

National Sons of AMVETS 2017-2018 National Convention

Pre-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 9, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 9:07 AM

Invocation: Chaplain Patrick Holcombe

Posting of Colors: Provost Marshal Richard Hines

Pledge of Allegiance: Provost Marshal Richard Hines

Reading of Sons of AMVETS Preamble: Commander Mark Serpis

We, the Sons of AMVETS (American Veterans), fully realizing our responsibility to our parents, Community, State and Nation associate ourselves for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- To safeguard the principles of freedom, liberty, and justice for all;
- To promote the cause of peace and goodwill amongst nations;
- To maintain the freedom of our country;
- To preserve the fundamentals of democracy;
- To perpetuate the friendships and associations of the AMVET organization;
- And to dedicate ourselves to the cause of mutual assistance...this by the Grace of God.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND NECMEN:

National Officers		Wed.
Commander:	Mark Serpis	P
1 st Vice Commander:	Harold Collins	P
2 nd Vice Commander:	Ken Barber	P
3 rd Vice Commander:	Richard Thibodeau	E
Finance Officer:	Daniel K. Briggs, PNC	P
Judge Advocate:	David Spencer, PNC	P
Provost Marshal:	Richard Hines	P
Immediate Past Commander:	David Strittmather, PNC	P
Chaplain:	Patrick Holcombe	P
VAVS Coordinator:	William Gerry	A
Legislative Director:	Doug Brown	P
Alternate Legislative Director:	Tracy Diggs	P
Public Relations Officer:	Don Finnegan, PNC	P
Historian:	Walt Starrett	A
Junior AMVETS Coordinator:	Paul Speigle	E

Inspector General:	Charlie Summerall, PNC	E
Webmaster:	Mick Ciesla	P
Sons Coordinator:	Robert Quick	A
National Executive Committeemen		
Alaska:	Mike Gagne	P
Arizona:	Ben Howard	P
Florida:	Mike X. Marecek	P
Illinois:	Christopher Podalski	E
Indiana:	Tracy Diggs	P
Iowa:	Jim Myers	P
Kentucky:	Robert Risen	A
Maine:	Eric Rodzen	P
Maryland:	Jim Payne	P
Massachusetts:	Kenneth Moniz	P
Michigan:	John Aldrich	P
Missouri:	Jack Vogel	P
New York:	William Clemens	P
North Carolina:	Gene Rabb	E
Ohio:	Randy Smith	P
Pennsylvania:	Jeffrey Todd	P
Texas:	Ronnie Rodgers	A
Virginia:	Melvin Smith	P
Wisconsin:	Jim Fabian	P

Approval of Agenda: Commander Mark Serpis

Motion to adopt the agenda as printed by Judge Advocate David Spencer, PNC, seconded by Finance Officer Daniel K. Briggs, PNC. Motion Carried

Appointment of Deputy Provost Marshals for the Convention: Commander Mark Serpis

John Reeder from IN and Eugene Haines from PA were appointed as Deputy Provost Marshals.

Bills and Communications: Finance Officer Daniel K. Briggs, PNC

No Bills and Communications at this time. All Bills have been paid so far. Finance Officer Briggs reminded all to submit Expense Vouchers within 30 days. Also, he will be working on the Nat'l SOA's accounts to have the books ready for the Audit by the 1st of September.

Officers and NEC Reports: Commander: Mark Serpis

Reports suspended until Convention Business Session.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Formal Appointment of Scrapbook Judging Committee:

Due to Walt Starret, Historian's absence, the Scrapbook Judging Committee appointment was tabled.

Other Business:

Commander Serpis announced that the Dinner Boat Cruise is sold out. It has been an overwhelming response. On the first deck, there will be 206 people from AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary and SOA. On the second deck, 50 to 60 people are expected. The Department of Alaska has reserved 30 seats. It is preferable to wear business casual attire. There are number of inquiries for buying tickets. It will be best to contact Paula Racey at "Spirit of Norfolk." It was commented that the deadline to purchase ticket was July 1st. There will be a D.J. and dancing.

CBL Committee Meeting:

Judge Advocate Dave Spencer updated all on the change of time for the meeting. It will be held at 10 AM instead of 11 AM in the Elizabeth Board Room.

Picture with Junior AMVETS:

Immediate Past Commander David Strittmather requested that during break for all SOA to join the Junior AMVETS for a picture to be taken since the Junior's flags were donated by National SOA.

Membership Committee:

Finance Officer Briggs informed the members on the recommendations from the Membership Committee meeting held on Monday, August 7th. The members present were Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC, 2nd Vice Commander Richard Thibodeau and Judge Advocate Dave Spencer. After review of the existing Membership Program and its issues on export and import of data, it was decided to recommend a web-based membership program to have a single database and to roll out the new program for 2019 membership year. In order to accomplish this, The National Department will increase the dues from \$11.00 to \$13.00 per year (please refer to Addendum I, "Floor Resolution #2017-14." It was also noted that the current Membership Program is causing several problems for SOA's A.A., Nancy Moran. Judge Advocate Dave Spencer distributed copies of this Floor Resolution for all members to review and vote on Friday.

NECmen Tom Serianni FL asked if the vote would be 2/3rd as some of the items were already in the Bylaws. Mr. Clemens and Commander Serpis commented that the vote on #2017-14 would have to be 100%.

Benediction:

Chaplain Patrick Holcombe

Retiring of Colors:

Provost Marshal Richard Hines

50/50 Raffle Winner:

The winning number's last digits "730."

Adjournment:

9:30 AM

National Sons of AMVETS 2017-2018 National Convention

First Business Session Thursday, August 10, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 2:00 PM

Invocation: Chaplain Patrick Holcombe

Posting of Colors: Provost Marshal Richard Hines

Pledge of Allegiance: Provost Marshal Richard Hines

Reading of Sons of AMVETS Preamble: Commander Mark Serpis

We, the Sons of AMVETS (American Veterans), fully realizing our responsibility to our parents, Community, State and Nation associate ourselves for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- To safeguard the principles of freedom, liberty, and justice for all;
- To promote the cause of peace and goodwill amongst nations;
- To maintain the freedom of our country;
- To preserve the fundamentals of democracy;
- To perpetuate the friendships and associations of the AMVET organization;
- And to dedicate ourselves to the cause of mutual assistance...this by the Grace of God.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICER, NEC MEN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS:

National Officers		Thu	Fri AM	Fri PM	Sat
Commander:	Mark Serpis	P	P		P
1 st Vice Commander:	Harold Collins	P	P		P
2 nd Vice Commander:	Ken Barber	P	P		P
3 rd Vice Commander:	Richard Thibodeau	P	P		P
Finance Officer:	Daniel K. Briggs, PNC	P	P		P
Judge Advocate:	David Spencer, PNC	P	P		P
Provost Marshal:	Richard Hines	P	P		P
Immediate Past Commander:	David Strittmather, PNC	P	P		P
Chaplain:	Patrick Holcombe	P	P		P
VAVS Coordinator:	William Gerry	P	P		P
Legislative Director:	Doug Brown	P	P		P
Alternate Legislative Director:	Tracy Diggs	P	P		P
Public Relations Officer:	Don Finnegan, PNC	P	P		E
Historian:	Walt Starrett		P		P
Junior AMVETS Coordinator:	Paul Speigle	P	E		P

Inspector General:	Charlie Summerall, PNC	E	E		E
Webmaster:	Mick Ciesla	P	P		P
Sons Coordinator:	Robert Quick	E	E		E
National Executive Committeemen					
Alaska:	Mike Gagne	P	P		P
Arizona:	Ben Howard	P	P		E
Florida:	Mike X. Marecek	P	P		P
Illinois:	Christopher Podalski	E	E		E
Indiana:	Tracy Diggs	P	P		P
Iowa:	Jim Myers	P	P		P
Kentucky:	Robert Risen	P	P		P
Maine:	Eric Rodzen	P	P		P
Maryland:	Jim Payne	P	P		P
Massachusetts:	Kenneth Moniz	P	P		P
Michigan:	John Aldrich	P	P		P
Missouri:	Jack Vogel	P	P		P
New York:	William Clemens	P	P		P
North Carolina:	Gene Rabb	E	E		E
Ohio:	Randy Smith	P	P		P
Pennsylvania:	Jeffrey Todd	P	P		P
Texas:	Michael Stanfield	P	P		P
Virginia:	Melvin Smith	P	P		P
Wisconsin:	Jim Fabian	P	P		E
Past National Commanders					
1983-84: Roger Damron (OH)					
1984-85: Allan McKinney (OH)					
1985-86: James Brown (MD)					
1986-88: John Creech (MD)					
1988-89: Daniel Connolly (ME)					
1989-90: Richard Mooney (PA)					
1990-91: George Burrell (MD)					
1991-92: Stanley Mellott (PA)					
1992-93, 1996-97: Stephen M. Turner (MI)					
1993-95: Charles Kyser (OH)					
1995-96: Randy Greene (OH)					
1997-98: Patrick Morgan (OH)					
1998-99: Jim Burlison (TX)					
1999-00: Rene Valley (OH)					
2000-01: Ray Hutchinson (OH)					
2001-02: Larry Combs (OH)					
2002-03: David Helmuth (MA)					
2003-04: Charlie Summerall (FL)					
2004-05: Robert Grose (OH)					
2005-06: Mike Mrzlak (IA)					
2006-07: Dale Byrd (OH)					
2007-08: Grady "Jay" Williams II (OH)					
2008-09: Ben Haynes, Jr. (MO)					
2009-10: David Spencer (MA)					

2010-11: Robert Hammett (IN)	P	P		P
2011-12: John Barnhill (MI)				
2012-13: Jon Keith (VA)	P	P		P
2013-14: Donald Finnegan (IN)	P	P		E
2014-15: Daniel K. Briggs (OH)	P	P		P
2015-16: David R. Strittmather (OH)	P	P		P

First Credentials Report:

1st Vice Commander Harold Collins

It was noted that there were 84 registered members.

PNC Robert Grose questioned the way the Credentials Report are being done.

Guests:

Ms. Dee Bagget FL 1992, National Auxiliary 3rd Vice, PAWS with A Cause, National Community Service, thanked SOA's for the money donated. This is a great community relations organization to helping veterans needing assistance. The service dogs are trained to help the hearing impaired, patients suffering from epilepsy, autism, etc. Additional information is available on the 3rd floor.

U.S. Army veteran Kevin Stone and his service dog, Jedi stopped-by. Mr. Stone retired from service after a spinal cord injury. Thanked the Sons for all their support and donations. In addition shared with all the two most important service dogs that made a difference in his life. Mambo a 50/50 hybrid mix of golden retriever and yellow Labrador retriever. Mambo along with helping Mr. Stone with physical tasks and his mobility issues has empowered Mr. Stone to rediscover a sense of well-being since leaving the Armed Forces. Jonah, his first dog, a blond Labrador retriever motivated him to overcome his injury and become who he is today. Most of all, these service dogs are trained to help people living with physical and psychological disabilities. They are trained to perform a variety of tasks, from pulling a wheelchair to fetching dropped items. One of his concerns is to find a special cemetery for these dedicated service dogs that help thousands of veterans. Once again, Mr. Stone thanked the Sons for their donations and assistance to this cause.

Sad Sacks:

Ms. Tina Lumpkins thanked Commander Serpis for an outstanding job and gave him a gift.

Mr. Eddie Lumpkins outgoing Saddest also thanked Sons for a great job. Presented a gift of a bottle of liquor in a boot to Commander Serpis.

Tom Payton, Saddest from FL Post 1992 who is a snowbird from Ohio mentioned of the Sons is a great organization. Also, the contribution the Sons bring to make AMVETS better. Please let the Sad Sacks know whenever the Sons need their assistance.

Ms. Cassie Slaney, AMVETS White Clover Princess, thanked the Sons for inviting her to be a guest speaker at the meeting. As a volunteer at VA hospitals, she is very happy helping veterans and their families. Ms. Slaney gave a brief overview on what is required to become an AMVETS White Clover Princess. Also, her plans on becoming a nurse to help those who have served.

Motion to accept 1st Credentials Report by Judge Advocate Dave Spencer, PNC, seconded by Ken Barber, 2nd Vice Commander. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Convention Rules: Judge Advocate David Spencer, PNC

Judge Advocate David Spence, PNC highlighted the Convention Rules noted on pages 7-14.

Motion to accept Adoption of the Convention Rules by Jeffrey Todd PA, seconded by Tracy Diggs, IN. Motion Carried

Approval of Agenda: Commander Mark Serpis

Motion to accept Agenda by William Clemens NY, seconded by Judge Advocate David Spencer, PNC. Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes of Spring NEC:

Motion to approve Minutes of Spring NEC by Judge Advocate David Spencer, PNC, seconded by Ken Barber, 2nd Vice Commander. Motion Carried

Bills and Communications: Finance Officer Daniel K. Briggs, PNC

None.

Guests:

Matt Bruner and David Schwartz representatives from Robert W. Baird & Co. Mr. Bruner from Columbus, OH thanked the Sons and expressed what an honor it is to work with a wonderful organization. Mr. Schwartz from Milwaukee, WI is very much involved with the AMVETS and feels he is part of the AMVETS family. The Baird Company focuses on shareholders and wealth management. Mr. Schwartz reviewed Sons investments growth throughout the years. Thanked the Sons for inviting them to speak and wished everyone on enjoyable Convention.

Officers Reports:

Commander: Mark Serpis

The Commander's Report is in the Convention Book and he highlighted on his travel experience on travel log, "Commander's Travel 2016-2017" section of the report. The Commander added that communication at AMVETS HQ is on-going since Sons A.A. attends the meetings and distributes the minutes to National Sons E-Board so that all are informed on AMVETS and Ladies Auxiliary activities as well as they are updated on National Sons information.

Motion to accept all Reports at end of Officers and NECmen Reports. by Harold Collins, 1st Vice Commander, seconded by Finance Officer Daniel K. Briggs, PNC. Motion Carried

Guests:

National Junior AMVETS' President Ivy Cook presented a gift to Commander Serpis. Ms. Cook's project was to raise money for the organization, "PAWS with a Cause Charities." They raised \$950.00. This charity organization helps Dogs for people with physical disabilities such as hearing loss, seizures and autism. The Nat'l Jr. AMVETS are celebrating their 50th Anniversary so this is a very special year for them. On behalf of the Sons, Commander Serpis gave the Jr. AMVETS a donation towards "PAWS with a Cause Charities."

Ms. Cook introduced the new President Courtney Cummings for 2017-2018. Ms. Cummings' project is to support St. Jude's organization that gives children suffering from childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases another chance. At this same, Ms. Cummings introduced the new Nat'l Junior AMVETS Officers for 2017-2018:

Courtney Cummings, National Jr. AMVETS President

Jovan Rosado, National Sr. Vice President (Membership)

Joseph Stopyra, National Jr. Vice President (Programs)

Lainey Peacock, National Chaplain

Abby Lewis, National Secretary

Aaron Hinton, National Treasurer

Joy Stopyra, National Sgt-At-Arms

Jamal Landers, National P.R.O.

Spencer Welsh, National Parliamentarian

The Nat'l Juniors AMVETS graciously thanked the Sons for their Junior Flags and asked if there is anything they "can do for the Sons" to please let them know.

1st Vice Commander: Harold Collins

First Vice Commander Collins noted that his report starts on page 34 in the Convention Book. Mr. Collins updated the Sons on AMVETS project regarding IRS Form 990's filings for IRS exemption status. It is necessary for all Sons Squadrons to renew their 990's form with the IRS. AMVETS Harry Neal, Nat'l Membership Director is heading this project. First Vice Commander noted the AMVETS Nat'l Service Foundation EIN was revoked due AMVETS not following IRS regulations.

With regards to the Membership Program with duplicate ID's, the 1st Vice Commander stressed to all Sons responsible when issuing membership cards not to create/add ID numbers. ID numbers are only issued by Nat'l SOA HQ.

2nd Vice Commander: Ken Barber

Second Vice Commander Barber reviewed his report in the Convention Book. The Project Reports have surpassed previous years (i.e.\$10,272,304.87 for this year with an increase of \$1,721,153.00). In addition, Mr. Barber feels that more can be done and encouraged all Sons to utilized the Online Reporting tool. Mr. Barber will be available tomorrow after the meeting to assist anyone needing training.

Mr. William Clemens from NY noted that the category is not in the book.

Second Vice Commander requested for Mike Ciesla, Web Master to place it on the website at end of this week.

3rd Vice Commander: Richard Thibodeau

Third Vice Commander Thibodeau's report is in the Convention Book on page 62. Also, the Convention Pins are available. Immediate Past Commander Strittmather asked about the flags on the pins and Mr. Thibodeau said that the SOA Pins have Nautical Flags and read "Sons of AMVETS 2017 National Convention Norfolk VA." Also, the shirts have the same logo.

Finance Officer: Daniel K. Briggs, PNC

Finance Officer Briggs announced he has available Expense Voucher forms. The Provost Marshal Hines passed them out. Also, Mr. Briggs reminded the Sons to submit completed Expense Vouchers within 30 days of their travel for reimbursement. The Proposed Budget for 2017-2018 was distributed so that Sons can review it ahead since it will be voted on Friday. Mr. Briggs reviewed the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual for September 2015 through August 2016 that is in the Convention Book. Mr. Brigg's report was postponed until tomorrow's meeting (Friday, August 11th).

A question was raised regarding Income codes for the following: 424 – Undergarment Program, 426 – Sweats for Vets Program and 428 – Aid and Support. Finance Officer Briggs said, "The

Sweats for Vets and Undergarment and Aid and support income line items are just an offset for the expense side.”

Judge Advocate: David Spencer, PNC

Judge Advocate Spencer’s report is in the Convention Book on page 67. Mr. Spencer will review the recently submitted Standing Rules for the Departments of Pennsylvania and Ohio. Also, for Sons to review recently handed-out Floor Resolution #3017-14 regarding Dues Increase. This Resolution will be voted on Friday, August 11th.

Comment made by William Gerry -- FL – Standing Rules did not receive. Immediate Past Commander Dave Strittmather handed a copy since Provost Marshal Hines was not available.

Provost Marshal: Richard Hines

Provost Marshal’s report is in the Convention Book on page 69.

Immediate Past National Commander: David T. Strittmather, PNC

Please refer to PNC Strittmather’s report in the Convention Book on page 70.

Sons Coordinator: Robert Quick

Excused. No report.

Chaplain: Patrick Holcombe

Chaplain Holcombe’s report is in the Convention Book on page 71. There was a discussion regarding missing deceased member, PNC Stanley L. Mellott from the printed “National Sons of AMVETS Deceased Members 2016-2017” report in the Convention Book. A corrected copy will be added when the 2017 Convention minutes are mailed. Mr. Holcombe reminded everyone that there is a cut-off date for all deceased members’ notices.

VAVS Coordinator: William Gerry

VAVS Coordinator Gerry’s report is in the Convention Book on page 74 – 75. Mr. Gerry commented on the guest speaker, Dr. David Shulkin, Secretary of US Dept. of VA at the AMVETS Joint Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, August 9th. Mr. Gerry commented on the number of VA volunteers of 170,000 in the US that Dr. Shulkin noted. VAVS Coordinator Gerry pressed on the issue that the VA cannot continue to effectively function with the current number of volunteers. The VA needs to increase their volunteer base.

Legislative Director: Doug Brown

Legislative Director Brown’s report was distributed at the meeting. Mr. Brown noted changes he is requesting to Sons regarding the “Veteran Lodging” application process. The Legislative Director would like to add a cut-off of 21 days prior to the day of the event. Applicants who

have attended the previous year will be put on-hold until the cut-off date and if there is room they will be considered and if successful notified.

Alternate Legislative Director: Tracy Diggs -- No report.

Public Relations Officer: Don Finnegan, PNC

Public Relations Officer PNC Finnegan's report is the Convention Book on page 76. PNC Don Finnegan thanked Commander Serpis for an excellent year. Also, Provost Marshal Hines will set-up table for George Lutz of Honor and Remember in the Hallway so he may display his wears.

Historian: Walt Starrett

No report, but thanked the Sons for selecting him as a Historian for the current year (2016-2017).

Jr. AMVETS Coordinator: Paul Speigle

Jr. AMVETS Coordinator Speigle's report is in the Convention Book on page 77. Thanked the Sons members for all the work they have done on behalf of the Jr. AMVETS. For tomorrow's meeting, Mr. Speigle is excused. Also, announced the Jr. AMVETS are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year and are very much proud on this accomplishment.

Inspector General: Charlie Summerall, PNC

Excused. No report.

Webmaster: Mick Ciesla

Webmaster Ciesla's report is in the Convention Book on page 78. Mr. Ciesla's requested for everyone to please send pictures or information relating to any local events at their Squadrons. The Webmaster will post on the Sons website for all members to be informed. A special thanks to IPC Strittmather for his assistance on the project to update the Past Commanders page to include the photos of AMVETS Coordinator for each year. Also, thanked Commander Serpis for appointing Mr. Ciesla as Webmaster.

Motion to accept Officers Reports by Judge Advocate Dave Spencer, PNC, seconded by William Clemens NY. Motion Carried

Announcement of Weekly Events:

Grievance Committee – Nothing to report.

Boat Cruise – Commander Serpis informed all who have paid to be by the dock between 5 PM and 5:45 PM. The Commander will distribute tickets at end of meeting to Sons National Officers and their guests/spouses.

Commander's & President's Banquet -- There are no tickets, but must register at the entrance of the Norfolk Ballroom. Registration will open at 5:30 PM.

Virginia State Night at Sheraton – Jon Keith, PNC welcomed everyone and reported that the VA State Night event was very nice.

50/50 Raffle – The winning number’s last digits “828.”

RECESS: Tomorrow at 9:30 AM

National Sons of AMVETS 2017-2018 National Convention

Second Business Session Friday, August 11, 2017

CALL TO ORDER **9:30 AM**

Invocation: Chaplain Patrick Holcombe

Roll Call of Officers, NECmen and Past National Commanders:

Please refer to the previous Roll Call of Officers.

Moment of Silence in Honor of Sons Past National Commander Stanley Mellott.

First Vice Commander Harold Collins was handed the chair by Commander Serpis as he left the floor to visit the AMVET'S and Ladies floors.

Second Credentials Report: 1st Vice Commander Harold Collins

It was noted there were 84 registered members.

Motion to accept 2nd Credentials Report by Judge Advocate David Spencer, PNC, seconded by Richard Thibodeau, 3rd Vice Commander. Motion Carried

Officers Reports Cont'd:

Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC

PNC Briggs' report is in the Convention Book from page 63 – 66. Finance Officer Briggs announced that bills have been paid. Payment on Expense Vouchers are kept up-to-date. All taxes are completed. Mr. Briggs is restarting the accounts for the coming year. Asked if there were any questions.

Finance Officer Daniel Briggs announced that he had seven assisting grant applications in hand and would take care of these in new business.

William Clemens NY had a question concerning on page 64 of the "Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual" Report about the Income for Previous Years Revenue's budget at ~\$107,000.00 an increase of ~\$37,000.00. Finance Officer Briggs commented on Veterans expenses, but he will review this and give an answer at a later time.

Council of Past National Commanders Report: David T. Strittmather, PNC

IPC Strittmather expressed his appreciation to Commander Patrick Mitchell from NY for their hospitality during his visit at their state convention. The Council of PNC Report noted the following matters they are working on:

- Jimmy Grizzel from Post 95 from the department of Kentucky will receive the Aid and Support Award at the 2018 Silver Helmet Banquet Award.
- PNC Budget expenditure – As always, the Council of PNCs are concerned with the budget.
- Membership retention program. With the problems of importing data into the membership program, Nancy and I have not had the time to evaluate the retention numbers from the free membership promotion from July of 2016. We will work to have the information to be included with the mailing.
- Necessity to update promotions (i.e. letter of engagement to keep SOA members active).
- Local promotion via FB/local media (i.e. Maine's rededication ceremony of Post).

Motion to accept Council of Past National Commanders Report by Ken Barber, 2nd Vice Commander, seconded by Tracy Diggs, Alternate Legislative Director. Motion Carried

Membership Committee Report: Daniel Briggs, PNC

PNC Briggs briefed the Sons with the issue on updating the current membership program and mainly so that it will be an online web-based program. This will facilitate the entry of new and renewal members as well as maintain accuracy on information provided by States and Squadrons. The following are bullet points on the vision/creation of this program:

- Renewal, Transfer, etc.
- One database and current D&R's
- Required to send check to SOA HQ
- Move away MS Access
- Provide ability to produce reports
- Features to verify payment

SOA member Tom Serianni FL asked what the estimated cost be? Finance Officer Briggs approximated in the ballpark of \$35,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Mr. Briggs noted that the system had crashed a few years ago when the previous Sons AA., Martie, and the cost for IT services was \$80/hr. Emphasis on the need for a web-based membership program was provided by sharing issues on duplicate ID numbers of imported errors from the State of FL with same ID number in the states of PA, IN and MI. Accuracy on source of income/revenue. Our main concern is losing members.

Motion to accept Membership Committee Report by Ken Barber, 2nd Vice Commander, seconded by Doug Brown, Legislative Director. Motion Carried

Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC

The Finance Officer Briggs, PNC gave an update on this past year on the Nat'l Sons finances. Third Vice Commander Thibodeau had met with Mr. Briggs the first week in October to review the accounts. While doing this, they forgot to make a transfer so they wrote a check. The Finance Officer apologized for this error. The transfer of books and checkbook were taken care of. The preceding statement is related is an answer to a question posed by Mr. Clements NY on page 13 in the Finance Officer Report continued section.

Judge Advocate Dave Spencer, PNC commented on Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (September 2015 through august 2016).

Mr. William Clemens NY commented on the journal entry process. Mr. Briggs said, "When you deposit money on the income side of Quickbooks, it always minuses it.

NEC Reports:

Motion to accept NECmen Reports at end of Reports by Ken Barber, 2nd Vice Commander, seconded by Jeffrey Todd PA. Motion Carried

Alaska: Mike Gagne

Please refer to the distributed NEC Report.

Arizona: Ben Howard

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 79.

Florida: Tom Serianni

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 80. Mr. Serianni announced this is his last year as NECmen due to family health matters.

Indiana: Tracy Diggs

No NEC Report in the Convention Book, but announced that Dave Myers is the new Commander for the Department of IN. Invited everyone to Muncie, IN on September 9th.

Iowa: Jim Myers

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 81.

Kentucky: Robert Risen

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 82.

Guest: Carol King, Ladies Auxiliary Past President, Nat'l Exec. Dir.

Mrs. Carol King thanked the Sons for their past support. In addition, appreciates working with Sons A.A., Nancy Moran. Once again thanked Commander Serpis for his assistance and presented him with a gift.

Maine: Eric Rodzen

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 83. On behalf of the Department of ME, Mr. Rodzen presented a donation to Commander Serpis' project on Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.of \$250.00.

Maryland: Jim Payne

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 84 submitted by NECmen Ed Stely.

Massachusetts: Kenneth Moniz

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 85. On behalf of the Department of MA, Mr. Moniz, presented a donation of \$1,032.00 to Commander Serpis' project on Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.

Michigan: John Aldrich

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 86. The Department of MI, donated \$4,500.00 to Commander Serpis' project on Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.

Missouri: Jack Vogel

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 87. On behalf of the Department of MO, Mr. Vogel stated on their success to raise \$2,5000.00 for the Memorial of SSG Shawn Clemens, Camp Hope Project, "Remembered & Never Forgotten."

New York: William Clemens

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 88. Mr. Clemens questioned as to why the past minutes are missing from the website since it was decided few years ago by PNC Jay Williams and NEC to post them on "Past Event" page. Commander Serpis referred this question to Mick Ciesla, Web Master. Mr. Ciesla did not think that was the decision to add minutes to past events. Only to post minutes to current events. Mr. Clemens asserted they should be added. The Web Master will add if found.

A discussion ensued regarding posting Nat'l Sons Finance Reports on the website and transparency with the expenses incurred at the July 2016 E-Board. There are many reasons why

it is not recommended to post any financial information on the website, (i.e. hacking attacks, SPAM, manipulation of data, etc.). IPC Strittmather suggested to put a motion for the Finance Committee to review this request and share its findings at a later Business session of Convention.

Motion for requested resolution by IPC Strittmather, PNC, seconded by William Clemens, NY.
Motion Carried

North Carolina: Gene Rabb

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 90. Commander Serpis excused Mr. Rabb's absence since the NEC Report was submitted.

Ohio: Randy Smith

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 91.

Pennsylvania: Jeffrey Todd

No NEC Report in the Convention Book, but commented on PA Squadrons are working diligently on local festivals for publicity purposes.

Texas: Ronnie Rodgers

No NEC Report. Mr. Rodgers was absent, but Commander Serpis had previously contacted NECmen Rodgers on the progress of a state-home for the homeless that was started four years ago and this past May, the Department of TX raised \$3,000.00 to assist in this project.

Virginia: Melvin Smith

No NEC Report.

Wisconsin: Jim Fabian

Please refer to NEC Report in the Convention Book on page 92.

Non-department Squadrons:

New Jersey: No report

Delaware: Terry Ziegler

Tennessee: Mike Ion

Louisiana: Robert Butler

Georgia: Isaac Mobley – First Vice Commander Harold Collins commented on a new pending Squadron.

Motion to accept NEC Reports by Ken Barber, 2nd Vice Commander, seconded by Harold Collins, 1st Vice Commander. Motion Carried

Unfinished Business

Free Membership Promotion Review

IPC David Strittmather requested to hold-off on this report until tomorrow.

New Business

Assisting Grant Requests (If any, and Funds are available)

There were seven Assisting Grants submitted to Nat'l SOA. The following Departments/Squadrons Grant Requests were presented:

IA – Department is requesting \$500.00 for wheelchair purchase. All receipts received.

Motion to grant \$500.00 to Department of IA by Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Harold Collins. Motion Carried

MD – Department is requesting \$500.00 for purchase of car for Veteran. All receipts received.

Motion to grant \$500.00 to Department of MD by Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC, seconded by Jeffrey Todd PA. Motion Carried

OH – Squadron 444 is requesting \$500.00 for canteen remodeling and had paid \$1,000.00. All receipts received.

Motion to grant \$500.00 to OH/Sq. 444 by Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC, seconded by Jim Fabian WI. Motion Carried

IL – Squadron 103 is requesting \$500.00 for purchase and replacement of lavatory sinks and had paid \$2,000.00. All receipts received.

Motion to grant \$500.00 to IL/Sq. 103 by Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC, seconded by William Clemens NY. Motion Carried

MO – Squadron 106 is requesting \$500.00 for purchased of baskets for homeless. All receipts received.

Motion to grant \$500.00 to MO/Sq. 106 by Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC, seconded by Judge Advocate Dave Spencer, PNC. Motion Carried

FL – Squadron 32 is requesting \$500.00 for bathroom remodeling for disabled Veterans. All receipts received.

Motion to grant \$500.00 to FL/Sq. 32 by Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC, seconded by Robert Grose, PNC. Motion Carried

Guest:

The Riders President Don Cox Post 113 FL thanked all the Sons for their commitment and assistance with helping the Riders and Veterans. Mr. Cox stressed the importance of the AMVETS subordinate groups doing a lot of work for the AMVETS Family. Riders President Don Cox FL informed the body that the new Riders President is going to be a SON George Cummings IA.

Assisting Grant Requests (If any, and Funds are available) Cont'd

FL – Department of FL is requesting \$500.00 for bathroom remodeling for disabled Veterans. All receipts received.

Motion to grant \$500.00 to Department of FL by Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC, seconded by Dan Steinbrook MO. Motion Carried

Recess: 11:23 AM

Guest:

AMVET'S National 3rd Vice Commander Jan Brown and PNC JP visited the Sons and presented an autographed picture by President Trump taken at AMVETS Post 44 in Youngstown, OH where President Trump held a town hall meeting.

Guidebook Amendments

Ken Barber, 2nd Vice Commander outlined the “Proposed Guidebook Revisions” in the Convention Book on page 93. With this proposal, Mr. Barber hopes for the Sons to submit concise and complete information on their Project Reports. The 2nd Vice Commander encouraged all to report online for accuracy and immediate awareness on events and/or volunteer projects. A question was raised regarding the “Category of Programs,” it is self-explanatory

Motion to accept Project Report Form by Ken Barber, 2nd Vice Commander, seconded by Dave Spencer, PNC, Judge Advocate. Motion Carried

New Business Cont'd

Mick Ciesla, Web Master announced his appointment as Commander for the Department of FL. Thanked Tom Serianni for his diligent work as NECmen. Mr. Mike Marecek is the newly appointed NECmen.

2017-2018 Budget

Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC reviewed the proposed budget indicating that the Membership Income is down by \$26,972.00. Also, the Profit & Loss Budget for next year total Income is \$303,288.00. Judge Advocate Spencer noted that on Quickbooks zero's (0) do not show and Life "0" will join. It was noted on Wednesday there was a three-hour Budget Committee meeting. The Sons Officers thanked PNC Larry Combs for sharing his knowledge and it was enlightening for the members as well as the input given by the other PNC's.

Motion to accept 2017-2018 Proposed Budget by PNC Larry Combs, seconded by Jimmy Myers IA. Motion Carried

50/50 Raffle – The winning number's last digits "142."

Recess: 1:30 PM

Reconvene: 1:27 PM

Motion to donate \$1,000.00 to AMVETS Commander Chapman's Desert Storm Memorial Project by Judge Advocate Dave Spencer, seconded by Jimmy Myers IA. Motion Carried

Legislative Director: Doug Brown

Mr. Brown noted changes he is requesting to Sons regarding the "Veteran Lodging" application process. The Legislative Director would like to add a cut-off of 21 days prior to the day of the event. Applicants who have attended the previous year will be put on-hold until the cut-off date and if there is room they will be considered and if successful notified.

Motion to revise the Veterans Lodging process by Legislative Director Doug Brown, seconded by Dave Spencer, PNC, Judge Advocate. Motion Carried

Sons Coordinator

Mr. Robert Quick, Sons Coordinator and AMVETS Jr. Coordinator told the Sons that his term of duty has finished. Mr. Quick articulated to the Sons on his organized skills and to please consider him for a position with the Sons.

Guest: AMVETS Commander

Commander Harold Chapman spoke about on how proud he is to be on the Sons of AMVETS floor. The Sons leadership has been very valuable. Thanked the Sons for the Commander's Hospitality Room. The food was very good and the music, too.

Mr. Joe Chenelly, AMVETS Nat'l Executive Director thanked all the Sons for the great job they do for the Veterans. Thanked Sons A.A., Nancy Moran, for her presence at the AMVETS Directors meetings and reporting pertinent information from the Sons that the AMVETS HQ need to know.

Commander Serpis presented a gift of \$1,000.00 to AMVETS Commander Chapman for his Desert Storm Memorial Project.

Public Relations Officer

PNC Don Finnegan spoke about the “Honor and Remember” Flag. This organization is dedicated to acknowledge the sacrifice of men and women in the United States Armed Forces who have given their lives for their country. Over 10 years this flag has been presented to over 3,000 Gold Star missions. PNC Finnegan has been a proponent on the nationalizing this flag in the States to go to Congress for National recognition. It is his passion to communicate to the people on how important it is to remember the fallen. Mr. Finnegan shared George Lutz story about his son Tony who joined the Army and never came back, he was KIA by a sniper in Fallujah Iraq in 2005, consequently after much grieving the Honor and Remember flag was conceived. The National recognition has been adopted in 23 States. Also, explained the meaning of the Flag colors:

- Red Field represents the blood spilled by brave men and women in America’s military throughout our history, who willingly gave their lives so that we all would remain free.
- The Blue Star represents active service in military conflict. This symbol originated with World War I, but on this flag it signifies service through all generations from the American Revolution to present day.
- The White Border surrounding the gold star recognizes the purity of sacrifice. There is no greater price an American can pay than to give his or her life in service to our country.
- The Gold Star signifies the ultimate sacrifice of a warrior in active service who will not return home. Gold reflects the value of the life that was given.
- The Folded Flag signifies the final tribute to an individual life that a family sacrificed and gave to the nation.
- The Flame is an eternal reminder of the spirit that has departed this life yet burns on in the memory of all who knew and loved the fallen hero.

PNC Finnegan encouraged the Sons to participate in the upcoming events and can sign-up at <http://runforthe fallen.org/original-run/>.

Finance Report Cont’d

Larry Combs, PNC confirmed with Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC that all bills have been paid and all deposits, too. PNC Briggs will send mailing to NECmen with updated Profit & Loss Budge vs. Actual Report Year-End Reporting. This packet will include the minutes from the 2017 Convention.

Motion to mail the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual Report Year-End Reporting with 2017 Convention minutes by PNC Larry Combs, seconded by Jon Keith, PNC. Motion Carried

Jon Keith, PNC requested for new flags spreader displays to be purchased for the Sons and the Junior AMVETS.

Motion to purchase flags spreader display by PNC Jon Keith, seconded by William Clemens NY.
Motion Carried

Motion to donate \$250.00 from line item 507 to “Honor to Serve Flag” was withdrawn.

Registered members on the floor:

The Provost Marshal Richard Hines noted that there were 81 registered members. It was decided 41 must say “yes.”

Proposed Constitution, By-Laws & Standing Rules Amendments

Membership Program

Daniel Briggs, PNC made the following comments:

- Fall/Spring NECmen to vote by reviewing 3 bids
- Marty – 8 yrs. ago worked on this D/B
- Sept. 1st – 1st restricted line
 - Sept. 1st 2018
 - 50 cents Assisting Grant
 - 25 cents NECmen
 - 25 cents PNC
- Bylaws Committee is not making recommendation
- Finance Committee to adopt by 2/3rds

Bill Clemens – other options available...errors

- Access System on the internet
- Upgrade front
- System 2/3rds done. We were testing
- That will cost no money

IPC Dave Strittmather noted the following issues on the current Membership Program:

- Exec. Board became aware of the new membership program at the executive board meeting in July of 2015 in Florida during Dan Briggs’ term as commander. It was determined that there would not be adequate time to review the program prior to the National Convention. The 2015-2016 executive board would review the program to be presented at the first executive meeting. In September of 2015 the evaluation was presented at the meeting held in Muncie IN. In attendance at that meeting, along with the e-board was PNC John Barnhill, PNC Robert Hammett, PNC Don Finnegan, past National Judge Advocate Gene Batt and past Administrative Assistant (Martie Merkia). As the findings of the evolution were being presented and with discussion of the issues. Many of the issues prevented further testing of the program. Dan Briggs PNC made the motion that there was no point in going forward and that the program be continued. The motion did pass unanimously.
- Bill Clemens: Is the evolution was available?
- IPC Strittmather: This was two years ago and I don’t have the emulation findings available. I would have to look through my archives to attempt to locate it.

Joe Stopyra PA commented on the following:

1. Cost for membership Program
2. Get quotes to approximate what is the cost

SOA Members present -- 71 on floor – 47 – 2/3rds

Joe Stopyra PA:

Membership Committee need to have three top proposals.

- Monthly fees
- Membership fees

Then decide which program is best for vote at next year's Convention

Motion for the above by Joe Stopyra PA, seconded by Jeffrey Todd PA -- 39 passed.

Jon Keith

- Working copy of bill

Motion for the above by PNC Jon Keith, seconded by Tracy Diggs.

Mick Ciesla

- Reports Project

William Clemens

- Need additional data (100) different Squadrons and Departments to test.

Robert Quick

- AMVETS new unified program within 3 years

It was proposed for the Membership Committee to appoint William Clemens to work on this program.

Mick Ciesla comments:

- Dictated by Nat'l AMVETS new program

Dave Spencer, PNC commented:

- Suggested for Sons to come-up with a "Long-range plan" to be prepared and presented at the next Convention and consider AMVETS plan for their new D/B.

Jon Keith, PNC comments:

- Proposal – to make decision
- AMVETS by 2020

Motion for William Clemens to work on the Membership Program since he has been working for past two years to revamp it and can work for the Sons.

Motion to accept William Clemens to work on the Membership Program by John Keith, PNC, seconded by Tracy Diggs, Alternate Legislative Director. Motion Carried

Proposed Constitution, By-Laws & Standing Rules Amendments

Resolution 2017-01: Title Change for Alternate Legislative Director

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends adoption. Due to amending the Constitution with notice, the Resolution requires a 2/3rds vote. Resolution is adopted.

Resolution 2017-02: Storage and Transportation of Junior AMVETS Flags

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends adoption. Due to amending the By-Laws with notice, the Resolution requires a simple Majority. Resolution is adopted.

Resolution 2017-03: Rules Related to Sons of AMVETS members of AMVETS Riders

Constitution & By-Laws Committee makes no Recommend one way or the other, but reports the verbiage will pass constitutional muster. Due to amending the By-Laws with notice, the Resolution requires a simple Majority. Resolution is rejected.

Resolution 2017-04: Proposed Appendix for the Grievance Committee

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends adoption. Due to amending the By-Laws with notice, the Resolution requires a simple Majority. Resolution is adopted.

Resolution 2017-05: Rules Related to the Life Membership Trust Fund

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends adoption. Lifetime Membership Trust Fund Committee recommends to amend the resolution to change the verbiage related to dues needing to be in the fund for one calendar year before being paid out. Due to amending the By-Laws without notice, the amended Resolution requires a simple Majority, but without the amendment only needs a simple majority. Resolution is adopted as printed without amendment.

Resolution 2017-06: Bulk Mailings

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends adoption. Due to amending the By-Laws with notice, the Resolution requires a simple Majority. Resolution is adopted.

Resolution 2017-07: Mailing of Minutes

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends rejection. Due to amending the By-Laws with notice, the Resolution requires a simple Majority. Resolution is rejected.

Resolution 2017-08: Grievance Committee Membership

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends adoption. Due to amending the By-Laws with notice, the Resolution requires a simple Majority. Resolution is adopted.

Resolution 2017-09: National Convention Quorum

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends rejection. Due to amending the Constitution with notice, the Resolution requires a 2/3rds Majority. Resolution is rejected.

Resolution 2017-10: Relationship of AMVETS and Sons of AMVETS

Constitution & By-Laws Committee makes no recommendation. Due to amending the By-Laws with notice, the Resolution requires a simple Majority. Resolution is rejected.

Floor Resolution 2017-11: Department Term of Office

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends adoption. Due to amending the Constitution without notice, the Resolution requires a unanimous Majority. Resolution is adopted.

Floor Resolution 2017-12: Clarification of Finance Officer Duties

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends adoption. Due to amending the By-Laws without notice, the Resolution requires a 2/3rds Majority. Resolution is adopted.

Resolution 2017-13: Resolution of Lifetime Members of Closed Squadrons

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends adoption. Due to amending the Constitution without notice, the Resolution requires a unanimous Majority. Resolution is rejected by one vote.

Resolution 2017-14: Dues Increase

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Recommends adoption. Finance Committee recommends adoption. Due to amending the By-Laws without notice, the Resolution requires a 2/3rds Majority. Resolution is rejected.

Other Business

Anyone having problems with Convention registration online, need to contact the Webster Group.

Jack Vogel MO has in-process reimbursement from the Webster Group.

First Nomination of Officers

Commander:	Harold Collins
1st Vice Commander:	Ken Barber
2nd Vice Commander:	Richard Thibodeau
3rd Vice Commander:	John Aldrich Richard Hines Paul Speigle
Finance Officer:	Daniel K. Briggs, PNC William Clemens NY Joe Stopyra PA

Judge Advocate: Dave Spencer, PNC

Provost Marshal: Eugene Haines
Mike McDarrah
John Aldrich
Mike Marecek

50/50 Raffle – The winning number’s last digits “843.”

Recess: 9:00 AM – tomorrow, Saturday, August 12th

National Sons of AMVETS 2017-2018 National Convention

Fourth Business Session Saturday, August 12, 2017

Reconvene: 9:00 AM

Roll Call of Officers, NECmen and Past National Commanders:

Please refer to the previous Roll Call of Officers.

Web Master

Mick Ciesla announced that AMVETS Pidgeon gave him a cap he earned as a Web Master.

Free Membership Promotion Review Cont'd

IPC Dave Strittmather said that due to a lack of time, he was unable to obtain the necessary information to give an update. It will be sent with the 2017 Convention minutes mailing.

Scrapbook Judging Committee's Final Report: Historian Walt Starrett

Best Squadron: FL

Best Department: Florida

Best Cover: Department

Scholarship Committee's Final Report: 2nd Vice Commander Ken Barber

PNC Cecil Aultman Memorial Scholarship: Benjamin Berry, Akron, OH

Gil Garza Memorial Scholarship: Gina Bucci, Akron, OH

Barry Lima Memorial Scholarship: Gracy Berry, Akron, OH

PNC Richard Mooney Memorial Scholarship: Walker Donovan, Biddeford, ME

Penny Byrd Memorial Scholarship: Lillian Marvi, Rockbridge, OH

PNC Jim Burleson Memorial Scholarship: Donald Clifton, Bronson, FL

Harold "Lee" Reed Memorial Scholarship: Ashley Dineen, Dedham, MA

3rd Vice Commander's Supplemental Report: 3rd Vice Commander Richard Thibodeau

For your information, Third Vice Commander Thibodeau announced that at this time, there are no numbers available for T-Shirt Sales, 50/50s, Hospitality Room and Other. This information will be sent with the 2017 Convention Minutes.

Freedom Cash Raffle Final Report and Awarding of winners: 3rd Vice Commander Richard Thibodeau

1st Prize: \$2,500.00 – Department of KY

2nd Prize: \$1,500.00 – Department of MD – Post 2

3rd Prize: \$500.00 – Vern, OH – Post 51

4th Prize: \$250.00 – Louisville, KY – Post 61

Banquet Ceremony Update:

Commander Serpis announced he selected Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC as the “Member of the Year” at last night’s Commander/President Banquet. PNC Briggs has been very instrumental with assisting Commander Serpis throughout the year; therefore, this award is to recognize him for all his contribution to Commander Serpis as well as the Nat’l SOA business.

Caucusing: 9:23 AM

Reconvene: 10:15 AM

Final Credentials Report: 1st Vice Commander Harold Collins

It was noted there were 77 registered members.

Final Nominations of Officers

Commander	Harold Collins nominated by Dave Spencer, PNC, JA Nominations Closed, Harold Collins accepts
1st Vice Commander	Ken Barber nominated by Mick Ciesla, Web Master Nominations Closed, Ken Barber accepts
2nd Vice Commander	Richard Thibodeau by Eric Rodzen ME Nominations Closed, Richard Thibodeau accepts
3rd Vice Commander	Paul Speigle nominated by Daniel Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer Nominations Closed, Paul Speigle accepts John Aldrich nominated by Patrick Holcombe John Aldrich graciously declines Richard Hines nominated by Jeffrey Todd Richard Hines graciously declines

Finance Officer	Dan Briggs nominated by Dave Spencer, PNC, JA Nominations Closed, Dan Briggs accepts William Clemens nominated by John Cerny William Clemens graciously declines Joe Stopyra nominated by William Clemens Joe Stopyra graciously declines
Judge Advocate	Dave Spencer nominated by Daniel Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer Nominations Closed, Dave Spencer accepts
Provost Marshal	Michael McDarrah nominated by Jon Keith, PNC Nominations Closed, Michael McDarrah accepts Eugene Haines nominated by Jeffrey Todd Eugene Haines graciously declines John Aldrich nominated by Dave Spencer, PNC, JA John Aldrich graciously declines Michael Marecek nominated by Tom Serianni Michael Marecek graciously declines

Comments from elected Officers:

Commander Harold Collins – Thanked the Sons for giving him this opportunity to work hard, do the best, and work together.

1st Vice Commander Ken Barber – Thanked the Sons and will take Nat’l SOA to greater heights.

2rd Vice Commander Richard Thibodeau – Thanked the Sons for their support and will make sure all Project Reports are “IN.”

3rd Vice Commander Paul Speigle – Thanked the Sons for their confidence in him and a big step coming from the AMVETS Juniors.

Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC – PNC Briggs is there for everyone. He is there to address any questions, if not, he will contact CPA for answers.

Judge Advocate Dave Spencer, PNC – Thanked the Sons for their faith in him. It has been two years doing this job. PNC Spencer is here to assist with any CBL’s questions and will answer as quickly as possible.

Provost Marshal Michael McDarrah – Mr. McDarrah very happy to be part of the Nat’l SOA team.

50/50 Raffle – The winning number’s last digits “881.”

Final Announcements:

NECmen Post Convention at 11:25 AM

AMVETS Joint Installation Ceremony at 2:00 PM

Sons Swim Meet at 3:30 PM

Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC – Reminded Sons not to forget to submit Expense Vouchers as soon as possible. The deadline is September 11, 2017 for reimbursements.

Tracy Diggs, Alternate Legislative Director presented a check of \$250.00 to Commander Serpis' project on Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.

Reconvene: 11:28 AM

National Sons of AMVETS

2017-2018 National Convention

Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting Saturday, August 12, 2017

Call to Order: 11:28 AM

Roll Call of Incoming and Outgoing Officers and NECmen

National Officers		Sat
Commander:	Mark Serpis	P
1st Vice Commander:	Harold Collins	P
2nd Vice Commander:	Ken Barber	P
3rd Vice Commander:	Richard Thibodeau	E
Finance Officer:	Daniel K. Briggs, PNC	E
Judge Advocate:	David Spencer, PNC	P
Provost Marshal:	Richard Hines	P
Immediate Past Commander:	David Strittmather, PNC	P
Chaplain:	Patrick Holcombe	E
VAVS Coordinator:	William Gerry	P
Legislative Director:	Doug Brown	P
Alternate Legislative Director:	Tracy Diggs	P
Public Relations Officer:	Don Finnegan, PNC	A
Historian:	Walt Starrett	A
Junior AMVETS Coordinator:	Paul Speigle	P
Inspector General:	Charlie Summerall, PNC	A
Webmaster:	Mick Ciesla	P
Sons Coordinator:	Robert Quick	A
National Executive Committeemen		
Alaska:	Mike Gagne	P
Arizona:	Ben Howard	
Florida:	Mike X. Marecek	P
Illinois:	Christopher Podalski	
Indiana:	Tracy Diggs	P
Iowa:	Jimmy Myers	P
Kentucky:	Robert Risen	P
Maine:	Eric Rodzen	P
Maryland:	Jim Payne	P
Massachusetts:	Kenneth Moniz	E
Michigan:	John Aldrich	P
Missouri:	Jack Vogel	P
New York:	William Clemens	P
North Carolina:	Gene Rabb	

Ohio:	Randy Smith	P
Pennsylvania:	Jeffrey Todd	P
Texas:	Michael Stanfield	P
Virginia:	Melvin Smith	P
Wisconsin:	Jim Fabian	E

Admin Assistant: Gathering Contact information for new officers

Commander hands gavel to Incoming Commander

Commander's Appointments for 2016-17:

Chaplain: Patrick Holcombe

VAVS Coordinator: William Gerry

Legislative Director: Doug Brown

Deputy Legislative Director: Tracy Diggs

Public Relations Officer: David T. Strittmather PNC

Historian: David T. Strittmather PNC

Junior AMVETS Coordinator: Joseph Stopyra

Inspector General: Charlie Summerall, PNC

Webmaster: Mick Ciesla

Grievance Committee-3 members from NEC

1. Commander by rule Harold Collins
2. Judge Advocate by rule David Spencer PNC
3. Don Finnigan PNC
4. Jimmy Myers
5. John Aldrich
6. Alternate: Randy Smith

CBL Committee:

1. Judge Advocate by rule: David Spencer PNC
2. Commander by rule: Harold Collins
3. 1st Vice Commander by rule: Ken Barber
4. Doug Brown
5. Jim Myers
6. Robert Grose PNC
7. Daniel K. Briggs PNC
8. Richard Thibodeau

Life membership Trust Fund Committee

1. Commander by rule Harold Collins
2. 1st Vice Commander by rule Ken Barber
3. Finance Officer by rule Daniel K. Briggs PNC
4. Judge Advocate by rule David Spencer PNC
5. PNC Larry Combs
6. PNC John Barnhill
7. PNC Robert Hammett
8. PDC Richard Thibodeau

Membership Committee:

1. Daniel K. Briggs PNC Chair
2. David Spencer PNC
3. Richard Thibodeau
4. David T. Strittmather PNC
5. Harold Collins Commander

Finance Committee:

1. Finance Officer By Rule: Daniel K. Briggs PNC
2. Commander By Rule: Harold Collins
3. Judge Advocate By Rule: David Spencer PNC
4. Immediate PNC By Rule: Mark Serpis
5. 1st Vice Commander By Rule: Ken Barber
6. Immediate Past Finance Officer By Rule: Richard Thibodeau

Motion to accept the Commander's Appointments by Dave Spencer, PNC, JA, seconded by Ken Barber, 1st Vice Commander. Motion Carried

Unfinished Business

Commander Mark Serpis asked for Sons to stay in touch and keep in touch!

PNC Larry Combs asked the new elected Commander Harold Collins what is his Project. Commander Collins said it is on "Active Heroes" located in Louisville, KY. This organization helps the veterans and their families through physical, educational, and emotional programs to eliminate suicide. Commander Collins is very passionate on this cause and is looking forward to raising money on their behalf. PNC Combs advised Commander Collins to notify all Sons members as soon as possible in the form of a letter. IPC Strittmather suggested a flyer with SOA's logo added and give detail information on "Active Heroes" mission. Commander Collins said he will do that.

Benediction: Patrick Holcombe

Retiring of Colors: Richard Hines

Motion to Adjourn by William Clemens NY, seconded by Tracy Diggs, Alternate Legislative Director. Motion Carried

Adjournment: 11:44 AM

ADDENDUM I

Floor Resolution #2017-14

Subject: Dues Increase

Source: National Membership Program Committee

WHEREAS, The National Membership Program Committee was established at the National Convention in Reno in 2016 with the express purpose of establishing a new National Membership Program; and

WHEREAS, in discussion the Committee feels that we would best be served by having a web-based membership program, where we can have a single database; and

WHEREAS, the progress of the Committee is such that we would like to be able to roll out a new program for the 2019 membership year; and

WHEREAS, for this to happen, the funding would need to be in place already; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Department shall increase their dues from \$11.00 to \$13.00 per year. The revenue from this dues increase shall be used to pay for the establishment of a new, web-based, membership program for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, subject to permission from the National Executive Committee, and in future years to partially pay for ongoing maintenance for said program; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, Effective September 1st, 2018 that the verbiage in quotation marks shall replace By-Laws, Article III, Section 1(d): "Each Squadron, whether Department or non-Department shall remit annually to the National Department the sum of thirteen dollars (13) for each new and renewal member of which (\$1.00) one dollar will be used for establishing an Assisting Grant Fund. Departments, Districts, and Squadrons can apply for an Assisting Grant subject to rules established by the National Executive Committee."; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, Effective September 1st, 2018 that the verbiage in quotation marks shall replace By-Laws, Article III, Section 1(e): "The amount of \$1.25 per member shall be budgeted for the purpose of NEC per diems and lodging (or transportation not to exceed equivalent amount of lodging or voucher limits), for scheduled meetings, and shall be accounted for in the annual approved budget, based on total memberships as of July 31, of each fiscal year, and shall be allocated as stated in the National Department Standing Rules of Operation, not to exceed the annual budget allocation."; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, Effective September 1st, 2018 that the verbiage in quotation marks shall be entered into By-Laws, Article III, Section 1(f): "The amount of \$.25 (twenty-five cents) per member shall be budgeted for the purpose of PNC per diems and lodging (or transportation not to exceed equivalent amount of lodging or voucher limits) for the Spring NEC meeting. The amount of \$.25 (twenty-five cents) per member shall be budgeted for the purpose of PNC per diems and lodging (or transportation not to exceed equivalent amount of lodging or voucher limits) for the National Convention. The preceding items shall be accounted for in the annual approved budget, based on total memberships as of July 31, of each fiscal year, and shall be allocated

as stated in the National Department Standing Rules of Operation, not to exceed the annual budget allocation.”

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS:

ADOPT AMEND REJECT NONE

FINANCE:

ADOPT AMEND REJECT NONE

FLOOR ACTION:

ADOPTED ADOPTED (as amended) REJECTED TABLED