

**DISABLED AMERICANS VETERANS  
PATRICK HENRY CHAPTER 34  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
May 04, 2024**

**OPENING CEREMONY**

Commander (CDR) Larry Griffin opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Chaplain (Chap) Jeffrey Benoit gave the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Junior Vice Commander (JVC) Terrell Lasker. CDR Griffin stated the purpose for us being here and stated the Mission Statement is posted on the wall. CDR Griffin declared the meeting open for business.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

The following officers were present: CDR Larry Griffin, Senior Vice Commander (SVC) Ethel Smith, JVC Terrell Lasker, Treasurer Herbert Jones, Chap Jeffrey Benoit, Immediate Past Commander (IPC) Charles Morris, Member-at-Large (MAL) Clarence Johnson, Adjutant Veranica Jordan, Judge Advocate (JA) Robert Monroe, Officer-of-the-Day Rushton White and Sergeant at Arms Thomas Coleman. Executive Committee (EC) had a quorum of Chapter Officers present in order to conduct the meeting. The general body had twenty-five members present.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITOR**

CDR Griffin recognized our visitor, Ms. Karen Corl, retired Navy Chief. She stated she will be talking about racing.

**INSTALLATION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

JA Robert Monroe conducted the installation of Committees' Chairperson appointed for 2024-2025. Comrade Rushton White, Officer of the Day, stood with the following new appointees in front of the room for installation as Adjutant Veranica Jordan called the roll: Building Committee's Chairperson – Charles Morris, IT's Chairperson – Clarence Johnson, VAVS's Chairperson – Charles Morris, Audit's Chairperson – Mary Benoit, and Grievances' Chairperson Rushton White.

**OBLIGATION OF MEMBERS**

JA Robert Monroe conducted the obligation of new members. Comrade Rushton White, Officer of the Day, stood with the following new members in front of the room as Adjutant Veranica Jordan called their names: Comrade James Madison and Comrade Colin Cummings.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

A motion was entertained and moved by Comrade Rushton White and seconded by Comrade Jerry Parker to approve the General Membership Meeting Minutes for April 06, 2024. There was no discussion and this motion was approved.

A motion was entertained and moved by IPC Charles Morris and seconded by SVC Ethel Smith that we dispense with the reading of the April 06, 2024, General Membership Meeting Minutes. There was no discussion and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

A motion was entertained and moved by JA Robert Monroe and seconded by Comrade Rushton White to approve the General Membership Meeting Minutes for March 02, 2024. There was no discussion and this motion was approved.

A motion was entertained and moved by SVC Ethel Smith and seconded by IPC Charles Morris that we dispense with the reading of the March 02, 2024, General Membership Meeting Minutes. There was no discussion and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

#### **TREASURER REPORT**

JVC Terrell Lasker reported the Monthly Chapter Finance for April 2024. The beginning balanced for April 2024 was \$112,577.30 and the ending balance for April 2024 was \$103,883.53

The Treasurer's report will be filed for internal audit.

**CHAPLAIN REPORT:** No Report

**COMMUNICATIONS:** No Report

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee Reports were given by the chairperson or the respective committee representative for the following committees:

Welfare and Relief: No Report

Entertainment: No Report

Membership Committee: No Report

Thrift Store: No Report

CSO: Comrade Jerome Payton stated that from January 2024 to April 2024, they made contact with 178 veterans. In the month of April 2024, they made contact with 61 veteran and worked claims for 21 veterans.

LVAP: Comrade Jerome Payton stated that beginning next month he will report the total number of hours Chapter 34 members volunteer. Please get your form in on time.

Building Committee: No Report

Constitution and Bylaws: JA Robert Monroe thanked Comrade Jerome Payton and Comrade Robert Newsome for their support and help on the new Constitution and Bylaws.

VAVS Committee: IPC Morris Chapter 34 will be donating to the VAVS services at Hampton VA.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was entertained and moved by JA Robert Monroe and seconded IPC Charles Morris to approve the Executive Meeting minutes as written for March 26, 2024. There was no discussion and this motion was approved by the body.

A motion was entertained and moved by Comrade Mary Benoit and seconded by Comrade Rushton White to dispense with the reading of the Executive Meeting minutes for March 26, 2024. There was no discussion and this motion was approved by the body.

A motion was entertained and moved by Chap Jeffery Benoit and seconded JA Robert Monroe to approve the Executive Meeting minutes as written for April 23, 2024. There was no discussion and this motion was approved by the body.

JVC Terrell Lasker read the Executive Meeting minutes for April 23, 2024. A motion was entertained and moved by Comrade Rushton White and seconded by Chap Jeffery Benoit to approve minutes as read. There was no discussion and this motion was approved by the body.

A motion was recommended to the body that was moved by Comrade Jerry Phillips and seconded by Comrade Colin Cummings that Chapter 34 approve six members to attend the CSO training June 5, 2024 at the Holiday Inn, Tanglewood, Roanoke, VA. They are as follows: Comrade Jerome Payton, SVC Ethel Smith, Comrade Rushton White, Comrade Robert Newsome, MAL Clarence Johnson, and JVC Terrell Lasker. There was discussion and this motion was approved by the body.

A motion was recommended to the body that was moved by Comrade Colin Cummings and seconded by Comrade Rushton White that Chapter 34 send five members to be delegates at the Annual Department Convention, 05-09 June 2024 in Roanoke, VA. They are as follows: CDR Larry Griffin, Senior Vice Ethel Smith, Junior Vice Terrell Lasker, Chaplain Jeffery Benoit, and Judge Advocate Robert Monroe. There was a discussion and this motion was approved by the body.

JA Robert Monroe made a motion, seconded by Comrade Mary Benoit to accept the following resolution to the Department: Resolution to amend the DAV Dept. of Virginia Constitution and Bylaws, Art I, Sec 1-1, Para 1 concerning the vicinity in which the Department Convention must be held. (Attachment to carry #1). There was a discussion and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

Comrade Colin Cummings made a motion, seconded by Comrade Rushton White to accept the following resolution to carry to the Department: Resolution to amend the DAV Dept. of Virginia Constitution and Bylaws to set a term limit on members allowed to serve on the Nominating Committee. The term shall be limited to two years out of any five-year period. (Attachment #2). There was a discussion and this motion was unanimously approved by the body..

Comrade Mary Benoit made a motion, seconded by Comrade Colin Cummings to accept the following resolution to carry to the Department: Resolution to support Legislation authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to award a ten percent disability rating for veterans that are prescribed medication to control hypertension. (Attachment #3). There was a discussion and this motion was approved by the majority of the body.

Comrade Jerry Phillips made a motion, seconded by Comrade Nathaniel Wharton to accept the following resolution to carry to the Department: Resolution to amend the DAV Dept. of Virginia Constitution and Bylaws by suspending chapters' fundraising support to the Department. (Attachment #4). There was a discussion and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

Comrade Mary Benoit made a motion, seconded by JA Robert Monroe to accept the following resolution to carry to the Department: Resolution to amend the DAV Dept. of Virginia Constitution and Bylaws Art II, Sec 2-1 and Sec 2-3 to state that the Department Adjutant and the Department Treasurer are elected positions vice appointed by the Department Commander. (Attachment #5). There was a discussion and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

Comrade Robert Hilliard made a motion, seconded by Comrade Wayne Wynne to accept the following resolution to carry to the Department: Resolution to amend the DAV Dept. of Virginia Constitution and Bylaws to set a term limit on the position of Department Treasurer to no more than five consecutive annual terms and to be an elected position. (Attachment #6). There was a discussion, and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

Comrade James Madison made a motion, seconded by Comrade Colin Cummings to accept the following resolution to carry to the Department: Resolution to amend the DAV Dept. of Virginia Constitution and Bylaws to state that the Department Adjutant and the Department Treasurer cannot be the same individual nor be related. (Attachment #7). There was a discussion, and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

Comrade Nathaniel Wharton made a motion, seconded by Comrade Mary Beniot to accept the following resolution to carry to the Department: Resolution to amend the DAV Dept. of Virginia Constitution and Bylaws to set a term limit on the position of Department Adjutant no more than five consecutive annual terms and be an elected position. (Attachment #8). There was a discussion and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

Comrade Colin Cummings made a motion, seconded by Comrade Rushton White to accept the following resolution to carry to the Department: Resolution to amend the DAV Dept. of Virginia Constitution and Bylaws to set a term limit on the position of Department Commander to two consecutive annual terms and not to exceed four years cumulative. (Attachment #9). There was a discussion and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

Comrade Michael Bernard made a motion, seconded by Comrade Rushton White to accept the following resolution to carry to the Department: Resolution to support Legislation authorizing 100% total and permanent Disabled American Veterans from paying Highway Use Fee (HUF) in connection with vehicle registration. (Attachment #10). There was a discussion and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

Comrade Ray Miller made a motion, seconded by Comrade Wayne Wynne to accept the following resolution to carry to the Department: Resolution to support Legislation authorizing Disabled American Veterans to park free of charge at all airports in the state of Virginia (Attachment #11). There was a discussion and this motion was unanimously approved by the body.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

MAL Clarence Johnson thanked the body for their support of the new commander.

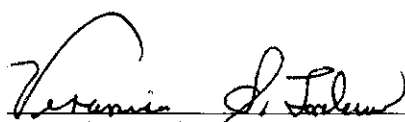
Birthdays: Ethel Smith – May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Ray Miller - May 21<sup>st</sup>

Anniversary: Ray Miller – May 17<sup>th</sup> – 45 years

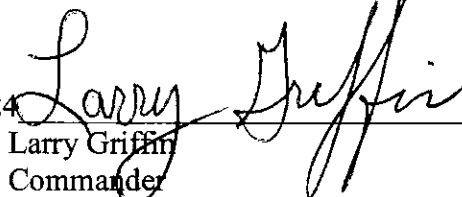
Memorial Day – May 27<sup>th</sup> – Williamsburg Memorial Park

### **CLOSING CEREMONY**

A motion was moved to adjourn the meeting. CDR Larry Griffin gave a tribute to the fallen veterans. Chaplain Jeffrey Benoit closed the meeting with a prayer and CDR Larry Griffin adjourned the General Membership meeting at 10:35 a.m. The next General Membership Meeting will be conducted on June 01, 2024.

  
Veronica Jordan  
Adjutant

04 May 2024

  
Larry Griffin  
Commander

04 May 2024