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**M. R. SARGE WAREHIME
Chapter #33 – Odenton**

**Meeting Minutes
Saturday, July 19, 2025**

Opening Ceremony – The meeting was called to order at 1000 hrs. by Cdr George Ross. Opening Ceremony conducted. Mission Statement Read.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Chaplain M. Ross and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was rendered.

Roll Call of Officers: Read by Webmaster/BPTL E. Smith

Commander – George Ross - Present
Sr. Vice Commander – Lottie Miller - Present
Jr. Vice Commander – George Scott - Present
Adjutant – Deborah Rider – Excused Absence
Treasurer – Tracy Neal – Excused Absence
Chaplain – Mitchell Ross – Present
Sergeant of Arms – Vacant
Officer of the Day – Demetrius Jones - Present
Webmaster/BPTL – Eric Smith – Present
*Quorum met. Yes

Membership Attendance Total: 9

*1 Family Member – Debbie Dyer
Total Present: 10*

Reading of Last Meeting Minutes: Reported by Cdr G. Ross

Minutes are posted to our website and for the sake of time, they are no longer required to be read at the meeting. Questions and corrections should be emailed the Adjutant and cc:ed to me.

Introduction of Visitors - Welcomed by Cdr G. Ross and Chapter members

Debbie Dyer – Spouse of Jerome Dyer, Served 6 years in the Airforce; from San Antonio TX, Disabled Veteran

Treasurers Report: Monthly Chapter Financial Report. Members were welcome to review the reports and bank statements. Reported by Cdr G. Ross

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6/1/2025 – 6/30/2025 –Beginning balance: \$13,158.59. Ending balance: \$12,245.00

Income: \$0.00.

Disbursements: \$913.59 [*\$95.70 (Storage), \$277.89 M. Whitfield/Mtg Refreshments, \$540.00 (12 JVC Tickets)*]

Bills Against the Chapter: None

Sickness and Distress: Report by Chap. M. Ross

None.

Applications and Introduction of New Members: None.

Reading of Communications: None.

Committees Reports:

1. **Membership Committee:** Chair (SVC) L. Miller.
 - Requested interested members for the chapter membership committee.
2. **Service Officer Committee** – Chair E. Smith
 - Next CSO training. Date TBD. Last CSO/DSO/CMS training was on 7/18/2025. However, the notice did not provide enough notice to attend the MS Teams meeting.
3. **BPTL/Webmaster Report** – Chair E. Smith
 - New Commander of Maryland Department of Veteran and Military Family is Ed Rothstein, Appointed by Gov Wes Moore on 8/1/2025. Retired Army Colonel, former Fort Meade Garrison Commander (2011-2013)
4. **LVAP Committee** – Chair D. Jones.
 - June LVAP Hours: 194
 - July LVAP Hours: 136
 - 2025 Total: 1489
5. **Entertainment Committee:** Chair M. Whitfield.
 - Awaiting estimates for the holiday party.

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- Department Annual Picnic: Date changed to Oct 25th. Cost per shirt is \$17.00. Order form due date: 9/20/2025. Email to: dav_hq@davofmd.org

6. **Forget Me Not Campaign Committee:** Chair D. Rider

- No Report

7. **Golden Committee:** Co-Chairs M. Ross, B. Pearman, L. Miller

Cdr G. Ross Guidance: Changes GC Fundraising and Campaign

- a) 7/22/2025 – Presenting at the Department meeting on GC Campaign procedures
- b) GC Shift sign up will be on the website, 2 members per shift.
Members must sign in/out for the purpose of tracking LVAP hours. (@\$30 p/h)
- c) Shift Core Hours – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; 8am – 5pm
- d) Money counted and turned in at the end of each shift to GC Mgr.
- e) Receipts must be written separately for donations and for raffle tickets
- f) 7/25/2025 - POA signed with Chapter 13 and provided to the Department
- g) Scheduling a meeting with GM Ken Newman to explain the POA and National policy approves multiple chapter event.
- h) Minimum goal is to raise \$25,000 but target goal of \$50,000
- i) 15% to Department and 85% to the Chapter (divided by total hrs worked /per Chapter.
- k) Plan of Action and AAR will be submitted

Cdr G. Ross Guidance: We will kick off our GC Campaign on August 1st.

- M. Whitfield – We have to vote on the policy to get approved at the Department.
- Ch. M. Ross – This is about the Chapters collaborating, maybe we don't until we do that until approved.

Cdr G. Ross: OK. We will move forward until we get this part straight and start the GC Campaign on August 1st.

Cdr G. Ross: GC Co-Chair G. Franklin suggested bilingual DAV brochures and information for our Spanish speaking Community. National sent a link to a PSA commercial but playing the commercial on the table may not work but our Webmaster will post it on our website,

8) **Camp Corral - Just Be Kids** – No Chairs appointed

Cdr Ross Guidance: Resolution read for discussion and motion to vote to be sent to Department approval for National Convention. Cdr read the Resolution highlights.

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- 1) National Fundraiser not State.
- 2) Can't raise funds for other non-profits thus Just B Kids was created
- 3) Funds/Donations raised must be turned into National with receipts
- 4) Mandated by Federal rules and DAV internal policy
- 5) Guard funds collected on site; money kept at GC, allow receipts as proof funds raised, signatures and completion of submission form.

Cdr G. Ross asks for a motion to accept the resolution. Motion made and seconded to accept the resolution. (SVC L. Miller/D. Jones)

Cdr G. Ross Guidance: National Just B Kids adds up to \$600,000 to the total funds collected. Thus, why all money raised must be turned into National - for accounting and cutting the check. We failed to follow this policy so the money was raised was not added. The Resolution will correct this.

- M. Whitfield – The Chapter has always made a separate donation to Just B Kids. Camp Corral gives a quarter million dollars to Just B Kids every year. It is doubled every year so they are not losing out. It's only been the last two years that we didn't donate or receive credit but never did but was recorded in the minutes. The form submitted has the GC store name and states Camp Corral. We raised \$6,000 and it was documented on the form and accepted by National.
- CDR G. Ross. This is a separate issue from this resolution and we will come back to it.

Cdr G. Ross: "Are there any further discussions? if not, we will now vote on the motion. All in favor say "Aye", all opposed say "Nay". Hearing none. The motion is passed to send the Resolution for Just B Kids to the State. Note: Cdr will provide an update if it makes it to the floor at National.

Cdr G. Ross Guidance: I want to go back to Camp Corral discussion from M. Whitfield. Camp is a nonprofit national campaign. I spoke with National, Tammy Schaefer, It's in the policy. Thus, our Chapter will operate according to the policy. State SVC even said, National sends out the same policy for the last 10 years, just changes the date. So again, Chapter 33 will follow the policy.

- **Other committee reports** : Grievance Committee, Budget committee, Hospital committee, Legislative committee, Publicity committee have not been appointed yet.

Unfinished Business

- **1) Virtual Meetings: Cdr G. Ross** – The Resolution will allow voting at any online meetings that occur to conduct chapter business . This will allow voting via virtually using Zoom and MS Teams. It will offer the ability to attend and vote at meetings which will increase recruiting goals. This Resolution will be sent to the State first.

Cdr G. Ross asks for a motion to accept the resolution. Motion made and seconded to accept the resolution. (J. Dyer/M. Ross)

Cdr G. Ross: “Are there any further discussions? if not, we will now vote on the motion. All in favor say “Aye”, all opposed say “Nay”. Hearing none. Motion passed to send the Resolution for Virtual Voting to the State.

- **2) Chapter Bylaws: Cdr G. Ross:** The DAV website has our Bylaws dated 2004. They were sent the last updated Bylaws dated 2022. However, after reviewing, we will be voting on the following changes:
 - a) **Article IV, Administration – Section 3 - change to read:** the Chapter shall elect every 2 years
 - b) **Article IV – Nomination and Elections - Section 3 - change to read:** delegates/alternates will cover the entire fiscal year; shall be identified to the State DAV not less than sixty (60) days
 - c) **Article V – Officers and their Duties – Section 1 – Para1 – change to read:** The Chapter shall elect every 2 years
 - d) **Article V – Officers and their Duties – Section 2 – 12 - added to read:** Added paragraphs to detail duties for chapter officers
 - e) **Article V – Officers and their Duties – Section 13 – added to read:** The office of the Adjutant and Treasurer may not be held by the same person.
 - f) **Article VII, Tenure of Office - Section 1 - change to read:** Officers shall be elected every two (2) years in April
 - g) **Article VII, Tenure of Office - Section 2 - change to read:** They shall serve (two) 2 years or until newly elected or appointed officer has been installed
 - h) **Article IX – Finances – Section 4 – added to read:** No member who is on the bank signature card is allowed to sign their own payment/check. The third person on the signature card must be the co-signer approving the payment/ check
 - i) **Article X- Meetings – Section 4, Rule 1- change to read:** quorum shall consist of seven (7) members in good standing, which at least three (3) must be elected Chapter officers

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- j) **Article XI – Committees – Section 5 – added to read** - No person may hold the position of chairperson for any chapter committee at the same time they are serving as chairperson of the same committee at the state or national levels.
- k) - **Article XI – Committees – Section 6 – added to read** - No person shall hold the position of committee chair or co-chair on more than one committee at the same time.
- l) **Article XI – Committees – Section 7 – added to read** - No persons shall use their personal credit cards to purchase items needed for any of the chapter fundraisers.
- m) **Article XIII – Restrictions and Miscellaneous – Section 4: changed to read:** .
Adherence to the Official DAV Officer Guides is a requirement.
- n) **Article XIII – Restrictions and Miscellaneous – Section 7 Para1: added to read:**
Monies raised for any fundraisers must have receipts for it and be turned into the treasurer at the next chapter meeting for accounting and proof of monies collected.
- o) **Article XIV – Travel – Funding and Reimbursement – Section 1: added to read:**
The Commander. Senior Vice Commander, Treasurer, Adjutant, Delegates/ Alternate Delegates will be fully reimbursed for travel to State and National conventions as the budget permits.
- p) **Article XIV – Travel – Funding and Reimbursement – Section 2: added to read:** A travel report with the reason for the travel and notes of what occurred must be submitted within 30 days post-travel to the Adjutant.
- q) **Article XIV – Travel – Funding and Reimbursement – Section 3: added to read:**
No lodging or per diem is paid for travel for anything within a fifty (50) mile radius from Odenton, Maryland. Mileage will be paid for attendance for authorized travel to events within the 50-mile radius from Odenton, Maryland.
- r) **Article XV LYFT Program – Rules and Regulations – Section 1: added to read:** The chapter will have 3 LYFT coordinators to coordinate the rides with chapter members who need the LYFT Services.
- s) **Article XV LYFT Program – Rules and Regulations – Section 2: added to read:** The LYFT program will cover a 30-mile radius from Odenton, Maryland. Members in need of the service may only use the service for National, State, or Chapter events. (i.e., Chapter meetings, fundraisers, Department Executive Committee Meetings)
- t) **Article XV LYFT Program – Rules and Regulations – Section 3: added to read:** All LYFT program rides will be tracked and reported at all chapter meetings for the month.

- **Grievance committee:** Cdr G. Ross: A committee will be appointed to discuss personal

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when introduced or brought on the floor. We should not be arguing in front of new people. For now, we try to resolve everything at the Chapter Executive Committee meeting (CEC). The whole intent is to keep our discussions professional, factual and brief.

- **LYFT Program coordinators:** Cdr G. Ross: will have access to the website and submit reports. We will vote on a budget and track the program funds.
 - Ch. M. Ross – Wouldn't our Department Financial Officer be the budget person or the Treasury Department?
- **Cdr G. Ross:** Craig Barnes discussed the Lyft Program at the State Convention They will help us set up the program but leaves it up to each chapter to register and run their program. I would like to have the Treasurer as the Chair with 2 more members on the committee.
 - PDC M. Whitfield: Senior members don't need anybody coming to their home for a Saturday meeting; They have concerns about their safety; they don't want people to know when they live due to mishaps with LYFT.
- **Cdr G. Ross:** We can't accommodate everybody's personal preferences. But we will gather information to see how many people are actually interested. Then discuss the budget.
- **Post Office Box – Cdr Ross:** Updated chapter letter was given to the Fort Meade Post office. Effectively immediately: Keys/Lock have been changed and access to the mail was updated to Adjutant Deborah Rider, SVC Lottie Miller and me.

CSO Training: Chair E. Smith – We received a virtual invite on a Thursday to join CMS training on the next day/Friday but it was last minute and around 4pm.

- SVC L. Miller: We are waiting on NSO to announce the date for next CSO training. It was mentioned it may be in November
- PDC M. Whitfield: You have to be certified to attend CMS training and invited by the NSO.

Zip Code Meeting: Cdr G. Ross: We met with Chapter 13 (CDR, SVC. Adjutant) to discuss our jurisdictions according to the zip code report. We reviewed the postal zip code map and how the AA county was split up. Overlapping zip codes were discovered. It was agreed that Hanover zip code and Severn actually overlapped.

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Maryland rules state its okay that zip codes can overlap. Therefore, we decided to partner with Chapter 13 with GC Hanover. This would help with shift coverage for 2 people.

- **New Business:** Cdr G. Ross – read VA Donation letter
 - Medical Center Support – Clothing Closet for Perry Point, Loch Raven and VA Balt
 - Drop Off: War Memorial Bldg, Tues and Thursday, 9am – 3pm
 - Needed Items: Requested items were hygiene and toiletries, winter clothing, games and simple crafts, gently used or new in the package.
 - SVC L. Miller volunteered to collect the donations and drop them off Ch M. Ross – if we don't get all the items donated, can we buy the items?
 - SVC L. Miller: I move we spend \$200 purchasing the toiletries and simple crafts and clothing as requested. Seconded by J. Dyer.
Ch M. Ross – Can we do both? Buy the new and package items and donate clothing?

Cdr G. Ross – The motion's been admitted by amended by M. Ross that we also individual donations by chapter members to go along with the \$200 for those items, toiletries, puzzles, and games and clothing, to be given to the VA.

Cdr G. Ross: “Are there any further discussions? if not, we will now vote on the motion. All in favor say “Aye”, all opposed say “Nay”. Hearing none. Motion passed for Chapter donations and spending \$200 for the VA Medical Center donations.

Good Of the Order – Cdr G. Ross

- Chapter attended Annual Financial Report Training, held on July 12, Chapter 7, Bowie
- 2025 DAV National Convention - August 9 – 12, Paris, Las Vegas
Cdr/SVC/M. Whitfield attending
- August Chapter meeting cancelled - due to National Convention
- Ft Meade Retiree Appreciation Day – Friday, October 24th, 0830 – 1430, McGill Training Center
- Chapter Audit Committee – Treasurer T. Neal, Chair – B. Pearman, G. Franklin, D, Jones. Date/Location TBD. Due by September 30
- 1st DEC, Sat, 10/18, American Legion, Post 278, Stevensville, MD 11am
- Golden Corral Annual Military Appreciation Night, Nov 11, 4pm to closing

Motion to Adjourn (M. Ross/E. Smith).

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Cdr G. Ross: “DAV Chapter 33 was moved and 2nd to adjourn the meeting. All in favor say “Aye”, all opposed say “Nay”.

Memorial Ceremony – Conducted by the Cdr G. Ross,

Closing Ceremonies: Prayer, Ch. M. Ross. Meeting declared adjourned.

Next meeting scheduled for September 13, 2025