



Gamecock #5 Newsletter

Sumter, South Carolina

July 2017 Edition

Commander's Corner

Chapter 5 Commander

Betsy West 803-499-1003

The Constitution and Bylaws and Budget for the upcoming year was voted on and approved at the June meeting.

Our DAV/DAVA Department of SC Convention was held in May. Only a few of our newly elected and appointed chapter officers attended the convention. Individual training will be available through the department in order to ensure that each officer understands the duties of the position.

Congratulations to our Commander Betsy West for bringing home the coveted **Jackson Award** for 2016-2017. This award is presented to the most outstanding chapter commander. Chapter 5 won the **Newsletter Award** for 2016-2017 making us a 3 time winner for outstanding newsletter. D Davis was recognized for **10,000 hours** of VA Volunteer Service by DAV Dept. of SC.

LVAP

Please remember to turn in your volunteer hours to Betsy each month so we get an accurate accounting of all you do for our Veterans and their families. There are 4 categories to record your Volunteer work. Do you cut grass, run errands, give a ride to the store or appointments, help with a claim, help out with a fundraiser, cook a meal for a Veteran or family, visit someone in the hospital, attend a funeral? All of these activities and much more should be recorded in LVAP.

Auxiliary News

Unit 5 Commander

Nancy Spangler 803-499-4789

Christmas in July is here again. Please bring your items to our July meeting to support the inpatients at Dorn VAMC. Please see the Dorn Wish List on the next page.

The Auxiliary needs new members and officers. We look forward to a new year serving our 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

Advertise in our newsletter for as little as \$25.00 per year. Your ad will reach around 900 per month and will allow us to continue mailing our newsletter to those who do not have computer access. veteransrep@yahoo.com

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.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE

July 25, 2017 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. July meeting is our Christmas in July. We will be having hamburgers and hot dogs as our meal.

Chaplain's Corner

Chapter 5: Fred Levi 803-481-4953

Assist Chaplain: Arthur Macon

Unit 5: Ann Strickland

803-499-2121

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Edward R, Miller and Frank H. Wells as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

Many of our members are struggling with their health and others are facing challenging times in their lives. Please keep our members in your thoughts and prayers for the many unspoken prayer requests and for travelling mercies.

Newsletter Committee

I need your newsletter input by the 1st Tuesday of the month so I have time to put it in the newsletter and get it published. Email D Davis at Veteransrep@yahoo.com Your input allows us to continue to have an award winning newsletter.

2017-2018 Department of South Carolina officers:

Commander	Brian Wilner
bewilner@outlook.com	
Adjutant	Joy McClendon
davscadjutant@gmail.com	
Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Paul E. Jones
1st Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Dan Holtel
2nd Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Willard Cunningham
Treasurer	Joyce S. Roberts
Chaplain	Clarence Brown
Legislative	Daniel McPoyle
Judge Advocate	Silas Jim Dawson

Department News

The state budget was voted on and passed with many budget cuts we were not aware of when voting occurred. This has left each of the District Commanders with approximately \$250.00 for travel for the entire year. Some of the department officers have lost their travel allowance as well; including the Chaplain. Department of SC is asking each chapter to consider making a donation to the department for officer travel. It can even be earmarked for District 6 travel or a particular position. Chapter 5 generally donates \$500.00 each to VAVS (Voluntary Service), NSO (National Service Officers'), and HSC (this was the person over the DAV transportation network at the hospital and we no longer have this position.)

DAV National Convention
July 29 – August 1, 2017
Hilton New Orleans,
Riverside
Need more information or to
get registered, please click
[here](#).

Gamecock 5 Membership

Chapter 5 needs 48 new members to reach 100% for the 2017-2018 membership year. Do you have friends and neighbors eligible for membership? Bring them along for a visit to chapter 5 and ask them to become a member.

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.

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.

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>

Fundraising Events

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

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.

DISTRICT 6 NEWS

D Davis (veteransrep@yahoo.com) was elected as the District 6 Commander for 2017-2018 and Andie Miller (xaylan@msn.com) is the District Aide. Several other chapter 5 members are District officers as well. While it is convenient to have several district officers in our chapter, the District Commander and Aide have an obligation to visit each chapter in the district, hold quarterly district meetings and attend the monthly Officer's Call at the department headquarters in Columbia, SC. Attending the National Convention is not required but is highly recommended due to the amount of information passed along and an unsurpassed opportunity to network with other chapters and states to find out about new programs and opportunities we can bring to SC. The good news is D, Andie and Jim and Doris Dawson are going to the 2017 National Convention. Thank you for your contribution Chapter 5.

Legislative Happenings

House approves VA bill, sending it to Trump

The House on Tuesday handily passed a bill making it easier to fire Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees or rescind their bonuses. The Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, which passes 368-55, would speed up how quickly VA Secretary David Shulkin could fire all employees no matter how senior, and allow the agency to rescind bonuses if an employee is convicted of a job-related felony. Read the full article [here](#).

Legislative Happenings cont.

VA secretary backs off plan to cut elderly vets' benefits

Administration officials are backing away from plans to slash tens of thousands of dollars in unemployment benefits from elderly veterans after an outcry from advocates who warned the move could cause significant financial harm to vulnerable veterans.

During a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing on Wednesday, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin said that he wants to avoid any policy changes that "hurt veterans" and is considering other options to the proposed changes. Read the full article [here](#).

DAV Launches Unsung Heroes Initiative to Assist Caregivers from All Service Eras

On June 20, DAV launched its "[Unsung Heroes Initiative](#)," a public awareness campaign to honor the dedication and sacrifice of veterans' family caregivers. The successful Capitol Hill event was attended by more than 100 congressional staffers, veterans and military groups and other nonprofit organizations.

During a panel discussion at the launch event, Iraq War veteran and U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, DAV National Commander Dave Riley and his wife and caregiver Yvonne, as well as two other pre-9/11 disabled veteran-caregiver couples, shared personal stories related to the challenges and needs of caregivers. DAV released its new report, *America's Unsung Heroes: Challenges and Inequities Facing Veteran Caregivers*, which features results from DAV's Veteran Family Caregiver Survey.

Findings from DAV's Caregiver Survey:

- Most caregivers are female and more than three fourths are spouses; many are concerned aging will limit their abilities to perform care giving duties.
- Over 80 percent of caregivers believe their role has limited their financial stability, friendships, family life, physical and mental health, and career.
- About 75 percent indicate that without their assistance their loved one would be institutionalized now or in the future.
- Nearly 90 percent of respondents indicate they have no access to respite care, home health aides, educational tools for care giving, stipends, or medical training-but most indicate such services would be helpful to them in better managing the care of their loved one.

To access the [America's Unsung Heroes: Challenges and Inequities Facing Veteran Caregivers](#) report and for more background on the inequity of federal support provided to veterans injured prior to 9/11, click here: <http://www.unsungheroesinitiative.org/>.

As part of this initiative, forty-three veterans, military and other nonprofit organizations joined DAV in writing Congress a [letter](#) urging passage of the bipartisan *Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act*. To support this critical legislation (H.R. 1472/S. 591), please [click here](#).

Click the link below to log in and send your message:

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/IJ6Sog59LOwvd6hPpg30zg>

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](#)



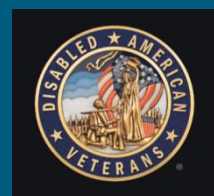
[Final Business Session 2016](#)



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



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



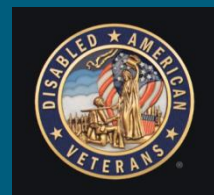
[DAV / DAVA Joint Opening Session](#)



[Service and Legislative Seminar](#)



[Benefits Protection Team Leader Seminar](#)



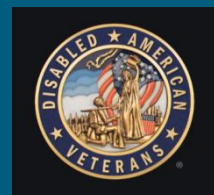
[Benefits Protection Team Seminar](#)



[Woman Veterans Seminar](#)



[Employment Seminar](#)



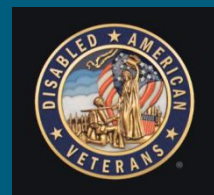
[Voluntary Services Seminar](#)



[Communications Seminar](#)



[Membership Seminar](#)



[IG / Fundraising Seminar](#)



[Outreach 101](#)



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

Dorn VA Medical Center WISH LIST FOR VETERANS

The **Dorn VA Medical Center** does not solicit donations, nor do we allow the name of the VA to be used in solicitations through other organizations. However, for those organizations or individuals who inquire as to our needs, the following is a list that can serve as a guide. Please note **ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE.**

Gift cards (\$20.00 Increments): Generic cards are used to purchase food items, clothing, gas and transportation for indigent Veterans. **No minimum quantity required. We appreciate all donations.**

Patient Clothing (Male and Female), NEW CLOTHING ONLY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Sweat Pants: S, M, L, XL, XXL, & XXXL | 5. Underwear (New) Men's: S, M, L, XL, 2XL and up |
| 2. Sweat Shirts::S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X | 6. Underwear (New) Women's: S, M, L, XL, 2XL and up |
| 3. T-Shirts: S, M, L, XL, XXL | 7. Knit Caps/Hats/Caps/Scarves/Gloves |
| 4. Socks, White Men's and Women's | 8. Sports Bras (New): S, M, L, XL, 2XL |

Patient Comfort Items Individual size: (Please do not send glass)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Reading Glasses | 11. Hand & Body Lotion (Alcohol Free) |
| 2. Disposable Safety Razors | 12. House Shoes/ Shower Shoes (Flip Flops) |
| 3. Shower Caps/Shampoo & Conditioner | 13. Tooth Brushes/Toothpaste |
| 4. Deodorant Men/Woman (No Aerosol Spray) | 14. Feminine Products |
| 5. Combs/Brushes for all hair types | 15. Pajamas (One Size Fits All & 2X , 3X) |
| 6. Shaving Cream and Gel | 16. Laundry Detergent/Bleach |
| 7. Nail Clippers/Emery Board | 17. Denture Kits/Pillbox |
| 8. Body Wash | 18. Craft Kits (Paint by Number) |
| 9. Petroleum Jelly | 19. Large Print Playing Cards |
| 10. Hair Moisturizer | 20. Mouthwash (Alcohol Free) |

Other Items needed:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Audio Books (CD's) | 11. Crossword Puzzle Books (Regular and Large Print) |
| 2. DVD Players/ Movies (DVD's) | 12. Board Games (Checkers, Chess, etc.) |
| 3. E-Reader/Tablets (i.e. Kindle) | 13. Tickets for Entertainment & Sporting Events |
| 4. Music Headphones | 14. Backpacks & Duffle Bags |
| 21. Phone Cards (Generic)/ Gas Cards | 15. Blanket & Sleeping Bags for the Homeless Program |
| 5. Wheelchair Bags | 16. Single Bed Sheets and Pillow Cases |
| 6. Lap Robes 50 X 60 | 17. Trac Phones (No Contract) |
| 7. Magazines (current within last 6 months) | 18. Lock Boxes for Important Papers |
| 8. Books | 19. Instant Soup, Apple Cider, Coffee |
| 9. Candy | 20. Thermos |
| 10. Craft Kits/Paint by Number | 21. Coffee Pot/Tea Pot |

Household Goods/Appliances (New and Gently used):

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Washer/Dryer (New or in very good condition) | 13. Ironing Board |
| 2. Microwave (New) | 14. Vacuum Cleaner |
| 3. Hot Plate | 15. Cleaning Supplies |
| 4. Window Air Conditioner (New) | 16. Mop & Bucket |
| 5. Blanket Bed Sets | 17. Laundry Soap |
| 6. Sheet Sets (Single, Double, Queen) | 18. Dish Soap |
| 7. Pillows (Single, Double, Queen) | 19. Broom & Dust Pan |
| 8. Pot and Pan Sets | 20. Shower Rod & Shower Curtain |
| 9. Eating Utensils & Cutlery | 21. Toaster |
| 10. Plate setting for 4/6 | 22. Crock Pot |
| 11. Glasses & Cups (plastic) | 23. Tupperware |
| 12. Towels/Face Towels/Wash Cloths | 24. Curtain Rod & Curtains |

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



**SOUTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF
Veterans' Affairs**

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