



Gamecock #5 Newsletter

Sumter, South Carolina

April 2017 Edition

Commander's Corner

Chapter 5 Commander

Betsy West 803-499-1003

Elections have been completed and the following officers have been installed for the upcoming year.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Commander | Elizabeth West |
| Sr. Vice Cmdr. | Billy Brown |
| 1st Jr. Vice Cmdr. | Paul Fisher |
| 2nd Jr. Vice Cmdr. | Maurice Prioleau |
| Adjutant | Mike Dumiak |
| Treasurer | Ken Miller |
| Asst. Treas. | Andie Miller |
| Chaplain | Fred Levi |
| Asst. Chaplain | Arthur Macon |
| Legislative | Andie Miller |
| Service Officer | Betsy West |
| Membership | D Davis |
| Judge Advocate | Silas Jim Dawson |

The Constitution and Bylaws committee has been hard at work. They will be conducting the second reading of the new Constitution and Bylaws at 1700 before the March meetings.

The history of the \$200 club. As Jim Hinkle was cutting Charles Rayford's hair one day back in the late '90s they started talking about a way to raise money for a new building. The \$200 club came into being and continues today as a way to have funds on hand to make repairs to our building. We had to put on a new roof a few years back and our funds were pretty much depleted. We had a flood when our water heater kicked the bucket and that took our funds down to nearly nothing. Many of you responded last year and several more names were added to our plaque. Thank you! Let's keep this going in 2017 and see how many more names we can add to the \$200 club. You will get your name on the plaque when your total reaches \$200. We would like to acknowledge the recent donors with a special thank you.

Auxiliary News

Unit 5 Commander

Nancy Spangler 803-499-4789

Elections have been completed and the following are your officers for the upcoming year.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Commander | Nancy Spangler |
| Sr. Vice Cmdr. | Lori Levi |
| 1st Jr. Vice Cmdr. | Shirley Roberson |
| Adjutant/Treas. | Karen Jacob |
| Chaplin | Ann Strickland |
| SEC | Bonnie Brown |
| Alternate SEC | Karen Jacobs |

The Auxiliary needs new members and officers. We look forward to a new year serving out Veterans and their families.

DAVA collects food coupons throughout the year to send to service members overseas and canned goods to take to a local food pantry. Please bring your non-perishable items to our monthly meetings.

Please remember to record your volunteer hours in the Volunteer Book each month.

All ads have expired

Would you like to advertise with us? We have many spaces available and our newsletter reaches approximately 900 people. Your ad will run for a year and now your ad will have an online link to your website or any coupons you offer to our members and readers.

The prices range from \$25.00 for a business card size ad to \$100.00 for a full page. If interested please send an email to Veteransrep@yahoo.com

NEXT MEETING WILL BE

April 25 at 6:30 PM

Our meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month. We encourage each DAV member and Auxiliary to bring a dish; side items and desserts, to ensure we have enough food to go around. We have chicken catered from Golden Corral.

Chaplain's Corner

Chapter 5: Fred Levi 803-481-4953

Assist Chaplain: Arthur Macon

**Unit 5: Ann Strickland
803-499-2121**

If you know of anyone who is sick, needs prayer, is hospitalized, or has passed away, please let us know.

Please keep Fred Levi, Bonnie Brown, Dickie Graham, Paul Fisher, Jim Dawson, T C Smith, D Davis, John Rogers, Andie Miller, Ruth Muller, Jim Wilder, Lee Pearson, Lori Levi, Sharan Elder, Bill Short, and Lucy Amundsen in your thoughts and prayers.

Gamecock 5 Membership

27 new members will have us reaching our membership goal this year. Let's pick up the pace to reach our goal early this year. We can make 100% this year. Bring more Veterans with you to our meetings and get them signed up for membership.

**Upcoming Class in Sumter
on Pre-Diabetes**

Contact Betsy for details

803-499-1003

HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

If you know of any events happening around town, please let us know so we can share with all of our readers.

April 9

DAV Auxiliary National Commander Frances Costa's Testimonial Dinner

Comfort Inn, Randolph, MA
Dinner \$50.00

For more information please follow this [link](#).

April 25

2017 Rally for Our Veterans

1000 to 1400 Statehouse North End Steps

April 29

DAV National Commander David W. Riley Testimonial Dinner

The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel and Spa, Mobile, AL

For more information please follow this [link](#).

May 19-21

SC 86th DAV & 67 DAVA Convention

Double Tree Hotel Columbia & Conference Center, Columbia, SC

Purple Heart recipients call 803-506-3120 to join the Sumter chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Did you know?

Being sleep-deprived may increase nightmares. If you improve the quality of your sleep, you sometimes can reduce nightmares. Want more information please follow this [link](#)

When Sleeping Becomes Difficult

Fundraising Events

Please contact Paul Fisher at 803-840-1001 with any fundraising ideas or to volunteer for any events we have already planned.

Volunteers are needed for Camp Corral starting in March and will continue for 3-3.5 months.

Service Officers

DAV Service Officers are at the Chapter home Wednesday and Friday from 9AM-12PM

If you need claims assistance. We are assisting an average of 25 Veterans a month at this time.

Transportation

The DAV has provided van service for veterans who have appointments at Dorn VA Hospital. The van leaves daily at 7:30 AM from the parking lot near the Sumter County Law Enforcement Center.

If you are interested in community service and would like to help our veterans, this is a very fulfilling duty. You do not need a special license to drive the van but you will have to pass a physical. You must also possess a valid driver's license and a clear driving record. There is always a need for more van drivers. For more information or to schedule a ride, please call **Valerie Brunson at 803-436-2302.**

Better Choices Better Health

We are scheduling right now for a class in Sumter. If you will be able to start class in the next couple of weeks, please contact us. There will also be classes starting the first of next year. It's the CDSMP (Chronic Disease Self-Management Program) or BCBH (Better Choices Better Health) for short. DAV Gamecock 5 has 2 facilitators so we can have a class as soon as we get our participants together. It is a 6-week class and meets for 2 ½ hours each week. Please contact D Davis for more information and registration at

Veteransrep@yahoo.com

Increase the font of your Newsletter for easier reading if you are using

Google Chrome

If you are using Google Chrome then you will see a + symbol in the lower right-hand corner; if it is not there move your mouse to this area and see if it appears. Once it is there click on it until you are able to read the newsletter.

Chapter Home

Our Chapter home is currently unmanned. If you call, please leave a message with your name, phone number, date and the reason you called so that we may better serve you.

Newsletter Committee

Please email all newsletter contributions to D Davis by the 1st Tuesday of the month so we have time to compile everything and get it ready to publish.

Veteransrep@yahoo.com

Your input allows us to continue to have an award winning newsletter.

Increase the font of your

Newsletter for easier reading,

if you are using

Internet Explorer or Edge

If using Internet Explorer or Edge you will find a + symbol in the upper right-hand corner; if it is not there move your mouse to this area and see if it appears. Once it is there click on it until you are able to read the newsletter.

Legislative Happenings

On February 28, 2017, our National Commander, David W. Riley, spoke before a Joint Session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to present DAV's legislative program for 2017.

Please follow this link

[DAV's Legislative Program](#) to read the written statement as it was submitted to the Committees. A complete listing of DAV's Legislative Program for 2017 is available on the DAV's website at

[Resolution Book 2017](#).

Legislative Happenings Cont.

VA's Modernization of the Claims Process Continues

Early this year, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) began extracting hundreds of thousands of inactive-claim records from regional offices east of the Mississippi for digital conversion. Inactive-claim records are claim files that have been settled and have remained inactive for a number of years. The initiative will help reduce processing time for thousands of new claims associated with inactive records.

In the past, VBA only digitized inactive-claim records when Veterans or their family members filed new disability or Dependency Indemnity Compensation claims. The business process added days to the claims' adjudication process as files still needed to be boxed, shipped and digitized before review of the new claim could even begin.

Senators Warner and Kaine Introduce Legislation to Overhaul Broken VA Appeals Process

U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine joined a group of fourteen Senators in introducing legislation to overhaul the Department of Veterans Affairs' broken appeals process. The process has not been updated since 1933, and more than 450,000 appeals are currently pending. Because of redundancies and inefficiencies in the current process, most veterans wait years for a decision on their appeals. By replacing the current process, the Department of Veterans Affairs Appeals Modernization Act would expedite appeals before the Board of Veterans Appeals and give veterans clear options after receiving an initial decision.

Hearing on VA Recruitment and Retention Authorities:

On Wednesday, the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a hearing to discuss ways to improve VA's ability to recruit and retain high quality health care professionals. The members of the subcommittee explored ways to expedite the hiring process to ensure candidates aren't required to wait months to be hired by VA. VFW National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes submitted testimony urging Congress to give VA direct hiring authority for frontline staff, who currently wait up to six months for an entry level job. VA testified on its challenges with human resources staff and agreed that having more direct hire authority for health care staff would improve its ability to deliver timely and high quality care to veterans.

[Read the testimony](#) .

VA Mental Health Care for Vets with OTH Discharges:

During a hearing before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on Tuesday, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin announced that VA will no longer turn away veterans seeking urgent mental health care simply because they received other-than-honorable discharges. VA plans to implement the new rule later this year. [More information on this initiative.](#)

Online Listing for all VA Cemeteries

VA announced this week that there will be an online listing of burial times for all VA cemeteries. The move, which will cover the 168 facilities operated by VA directly, will allow those who wish to attend the funerals a more centralized location for information related to the funeral. Attendees will be able to search by either the location of the funeral or by the name of the veteran being buried, and updates will be provided hourly.

To visit the website, click [here](#) .

A remarkable resource on the Vietnam War is available at

<http://www.tom.pilsch.com/Vietnam.html>

Tom Pilsch, a retired Professor of the Practice of National Security from the [Sam Nunn School of International Affairs](#) at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, is the creator of this web-source. He is also a retired United States Air Force Brigadier General with 30 years of service. He can be contacted at this website www.tom.pilsch.com.

*Say Thanks to the Vet in your life,
just click the banner below and you
will be on your way.*



VA is introducing (844) MyVA311 (844-698-2311) as a go-to source for Veterans and their families who don't know what number to call.

Want to read more? See the article in the

Dorn's Palmetto Post



The following are links to videos taken at the 2016 DAV National Convention in Atlanta. Another window will open and play the Youtube video. We hope that if you were not able to attend you will find them informative, educational and enjoyable.



[First Business Session 2016](#)



[Second Business Session 2016](#)



[Final Business Session 2016](#)



[President Obama Speaks at the National Convention](#)



[2015-2016 A Year in Review](#)



[DAV / DAVA Joint Opening Session](#)



[Service and Legislative Seminar](#)



[Benefits Protection Team Leader Seminar](#)



[Benefits Protection Team Seminar](#)



[Woman Veterans Seminar](#)



[Employment Seminar](#)



[Voluntary Services Seminar](#)



[Communications Seminar](#)



[Membership Seminar](#)



[IG / Fundraising Seminar](#)



[Outreach 101](#)



[2016 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year - Bobby Body](#)



STAND UP! BE HEARD!

*You have fought for your Country,
Now fight for your rights!*

Keynote Speaker:

Commander Alfred H. Agnew (Ret)

POW Vietnam War

“Honoring All Vietnam Veterans”

*“Rally for our
Veterans”*

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017
10am – 2pm North End
State House Steps*



Organized by the South Carolina Veteran's Advocacy Council



Lawyers 4 Vets

Free Legal Clinic for Eligible Veterans

A free legal clinic is available in the Columbia SC area for low income Midlands Veterans.

Only limited legal services provided. Call about getting help with:

- South Carolina child support orders and modifications
- Expungement of SC criminal records, and/or pardon applications
- Simple will and/or healthcare power of attorney (available for veterans and their spouse)

To be screened for an appointment call:

Toll Free (877) 289-6000

www.columbiasc.va.gov/Lawyers4Vets.asp

Clinics are by appointment only

Legal advice/assistance at no cost - but court costs or other fees are the responsibility of the veteran



Frequently Called Numbers

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Admissions | (803) 776-4000 x4983/7190 |
| Appointment Line..... | (803) 647-5829 |
| | (800) 293-8262 |
| Billing and Insurance | |
| Collections – pay a bill | (888) 827-4817 |
| General questions..... | (866) 258-2772 |
| Medical claims..... | (803) 776-4000 x6763 |
| Chaplain Services | |
| 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. | (803) 776-4000 x6332 |
| After hours..... | (803) 776-4000 |
| Compensation and Pension..... | (803) 776-4000 x6183 |
| Enrollment Eligibility..... | (803) 776-4000 x7010 |
| Information Desk (Dorn VAMC)..... | (803) 776-4000 x4179/8055 |
| Medical Records..... | (803) 776-4000 x6283 |
| Mental Health..... | (803) 776-4000 x |
| MyHealtheVet..... | (803) 695-6783 |
| Patient Advocate..... | (803) 776-4000 x7998/6937 |
| Prosthetics..... | (803) 776-4000 x6323 |
| Release of Information..... | (803) 776-4000 x6290 |
| Shuttle Service..... | (803) 776-4000 x6780 |
| Telephone Advice Line | |
| Outside Columbia..... | (888) 651-2683 |
| In Columbia..... | (803) 647-5829 |
| Travel Office..... | (803) 776-4000 x4483/4525/4484 |
| Veteran's Transportation Service..... | (803) 776-4000 6398 |
| Veteran Service Organizations | |
| American Legion..... | (803) 776-4000 x7539 |
| AmVets..... | (803) 776-4000 x2421 |
| Disabled American Veterans..... | (803) 776-4000 x2422 |
| Military Order of the Purple Heart..... | (803) 776-4000 x2430 |
| Paralyzed Veterans Association..... | (803) 776-4000 x2432 |
| Veteran's of Foreign Wars..... | (803) 776-4000 x2443 |
| Voluntary Services..... | (803) 776-4000 x6780/7081 |

Community-Base Outpatient Clinics

Anderson CBOC
3030 N. Hwy 81
Anderson, SC 29621
Tele (864) 224-5450

Sumter CBOC
407 N. Salem Ave
Sumter, SC 29150
Tele (803) 938-9901

Greenville OPC
41 Park Creek Drive
Greenville, SC 29605
Tele (864) 299-1600

Orangeburg CBOC
1767 Village Park Drive
Orangeburg, SC 29118
(803) 533-1335

Spartanburg CBOC
279 North Grove Medical Plaza
Spartanburg, SC 29303
Tele (864) 582-7025

Rock Hill CBOC
2670 Mills Park Drive
Rock Hill, SC 29732
Tele (803) 366-4848

Florence CBOC
1822 Sally Hill Farms Blvd
Florence, SC 29501
Tele (843) 292-8383



This listing has been cut from the new Dorn VA Medical Center Newsletter, *Palmetto Post*. We hope it is helpful to all of our members and their families. Stay connected to the DORN VAMC using the following:

Dorn VAMC official Web site:

www.columbiasc.va.gov/

Dorn Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/VA-ColumbiaSC

Dorn Twitter handle:

@VAMCColumbiaSC



Stay up to date on happenings around the state. Visit va.sc.gov