

DAV CHAPTER 27 MONTHLY MEETING 20 JANUARY 2020

James Bucker, broker for Veterans Real Estate was the guest speaker. Mr. Bucker discussed the further plans for supporting the DAV Chapter 27 by donating 20% of his business earned income. Mr. Bucker is working on other branches within the state and US. He is also wanting to hire Veterans and Veterans' family members as agents.

Roll Call: Absent – Joy Leaphart (Adjutant), Glen Heaton (Chaplain), and Kenneth Slach (Officer of the Day) were not present with excused absence. All other officers were present.

Chapter minutes for November were not available for reading.

Treasurers' Report: Frank Gardner introduced the River Valley Disabled American Veterans 501(3)(c). Motion was made to discontinue the support of the River Valley Veterans Association and to transfer our support to the River Valley Disabled American Veterans. Motion was made by Don Wilkinson and seconded by Floyd Warenn.

Ron Sullivan made motion to except the Treasurers' Report and seconded by Marvin Garlach. Vote approved unanimously.

Service Officer's Report was given by the Commander on behalf of the Adjutant. \$3931.07 has been dedicated to assisting Veterans who are having financial difficulty.

Legislative Committee Report: Given by Commander explained

- 1) H.R. 2200 adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, "Parkinson's – like symptoms," and hypertension to the presumptive diseases list for Agent Orange.
- 2) USDAV and Wal-Mart ribbon cutting in North Carolina for VA led Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations (ATLAS)
- 3) VA Telehealth app – [mobile.va.gov/Appstore](https://mobile.va.gov/appstore)
- 4) H.R. 5028, Protecting Benefits for Disabled American Veterans Act.
- 5) 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was passed by the US Senate which will eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency Indemnity Compensation offset by January 2023.
- 6) Down load an app for membership enrollment to the DAV through <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LA6fOG4Fmw>
- 7) Disabled Veteran access to Military Installations.
- 8) Using Kroger Community Rewards Program assists DAVA through <http://www.kroger.com>.

Old Business:

The property purchased at South Arkansas Av and 19th Street boundary has been marked by David Garcia. The progress of the building is in recess pending funding.

Len Cotton reported on the Veterans Commission regarding the Arkansas Veterans Home in that anyone can apply for residency. Any Veteran with 70% + disability is free. The Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock is expanding the grounds adding 80-100 acres associated with Camp Robinson. The Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in Birdeye, AR, near Jonesboro has also expanded.

New Business:

- 1) The development of the River Valley Disabled American Veterans 501 (3)(c) cost was \$320. Frank Gardner made a motion to reimburse the Commander for the \$320 he used to process the paperwork. The motion was seconded by Marvin Gerlach. Approved unanimously.
- 2) Jerry Dronberger has been selected as the Web Master for the DAV Chapter website.
- 3) Frank Gardner is looking into the "Pay-pal" and "Giving page" to ensure donations are being routed to the correct institute.
- 4) Homestead website was paid with the DAV credit card at \$23.99/month.
- 5) Committees that need to be established before the annual elections or will be appointed by the new Commander are:
Grievance Committee: Tom Bleau, Jim Bob Jackson, Marvin Gerlach (current)
Nomination Committee: The following members have volunteered for this committee (Don Wilkinson, Sam Nieman, and John Sweigart)
Building Committee: Tom Bleau, Glen Heaton, Don Wilkinson (current)
VSO Service Committee: Joy Leaphart (current)
Fund Raising Committee: Glen Heaton, Harry Komprood (current)
Events Chairman: Tom Bleau, Jim Bob Jackson (current)
Fishing Tournament: Harry Komprood, Rex Surette (current)
- 6) Jim Bob Jackson has been appointed as the Chapter Historian
- 7) Nursing Home visits is being chaired by Joy Leaphart. The dates are 10-14 February. Visits will include 2 homes per day except 12 February.
- 8) Elections: (a) All positions are available for nomination. Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander(s), Treasurer, Chaplain, Officer of

the Day, Judge Advocate, and Sergeant of Arms. The Commander nor Adjutant are eligible to hold the Treasurer position.

(b) The Commander will appoint the Adjutant, Veterans Service Officer, Van Coordinator and Chapter Committees with the approval of the Chapter members present, with the exception of the Nominating Committee, which shall be elected by the Chapter.

9) Fishing Tournament: (a) A new sponsor, Entergy has committed to \$2500 sponsorship for the 2020 tournament.

(b) With the Chapter's approval, 250 sponsorship packages will be printed.

(c) The Tournament Committee is looking at adding a second and third place winnings for the tournament. First place \$5000, second place \$2000, and third place \$1000. This will only add \$3000 out of the DAV expenses.

A motion to except the proposal to add the \$3000 to the 2020 DAV Big Bass Tournament was made by Don Wilkinson and seconded by Frank Gardner. Motion passed unanimously.

10) Raffle: (a) The rifle purchased for the raffle was \$470. A motion to pay for the rifle was made by Frank Gardner and seconded by Tom Bleau. Motion passed unanimously.

(b) Jim Bob Jackson will be ordering 3500 ticket for this years raffle.

© Jim Bob Jackson advised that the 2020 Raffle will consist of 2 rifles, 1 shot gun, a \$500 prize from the DAV and the 3 night 2 day stay at Harbor Resort.

11) This is the 100th Anniversary of the DAV. The Commander has asked for input as to whether or not we want to create a special event.

12) Veterans' Court: Rex Surette had no new information regard the development of a Veterans' Court in Pope County.

13) PTSD Peer Support Group: Sam Nieman reminded the Chapter of the Peer Support Group meetings.

14) Set ups and events: Party in the Park has been declared unprofitable and we will not be participating this year.

15) A Mobile Service Officer (MSO) Van: John Donovan, State Adjutant announced that the MSO van will no longer be used by the VA. Chapter 27

has been asked if we would like to have the van to encompass a broader audience for claims. The MSO van could be used for events and mobile operations. Tom Bleau and Ron Sullivan have been asked to look into the operating expenses for the vehicle.

- 16) Frank Gardner has been talking with Chili's Restaurant for a day that they will identify a date for the "Give Back" program. The program provides the business the opportunity to give a percentage of their earnings for that day to a non-profit organization.
- 17) Motion for meeting to be adjourned made by Larry Vernon, seconded by Jim Lavendier.