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June 13, 2026

## Meeting Minutes: DAV Second Business Session

**Organization:** Disabled American Veterans, Department of Arizona

**Event:** 103rd Annual Department of Arizona Convention

**Location:** Crowne Plaza Phoenix-Chandler Golf Resort, Chandler, Arizona

**Date/Time:** June 12, 2026; 0900

**Presiding Officer:** Commander Bruce Nogar

**Recorder:** Adjutant Carl Forkner

### Call to Order and Opening Ceremonies

The business session of the Department Convention was called to order. Members and guests participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an opening prayer offered by the Chaplain. The chair declared the meeting open for the transaction of business properly brought before the convention body.

### Roll Call and Procedural Instructions

A roll call of officers was conducted. The chair reminded members that anyone wishing to speak must first be recognized by the chair, come to the microphone, identify themselves as appropriate, and limit remarks to three minutes.

### Credentials Committee Report

The Credentials Committee presented its morning interim report. The report stated that the Department population was 22,841, less Chapter 5, with a voting population of 2,288. Registered chapter votes totaled 1,956; registered votes totaled 13; registered Department officer votes totaled 11; registered Past Department Commander votes totaled 5; and total registered votes were reported as 1,985. The number required to pass by half plus one was reported as 994.

# Resolutions Committee Report

The chair of the Resolutions Committee requested that, after distribution of written copies, only the title and resolving clauses of resolutions be read. The motion was seconded and approved. The committee explained that one resolution required a corrected first reading due to an inconsistency with national and Department bylaws regarding convention venue approval authority.

## First Reading

**AZ-CBL-010:** Amend Bylaws 4.12 and 4.13 concerning the Department Convention Committee. The amendment would establish the composition and responsibilities of the Department Convention Committee, including evaluation of convention venues, accessibility requirements, cost considerations, contract review, readiness reporting, and presentation of recommended venues to the convention body for approval.

## Second Readings and Actions

- **AZ-L-001:** Support awarding Congressional Gold Medals to World War II nurses. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-L-002:** Support responsible, transparent, and accountable use of artificial intelligence in VA claims processing. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-L-003:** Support allowing veterans to change representation at any time during an appeal prior to a Board decision without requiring good cause. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-L-004:** Support full and fair reimbursement of veterans' travel costs for VA medical care, including repeal of deductibles, mileage reimbursement parity with GSA standards, actual-distance reimbursement, elimination of automatic withholding, and annual review of reimbursement rates. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-L-005:** Support reducing barriers to employment, education, and full access to benefits for service-disabled veterans. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-L-006:** Support recognition of minor children under court-ordered legal guardianship as eligible dependents for VA disability compensation and related benefits. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-CBL-001:** Establish reporting and tax compliance requirements for compensation paid by the Department, chapters, units, and subordinate entities. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-CBL-002:** Establish procedures for modification of chapter boundaries. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.

- **AZ-CBL-003:** Modernize governing documents through uniform gender-neutral language and authorize nonsubstantive editorial updates. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-CBL-004:** Amend Regulation 11.2 clarifying Past Department Commander convention benefits. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-CBL-005:** Amend Bylaw 7.1 concerning duties and authorities of the Department Commander. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-CBL-006:** Amend Bylaw 7.8 concerning duties and authority of the Department Adjutant. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-CBL-007:** Amend Bylaw 7.5 concerning duties, authority, and reporting responsibilities of the Department Inspector. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-CBL-008:** Amend Bylaw 7.4 concerning duties and authority of the Department Treasurer. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-CBL-009:** Amend Judge Advocate duties to include Department bylaws responsibilities. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.
- **AZ-CBL-011:** Establish Department Finance Committee review of spend-down plans prior to submission to national headquarters. Motion to adopt was seconded and carried.

The Resolutions Committee concluded its report following the final adopted resolution.

## Officer and Committee Reports

### Senior Vice Commander Report

The Senior Vice Commander reported visits to multiple chapters and outreach visits to the Navajo Nation, as well as attendance at the DAV Mid-Winter Conference, the Honor Society of Arizona awards luncheon, and the ACMF symposium. The report emphasized that chapters operate differently while sharing common priorities such as meetings, service officer work, membership, recruitment, and fundraising.

The Senior Vice Commander thanked chapter commanders and members for their hospitality, noted plans to continue visiting chapters, and recognized the work of Mary, Yvonne, and Department Adjutant Carl Forkner in supporting convention planning. Membership gains of approximately 490 new members since July 1, 2025, were reported, with the top five recruiters accounting for 251 new members. Six chapters were recognized for meeting annual membership goals: Chapters 4, 8, 14, 24, 38, and 39.

Strategic priorities identified included recruiting and developing younger members, strengthening public affairs and media outreach, and establishing regional veteran resource centers in partnership with other veterans service organizations.

## Junior Vice Commander Report

The Junior Vice Commander reported on the DAV transportation system serving veterans needing rides to scheduled medical appointments at Tucson, Phoenix, and Prescott VA hospitals. The report estimated approximately 4,617 volunteer driver hours, nearly 100,000 miles driven, and approximately 2,670 passengers transported.

Challenges identified included recruiting and qualifying enough volunteer drivers, managing logistical and reporting requirements, and acquiring, maintaining, using, returning, and disposing of vehicles. The Junior Vice Commander stated that further review and possible cost-benefit analysis may be needed to determine the future structure of the transportation program.

## Treasurer Report

The Treasurer reported account balances as of the end of March. Service account balances totaled \$310,994.88, general account balances totaled \$1,360,889.43, and total funds were reported as \$1,671,884.31. Additional balances included Vietnam Veterans funds of \$6,578.79 and Korean War funds of \$25,013.41. Encumbered service funds were also identified for Northern District, Southern District, Southern District Ritual Team, and a VTN donation for Tucson.

The proposed 2026–2027 budget was presented to the membership. A motion was made to accept the proposed budget as distributed. The motion was seconded, discussed, and carried. The proposed budget was approved.

## Inspector Report

The Inspector had no report.

## Judge Advocate Report

The Judge Advocate reported that bylaws had been received from Chapters 39 and 27. Chapter 39 received approval after an extended review period, while Chapter 27's submission had been returned for corrections and resubmitted. Chapters were reminded to ensure signature pages contain required signature blocks and to submit documents electronically where possible to preserve document quality.

## Chaplain Report

The Chaplain reported presiding at the funeral of Chapter 26 member Bill Burks.

## Northern District Report

The Northern District report included visits to Chapter 27 in Lake Havasu and Chapter 24 in Sun City. The report recognized the hospitality and activities of both chapters and noted the loss of two members: Rick Foster of Chapter 27 and Robin Hammond of Chapter 24. Condolences were extended to their chapters and families.

## Southern District Report

The Southern District report highlighted continued fundraising, membership growth, auxiliary formation, and program activity among several chapters. Chapter 39 in Oro Valley was recognized for raising \$15,290 for Camp Corral in a nine-week period and for working to form an auxiliary unit. Chapter 26 in Benson was recognized for its perpetual yard sale and approximately \$70,000 in donations to veteran programs, including Fisher House, caregiver support, and other initiatives.

## National Service Office Report

The National Service Office report covered activity from January 1 through May 31. Chapter Service Officers and National Service Officers were recognized for their work. The report stated that there were 31 active Chapter Service Officers in the case management system, with 17 newly certified Chapter Service Officers as of June 10.

The office reported 9,154 claims files reviewed, 2,672 claimant files emailed, 2,062 powers of attorney submitted, 377 interviews, 2,244 phone calls, 4 video interviews, 45 formal rating board appearances, 3,028 informal appearances, 27 notices of disagreement or Board of Veterans' Appeals submissions, 67 appellate briefs, 3,467 uploads, 6,905 new service connections, 1,026 claims for increase, 24 death claims, approximately 31,000 activities, and 40 meetings.

Reported monetary impact included approximately \$290,636,562 in compensation, \$4,431,694 in DIC, \$5,802,070 in pension, and \$77,407 in survivor pension.

## Unfinished Business

Chapter 4 announced that it would reach its 100th anniversary on September 13, 2026 and that a celebration was planned for September 5<sup>th</sup>. No other unfinished business was reported.

## Announcements

- Northern and Southern District caucuses were scheduled for the afternoon.
- The districts were reminded to elect district liaisons as applicable.
- The body was reminded that the at-large member of the Finance Committee would be elected during the following morning's elections.
- Members were encouraged to attend and participate in elections.
- Seminars scheduled after the session included membership and fundraising, adjutant training, and bylaws/DEC training.

## Good of the Order

No matters were raised under Good of the Order.

## Recess

A motion was made and seconded to recess. The motion carried. The Chaplain offered a closing prayer, and the assembly rendered honor to the flag. The meeting recessed until 1:30 p.m. the same day.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Carl B. Forkner  
AVHOF Class of 2025  
Adjutant & CEO  
Department of Arizona  
Disabled American Veterans