discussion on what is, and is not, appropriate for the upcoming elections. Commander King sent out a detailed discussion on this point on August 5, 2023. Remember, as an organization DAV champions legislation that will favorably impact disabled veterans. We do not, however, support or oppose any particular candidate. You are all encouraged to be politically active in support of the candidate of your choice, but you should not wear your DAV clothing as it will improperly leave the impression that DAV as an organization supports a specific candidate. Also, if a candidate approaches you seeking time to speak to the membership, the chapter should offer equal time to the other candidates seeking that same office.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Richmond next week!

Stephen C. Combs
Department JA



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October 4, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department Fall Convention
FROM: Francis Mitchell / Immediate Past Department Commander
Subject: Report of the Immediate Past Department Commander

This report is for the period June 19, 2023, through October 4, 2023

As the Immediate Past Department Commander, I have not had a lot of input in the routine activities of the Department. I did provide input to the sale of some department property.

Due to being a full-time DoD civilian, I have had several overseas traveling requirements dictating my being inaccessible for routine matters. However, I was able to attend the DAV National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey as a delegate. Finally, to support the Department, I have been designated as a Trustee for a recently suspended chapter, with the guidance to support reestablishing their organization.

Respectfully submitted,

//signed-frm-4 Oct 23//

Francis Mitchell
Immediate Past Department Commander
Department of Virginia



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October 9, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Fall Conference 2023
FROM: Robert D. Cox, PDC
Subject: Report of the Adjutant/Executive Director

This report is for the period June 19th through October 6th, 2023

The process implemented by the department several years ago that assigns each line officer as the primary contact for chapters has worked exceptionally well. Therefore, it is important that the chapters go through their line officer before contacting the department headquarters.

The line officers are contacting/visiting their respective chapters to see if they can assist the chapter in any way. Make an effort to get to know your line officer as he/she is a wealth of information. Your assigned line officer's goal is to assist the chapter with handling issues or concerns at the chapter level prior to seeking assistance from the department.

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

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

submitted to the Department prior to the convening of the convention. Please make sure the Chapter Officer Report is accurate, legible and has been sent to the department within the specified timeframe.

I want to encourage all chapters to check your bylaws to make sure they are updated. Many time's problems can be avoided by having current bylaws. I have recently seen chapters whose bylaws have not been updated for 10 or more years. This is something your line officer will be asking their chapters.

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

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

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

Please note that the website will be the ONLY source of information for future events and activities. Appoint a chapter member to check the site frequently and disseminate information. We have been able to get conference and convention information on the site at least a week prior to the event. Do not go through the national website to get to the department website. The department website is:

www.virginiadav.org

Make sure you have the correct email address for the department **davadjutantva@gmail.com**. Please be selective when sending emails to the department and use the site for DAV business only. Since the department has an Office Manager all reports and administrative forms should be sent to **VAdavom22@gmail.com**. All information related to finances should be sent to the department treasurer at **davtreasurerva@gmail.com**. The department office phone number is 540-206-2575 and the fax number is 540-206-2925. The mailing address is:

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

In conclusion, I would like to remind all DAV members of our mission and the purpose for which this organization was chartered by Congress to do: **“Building better lives for all of our nation’s disabled veterans and their families”**. Personal agendas and personality conflicts within chapters and the organization only distract from our mission. I challenge everyone to find ways to work together so you/we can move forward and serve the purpose for which this organization was

chartered. It is also the chapter's responsibility to protect DAV assets from theft or conversion. This requires good/sound financial management of DAV funds.

Many of you know this will be my last conference since I will be resigning as the Adjutant/Executive Director effective 12/31/23. It has been my honor and privilege to serve an organization who operates with integrity and focus on its "Mission". I will continue as the Department Treasurer and Primary Contact between the department and the Thrift Stores.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent part.

Robert D. Cox, PDC

**Disabled American Veterans
Department of Virginia, Inc.
Treasurer/Financial Report
July 1, 2023 thru October 8, 2023**

Income

Item	Budget 7/1/2023	Received as of 10/8/23	Balance as of 10/8/23
0100 - Membership Dues	\$40,000	\$40,444.00	-\$444.00
0200 - National Fund Raising	\$151,308	\$0.00	\$151,308.00
0300 - Thrift Store	\$40,000	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
0400 - Earned Interest	\$1,500	\$353.55	\$1,146.45
0600 - Conference/Convention Receipts	\$31,000	\$8,492.00	\$22,508.00
0800 - Donations	\$25,150	\$17,849.00	\$7,301.00
1100 - Natl. Disabled Vet Sports Clinic	\$60,000	\$40,500.00	\$19,500.00
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	\$67,521.50	\$10,478.50
1600 - Miscellaneous Income	\$30,000	\$18,208.02	\$11,791.98
Total Income	\$596,958	\$193,368.07	\$403,589.93

Expenditures Service

Item	Budget 7/1/2023	Expended as of 10/8/23	Balance as of 10/8/23
101 - Department Service Commission	\$50,000	\$10,145.68	\$39,854.32
102 - VAVS Programs	\$30,000	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
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	\$715.17	\$5,284.83
107 - Membership Incentives	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
108 - DAV National Service Foundation	\$20,000	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
110 - Virginia Veterans Care Center	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
111 - Virginia War Memorial Fund	\$500	\$0.00	\$500.00
112 - Emergency Relief	\$16,000	\$0.00	\$16,000.00
113 - General Services Donations	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
114 - Social Media	\$6,500	\$1,573.84	\$4,926.16
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	\$50,000.00	\$26,000.00
122 - D-Day Memorial	\$500	\$0.00	\$500.00
123 - Womens Committee	\$3,500	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
124 - Incarcerated Vet Asst. Committee	\$2,500	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Total Expenditures - Service	\$286,500	\$142,434.69	\$144,065.31

**Disabled American Veterans
Department of Virginia, Inc.
Treasurer/Financial Report - July 1, 2022 thru June 7, 2023**

Item	Budget 7/1/2023	Expended as of 10/8/23	Balance as of 10/8/23
201 - Commander	\$5,000	\$339.90	\$4,660.10
202 - Senior Vice Commander	\$4,000	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
203 - 1st Junior Vice Commander	\$3,000	\$556.84	\$2,443.16
204 - 2nd Junior Vice Commander	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
205 - Judge Advocate	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
206 - Chaplain	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
207 - Immediate Past Commander	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
208 - Inspector	\$2,500	\$648.84	\$1,851.16
209 - Finance Committee	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
210 - Time and Place Committee	\$3,800	\$0.00	\$3,800.00
211 - Legislative Committee	\$2,500	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
212 - Benefits Protection	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
213 - Employment Committee	\$2,500	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
214 - Audit Committee	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
215 - Commanders Appointments	\$11,000	\$1,868.97	\$9,131.03
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	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
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	\$7,866.07	\$84,433.93

Expenditures - Administration

Item	Budget 7/1/2023	Expended as of 10/8/23	Balance as of 10/8/23
301 - Administration	\$55,000	\$14,737.79	\$40,262.21
302 - Dept. HQ Rent/Expenses	\$18,000	\$8,838.36	\$9,161.64
303 - Awards	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
304 - Adjutant Compensation	\$33,733	\$8,446.37	\$25,286.63
305 - Adjutant Travel	\$4,000	\$60.00	\$3,940.00
306 - Office Manager Compensation	\$22,800	\$3,049.45	\$19,750.55
308 - Treasurer Compensation/Travel	\$6,625	\$0.00	\$6,625.00
309 - Conference/Convention	\$55,000	\$430.38	\$54,569.62
310 - National Convention Activities	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
311 - Special Projects	\$15,000	\$15,581.13	-\$581.13
312 - Investments/CD	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
313 - National Office Candidate	\$7,000	\$0.00	\$7,000.00
Total Expenditures - Administration	\$218,158	\$51,143.48	\$167,014.52

Disabled American Veterans
 Department of Virginia, Inc.
 Treasurer/Financial Report - July 1, 2023 thru October 8, 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY AS OF 10/8/2023

	Budget	Balance as of 6/7/23
TOTAL INCOME	\$193,368.07	-\$403,589.93
Total Expenditures - Service	\$142,434.69	-\$144,065.31
Total Expenditures - Officers/Committees	\$7,866.07	\$51,666.29
Total Expenditures - Administration	\$51,143.48	-\$167,014.52
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$201,444.24	\$395,513.76

Bank Accounts	Bank	Type of Account	Balance	Statement Date
	Atlantic UnionBank	General Operating	\$37,280.63	9/17/2023
	Atlantic UnionBank	Dept Service Comm	\$28,905.45	9/17/2023
	Atlantic UnionBank	Money Market	\$247,061.41	9/30/2023
		Total Bank Accts	\$313,247.49	
Investments				
United Income	Market Value	Corporate Acct.	\$1,488,071.91	9/30/2023
	Market Value	TS Account	\$319,741.08	9/30/2023
	Freedom First	CD Account	\$250,000.00	
		Total (Investments)	\$2,057,812.99	



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October 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

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

This report is for the period June 19 thru October 4, 2023

During this reporting period the Department Inspector conducted one inquiry of a Chapter. The following findings are worth mentioning to remind Chapters of the importance of following National, Department and Chapter Bylaws.

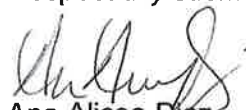
First, bylaws are written to be followed. A member vote cannot override the written Constitution and Bylaws (C&B). Chapter members must vote on the change needed in the bylaws and the change to the C&B must be approved by the Department and National before the change can be carried out. Important to note that when changes are made to the C&B the changes must be read verbatim to the members during two separate meetings.

Meeting minutes are extremely important. If it is not documented in the minutes, then it is difficult to discern if a motion or a vote was made. Discussions during meetings should be addressed in the minutes as well. Document, document, document!

Advances such as travel advances are considered loans and are in violation of the National C&B's Article 14, Section 14.6: Loans.

Chapters are prohibited by the Department from directly funding the DAV Auxiliary in accordance with Article VII, Section 7: DAVA Units.

Respectfully submitted,


Ana Alicea-Diaz
Department Inspector



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October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department Fall Conference
FROM: PDC Denice Williams
Subject: Report of the Joint Leadership Council Representative

This report is for the period June 19th through October 6th, 2023.

During this reporting period, The Joint Leadership Council of Veteran Service Organizations (the JLC) met on July 13 and September 20, 2023 in Richmond. At the July meeting, new officers were elected, and the Council considered several proposals for 2024 General Assembly Session initiatives. At the September meeting, proposed initiatives were explained by the VSO representatives. Thus far, proposals include:

- Request Relief from Charitable Gaming Regulations (proposed by VFW).
- Standardization for Service Dog Training and Certification (proposed by MOPH).
- Virginia National Guard Tuition Assistance Waiver
- Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members “Killed in Action” to also include “Died on Active Duty” (proposed by MOAA). This initiative was presented in the 2023 General Assembly Session, but because it requires a Constitutional amendment, it must also pass the 2024 GA Session to be on the ballot in the November 2024 General Election.

Significantly, another proposal for re-introducing JLC-2023 Initiative for Income Tax Subtraction Removal of Age Requirement was eliminated because the recently signed Virginia Budget addressed the issue. Code of Virginia language will be changed to remove the age 55 or older requirement for exemption of State income tax of military retirement benefits effective in tax year 2025. Details will be posted on Department website soon.

I have continued to represent JLC and the Governor at various events, ceremonies, and meetings. No longer the Chair, I will remain DAV representative until July 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice Williams



October 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department Fall Conference
FROM: PDC Denice Williams
Subject: Report of the Joint Leadership Council Representative

ADDENDUM:

This report is for October 13, 2023.

Governor Glenn Youngkin is scheduled to ceremonially sign legislation that honors veterans by eliminating the age requirement on the military retirement income tax exemption on October 13 in Virginia Beach.

The new tax language in Virginia Code “provides relief to more veterans by eliminating the age restriction on military retirement income tax relief “effective after tax year 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice Williams