



90th Annual Convention 2022

Elected and Appointed Officer Reports



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

May 31, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Cynthia Bailey, Commander

Subject: Report of the Commander

This report is for the period March 14, 2022 through May 31, 2022

Comrades, Time sure does fly when you're having fun!!!

This year has been another one we will never forget. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the different variants continue to challenge how we do the simple things in life. It is however a challenge you took on and refused to lose.

As chapters reopened their doors, the National Service Officers worked hard to ensure CSO's were trained to help assist veterans and their families. The ability to conduct CSO training virtually paid huge dividends for the Department, Chapters and mainly the veterans. I would like to ask each of you to take the time out and thank the NSO's for all they do assisting and training service officers.

Training, training and more training has been the focus of the Department leadership during conferences, conventions and chapter visits. As they say, "It takes a village" and the Department leadership is the village to the chapters. I encourage you as members and chapter leadership to use your village because we're here to help you.

The Department continues to set the standard for other departments to follow...and here are a few examples of those standards:

- Winners of 8 LVAP awards and well on our way to earning our 9th award
- Chapter 10 was recognized for their work cleaning the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- Winners of 2 (Back-to-Back) DAV National Membership March Madness Awards
- PDC Williams was recognized as the 2021 Virginia Women Change Maker of the Year by the Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Winner of the Outstanding Performance in Advocacy (OPA) Award for Division 1.
- Tom Wendel was recognized as the Top-Performing Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL)
- Several PDC's have received appointed to various National committees

- SMC has continued to find ways to reach the many via Department various social media platforms

Thank you all for your efforts and let's continue "Raising the Bar"!!!

I want to thank the Vice Commanders for their hard work, dedication, leadership and guidance they provided chapters throughout the year.

I want to thank the PDC's for always answering the call and filling the gaps when and wherever you are needed.

Adjutant Cox, thank you for being the GLUE that holds it all together for the Department

Lastly, I want to thank each of you, especially my chapter for the support, patience and understanding you have given me this year. I am very proud to have served alongside each of you in support of the DAV Mission. This has been a humbling experience and I am truly honored to have served as your Department Commander.

As always, I will remain dedicated in assisting Chapters and the Department in fulfilling our promise to the men and women who served and their families. I can not wait to see you all at the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Bailey



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May 31, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Francis Mitchell / Senior Vice-Commander

Subject: Report of the Senior Vice Commander

This report is for the period March 14, 2022 through May 31, 2022

Like in my previous reports as Senior Vice Commander, there has never been a lack of activity.

- For the past couple of months, I supported as a Trustee the Department Adjutant/CEO with getting the legal documents completed for the Department attorney to close out and transfer Cradock property to be turned over to the Department of Virginia.
- Since we are not using a Realtor, we have been fortunate that a local organization was immediately interested in the location. We have been working with that interested buyer to provide access and showing them the property.
- The Board of Directors approved a one-time event of allowing the local chapters to come in and claim various furniture items/supplies from the building for use in their home chapters. A four-hour period was schedule and emailed to the local chapters to allow them an opportunity to pick out what they needed. Most of the remaining items in the building was donated to the DAV Thrift Store.
- As mentor to Tidewater Chapters, during this quarter, I was able to visit Chapter 2, 20, 21, 26 and 27. I spent March to May assisting Chapter 26 with their monthly CEC and General Membership Meetings.
- As the Chapters across the Department are increasing their fund raising activities, I have approved seven this year. The total number of fundraisers have been split between the DAV and DAVA with Forget Me Not being most popular.
- The one problem area I have had is with closing out the Golden Corral Fundraiser. Across the Department, I had requested each of the chapters provide me their After Action Reports, Memorandums of Agreement and Sign-in Sheets of which many took several weeks to months to receive and Chapter 17 has not provided any report. Only recently, one Golden Corral store found an envelope in their safe with the proceeds that was supposed to be distributed to the Chapters.

- DAV Branding – Several Chapters in the Tidewater area still have their building signs with Disabled American Veterans. Some of those signs had the D/AVV painted to match our branding and the remaining letters darkened. One chapter still has the Disabled American Veterans spelled out in red letters. I coordinated with each of them to have the signs replaced with the current DAV branding scheme. It has been a number of years since the National Organization has rebranded, and we in the Department of Virginia should be in the forefront for completing the new look.
- Tidewater Chapters have still not fully opened their doors from the Pandemic and by not doing so, are not spending their Thrift Store Funds effectively. I had a meeting with a couple chapters to offer ideas on supporting veterans that meet the intent of using these funds.
- The need for Chapter Service Officers in Tidewater is critical. As I talk with the Chapters, some are down to one or two service officers and some have a large number. The need to train more service officers across the board is paramount as we move forward.

Respectfully submitted,

//Signed-frm-31 May 22
Francis Mitchell
Senior Vice Commander



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May 31, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FROM: David Raborn, 1st. Jr. Vice Commander

Subject: Report of the 1st. Jr. Vice Commander

This report is for the period March 14th, 2022 through May 31, 2022

The directives from the Commander and the Adjutant were passed on to the chapters via telephone and the computer.

I had the unfortunate duty of representing the Department of Virginia, at the funeral of Commander Raleigh Donald Shortt, Cedar Bluff, Virginia of Chapter 31. I got to see the members of Chapters 31 and 57. Then I had a funeral of Asst. Chaplin of Chapter 3, wife.

I want to thank Commander Bailey who drove from Virginia Beach, Va. to Chapter 3, Salem, Va. to hold the elections. Commander Bailey conducted the election and swearing in on the new officers. Commander Bailey visited with the chapter.

This is my last report, I want to take time to thank each one of the Line Officers for all the help. I wanted to say it has been a rough period.

Respectfully submitted,

David Raborn



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2022 Summer Convention

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Summer Convention

FROM: Will King, Department 2nd Junior Vice Commander

Subject: Report of the Department 2nd Junior Vice Commander

This report is for the period March 14th, 2022, through May 31, 2022

I will detail activities with following DAV Chapters: 7, 10, 11, 15, 17, 28, 30, 33, 47 48 & 50.

Communication with the Chapters remain the same from previous period. Chapter 11, 15, 17 & are the least likely to communicate.

I've visited the remaining Chapters in-person or online twice: 10, 28, 33, 48 and 50. I will attend Chapter 30's meeting on 06/07/2022.

I have been able to foster a healthy relationship with Chapters, as evidence by being invited to their election ceremonies over the coming months. Proud to say that Chapters in and out of my region are asking for me to officiate their elections or other events. Chapter 13 (not in my region) and 28. I've also been invited as the guest speaker for Chapter 34 (not in my region) post-installation ceremony to be held in July.

I bring my laptop and monitor to provide live demonstrations of the Virginia DAV website when visiting chapters. This has proven effective when showing members where to locate training seminars and where to find administration forms. My presentations to the Chapters also cover elections, line progression, mentoring of future line officers, fundraising, chapter expenditures, and community outreach.

Chapters 28 and 50 participated in Camp Corral.

All Chapters are working towards fall fundraising for Golden Corral along with other ideas.

Online platform meetings are only held by Chapter 7, 10, and 48 on a consistent basis.

Several Chapters are sending current and new members to the Chapter Service Officer training at Summer Convention.

I anticipate a good showing of the Northern Virginia (NOVA) area at Summer Convention.

Very pleased that the NOVA Chapters are providing new members to join Department and Department Service Commission committees this June.

Chapter 33 reopened in March 2022. I attended their meeting in April. They have good leadership in place. They are looking to increase membership and move closer to Charlottesville. I will be assisting them with fundraising and provided point of contacts for helping them build a website.

This past year was an enjoyable period of service. Meeting with Chapters, learning from them and then reciprocating that knowledge was the highlight of the year. A few Chapters still struggle with meeting attendance but I'm confident that the summer months will see a return of activity. Many Commanders understand they must get their people engaged in the community and in our department operations. A good example is Chapter 50 is running a Comrade for a Department Vice Commander position. This will be their first candidate in recent memory.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilton King



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May 31, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Stephen C. Combs

Subject: Report of the Department Judge Advocate

This report is for the period March 14th, 2022 through May 31, 2022

This has actually been a pretty busy period for Judge Advocate (JA) related activities, probably the busiest period since I began serving the Department as its JA in June 2016.

During this reporting period I have continued being active with my home chapter, General Washington # 7, Fredericksburg, including serving on the Fredericksburg Area Veterans Council (FAVC) variously as the DAV delegate or alternate, wherein DAV took the lead in revising the FAVC Bylaws with a final reading and approval in April 2022. My activities with #7 have included assisting the Chapter Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL) with the development and production of the Chapter's resolutions for this year. Chapter 7 has submitted 25 resolutions, and an additional 5 were developed and written but provided to the Department's Incarcerated Veterans (3) and Employment (2) Committees for submission. I have also continued my activities serving on the Washington DC VAMC Institutional Review Board and on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Geriatric and Gerontology Advisory Committee.

Additionally, I have worked with Department C&B committee discussing/reviewing proposed changes to the Department C&Bs, which will be addressed at the upcoming Department Convention. In April 2022 I conducted an informal review for Chapter 48 as it works to revise and update its constitution and bylaws, and the following activities were accomplished.

Chapter 58 C&B changes reviewed and forward to the National JA March 23, 2022

Chapter 22 C&B changes reviewed and forward to the National JA April 22, 2022

Chapter 50 C&B changes reviewed and forward to the National JA April 23, 2022

Chapter 34 C&B changes reviewed and forward to the National JA May 20, 2022

Chapter 30 C&B changes reviewed and forward to the National JA May 20, 2022

Any chapter documents received subsequent to this report will be reviewed and submitted to the National JA after Department Convention. I will be at the Convention in Roanoke, and will be

available to receive any documents, and to discuss any questions or concerns the Chapter Delegates and Department Executive Committee members may have.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/

Stephen C. Combs
Judge Advocate
Department of Virginia



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Department of Virginia
P.O. Box 7176
Roanoke, Va 24019-0147
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May 20, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Patricia E. Coker-Bell, Chaplain
SUBJECT: Report of the Chaplain and Assistant Chaplains

This report is for the period **March 14th, 2022**, through **May 31, 2022**

Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care. – Theodore Roosevelt

The Chaplain and Assistant Chaplains have endeavored to carry out the mission of DAV even in the midst of global, national, local, and personal challenges. The following is a snapshot of our active participation:

- ❖ Meetings were held to discuss, plan, and implement goals and objectives based on the duties of the Chaplain found in the DAV Constitution and Bylaws.
- ❖ The Chaplain and the Assistant Chaplains practiced self-care by sharing how they find moments to take care of themselves so that they can play a vital part in taking care of others.
- ❖ The Chaplain and Assistant Chaplains will continue to connect with Chapters to try to receive contact information from all chapters so that the communication channel between the Dept. Chaplains and the local Chapter Chaplains can be enhanced.
- ❖ Chapter Chaplains were encouraged to connect with the Chairpersons of the DSC to discover ways they can support their goals and objectives.
- ❖ Several memorial services/funerals of veterans and/or family members were attended by the Chaplain and/or Assistant Chaplains. Prayers, phone calls, cards, and other gestures of care were shared.
- ❖ The Chaplain attended/participated in the following: attended an 80th birthday celebration of a veteran's spouse; attended the Women Veterans Pinning Ceremony sponsored by the Virginia Dept. of Veterans Services; volunteered at a *Diapers with Love* event which resulted in donating diapers to mothers at the Hampton VA Medical Center and a local church; attended a caregivers information session; celebrated with the Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc. Hampton Roads Peninsula Zeta Chapter's eighth Anniversary; volunteered at the 25th Anniversary of the Virginia International Tattoo (Theme: *March On! A Celebration of Resilience*).

People who care about each other enjoy doing things for one another. ~ Ann Landers

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Coker-Bell, Chaplain
Michael Martin and Raul M. Muntean, Assistant Chaplains



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May 31, 2022

MEMORANDUM

For: Department Annual Convention 2022
From: John C. Simmons, IPDC
Subject: Report of the Immediate Past Department Commander (IPDC)

This report is for the period March 01, 2022 through May 31, 2022

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Immediate Past Commander for 2021-2022.

The reporting period was consumed by conducting a chapter election and installation of officers, mentoring several comrades in chapter operations and fiscal practices, chairing the Department C&B Committee in developing amendment proposals, serving as Chapter 22 Adjutant, and providing CSO services.

Interaction with comrades revealed some interesting things: 1) Roberts Rules of Order (RRO) should be used as a reference to develop a process with which to more efficiently conduct meetings. Verbatim adherence to RRO has the potential to encumber the chapter and detract from the mission at hand. The RRO, which originated in 1876 as a user friendly adaptation of the U.S. Congressional rules for meetings, is only a reference and not a law. 2) Election preparation is equally as important as conducting the election itself. The SMC is doing a terrific job of providing easily accessible and user friendly reference material on the Department website. The website presentation on Chapter Elections provides detailed guidance, from preparation to post election reporting. I strongly recommend reviewing it prior to your next chapter elections. 3) Annual elections and appointments provide all members of the chapter the opportunity to serve. Elected officers serve a one-year term. Appointee terms usually expire at the end of the annual term of the appointing authority (Commander). Multi-year appointments may dissuade potential candidates from applying because of the long-term commitment, or the feeling that the position may never come open. Annual re-appointment is a better option. "Life is not determined by what you want. Life is determined by the choices you make." (Mr. Seaver, Junior High School Science Teacher) Choose wisely!

Respectfully submitted,
John C. Simmons



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June 1, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Annual Convention
FROM: Robert D. Cox, PDC
Subject: Report of the Adjutant and Treasurer/Finance

This report is for the period March 14, 2022 through May 31, 2022

The department implemented a process several years ago which assigns each line officer as the primary contact for chapters. This process has worked very well so it is important that the chapters go through their point of contact before contacting the department headquarters. Your assigned point of contact will advise you and the department if any issue, concern, question, etc., needs to be addressed by the department. The point of contact for your chapter will be in contact shortly after the convention. Get to know your point of contact as he/she is a wealth of information. It also helps keep the department abreast of how chapter are doing.

Unfortunately, I continue to hear a few 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 taken to have the chapter charter suspended or revoked. This would be the last course of action but will be taken if necessary.

The department continues to successfully use electronic mail for all mailings except when otherwise required. To continue this means of communication it is extremely important that the department has accurate information from **ALL** chapters. The department depends on information provided on the Officers Report for many tasks. Remember, in accordance with the bylaws, chapters have ten (10) days to submit the initial and/or revised Officer Report. Not submitting the report ten (10) days after officer installation or changes to the Officer Report is a violation of the National bylaws. Article 1, Section 1-4,

Para 3(d) of the Department Bylaws states "Chapter Officers shall be elected and installed prior to the convening of the Department Annual Convention" which means that Chapter 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.

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

The Department website has been very successful and looks great. Kudo's to Jim Proconier who continues to take the lead and works hard to make sure we have an up-to-date quality website. 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 so see if changes and/or updates need to be made. The social media committee is willing to help ANY chapter who wants to improve or start using the various social media modalities.

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

www.virginiadav.org

Make sure you have the correct email address for the department, virginiadavhg@cox.net. Please be selective when sending emails to the department and use the site for DAV business only. If you want to send emails specifically to me, please send to davadjutantva@cox.net. The department office phone number is 540-206-2575 and the fax number is 540-206-2925. The mailing address is:

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

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

I hope the 90th Annual Convention will be productive and enjoyable for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert D. Cox, PDC

**Disabled American Veterans
Department of Virginia, Inc.
Financial Report - July 1, 2021 thru June 9, 2022**

Income

Item	Budget	Received as of 6/7/22	Balance as of 6/7/22
0100 - Membership Dues	\$70,000.00	\$39,716.50	\$30,283.50
0200 - National Fund Raising	\$153,000.00	\$126,976.10	\$26,023.90
0300 - Thrift Store	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
0400 - Earned Interest	\$1,600.00	\$76.15	\$1,523.85
0600 - Conference/Convention Receipts	\$30,000.00	\$29,688.00	\$312.00
0800 - Donations	\$39,000.00	\$19,083.00	\$19,917.00
1100 - Winter Sports Clinic	\$0.00	\$4,950.00	-\$4,950.00
1200 - Chapter Funds	\$38,000.00	\$36,963.39	\$1,036.61
1300 - Transfer from Savings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1400 - Transportation Network	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	-\$6,000.00
1500 - Special Projects	\$28,450.00	\$83,183.89	-\$54,733.89
1600 - Miscellaneous Income	\$3,000.00	\$41,827.40	-\$38,827.40
Total Income	\$403,050.00	\$388,464.43	\$14,585.57

Expenditures Service

Item	Budget	Expended as of 6/7/22	Balance as of 6/7/22
101 - Department Service Commission	\$80,000	\$25,852.39	\$54,147.61
102 - VAVS Programs	\$30,000	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
103 - VAVS Activities	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
104 - State VAVS Chairman	\$1,500	\$1,957.78	-\$457.78
105 - NSO Roanoke	\$6,000	\$3,841.60	\$2,158.40
107 - Membership Incentives	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
108 - DAV National Service Foundation	\$20,000	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
110 - Virginia Veterans Care Center	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
111 - Virginia War Memorial Fund	\$500	\$500.00	\$0.00
112 - Emergency Relief	\$2,000	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
113 - General Services Donations	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
114 - Social Media	\$4,500	\$4,518.22	-\$18.22
115 - Homeless Veterans	\$2,500	\$504.40	\$1,995.60
116 - Winter Sports Clinic	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
120 - Transportation Network	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
121 - Special Projects	\$27,000	\$47,662.03	-\$20,662.03
122 - D-Day Memorial	\$500	\$500.00	\$0.00
123 - Womens Committee	\$2,000	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
124 - Incarcerated Vet Asst. Committee	\$2,500	\$411.90	\$2,088.10
Total Expenditures - Service	\$184,000	\$136,748.32	\$47,251.68

**Disabled American Veterans
Department of Virginia, Inc.
Financial Report - July 1, 2021 thru June 9, 2022**

Item	Budget	Expended as of 6/7/22	Balance as of 6/7/22
201 - Commander	\$5,000	\$2,159.97	\$2,840.03
202 - Senior Vice Commander	\$3,500	\$544.42	\$2,955.58
203 - 1st Junior Vice Commander	\$2,500	\$1,481.27	\$1,018.73
204 - 2nd Junior Vice Commander	\$2,500	\$1,634.48	\$865.52
205 - Judge Advocate	\$1,500	\$1,621.44	-\$121.44
206 - Chaplain	\$1,350	\$1,406.68	-\$56.68
207 - Immediate Past Commander	\$1,700	\$1,221.48	\$478.52
208 - Inspector	\$1,500	\$1,909.22	-\$409.22
209 - Finance Committee	\$2,500	\$2,037.10	\$462.90
210 - Time and Place Committee	\$3,500	\$2,124.44	\$1,375.56
211 - Legislative Committee	\$1,500	\$1,075.08	\$424.92
212 - Benefits Protection	\$500	\$0.00	\$500.00
213 - Employment Committee	\$1,000	\$1,251.16	-\$251.16
214 - Audit Committee	\$3,500	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
215 - Commanders Appointments	\$6,000	\$5,475.14	\$524.86
216 - General Travel	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
217 - National Convention	\$10,000	\$2,555.74	\$7,444.26
218 - Mid-Winter Conference	\$9,000	\$1,716.50	\$7,283.50
219 - 6th District	\$6,000	\$2,981.50	\$3,018.50
221 - C&A Orientation	\$7,000	\$2,191.72	\$4,808.28
Total Expenditures - Officers/Committees	\$73,050	\$33,387.34	\$39,662.66

Expenditures - Administration

Item	Budget	Expended as of 6/7/22	Balance as of 6/7/22
301 - Administration	\$35,000	\$69,659.80	-\$34,659.80
302 - Dept. HQ Rent/Expenses	\$17,000	\$16,085.05	\$914.95
303 - Awards	\$1,000	\$210.00	\$790.00
304 - Adjutant Compensation	\$40,000	\$33,835.78	\$6,164.22
305 - Adjutant Travel	\$7,000	\$2,102.37	\$4,897.63
308 - Treasurer Compensation/Travel	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
309 - Conference/Convention	\$30,000	\$36,721.37	-\$6,721.37
310 - National Convention Activities	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
311 - Special Projects	\$15,000	\$12,630.33	\$2,369.67
312 - Investments	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
313 - National Office Candidate	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Total Expenditures - Administration	\$146,000	\$172,244.70	-\$26,244.70

Disabled American Veterans
 Department of Virginia, Inc.
 Financial Report - July 1, 2021 thru June 9, 2022
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY AS OF 2/28/22

	Budget	Balance as of
		10/6/21
TOTAL INCOME	\$388,464.43	\$403,050
Total Expenditures - Service	\$136,748.32	\$184,000
Total Expenditures - Officers/Committees	\$33,387.34	\$73,050
Total Expenditures - Administration	\$172,244.70	\$146,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$342,380.36	\$403,050

	Bank	Type of Account	Balance	Statement Date
Bank Accounts				
	Salem Bank and Trust	General Operating	\$18,896.30	5/15/2022
	Salem Bank and Trust	Dept Service Comm	\$19,071.13	5/15/2022
	Salem Bank and Trust	Money Market	\$425,773.27	4/30/2022
		Subtotal	\$463,740.70	
Investments	Market Value	Corporate Acct.	\$1,493,135.52	6/8/2022
United Income	Market Value	TS Account	\$320,737.67	6/8/2022
Total			\$2,277,613.89	



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May 31, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 90th Annual Convention 2022
FROM: Denice T. Williams
Subject: Report of the Joint Leadership Council Representative

This report is for the period March 14, 2022 through May 31, 2022

As the Commonwealth slowly comes out of pandemic restrictions, the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations (JLC) has continued to be engaged with in-person and virtual meetings. The Virginia General Assembly convened its 2022 regular legislative session on January 12 and concluded on March 12, though it was recalled and reconvened on April 27. Throughout the Session, I attended several General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus (GAMVC) meetings as well GA subcommittee meetings in Richmond and via Zoom. The purpose of attending subcommittees was to provide testimony and support as required for JLC-introduced initiatives. Of the seven JLC-introduced initiatives, three successfully passed through the General Assembly and are currently awaiting either budget support or Governor's signature.

The "JLC on the Hill Day," was held virtually on January 13, as previously reported. A Lessons -learned "Hotwash" was held virtually on April 22 and 23. The purpose of this non-official meeting was solely to provide discussion and review of the 2022 summary of initiatives and to prepare for 2023. The session provided training and was well received for all who participated.

As Chair of the JLC, I attended Veteran Services Foundation and Board of Veterans Services meetings as an Ex-Officio. I also attended the 2022 GAMVC Legislative Reception where LtGov Sears, Attorney General Miyares, and Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Crenshaw addressed and interacted with the legislators and attendees.

Due to the fast pace of the General Assembly, the JLC has modified its work plan and has advised all VSO reps that position papers/proposed initiatives for 2023 session must be submitted for review in May vice July. This will provide time to seek patrons and sponsors for the initiatives.

The next scheduled meeting of the JLC will be July 14 when initiatives from VSOs will be reviewed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice Williams



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

May 31, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Ron Cottrill, Department Inspector

Subject: Report of the Department Inspector

This report is for the period March 14th, 2022, through May 31, 2022

During this period, there were no issues that needed to be investigated or reported for any Chapter. Thankfully, Chapters have been following their bylaws and protocols. Great teamwork by all Chapters.

Now, I come to the hardest part of my report. I am unable to continue as your Department Inspector. Since moving back to my home state of West Virginia, I have discovered that veterans in this area do not have the resources needed to receive assistance from the DAV. Communities are extremely rural and too many of our older veterans do not have the computers or knowledge of computers along with areas not having internet access. The distance to drive for older veterans are not realistic so they do not try to seek assistance. Local veterans' organizations have had to close due to lack of participation and/or the distance to drive to volunteer and attend meetings. With the knowledge and experience I have gained since becoming a CSO, Chapter Commander, Department 2nd Jr Vice, and four years as the Department Inspector, I can better assist veterans and the organizations in my area. I will continue to be a member of Chapter 58 (Gloucester, VA) and continue assisting veterans with disability claims. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work as the Inspector and I will miss everyone who played a part in making my job so rewarding. No words can truly describe the friendships I have gained during the past four years. The knowledge I have received can be measured by a veteran thanking me for traveling to their area or the disability was granted, and their worries became a little less. I am also assisting other veterans' organizations such as the VFW and the American Legion with their bylaws, fundraising, and networking to increase their memberships.

I am a phone call away if you ever need my assistance, please do not hesitate to call. Wishing you all the best that life can give you.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Cottrill



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

May 31, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Christopher S. Cheney

Subject: Report of the Department Voluntary Services Chair

This report is for the period March 14th, 2022, through May 31, 2022

We have had the Richmond VA Medical Center VAVS Representative resign. However, we do have someone who is interested in the position in the queue. It is feasible that Mr. Joseph "Richard" Olivier of Chapter 50 in Richmond is a candidate.

The 76th Annual VAVS NAC Conference was held on April 27-29, 2022, in Denver, CO. and the Hampton VAMC VAVS Deputy Representative was able to attend and will be submitting her report to the Department for review so I will not repeat the information.

As was the case last year, this past reporting period has been slow due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. The VAMC's has yet to fully reopen their facilities to volunteers. Once they do reopen, I am hopeful the volunteers will return to support veterans and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher S. Cheney
Department of Virginia VAVS Chair