

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, 5 ALAMO  
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
CHAPTER Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 2024**

The May 2024 Chapter meeting was held at Rolling Oak Baptist Church, 6401 Wenzel Road, San Antonio, TX 78233.

**Pre-meeting Guest Speakers:** None

**Meeting Opened:** Commander, Kathy Kaberides opened the meeting at 10:00 am.

**Opening Prayer:** Chaplain, Clyde Bragg

**Pledge:** Commander, Kathy Kaberides

**Officers present:**

- Commander, Kathy Kaberides
- Sr. Vice Commander, Joseph Harrison, Jr.
- Jr. Vice Commander, James Francisco
- Adjutant, Donna Nious
- Treasurer, Gwendolyn Thompson
- Judge Advocate, Gwendolyn Thompson
- Chaplain, Clyde T. Bragg, Jr
- Officer-of-the-Day, Donald Smith

**Officers excused:** Sergeant-at-Arms Rickey Vasquez and Immediate Past Commander Luis Baez

**Officers absent:** None.

**Guest:** Past Commander Len Arroyo – Installing Officer

There was a quorum for conducting business.

**Reading of minutes:**

Reading of minutes from April 20, 2024, Chapter meeting.

**Motion:** Dispense with the reading of the April 20, 2024, Chapter meeting minutes because members were provided with a hard copy of the minutes.

- Are there any omissions or corrections? No

Motion to approve the April 20, 2024, chapter meeting minutes:

- Motion made by: Albert Owens
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Lund
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

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The meeting will now be turned over to the Nominating Committee for nominations and elections of officers. (Markus Carter, Susan Allick, and excused Vaughn Caudill)

Chair, Nominating Committee Marcus Carter described the nominating process for the different officer positions in the order in which the officers are listed in the Constitution & Bylaws: Commander, Sr Vice Commander, Jr Vice Commander, and Treasurer.

Nominating Committee Chair, Marcus Carter described the election process and procedure.

Nominating Committee Chair Marcus Carter provided a report of the nominees by position:

- Commander: Kathleen Kaberides
- Treasurer: Gwendolyn Thompsom
- Sr Vice Commander: Joseph Harrison Jr.
- Jr Vice Commander: Karla Jordan

**Commander – Kathleen Kaberides**

- All in favor say aye: Majority of membership.
- All opposed: None
- Passed: Kathleen Kaberides is elected Commander.

**Sr Vice Commander – Joseph Harrison Jr**

- All in favor say aye: Majority of membership.
- All opposed: None
- Passed: Joseph Harrison Jr is elected Sr Vice Commander.

**Jr Vice Commander – Karla Jordan**

- All in favor say aye: Majority of membership.
- All opposed: None
- Passed: Karla Jordan is elected Jr Vice Commander.

**Treasurer – Gwendolyn Thompson**

- All in favor say aye: Majority of membership.
- All opposed: None
- Passed: Gwendolyn Thompson is elected Treasurer.

Commander Kaberides thanked and released the Nominating Committee.

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**Commander Kaberides then took over the meeting and requested a motion be made for the following position appointments:**

**Chaplain Clyde Bragg Jr**

- Motion made by: Bob Broff
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Albert Owens
- Any discussion: None
- **Motion Passed:** Clyde Bragg Jr is appointed Chaplain.

**Adjutant Donna Nious**

- Motion made by: Gwendolyn Thompson
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Larry Whatley
- Any discussion: None
- **Motion Passed:** Donna Nious is appointed Adjutant.

**Judge Advocate Gwendolyn Thompson**

- Motion made by: Clyde Bragg Jr
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Mel Allick
- Any discussion: None
- **Motion Passed:** Gwendolyn Thompson is appointed Judge Advocate.

**Sergeant-At-Arms Rickey Vasquez**

- Motion made by: Willie Johnson
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Don Smith
- Any discussion: None
- **Motion Passed:** Rickey Vasquez is appointed Sergeant-At-Arms.

**Officer-of The Day Donald Smith**

- Motion made by: Peter Kaberides
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Atwell Rose
- Any discussion: None
- **Motion Passed:** Donald Smith is appointed Officer-of-The Day.

**Women Veterans Advocate Priscilla Mayfield**

- Motion made by: Donna Nious
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jeffrey Berg
- Any discussion: None
- **Motion Passed:** Priscilla Mayfield is appointed Women Veterans Advocate.

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**Chair, Veterans Assistant Committee Margarita Hernandez**

- Motion made by: Donna Nious
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Diana Barrera
- Any discussion: None
- **Motion Passed:** Margarita Hernandez is appointed Chair, Veterans Assistance Committee.

Commander Kaberides then announced that “if there is no objection, we will dispense with the business until after the installation of the officers.” Hearing none, it was so ordered.

**Past Commander Len Arroyo installed the elected and appointed Officers:**

- Commander: Kathleen Kaberides
- Sr Vice Commander: Joseph Harrison Jr.
- Jr Vice Commander: Karla Jordan
- Treasurer: Gwendolyn Thompson
- Chaplain: Clyde Bragg Jr.
- Adjutant: Donna Nious
- Judge Advocate: Gwendolyn Thompson
- Sergeant-At-Arms: Rickey Vasquez
- Officer-Of-The-Day: Donald Smith
- Women Veterans Advocate: Priscilla Mayfield
- Chair, Veterans Assistant Committee: Margarita Hernandez

**Elections and Appointments were completed.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** The members were provided the handouts, and it goes through April 30, 2024.

- The treasurer explained the handouts to the members.
  - Bank reconciliation report as of April 2024. (encl 1)
  - Monthly Financial Report by line category April 2024 (encl 2)

**Chaplain’s Report:**

Reports of sickness and distress. Chaplain Bragg reported that our 100-year-old member Vito Cellini passed away on April 29, 2024, at home.

Names added to the prayer list: Susan Allick, Diana Barrera, Kendrick Turner, Gene Sloat and Bob Broff.

**Introduction of new members:** No new members.

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**Transfer Requests**

**Motion:** Requests to Transfer memberships for Keven Lomax Sr, Randy Culbertson, and Victor Mc Brooks.

- Motion made by: Ann Gayer
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Sue Beasey
- Any discussion: None
- Motion Passed

**First Time Visitors:** Andres Smith, US Army; Annie Smith, US Army; David Lee

**Sergeant-at-Arm's Report:**

There was a total of 51 members present. We also had 3 guests present.

**Communications:** Adjutant Nious read the following correspondences:

- Letter from Homes for Our Troops. Please join them to present the keys to new specially adapted homes for Army Major Yancy Baer and Sergeant Jose Lopez in Spring Branch, TX on Friday June 7, 2024, at 9:00 am and 11:00 am respectively.
- Letter from Audie Murphy VA Volunteer Service. Thanks for the \$30 donation of canteen cards for the CLC Bingo for the month of June.
- We received a \$50 donation from Mr. Douglas Chilek from Boerne, Tx.

**Reports:**

- Membership Report: – Full Lifetime members/Total members are 5598/5922; Goal was 5,798 and Goal % is 102.14% - we have exceeded our goal.
- Benefits Protection Team Lead: Sr. Vice Commander Harrison, Jr reminded membership to join CAN and support the legislations.
- Veterans Assistance Committee: James Francisco reported that the committee assisted one veteran with utility bills.
- Hospitality Committee: Deferred to next meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Nomination for National Convention delegates**

**Motion:** Request a motion for three (3) Chapter members to be nominated as delegates/alternate delegates for the National Convention on Aug 1-6, 2024, in Phoenix Arizona.

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**Nominees**: Delegates: Kathy Kaberides, Donna Nious, Joseph Harrison, Jr. Alternate Delegates: Peter Kaberides, Larry Whatley, and Albert Owens.

- Motion made by: James Francisco
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jeffrey Berg
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

**New Business:**

**1. Nomination for Audit Committee members**

**Motion:** Request a motion to approve the appointment of (3) members to the Audit Committee. (Audit Committee will meet in July after the convention to ensure all the checks have cleared for the FY)

Commander Kaberides asked for a motion to appoint Len Arroya, Larry Whatley, and Mel Allick to the Audit Committee for this FY.

- **Motion** made by: Ann Gayer
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Donna Nious
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

**2. VG Clark Cancer Relief Trust Fund**

The Judge Advocate provided a summary of the trust fund requirements. (encl 3) After a meeting with Commander Kaberides, the judge advocate, and two Frost Bank representatives, it was determined that changes to the process to disseminate the funds to veterans was urgently needed. Frost Bank's maintenance fee is \$250/ month, total \$3,000 annually. In the past three years, there have been only three (3) veterans who received money for a total of \$150.

Recommendations for changes to the process the trust fund:

- a. Change veterans suffering with cancer TO veterans with active cancer, not in remission.
- b. Change confined to any Army, Navy, or Veteran Hospital TO veterans receiving active cancer treatment as an inpatient or outpatient basis.
- c. Change to provided for minor luxuries TO for the needs of the veteran or family.
- d. Change for indigent veterans TO veteran in financial hardship.
- e. Change amount is restricted to \$50/month/veteran TO \$250/month/veteran.
- f. Restrict length of time for veteran receipt of funds to six months.

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**Motion:** Motion to approve changes to the VG Clark Cancer Relief Trust Fund:

- Motion made by: Diana Barrera
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Guido Libertini
- Any discussion? Yes. Members agreed that we should offer at least \$250/month as Frost Bank maintenance fees were the same. A VG Clark Relief Cancer Trust Fund committee would determine if the criteria were met for a veteran to receive the funds. The judge advocate would develop a form, which incorporated the listed requirements to distribute the funds.
- Motion passed.

**Motion:** Motion to designate authorized signatories for the chapter bank account at Wells Fargo Bank:

Treasurer Gwendolyn Thompson  
Commander Kathleen Kaberides  
Sr Vice Commander Joseph Harrison, Jr.

- Motion made by: James Francisco
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: E. G. Mais
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

**Motion:** Motion to designate authorized signatories for the chapter bank account at Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union:

Treasurer Gwendolyn Thompson  
Commander Kathleen Kaberides  
Sr Vice Commander Joseph Harrison, Jr.

- Motion made by: Mel Allick
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Marcus Carter
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

**Motion:** Motion to authorize the Treasurer (Gwendolyn Thompson) to open a Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union Credit Card.

- Motion made by: Donna Nious
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Margarita Hernandez

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- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

**Good-of-the-Order:**

- Four members, Larry Whatley, Joseph Harrison Jr, Gwendolyn Thompson, and Kathy Kaberides completed Level II Chapter Service Officer Training on May 8, 2024.
- Four members Priscilla Mayfield, E. G. Mais, Bradley Wallace, and Karla Jordan completed Level I Chapter Service Officer Training on May 8, 2024.
- Joseph Harrison, Jr, Wayne Lund, and Kathy Kaberides celebrated Fiesta with Patriot Heights residents on April 18, 2024.
- Larry Whatley, Ellie, and Kathy Kaberides were on hand at the UTSA military event on April 17, 2024, speaking with students about VA benefits.
- Peter and Kathy Kaberides and Clyde Bragg represented the chapter at the Unaccompanied Burial at Ft. Sam Houston on April 24, 2024.
- Gwendolyn Thompson, Donna Nious, Clyde Bragg Jr, Peter Kaberides, and Kathy Kaberides were at the Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser at Sam's Club on April 25, 2024.
- Peter Kaberides and Wayne Lund attended a luncheon at Patriot Heights, hosted by the Army Grunt Museum for the military residents on April 25, 2024.
- Congratulation to member David Huereca on receiving his Doctorate of Biblical Exposition.
- Congratulation to DAVA member Bette Huereca on receiving her Doctorate of Biblical Exposition.
- Gwendolyn Thompson received her 750-hour Volunteer Pin.
- San Antonio Coalition for Veteran and Families (SACVF) will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual LTC Hector Villarreal Memorial Golf Tournament on Monday May 20, 2024, at Ft Sam Houston Golf Course. Volunteers are needed.
- There will be a celebration of life in memory of Vito Cellini at the VFW on Austin Highway on June 1, 2024, at 5:00 pm. All are welcome.
- **Are there any birthdays and/or anniversaries** for the month of May: Keven Lomax- May 4, Edward Nious - May 9, Donna Nious - May 10, Joseph Harrison Jr – May 14; Ed & Donna Nious Anniversary – May 11<sup>th</sup>; Edward Galvez Anniversary – May 16 (54 years).
- **50/50 Drawing:** \$75.50 won by Peter Kaberides
- Two items were donated for auction: bracelet and 2XL DAV button-down shirt. Total donations were \$17.00.

Upcoming Chapter events:

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Next Meeting: July 20, 2024, at Rolling Oaks Baptist Church, 6401 Wenzel Road,  
San Antonio, Tx 78233.

Memorial Service: A moment of silence for our departed comrades.

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Clyde T. Bragg, Jr.

Meeting adjourned: at 11:47 am

Donna L. Nious

Donna Nious  
Adjutant, DAV Alamo Chapter 5

Date 20 June 2024

Kathleen Kaberides

Kathleen Kaberides  
Commander, DAV Alamo Chapter 5

Date 20 June 2024