**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The DAV Department of South Dakota Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by Commander Kim Hubers at 9:00 a.m. via a virtual meeting on March 26th, 2025.

**Roll call of Officers and DEC members:** Present Commander Kim Hubers; Sr. Vice Tim Walsh; 1st Jr. Vice Commander Amy Lucas; 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Matt Kistler, Treasurer Gene Murphy, Judge Advocate Robert Hill, and Chapter DEC: No. 1, No. 3, No. 6, No. 11, No. 13, No. 22, and No. 27.

Officers and DEC Excused: Past Department Commander Christine Speirs

Officers and DEC Absent: Chapter DEC 18, Chapter DEC 19

Guests: NSO Owen Richards, Karen Bolton, Paul Weckman, (Dave Morse and Jeff Nelson came on to discuss Item 16 under New Business at 10:03 a.m. – 10:24 a.m.)

Owen Richards-

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2024-2025: July 1st, 2024, To February 28th, 2025**

Treasurer Murphy reported that the FY 2024-25 (first eight months) General Account checking account balance of July 1st, 2024, was $9,313.21; total income for FY 2024-25 was $119,538.55; expenses of $106,964.74 with a profit of $12,573.81; and the checking account balance as of February 28th, 2025, was $51,887.02.

The DSO/HTP Program checking account balance on July 1st, 2024, was $6,329.67; The DSO/HTP transfer of $63,000.00.

FY 2024-25 (Eight months) Assets $561,278.59; Liabilities were $0.00; and Total Fund Balance was $561,278.59.

FY 2025-2026 Proposed Budget was income of $169,050.00 and expenses of $169,050.00. This will be updated in April.

On a motion by Tim Walsh, Chapter No.1 and seconded by Don Barrow, Chapter No. 6 to approve the Financial Report for FY 2024-25 (July 1st, 2024, To February 28th, 2025) and Proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026. Discussion Offered. Motion Carried.

**INCOME RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**: Chairperson Christine Speirs and Treasurer Gene Murphy reported that committee reviewed the Financial Statement FY 2024-2025, Proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026, 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 February 28, 2025, proceeds from ticket sales are reported as $3,100.00; income for prizes of $6,600.00; and expenses of $2,377.95. We thank all members and friends who 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 about if DAV Department should purchase a gift 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 been 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 percentage 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 Runs in Brookings on August 30, 2025; 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 Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Stu Himes, Chapter No. 13 to approve the Income Research Committee report. Discussion Offered. Motion Carried.

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS July 1st, 2024, To February 28th, 2025**

**1. DSO/HTC PROGRAM:** Treasurer Murphy presented the following:

Department Service Officer/Hospital Transportation Program Donations Of $103,939.37

$ 1,000.00 ………………….. DAV Auxiliary Department of South Dakota

$ 2,500.00 ……………………… DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1

$ 3,000.00 ……………………… DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3

$ 5,000.00 ……………………… DAV Northern Hills Chapter No. 11

$ 7,000.00 ……………………… DAV Milbank-Sisseton Chapter No. 1

$ 500.00 ……………………… DAV Davidson County Chapter No. 27

$ 100.00 ……………………… Gene Murphy

$ 100.00 ……………………… Dave Van Dine

$ 2,739.37 ……………………… Elks Lodge No. 994 – Yankton

$ 25,000.00 ……………………… Joyce Poindexter

$ 57,000.00 ……………………… 727th U.S. Army Transportation/DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22

$ 103,939.37 ……………………… TOTAL

Currently we have twenty-six (26) vehicles in South Dakota with locations: Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Brookings, Huron, Lake Andes, Madison, Milbank, Miller, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City (3 vans), Redfield, Rosebud, Sioux Falls (4 vans), Sisseton, Sturgis, Yankton, Watertown (2 vans), Webster, and Winner. 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.**

The DAV Department provided a package for the DSO/HTP of $85,000.00 to operate the DAV Hospital Transportation Network in FY 2024-2025.

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.

On a motion by Tim Walsh, Chapter No.1 and seconded by Dr. Christensen, Chapter No. 27 to approve the report. Discussion. Motion carried.

**2. SERVICE FOUNDATION:** Treasurer Murphy presented the following:

The DAV Department of South Dakota has established a State of South Dakota Service Foundation. The purpose of the Service Foundation is to establish a memorial to honor the memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice in defense of this Nation and to recognize the accomplishments of those who worked so diligently to establish the Department of South Dakota Disabled American Veterans.

The Service Foundation is perpetual in nature. The principal monies contributed to the form of a memorial will remain intact and will be deposited in the Foundation Account. This policy can only be changed by two-thirds of the membership. Only the annual accrued earnings from the principal account will be transferred to the Department's general fund annually and used to conduct our many Department programs and services.

The DAV Department of South Dakota Service Foundation:

Balance: (02-28-2025)

Savings Account $ 3,350.61

First Interstate Bank Investments $ 384,236.23

TOTAL $ 387,586.84

We would like to thank the Chapters, Auxiliary Units, and members for the donations.

On a motion by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Don Barrow, Chapter No. 6 to approve the report. Discussion. Motion carried. `

**3. DEPARTMENT BULLETIN:** Department Bulletin will be published four (4) times this year by Constant Contact News Bulletin; listing of Bulletin Boosters; requested articles from line officers and Chapters for publication; and recommend publication for FY 2025-2026 of four (4) bulletins.

Every line officer and Chapter Commander or representative will provide a report NLT on the 10th of the month, the month prior to Constant Contact News Bulletin publication. Failure to provide the reports on time is grounds for the publication not to be produced.

The Department would like to thank you for your support and thank you in advance for your assistance in the upcoming year.

On a motion by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Stuart Himes, Chapter No. 13 to approve the report. Discussion. Motion carried.

**4. SERVICE COMMISSION PROGRAM:** Treasurer Murphy presented the following: Agreement with DAV National on fund raising programs of Commander’s Club, Spring-Fall Name Stickers, and Calendar; National pays $ 3.00 for each member, each year; National provided Department with $17,424.00 on March 20th, 2025; and National will be sending another payment before June 30th.

The Department received $983.46 from DAV National that benefited our state in FY 2024-2025 (March 20th, 2025):

On a motion by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Dr. Marty Christense Chapter No. 27 to approve the Service Commission Program report. Discussion. Motion carried.

**5. LEGISLATIVE AND SERVICE PROGRAMS – COLA:** Treasurer Murphy reported that **t**he DAV Department of South Dakota started a program to assist with the DAV Department Service and Legislative Programs. We are asking for your support in donating your first month’s cost-of-living adjustment to the DAV Department Legislative and Service Program Funds. All the donated funds will be used for assisting the Service for Veterans and Legislative Support for our veterans in FY 2024-2025.

The COLA for FY 2024 for veterans was 2.5% We received $1,539.18 from 10 members and Chapters this year.

The members who donated belonged to the following Chapters:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHAPTER** | **MEMBERS** | **DONATIONS** |
| DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 | 7 | $ 761.18 |
| DAV Northern Hills Chapter No. 3 | 1 | $ 100.00 |
| DAV Swanson O’Connor No. 11 | 1 | $335.00 |
| DAV Brookings Chapter No. 13 | 1 | $225.00 |
|  |  |  |

Your support would be appreciated very much by all veterans of South Dakota. The DAV thanks these members and invites all members to participate in the Legislative and Service Programs – COLA.

On a motion by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 to approve the Legislative and Services Programs report. Discussion. Motion carried.

**6.** **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE:**

Treasurer Murphy reported the following:

The Budget and Financial Committee recommended the approval of the following:

1. Financial Statement for FY 2024-2025 of July 1st, 2024, to February 28th, 2025 (eight 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 fir Future Donations

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Jeremy White, Chapter No. 27 to approve the Budget and Financial Committee report. Discussion. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF RULES OF THE 2025 CONVENTION**

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Gene Murphy, Chapter No.1 to approve the 2025 Convention Rules as printed. Discussion. Motion Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. FUND RAISING REQUEST FROM CHAPTER:** The following Chapters requested fund raising approval:

\* Chapter No. 1 – 6 Fund Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 3 – 5 Fund Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 6 – 0 Fund Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 11 – 20 Fund Raising Projects

\* Chapter No. 13 – 2 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 – 1 Fund Raising Projects (completed)

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to approve the Chapter Fund Raising requests. Motion Carried.

**2. TRAVEL MILEAGE:** FY 2025-2026 mileage was discussed.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No.22 to approve travel for Department Officers for reimbursement of gas invoices when authorized by the Department Adjutant. Discussion. Motion carried.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to approve $200.00 travel reimbursement for all DAV Department Officers (Elected and Appointed) and Chapter Primary DEC representatives for attendance at the DAV Department of SD 85th Annual Dept & 73rd Auxiliary State Convention. Discussion. Motion carried.

**3. DAV 14TH DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCE – Allowance, Location, and Candidates:**

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to assist with hosting the event with an allowance of $375.00 for the DAV Department of Minnesota. Discussion. Motion carried. District 14 Meeting will be in Detroit Lakes October 17-18.

**4. CHAPTER OFFICERS; DEC FORMS; FINANCIAL REPORTS; AND FORM 990 OR 990-N E-POSTCARD:**   
Adjutant Pennock requests Chapter Officers Report to DAV Department Headquarters and DAV National within ten days after the installation of newly elected or appointed Chapter Officers through the new online process on MyDAV.org; the Annual Financial Report to DAV Department Headquarters and DAV National are due by ***September 30, 2025*;** and Form 990 or 990N to Department Headquarters are due ***November 15, 2025***. The new process to file OERs is ONLINE only.

**5. SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL - STATE FAIR AND CHET SORENSON VETERAN OF YEAR AWARD:**

South Dakota Veterans Council – Chet Sorenson Annual Veteran of the Year Award: The Council votes each year to present the “Chet Sorenson Annual Veteran of the Year Award” to an outstanding Veteran during Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair. The Council is accepting nominations by July 1, 2025. DAV members who have received this award in the past are Don Bren of Brookings, Rick Albrecht and Gene Murphy, Marty Pennock of Sioux Falls.

The "Chet Sorensen Veterans of the Year” Award will be presented at the South Dakota State Fair on August 28th, 2025. If there are any nominations for the award, please let the Department know so that the name can be placed in nomination at the July South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting.

**6. SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR**:

The South Dakota State Fair will be August 27th through September 1st in Huron. Veterans Day at the State Fair will be on the 28th of August with free admission for all veterans and a program on Freedom Stage.

**7. GOLDEN CORRAL MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT:**

The Golden Corral Restaurants will host the “National Military Appreciation Night” in November 2025 on Veterans Day.

Rapid City Chapter No. 3 and Northern Hills Chapter No. 11 members distributed information and educate the community about the DAV and the free services we provide. We invite eligible disabled veterans to sign up as new members and invite local members of the Black Hills area to become volunteers for DAV service programs. $1,355.00 donations were received last year and 717 Meals reported by Dave Meltz, Chapter No. 3.

**8. DAV 27th ANNUAL STATE COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS’ ORIENTATION:**

Department Headquarters will receive information on registration for the DAV 27th Annual Orientation for the State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation. The orientation will be conducted on June 29th – July 2nd, 2025, at DAV National Headquarters, Erlanger, Kentucky. The cost would be $125.00 for conference attendee,

The Executive Committee discussed the options of sending a representative from South Dakota. Registration deadline is June 5, 2025.

On a motion by Marty Pennock, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 to allow the expenditure of funds, including regular air fare, food at the federal per diem rate and 75% per diem on travel days of the venue location, lodging at that the pre-designated lodging accommodations set by DAV National, miscellaneous travel expenses as luggage fees, parking and taxis to send the Commander and Senior Vice Commander to the DAV 27th Annual State Commanders and Adjutants’ Orientation June 29th -July 2nd , 2025. Discussion. Motion carried.

**9. LIFE MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT:** Sr. Vice Commander Tim Walsh provided information:

**Life & Partial Membership Discount for FY 2025-2026**

On a motion by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Stu Himes, Chapter No.13 to allow $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). Discussion. Motion carried.

On a motion by Tim Walsh, Chapter No.1 and seconded by Gene Murphy, Chapter No.1 to allow $10.00 discount for partial life membership from the Department of South Dakota from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 (Each Chapter will also be required to match $10.00 during this time). Discussion. Motion carried.

**10. DEPARTMENT CONFLICT OF INTEREST, WHISTLE BLOWER, AND RETENTION/ DESTRUCTION POLICIES:**

Adjutant Marty Pennock reported that the Executive Committee members had received copies of the DAV Department of South Dakota Conflict of Interest Policy, Whistle Blower Policy, Whistle Blower Disclosure Statement, and Retention/ Destruction Policy.

These policies were approved on May 1st, 2015 and made a yearly requirement.

**11. AUXILIARY FUNDRAISERS:**

On a motion by Marty Pennock, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 to approve the 2025 Picture – John C. Green, Auction at Annual Convention, and 2025 Fall Conference Bake Sale. Motion carried.

**12. EMPLOYMENT POLICY:** DEC Members received the Employment Policy dated April 2024.

On a motion by Marty Pennock, Chapter No. 1and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to have any recommendations back to the Dept HQ by members of the DEC for any revisions to the Disabled American Veterans Department of South Dakota Employment Policy dated April 2024. These would be due by April 12th, 2025. Discussion. Motion carried.

**13. REPRESENTATION AT SPECIAL EVENTS:**

SDVC DAV April 16th – South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting -Hot Springs, SD – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (MT)

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

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

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 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

October 4th – 5th – DAV Department of SD Fall Conference Sioux Falls, SD

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

October 18th – 19th – District 14 Conference – Detroit Lakes, MN

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

**14. VOTING STRENGTH:**

The voting strength of the Department for the State Convention was handed out based on a population summary of March 25th, 2025.

**15. BROOKINGS CHAPTER 13 NAME CHANGE:**

As Commander of Brookings Chapter #22, Robert Hill and with the agreement from the Chapter membership and the Auxiliary Unit membership, he would like to make a formal proposal to rename the South Dakota Disabled Veterans Brookings Chapter #22 to the South Dakota Disabled American Veterans Don Bren Chapter #22.

Don Bren was the last living Chapter Charter member, and he started the Chapter in 1984. He passed away in 2024.

On a motion by Marty Pennock, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 to approve the name change of the South Dakota Disabled Veterans Brookings Chapter #22 to South Dakota Disabled American Veterans Don Bren Chapter #22. Discussion. Motion approved

**16. ICE CASTLE:** 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%2F%2Fpatriothouseproject.com%2F)

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

A recommendation is made by Gene Murphy for Chapters to return to their executive boards and memberships to discuss options for funding and rereport back to the Department Convention Delegates under New Business on April 26th, 2025.

**17. DONATION TO CHAPTER 3:**

A recent bequest donation of approximately $100,000.00 was taken from Chapter 3 by DAV National and set Chapter 3 back financially.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No.1, and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1, to donate $10,000.00 to Rapid City Chapter 3. Discussion. Motion carried.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Executive Committee members received the following:

* 2025 DAV Department Convention Lodge and Registration and Agenda
* 2025 DAV National Convention Tentative Agenda, Seminars and Workshops
* National Vietnam War Veterans Day Program – March 28th
* Women Veteran Plus 1 – March 29th
* DAV 3rd Annual Korean War / Defense Veterans Appreciation Day – July 26th
* DAV Drive to Victory Golf Tournament – August 13th
* Groceries for Veterans Rated Successful
* DAV Shuttle Coordinators
* Schneider Named Secretary of SD Veterans Affairs
* POW/MIA Display Unveiled at State Visitors Center
* South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Veterans Programs

**DAV DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA 85th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT & 73rd AUXILIARY STATE CONVENTION AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY – APRIL 23, 2025**

8am Chapter & Dept Service Officer Training - Level 1- NSO Supervisor Owen Richards, Location TBD

4 - 8pm Registration – AmericInn, 301 Centennial St. South, Aberdeen, SD 57401

**THURSDAY – APRIL 24, 2025**

8am Chapter & Dept Service Officer Training - Level 2 – NSO Supervisor Owen Richards, Location TBD

4 - 8pm Registration – AmericInn, 301 Centennial St. South, Aberdeen, SD 57401

6 pm DAV Dept. of SD Service and Transportation (Income Research Committee) – Chairperson Christine Speirs

**FRIDAY – APRIL 25, 2025**

8am - 4pm Registration

8am Committee Meetings as Needed (Change Chairpersons/Committee/Report Every 10 Minutes)

Budget & Finance Committee - Commander Christine Speirs and Treasurer Gene Murphy

Membership Committee – Sr. Vice Commander Tim Walsh

Legislation Committee - Adjutant Marty Pennock

Publicity Committee - lst Jr. Vice Amy Lucas & 2nd Jr. Vice Matt Kistler

Awards Committee - Chairperson Robert Hill

Credentials Committee - Chairperson Matt Kistler

Nomination Committee – Chairperson Gaylord Helmbrecht

Constitution & Bylaws Committee - Chairperson Robert Hill

Employment Committee – Adjutant Marty Pennock

Women Veteran Report – Chairperson Kim Hubers

Time & Place Committee – Chairperson Christine Speirs

Resolutions Committee – Chairperson Tim Walsh

VAVS Committee - Chairperson John Huntington

Judge Advocate/Inspector Report – JA/I Robert Hill

11:30am Auxiliary and DAV Forget-Me-Not Luncheon

1pm Joint Opening Session

Call to Order – Commander Kim Hubers Honor to Our Flag

Invocation – Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht

Pledge of Allegiance - Americanism Officer Kathryn Karen Ellis

Department CDR Reports - DAV CDR Kim Hubers & DAV Auxiliary CDR Karen Bolton

Introduction of Guests - DAV CDR Kim Hubers & DAV Auxiliary CDR Karen Bolton

2:30pm Veterans Town Hall Meeting – DAV Aberdeen Chapter Commander Amy Lucas

4:30pm SD Department of Veteran Affairs - Secretary Jeremiah Schneider

4:45pm DAV and DAVA Working Together - DAVA 1st Jr. Vice Commander Kathleen Wenthe

6pm Evening Meal

7pm DAV Auxiliary Auction

**SATURDAY – APRIL 26, 2025**

8am Registration

8:30am Memorial Service

9:00am First Business Session

Budget & Finance Committee - Commander Kim Hubers and Treasurer Gene Murphy

Membership Committee – Sr. Vice Commander Tim Walsh

Legislation Committee - Commander Kim Hubers & Adjutant Marty Pennock

Publicity Committee – lst Jr. Vice Commander Amy Lucas & 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Matt Kistler

Awards Committee - Chairperson Robert Hill

Credentials Committee - Chairperson Matt Kistler

DEC Report – Adjutant Marty Pennock

Income Research Committee - Chairperson Christine Speirs

Hospital Transportation Report – HTCs John Huntington & Bill Branum

National Service Officer Report - Owen Richards

Nomination Committee – Chairperson Gaylord Helmbrecht

Constitution & Bylaws Committee - Chairperson Robert Hill

Employment Committee – Adjutant Marty Pennock

Women Veteran Report – Chairperson Kim Hubers

Time & Place Committee – Chairperson Christine Speirs

Resolutions Committee – Chairperson Tim Walsh

Local Veterans Assistance Program – Adjutant Marty Pennock

VAVS Committee - Chairperson John Huntington

Judge Advocate/Inspector Report – JA/I Robert Hill

Chaplain Report - Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht

Historian Report – Chairperson Tim Walsh

SD State Veterans Home Task Force – Don Ackerman

Approval of Budget

Service Foundations Contributions

12pm Awards Luncheon for DAV and Auxiliary

1:30pm Final Business Session

Unfinished Business

New Business

Election of Officers for 2025 – 2026

ADJOURNMENT

2:30pm Post DEC meeting – Commander Elect

3:30pm Income Research Committee – Chairperson Elect

5:30pm Social Hour

6pm Commander’s Banquet – MC Robert Hill

Raffle

Installation of Newly Elected Officers

TAPS – Amy Lucas Commander Aberdeen Chater 13 Commander

2025ConventionAgenda (3-27-25)

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**85th ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**73rd AUXILIARY ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**APRIL 25th - 26th, 2025**

The Joint Opening Session of the 85th Department Convention of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Disabled American Veterans 73rd Auxiliary Department of South Dakota convened at the AmericInn, in Aberdeen, on Friday, April 25th and was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Commander Kim Hubers.

(DAV and Auxiliary will each have three (3) chairs for officers of whoever they want at the Joint Session Head Table – The Commanders and Adjutants can decide).

**COMMANDER KIM HUBERS:** (RAP GAVEL*) I now call to order the 85th Department Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. Marty Pennock, Department Adjutant, will read the call to the convention.*

**ADJUTANT MARTY PENNOCK:** The Constitution and ByLaws of the Disabled American Veterans states that the Supreme Legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in an Annual Department Convention composed of the Department Officers and Representatives of the DAV Chapters.

In accordance with these directives, I, Marty Pennock, Department Adjutant, declare the 84th Department Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened in Aberdeen, South Dakota, April 25th -26th, 2025.

Consideration and deposition of business brought before this Convention, shall be conducted in accordance with the National and Department Constitution & ByLaws now in force, and such rules as the Convention may adopt.

**COMMANDER HUBERS**: *Thank you, Marty. I would ask everyone in attendance to please turn off your cell phones and other portable devices or put them on vibrate.*

**COMMANDER HUBERS:** (RAP GAVEL THREE (3) TIMES) *Please rise to honor the Colors*

*We will now be led in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag by Auxiliary Americanism Chairperson Kathryn Karen Ellis. Hand Salute. Two.*

**COMMANDER HUBERS:** *I’d like to now call on Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht for the invocation.*

**CHAPLAIN GAYLORD HELMBRECHT:** Prayer.

**COMMANDER HUBERS:** (RAP GAVEL ONCE) *You may be seated.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, this Department Convention is going to be the most productive and enjoyable one*.

*This couldn’t have happened without the valuable help of this year’s Convention Chairpersons, Chapter 13 Commander Amy Lucas and Adjutant J Arlt, and Auxiliary Unit No. 13. Thank you.*

**COMMANDER HUBERS:** *Please join me in welcoming Amy Lucas.*

**REMARKS FROM CONVENTION CHAIRPERSONS**: Amy Lucas, and J Arlt

**SR. VICE COMMANDER TIM WALSH:**  Sr. Vice Commander Tim Walsh introduces Department Commander Kim Hubers for her Commander’s Report.

**COMMANDER KIM HUBERS:** Read Department Commander’s Report.

**SR. VICE COMMANDER WALSH:** The Chair will entertain a motion to accept the Department Commander’s Report.

On a motion by , Chapter No. , and seconded by , Chapter No. , to approve the Department Commander’s Report. Motion carried.

**COMMANDER SPEIRS:** Introduce Officers:

Please hold your applause until all are introduced.

*Sr. Vice Commander: Tim Walsh of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 of the Sioux Falls Area*

*1st Jr. Vice Commander: Amy Lucas of Aberdeen Chapter No. 13 of Aberdeen*

*2nd Jr. Vice Commander: Matt Kistler of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 of the Sioux Falls Area*

*Treasurer: Gene Murphy of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1of the Sioux Falls area*

*Judge Advocate/Inspector: Robert Hill of Brookings Chapter No. 22*

*Past Department Commander: Christine Speirs of Rapid City Chapter No. 3 of Rapid City*

*Chaplain: Gaylord Helmbrecht of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 of the Sioux Falls Area*

*Adjutant: Marty Pennock of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 of the Sioux Falls Area*

*Let’s give them all a big hand.*

**COMMANDER HUBERS:** Introduce Auxiliary State Commander Karen Bolton for report and remarks.

**AUXILIARY STATE COMMANDER KAREN BOLTON:** State Commander’s Report and Remarks.

**AUXILIARY STATE COMMANDER KAREN BOLTON:** Introduction of Auxiliary State Line Officers:

Please hold your applause until all are introduced.

Sr. Vice Commander: Verna Messerschmidt of Watertown Unit No. 6

1st Jr. Vice Commander: Marlene Barrow of Watertown Unit No. 6

Chaplain: Loretta Helmbrecht of Brookings Unit No. 22

Treasurer: Jacqueline Worth of Northern Hills Unit No. 11

Judge Advocate/Inspector: Nancy Worth of Northern Hills Unit No. 11

Adjutant: Wanda Mix of Brookings Unit No. 22

Americanism Chairman: Kathryn Karen Ellis Unit 6

Let’s give them all a big hand.

**COMMANDER SPEIRS:** Introduce distinguished guests and give time for their remarks

Recognize Past DAV National Commanders:

Gene Murphy (Sioux Falls, SD)

Recognize Auxiliary Past State Commanders: Christine Speirs (Rapid City); Dan Francis (Sioux Falls); Dick Turnwall (Piedmont); Gaylord Helmbrecht (Sioux Falls); Bob Hill (Brookings); H.G. Krosschell (Rapid City); John Huntington (Sioux Falls), and Gene Murphy (Sioux Falls)

John Donovan, DAV 1st Jr. Vice Commander

**COMMANDER BOLTON**: Introduction of distinguished guests.

Recognize Auxiliary Past State Commanders: Nancy Worth (Piedmont); Verna Messerschmidt (Watertown); Wanda Mix (Brookings)

Kathleen Wenthe DAV National Auxiliary 1st Jr. Vice Commander

**COMMANDER HUBERS:** Introduce distinguished guests and give time for their remarks

Glynis Collier, Commander SD Veterans of Foreign Wars

Chase Natalie, Adjutant DAV Department of Montana

Warren Tobin, Past 14th District NEC Committeeman

**COMMANDER HUBERS**:

Convention Sponsor Program – Give Thanks to Supporters For Assisting the Hosting of DAV 85th Department of South Dakota Annual Convention

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**: Adjutant Pennock : *Please look over your DAV and Auxiliary Convention Agenda*

2:30pm Veterans Town Hall Meeting – DAV Aberdeen Chapter Commander Amy Lucas

4:30pm SD Department of Veteran Affairs - Secretary Jeremiah Schneider

4:45pm DAV and DAVA Working Together - DAVA 1st Jr. Vice Commander Kathleen Wenthe

6pm Evening Meal

7pm DAV Auxiliary Auction

**COMMANDER HUBERS:** *Ladies and Gentlemen, will you please rise and Department Chaplain Helmbrecht will lead us in closing prayer.*

**CHAPLAIN HELMBRECHT:** Prayer.

**COMMANDER HUBERS:** *Thank you, the Convention is recessed until 2:30 p.m. for the Veterans Town Hall Meeting – YOU’RE ALL INVITED!*

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS & AUXILIARY**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA - APRIL 26, 2025 – BANQUET**

**Introduction:**

DAV Northern Hills Chapter No. 13 Commander Amy Lucas

**Master of Ceremonies**:

Bob Hill

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Americanism Chairperson Kathryn Karen Ellis

**Invocation**

DAV Department of SD Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht

**Introduce Head Table**

DAV Past National Commander Gene Murphy

DAV National 1st Jr. Vice Commander John Donovan

DAV Commander Kim Hubers

DAV National Auxiliary 1st Jr. Vice Commander Kathleen Wenthe

DAV Department of South Dakota Commander Karen Bolton

**Meal**

**Commander Comments**

DAV Commander Kim Hubers Commander Comments

Presentation of Award and Gift – Sr. Vice Commander Tim Walsh

Auxiliary Commander Karen Bolton Comments

Presentation of Gift – DAV SD Auxiliary Adjutant Wanda Mix

**Guest Speakers**

DAV National 1st Jr. Vice Commander John Donovan

DAV National Auxiliary 1st Jr. Vice Commander Kathleen Wenthe

**Raffle Drawing**

Commander Kim Hubers

**Installation of FY 2025-2026 Officers**

DAV National 1st Jr. Vice Commander John Donovan

**Playing of Taps**

DAV Department of SD Sr. Vice Commander Amy Lucas

**Benediction**

DAV Department of SD Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht

**(3/27/25)**

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Amy Lucas, Chapter No. 13 to adjourn the DAV Department of South Dakota Executive Committee Meeting. Discussion. Motion Carried.

The DEC Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

submitted by Marty Pennock, Adjutant