2022

 DAV Department of Virginia Awards

Department Awards Committee May 2022

# DAV Department of Virginia Awards

Below is a quick reference to the awards and when they will be presented each year:

**Department Convention:**

**Nominations/Applications Accepted at Spring Conference until May 1st.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year (Al Bartraw, Jr. Award) | Pg. 3 |
| Lifetime Achievement Award (Charlie Craft Award) | Pg. 3 |
| Homeless Veteran Award (Reggie Ruffin Award) | Pg. 4 |
| Outstanding Local Veterans Representative Award | Pg. 4 |
| Outstanding Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Award | Pg. 5 |
| Outstanding Employer of the Year | Pg. 5 |
| Outstanding VAVS Volunteer of the Year | Pg. 5 |

**Department Fall Conference:**

**Nominations/Applications Accepted at After July 15th until October 1st.**

NSO Membership Recruiter of the Year Pg. 6

Membership Recruiter of the Year Pg. 6 Membership Award for the Chapter/Highest Numerical Increase Pg. 6 Membership Award for the Chapter/Highest Percentage Increase Pg. 6 Outstanding Chapter of the Year Pg. 6

Outstanding Community Service by a Chapter (W. Pat White Award) Pg. 7 Outstanding Community Service by a Member (W. Pat White Award) Pg. 7 Outstanding Volunteer Service (Emmanuel N. Vlattas Award) Pg. 7 Outstanding Chapter Service Officer (Phyllis B. Simmons Award) Pg. 7

Nomination Letter Guidelines Pg. 8

Nomination Cover Sheet Pg. 9

# Description, Nomination, & Presentation Process

This contains an explanation, description, and criterion for all awards noted by the Department Constitution and Bylaws. The Awards Committee will only make recommendations on these awards. Any other award recommendations for awards not listed in the Department Constitution and Bylaws should be sent to the Department Commander and the Department Adjutant.

Please note the dates such awards shall be opened for application and the dates they will be presented by the Department.

The award nominations for Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, and the Outstanding Local Veterans Representative Award, will be determined from the applications for the National Commander’s Awards for these two items if a nominee is being recommended for the National award. Generally, those must be received by the National Organization prior to March of each year. Those nominees should be sent to the Department for review and signature approval prior to the end of January each year. However, the Department will still accept awards for the Department Awards Program after March 1st.

All nominations for the awards for the Department Convention, should be submitted to the Department after Spring Conference, with a cut-off date of May 1st each year or as determined by the Awards Committee.

All nominations for the awards for the Department Fall Conference, should be submitted to the Department after Spring Conference, with a cut-off date of October 1st each year or as determined by the Awards Committee.

For awards that require nominations from Chapters, the nomination should include a resume of the nominee or Chapter and if possible, a recommendation from the Chapter and a local community leader.

**Department Convention Awards**

## Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year (Al Bartraw, Jr. Award)

* 1. This Award will be based on an individual DAV Department of Virginia Member and their contributions to veterans, their families, and greater good of the DAV.
	2. Consideration will be given to the following:
		1. Member in good standing
		2. Membership recruiting
		3. Volunteerism (VAVS and LVAP)
		4. Engagement in local community
		5. Recommendation from Chapter
		6. Recommendation from local community leaders
		7. Accomplishments in the past year has greatly benefited veterans and their families.
		8. The Application supplied by the National Organization should be utilized for this award to includes its criterion if the member has been nominated for the National award. If not applying for the National Award an endorsement from the Chapter or member from the Department of Virginia in good standing is sufficient.

## Lifetime Achievement Award (Charlie Craft Award)

* 1. This Award will be based on an individual DAV Department of Virginia Member and their contributions to veterans, their families, and greater good of the DAV.
	2. Consideration will be given to the following:
		1. Member in good standing in the Department of Virginia for at least 10 years
		2. Membership recruiting
		3. Volunteerism (VAVS and LVAP)
		4. Engagement in local community
		5. Recommendation from Chapter
		6. Recommendation from local community leaders
		7. Accomplishments in the past 10 years that have greatly benefited the community, their chapter, and the Department.

## Homeless Veteran Award (Reggie Ruffin Award)

* 1. This award will be presented to the Chapter and/or to an individual Member who has contributed significantly to reduce Veteran Homelessness.
	2. Chapter criterion should include:
		1. Participation in a Homeless Veterans Stand-Down to include service work and volunteering
		2. Donations to the Department for Emergency Assistance
		3. Donations to a local Homeless Veteran Stand-Down
	3. Individual criterion should include:
		1. Participation in a Homeless Veterans Stand-Down to include service work and volunteering.
		2. Local community recognition of individual efforts for Homeless Veterans

## Outstanding Local Veterans Representative Award

* 1. The Application supplied by the National Organization should be utilized for this award to includes its criterion if the member being nominated was also nominated for the National Award. If being nominated only for the Department Award an endorsement from the Chapter or member of the Department of Virginia in good standing is sufficient.
	2. The nomination should include recommendations from Veterans, the Chapter and local community leaders.

## Outstanding Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Award

* 1. This Award will be presented to any local community organization, city, or state agency that provides outreach to disabled veterans.
	2. The nomination should include:
		1. A description of the service and number of veterans served
		2. Impact on the local community
		3. Recommendation from the Chapter.

## Outstanding Employer of the Year

* 1. The Application supplied by the National Organization should be utilized for this award to includes its criterion.
	2. This award will recognize only the employer and not break them down on the size of the company as the National Award does. This award is now available throughout the year on the DAV Employment Resource page. It is the only award that does not require Chapter or Department endorsement.

## Outstanding VAVS Volunteer of the Year

* 1. This award will be based on the previous FY reports of VAVS Hours.
	2. Each VAVS Chair will be responsible for nominating at least one volunteer from their VA facility.

**Department Fall Conference Awards**

## Membership Awards

* 1. All Membership Awards will be based on the actual reports from the DAV National Membership Department. The DAV Fiscal Year is from July 1 to the following June 30. The reports will not be completed by the time of the Annual June Department Convention. Therefore, all Membership Awards will be presented at the Department Fall Conference based on the previous Membership year.
	2. The Department shall present an award to the individual recruiting the most DAV members within the department. This will be broken out into two categories. One for National Service Officers (NSOs) and one for the individual Department Member.
	3. An award shall be presented to the Chapter with the highest numerical increase of new members over goal based on the population summary.
	4. An award shall be presented to the Chapter with the highest percentage increase of new members and can be presented to a Chapter even if they do not meet membership goal.
	5. An award shall be presented to any Chapter with less than 500 members that has shown an increase in Membership Recruiting regardless of meeting goal and is significantly active in there community.

## Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award

* 1. This award will be presented at the Department Fall Conference. It will utilize Membership Reports and Chapter Officer Reports from the previous year.
	2. The criterion will include:
		1. Membership Recruitment (Did the Chapter meet or exceed its goal)
		2. Meeting Activities (Did the Chapter meet according to its C&B)
		3. Annual Financial Report (accurate and Timely)
		4. Forget-me-not/Golden Corral Fundraising
		5. LVAP Hours
		6. Veteran Outreach
		7. Donations to the Department Service Commission or other Programs
		8. Donations to National DAV
		9. Community Outreach

## Outstanding Community Service by a Chapter and Member (W. Pat White Award)

* 1. This award will be presented at the Department Fall Conference.
	2. The criterion will be based on:
		1. Chapter/Member involvement in its community (description of the service(s) and/or the event(s) in question)
		2. Impact of the Community Service on Veterans (did the community service provide benefit to area veterans)

## Outstanding Volunteer Service Award (Emmanuel N. Vlattas Award)

* 1. This award will be presented at the Department Fall Conference and will be based on the previous FY reports.
	2. As there is a current award for VAVS Volunteers, this award will be based solely on LVAP Hours. Two awards will be given as follow:
		1. Individual Award for LVAP Hours
		2. Chapter Award for LVAP Hours

## Outstanding Chapter Service Officer Award (Phyllis B. Simmons Award)

* 1. This award will be presented at the Department Fall Conference. The previous FY LVAP reports, Membership Reports, CSO Certification, and NSO Office reporting will be included in the criteria.
	2. The criterion will be based on:
		1. The CSO must be a member in good standing from a Chapter in good standing.
		2. The CSO must be nominated by the respective Chapter and endorsed by the Chapter Commander and/or Adjutant.
		3. Hours of Service Work
		4. Number of Interviews/Claims
		5. Membership Recruitment
		6. Outreach events attended outside of normal Service Work hours

Follow these suggested guidelines to format a nomination letter:

* Salutation/Greeting – Addressed to the person who will be reviewing the nomination.
* Paragraph 1 – Explain your connection with the nominee – include how you know the person and why you are qualified to be recommending him/her
* Paragraph 2 – Give a detailed description of their qualifications. Choose few points and give specific examples to reinforce those points.
* Paragraph 3 – Address specific skills that the nominee has in connection to the award.
* Paragraph 4 – State “I highly recommend” or “recommend without reservation”. Include a summary of the reasons, do not introduce any new concepts or ideas.
* Conclusion – Include a statement reinstating your faith in the nominee and offer to provide more information if required.
* Proofread your writing - Avoid use of too many pronouns and run‐on sentences
* Check for grammatical errors and misspelled words
* Have colleagues review the nomination for thoroughness and accuracy prior to submitting it.

DAV DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA NOMINATION FORM

To the Chapter Commanders and Chapter Awards Committee, please submit this form as a cover letter to your award nominations.

1. Name of nominee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Chapter assigned: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Award nominated for: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Department Convention Award: ( ); Department Spring Award ( ); Department

Fall Award ( )

1. Nomination submitted by: Chapter Commander \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Awards Committee Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_