

M. R. SARGE WAREHIME DAV CHAPTER #33

Minutes – July 11, 2023

Opening Ceremony – The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. by the Commander, Ben Green. Opening Ceremony conducted.

- The meeting was opened with prayer by Chaplin Mitchell Ross and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was rendered.

Roll Call of Officers:

Commander – Ben Green - Present

Sr. Vice Commander – Lisa Robinson - Present

Jr. Vice Commander – Lorraine Fraser - Present

Adjutant – Deborah Rider - Present

Treasurer – Catrina Redfield - Present

Chaplain – Mitchell Ross – Present

Sergeant of Arms – Lottie Miller - Present

Officer of the Day – Burt Pearman - Present

Benefits Protection Team Leader – Demetrious Jones – Present

Attendance - Membership Total: 16

- Visitors: Department Sr Vice Commander, Craig Barnes

Reading Minutes from Last Meeting: Adjutant D. Rider read June Minutes.

Commander B. Green – *stated, “the minutes have been read, are there any corrections”?*

- Chaplin M. Ross – motioned to amend the minutes. Read as: “no response from Comrade Fraser” – Amend to read: “Comrade Fraser reported as fine, and no further contact required.”
- Comrade D. Jones – motioned to amend the minutes. Read as “Comrade Albert Deal” – Amend to read; “Comrade Albert McNeal.”
- PDC L. Couser – motioned to amend the minutes. Read as “March 2023n” – Amend to read “March 2023.”

- Sr. Vice L. Robinson - motioned to amend the minutes. Read as Lock Raven” – Amend to read “Loch Raven.”
- PDC L. Couser – moved to approve the minutes as read and corrected, subject to audit, seconded by Chaplin Ross

Commander Green – “Are there any further corrections? Hearing none, the minutes are approved as read and corrected”.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer C. Redfield – reported May and June Monthly Chapter Financial Report. Members were welcome to see the report and bank statements.

- 5/1/2023 – 5/31/2023 –
Beginning balance: \$22,448.67 (Income: \$434; Disbursements: \$687.60)
Ending balance: \$22,195.07
- 6/1/2023 – 6/30/023
Beginning balance: \$22,195.07 (Income: \$355; Disbursements: \$1,500.65)
Ending balance: \$21,049.42

Bills Against the Chapter: None reported.

Sickness and Distress: Reported by Chaplin M. Ross.

- Comrade J. Thomas had outpatient surgery today, reported doing well. And back home recuperating.
- Comrades F. Harmon, L. Fraser and L. Robinson are back. (Chapter applause)
- “I would love if the individuals themselves let me know otherwise, I receive the information late or after recovery. I can provide my number if needed. If you don’t want to be contacted that’s fine but I would love to brief the commander and/or at least visit.
- Fruit Trays were given on behalf of the Chapter to F. Harmon, L. Robinson, and J. Thomas.
- Visited Comrade Chambers who sadly went to visit his family /his sister that passed and now has returned. I presented a fruit tray and card on behalf of the Chapter.
- Chapter “Get Well” cards are available for everyone to sign. We can pre-sign the cards, but I normally just sign for the Chapter while they are at home.

Commander B. Green - added, "We have Get well card to send to our sick and distress in the Chapter, I like to do, is have all of us sign and send wishes to our comrades in arms, mail them out, to let them know we are thinking about them."

Obligation of New Members: Conducted by Commander B. Green
Adjutant D. Rider called the names of new members to the front.

- Comrades *George Scott Jr. (Absent)*, **Eric "Vernon" Smith**, *Randolf Mouzon (Absent)*, **Rick Corbin**, **George Franklin**, *Roberto Smith (Absent)*.
- New members were welcomed with a "VETERAN" tee shirt from the Chapter.
- Membership Chairman – Sr. Vice Commander, L. Robinson

Reading of Communications: by Adjutant, D. Rider

- Wounded Warrior Project – Fund Drive for donations, Hanover area
- Help honor American Soldiers – Memorial Day Foundation for donations.
 - Dept Sr Vice – C. Barnes stated, "per IG, we are not to give donations to other veteran organizations."
 - PDC L. Couser – "when other veteran organizations solicit for donations, we don't support them because DAV creates the same service programs. When it's a department initiative, the Chapter can match the funds. Chapter can also support the National Service Foundation – which is every program comes from that."

Commander B. Green – added, "I welcome your participation - all questions, changes, or concerns. I represent you."

Reports of Committees:

- Membership Committee – Sr. Vice L. Robinson – No Report
 - PDC L. Couser added, Chapter made their membership goal for the year. Now in a new membership year. All members are recruiters! They don't have to come to a chapter meeting. You can direct them to the DAV website, provide your membership number. As the Sponsor to the organization, National will give you points to purchase items from the DAV store.

Commander B. Green – added "we have various committees that need chairpersons to volunteer; we are developing them and will get them going, thus, we will move on until the other committees are fully established"

- Golden Corral Committee – Commander B. Green stated, “Our Golden Corral Committee has been chaired for many years by Comrade Mattie Whitfield, who now serves as our Department Commander. We need a volunteer to Chair our Golden Corral Fundraiser. Commander requested volunteers from the chapter.”
 - Comrade F. Harmon volunteered as the Chairperson for the 2023 Golden Corral Fundraiser. (Applauded by the Chapter)
 - Commander B. Green - asked Comrade Harmon, “what can the Chapter do to support your efforts.”
 - Comrade F. Harmon responded, “I can’t answer that right now, I will get back to you, I may go out of service, I’m on standby to go back to Chemo, so I wanted to give a heads up, and cross that bridge and see how it goes. I will get with Mattie and let you know. I will be the closer. If I go back in Chemo, I won’t be available until Wednesday afternoon. I’m committed to Golden Corral. I hope someone else will help with that. Cause someday you are alone. I’m telling you what I know. Not to throw bricks at anybody. We do what we need to do together. I don’t know all I need but as soon as I find out, I’ll let you know.”
 - Commander B. Green, stated, “Comrade Harmon, you won’t be alone and thank you.”
 - Comrade member (unknown) – “I’m still working, I will put in as many hours as I can, I’ll help you close”
 - Comrade D. Jones, stated, “the biggest thing is volunteers. We generate a calendar, it will shoot out to everyone, put the time you can volunteer and be committed. If a family emergency comes up notify the Chair so we can find someone.”
 - Adjutant D. Rider – added, “As part of last year’s GC committee, of Comrade Harmon, Mattie and myself. The committee got the ball rolling for the GC fundraiser. We provided the DAV table brochures, maintained the supplies, purchased prizes, monitored the shift coverage and submitted the donations at the end of each shift to the GC managers. The committee reported back to the Chapter on donation totals, GC upcoming fundraisers and volunteer support. Please assist so that Comrade Harmon has backup – when he need to go to a medical appointment or just rest. We as a Chapter must support him . The committee keeps it going but volunteers are critical. Comrade Harmon mentioned closing, that means packing up the event table, counting the donations and turning them in to the GC manager. The

evening shift is hard for a lot of members. The season now gets dark early, many members don't drive at night. Those that can support the evening shifts, please look at your availability, because we all have something going on, or may getting off work, or have family responsibilities. With that being said, knowing all those circumstances, I highly encourage everyone to give whatever time you have to support the GC event...to include the weekends and evening shift."

- Department Sr Vice, C. Barnes added, " just a suggestion, all the chapters I've been too, when its hard to get volunteers from your chapter, you may want to break the shifts down from 4 hrs. to 2 hours, because someone may not want to give up all their day, but can give a couple of hours, it may help fill some of the gaps"
- Adjutant D. Rider, added, "we did try that for the FMN Campaign and it was successful, we had overlap every day. Previous GC events, Mattie has been there 6 – 7 hours in one day, and tag team with Deacon Harmon, we have to look that."

Commander B. Green, added, "that sounds like a good idea, thank you. We must do our part and help Comrade Harmon out. We can't have idol words; we have to perform. That's a marine, he stepped up, knowing he's going through stuff. We can help him out. "

Unfinished Business.

- Commander B. Green – reported, "The **National Convention** is being held from August 5 – 8 in Atlantic City. I have a Chapter Delegate form that needs to be filled out. The Chapter, as I understands, sends the Commander, that's the only person the Chapter backs to go. But the delegate form, if you plan on going, I would recommend, you put your name on the form. Who is going other than myself, Adjutant and PDC Couser?"
 - PDC L. Couser – added, "it's not just the Commander. It's the Commander, Adjutant, and his or her designee. The Chapter pays for you and the Adjutant. But if your Adjutant can't go, you can have or designate someone. In the Bylaws, the responsibilities of going to the National Convention is to report back to the Chapter what happened at the National convention and provide information. The Chapter can send and reimburse the Commander and the Adjutant or the designee - members in good standing."

- Adjutant D. Rider - added, “ having that been said, the DAV rate for reservations are full, if you plan on going. You may still go, but pay over \$600 per night. I called the Harrah’s. You may call the Harrah’s hotel directly but no earlier than the 30th to check on cancellations at the DAV rate. I have the National schedule if you want to look for more information.”
- PDC L. Couser – added. “I can come back to Commander, but what I believe happens is - National will always pick an overflow hotel, that will honor the DAV rate which is significantly cheaper. Per the website, DAV negotiated room block at Harrah’s are closed. Harrah’s is sold out most nights. Future reservations are based on future available and the prevailing rate. (website given), DAV has overflow rooms block at a nearby Sheraton, for people booking 6 nights or more @ a nightly rate of \$189, good to July 16th. All reservations will be secured on a first night non refundable room deposit, the Sheraton is located less than 2 miles from the Harrah’s, while transportation will not be offered between the overflow hotel and Harrah’s , we do offer reduced parking rate at \$8 per night. Phone number for Harrah’s 888-236-2427, ref code M-QHQHGSQ. All you really have to do is call and do it in the next 5 days. The tentative National Convention schedule is on the DAV website and I sent it to the Commander. Any member in good standing can be a delegate at the convention. The Chapter is only reimbursing the Commander and the Adjutant. The reason you want to go as a delegate of your chapter, is because it’s a fraternal event - when you register you are reported as a member in good standing in a active chapter, not a guest. You want it that way, it happens that President Obama decided to attend 3 days prior to the convention – the rooms booked tripled – but to be in the room where he was speaking required you to registered as a delegate. This is election year and political people will lobby their efforts.”
- Chaplin M. Ross – added, “I’ve never seen a year where everyone who booked, attends. Members book the room the day after the previous National. You need to call and check.”

Adjutant D. Rider, stated, “Other unfinished business, was Comrade D. Jones wanted to put out some information regarding reporting your LVAP hours and when.”

- LVAP Hours – reported by Comrade D. Jones.
 - If you went to the Department Convention or even the CSO training for that one day, I need those hours. A lot of members are putting in hours and I would like you to provide them to me. I emailed the individual LVAP hour sheet out. At a minimum you can email me, for example, *“Comrade Jones, went to CSO training, it took me 2.5 to drive down and 2.5 to come back, I spent 8 hours doing training, for example.*
 - Comrade L. Fraser, asked, “so what happens if you went but didn’t attend training but did everything else there?” I will get them to you.
 - Comrade Jones, responded, “I need those hours. I was just giving the example as CSO. If you were there, those are your hours.
 - PDC L. Courser – It’s service.
 - Commander B. Green – those hours matter, it equates to value.

New Business

- Adjutant D. Rider – requested clarification and information on the refrigerator purchase. What is the name of the company? PDC Couser, added, “I don’t have that information but can provide some information for the Good of the Order.”

Good of the Order

- PDC L. Couser - The \$200 plus, the Chapter donated, I was successfully able to get the Department to pay the balance. The Department forced me to buy the refrigerator and be reimbursed. Which I did. The company came and picked up the old one and delivered the new one. Commander Green already visited and received a cold beverage from it.
- Commander B. Green visited the same day (stated above) and spent the majority of the day with us to sit through the CSO training because he unable to attend the Convention for his certification training. Once he signs the document here, he will have successfully completed the training for the year. (applause)
- Comrade D. Jones – added, “and Commander Green I need those hours you spent in training” (laughter).
- Department Sr Vice C. Barnes – reported from the Department,
 - 1st, not sure if everyone is aware of the Membership Incentive Program – currently in place with the Department, if you sign a member up and in order for them to become a life member, the Chapter gives \$15 and the Department gives \$15 and that’s the process in place. It can be very cumbersome, with the checks moving around, an added incentive to the

program – for instance if a veteran signs up for \$300 and the Veteran also receives \$30 back. The highest recruiters in the state (by nature of our business) are the NSO, we will take credit but disseminate the membership though out the Chapters to help the Chapters who didn't make their membership goal. Last year we scrambled at the end of the year and tried to put people in their chapter. A MOU will be provided to each Chapter, so if the Chapter opts in to it, the NSO knows when we get memberships we can move them to the Chapters who are willing to give that Veteran the rebate. It's a great tool for us and it helps Chapters make their goal. It will be something the Chapter has to vote on, and we need to know that upfront. The MOU will be out.

- Last thing, Chapter Jurisdictions. CNA brought out jurisdictions. Covid, a lot of Chapters have moved out of their jurisdictions. So, look at your Charter to see what city it says. I know, originally, Chapter 33 was Jessup or Odenton. Now your address comes up as Severn. So if you are not Chartered for that area , it doesn't take much to change the name of the city and send it up to National. There are now several chapters that are sharing jurisdiction. Nobody owns the jurisdiction that you are in. You may have been there a long time, but because of your Charter, you may to update it. Check yourself. You are who your Charter says you are, it doesn't matter where you are having your meetings. Your By Laws outline HOW you do business, Your Charter outlines WHERE you can do business. *To modify your charter, it's the same charter being rewritten, sent up to the Department and to National for approval. The only thing you change is location. Its more simple than changing the Bylaws, its one line. You can't be Odenton, Jessup, Severn...you have to pick one.* The reason why Jurisdiction is so important...if you are in Severn and are generating funds from Severn community, the thought pattern is you will spend those funds in the Severn community. Now you take those funds to Odenton and spend it on the homeless veterans in Odenton, now you are spending money in a way it was not intended." That's why you have to work within your jurisdiction.
- Chaplin M. Ross, stated, "question about that, we are the Fort Meade Chapter."
- Commander B. Green, asked, "How do we modify the Charter?" Part of our agenda is to change our By Laws." We are clearly the Fort Meade Chapter, that's what it really is." We've been at the police station, Jessup

Community Center, we are trying to find a home. How do we modify the Charter?

- PDC L. Couser – added, “The point is 2 meetings ago, the Chapter talked about this, when Mattie brought it up, Chapter 13 was complaining about us being in their same location. I understand, correcting something that we now as false. But as what we knew initially is we need to get with the National IG to figure out what needs to be done. Regardless, what needs to be decided, it will be drafted, and presented to the members to vote on, then to the Department and National. So a lot of that discussion...Jessup, Hanover, Severn, Odenton (Chapter laughter)...still need to be decided but whatever we decide, will be changed in our Charter.” The point is you have to get with the IG, and explain the issue. But, as far as funding, its slippery, cause any Chapter can donate to McVet and they are in the city. So we support other Veteran programs and they don’t have to be in the city of Severn to support it. We just need to figure out our Charter situation and work with the IG to figure out the service part and present it. Even when Mattie brought it up a couple meetings ago, my whole thing is, you can say these things but a lot of people don’t understand unless its shown where it is written, so to educate how to operate a meeting and a Chapter correctly. You can call HQs IG, Ed Hartman, call thru his Aids and ask you questions.
- Commander B. Green - added, “correction, it was stated it may be an issue, I spoke with the Commander of Chapter 13, and asked, “is there a problem with our Chapter existing in Severn. He said, “No, not at all.”
- Adjutant D. Rider – It’s a matter of knowing our Charter, cause we need to check and confirm what it says.

Commander B. Green – Thanked everyone, and asked, any more information for the Good of the Order?

- Chaplin M. Ross – asked, “If you look at my hat and all these pins. Do you know where we get Maryland pins this year for National?”
- PDC L. Couser – responded, “ you can reach out to Tommie Hawkins at the Department, they have hundreds of them. Tommie Hawkins buys pins for the Department and all you have to do is ask. He can provide bags for the Chapter.
- Chaplin M. Ross – provided his phone number, 1-800- HURT (laughter), seriously, my cell is 443-889-6115.

DRAFT REVIEW

- Comrade D. Jones – reported, as of July 11, 2023, the Chapter has a total of 1,627 LVAP hours from Jan – June 2023.
- Chaplin M. Ross – stated he had signed Get well cards from the Chapter for Comrade Harmon, Comrade Robinson and Comrade Fraser and Comrade Chambers.

Memorial Ceremony. Conducted by Commander B. Green.

Closing Prayer – Led by Chaplin M. Ross

- *Commander B. Green cancelled the Chapter meeting on August 9, 2023 due to the National Convention on August 5 – 8 in Atlantic City, NJ.*

Commander B. Green declared the meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 7pm. Severn Library.