



# Gamecock #5 Newsletter

## Sumter, South Carolina

### June 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.

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

Due to the cancellation of the May meeting we will be voting on our next year's budget and the new Constitution and Bylaws in June, please come and have your voice be heard if you have any concerns over the changes.

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.

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

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](mailto:Veteransrep@yahoo.com)

#### NEXT MEETING WILL BE

**June 27 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.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Pinckney Montgomery and Clyde E. Moore as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

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.

## 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.

**June 13**

### **Department Line Officers and District Commanders Meeting**

Department Headquarters  
1100

**June 24**

### **Free PTSD Workshop Hampton Inn & Suites Freedom Room**

0930 - 1500

Call 703-606-3858 to register see included ad for more information

**July 8 - 11**

### **Commanders & Adjutants Association Orientation**

**July 29 – August 1**

### **DAV National Convention**

Hilton New Orleans, Riverside  
2 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Telephone 800-Hiltons or 504-561-0500

Click here to [register](#).

**August 26**

### **Department Executive Committee Meeting**

Department Headquarters  
1100 – 1400

### Did you know?

The new veteran complaint hotline is now live? The number is 855-948-2311, its purpose is to give veterans an outlet to voice their concerns about VA and other federal programs. It is promised that by August 15<sup>th</sup> the hotline will have continuous coverage from a live operator 24/7. Want to read more about this, please follow this [link](#).

## Service Officers

DAV Service Officers are at the Chapter home Wednesday and Friday from 900 - 1200

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](mailto:Veteransrep@yahoo.com)

## 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](mailto:Veteransrep@yahoo.com)

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

## Have You Heard the News?

### **Veterans Can Now Schedule Appointments Online With Smart phones**

Veterans in many parts of the country are now able to use the new Veteran Appointment Request (VAR) App to request or schedule certain appointments online. VAR is a new web application that is also accessible via Smartphone, tablets and desktops.

More than 60 VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) have started using VAR, and more are coming online every few weeks. Visit the [VA App Store](#) to see where it is available and to learn more. Read the full article [here](#).

## Fundraising Events

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

**We expect to publish our new chapter website in September 2017. Use this address to easily connect to our current page provided by DAV:**

<http://tinyurl.com/gamecock5>

## Legislative Happenings Cont.

On May 23, 2017, the Administration released the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) budget for fiscal year 2018. Contained within this budget were two legislative proposals that DAV strongly opposes because if enacted into law, they would seriously reduce benefits for our nation's ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors. Please read below and join us in our call for action!

### **10-year cost-of-living round down**

The Administration's budget proposal contains a provision that would round down cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for disability compensation, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and some other benefits for the next 10 years. DAV remains adamantly opposed to this or any permanent round down provision.

Veterans and their survivors rely on their compensation for essential purchases such as food, transportation, rent and utilities. It also enables them to maintain a marginally higher quality of life in the face of rising inflation. This COLA round down provision would unfairly target disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors to save the government money and offset the cost of other federal programs. That is simply unacceptable.

The cumulative effect of this provision of law would, in essence, levy a 10-year "tax" on disabled veterans and their survivors, reducing their income each year. When multiplied by the number of disabled veterans and recipients of DIC, hundreds of millions of dollars would be siphoned from these deserving individuals annually. **All totaled, VA estimates this proposed COLA round down would cost beneficiaries close to \$2.7 billion over the next 10 years.**

### **Individual Unemployability and Social Security Offset**

The Administration's budget proposal also contains a provision that would scale back VA's Individual Employability (IU) program for thousands of veterans. DAV strongly opposes this ill-conceived proposal.

The IU program allows VA to pay certain veterans, who are determined to be unemployable as a result of service-connected disabilities, disability compensation at the 100 percent rate, even though VA has not rated their service-connected disabilities at the 100 percent level. **This proposal would terminate existing IU ratings for veterans when they reach the minimum retirement age for Social Security purposes, currently 62, as well as cut off IU benefits for any veteran already in receipt of Social Security retirement benefits.**

**We oppose this and any measure that proposes to offset the payment of any other federal benefit or earned benefit entitlement against VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.** Benefits received from the VA, or those based on military retirement pay, have differing eligibility criteria for different purposes than other federal programs. Social Security benefits are an earned benefit for retirement while VA disability compensation is an earned benefit derived from injury or illness from military service. Reducing the Social Security benefit provided to a disabled veteran in receipt of IU is simply an unjust penalty and would place an undue hardship on all veterans in receipt of IU and their families.

Furthermore, **we are vehemently opposed to limiting disability compensation benefits due to a veteran's age.** Many disabled veterans might not have income replacement available-especially those who had been on IU for an extended period in advance of reaching retirement age. Arbitrarily cutting off IU eligibility for veterans who turn 62, an age at which millions of American's continue working and saving money for their retirements-a luxury that many disabled veterans do not have-would be grossly unfair to the men and women who served.

**Please take up the call and help us keep the rights we have earned.**



We are calling on all DAV and members and supporters to contact their members of Congress and urge them to reject these harmful proposals that would negatively impact injured and ill veterans, their families and survivors. DAV has a prepared email and letter for you to send to your Senator and Representative. To Take Action Now Click on the “Action Alert button” or [here!](#)

### **VA Launches Hotline for Woman Veterans**

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new hotline –1-855-VA-WOMEN—to receive and respond to questions from Veterans, their families and caregivers about the many VA services and resources available to woman Veterans. To read the full article click [here](#).

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**The following is archived information that we are keeping available just in case you have not been able to read it.**

### **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](http://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](#)



# 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](http://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
<b>Billing and Insurance</b>	
Collections – pay a bill .....	(888) 827-4817
General questions.....	(866) 258-2772
Medical claims.....	(803) 776-4000 x6763
<b>Chaplain Services</b>	
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
<b>Telephone Advice Line</b>	
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
<b>Veteran Service Organizations</b>	
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/](http://www.columbiasc.va.gov/)

Dorn Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/VA](http://www.facebook.com/VA)

[ColumbiaSC](https://www.facebook.com/VA)

Dorn Twitter handle:

@VAMCColumbiaSC



SOUTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF  
**Veterans' Affairs**

Stay up to date on happenings around the state. Visit [va.sc.gov](http://va.sc.gov)