

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
PATRICK HENRY CHAPTER 34
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2024**

OPENING CEREMONY

Commander (CDR) Larry Griffin opened the Executive Meeting at 4:00 p.m. Chaplain (Chap) Jeffrey Benoit gave the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Junior Vice Commander (JVC) Terrell Lasker. CDR Larry Griffin read the Mission Statement posted on our Conference Room wall and stated the purpose for being here and declared the meeting open for business.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

The following officers were present: CDR Larry Griffin, JVC Terrell Lasker, Treasurer Herbert Jones, Chap Jeffrey Benoit, Member-At-Large (MAL) Clarence Johnson, Immediate Past Commander (IPC) Charles Morris, Judge Advocate (JA) Robert Monroe and Adjutant Veranica Jordan. Senior Vice Commander (SVC) Ethel Smith was excused. Executive Committee (EC) Meeting had a quorum of Chapter Officers present in order to conduct the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE MEETING

A motion was entertained and moved by IPC Charles Morris and seconded by Chap Jeffrey Benoit to approve the Executive Meeting minutes for March 26, 2024. There was no discussion and this motion was approved.

A motion was entertained and moved by Chap Jeffrey Benoit and seconded by Treasurer Herbert Jones to dispense with the reading of the Executive Meeting minutes for March 26, 2024. There was no discussion and this motion was approved.

TREASURER REPORT

The Treasurer will report the Monthly Chapter Finance for April 2024 at the General Membership Meeting Saturday, May 04, 2024.

CHAPLAIN: No Report

COMMUNICATION: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Reports were given by the chairperson or the respective committee representative. Only addendums will be addressed at the General Membership Meeting.

Welfare and Relief: MAL Clarence Johnson reported Chapter 34 helped one Veteran with rent. (\$335.27).

Bylaws Committee: JA Robert Monroe stated to get in touch with him if changes need to be made to the C&B.

Entertainment: MAL Clarence Johnson will check on final payment of the Induction Dinner.

Membership Committee: No Report

Thrift Store: No Report

CSO: A report will be given at the General Membership Meeting, Saturday, May 04, 2024.

LVAP: No Report

Building Committee: No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris to accept Chapter 33, Charlottesville, as a sister chapter and give them \$1000 for this Fiscal year. There was a discussion, and this motion was unanimously approved to carry to the body for approval.

JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris to accept the following resolution to carry 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 #1). There was a discussion, and this motion was unanimously approved to carry to the body for approval.

JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris 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 to carry to the body for approval.

JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris 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 unanimously approved to carry to the body for approval.

JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris 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 to carry to the body for approval.

JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris 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 to carry to the body for approval.

✕ JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris 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 to carry to the body for approval.

✕ JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris 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 to carry to the body for approval.

✓ JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris 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 to carry to the body for approval.

✓ JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris 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 to carry to the body for approval.

✓ JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris 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 to carry to the body for approval.

✓ JVC Terrell Lasker made a motion, seconded by IPC Charles Morris 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 to carry to the body for approval.

IPC Charles Morris made a motion, seconded by MAL Clarence Johnson that Chapter 34 donate \$2,000 to Camp Corral. There was a discussion, and this motion was unanimously approved to carry to the body for approval.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

JVC Terrell Lasker distributed email addresses and passwords for the Executive Committee positions.

CDR. Larry Griffin discussed Chapter 34 participating in the Memorial Day Celebration, May 27, 2024 at the Providence Forge Rec Center.


Treasurer Herbert Jones stated he has a speaker, Karen Corl, for the Chapter's General Membership Meeting May 04, 2024 and Eric Johnson for June 01's meeting.

MAL Clarence Johnson asked the question "When does Chapter 34's Auxiliary meet?"

CDR. Larry Griffin stated he would like to meet with each Committee chairperson.

CLOSING CEREMONY

A motion was moved to adjourn the meeting. CDR. Larry Griffin gave a tribute to the fallen veterans. JVC Terrell Lasker closed the meeting with a prayer and CDR Larry Griffin adjourned the Executive Meeting at 6:00 p.m. The next Executive Meeting will be May 22, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.


Veronica S Jordan
Adjutant

Date 23 April 2024


Larry Griffin
Commander

Date 23 April 2024

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.

WHEREAS, Art I, Sec 1-1, Para 1 (in part states), "The convention shall be held in the vicinity where the National Service Office is located allowing more members to attend the CSO/DSO training and accessibility to the NSO office," AND

WHEREAS, the training can now be conducted online and thereby allow more members to participate, AND

WHEREAS, chapters and members can thereby save valuable chapter funds to better support veterans rather than spend on travel.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Art I, Sec 1-1, Para 1 be amended to allow for the annual convention to be held elsewhere throughout the state as approved by DEC.

Resolution to amend the DAV Department 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.

WHEREAS, this is a membership organization, AND

WHEREAS, the current practices of selection have repeatedly produced a predominance of the same persons serving on the nominating committee, AND

WHEREAS, the general body should have more participatory opportunities to serve on *ad hoc* committees such as the Nominating Committee, AND

WHEREAS, by limiting eligibility of those who have already served multiple times to a maximum of two years out of any five-year period, other members may participate more fully;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an amendment be added to the Constitution and Bylaws stating: "All members of the nominating committee shall be limited to a maximum of two terms within any five-year period."

Resolution to Support Legislation Authorizing the Department of Veteran Affairs to award a ten percent disability rating for veterans that are prescribed medication to control hypertension.

WHEREAS, the disabled veteran has been diagnosed with hypertension and prescribed medication for it *upon* ~~within one year of separation~~, AND

WHEREAS, there is currently an unreasonable requirement for the veteran's baseline systolic pressure to read at least 160 and a diastolic pressure reading of at least 100, and places the veteran at a very high health risk, AND

WHEREAS, many veterans are discontinuing their prescribed medications to show the baseline readings and, thereby risking greater health conditions,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that legislation authorizing the Dept of Veteran Affairs be enacted to automatically grant Veterans diagnosed with hypertension and prescribed medication to control it ~~within one year of separation~~ *upon* be granted a ten percent disability rating.

Resolution to amend the DAV Dept of Virginia Constitution and Bylaws by suspending chapters' fundraising support to the Department:

WHEREAS, chapters are expected to submit a mandatory 17 percent contribution of any proceeds from a Department fundraising activity, such as Golden Corral, AND

WHEREAS, the Department continues to receive income from its thrift stores, AND

WHEREAS, the Department is currently under a five-year spend down plan per instructions from National and is not in need of additional income to support and/or maintain operating costs, AND

WHEREAS, chapters without associated thrift stores often struggle with obtaining income and should not be taxed by the Department;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that chapters will cease submitting Department fundraising payments to include the Golden Corral Campaign and the Department will cease to withhold fundraising monies. The percentage can increase if required, but not while the department is receiving Thrift Store Funds and/or during a spend down plan.

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

WHEREAS, the body must have a voice in who handles our administrative and financial affairs AND

WHEREAS, electing both the Department Adjutant and Treasurer will ensure that the best interests of the organization remain a priority, AND

WHEREAS, appointed positions prevent the body from its voice;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws stating the Department Adjutant and Department Treasurer positions become elected pursuant to Art II, Section 2-1 Elected Officers, and Section 2-3 Appointed Officers.

Resolution to amend the DAV Dept Constitution and Bylaws to set a term limit on the position of Department Treasurer to no more than five consecutive annual terms and be an elected position.

WHEREAS, no prior term limits have been placed on this position, AND

WHEREAS, the position is currently under Article II Section 2-3 Appointed Officers AND

WHEREAS, the position should be moved under Article II Section 2-1 Elected Officers AND

WHEREAS, as a nonprofit organization, we should not have the same person fill any position for greater than five consecutive years to maintain currency and relevance, AND

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws states that a term limit be placed on the Department Treasurer not to exceed a maximum of five consecutive years and the position become elected vice appointed.

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.

WHEREAS, Dept of Virginia Bylaws Art II, Sec 2-5 "Department Adjutant and Executive Officer", Para 1-1 states that the Dept Adjutant and Executive Officer may serve as Department Treasurer, AND

WHEREAS, the Treasurer duties are extensive and specified in the bylaws that require focus on compliance with the tasks given by National, the Dept Bylaws and the guidance from the IRS, AND

WHEREAS, there has been more consequential and cascading issues with combining these positions and/or having those holding them in close familial relationship, AND

WHEREAS, having a single point of failure as it pertains to administrative and financial matters within the Department would be detrimental to the Departments ability to function if a catastrophic event occurred;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws states that the Department Adjutant and Treasurer must be held by separate individuals that cannot have a familial or co-habitant relationship.

Resolution to amend the DAV Dept 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.

WHEREAS, no prior term limits have been placed on this position, AND

WHEREAS, the position is currently under Article II Section 2-3 Appointed Officers AND

WHEREAS, the position should be moved under Article II Section 2-1 Elected Officers AND

WHEREAS, we as a nonprofit organization, should not have the same person fill any position for greater than five consecutive years to maintain currency and relevance;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws states that a term limit be placed on the Department Adjutant not to exceed a maximum of five consecutive years and the position become elected vice appointed.

Support a resolution to amend the 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.

WHEREAS, the body must have a voice in determining who leads our Department AND

WHEREAS, the Department Commander position must continue to focus on moving the department forward with technology and innovative ideas AND

WHEREAS, stagnation can cause disharmony within our organization;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws stating the Department Commander serve no more than two consecutive annual terms and not to serve more than four years cumulative.

Support Legislation Authorizing 100% Total and Permanent Disabled American Veterans from paying Highway Use Fee (HUF) in connection with vehicle registration.

WHEREAS, Disabled veterans have served their country honorably and received injuries, both visible and non-visible, which have impaired their physical ability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV Chapter 34 supports legislation to exempt 100% total and permanent disabled veterans who do not pay vehicle registration fees also be exempt from paying highway use fee (HUF).

Support Legislation Authorizing Disabled American Veterans to park free of charge at all airports in the State of Virginia

WHEREAS, Disabled veterans have served their country honorably and received injuries, both visible and non-visible, which have impaired their physical ability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV Chapter 34 supports legislation to exempt veterans with disabled veterans license plates with the International Symbol of Access (ISA) or disabled veterans license plates and a permanent hanging handicap placard from paying a fee at any airports in the State of Virginia. This applies to all hourly and daily lots or garages located on airport property.