DRAFT CBL AMENDMENT 14-14

SUBJECT: Amend AMVETS National Bylaws – Add new Article - XX

SOURCE: AMVETS National Headquarters

WHEREAS, the non-profit world is increasingly under scrutiny and the AMVETS brand is not exempt from such evaluation from individual donors and/or media sensationalists; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS enjoys special tax exemptions that promote the idea of a public trust; and

WHEREAS, the public is entrusting AMVETS staff, officers and members, at all levels of the organization, to administer the finances of AMVETS successfully, sensibly and ethically for the benefit of veterans and this nation’s citizens; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS must demonstrate that all financial records are accurate, transparent and consistently managed: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that an additional Article be added to the National Bylaws to convey the importance of this public trust and outline a basic plan to reduce or mitigate the risks associated with managing large sums of public funds; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the new Article XX should be titled: Department Biannual Self Audit Process and read as follows:

AMVETS
Department Biannual Self Audit Process

The AMVETS mission is to enhance and safeguard the entitlements for all American Veterans who have served honorably and to improve the quality of life for them, their families, and the communities where they live through leadership, advocacy and services.

The values inherent in a successful and vibrant veteran’s nonprofit, 501-C-19, organization, (to include all affiliated 501-C-3’s) are:

- Commitment to those who have served and are serving;
- Transparency, integrity and honesty;
- Commitment beyond the law;
- Responsible stewardship of resources; and,
- Commitment to excellence and maintaining the public trust.

Given its mission and stated values, AMVETS has adopted a Department Biannual Self Audit Process to guide its Department Executive Committee in carrying out this responsibility. The process contains minimal expectations and may be augmented with
additional steps appropriate to specific Departments programs and/or state and federal grantors.

**Self-Audit Process:**

- Every two years, in the off year between NEC elections.
  - Alabama through Missouri, including DC, conduct the self-audit in the odd years.
  - Montana through Wyoming conducts the self-audit in the even years.
- Department Commander appoints two SECmen who are independent of any financial/treasury function.
- Minimal assessments to include but not be limited to:
  - Confirm all bank balances
  - Review and confirms correctness of any large expenses
  - Review expenses associated with all grant monies received
  - Review revenue and expenses associated with Charitable Games/Bingo