



**DAV Orange Blossom Gardens #150
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
13 July 2021**

Dennis Storey	Commander
Jan Schmeichel	Sr Vice Commander
Joseph (Joe) Thompson	Jr Vice Commander
Larry Steven (Steve) Grzanich	Treasurer
Michael (Mike) Summers	2nd Year Trustee
Thomas (Tom) Miller	1st Year Trustee
*Rhonda L. Storey	Adjutant
*John VerVille	Sgt at Arms
*Jack Johnson	Membership Lead
*Ron Cavanaugh	POW/MIA Lead
Andrew (Andy) Vasaturo	Chaplain
Robert (Bob) Kobac	Judge Advocate
*Mike Watson	Web Master
Robert (Bobby) Wallace	3rd Year Trustee

Note: *= Nonvoting member.

1. Meeting called to order at 1:00 by Commander Dennis Storey. Sign in sheets showed 37 attendees: 23 members, three Auxiliary members, and eleven guests.
2. Tom Miller, Acting Chaplain opened the meeting in prayer.
3. CDR Storey -- The last General Membership Meeting Minutes are posted on the website for all to see. Motion by Joe Finch to forgo the reading, 2nd by Joe Thompson. All in favor. So moved.
4. CDR Storey--as we have several visitors today we are going to adjust the order of activities just a little.
 - a. First Andy Marshall, Department Adjutant, running for National Commander (will most likely be) and Thomas Ayala past Department Commander, present Assistant Adjutant.
 - 1) Andy Marshall—we are visiting today because we are getting a new roof on our building and all the hammering was too much, so we decided it was a good time for a road trip. He commended the group for their attendance. One of the vans got the catalytic converter stolen—sound familiar? The Cameras showed very little to identify the crooks.
 - 2) Also he thanked us for our contribution to his campaign—this was a four year pre-approved donation. Note: This is the last year for this. If we want to participate further we will need to go through the approval process again.

- b. Ken Redding, President of “The Segway Club” in the Villages, responsible for three veterans getting a Segway to increase their mobility.
 - 1) CDR Storey—Ken and Mike Summers have worked together for years on this project. It is with great pleasure I present “The Segway Club” an appreciation plaque for not only what they do for the veterans, but also for the generous contribution given to the DAV few months back--\$10,000 earmarked for the purchase of a Van. **Close ACTION: 2021-00016.**
 - 2) The plaque was accepted by Ken Redding and David Holzapsos. Ken--Most of you know Segway went out of business about a year ago, so we are not going to be able to get more. The older ones are being pulled apart for parts to keep the newest ones going. We in conjunction with the DAV have partnered very well at keeping the three Segways going. Doing something locally gives us a strong sense of purpose. We have worked closely with Jack Johnson and Mike Summers. Together we have done some good work.
- c. Lt Colonel John Hansen and Colonel Al Arnold are here on behalf of the Lake & Sumter Counties MOAA Chapter Inc. (Military Officers Association of America). Col Hansen—Our Organization has it’s annual budget meetings in April. This year we gave The Villages Charter School, which has an ROTC program \$9,000.00. We save funds all year long to make this happen. This year we decided to present \$1000.00 to the DAV. We know this will be put to good use. Additionally, they are adding us to their donation list for the foreseeable future.
- d. CDR Storey asked, if there were any other Visitor’s in the room: One individual stood up said he was retired, served from 1979-2005.

5. **Reports:**

- a. **Treasurer’s Report** – Larry Steven Grzanich
 - 1) Beginning Balance as of 1 June 2021, \$119,603.92 (General Fund – \$89,603.92, Van Fund - \$30,000.00); Income \$4,319.55 minus Expenses \$7224.91. Net decrease in value \$2905.36. Ending Balance as of 30 June 2021 is \$116,698.56. Motion to approve report made by Jan Schmeichel, 2nd by Lillie Battle. All in favor. So Moved.
 - 2) Received our membership distribution from National in the amount of \$2,268. This is a significant reduction from last year when we received \$4,053.
 - 3) Also, we have not received the paperwork from national for us to complete our annual financial report which is due September 30. I have contacted national to no avail. In the meantime, I sent the information to our accountant.

4) Summary of Unsolicited Donations at the meeting:

Loose change	\$5.37
50/50 Donation	\$57.00
Check from Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter Inc. (Military Officers Association of America) for	\$1,000.00
cash donation from Mr. William Lane who just transferred into Chapter 150.	\$20.00
Total Deposit	\$1,082.37

b. **Chaplain Report (Sickness & Distressed)** – Tom Miller, Acting Chaplain--Remember Bobbie Wallace and his family in your prayers.

c. **Service Officer Report** 1-30 June 2021 -- Dennis Storey – We currently have 2 paid Department Service Officer's at the Villages VA Outpatient Clinic, Dennis Storey who is there Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Thursday and Joe Morales, Wednesday and Friday. We are seeing Veteran's on an appointment only basis. We will begin training two individuals as unpaid Service Officers to help fill in as needed. The following are the statistics for the Month of June 2021, as reported to Department of Florida.

Interviews	58
Power of Attorney	23
Intent to file	7
New Claims/Increases/Supplemental	31
Appeals	0
Phone Calls	220
Miscellaneous status of claims/General Questions/Records Request	102
Partial DAV Membership	0
Full Membership	2
Aid and Attendance	0

d. **Legislative Report** – Gene Haren--Public Law 116-315, the National Defense Authorization Act, makes it easier for surviving spouses to continue receiving VA benefits if they remarry. The law made changes to the remarriage rules for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This changes a veteran's surviving spouse who remarries after the veteran's death will remain eligible for the benefit paid by the VA if the spouse is at 55 or older and the remarriage occurred on or after that date.

e. POW/MIA Report – NTR.

f. Van Report – CDR Storey

1) The VA has started running the Van between the VA Clinic and Gainesville every day. If you wish to ride the van, call (352) 674-5099 as soon as you get your appointment to reserve your seat.

2) We are in need of drivers and dispatchers. If interested contact the Volunteer Coordinator at the VA or CDR Storey or Jim Meyer.

6. Correspondence:

a. Received a letter from Department Executive Director, Andy Marshall thanking us for our contribution to the VAVS Program in the amount of \$1000.00. Thomas Ayala said that there is a new name for this program, but he will have to get back to us on this as he cannot remember it at the moment.

b. Adjutant Storey, Commander point of Order. The General Membership meeting minutes from our last meeting were posted on the website, however the E-Board Meeting Minutes from 8 July need to be read. Subject Minutes were read. CDR Storey asked if there are any E-Board members who have any changes to these minutes. There being none the minutes are accepted as read.

7. Unfinished Business:

a. **Membership:** Jack Johnson--Our membership system down, so I asked HQ for a Membership list and compared it the one from May and found the following new members. I also called them to invite them to the meeting: *Donald Lynch (Navy Air Corps then transferred to the Army Reserves), James Bauer, Patrick Burch, Wayne Greenwall, Gunars Kulikovskis, *William Leathers (Army 57-60), John Positano, and Robert Przybylski. (*=in attendance) We currently have 1574 members.

b. **Fundraising/Donations** – Joe Thompson

1) **Golf Tournament.** We are working to have a **golf tournament** at the end of September or early October. We are looking in to Eagle Ridge and Stonecrest. Once we make the decision on which venue works best for us, we will start looking for a lot of golfers.

2) **Forget Me Nots** – Mark your calendars, we have Publix at Colony Plaza off 466A and Morris Blvd, reserved for **4-5 December 2021**. We will be looking for alternate location as well. Anyone wanting to volunteer please contact Joe Thompson.

c. **Logo shirts** – Rhonda Storey. We were looking to get a DAV shirt and adding the Orange Blossom Gardens Logo on the other side. The process was to get orders for the shirts, the individual would pay upfront and we would order the DAV shirts then have the Chapter 150 logo put on them. (Adding the logo is \$13.00). This way there is no cost to the Chapter. We have put this on hold for the time being. In the mean time anyone wanting to go to Custom Apparel can purchase one of their shirts and have the Orange Blossom Gardens Logo put on them for free. If you purchase the shirt in any other store it will cost \$13.00 to add the Chapter Logo.

d. **Expense Plan.** The expense plan is posted on the website for membership review and approval. The monthly newsletter was sent out to the membership last week and the plan was attached. We are asking for membership approval. Motion to approve as written Jim Meyer 2nd by Joe Finch. All in favor. So Moved.

8. **New Business: Membership** – Jack Johnson – We have four transfers: William Lane, Albert Michaud, Tim Hearten, and Mike Pettit. Recommend we accept these four transfers, 2nd by Joe Thompson. CDR Storey, All in favor. So Moved.

9. For the Good of the Order:

a. The **2021 National Convention** July 28-3 Aug 2021, at the Tampa Marriott in Tampa FL
Chapter Delegates: Dennis Storey, Jack Johnson, Rhonda Storey & Dan Williamson.

b. Mike Summers asked when we will **resume lunch** after the meetings. CDR Storey said that when we receive permission from the Villages to bring food into the conference rooms. Mike Summers said he received a notice from them that we can. We will discuss this at the E-Board next month.

c. **Other Military Activities Coming Up:**

1) The Tri-County Woman Veterans are having two Bowling fundraising events in support of raising the increased cost of the Women Veterans Honor Flight.

Where: AMF Bowling Co, 2813 W. Main Street, Leesburg
(South on Morris to 44, east on CR 44 to Main)

When: Saturday, **July 17, 2021**, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Saturday, **October 16, 2021**, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Cost: \$20.00/person (includes 3 games, bowling ball, and shoe rental)

To register send your information and payment to

Terry Burton at 5678 Moon Flower Place, The Villages, FL. 34748.

2) At our last meeting one of the members asked could we give them a donation? This was discussed at the 8 July 2021 E-Board. CDR Storey, move that we donate \$500.00 to the Tri-County Woman Veterans for the Honor Flight. Mike Summers recommended approval of this motion, 2nd by Jim Meyer. All in favor. So moved.

d. Conrad Fisher – I'd like to announce the formation of the **Community Veterans Resource Group (CVRG)**. It's primary objective is to share information about support services available to Veterans. Commander Dennis Storey of the DAV and Bill Kuffner are assisting in the development of the program.

1) It is a fact that, after retirement many veterans begin to experience mental health issues. Long forgotten or ignored memories surface that create flashbacks of harrowing times that can and do result in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Many veterans do not seek help because of the "stigma" associated with the need for mental health treatment. The VA Health care system, offers mental health treatment services. But, unfortunately, because of that "stigma", many veterans choose not to get help.

2) The VA recognizes this problem and has introduced the formation of the VET CENTER where a veteran and their family can seek individual mental health care from trained/certified professionals in complete privacy and confidentiality. The closest VET CENTER to the Villages is in Ocala at 3300 SW 34th Avenue, Suite 140, Ocala, FL 34474 phone 352-237-1947.

3) CVRG's current focus has two fronts:

(a) First, CVRG coordinated with John Wells, the chairman of Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc., a professional lobbyist organization specifically for benefits for veterans. Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. will brief on the status of recent Congressional activities regarding veteran's benefits, and the VET CENTER will brief on current benefits. These briefings are scheduled for: **October 22, 2021 at 2:00 at the American Legion Post 347** (699 W. Lady Lake Blvd, Lady Lake, FL 32159-1534)

(b) The Town of Lady Lake offered the VET CETER a private room in it's community building that will be dedicated to serving veterans every Friday afternoon and will be staffed by the professionals from the Ocala VET CENTER. This service will be available upon completion of the building renovation at the end of July/early August.

10. Next **E- Board Meeting 5 Aug 2021**, 10:00 @ City Fire.

11. Next **General Membership Meeting 10 Aug 2021**, 13:00.

12. Motion to conclude the meeting made by Jan Schmeichel 2nd by Richard Payne. All in favor. So Moved.

Respectfully Submitted



Rhonda L. Storey
DAV Chapter 150
Adjutant