**DAV CHAPTER #26 HUNTSVILLE, AL OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES July 13, 2019**

**Jerome Anderson DELOIS WHITE Dewayne Wilhite LAWRENCE GRIFFIN GEORGE BAKER**

**Chapter Commander Sr. Vice Commander Jr. Vice Commander Adjutant Treasurer Chaplain**

 **(205) 470-7299 (256) 529-9780 (907) 947-7793**

**Opening Prayer**: Prayer by Chaplain Baker **(256)337-9614 (256) 603-6675 (256) 683-0627\_\_\_**

**Meeting Called to Order by:** Commander Jerome Anderson at 10 am.

**Opening Ceremonies:** Pledge of Allegiance conducted by JVC Dewayne Wilhite

**Roll Called by** Adjutant Ardelia Johnson- All officers present

All other officers were present. (Commander we have a quorum).

M**ission Statement:** Read by SVC Delois White

**New Members and Guest/Guest Speakers: Guest State Commander Jerry Morgan, State Adjutant Hugo Perez, State 3rd Junior Vice Commander Willie Tom Scott Jr., State Department Treasurer Anita R. Perez, James Toney from Athens DAV Chapter 51, Keith Cromartie, Javon Pierce ( he works with Ken Shultz).**

**Treasurer Report: By Lawrence Griffin, Beginning Balance, $14,213.14, Donations, $100.00, $1000.00 $96.00 on Line 9, income $1206.84, Chapter expenses, $753.68, Checking account/cash on hand $12,605.63, CD’s $10,748.26, total liquid assets $23,353.89.**

Motion to accept the minutes- Deborah Collins and 2nd by Richette Harris.

Bills against the Chapter: None Reported

**Sickness, Bereavements, and Distress**: Chaplin George Baker: Baker referenced an article titled “Using your Words to Unify”. Be careful what you say, if you have nothing good to say, say nothing at all. We have a card for former commander Gary Carpenter. There were six hospital visits made this month. Two widows came in needing relief help. Michael Erskine passed away, his family could not find his DD214. The Chaplin expressed how important it is to have your papers in order. The Chaplin’s plea was to have your papers in order so when you leave your family will know where your important papers are. Care notes have been provided to the chapter. Gift Bags- Walgreens had agreed to provide tooth paste, chap sticks, etc. for the holiday gift bags, the items will be ready for pick up in three weeks. The Chaplin has asked that all the money from the chapter raffles go towards the purchasing of more items for the holiday gift bags. The chapter raffle has already yielded $96.00 to go toward this project. Prayer List: Commander Gary Carpenter, Comrade Nathaniel Johnson (whom is back in rehab), Comrade Coy L. Fletcher. Sent Death notification of Wilfred Becker to National Headquarters. Chaplin Baker asked if the chapter members know of anyone who needs the Chaplin’s services please let him know. Commander Anderson expressed to the chapter the Chaplin needs help.

**Commanders Notes:** Commander Anderson wants to develop a Grievance Committee.

**Relief Committee Report: Read By Richette Harris- Three veterans interviewed, three veterans were approved, one veteran did not meet the requirements for assistance. Total paid for assistance to veterans $500.00. Balance $6729.43, $5738.99 has been used since July 7, 2018. Motion to accept was made by Tamela Dean, 2nd by Delois White.**

**Legislative Committee Report:** By Chaplin Baker- The VA has released a suite of apps, 1. Exposure ED app, veterans who have been exposed to a range of chemical , physical, and environmental hazards during service, and providers can use this tool to have an informed discussion with veterans about their individual exposure-related concerns and potential impacts on their health. 2. VA Launch Pad APP-manage your health. 3. If You Are a Smoker- There is an APP that can help you stop smoking. The annual convention, is in Orlando, Florida on August 4-6, 2019. Motion to accept was made by Richette Harris and 2nd by Dewayne Wilhite.

**CSO Committee Report read by Deborah Collins: Total visitors seeking Assistance 161, Total NON-VA forms completed 70, Total incoming phone calls 61, Total out going phone calls 42, total Emails Sent 51, total Emails received 20, total documents copied 32, total documents faxed 45, total documents mailed 29, total new DAV members signed up 6. Motion to accept Mr. Durst, 2nd Tamela Dean.**

**Unfinished Business**: None

N**ew Business: The Chapter will be implementing a Grievance Committee. A grievance form will be filled out. The purpose of the grievance committee is to address any grievance with in Chapter 26. First point of contact will be Junior Vice Wilhite, Second appointed Chaplin George Baker, 3rd appointed, Denson Chatfield, new member. In written form it goes to Junior Vice, if the second and third appointed person can’t resolve the issue, we will go to the State Junior Vice Commander Willie Scott. Motion made to accept the appointed committee by Lawrence Griffith and 2nd by Richette Harris. The chapter will be purchasing business cares for the active CSO. Hugo Perez suggested we add a miniature application for new members on the back of the card. Commander Scott said DAV membership is going up to $300.00 for lifetime membership. Motion to accept the expense of the business cards was made by Tamela Dean, and 2nd by Richette Harris. Commander Anderson said representation of the chapter would be better if the chapter purchased a 6 foot table cloth and other things to improve our look, pertaining our set up for fund raisers and membership drives. Chaplin Bake wants to know the cost. Black table cloth with DAV Chapter 26 on it, the commander will have the cost at the next meeting. This table cloth will help with the professional look of Chapter 26.**

**Good of the Order: James Toney from Chapter 51 in Athens, Alabama reported their chapter is having a raffle and the drawing will be held on September 3, 2019. Jerry Morgan the state commander, visited, he is trying to visit every chapter in the state. The commander talked about the new changes at state level, he stated Junior vice is not by districts anymore The State commander will appoint junior vice for the state, state junior vice is not by district anymore. Chapter 26, goal from national for new membership 122, based on the numbers on the hot list 128,000 are receiving benefits. He also reminder the chapter that we are all recruiters and responsible for bringing in new members. Senior vice is over new membership. The DAV can no longer use social security numbers to track chapter members. Senior vice can get a list of all deceased and new members. State Adjutant Perez can get a six month report for each chapter at the senior vice request. Everyone should have crisis hot line number in their phone contacts. There is a national hot line number to provide DD214’s of deceased soldiers to the funeral home directors. Navy Blue Waters veterans bill has passed, they are not accepting new claims until January 2020. The VA is going to review all of the old Blue Water claims to consider the claims acceptance and back pay for previous claims. Blue Water is covering 12 miles off the shore in Vietnam. Commander Morgan is open to communication, but you must go through your chapter chain before calling him.**

 **Junior Vice Scott, believes in communication, unity and being honest. Junior Vice Scott asked the chapter to please exercise your chain of command before calling him, and to always be truthful.**

 **State Treasurer Anita Perez noted that she has only been a treasurer since July 2018, and she had not been a treasurer before. She also complimented the number of females present.**

 **Adjutant Hugo Perez reminded the chapter about the webinar on July 19, 2019 at 1 o’clock, training every fourth Saturday, the next one is on expense vouchers. Adjutant Perez was very impressed with Chaplin Baker’s report, he said he will use it else where. He asked the Chaplin how did he get help from Walgreens. There was a question from Commander Anderson about the forming of a grievance committee? Adjutant Perez liked the suggestion of a grievance committee being formed.**

 **Denise Mitchell wanted to know if next year for the Women’s Convention that is held in Birmingham, can the shuttle bus from the VA hospital be used to get to the conference sight?**

 **Senior Vice White wants to add a female to the grievance committee, explained that Adjutant Johnson will be present at all grievance committee meetings, Richette Harris volunteered to be on the grievance committee. State Junior Vice Scott, suggested we all join our local Chamber of Commerce.**

 **Commander Anderson asked for volunteers to help with the Relief Committee, answer the phone during the week, purge the membership list, and new CSO to send to training in January 2020. Commander Anderson expressed the need to reach the veterans in a more profound way.**

**Upcoming Events/Other**: Golden Corral Fund Raiser November 1-14, 2019

**Closing Remarks:** Commander Anderson requested a moment of silence for our fallen comrades, Motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Hale, and seconded by: Tamela Dean. No discussion motion carried. Closing prayer was done by Chaplain Baker.

**Meeting adjourned. at 11:25 a.m. Motion by Mr. Hale 2nd by Tamela Dean *NEXT MEETING: August 10, 2019***