**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**85th DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

**APRIL 26, 2025, ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA**

The Business Session of the 85th DAV Department of South Dakota Convention and the DAV 73rd Auxiliary State of South Dakota Convention convened at the AmericInn in Aberdeen, South Dakota, on Saturday, April 26th, 2025, and was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commander Kim Hubers.

Department Commander Kim Hubers introduced dignitaries and special guests

**FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**

The DAV Department of South Dakota 85th Annual Convention was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26th, 2025. At the AmericInn, 301 Centennial St. South, Aberdeen, SD 57401. Prayer by Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht and Commander Kim Hubers led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND CHAPTERS**

Present Commander Kim Hubers; Sr. Vice Tim Walsh; 1st Jr. Vice Amy Lucas; 2nd Jr. Vice Matt Kistler; Treasurer Gene Murphy, Judge Advocate/Inspector Bob Hill, and Past Department Commander Christine Speirs; and Chapters: No. 1, No. 3, No. 6, No. 11, No. 13, No. 18, No. 19, No. 22, and No. 27.

Officers and DEC Excused/Absent:

Guests: DAV 1st Jr. Vice Commander John Donavan

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**1. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: TREASURER GENE MURPHY**

Treasurer Murphy reported that the FY 2024-25 (first nine months) General Account checking account balance of July 1st, 2024, was $9,313.21; total income for FY 2024-25 was $148,214.01; expenses of $126,460.35 with a profit of $21,753.66; and the checking account balance as of March 31st, 2025, was $61,066.87.

The DSO/HTP Program checking account balance on July 1st, 2024, was $6,329.67; The DSO/HTP transfer of $80,000.00.

FY 2024-25 (Nine months) Assets $579,264.05; Liabilities were $0.00; and Total Fund Balance was $579,264.05.

FY 2025-2026 Proposed Budget was income of $178,050.00 and expenses of $178,050.00. This will be updated in April.

1. Financial Statement for FY 2024-2025 of July 1st, 2024, to March 31st, 2025 (nine months)
2. Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balance
3. Department Proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026
4. Department Program for DSO/HTP
5. Legislative and Service Programs - COLA
6. DAV National Service Foundation contribution of $500.00 in honor of NSOs Owen Richards and Trevor Metcalf
7. DAV 14th District Fall Conference, donation of $ 375.00
8. Income Research Committee Report
9. Convention Raffle Report
10. Delegates Received a Sheet for Future Donations

On a motion by Robert Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by H.G. Krosschell, Chapter No. 3 to approve the Budget and Finance Committee Report. Discussion. Motion Carried.

**2. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: SR. VICE COMMANDER TIM WALSH (Handout provided).**

Sr. Vice Commander Walsh reported the following (attached report):

* Request members to assist with recruitment
* Four chapters have obtained goal – Arthur H. Muchow Ch No. 1, DAV Rapid City Ch No. 3, and DAV Northern Hills Ch. No. 11. Swanson O’Connor Ch No. 13
* Life Membership Special of only $125 thru June 30th
* DAV Population Summary for South Dakota
* Membership Application
* DAV Our Programs
* DAV Brochures
* Information on South Dakota Veterans
* Membership Streamer was placed on the Department Flag

The Department EC is recommending allowing $75.00 discount for life from the Department of South Dakota from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026(Each Chapter will also be required to match $50.00 during this time).

The Department EC is recommending allowing $10.00 discount for partial life membership from the Department of South Dakota from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2065(Each Chapter will also be required to match $10.00 during this time).

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11, to approve the Membership Committee Report. Motion Carried.

**3. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: COMMANDER KIM HUBERS**

 Legislative Drill of Chapter Priorities

 Chapter 1 – State Veterans Home/ Assisted Living

 Property Tax Relief

 Chapter 3 – Transportation Assistance from other Venues to support the HTP

 Grant from SDDVA back to the DAV

 Chapter 6 – Property Tax Relief

 Camping Permit / Hunting Fee Reduction with Disability Rating

 Chapter 11 – Property Tax Relief

 Motor Vehicle Licensing Reduction

 Chapter 13 – Veterans Home in the NE

 Property Tax Relief

 Chapter 18 – None

 Chapter 19 – Transportation for Rural Areas

 Nursing Home / Support to Tiny Home Projects Outside of Sioux Falls

 Chapter 22 – Property Tax Reduction

 Nursing Home Care

 Chapter 27 – Total Property Tax Reduction

 Assisted Care Living

Commander Hubers provided the following:

SDDVA monitored 24 bills this year ----- nine were signed into law.

SDDVA introduced one bill – SB 52 which would allow for the expansion of the state veterans cemetery – columbarium – apply for national grant.

**Veteran related bills that passed:**

Allow nonresident military members to purchase three-day temporary non-resident waterfowl licenses (HB 1188).

Allow students to wear certain military decorations at a school graduation ceremony (HB 1068).

Waived the driver license renewal period for members of the military and their families (HB 1160).

Allow additional forms to verify military service for a veteran designation on a commercial driver license (HB 1161).

**Two resolutions passed to Washington.**

Support the establishment of a standardized system to recognize and award academic credit or certification for military service (SCR 603).

Support the expansion of transportation services for veterans receiving medical care in the state (SCR 604).

**Ethics Legislation**

Two bills were introduced that focused on unethical conduct and improper collection of fees relating to assistance or referrals in veterans’ benefits. (HB 1076 and HB 1238.   1238 passed and becomes law.    1238 was heavily opposed by the service organizations.

HB 1038 which was to repeal the burial benefits was killed in the House 70-0 – this was part of the Governor’s Budget decreases to our department.   Money was restored – program continues.

Funds were also restored to our budget for the VSO salary supplement reimbursement.   Program continues.

1. Strengthen presumptive policies to ensure toxic-exposed veterans receive earned benefits in a timely manner Military service members have faced toxic exposures for over a century. The Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 expanded health care and benefits for millions of affected veterans, establishing presumptives for dozens of diseases and related conditions. However, it lacks timely accountability measures and doesn’t cover all current or future exposures. Our report, Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans, found that it takes an average of 34 years for the Department of Veterans Affairs to acknowledge toxic exposures and grant presumptive benefits. The VA must establish a new presumptive process that ensures more timely decisions for these veterans claims.
2. Eliminate gaps in mental health care and suicide prevention with a focus on gender-tailored care The rate of suicide among veterans continues to exceed that of the general American population. According to the VA’s most recent annual report, 6,407 veterans died by suicide in 2022. However, military sexual trauma and intimate partner violence—known risk factors—are not included in the VA’s suicide predictor model. DAV’s 2024 report, Women Veterans: The Journey to Mental Wellness, highlights these gaps and provides over 50 recommendations to improve care and reduce the rising suicide rates among veterans.
3. Prevent Congress or the VA from reducing, offsetting or taxing veterans benefits Over 5.6 million disabled veterans receive compensation for service-related conditions, but those with medical retirement benefits can’t receive both military retirement pay and VA disability compensation. Veterans rated 40% or less disabled also face this prohibition. Veterans must also repay special separation pay when receiving VA disability compensation. It is time to end these unjust offsets and keep the promises made to those who served.
4. Modernize and strengthen benefits for survivors The VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program provides tax free monthly benefits to survivors of service members who died in the line of duty or from service-related conditions. In 2025, the DIC benefit for a surviving spouse is $1,653.07 per month, about 41% of the VA disability compensation that a 100% service-connected veteran receives—significantly lower than the 55% survivor benefits for federal civil service retirees. Survivors of veterans totally disabled for less than 10 years receive no DIC, and those who remarry before age 55 lose their benefits. It’s time to reform these critical survivor benefits.
5. Expand comprehensive dental care services to all service-disabled veterans The VA only provides full dental care to 100%-disabled veterans and veterans with service-connected dental disabilities. Poor dental hygiene can lead to a number of chronic health conditions, some which can be life-threatening if not treated. The VA health care model is specifically deigned to be a comprehensive, integrated and preventive system that treats the whole health of veterans. Congress should close the gap and add dental care coverage for all disabled veterans.
6. Enhance long-term care by providing assisted-living and increasing caregiver support The VA offers various long-term care programs for aging veterans, but there are still some gaps, including for those who can’t self-sustain at home but don’t need full nursing home support. Assisted-living care offers help with meals, housekeeping and other activities of daily living, which could fill this gap and provide an alternative to nursing home care. Veteran caregivers also help veterans remain at home longer, and integrating their support with assisted-living care could provide an optimal solution to meeting aging veterans’ care needs.
7. Sustain the VA health care system by reforming infrastructure planning and funding mechanisms The VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the U.S., with over 1,750 access points and 5,600 buildings; however, many facilities are over 50 years old. Failure to provide sufficient funding for modernizing, realigning and expanding VA infrastructure and constructing new VA facilities unnecessarily forces some veterans into community care and also threatens the long-term viability of the VA health care system. Congress must address the VA’s aging infrastructure by fully funding facility modernization efforts.

8. Protect veterans’ benefits and services by ending PAYGO offsets and budget caps that cut funding Congress has adopted budget rules like PAYGO—which limits spending— making it difficult to expand veterans benefits without reducing other existing VA programs and benefits. The Statutory PAYGO Act further enforces overall budget limits resulting in multiyear budget caps that arbitrarily constrain VA spending. Congress should exempt veterans’ programs from PAYGO and budget caps to ensure adequate funding for critical benefits and services.

* 2024 Legislative Victories for Veterans – First Session of the 119th Congress
* DAV, PVA, and the VFW Release Independent Budget Recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Call on Congress to Fully Support Our Nation’s Veterans
* DAV Legislative Spotlight
* DAV CAN (Commander’s Action Network) – 155(Sign-Up Sheet Available) – SD Synopsis Review
* Legislation Information Binder

Encourage members and their families to Join the DAV Commander’s Action Network; and Request Members to Contact Congressional Delegation to Support Veterans Legislation.

The DAV Department Headquarters provides current legislation information through the DAV Department of South Dakota Quarterly Bulletin and Monthly Reports. We ask the Chapter/Unit leadership to share information with their members.

On a motion by Amy Lucas, Chapter No. 13, and seconded by Dan Francis, Chapter No.1, to approve the Legislative Report. Motion carried.

**4. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: 1ST JR. VICE COMMANDER AMY LUCAS AND 2ND JR. VICE COMMANDER MATT KISTLER**

We are excited to be here with all of you and celebrate another successful year of this organization and all everyone has done for each Chapter in the State of SD. It is because of your tireless dedication throughout this last year and dedication to help veterans and their families that makes the DAV what it is today. Now more than ever our brothers and sisters rely on us to be there for encouragement and knowledge of who we are and what we are willing to do for them to make sure not 1 Veteran is left behind.

 Your efforts to this organization speak volumes ranging from fundraisers – handing out flags – selling countless raffle tickets. Using your local media is a huge win and with minimal effort to get the work out to everyone you know and don’t know (yet).

As we are here for our annual gathering let us to reflect on our shared achievements and opportunities and collaborate on new ways to strengthen our mission and share our ideas.

We want to encourage all of you to attend State events, conferences, and Chapter monthly meetings. Reading the Department New letter that our awesome State Adjutant Marty Pennock puts so much effort into putting together. Take this Convention and meet someone new, share your ideas, work together to learn something new to use to help more Veterans in and around your area.

Media Relations is one of the most helpful tools you can use to share the DAV and our mission.

The State officers and members have been busy this last year with hosting Bingo for State Fair, The 727 Poker Run in Brookings, all of the DEC meetings, Fall Conference, Mid-Winter Conference, National Conference, and State Conventions. Be involved and get more knowledge.

Let’s make this State Convention a memorable one and use our time to get fired up on what’s to come the rest of the year.

On a motion by John Cornellius, Chapter No. 13, and seconded by Timothy Timmerman, Chapter No. 13, to approve the Public Relations Report. Motion Carried.

**5. AWARDS COMMITTEE: ADJUTANT PENNOCK**

Adjutant Pennock reported the following: Nominations for 85th Annual Convention Department Awards were solicited from all Department Officers and Chapters. The Department Awards Committee has arranged award recognition in the form of plaques, which will be available for presentation at the Award Luncheon. These awards are as follows:

**Outstanding DAV Member**

1. **Clarence Kooistra**: Disabled American Veteran of the Year
2. **Amy Lucas**: Disabled American Veteran of the Year
3. **Dick Turnwall**: Disabled American Veteran of the Year

**Outstanding VA Employees**

1. **Noreen Lloyd**: Outstanding Support in a VA Health System
2. **Rich Siegmenn**: Superior VA Employee
3. **Dr. Stephen A. Skaleski**: Outstanding SFVAHCS Employee
4. **Brian Slack**: Outstanding Employee at a VA Hospital

**Outstanding Volunteer in SD DAV Chapter 1**

1. **Marvin E. Holmgren**: Outstanding Volunteer Chapter 1, SFVAHCS

**Outstanding Support By A Business**

1. **Chivilla Bay (Rhonda and Bruce May)**: Outstanding Business

We would like to encourage more participation in this program by the Chapters and by Department Officers. This is an opportunity to promote the DAV and provide recognition to outstanding individuals who serve the needs of service-connected disabled veterans, and their dependents and survivors.

On a motion by Dan Francis, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by Timothy Timmerman, Chapter No. 13, to approve the Awards Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**CONVENTION COMMITTEES**

**1. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON MATT KITSLER**

Chairperson Hubers gave a preliminary report on the following: Nine (9) Chapters present; Six (6) Total Elected Officers Registered; Thirty-Five (35) Total Delegates Registered; Three (3) Total Guest Registered; DAV national 1st Jr. Vice Commander John Donovan, Past NEC 14th District Warren Tobin, MT Adjutant Chase Natalie; Six (6) Total Past StateCommanders Registered.

Delegates were provided Voting Strength information of March 25, 2025, and DAV Population Summary.

Delegates For Each Chapter And Voting Strength:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Delegates** |  | **Votes** |  | **Delegates** |  | **Votes** |
| Chapter # 1 |  10 |  | 133 | Chapter # 18 |  1 |  | 15 |
| Chapter # 3 |  3 |  | 87 | Chapter # 19 |  2 |  | 8 |
| Chapter # 6 |  2 |  | 13 | Chapter #22 |  2 |  | 11 |
| Chapter # 11 |  4 |  | 28 | Chapter # 27 |  4 |  | 7 |
| Chapter # 13 |  7 |  | 21 | TOTAL CHAPTER VOTES |  | 323 |
|  |   |  |  | TOTAL OFFICER VOTES |  | 7 |
|  |  |  |  | TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH |  | 330 |

Chapters Present: Present: No. 1, No. 3, No. 6, No. 11, No. 13, No. 18, No. 19, No. 22 and No. 27

Chapters/Officers Absent:

Chapters/Officers Excused:

On a motion by Dan Francis, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by LeRoy Madsen, Chapter No. 18, to approve the Credentials Committee Report and dismiss the committee with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**2. DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: ADJUTANT MARTY PENNOCK**

Adjutant Pennock presented an overview of the Department Executive Committee Report of October 5th, 2024, and March 26th, 2025. Members will receive a copy of the minutes of April 26th, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting for a ballot vote.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by Jeremy White, Chapter No. 27, to approve the DEC report of March 26, 2025, and dismissed him with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**3. INCOME RESEARCH COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON CHRISTINE SPEIRS**

Chairperson Christine Speirs and Treasurer Gene Murphy reported that committee reviewed the Financial Statement FY 2024-2025, Proposed Budget for FY 2024-2025, Funding Programs, Poker Run, Donation from DAV Chapters, and Donations.

The Department received an annual lease payment from the estate of Sylvia Bayne for property that was not sold. The amount of the lease payment is approximately $3,815.00.

**2025 DAV CONVENTION RAFFLE PROGRAM:**

As of March 31, 2025, proceeds from ticket sales are reported as $4,290.00; income for prizes of $6,850.00; and expenses of $2,377.95. We thank all members and friends who have purchased tickets. Last year (2024) the income was $27,447.00 with expenses of $8,141.06 and a net profit of $19,305.94.

Thank you to all Chapters, Units, and Members who provided prizes for this year's raffle program.

**21ST ANNUAL DAV BROOKINGS CHAPTER NO. 22 AND 727TH TRANSPORTATION POKER RUN:** The DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22 and the 727th Transportation Poker Run will be held on August 30th, 2025, at Brookings. Registration starts at 10:00 a.m. with the "Parade at High Noon." Registration is $20.00.

The DAV is requesting door prizes from the Chapters and members. Chapters provided door prizes last year. This event provided the DAV with $57,000.00 for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network which brought the total donations in eighteen years to over $506,000.00. A special “THANKS” goes out to the 727th Transportation group.

Discussion if DAV Department should purchase a tumbler for the DAV/727th Poker Run 20th Committee.

**DAV HOSPITAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK FUNDING:** The DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 of Sioux Falls has approved to provide to the DAV Department of South Dakota a grant of $10,000.00 each year starting July 1, 2019, for the salary increase for the two (2) DAV Hospital Transportation Network Coordinators for a total of $50,000.00 donations.

The Committee would invite ALL Chapters to assist with the two-salary packages for our coordinators.

**VIETNAM VETS STILL COMING HOME – THEIR STORIES – THEIR WORDS**: This book was put together by Steven H. Feimer and Kristine Elin Cable. It tells the stories of thirty-one (31) Vietnam Veterans.

All profits from the book will be donated to the Veterans organizations that donated to assist with cost of printing book. The organization has published 2,500 books. DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 and DAV Department of South Dakota donated $2,500.00 for publication of book. A copy of the book is available for members’ review.

The profit from the sales of these books has given back $52,500.00.

**DEPARTMENT 501c (3) ORGANIZATION**: The Department has the approval of the DAV National and State of South Dakota for the Article of Incorporation of Disabled American Veterans Department of South Dakota Service and Transportation, Inc. (Corporation); and formation of a 501c(3) organization from IRS.

The DAV will need to propose a fund-raising letter to be mailed to the businesses/corporations in South Dakota. The DAV will need to contact DAV National, Edward Hartman, Inspector General concerning the letter.

The Board of Directors of this Corporation will have meetings during the convention.

The corporation provided $12,000.00 in FY 2021-2022 to the Department for the DAV Service and Transportation Network.

**DAV STAFF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLA):** The Department has four (4) employees of the Adjutant, Administrative Assistant (Part-Time), and two (2) Hospital Transportation Network Coordinators. The committee is recommending an 2.5% COLA raise effective July 1, 2025. This percent pay raise will cost the Department approximately $2,125.00 annually.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**: Bulletin Booster $20.00; Convention Raffle 1 tickets for $5.00, and 3 tickets for $10.00 with soliciting Chapters and members for raffle prizes; Research Raffle of Side By Side (Ranger); Service-Legislative Program (COLA); Send fund raising letter to businesses/corporations for DAV Service and Transportation; Grant from South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs; DAV Poker Run in Brookings on August 30, 2025 and purchase a tumbler for the DAV/727th Poker Run 20th Committee; Accept National Service Foundation grants; Accept the grant of $10,000.00 per year from the DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 for the DAV HTN Coordinators; Selling the book “Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home”; Donations from the Chapters; Letters providing information and requesting funding for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network from the DAV Chapters, DAV Auxiliary Units, American Legion Posts, PVA North Central Chapter, VFW Posts, and other organizations/corporations; and COLA of 2.5% for the four (4) Department employees.

On a motion by Robert Hill, Chapter No. 22, and seconded by John Price, Chapter No. 11, to approve the Income Research Committee report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**4. HOSPITAL TRANSPORTATION REPORT: ADJUTANT MARTY PENNOCK AND WILLIAM BRANUM**

The DAV Department of South Dakota would like to thank all Chapters and individual members who assisted with contributions to the DAV Hospital Transportation Program. Your contributions have assisted in providing one of the top DAV Hospital Transportation Programs in the nation.

Currently we have twenty-six (26) vehicles in South Dakota with locations: Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Brookings, Huron, Lake Andes-Burke, Madison, Milbank, Miller, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City (3 vans), Redfield, Rosebud, Sioux Falls (5 vans), Sisseton, Watertown, Webster, Winner, and Yankton. In addition, we currently have five (5) vehicles outside of South Dakota providing support to Veterans who travel to VA facilities in South Dakota at: Scottsbluff - NE, Sioux City - IA, Spencer - IA, Spirt Lake - IA, and Worthington – MN.

We have two (2) Hospital Transportation Service Coordinators located at VA Black Hills Health Care System at VA Ft. Meade and VA Health Care System in Sioux Falls. **THE DRIVERS ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS AND DO A SUPER JOB FOR OUR VETERANS.**

In FY 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) the DAV Department of South Dakota was able to purchase one (1) 2023 XLT Ford Explorer. The new vehicle is for Sisseton.

* The total cost of the vehicle is $41,207.00 with Disabled American Veterans Grant ($18,543.00),The American Legion Post 50 ($2,000.00), VFW Post 3342 ($2,000.00), Vietnam Veterans of America Northeastern ($2,000.00), DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 ($2,500.00), DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3 ($3,000.00), DAV Northern Hills Chapter No. 11 ($5,000.00), DAV Milbank-Sisseton Chapter No. 19 ($1,000.00), DAV Don Bren Chapter No. 22 ($2000.00), DAV Davison County Chapter No. 27 ($250.00), Gene Murphy ($100.00), Dave Van Dine ($100.00). The DAV wishes to thank all who have donated for the purchase of the vehicle to support our Veterans.

The DAV Department provided salaries of $74,634.97 and other expenses of $7,587.47 to operate the DAV Hospital Transportation Network in FY 2023-2024.

In FY 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) the DAV Hospital Transportation Network transported 3,338 Veterans, the volunteer drivers provided 11,255 hours and have driven 251,218 miles. **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS = “SUPER JOB FOR OUR HEROES – OUR VETERANS!”**

Since 1987 the statistics are: 90 vehicles have been purchased by the DAV in South Dakota, 437,318 Veterans Transported, 871,719 Volunteer Hours, and 20,210,411 Miles Driven.

When vehicles obtain 150,000 to 200,000 miles, we purchase new vehicles to make sure the vehicles are safe for our veterans.

The Disabled American Veterans Department of South Dakota Employment Policy dated April 2024 would be enacted at the end of this report.

The Department received an updated list of DAV Vehicle Coordinators for East River.

The Department still has a vehicle available at the Sioux Falls Veterans Administration, for the Volunteer drivers to use if they want to go to the mall, go out to eat or some other running around in Sioux Falls. Check with John Huntington on extension 6551 and he will get you the key.

The HTP is still struggling getting all of our transportation logged. We seem to be good as long as the trip is to the Sioux Falls VA, but care in the community and CBOC's is a different story. All coordinators and drivers please remember if you don't come to the VA and sign in down in the lobby no one is getting credit unless someone tells John Huntington.

Dec 2023 526 Hours 9,982 Miles 146 Veterans

Jan 2024 516 Hours 6,723 Miles 110 Veterans

Feb 2024 493 Hours 9,922 Miles 132 Veterans

Dec2024 579 Hours 13,251Miles 159 Veterans

Jan 2025 779 Hours 16,366 Miles 187 Veterans

Feb 2025 621 Hours 10,963 Miles 153 Veterans

Vet Rides Update

On a motion by Timothy Timmerman, Chapter No. 13, and seconded by Stu Himes, Chapter No. 13, to approve the Hospital Transportation Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**5. NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER REPORT: NSO SUPERVISOROWEN RICHARDS**

NSO Supervisor Richards provided a written report (Report attached).

We would like to welcome our DAV National Guest 1st Jr. Vice Commander John Donovan, as well as South Dakota's own DAV Past National Commander Gene Murphy, and all our DAV Officers, Delegates, and fellow Disabled American Veterans. We again are in the midst of another productive year of servicing America's Disabled Veterans, their widows, and dependents in the National Service Office.

As reported in the past, the demand for service and the caseload at the National Service Office continues. The office has once again seen a steady stream of interviews, and applications for benefits and services. Between January 2024 and January 2025, the National Service Office has reviewed approximately 3600 claims files. We interviewed roughly 2,400 claimants in the South Dakota DAV National Service Office. There were over 700 claimants who sought representation by the DAV for claims action. In addition, there were 6,200 new claimed issues for benefits that were initiated through the National Service Office. The office also handled roughly 2,600 telephone and email inquiries from both claimants that we represent and others just seeking information.

As in the past, the National Service Office works closely with the Hospital Service Coordinators (HSC), both at the Ft. Meade and Sioux Falls VA Medical Centers.

Both areas and HSC's are responsible for coordinating DAV's efforts in the Hospital Transportation Program, VAVS activity, and keeping us informed about activities affecting Veterans at their respective facilities. This valuable service continues to deliver much needed relief and assistance to Veterans, who without it would likely be forced to limit or forego care.

This year, the Level I and II Chapter and Department Service Officer certification training classes were conducted here in Aberdeen, South Dakota, on April 23rd and 24th of 2025. The certification training provides valuable training in claims activities for the CSO/DSO, provides a network opportunity for those assisting in claim work with the National Service Office, and indemnity protection for DSO/CSO's on the work they do involving claims on behalf of Veterans.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that DAV is an organization that is committed to Fulfilling our Promises to the Men and Women that Served, and that mission is carried forward by a host of Service, Legislative, Employment, and Volunteer programs. I would encourage each of you to become an active participant in your membership with the DAV.

Items Attached

* Become a DAV Member
* DAV Supports Victories for Veterans
* Veterans Benefits Advocate
* 2025 DAV Information and VA Benefits Seminar Schedule
* Resources for Transitioning from Military to Civilian Lice
* Life-Changing Services

On behalf of the all the Staff in the Sioux Falls DAV National Service Office, I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

On a motion by Dan Francis, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by LeRoy Madsen, Chapter No. 18, to approve the NSO Report. Motion carried.

**6. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON GAYLORD HELMBRECHT**

Chairperson Helmbrecht reported the following:

The committee held an initial nomination meeting at 9:30 a.m., on April 26th, 2025. Committee members are Gaylord Helmbrecht, Robert Hill, H.G. Krosschell, Gene Murphy, Dan Francis, and Dick Turnwall.

Chairman Helmbrecht reported that the Nominating Committee is recommending the following Officers for the DAV Department of South Dakota for FY 2025-2026:

COMMANDER: Tim Walsh

SR. VICE COMMANDER: Amy Lucas

1ST JR. VICE COMMANDER: Matt Kistler

2ND JR. VICE COMMANDER: Dave Meltz

TREASURER: Gene Murphy

JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR: Robert Hill

TRUSTEES (2): Dan Francis and H.G. Krosschell

No other Nominees were nominated from the floor.

On a motion by Amy Lucas Chapter, No. 13 and seconded by Dr. Martin Christensen, Chapter No. 27, that the slate of officers reported on be put in by the nomination committee for election for the DAV Department of South Dakota for FY 2025-2026. Motion Carried.

**7. CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON BOB HILL**

Chairperson Hill stated that the committee hasn’t received any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of South Dakota.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by H.G. Krosschell, Chapter No. 3, to approve the Constitution & By-Law Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Discussion. Motion carried.

**8. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON ADJUTANT PENNOCK**

Adjutant Pennock reported on

* Steve Roberts | VETERAN SERVICES – DVOP / LVER (CP)

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* Apprentice Handout
* DOL Fact Sheet
* HIRE Vets Medallion Award
* DAV Employment and Entrepreneurship
* DAV Veterans Employment Brochure
* The Veterans Advantage- DAV Guide to Hiring and Retaining Veterans with Disabilities

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by Robert Hill, Chapter No. 22, to approve the Employment Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**9. WOMEN VETERANS REPORT: COMMANDER HUBERS**

Chairperson Huber reported the following:

The Department has partnered with Women of The Armed Forces (WOTAF) to create more events for women veterans throughout the calendar year. One such event will be conducted this Fall with the next planning meeting scheduled for April 27,2025. All South Dakota women veterans are encouraged to submit comments and ideas.

The woman veterans committee is currently working with the Sioux Falls VA Health Care system on creating a partnership to do a Thursday afternoon women’s group that will involve camaraderie, support and recreation for women veterans.

Abbey of the Hills was a great success, and we are looking forward to doing it again this year. Last years event included a partnership with the Sioux Falls Vet Center which featured the Director conducting several sessions for the event. The Director also introduced several activities for all of those who were in attendance.

New for Women Veterans this year is the “TIME TO UNWIND” event that takes place at Chapter One and the DAV Department Headquarters every other month. It takes place from 6-9pm and includes spending time together and enjoying snacks and drinks.

Stay tuned for updates on dates and try to come out and support your fellow women veterans.

Other Items

 DAV – Fighting for Women Veterans

 DAV- Women Veterans: The Journey to Mental Wellness

On a motion by Owen Richards, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by Amy Lucas, Chapter No. 13, to approve the Women Veterans Committee Report and dismiss her with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**10. TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON CHRISTINE SPEIRS**

Chairperson Christine Speirs reported the Committee has recommended the following:

DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS - FUTURE ANNUAL CONVENTIONS:

1. 2026 Department Convention: DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 (Sioux Falls)

2. 2027 Department Convention: DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3 (Rapid City)

3. 2028 Department Convention: DAV Davison County Chapter No. 27 (Mitchell)

4. 2029 Department Convention: DAV Northern Hills Chapter No. 11 (TBD)

                              April 24th-26th – DAV Minnesota Convention in Welch, MN

                              May 2nd -4th – DAV North Dakota Convention in Jamestown, ND

                              May 26th – Memorial Day Ceremony at VA Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis

                              May 26th – Memorial Day Ceremony at the South Dakota State Cemetery in Sioux Falls

                              May 30th – 31st – DAV Montana Convention in Great Falls, MT

                              June 3rd – NSO Information Seminar – Custer

                              June 4th – NSO Information Seminar – Spearfish

                              June 5th - NSO Information – Rapid City

                              June 19th – 22nd – Veterans of Foreign Wars State Convention in Pierre, SD

                             June 19th - 22nd - American Legion State Convention in Huron, SD

June 29th – July 2nd – Commander and Adjutant Association in Erlanger, KY

SDVC DAV         July 16th – South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting - Mitchell

                             August 7th – District 14 DAV Meeting – Las Vegas, NV

                             August 8th - August 12th – DAV National Convention – Las Vegas, NV

August 13th – DAV Drive to Victory AHM CH #1 Golf Tournament – Prairie Green Golf, Sioux Falls, SD

SDVC DAV        August 20th – South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting – Online

                            August 27th – SD State Fair – Veterans Day - Huron

Bob Hill               August 30th – 727th Transportation Poker Run – Brookings

 September 9th-12th – SDDVA Benefits Schools – Alliance – Sioux Falls

                             September 16th – NSO Information Seminar – Mitchell

                             September 17th – NSO Information Seminar – Aberdeen

SDVC DAV         September 17th - South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting - Yankton

                             September 18th – NSO Information Seminar – Brookings

 September 19th – Sioux Falls Standdown – Sioux Falls – Alliance

 September 19th – POW / MIA Remembrance Day Ceremony – Sioux Falls

                             October 3rd -4th – DAV Department of SD Fall Conference Sioux Falls, SD

2024 DAV & Auxiliary Fall Conference: DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 would host the DAV and Auxiliary Department of South Dakota Fall Conference on Saturday, October 4th, 2025. The Chapter would host the Commander’s Reception, with a light dinner on October 3rd, at 5:00 p.m. and provide coffee, rolls, donuts, and cookies free for members on October 4th, at 8:00 a.m. The lunch will be provided with a free will offering from the members, Chapters, and/or Auxiliary Units. A Quilts of Valor Program will commence at 8:00 a.m. on October 4th.

 SDVC DAV        October 16th - South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting – Online

                             October 17th – 18th – District 14 Conference – Detroit Lakes, MN

The Department EC is recommending assisting with hosting the event with an allowance of $375.00 for the DAV Department of Minnesota. Discussion. District 14 Meeting will be in Detroit Lakes October 17-18.

October 22nd -23rd – West River DAV CSO/DSO Level I and Level II Training CH 3 HQ, Rapid City, SD

SDVC DAV         November 19th - South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting – Sioux Falls – 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SDVC DAV         November 20st – 22nd -South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Roundtables – Tentative

SDVC DAV January 14th, 2026 – South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting – Pierre TAL Post 8 – 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

SDVC DAV January 14th, 2026 – South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Reception – Pierre TAL Post 8 – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

 Other Items

* + - * Las Vegas 2025 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention – August 9th-12th, 2025
			* DAV Future Mid-Winter Conferences and National Convention
			* DAV National 14th District Meeting

On a motion by Amy Lucas, Chapter No. 13, and seconded by Dan Francis, Chapter No. 1, to approve the Time and Place Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**11. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: SR. VICE COMMANDER WALSH**

Chairperson Walsh reported the following: The committee has reviewed 60 resolutions, which they recommended adoption of all 60 resolutions. The Department of South Dakota is proposing and sending 60 resolutions to the 2025 National Convention which will take place in Las Vegas NV August 9-12. For brevity he read only read the title of each resolution the Department is sending forward.

The second reading will be presented to Delegates later this afternoon in New Business.

On a motion by Robert Hill, Chapter No. 22, and seconded by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1, to suspend with the reading of the resolutions (delegates received a copy of the resolutions titles). Discussion. Motion carried.

On a motion by John Lucas, Chapter No. 13, and seconded by Joshua White, Chapter No. 3, to approve the Resolutions Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Discussion. Motion carried.

The titles of the 60 resolutions are attached to these minutes.

**12. LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LVAP): ADJUTANT PENNOCK**

Adjutant Pennock provided a hand-out report. The LVAP allows volunteers to provide needed services to veterans and their families in their local community and be recognized for that service. LVAP volunteers receive the same incentive awards as enjoyed by volunteers in the VAVS program.

We invite each Chapter to report the activities of their LVAP volunteers to the designated department representative. Please be sure you report only the time volunteered under the LVAP. The Hospital Service Coordinator and DAV VAVS Representative will continue to report time for the Transportation Network and programs within VAVS.

**DAV Mission Statement**

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America’s injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

This mission is carried forward by:

* Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government.
* Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically.
* Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government.
* Extending DAV’s mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level Departments and local Chapters.
* Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer program.

**VOLUNTEER**

DAV offers a wide range of opportunities to volunteer for veterans. Whether its driving veterans to and from the VA medical appointments, volunteering at a VA medical facility or serving veterans in your community, there’s a place for everyone to serve. You don’t have to be a veteran to serve. There’s a place for everyone to volunteer at DAV.

**DAV SCHOLARSHIPS**

DAV awards $110,000 in scholarships each year to student volunteers who demonstrate outstanding dedication and service to veterans.

**ABOUT THE LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) was established in 2007 to facilitate and recognize initiatives in which volunteers can contribute their skills, talents, professional abilities, and time in ways that benefit veterans residing within their local communities.

The needs of veterans, forever changed in service, are great and diverse. So are the abilities and talents of volunteers and organizations who donate their time and talents to honor our heroes. The DAV Local Veterans Assistance Program empowers individuals to support veterans in a wide variety of ways. From providing direct assistance to veterans and their families to creating opportunities for those with unique talents and abilities to give back, it encourages and incentivizes volunteerism. Through the program, DAV engages with companies and organizations who contribute to projects that support our heroes. It’s also the avenue through which DAV recognizes those who offer pro bono professional services, provide specialized training, or employ unique skills in creative ways. Activities can include hosting a free legal clinic, participating in a group beautification project at a local veterans home, or helping an individual or caregiver with yardwork or grocery shopping. It’s also a way to recognize active

 DAV and Auxiliary members who donate their time to support local initiatives and outreach efforts.

**LVAP Volunteers can dedicate their time in the following ways**

o Chapter and Department Service Officer work
o DAV Specific outreach efforts
o Fundraising efforts

o DAV/DAVA Special Events (State Fair, Homeless Assistance including Stand Downs, Etc.

o Direct assistance to veterans, surviving spouses, or families
o Seminars, Training, and Activities designed to Operate Chapter / Department smoothly
o Grassroots Legislation

**DAV is required to report volunteer hours to Congress, watchdog groups, members, and donors.**

Other Handouts

* DAV Community Impact Day
* DAV Local Veterans Assistance Program Brochures

*March 2024-February 2025 we are -1 hour from previous year.*

*Please try to submit your previous month’s report by the 5th of the month.*

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 | MAR 2024 | APR 2024 | MAY2024 | JUN2024 | JUL2024 | AUG 2024 | Sep2024 | Oct2024 | Nov 2024 | Dec2024 | Jan2025 | Feb2025 |
| 1 | 2109 | 2163 | 1688 | 2375 | 2041  | 2464 | 2228 | 2236 | 1979 | 2037 | 1942 | 2225 |
| 3 | 573 | 608 | 449 | 385  | 497  | 347 | 376 | 480 | 624 | 408 | 482 | 445 |
| 6 | 6 | 22 | 18 | 31  |  14 | 43 | 6 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 2 |
| 11 | 86 | 147 | 121 |  222 |  191 | 236 | 204 | 89 | 100 |  71 | 44 | 72 |
| 13 | 603 |  | 152 | 272  | 111  | 282 | 345 | 204 | 100 | 200 |  | 314 |
| 18 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | 1011 | 588 | 521 |   | 908 | 652 | 346 | 412 | 317 | 306 | 396 | 396 |
| 22 | 39 | 45 | 50 | 34  | 43 | 68 | 57 | 73 | 42 | 32 | 33 |  |
| 27 |  |  | 293 | 121 | 167 | 169 | 126 | 315 | 82 | 0 | 297 | 153 |
| Monthly Total | **4427** | **3573** | **3292** | **3440** | **3972** | **4261**  | **3688** | **3821** | **3256** | **3065** | **3200** | 3607 |
| Change from previous year | +1332 | -530 | -981 | -130 | +312 | +56 | -80 | +404 | -792 | +31 | +131 | +208 |

On a motion by John Cornellius, Chapter No. 13, and seconded by Robert Hill, Chapter No. 22, to approve the LVAP Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**13. VAVS REPORT: CHAIRPERSON JOHN HUNTINGTON**

Chairman Huntington was absent and provided no report to the Adjutant

No Report

**OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS REPORTS**

**1. JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR’S REPORT: JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR BOB HILL**

The past year has seen a few DAV Chapters update their bylaws. With the ever-changing culture that we are living in today, I encourage all the chapters to review their bylaws on an annual basis.

We had one chapter request for a name change this past year. It is always important to keep our history and honor those who have done good for the memory of the Disabled American Veterans.

Chapter 22 has received official notice that its name was officially changed from Brookings Chapter #22 to Don Bren Chapter #22. Why Don Bren? He was the last remaining Charter Member of Chapter #22 and the first Commander of the chapter for several years. He was also a Past South Dakota State Commander on two separate occasions. He was also the Secretary/Treasurer of the chapter when he passed away. A mentor of mine and others, and if anyone asked about joining the DAV in Brookings, they would always be told Ask Mr. DAV, Don Bren.

The procedure for requesting a Chapter being renamed is laid out in the National By-laws and includes facts such as if a person’s name is used that they be deceased, a letter from the surviving family be obtained permitting to use their late relatives’ name and a good reason that your chapter believes it should be renamed. The affected Chapter needs to vote on the action during a regular meeting. If applicable, I recommend that the local Unit be informed of the action.

Then the paperwork goes to the South Dakota Department Executive Committee, and if approved, then it is sent to the National Executive Committee for their final approval

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Owen Richards, Chapter No. 1, to approve the Judge Advocate/Inspector’s Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Discussion. Motion carried.

**2. CHAPLAIN’S REPORT: CHAPLAIN GAYLORD HELMBRECHT**

Chaplain Helmbrecht provided a written report to the delegates.

* I attended last year’s convention in Deadwood, Doing prayers for Veterans and their families. My wife Loretta the DAVA Chaplin and I conducted the Memorial Service. I had William McGinnis fill in for me at the Fall Business Session.  I've continued praying for our fellow Veterans and their families.
* Each Chapter Received the DAV Chaplain’s Guide

On a motion by Amy Lucas, Chapter No. 13, and seconded by Christine Spiers, Chapter No. 3, to approve the Chaplain’s Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**3. HISTORIAN REPORT: CHAIRPERSON TIM WALSH**

Chairperson Walsh provided a written report to the delegates (Report Attached).

Once again, we gathered here in Aberdeen for our 2025 State Convention.

We are always on the lookout for new and improved ways to keep our mission focus. We do this to render help and hope to our fellow brothers and sisters who have seen what the wages of war can do. By listening to and writing down our stories from our fellow Veterans.

Our mission needs to turn to our younger Veterans, getting them informed on what the DAV stands for and how we can get them involved in our Disabled American Veterans. We may need to rethink the way we run our meetings as many have young kids who need to be watched. If we think a little outside the box, having an area for them to play quietly is an option.

With the passing of Past State Commander and Chapter 22 founder Don Bren the Chapter has been renamed Don Bren Chapter 22 in his honor. The 727 Transportation Poker Run will miss Don as its Grand Marshall this year.

We need to continue to tell the story of the DAV Department of South Dakota which you can see throughout the room, the history of the Disabled American Veterans Department of South Dakota is not just a story of able-bodied people taking care of handicapped Veterans. While it is certainly true that the South Dakota people have been invaluable partners in the DAV Department of South Dakota’s mission, the work of our organization has been a self-help proposition since the very beginning. The DAV, Disabled Veterans Helping Disabled Veterans, continues working cohesively toward “KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA’S VETERANS” and preserve through the pictures and stories we collect.

 The Departments new online format for disseminating DAV and Veteran Information utilizing Constant Contact continues to enable us to track and follow who is getting and who is reading our quarterly bulletin. For these reasons I make a request for pictures and articles from you and your Chapters’ involvement within your community and VA Health Care Systems, so that we can continue to tell the story of your DAV Department of South Dakota. When your chapters hold events send the pictures and description to admin@davsd.org so it gets included in our bulletin. Again, I invite all of you to spend some time looking over the pictures, posters, and binders with articles in them that you will find throughout the room. Our goal moving forward is to digitalize all of this history and take advantage of the digital age which is right in front of us.

Thank you and enjoy your State Convention.

On a motion by Dan Francis, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11, to approve the Historian Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**4. SD STATE VETERANS HOME TASK FORCE: CHAIRPERSON DON ACKERMAN**

Chairperson Ackerman provided a written report to the delegates (Report Attached)

On a motion by LeRoy Madsen, Chapter No. 18, and seconded by John Cornellius, Chapter No. 13, to approve the S.D. State Veterans Home Task Force Report. Motion Carried.

Commander Hubers recessed the convention at 11:53 a.m.

Announcement: Adjutant Pennock announced the Department Agenda and time.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by Marty Pennock, Chapter No. 1, to suspend with the Convention Rule No. 9. Motion carried.

Commander Hubers reconvened the convention at 1:18 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DONATIONS:**

Commander Hubers accepted donations for the Bulletin Boosters, DAV Hospital Transportation Network, DAV Department of South Dakota Service Foundation, and DAV Service & Legislation (COLA). The following members and Chapters donated:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chapters:** | **Bulletin Boosters:** | **DAV Hospital Transportation Network (HTP):** | **DAV Service Foundation** | **DAV Service****& Legislative****(COLA)** | **727th****Poker Run** |
| Arthur H. Muchow #1 | $1,000.00 | $10,000.00  | $260.00 |  | $1,000.00(Pledge) |
| Watertown #6 |  |  |  |  | $100.00(Pledge) |
| Northern Hills #11 |   |  $ 1,000.00 | $1,000.00 | $1,000.00 |  |
| Swanson O’Connor #13 |  | $ 250.00 |  |  |  |
| Don Bren #22 |   |   |  |   |  $200.00 (Pledge) |
| **Individual Members:** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Don Barrow | $100.00 |  |  |  |  |
| Gene Murphy (Memory of 4th Infantry Division) | $100.00  |  | $100.00  |   | $100.00(Pledge) |
| Marty Pennock |  |  |  | $100.00 |  |
| TOTAL |  $1,200.00 | $11,250.00 | $1,360.00 |  $1,100.00 | $1,400.00(Pledge) |

Commander Hubers thanked the members and Chapters for their donations to the Bulletin Boosters, DAV Hospital Transportation Network, DAV Department of South Dakota Service Foundation, 727th Poker Run, DAV Service & Legislation (COLA), and other projects.

**2. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: SR. VICE COMMANDER WALSH**

Chairperson Walsh reported the following: The Department has reviewed 60 resolutions, which they recommend adoption of all 60 resolutions.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by Dan Francis, Chapter No. 1, to suspend with the reading of the resolutions (delegates received a copy of the resolutions titles) and to approve all 60 resolutions. Discussion. Motion carried.

On a motion by Timothy Timmerman, Chapter No. 13, and seconded by Robert Hill, Chapter No. 22, to approve the Resolutions Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Discussion. Motion carried.

 The titles of the 60 resolutions are attached to these minutes.

**3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: COMMANDER KIM HUBERS**

Commander Hubers opened the Official Nomination of Department Officers for FY 2025-2026.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No.1, and seconded by Owen Richards, Chapter No. 1, to cease nomination and cast a white unanimous ballot for Tim Walsh for Commander. Motion Carried. Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 was elected Department Commander for FY 2025-2026. Commander Elect Tim Walsh thanked the delegates for this honor.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by H.G. Krosschell, Chapter No. 3, to suspend with the Convention Rules and cast a white unanimous ballot for the following DAV Department of South Dakota Officers for FY 2025-2026:

COMMANDER: Tim Walsh

SR. VICE COMMANDER: Amy Lucas

1ST JR. VICE COMMANDER: Matt Kistler

2ND JR. VICE COMMANDER: Dave Meltz

TREASURER: Gene Murphy

JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR: Robert Hill

TRUSTEES (2): Dan Francis and H.G. Krosschell

Motion carried.

**4. EMPLOYMENT POLICY OF 2025: ADJUTANT PENNOCK**

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Robert Hill, Chapter No. 22, to approve the Employment Policy 2025 dated April 2025. Discussion. Motion carried.

**5. REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES TO APPROVE FUTURE DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS: ADJUTANT PENNOCK**

                              April 23rd - 24th –DAV CSO/DSO Level I and Level II Training Aberdeen, SD

                              April 24th-26th – DAV Minnesota Convention in Welch, MN

                              May 2nd -4th – DAV North Dakota Convention in Jamestown, ND

                              May 26th – Memorial Day Ceremony at VA Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis

                              May 26th – Memorial Day Ceremony at the South Dakota State Cemetery in Sioux Falls

                              May 30th – 31st – DAV Montana Convention in Great Falls, MT

                              June 3rd – NSO Information Seminar – Custer

                              June 4th – NSO Information Seminar – Spearfish

                              June 5th - NSO Information – Rapid City

                              June 19th – 22nd – Veterans of Foreign Wars State Convention in Pierre, SD

                             June 19th - 22nd - American Legion State Convention in Huron, SD

June 29th – July 2nd – Commander and Adjutant Association in Erlanger, KY

July 16th – South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting - Mitchell

                             August 7th – District 14 DAV Meeting – Las Vegas, NV

                             August 8th - August 12th – DAV National Convention – Las Vegas, NV

August 13th – DAV Drive to Victory AHM CH #1 Golf Tournament – Prairie Green Golf, Sioux Falls, SD

August 20th – South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting – Online

                            August 27th – SD State Fair – Veterans Day - Huron

 August 30th – 727th Transportation Poker Run – Brookings

                             September 16th – NSO Information Seminar – Mitchell

                             September 17th – NSO Information Seminar – Aberdeen

 September 17th - South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting - Yankton

                             September 18th – NSO Information Seminar – Brookings

 September 19th – Sioux Falls Standdown – Sioux Falls – Alliance

 September 19th – POW / MIA Remembrance Day Ceremony – Sioux Falls

                             October 3rd – 4th – DAV Department of SD Fall Conference Sioux Falls, SD

2024 DAV & Auxiliary Fall Conference: DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 would host the DAV and Auxiliary Department of South Dakota Fall Conference on Saturday, October 5th, 2025. The Chapter would host the Commander’s Reception, with a light dinner on October 4th, at 5:00 p.m. and provide coffee, rolls, donuts, and cookies free for members on October 5th, at 8:00 a.m. The lunch will be provided with a free will offering from the members, Chapters, and/or Auxiliary Units.

October 16th - South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting – Online

                             October 17th – 18th – District 14 Conference – Detroit Lakes, MN

The Department EC is recommending assisting with hosting the event with an allowance of $375.00 for the DAV Department of Minnesota. Discussion. District 14 Meeting will be in Detroit Lakes October 17-18.

October 22nd -23rd – West River DAV CSO/DSO Level I and Level II Training CH 3 HQ, Rapid City, SD

November 19th - South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting – Sioux Falls – 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

November 20st – 22nd -South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Roundtables – Tentative

 January 14th, 2026 – South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting – Pierre TAL Post 8 – 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

 January 14th, 2026 – South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Reception – Pierre TAL Post 8 – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

On a motion by J. Arlt, Chapter No. 13, and seconded by Christine Speirs, Chapter No. 3, to approve the travel expenses (including gas or airline costs at the economy rate, food and lodging at per diem rates for the venue, additional travel expenses as taxi, and baggage fees, for authorized representatives that will be approved on April 26th. Discussion, Motion carried.

**7. FUND RAISING REQUEST FROM CHAPTERS:** **ADJUTANT PENNOCK**

The following Chapters requested fund-raising approval:

\* Chapter No. 1 – 6 Fund Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 3 – 5 Fund Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 6 – 3 Fund Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 11 – 20 Fund Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 13 – 3 Fund Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 18 – 0 Fund-Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 19 – 0 Fund-Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 22 – 3 Fund Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 27 – 2 Fund Raising Projects (completed)

The EC recommends approving the 2025 Picture – John C. Green, Auction at Annual Convention, and 2025 Fall Conference Bake Sale.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Dan Francis, Chapter No. 1, to approve the Chapter’s Fund-Raising Projects to include Chapter 1 to run the Forget-Me-Not fund-raising from August 2nd – September 13th, 2025, and the Auxiliary fund-raising projects. Discussion. Motion carried.

**7. ICE CASTLE: TREASURER MURPHY**

The Patriot House Project is free use of an Ice Castle Fish House for Military, Veterans, Law Enforcement, First Responders and their families both in the summer and winter. We currently have four houses in MN, ND and SD at various lakes throughout the year. Find out more at the link below.

 We currently have an 18 Foot 2022 Ice Castle RV/ Icehouse that we bring to SD in the winter (photo attached) and back to MN for the summer. The idea is to sell that house to the DAV and keep that house in the Webster area year-round while adding another house in MN. We could then add that House under the Patriot House Project umbrella for scheduling Veterans in the SD area with approval of the SD DAV.

 [https://patriothouseproject.com/](https://secure-web.cisco.com/16dvrZe7lyg1OT0DYEuI_TDQ9mOAJVvUMeOIGU8yzbIMbH3it-YmPN7Ca7iNiqOFy68OtpVIvV-Dsg9IpYKq7yWxZ5_Ry-jvmy0RAefZDlljvxRAzgZgCg8dUC_QRPjOeyRcSH1lynbmEv4F7NpwNQWBTrzBYnZlh42mxPuhoGgbr81rrIWjRCsW7hvV3RfENdepPJ8XbZGANiMkuzDHVsk8yEbxiRESru0NCV2vZFPaTJC2u3507iMERFd8qjjsTkd2Wkeba20E36fRs__4HXUJM1S-kSaQhGxgf-DMbB5XLC2nnmuzPUsTjDA1xOzQ9EkEB8Skwp5n9CEh8UV4lKQ/https%3A//patriothouseproject.com/)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5QJpQYeQaw>

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1, to approve $10,000.00 for the purchase of the ice castle, with a letter to invite Chapters to assist with the purchase. Discussion. Motion carried.

**8. INSTALLATION OF DAV DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICERS FOR FY 2025-2026:**

DAV 1st Junior Vice Commander John Donavan will administrate the Oath of Office to the newly Elected Department Officers for FY 2025-2026 at the Commander’s Banquet.

COMMANDER: Tim Walsh of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1

SR. VICE COMMANDER: Amy Lucas of Aberdeen Chapter No. 13

1ST JR. VICE COMMANDER: Matt Kistler of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1

2ND JR. VICE COMMANDER: Dave Meltz of Rapid City Chapter No. 3

TREASURER: Gene Murphy of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1.

JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR: Robert Hill of Brookings Chapter No. 22

TRUSTEES (2): Dan Francis of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1

 H.G. Krosschell of Rapid City Chapter No. 3

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Delegates received the following:

* Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Family Member Updates and Annual Briefing
* 3rd Annual Korean War/Defense Veterans Appreciation Day – July 26th, 2025
* DAV Drive to Victory Golf Tournament – August 13th, 2025
* South Dakota Game Fisha, and Parks Veterans Programs
* Rick Albrecht provided information on “Meeting the Needs” of lodging in the Black Hills
* Dr. Martin Christnesen Discussed Future VFW Conference in Sioux Falls with a Joint Meetings with DAV Department of South Dakota.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1, and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1, to approve $1,000.00 for the Korean War Appreciation Day. Discussion. Motion carried.

The delegates thanked DAV Aberdeen Chapter No. 13 and DAV Auxiliary Unit 13 for hosting an outstanding convention.

On a motion by Dan Francis, Chapter No. 1 and seconded Timothy Timmerman, Chapter No. 13 to adjourn the 85th Annual DAV Department of South Dakota Convention. Motion Carried.

Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht led the delegates in prayer and Commander Hubers had the members render honor to the flag. The 85th Annual Convention adjourned at 2:18 p.m. on April 26th, 2025.

Submitted by Marty Pennock, Adjutant – 5/5/25