DAV Department of Maryland

# Committee Roles, Duties, and Impact Report

## Executive Summary

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This report outlines the roles, duties, and organizational impact of each standing committee within the DAV Department of Maryland. These committees are composed of committed volunteers from chapters across the state, appointed to carry out targeted missions aligned with the DAV’s core purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality, dignified lives.

Each committee plays a strategic role in governance, advocacy, outreach, member development, and direct services to veterans. From promoting legislative change and ensuring constitutional compliance to providing hands-on assistance for women, homeless, and hospitalized veterans, these committees work collaboratively to improve outcomes for disabled veterans statewide.

This summary is designed to provide transparency and encourage participation, while reinforcing the importance of committee service as the operational backbone of the Department. Members are invited to review, engage, and consider how they can contribute to the ongoing mission of serving those who have served.

## Committee Summary List

1. Americanism Committee – Promotes patriotic events and civic education.
2. Auxiliary Liaison Committee – Coordinates efforts with the DAV Auxiliary for shared outreach and support.
3. Benefits and Protection Team (Federal) – Advocates for veterans’ legislation and engages in grassroots policy support.
4. Citations and Awards Committee – Develops and presents awards recognizing outstanding service.
5. Constitution and Bylaws Committee – Reviews and ensures compliance with governing documents.
6. Convention Time and Place Committee – Selects and coordinates logistics for state conventions.
7. Credentials Committee – Verifies delegate eligibility and maintains accurate voting records.
8. Department Fundraising Committee – Plans and approves fundraising activities across the Department.
9. Homeless Committee – Supports homeless veterans with essential supplies and connects them to services.
10. Joint Veterans Committee – Partners with other organizations for unified veteran advocacy.
11. Legislation State Committee – Monitors and supports state legislative efforts impacting veterans.
12. Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) Committee – Helps chapters deliver direct community-based support.
13. Membership Committee – Oversees recruitment, retention, and membership growth across all chapters.
14. National Guard Service Committee – Advocates for the needs of disabled National Guard veterans.
15. Nominating Committee – Recruits and screens qualified candidates for Department leadership.
16. Public Relations Committee – Builds public awareness and promotes DAV programs and events.
17. Training and Member Development Committee – Provides training, mentorship, and leadership development.
18. Veterans of the Year Committee – Recognizes exceptional veterans through nomination and award.
19. Transportation Network Committee – Coordinates volunteer transport services for veterans to VA appointments.
20. VAVS Committee – Supports VA hospitals through volunteerism and morale-building activities.
21. Women’s Veteran Committee – Empowers and advocates for women veterans’ recognition and equitable services.
22. Welfare and Hospital Committee – Assists chapter chaplains and ensures care for ill or hospitalized members.

1. Americanism Committee

* **Roles:** Organizer, Educator, Community Liaison
* **Duties:**
  + Organizes patriotic observances and outreach events
  + Conducts flag presentations and civic education
* **Impact:** Strengthens national pride and community for veterans

**2. Auxiliary Liaison Committee**

* **Roles:** Coordinator, Facilitator, Support Liaison
* **Duties:**
  + Coordinates efforts with the DAV Auxiliary for shared goals
  + Facilitates resource sharing and collaborative events
* **Impact:** Enhances family and community-based support for disabled veterans

**3. Benefits and Protection Team (Federal)**

* **Roles:** Legislative Advocate, Resolution Developer, Grassroots Engagement Leader
* **Duties:**
  + Leads statewide efforts to support and advance federal and state legislation improving the lives of veterans and their families
  + Participates in legislative webinars and keeps membership informed on national priorities (36+ webinars attended in 2024–2025)
  + Coordinates grassroots campaigns and events such as "Operation Annapolis" to meet with Maryland state legislators
  + Develops and supports legislative resolutions that impact caregiver benefits, concurrent receipt, and toxic exposure care
* **Impact:**
  + Instrumental in supporting major legislation including the Elizabeth Dole Act, PACT Act, and Major Richard Star Act
  + Provides a critical voice for Maryland veterans in both state and national policymaking arenas
  + Strengthens the Department’s influence through a direct DAV legislative representative in Maryland

**4. Citations and Awards Committee**

* **Roles:** Evaluator, Presenter, Recognition Planner
* **Duties:**
  + Develops recognition criteria
  + Hosts award ceremonies and presentations
* **Impact:** Promotes service excellence and motivates others to engage

**5. Constitution and Bylaws Committee**

* **Roles:** Policy Analyst, Governance Reviewer, Compliance Advisor
* **Duties:**
  + Reviews the Department Constitution and Bylaws and ensures alignment with National Constitution and Bylaws
  + Monitors NEC regulations and Board of Directors guidance
  + Recommends necessary changes for compliance
* **Impact:** Maintains organizational integrity and ensures governance remains current and compliant with national standards

**6. Convention Time and Place Committee**

* **Roles:** Planner, Logistics Coordinator, Venue Evaluator
* **Duties:**
  + Evaluates venues for accessibility and feasibility
  + Coordinates logistics and contracts
* **Impact:** Ensures conventions are accessible for all veterans

**7. Credentials Committee**

* **Roles:** Verifier, Record Keeper, Compliance Officer
* **Duties:**
  + Verifies delegate eligibility
  + Maintains transparent records
* **Impact:** Upholds fair representation in organizational decisions

**8. Department Fundraising Committee**

* **Roles:** Fundraiser, Compliance Reviewer, Event Developer
* **Duties:**
  + Develops fundraising methods for the Department
  + Reviews and submits chapter fundraising activity requests for approval
  + Maintains records of all fundraising events
* **Impact:** Ensures legal compliance, increases financial resources, and supports department-wide initiatives

**9. Homeless Committee**

* **Roles:** Outreach Coordinator, Service Provider, Program Liaison
* **Duties:**
  + Provides food, clothing, and essential items to homeless veterans
  + Coordinates with medical centers and veteran stand-downs statewide
  + Informs homeless veterans about available benefits and support services
* **Impact:** Offers immediate relief and long-term support to help homeless veterans reintegrate and rebuild stable lives

**10. Joint Veterans Committee**

* **Roles:** Liaison, Collaborator, Resource Manager
* **Duties:**
  + Coordinates efforts with other veteran service organizations
  + Shares resources and supports unified advocacy
* **Impact:** Expands the reach and effectiveness of disabled veteran support

**11. Legislation State Committee**

* **Roles:** Researcher, Policy Advocate, Legislative Monitor
* **Duties:**
  + Reviews legislation affecting veterans
  + Advocates for policies that improve veterans’ lives
* **Impact:** Shapes state policies to better serve disabled veterans

**12. Local Veterans Assistance Program Committee**

* **Roles:** Trainer, Advisor, Chapter Support
* **Duties:**
  + Supports chapters in delivering direct aid
  + Offers training and resources for local leaders
* **Impact:** Brings grassroots-level support to disabled veterans

**13. Membership Committee**

* **Roles:** Recruiter, Retention Manager, Chapter Support Advisor
* **Duties:**
  + Develops and oversees recruiting and retention plans for life memberships
  + Collaborates with chapter-level membership chairs across Maryland
  + Educates potential members about the benefits of DAV membership
* **Impact:** Builds a stronger veteran community and ensures growth and sustainability of DAV at the chapter and department levels

**14. National Guard Service Committee**

* **Roles:** Advocate, Outreach Specialist, Support Coordinator
* **Duties:**
  + Addresses National Guard-specific challenges
  + Advocates for specialized resources and recognition
* **Impact:** Tailors support for disabled National Guard veterans

**15. Nominating Committee**

* **Roles:** Talent Scout, Evaluator, Interview Panel
* **Duties:**
  + Seeks and evaluates candidates for key Department leadership positions
  + Reviews qualifications to ensure alignment with governing documents
  + Schedules interviews and presents selections for delegate vote at the Department Conference
* **Impact:** Supports strong, qualified leadership that aligns with DAV goals and values

**16. Public Relations Committee**

* **Roles:** Promoter, Media Liaison, Campaign Developer
* **Duties:**
  + Promotes events, programs, and the DAV mission
  + Builds awareness of veterans’ issues in the community
* **Impact:** Enhances public understanding and support for disabled veterans

**17. Training and Member Development Committee**

* **Roles:** Trainer, Mentor, Program Developer
* **Duties:**
  + Develops leadership and service-focused training
  + Plans mentorship and education opportunities
* **Impact:** Equips members to provide better support to disabled veterans

**18. Veterans of the Year Committee**

* **Roles:** Nomination Coordinator, Evaluator, Storyteller
* **Duties:**
  + Solicits nominations and selects the outstanding veteran
  + Shares honoree stories to inspire the community
* **Impact:** Recognizes exceptional service among disabled veterans

**19. Transportation Network Committee**

* **Roles:** Scheduler, Driver Coordinator, Maintenance Supervisor
* **Duties:**
  + Organizes volunteer drivers and manages ride schedules
  + Maintains vehicle readiness
* **Impact:** Removes transportation barriers to care for disabled veterans

**20. VAVS Committee**

* **Roles:** Volunteer Coordinator, Liaison, Event Organizer
* **Duties:**
  + Coordinates volunteer activities in VA hospitals and clinics
  + Builds relationships to enhance care
* **Impact:** Improves comfort and morale for disabled veterans in medical facilities

**21. Women’s Veteran Committee**

* **Roles:** Advocate, Educator, Policy Influencer
* **Duties:**
  + Manages and promotes the Women Veterans Program
  + Raises awareness of women veterans' issues and contributions
  + Advocates to close programmatic gaps at state and federal levels
* **Impact:** Empowers women veterans, ensures their recognition, and drives systemic improvements in access to care and services

**22. Welfare and Hospital Committee**

* **Roles:** Support Coordinator, Chaplain Liaison, Patient Visitor
* **Duties:**
  + Responds to requests from Chapter Chaplains and members for assistance
  + Visits ill members at home or in hospitals
  + Provides small tokens of appreciation or comfort (e.g., flowers, cards)
* **Impact:** Strengthens community care and ensures no veteran is forgotten during illness or hardship