# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Executive Committee Meeting Agenda</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National District I Reports</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National District II Reports</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National District III Reports</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National District IV Reports</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National District V Reports</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National District VI Reports</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Officers Reports</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring NEC Meeting Minutes</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AMVETS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) MEETING

Call Meeting To Order National Commander Jan Brown
Invocation National Chaplain Gary Sallade
Honors To The Colors National Provost Marshal Arthur Majors
Roll Call National Executive Director Joe Chenelly
Adoption Of Agenda National Commander Brown
Approval Of Minutes National Commander Brown
Visitors National Commander Brown

NEC Reports
- District I Commander Martin P. Ashman
- District II Commander Gerald “Jerry” Gurnari
- District III Commander Deric Lew Everett
- District IV Commander Richard VanNatta
- District V Commander Mary J. Wait
- District VI Commander Charles E. Wharton

Committee Reports
- Finance National Finance Officer Donald Stream
- VAVS Chairman PNC Bill Kilgore

National Officers Reports National Commander Brown
- 1st Vice First Vice Commander Greg Heun
- 2nd Vice Second Vice Commander Don McLean
- 3rd Vice Third Vice Commander Bill Clark

Judge Advocate National Judge Advocate PNC Jim King

National Staff Reports Executive Director Joe Chenelly
- NSF President PNC Bill Kilgore
- NSF National Controller Daniasha White

Old Business National Commander Brown
New Business National Commander Brown

Benediction National Commander Brown
Honors To Colors National Provost Marshal Majors
National District I

Connecticut, Dana M. Dillon, NEC .......................... 6
Maine, Kim Lapointe, NEC ................................. 8
Massachusetts, Walter Peacey, NEC ..................... 9
New Jersey, Fred Vineyard, Alternate NEC ............. 10
New York, Jack Gray, NEC ................................. 11
Rhode Island, Arthur Rodriques, NEC .................. 12

District I Commander report not received by deadline
Report of Dana Dillon, NEC  
Department of Connecticut

Membership
Overall membership did pretty well this year. All posts reach 85% or better renewals except for Post 24 lost over 100 members. Post 24 announced at the Department Convention that they voted to close the post due to a lack of people willing to step up and help out.

Programs
Programs reporting had a program value of $26,185.29 which was quite good considering we are coming off a period where COVID shut most things down. Programs like Operation Gift Card have continued to serve our veterans throughout the Pandemic. Although they had to alter and adjust the way they operate the program, they found away that worked for everyone.

Services
VA Activities: VAVS Activities have been stopped for over a year now. The VA closed its doors to visitors and volunteers. Programs within the hospitals have been shut down. The VA has continued to keep us informed through emails and Virtual Meetings. On 6-25-2021 the Rocky Hill State VA home announced that it will start to let visitors enter the property again. Masks will be required in all common areas throughout the facility.

ROTC: ROTC Awards have been given out to all the High Schools and Colleges. Schools and Colleges that are included in our program include UCONN Army ROTC, UCONN Air Force ROTC, New London HS Navy JROTC, Danbury HS Air Force JROTC, Hillhouse HS Army JROTC, Brian McMahon HS Navy JROTC, Torrington HS Air Force JROTC, and Naugatuck HS Air Force JROTC.

Upcoming Events
We will have booths at some local fairs as long as they are being held as well as cookouts at some posts as well as white clover drives.

Legislative
We have not be able to go into state building due to Covid, so things are quite slow.

Communications/PRO

We are working with National and section VSO to figure out what is going to happen with the position they opened for our NSO. He left shortly after COVID. We need an NSO in CT so we do not have to refer our veterans to other organizations.

Other
I am very happy to see that COVID Restrictions are being lowered and or lifted that now allows us to start to move towards a more normal way of life that we use to have. Dept Convention was held June 19, 2021 via in person md Zoom.

We had our Election of Officers Where Albert Duff was elected to another term as the State Commander. Other officers elected include Ronnie Maebry as 1st Vice, Christopher Paulhus as 2nd Vice, Juliet Taylor as 3rd Vice, Doug Newell as Alternate NEC and Finance Officer, Dana Dillon as NEC and District Commander for the years 2022 – 2023, Charles Beesley as our JA, Robert Picket as Provost, Gerry Wright as Chaplain, and Nick DeCerbo as our Surgeon General. He Commander is presently working on his Appointments.

Our Service Foundation gave out $15,000.00 in Scholarships this year.

The White Clover Medal was awarded to Ronnie Maebry and Gerry Wright

AMVET of the Year for 2020 went to Carol Hass.

AMVET of the Year for 2021 went to Gerry Wright

Service Foundation Awards went out to Carol Hass and Dan Thurston.

Memorial Day: Many of our Posts and members celebrated Memorial Day around our State. Events varied throughout the state depending on what COVID Restriction was invoked by each city and town. But being AMVETS and being very versatile everyone found a way to Honor our Fallen Comrades.

Agent Orange Monument: On June 5, 2021, Our
Commander attended the new Agent Orange Monument was unveiled at the Andover Veterans Memorial Park. Gerry Wright a member of AMVETS and many other organizations and who is also a survivor of Agent Orange started this project and seen it through to the dedication. What a day it was. 400 plus people attended. AMVETS Post 47 provided 1 of the Color Guards. On that same day, another project of Gerry's was to get a portion of RT 316 name after the Agent Orange Survivors was passed by our Legislation. Gerry continues to fight for Agent Orange victims, survivors, and their families with legislation that is before Congress.

Eastern Connecticut Veterans Center: On June 10, 2021, Our Commander attended the opening of the Eastern Connecticut Veterans Center in Willimantic, CT. It was a great day. Many State and local Representatives, VA Officials, and Veterans were in attendance. The new center provides a wide arrange of services for veterans and their families.

Memorial for Past Department Commander Rodney Bissonnette: On June 12, 2021, attended along with many other Officers, Family, and Friends a Memorial Service for Past Department Commander Rodney Bissonnette at AMVETS Post 47 in Brooklyn, CT. There were well over 100 people in attendance. Rod was a very dedicated AMVET and will be greatly missed.
Membership
The Dept. of Maine continues to get annual members in each post to renew on time, we are at about 89% for annual renewals. We are slowly getting new members in. It’s been very hard with the whole year lost to the pandemic.

Programs
Dept. of Maine is striving to get all post to do reporting. We have all new dept. Officers since our state convention 4-6 June. The 2nd vice should be getting into the reporting programs for the post.

Service
Dept. of Maine continues to work with our state veterans services and our VA hospital to help all veterans. All VSO’s in the state continue to work with the Maine veterans coordinating committee to help fight for all veterans in the state.

Upcoming Events
We will be attending the national convention in Greensboro, NC on 17thru 22 Aug 2021. The new Dept commander, NEC, NECA and PNEC will be attending.

Legislative
Dept. of Maine continues to work with our state legislature. We also work with our governor on all bills pertaining to veteran’s issues. All VSO’s in the state all work together in supporting these efforts.

Communications/PRO
Dept. of Maine and all of its posts continue to promote AMVETS and all of its programs. We keep pushing for programs and membership drives.

Other
This is my report and I move for its adoption at the proper time.
Report of Walter Peacey, NEC
Department of Massachusetts

Membership
Our membership numbers have been stagnant for the past year due to Covid and the lack of being able to get out. Posts are reopening here in the northeast and activities are returning to normal. Membership drives are being planned and some have already begun. We are hoping to be able to turn this year around. Some Posts are struggling and we are hopeful that they will recover from this.

Programs
Programs are being planned and others are in progress. Members have made and distributed bags to multiple facilities this past year. Posts have also sponsored different events such as bingo, pizza parties, ice cream socials along with other events monetarily. ROTC Programs and awards were presented this past year along with Eagle Scout awards. Our Americanism program ran as well with awards being given out.

Upcoming Events
We are planning on attending the State Fair with a membership both on the veterans recognition day. State meetings are scheduled and we are back to doing business as needed. Some parades and ceremonies that are scheduled are being attended.

Legislative
Our legislative officer is continuing to monitor the happenings on Beacon Hill at the State level. As of this writing, no visitors are allowed in the building yet.

Communications/PRO
Our State Honor Guard has posted colors for the Boston Red Sox and have other events in the works. We are doing our best to get our brand and name out into the public.

Other
With what the country has been through, we are trying to get out there to as much as we can to bring our name and brand to the people's attention. With our membership aging and difficulty in getting younger and more agile veterans to join, we are sometimes finding it difficult to attend as much as we have in the past. Hopefully with the crisis of covid coming to an end, we can accomplish our goals and promote the AMVETS name and goals.
Report of Fred Vineyard, Alternate NEC
Department of New Jersey

Membership
Recruitment has been very slow, due to the virus lockdown for the past 14 months.

Programs
Programs in New Jersey for the past 14 months was very limited, due to the virus. Nursing homes were closed to visitors and families.

Upcoming Events
September 11 Remembrance Service and Veterans Day Services are schedule for several posts.

Legislative
Our post is very supportive of National and state bills, which will help our military and veterans.

Other
Mary Jane Munecy is our new NEC, though she will be out of country during the National Convention.
Report of Jack Gray, NEC  
Department of New York

Membership  
1st Vice Hal Queyor has been working with all the Posts to purify all the rosters by doing a little housekeeping. As part of our recruitment program, we can not forget about our women veterans. Hal has asked each Post to strive for a 10 member gain. Remember our TEAM motto “together everyone achieves more.” We need your help to be successful.

Programs  
In July we have the following scheduled in support of our country. Our AMVETS will attend our remembrance day at Fort Drum, to honor all the veterans who gave their lives in support of our country. Our AMVETS Riders has been a great program with over 150 members. We had a large showing at the Memorial Day celebration/parade in Washington DC held at RFK stadium.

Service  
Our Womens Representative, Pat Knect has been researching the homeless womens veteran situation. In a single night, 40,000 veterans were homeless, with 9% being women. There are many factors, however PTSD/MST are driving forces for our women veterans.

Upcoming Events  
New York's next SEC meeting will be October 2, 2021 at the Doubletree Hotel in Binghamton,NY. Commanders Les Baker Testimonial dinner will be September 18, 2021 at Seneca Allegany Resorts & Casino 777 Seneca Blvd Seneca, NY 877-873-6322.

Legislative  
Veterans Community Care - Mission Act: Eligibility under the new act will have better access and greater choice in health either at VA or a community provider. KEY aspect prior approval from VA must be obtained.
Report of Arthur Rodriques, NEC
Department of Rhode Island

Membership
Membership is currently 85%, still coming in slowly, but steadily. Covid has hit all of us. I will be glad to see it end!!!

Programs
We have given clothing to our veterans and the needy in our communities and have held membership drives. We have also visited other AMVETS posts in the area for dedications of buildings, flag poles, etc.

Service
We have attended many funerals and wakes of our fallen comrades. We have also flagged many cemeteries for memorial day.

Upcoming Events
We will be having our Department Convention on the weekend of 6/12/21 - 6/15/21 at the Ramada Inn in northern Smithfield, R.I. OFFICERS TO BE INSTALLED AT THIS TIME.

Legislative
We are working with the state veteran outreach program.

TRYING TO WORK OUT A PROBLEM WITH ONE OF OUR POSTS AND A UNINFORMED MEMBER, WHO REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE CBLs AS WRITTEN.
National District II

District of Columbia, Aaron J. Smith, NEC ..................... 14
Maryland, Michael P. Mahoney, NEC .......................... 15
North Carolina, David Wilburn, NEC .......................... 16
Pennsylvania, PNC Arthur C. Stahl, NEC .................... 17
Virginia, John R. Cooper, NEC ................................. 18
West Virginia, Ed Stracka, NEC ................................. 19

District II Commander and Delaware reports not received by printing deadline
Report of Aaron J. Smith, NEC Department of District of Columbia

Membership
CORONA VIRUS-19 (COVID-19), continue having devastating impact on membership operations. The Department had ambitious goals coming into the spring of 2020-2021, but the COVID-19 has slowed the objectives significantly. Some of the goals will be delayed until next year or after the COVID-19 has decreased to the point where in person activities can commence again. This reporting period the Department held a membership drive and information fair, that was a success.

Programs
This Reporting Period this Department provided ROTC Awards to Cadets of, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Catholic University and American University on May 17, 2021. Provided homeless veterans packages to apply for DC Cares stimulus during the months of February, March, and May

Service
The monthly sponsored bingo, at the DC VA Medical Center Community Living Center (CLC) was curtailed and put under quarantined. The Medical Center Volunteer Services asked if the Department could still sponsor the activity by donating the funds only. Now the Department donates the funds for the activity and the hospital staff performs the games.
Report of Michael P. Mahoney, NEC
Department of Maryland

Membership
Our Department Total renewals as of July 4th are at 96%
Our 1st Vice Commander, Edward Mckinnon has had
a Life Membership program and has obtained 17 new
Life Members through his program. The Pandemic has
hurt our membership numbers as the number of older
members who have deceased has risen.

Programs
Our Posts have kept on track with the AADAA and
American entries to this years competition.

Our Department has awarded 7 students with Scholarships
to their Higher education facilities.

Our ROTC Chairman, Rusty Baker has carried out this
years ROTC program and we have rewarded 6 individuals
in this years program.

Service
Our State Honor Guard from Post 7 Thurmont, has
continued to serve in their normal capacity, providing
service to our Veterans who have passed on to Post
Everlasting, conducting honors and firings at funeral
programs and graveyard internments. They have also
provided presentation of the Colors at Community
events and Memorial Day ceremonies. The Honor Guard
also presented the colors for the Ribbon cutting grand
opening ceremony at Heroes Ridge at Raven Rock, the
new Camp Facility for Operation Second Chance, helping
Heroes move on overcoming PTSD, TBI, Lost Limbs and
Depression. The event was joined by the Maryland VA
Director George Owings.

Upcoming Events
Our pre National Convention Department DEC meeting
will be held on Sunday, July 25th, 2021 at AMVETS Post
7, Thurmont Maryland. Our Department Convention
was held on June 5th, 2021. The following elected officers
will be serving at our upcoming National Convention
in Greensboro, NC. State Delegate, Commander Bruce
Rice, NEC Mike Mahoney, Alternate NEC Fred Shinbur,
Delegate Andy Martel Dept. ED Post 115, Ed McKinnon
Delegate, Martin Fisher Delegate.

Legislative
Our Committee to the Joint Veteran Committee of
Maryland has been on hold because of the Covid
Pandemic. We are scheduled to resume service the
third Wednesday in September.

Communications/PRO
During the shutdown time during the Pandemic, our
Executive Director has set up Virtual Zoom meetings
so we were able to still carry out our duties. A big
thanks to Andy Martel for this endeavor.

Other
On behalf of myself and our Department Commander,
Bruce Rice, We wish all the best for our brothers and
sisters across the Nation. Be Safe.

Thank You,
Mike Mahoney,
NEC, Dept. MD
The Department of North Carolina had our State Convention in June. We had a very productive Convention considering the past year. New officers were installed and Randy Robbins is our new Commander.

Membership
Our Department is going through the same struggles as most States. We get a few new and younger Veterans and about the same number of older Veterans pass away. We are still working on retaining our members. We are working on our membership and our numbers are around 2,400 members.

Programs
Our Department is trying to get back to our normal. We are slowly but surely moving in the right direction. We have some Posts that haven’t been open for some time. We have several Posts that placed flags on graves of veterans for Memorial Day. We have several posts that have a flag drop off box, Boy Scouts then retire the flags. We have two Amvets Honor Guard that are starting up again. Some posts travel to the VA hospital and put on a bingo party. We have a Riders group that participated in Rolling To Remember. Also, we had several Posts that went to Weldon, North Carolina to help out with Remembrance On The River. It was a great turn out. The weather played into the amount of Riders and visitors on hand. I know that some Posts were able to hand out JROTC medals in person. Most had to be mailed. Food drives are ongoing and clothes drives as well. Americanism is huge in our Department. We lost our Americanism Officer, Tom Nicholas pasted earlier in the year. Our Department took a enormous hit with that lost. We are looking forward to the rest of this year and have a bright outlook for 2022.

Service
VAVS reports from our hospitals are slow at this time. Asheville, Salisbury, Durham and Fayetteville all have representatives, they will get back into the hospital as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events
The National Convention is in Greensboro, North Carolina this August. We are looking forward to a great Convention. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Fall DEC is scheduled for October.

Legislative
We are attending the North Carolina Veterans Council. Subject: HB83 Eliminate Income Tax for Military Retirees. Waiting on outcome.

Communication
Remembrance on the River First Memorial Event at Weldon Mills Distillery and River Falls Park in Weldon, North Carolina did not go off without a hitch. Our goals were met… (Reflect, Recognize and Respect). There were thunderstorms with high wind and very high amounts of rain. Tents went flying and the ones that didn’t they were busting with rain water. We ended up with 50 Riders who did make the trek. They rested in the shade and visited the Field of Flags. There was displays with First in Freedom and the Revolutionary War up to and beyond Vietnam War. Boy Scout Troop144 completed ritual prior to the Retirement of used flags. They then retired over 500 flags.

We were honored to have Amvets National Riders Commander and Amvets National Riders Chaplain. We were equally honored to have James Gregory, original organizer of the largest group of bike riders. (Ride for the Wall). We will be here again for the Second Annual Remembrance on the River. May 26—29, 2022. Commander, this concludes my report and I move for adoption.

Respectfully submitted

David Wilburn NEC
Department of North Carolina
Report of PNC Arthur Stahl, NEC  
Department of Pennsylvania

Commander Brown, Executive Director Chenelly, national officers, N.E.C. members, AMVETS and guests. Welcome to our National Convention once again in Greensboro North Carolina.

I would like to start my report by congratulating Commander Jan Brown, E.D. Joe Chenelly and all our National officers for the excellent job they all did leading us through the National Pandemic of the past two years. They not only kept us at the forefront of VSO’s they also successfully held the “Ride to Remember” keeping our POW/MIA Veterans in everybody’s minds. THANK YOU ALL.

Pennsylvania suffered as other departments did due to the pandemic but our officers worked hard building membership and continued our AMVETS programs with a very successful Americanism Program despite the fact that most schools held distance learning throughout the year. ROTC awarding was also very successful.

PA’s Department convention was held at the Radisson Crown Plaza in Reading Pa. From June 24 to June 27 2021. Thank you to Cmdr. Brown for sending National 3rd Vice commander Bill Clark to represent National AMVETS at our convention. Our delegates rejected 3 resolutions received from National AMVETS dealing with changes to our National CBL on the grounds they were not in the correct resolution format and had no assigned numbers.

Pennsylvania’s 2021-2022 officers are as follows; Commander Bernard McDonald, 1st Vice Cmdr. Gene “Cookie” Rail, 2nd Vice Cmdr. Kim Carson, JA Mark Hines, Provost Marshal William J. Slabinski, N.E.C. PNC Arthur C Stahl and Alt. N.E.C. PD2C Robert Bankhead. All officers look forward to a successful year. PDC Gerald Hawk was reinstated as the Dept. Executive Director as we continue our search for a new permanent E.D..

Pennsylvania’s S.E.C. Meeting will be held at he Radisson Penn Harris Convention Center 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill,Pa.17011 on the following dates. Fall S.E.C. September 10-12, 2021; January S.E.C. Jan. 14-16,2022; Spring S.E.C. March 11-13, 2022 and our 2022 Dept. Convention will be held in Hopwood Pa. with Post 103 as the host post. More convention information will be available as the year progresses.

Pennsylvania is also supporting Past Department Commander Paul Shipley on his candidacy for National 3rd Vice Commander. Paul did an excellent job pulling us through the pandemic and we believe his skills will make him excellent Legislative Vice Commander. We ask all AMVETS to support this most viable candidate as he campaigns to move onto the National level office.

This concludes my report and I move for adoption at the proper time.

Arthur C. Stahl PNC  
NEC Department of Pennsylvania
Membership
Membership renewal has been limited due to COVID-19 mandates. The period from 7/20-6/21 has amounted to over 317 hours in membership development activities. As we move on to future activities, it is expected that the Department will have a major increase in membership.

Programs
Virginia has maintained 100% program reporting from 13 Posts for the past 12 months. JROTC/ROTC programs have amounted to 187 hours of volunteers and a program value of over $7,406. The Department is strongly involved in the Commonwealth of Virginia’s suicide awareness program and a Past Department Commander sits on this board. Over 177 hours and $4,757 activity costs have been spent on funeral honors. For the past 12 months, Virginia post’s food and groceries donations have amounted to over $62,975 to families in the community.

Service
The Department has made donations to our 3 VA hospitals and 2 Veterans Care Centers that have amounted to over $5,000. At our Department Convention, May 21-23, our guest speaker was the Chief Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs of Virginia Department of Veterans Services. He leads the Department of over 800 employees for budget and legislative development support for our Veterans. We are proud to say he is a Post member of AMVETS.

Upcoming Events
The Department of Virginia will hold our next DEC on September 24-25 at Post 7 Harrisonburg, VA.

Legislative
Legislative work has been limited in it’s activities due to COVID-19. Local, State and National mandates and rules allowing activities at the Post and Department level have reduced personal contact with our elected officials. Through our close relationships with other VSO’s, we have maintained support on various key Veterans legislation.

Commander, this concludes my report and I move for adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Cooper NEC
AMVETS Department of Virginia
COVID-19 Impact
Following State and Federal regulations, all of our Posts were closed from mid-March through mid-May 2020. According to the severity of the transmission of the virus, some Posts were impacted more than others. All Posts continued to assist veterans with needs, whether it was getting to medical appointments or financial assistance.

Our largest Post, 38 in Falling Waters was able to qualify for a PPP loan to assist them through the closing period by keeping employees on the payroll. They are inquiring on the possibility of a second round of PPP – results are not in.

The Department held our convention at Alpine Lake Resort in Terra Alta, WV. The plan was to have the convention be a family friendly affair and it was – it was the first time that our two newest Posts attended a convention. A National Representative (Harry Neal) attended the Convention. A good time was had by all and we even managed to conduct the Department Elections.

Membership
The Department is continuing the recruiting program initiated as described in the last reports.

Post 30 and Post 38 have a continuing recruiting drive which is working jointly with the Department’s efforts. The Department recruiting committee is now working with Post 17 and 20 (our newest Posts) to assist them in their recruiting effort. During the Commanders visit to Post 14 he enlisted the Post in the committee.

The committee will continue to use the mailing campaign which is moving into its fourth year to reach out to delinquent members and those in the at large community to encourage them to join existing Posts or to work on setting up new Posts.

Department Growth
Our program to expand the Department resulted in the installation of Posts in Terra Alta WV (Post 17) and Wardensville WV (Post 20). We are still working on establishing a Post (Post 1) in Wharncliffe, WV, but the pandemic has severely hampered our efforts. We have word that the application for Charter will be submitted late July 2021 or early August 2021!

Programs
The Department participated with First Energy (FE) (A large electrical provider covering a large portion of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey and West Virginia) in a food giveaway in November to celebrate the Veterans Day Week. There were ten (10) AMVETS Post that participated in this program and West Virginia had three (3) Posts that participated, Posts 30, 34 and 38 were the recipients of the funds in West Virginia.

The Department is running a fundraising program to help raise funds to allow the Department to do more for veterans. One of the issues with the current Legislative state of affairs is that although AMVETS is a non-profit organization, donations to us are not deductible by the donor. AMVETS does not meet the requirement of the IRS, the IRS Rule states:

“Donations to war veterans’ organizations are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor’s federal income tax return. At least 90% of the organization’s membership must consist of war veterans. The term war veterans means persons, whether or not present members of the United States Armed Forces, who have served in the United States Armed Forces during a period of war (including the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the Persian Gulf war, and later declared wars).”

The AMVETS organization needs to work to get this restriction changed!

In the Department’s convention, the biggest subject of discussion was membership, both retention and recruiting. It was decided that the Department should start a campaign to attack both problems. National and District leadership has been helpful in providing information useful for recruiting and National has been generous in providing supplies and material. What is
desired is the capability to contact newly released or discharged veterans but there does not seem to be any solution to this problem. As part of the recruiting campaign, the Department is investigating ways to contact those individuals, one of which is using social media to let them know who we are and the benefits of membership in AMVETS.

Service
The Department's service focus is veterans who are in VA hospitals and nursing/convalescent homes and those who need assistance in making medical visits and rehabilitation visits. Posts 30 and 38 donate funds, driving veterans to appointments as required, and visits to the local VA hospital and nursing homes, while Posts 14, 17, 34 and 40 provide the same to the VA centers and nursing homes in the central and western part of WV. This is in conjunction with the Department's recruiting drive. All Posts visit members in the hospital and attend visitations and deliver memorial bibles to the family of deceased members.

Other
The Department has had a large turnover in the Officer staff last year and is working to continue the revitalization of the programs with the formation of new committees and a program to have Department Officers visiting all Posts at least twice a year or more. The Department will be developing committees and working in conjunction with the programs under way or in development by Posts 14, 17, 30, 34, 38 and 40 to continue to enhance our membership and retention of members.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Stracka
NEC, Department of WV
National District III

National District III Commander Deric Everett ........... 22
Alabama, Charles Doubek, NEC .................................. 23
Florida, Allen Baggett, NEC ....................................... 25
Georgia, Frederick Bates, Alternate NEC ..................... 26
Louisiana, Gary L. Stuart, NEC .................................. 27
South Carolina, Kenneth Colby, NEC ......................... 28
Tennessee, Ron Bottomley, NEC ................................. 29
Report of Deric Everett,  
National District III Commander

Membership  
Even with COVID, this has been a good year for Florida in membership. As of March, Florida is first in the nation in new members with 1,285. Florida is also first in renewals with 6,184. I am especially proud of the way National Third District has struggled with membership because of the virus. States came up with innovative ideas to bring new members in and to get the renewals.

Programs  
Program information is not available to me because the security certificate has expired and I could not retrieve the information.
Report of Charles Doubek, NEC
Department of Alabama

Membership
Post 21: Membership retention for the Post is 94%. Membership is slow but the Post continues to strive to meet its goal of having a 100 member post. The last year saw an average of 1.5 new members per month.

Post 23: The Post is working on contacts from the MAL list and is actively recruiting new members.

Post 316: Post 316 is a newly established post and is participating in local events where the opportunity to recruit new members exists.

Post 2018: Recruited 13 new members at an Early Bird Special.

As a recruiting tool door hangers were printed and distributed to the posts. Members are encouraged to place them on doors of houses displaying an American flag or the doors of cars with veteran type license plates. Members were also encouraged to wear either AMVET hats or AMVET name tags and to carry application forms.

Programs
Post 21 programs included lawn mowing, military funerals, the display of American flags in Athens and over 800 man-hours in renovating the Post.

Post 23 activities included visiting sick or hospitalized veterans, a Memorial Day Commemoration, fund raising and other community service.

Post 316 reports that programs and services have been going well but that they were unable to report their activities because the Post was not showing up on the program reporting page.

For the 12 month period ending June 30th, 2021 Post 2018 logged 3365 service hours resulting in a total program value of $245,860.

Service
Post 21: Driving to medical appointments, support of other charitable events, working at the Athens Veteran's Museum and fund raising at the Inaugural Horse, Pony and Mule Show fund raiser.

Post 23: Two Law Enforcement Office of the Year presentations, Veterans Day Service at Opp Depot (honoring veterans in the community), Rattlesnake Rodeo participation and fund raising, placing over 700 flags at cemeteries in and around Opp Alabama on Memorial Day and doing volunteer work at the Veterans Memorial Scenic Overlook (presently working on the placement of a handicap access ramp).

Post 316: Post 316 has assisted the Department Commander in starting a new Post in Bay Minette, Alabama.

Post 2018: Visits and programs conducted at the William F. Green VA Hospital, promoted good will among nations by sending Care boxes to Philippine villages for educational purposes, assisted disabled veterans and families of deceased veterans, established a $1,000 scholarship program at Elberta High School, participated in local parades, benefit ride, provided project planning, grant writing assistance to the Miflin Community Hall and secured a $125,000 grant from the Lowe’s 100 Hometowns Program to restore a 102 year old school house.

Upcoming Events
Post 21: Veteran’s breakfast every second Saturday of each month, flags of Athens on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veteran’s Day, cards and socializing every Friday night, weekly Karaoke nights, and planning a weekly Family Event.

Post 23: Sending a Quarterly newsletter to members, setting up booth to sell merchandise at Downtown Jamboree, assisting local Girl Scout by providing Post 23 building as a meeting location, panning a Fall Fair in Andalusia and returning to visit nursing homes to interact with veterans, once the virus pandemic restrictions are lifted.

Post 316: None planned at this time.
Report of Charles Doubek, NEC
Department of Alabama (continued)

Post 2018: Membership drive booth at the Elberta Sausage Festival in October, Flags on Veterans graves on Veterans Day, visits to the W.F. Green Veterans Hospital, Thursday Night Bingo, Friday Night Entertainment, Saturday Night Hangout with Food, Games & Music, 911 Memorial Ride to First Responder Stations in the County, Membership Retention Drive and Food & Gift Drive for the Holidays.

Legislative
There was no legislative activity this year. However, a new 3rd Vice Commander has been elected and he will be handling future legislative activities.

Communications
A Department website is being created. Each post will be getting an updated web page which will have links at the Department site.
Report of Allen Baggett, NEC
Department of Florida

Membership
The Department of Florida survived the pandemic, a little tattered but holding our own. The department finished the year with 17,440 members in good standing, down about 500 members but I feel good about our progress for the future growth.

Programs
The department held our own in programs finishing the 2020-2021 year with a little over $4,000,000 in program reports.

Other
The Department held our Convention June 17-20 at the Rosen Centre Orlando FL. It was the first meeting we held since Feb 2020. We had the pleasure of having National 2nd Vice Commander, Don Mclean and Department of PA Commander, Paul Shipley attend our convention. They both said they enjoyed themselves.
Report of Frederick Bates, Alternate NEC
Department of Georgia

Membership
Department of Georgia has 35 new members, 336 annual members and 1460 life members for a total of 1796 members. The Department is trying to get more renewals by using Facebook and ZOOM to get information out. The Department has suspended one post and revoked another. We now have 15 posts in the Department.

Programs
The Department of Georgia has a total of 12 of 15 Post Reporting at the end of June 2021. As of 30 June 2021, we have 80% of the post reporting. These numbers will increase within the month when we should be at. We had a total 876.0 volunteers with 2684.0 volunteers' hours with 28969.0 miles which gives the Department a total program value of $105,565.20 for the period ending June 2021. The Department distributed 29 JROTC/ROTC medals and certificates to Post for presentation at local high school and colleges.

Service
The Department of Georgia Service Foundation New Officers are:

- President Frederick Bates
- Vice President Robert Heiss
- Secretary/Treasurer Ronnie Dunn
- Trustee Arthur Rushin
- Trustee Ametha Wiggs
- Trustee Ronald Dillon
- Trustee Bobby Rand
- Immediate Past CC Wendell Rivens
- Incumbent CC Milton Allen
- State Judge Advocate Albert Wright (Ex-officio member)

The Department of Georgia donated $1000 to Newman High School after a tornado hit the High School. The Service Foundation donated $5000 to Atlanta VA Health Care System. This donation will be used to supplement care and service provided to Veteran patients and their family at the Atlanta VA. The Service Foundation donated $1300 to AMVETS Post 600 (Taccoa) to purchase Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for the Boys and Girls Club in Taccoa GA.

Upcoming Events
Department held its State Convention 4-6 June at the Hilton Garden Inn, 207 North Willie Lee Parkway, Warner Robins GA. The new Department of Georgia AMVETS Officers are:

- Commander: Milton Allen (Post 910 Newnan)
- 1st Vice Commander: Stephon Banks (Post 600 Taccoa)
- 2nd Vice Commander: Wanda Rice (Post 12 Winder)
- Judge Advocate: Albert Wright (Post 44 Atlanta)
- Provost Marshal: Calvin Davis (Post 607 Valdosta)
- Inspector General: Bob Heiss (Post 12 Winder)
- Service Officer: Frank Simmons, Jr (Post 110 Sandersville)
- Executive Director: Ron Dillon (Post 12 Winder)
- Chaplain: Shannon Baxter (Post 12 Winder)
- NEC: Frederick Bates (Post 607 Valdosta)
- Nat’l Guard Rep: Steve Pierce (Post 12 Winder)
- Public Relations Officer: Linda Rodgers (Post 118 Douglasville)
- VA Representative: Harold Banks (Post 44 Atlanta)
- Service Foundation President: Frederick Bates (Post 607 Valdosta)
- Nat’l Service Officer: Bobby Rand (Post 44 Atlanta)
- Mental Wellness Coordinator: Arthurine Wright (Post 44 Atlanta)

The Department of Georgia has elected their first female to 2nd Vice Commander.

The Department of Georgia September 2021 SEC will be held 10-12 September 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 207 North Willie Lee Parkway, Warner Robins GA. Telephone 855-680-3239. The Department will have a 911 memorial during this SEC. We are inviting the local Fire Department and Police Department to honor their fallen brothers and sisters and participate in a candlelight memorial ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of 911.

Communications
The new Public Relations Officer Linda Rodgers is working on having all Department meetings on Zoom/Facebook live so members can attend virtually. This should help keep members updated on Department issues.
Report of Gary L. Stuart, NEC
Department of Louisiana

Membership
The Department of Louisiana has 6 posts with membership of 266 annual and 869 life members for a total of 1,135 members. We are getting a few new members, both annual and life.

Programs
We are at 67% reporting, after three e-mails and a phone call I gave up on two of the posts doing any reporting.

The 4 posts reporting had 399 volunteers donating 2,621 hours at a total value of $96,236.09.

Some of the programs were scouting, special Olympics, visiting sick Veterans, and other community services.

Service
I did not get a report from our service officer, but I know that he is working hard to provide help to our veterans.

Upcoming Events
Our next SEC will be held October 15 and 16 in Monroe Louisiana, with Post 66 hosting. We held our last SEC meeting in June in Alexandria Louisiana with Post 7 hosting. New Department officers were elected. Commander Mark Ashley, 1st vice Bob Griffin, 2nd vice Kelly McFarlain, 3rd vice Robert Bird, Finance Marion Polk, JA Emmett Bailey, and Provost, Tom Ailen.
Report of Kenneth Colby, NEC  
Department of South Carolina

Membership  
1st Vice Commander John Reynolds reports that the Department has 469 Annual members and 872 Life members for a total of 1,341 members. The Department had an increase of 21 annual members and one life member. We have 206 open invoices, down from 2,011 in March. Our active membership is now 1,135 members. We have encouraged posts to conduct membership drives in their local communities.

Programs  
2nd Vice Commander Michael (Stork) Schwartz reported for the first quarter of 2021 the Department of SC is at 86% post programs reporting. Programs included: Community Service, Sick and Hospitalized Veterans, Fund Raising, Military Funeral Honors, Membership Activity, Clothing/Food Drives, Homeless Veterans, and Americanism.

Volunteers – 116  
Hours – 347 X $27.20 = $9,438.40  
Travel – 3,366 miles X $.54 = $1,818.18  
Expenses – $1,082  
Donations – $4,556  
Report Total – $16,894.58

The 2nd Vice Commander noted upcoming programs for the July – Sept. period and emphasized due dates for submission and completion.

ROTC and JROTC Awards Program for school year 2020-2021:

42 schools participated  
38 High Schools, 4 Colleges  
54 Medals and Certificates distributed

Service  
NSO Columbia VA Hospital, Al Malone did not attend the SEC Meeting. VAVSO Carson Brogdon has not had access to the VA Assisted Living Center due to COVID. We are looking forward to resuming our VA visits when we are permitted to do so.

Upcoming Events  
SEC Meeting will be held at Post 33 in Ridgeway, SC on 19 Sept. 2021. We will be holding a fundraiser with proceeds to go to the “Big Red Barn Veterans Retreat” in Blythewood, SC.

Legislative  
We encourage our members to log on to AMVETS.org to keep abreast of the National AMVETS legislative initiatives. We also encourage members to contact their state and local legislators concerning support of important veteran issues.

Communications/PRO  
We continue to support our local communities with service related events, i.e. Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

Other  
Revalidation Forms are being collected by the Department to be forwarded to National Headquarters. We are encouraging our posts to be more aggressive in reporting programs to the Department so that we can get back to 100% reporting.
The Department of Tennessee held its 2021 State Convention from the 3rd to the 6th of June at the Edgewater Hotel in Gatlinburg, TN.

Membership
First Vice Commander Mark Frederick reports the Department has 2841 members, 1654 life, 609 annual and 578 members at large. We are ranked 18th nationally, with 7% growth - 4th in the Nation, 2nd in the District and have a 73.3% retention rate. Tennessee ranks 8th in the Nation with new members. District III Commander, Deric Everett is #1 in the Nation for District Commanders.

This year, the main focus for the Department, Commander Frederick says, has to be retention of membership. He strongly urged leadership to personally contact those whose membership has expired in an effort to bring them back into the Posts. Additionally, contact members at large in your area and invite them to come to their local Posts, and transfer their membership.

National Membership Director Harry Neal can be reached at 301-683-4020 to get a listing of members at large in your area.

Programs:
Second Vice Commander Kathi J. Duncan noted several Posts could not submit Americanism Contests entries this year due to COVID-19. She urged getting back into the schools as a priority for this coming year. September 17 is National Constitution Day. That's when we pass out free copies of the U.S. Constitution to the eighth graders in your school districts. This can help get access later on for Programs.

Pandemic Relief and Natural Disaster Relief reporting is permitted. Please make sure to report ALL the things your Post does. Everything! Some Posts are not reporting anything.

Commander Duncan said she's getting used to reporting of programs, there are 45 categories. Mark Frederick added you can use the comment section when imputing hours. This helps clarify your entries. Commander Duncan reflected that due to COVID-19 our programs values dropped from $1,000,000 in 2019 to $500,000 in 2021.

ROTC/JROTC programs continued to be impacted by COVID-19 whereas most Schools opted not to have presenters present at their Awards Ceremonies. Awards were given to the schools to make presentations themselves.

Legislative:
Two bills, sponsored by TNVET were passed and signed into law by Governor Lee, one (Pub. Ch 35) designated the 12th of June to be Woman Veterans Recognition Day and the other allows up to 36 hours of yearly leave for VA appointments for a State employee who is a veteran with a service related disability of 30% (Pub. Ch. 427). Other veteran sensitive new laws are Pub. Ch. 445, the ‘Major Trevor Joseph Act’, provides burial services for a person who died while on active duty in a State Veterans Cemetery provided notice is given by the family to the department of at least 72 hours, Pub. Ch. 284, as enacted, establishes state employment protections for members of the national guard, state guard and civil air patrol called to active state duty, and Pub. Ch. 247, as enacted adds the NAVPERS-660, honorable discharge certificate, to the list of documents that may be submitted by an honorably discharged veteran who requests to have the “veteran” designation on a drivers license.

Another important piece of legislation is one that would amend Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Tennessee, to allow for bingo games conducted by 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) to meet a charitable, not for profit, or community service purpose. This is a two year process. It now needs to be passed by next year’s Legislative Session. Would be very important for Posts to raise revenue.

Service:
VAVS Department Director Kenny Milligan reported all State Homes and Hospitals remain closed for activities due to COVID-19. No further report. Mr. Milligan
stepped down due to age, providing Commander Norwood with a written resignation. He received a standing ovation for his many years of service.

Communications:
Public Relations Director Rob Watkins advised the need for better Post to Post communications. It’s helpful to learn what other Posts are doing in their communities. Sharing of ideas is always a good thing.

P.R. Director Watkins announced a thrust to get local Posts involved with their local Chamber of Commerce. He says access to the business people of the community, to improve relationships for veterans, is most important. He sighted the success of his Post who received space in a city building for an AMVETS office and the donation and installation of a flag pole out front. He said his Post has been in the community for decades but finally received notoriety once he joined the Chamber.

A discussion was held concerning the update and replacement of the Department’s website. It’s still a work in progress.

Events:
Fall SEC will be held October 29-30 at Post 2 in Oak Ridge, TN

Other:
An audit was conducted of the Department’s Finance Records for Fiscal Years 2019 through 2021. All accounts and balances are correct.

Election of Officers for 2021-2022:
Commander: Mark Frederick
1st Vice Commander: Kathi Duncan
2nd Vice Commander: Tim Woody
Finance Officer: Mike Church
Judge Advocate: Joe Rainwater
NEC: Ron Bottomley
Alt NEC: Joe Carter
Provost Marshal: Larry Evon
Svc Foundation Seat A: Glenn Taylor
Svc Foundation Seat B: Johnny Titlow
Svc Foundation Seat C: Sam Jones

History Preceding 2021 Department of TN Election of Officers

As NEC representing the Dept of TN, I feel it’s important to report the events leading up to the Department Election of Officers at the Department State Convention June 5, 2021

PNC Jimmy T. Smith conspired with 3rd District Commander Deric Everett and Department 1st Vice Commander Mark Frederick against 1st Term Department Commander Steve Norwood. I became aware of this at a Service Foundation Meeting, March 20, 2021 at Cookeville, TN. I overheard campaigners of Mark Frederick state that Commander Norwood cannot run for a 3rd term. This is a false statement, intended to deceive. National Commander Brown issued a directive that all 2019 elected officers, Post, Department and National may remain in office and extend their current term through June elections in 2021. This as a result of COVID-19 restrictions across the Nation at the time, which prohibiting meetings. The directive was to be announced to all AMVETS members. Therefore, the 2019 term was extended to a two year single term and all officers would be eligible to run for a second one year term in 2021.

I became concerned to the point that I contacted two PNC’s, J.P. Brown and Jim King, whom I trusted, for council. They concurred with me that an email from me to all concerned was in order which questioned what I had observed. That email was sent March 22nd and is inserted below:

To: Butch Adams

cc: J.P.Brown III, Jim King, Jimmy T. Smith, Bill Kilgore, Deric Everett, Curt Rust, Mark Frederick, Tim Woody, Jim Ferguson, Kathi Duncan

Subj: Department Elections

Hi Butch, sorry we didn’t have a chance to visit at the Service Foundation meeting last weekend. I always enjoy our talks.
Report of Ron Bottomly, NEC
Department of Tennessee (continued)

I understand from several directions that you plan on visiting AMVETS Posts in April. Post 1776 will meet at Operation Stand Down, 1125 12th Ave S., Nashville, TN 37203 on April 19th. Meal starts at 6pm, meeting starts at 6:45. Come on over.

I also understand you intend to speak against current Department Commander Norwood and promote current 1st Vice Commander Frederick. Well, that’s something you may certainly do. However, I cannot understand why so many of you desire to do this. That’s very disruptive to the Department of Tennessee and will effect the rotation of the chairs. Who is going to run for 1st Vice?? If you nominate Ms Duncan, you’re throwing her under the bus. If you bring in someone else, you insult her and disrupt the rotation. If Mark loses, he’s out and we lose an awesome 1st Vice. That’s a terrible loss.

If you say Commander Norwood is not eligible because he’s served two years, you’re wrong. Attached is the directive from National Commander Brown which extended the term of ALL Post, Department and National Officers, appointed and elected, to State Convention time in 2021 (if a convention could not be held in 2020). That’s not a second term, that’s an extended term. Commander Norwood has been elected to one term in office and he IS eligible to run for a second. Now that you know this, you may NOT say anything about two terms. Please be careful of your verbiage.

I’m not happy that this is taking place. From my position as N.E.C., I ask all of you involved in this to knock it off. Let this next year happen as designed, then Mr. Frederick can have two years as Commander after that. It will do him good to have one more year as 1st Vice and good for the Dept too.

It will depend on how you present yourselves going forward as if this might be viewed as a conspiracy. If so, that’s conduct unbecoming and I will press charges regardless of what rank you hold.

Most sincerely,
Ron Bottomley

Four of the recipients communicated back to me via phone, email and texts. One questioned why I seemed to attack him, the others made justification of what they were doing, two tried to bring me on board and the last accused me of being “Cancel Culture”, that I only see my point of view and that I’m what’s wrong with America. Well, I believe in protocol and what has been historically set as standard precedence or practice in the past. Even though any qualified person can run for office, jumping chairs and mis-stating facts to defame a sitting Commander is in bad taste. There was nothing amiss in the way Commander Norwood was fulfilling his office. A faction of past leadership disliked him and wanted him out because he tries to do what’s right and this, according to the Bylaws.

Jimmy T. Smith said to me “Tennessee needs to keep a strong footprint in National, we don’t think Norwood is good enough to represent Tennessee at the National level”. Well, who is “we” Jimmy T??

Deric Everett said to me “I know you’re Norwood’s man, but I’m going to vote for Mark Frederick” Norwood’s man?? I guess Mr. Everett forgot I have a Post Commander of the Year Award with his name on it from 2016 and in 2017, he awarded me the State Commanders Meritorious Service Certificate. Sounds like I was his man. But no, I support the Office of Department Commander, no matter who’s in office. If any of them would ask anything of me, I would do it to the best of my ability, and I did.

At the Posts April meetings, several were visited by the conspirators where they encouraged the Posts delegates to vote for Mark Frederick. Nothing wrong with that. But, not all Posts were contacted. The membership in the Posts not contacted must not have been good enough to hear what was told to the Posts that were visited. Or, perhaps they may know the things being
told might be B.S. Yet these persons who went to some Posts were invited, in writing, to come to other Posts but no showed the meetings without explanation. If they try to say "Nashville was too far to go", then why did they attempt to go to Post 45 in Paris, two hours further away from them??

In late April and early May, properly notarized complaints were received against two Posts and a third had a Bylaw issue that conflicted with the National Constitution. After three weeks of consulting and deliberation with the National JAG, it was agreed these Posts should be put on suspension, pending hearings. Suspensions were handed down the week before Convention which put the Posts in the category of bad standing. That was not by design, but just the way the dates worked out. Therefore, they could not attend the State Convention. Two days before Convention, National JAG Jim King reversed himself and instructed the suspensions were not legal and must be rescinded. This at the prompting of PNC Jimmy T. Smith. The suspensions were rescinded. This threw Department Commander Norwood under the bus. The conspirators now went around the Convention telling delegates that Norwood suspended the Posts only so he would win the election. That is a falsehood. The Posts were suspended because they had proper charges filed against them. As of this writing, the charges are still pending.

Also, word was spread around the Convention delegates that Commander Norwood was going to call the Gatlinburg Police and that Department JAG Ferguson was going to bar the door and not permit delegates of the Posts in question from entering. This is a blatant lie and the conspirators now made JAG Ferguson suspect in the eyes of the delegates. After Post 22 was suspended, 1st Vice Frederick contacted JAG Ferguson and told him he should have told Commander Norwood not to suspend the Posts. Ferguson responded he doesn't tell the Department Commander what to do, he may offer advice, but, the decision is the Commanders. He would act the same way if Frederick was Commander, he would follow instructions given to him. Frederick said "he would see to it that Ferguson would never hold another office”. Ferguson has served commendably under two Department Commanders over four years. He has been impartial and ultra diligent in his duties. Both Department Commander Norwood and Department JAG Ferguson lost in the election by a vote of 3 to 1. Identical.

Precedent has now been set that a Post can have something in their Bylaws that conflict with the National Constitution with the reasoning that this part of the Bylaws are null and void. Yet, remaining in their Bylaws, if not checked, an issue could arise leading to a miss-step in Post authority. This has already happened. Post 22 in Maryville, TN Bylaws says they will "never have an AMVETS Riders organization in their Post”. This Post was contacted by National Riders Commander, Tom McNamara, who was planning a ride on many of the great bike roads through the area of this Post. They requested to drop by Post 22 en route for an informal information meeting and were denied access because the Post Bylaws prohibits Riders. Once Post 22 received it's suspension, they omitted the phrase in question from their Bylaws and requested to be reinstated. Changes to Bylaws can only take place at a Posts annual meeting with the approval, by vote, of the body. This change can be done in 2022. Reinstatement happened anyway.

Another of the Posts in question, Post 90 in Decatur, TN has been conducting illegal Post elections, allowing absentee ballots and changing the date of their annual meeting, at will, outside that which is specified in their Bylaws. This is the home Post of District III Commander, Deric Everett and some of this took place while he was State Commander. Post 90 Bylaws state the annual election will be the weekend prior to the May business meeting. Due to COVID, the 2020 election couldn't take place. To secure their positions in office, they decided to have an election in June without proper notification of the membership. Department Commander Norwood was present at this June meeting and explained the date in their Bylaws had passed and National commander Browns memo did not justify violation of Post Bylaws. After this explanation, the members present voted not to have an election. In July, Commander Everett told Post 90 he talked to National
Commander Brown and she said it was OK to have the election, even after the discussion in June about the election date, per the Bylaws, as well as absentee voting and changing Bylaws at a normal monthly business meeting. Commander Brown did not OK an election. A valid notarized complaint was received exposing this and is still pending.

The third Post in question, Post 100 in Etowah, TN, has had continuous gross member disciplinary issues. A Post member published several profane false allegations against Commander Norwood in Social Media. Then sent a profane letter to Department JAG Jim Ferguson daring them to expel him from AMVETS. The verdict at his Post Grievance hearing was 30 days suspension from the Post Canteen. In another issue, a Sons of AMVETS member made repeated, unwanted advances to a female AMVET, exposing himself to her with a suggestion of what she should do. This, in the canteen full of people. His verdict in a Post Grievance hearing was 15 days suspension from the canteen. Yet, the female AMVET, a veteran, was told not to come back to the canteen because she’s the trouble maker. A new allegation has arisen where an AMVET was told he could no longer come into the canteen because he was a member of a different Post. There are proper notarized complaints against this Post. The Post Commander was instructed to rectify these issues. He has not.

It has never been suggested that Mark Frederick would not make a good Department Commander. To the contrary, he is qualified and has a great history in AMVETS leadership. I myself think he could be a fine leader of the Department of Tennessee. Yet he has allowed himself to be a focal point in this conspiracy giving me pause to wonder his motivations. Is it for himself or the betterment of the Department?? He would have had an automatic, uncontested election next year. What was the rush??

Leading up to the State Convention, PNC Kilgore repeatedly told me he’s remaining neutral to this election conflict. Yet at the Convention he could be seen joined at the hip with the conspirators guessing how many votes they had. Prior to the Convention, he called me and picked my brain. I shared information with him in confidence which I learned he repeated to one of the parties in question. PNC Kilgore has violated my trust.

They say, “the election is over, let’s move forward together”. That’s fine, except faith, trust and confidence of our leadership and the integrity of their methods has now been compromised. Division now exists in the Department of Tennessee. It will become more serious once delegates whose votes were swayed from Mr. Norwood to Mr. Frederick learn that their decision was based on conjecture, half truths and non truths. Some of the active conspirators now hold elected and appointed offices in the Department of Tennessee. Mr. Frederick should make a fine Commander, except his tenure will be forever marred by his willing involvement herein. It will take a long time for Tennessee to recover from the actions of a few to the detriment of many. This is not who we are as AMVETS.

So, how do I know all of this?? Sometimes, when serious matters arise, I’m asked my opinion or advice. All of this is a serious matter.
National District IV

National District IV Commander Richard Vannatta .................................. 35
Illinois, Chris Studebaker, NEC ................................................................. 36
Indiana, Kenny Burton, NEC ................................................................. 37
Iowa, Barry Remington, NEC ............................................................... 38
Kentucky, Alan R. Smith, NEC .............................................................. 39
Michigan, John Hoecherl, NEC .......................................................... 40
Missouri, Robert E. Lee, NEC ................................................................. 41
Ohio, Sandra Vorhies, NEC ................................................................. 42
Wisconsin, Dennis Barrington, NEC ..................................................... 43

Minnesota report not received by printing deadline
Report of Richard VanNatta, National District IV Commander

Commander Brown, National Officers, NEC members and fellow AMVETS

Membership
The IV District's membership has improved with all Departments numbers being up. 1st ViceBidstrup along with the Department's 1st has made real progress. There are a couple of Departments that are still lagging behind but they are working hard on ideas given them. Before Covid they was going to have a membership drive and are still working toward of having one. We have worked hard at retaining members and recruit new members. With everything more open we are out there more and recruiting new members. Which will help.

Programs
The District has 100% of Departments reporting programs, but only 74% of Post reporting. 2ndVice Randolph continues to work with Commander's and 2nd Vices so that we can get the Post to report their programs. It is a battle to get a hold of some of the Post. With things opened up more are back out doing more programs.

Service
Michigan has 2 new service officers to help serve more Veteran's with their VA claims. Illinoisservice officer retired after 20 years helping Veterans with their VA claims. All service officers never missed a beat and continued to helped with claims.

Legislation
The legislators have been out in their districts and it's been a good time to connect with them and push our legislative agenda.

Other
Nat'l Commander sent myself with Nat'l Deputy JA to investigate a Department. I attended Illinois convention but had other invites but was the same time as Illinois. Numbers of delegates was down at most State conventions. Thank you all for service and thank you for what you do for Veterans.

Respectfully Submitted
Report of Chris Studebaker, NEC  
Department of Illinois

National Commander Brown, Members of the NEC, fellow AMVETS, and guests,

What a crazy year and a half we have had. Who would have thought we would go through a worldwide pandemic and be on lock down and restrictions 15 months in Illinois. I hope everyone is being safe and doing great. As everyone knows that with this pandemic all of the veteran’s activities have been cancelled and it was a challenging year for everyone. We were able to have our state convention in June and we elected our third female commander for Illinois. Our new Department Commander is Jean Henning out of post 922.

Membership
AMVETS Department of Illinois’ membership was 9,145 members in 2019-2020. Currently, the department has around 9,358 members this year. Furthermore, we offer a wide variety of membership tools to gain attention and set us apart from other department VSOs. We offer online capabilities to join IL AMVETS and our cutting-edge website sets us apart from others. Illinois AMVETS is constantly trying to improve our coverage and remain at the fore front of Illinois veterans’ organizations.

Programs
AMVETS Department of Illinois received an award for 100% programs reporting for this past year. In addition, Illinois AMVETS volunteers continue to work to provide volunteer events such as bingo, picnics, and the like. Moreover, from January 2021 to June 2021 Illinois AMVETS has had 565 volunteers who had committed 3856 hours with a total program value of $156,808!

Service
AMVETS Department of Illinois currently has 5 department VSOs located throughout the state. All VSOs are working thoroughly and effectively to assist veterans and their families by filing over 3,500 claims bringing in over $50 million worth of benefits to the state of Illinois just this recent calendar year (2020). Our service officer program was 3rd in the nation in claims submitted during the Covid stricken 2020 year.

National District IV

We couldn’t be prouder of our service officers, they are second to none.

Legislation
The new 102nd Illinois General Assembly had a very busy Spring Session passing major legislation on COVID and other hot topic social issues. However, most other vet and associated legislation were pushed aside. If you have any questions referring to any vet related Illinois legislation please call or email our Legislative Director Keith Wetherell at 1-800-638-8387 or keith@ilAMVETS.org.

Communications
We have a full-time communications director at Illinois AMVETS State Headquarters. Ashley Murphy oversees all IL AMVETS PR, social media, and communications. If you want something shared, disseminated, or to be noticed in Illinois call or email Ashley at 217-528-4713 or ashley@ilAMVETS.org.

Our next department meeting is September 10-12, 2021. This is where we hold our annual school of instruction. We invited two members from each post to attend the meetings with the department compensating them for being there. While at the school the post members learn about membership, programs, legislative, service officer programs, social media, and many other things. We have a picnic at state headquarters after the meetings to close out the weekend. If you have any questions please contact our state headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Studebaker
Illinois NEC
Membership
So far this year Indiana is behind on Membership. As of 9-1-20 we had 5317 active members. As of the date of this report we have 4517. We have added 286 new members since 9-20. That means we have 1086 members that have not renewed.

Programs
This report is from 7-1-20 thru 6-30-21. Total number of Volunteers 20,374. Total Hours is 44,381.8. Value for Hours $1,128,629.17. Total Miles driven 23,819.8. Total value for miles $32,454.77. Activity Cost $55,100.68. Cash Donations $47,337.97. Total Value of Programs as of 6-30-21 $1,329,986.31.

Service
This report is from 10-1-20 thru 6-30-21. Total Veteran claims submitted is 95. Total Claims Awarded 21. Total Claims Denied 6. Total Claims in Appeal 0.

Total Retroactive Amount paid to the Veterans $28,418.28. Total Monthly amount these Veterans are receiving $24,548.57. There are 68 Claims thus far that the VA has not acted on as of yet.

Upcoming Events
Department of Indiana Fall Conference is October 15, 16, & 17, 2021 at Amvets Post 12. Located at 7621 N. SR 3, Muncie, Indiana 47303
Report of Barry Remington, NEC
Department of Iowa

Membership
Membership has increased slightly this past year. This was a nice surprise for us. We are in the panning stages of a plan to increase our membership for this year. Hopefully, it will be a success.

Programs
Program reporting is still a problem with our smaller posts. We now have a new department 2nd Vice Commander who is a go getter and we should start showing results in the very near future.

Service
We have participated in Flag Burning ceremonies, marched in parades and held Memorial Day Ceremonies.

Upcoming Events
Our new Department Commander has got an agenda that should increase our participation in events around the state.

Legislative
Legislature did very little this past year to enhance veterans benefits and/or programs. They are not in session until January 2022.
National Commander Brown, National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

The 74rd Annual Convention AMVETS Department of Kentucky was held June 10, 11, 12, 13 - 2021 At the Holiday Inn Louisville East Hurstbourne Louisville KY.

On Friday night we held a night at the races which was well attended by all.

On Saturday morning the convention was called to order, with 65 members and 1 guest present on the floor convention rules were adopted, National Finance Officer Don Stream addressed the floor and gave greetings from National Commander Jan Brown. National 1st Vice Commander Greg Heun addressed the floor and discussed rolling to remember.

Minuets from the last convention were adopted as printed. All Department Officers, Post Commanders and NEC gave reports all were adopted

Meeting was adjourned in preparation for the joint opening meeting and memorial service

The joint opening followed by our AMVETS Memorial service was held at 13:00 and was well attended by all.

On Saturday night we honored Department Commander Bill Adkins, Auxiliary President Theresa Adkins, and Son's Commander Pat Netherton with a business casual dinner, the dinner was well attended, as was the dance following the dinner.

The department of Kentucky AMVETS was very happy to welcome National Finance Officer Don Stream as our national representative at our State Convention. His guidance and remarks were greatly appreciated

On Sunday morning we held final nominations and election of officers, all elected and appointed officers were sworn in by National Finance Officer Don Stream

I would like to congratulate Bill Adkins on his Re-Election as department commander, I know that he will continue to lead AMVETS department of Kentucky in an ever forward and positive way to continue to help all veterans and their families in KY.

Our change of books SEC will be held July 24, 2021 at 12 noon at AMVETS Post 1 Louisville KY, and our next regular SEC meeting will be held at AMVETS Post 95 Greenup KY on September 11, 2021 at 12 noon.

Commander Brown, this concludes my report and I move for its adoption.

Alan R. Smith
NEC KY
Commander Brown, Members of the NEC, and Guests:
Unfortunately, this report will be almost a carbon copy of my last one. Governor Whitmer has finally fully relaxed the COVID restrictions for Michigan. This has only been effective for about two weeks.

Membership
Our membership is still way down. Hopefully it will improve now that we can finally start going to events where we can recruit new members again (i.e. county fairs, etc.)

Programs
Program reporting has still suffered greatly. For example, since most of the schools were online, it was very difficult to have much success with the Americanism program. At the last report, Michigan has only reported approximately 65%.

Other
Our State Convention was held in Pontiac. Elections were held and our new Department of Michigan Commander is Carol Hebert.

We are currently searching for a New Executive Director. Commander Hebert will act in this position until her replacement can be found.

This concludes my report and I ask for its acceptance at the proper time.

John Hoecherl
NEC Rep
Michigan
National Commander, National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee, and Fellow AMVETS:

Membership:
Department of Missouri currently has 34 active posts with a total of 3733 current members (1140 annual and 2593 life members). The Commanders and 1st Vice Commanders of Membership at the Posts are encouraged to work on pursuing annual renewals for the 289 members that expired on 8/31/2020 and the 356 members whose membership expired on 8/31/2019. As a secondary project, these members will be contacted to encourage re-joining the organization. There are opportunities in areas within the Department to establish posts that are being evaluated.

Programs:
Program reporting for the reporting period which ended on December 31, 2020, was a tremendous success. We had 34 of 34 posts (100%) report online. There was a total of 4,930 volunteers who performed 24,175 hours in services that covered 313,645 miles. These services were valued at $792,857.75! The reporting period which ends on June 30, 2021, is 100% reported for the reporting period. We've had 34 of 34 posts (100%) report online to date. The current total of 4,697 volunteers who performed 17,818 hours in services that covered 170,671 miles. These services were valued at $640,042.42! The 2nd Vice Commander of Programs will continue to work with posts and encourage to report programs online.

Service:
1. Department of Missouri has 3 Service Officers in the St. Louis area to assist with Veterans and VA claims. The Department is currently seeking a replacement for the Service Officer lost in the Kansas City area along with filling the positions in Columbia and Poplar Bluff. There is a candidate for the Columbia VA but finalizing is dependent on the current COVID-19 Pandemic. The long-term plan is to have a Service Officer in each of the 5 VA Hospitals.

2. The Commander's Project is to support struggling posts in the Department.
3. Ongoing projects continue to include military funerals, homeless Veterans, supporting Veterans Hospitals and homes, and supporting JROTC and ROTC programs.

Upcoming Events:
1. Our upcoming SEC meetings will be held at the Inn at Grand Glaize in Osage Beach on the following dates: October 2-3, 2021, February 5-6, 2022, and April 16-17, 2022.
2. Our 76th Annual Dept. Convention will be held on June 4-5, 2022, at the Inn at Grand Glaize.

Respectfully submitted, Robert E. Lee, NEC Department of Missouri, Reported: June 25, 2021
Membership
Department of Ohio is showing that we are gaining younger veterans. This is proven through our Department, Districts, and Posts newly elected officers. We find it refreshing to have our younger veterans becoming involved and assist with our future growth. As we all know our younger veterans are our future.

Programs
Ohio continues to be active and support Special Olympics and our veteran homes and hospitals. Through the COVID-19 we stride to make sure that our veterans knew that even though we could not make our routine visits that they are not forgotten. Through our care packages, donated funds and thinking of you cards we have been able to reach out to our veterans. Now that some facilities are opening up a little we are looking forward to our regular visits and talking with our veterans.

Our Department Program Totals reflect that we have had 702 post reports; 149 Riders post reports; Sad Sacks 10 reports and Juniors 1 report. Our total program reports is 862 which the total value is $1,247,363.17.

Service
We continue to have outstanding VAVS Representative that are reaching out and assisting veterans with care and appeals. Department of Ohio is very proud of our Service Representatives’ and the dedication they have for our veterans and their families.

We are dedicated to be there for our veterans that feel that the only way to handle their problems is by ending their lives. We have put into place a program which is 1 is TooMany. With working with Dr. Chrisanne Gordon, founder of Resurrection Lives we are hoping to share resources with her foundation in hopes of getting veteran suicide to zero as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events
Our upcoming Department Events are:
- Matt Maupin State Campout – 1st weekend of August
- AMVETS Day at Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky
- Lowell Harshbarger Memorial Horseshoe Tournament – In September
- Delmer Click Turkey Shoot – In October

Legislative
Department of Ohio is very blessed to have Merle J. Pratt as our outstanding Legislative Chair. Merle and Don McCauley (Ohio ED) continue to represent the needs for veterans and their family by making appointments with Ohio Legislation. They both continue to meet and present testimony on our veterans behalf. At this time there are 27 House Bills and 12 Senate Bills as of May 20, 2021 from the 134th General Assembly.

Communications/PRO
This June AMVETS Department of Ohio Celebrates 75 years of service. With the grand opening of our new department headquarters with dignitaries present we cut the ribbon. During this grand opening individuals could walk through our new department headquarters and look through the many scrapbooks from the past. There were memories from AMVETS, Auxiliary, Sons and Sad Sacks.

We are very proud of our accomplishments and our new headquarters. If you are ever traveling through please stop in and say hello to Don McCauley and our dedicated staff.

Other
In closing we want to congratulate National Commander Jan Brown for her leadership through the COVID-19. We also want to send out our gratitude to all of our National Officers for their dedication and leadership.
Report of Dennis Barrington, NEC
Department of Wisconsin

Membership
The past 16 months have been very difficult as far as retention and new membership goes but with the help of 1st Vise Commander Wayne Amborn things are looking up and the future is bright.

Programs
Because of the hard work and dedication of 2nd Vise Commander Dale Wiegand Wisconsin is 100% reporting. All the VA Hospitals and homes have been closed to visitors since March of 2020 and are now just beginning to slowly open up. Post have been able to donate new items and have pizza parties for the residents but were not able to have any contact with them. Hopefully by the end of summer things will be back to normal.

Our state convention was held June 24th-27th in Green Bay, National Commander Jan Brown. National Auxiliary President Dee Baggett and National Sons Commander Richard Thibodeau attended our convention. PNC Duane Miskulin did a fantastic job of organizing the convention.

State Officers for 2021-2022

Commander Wayne Amborn
1ST Vise Cmdr Dale Wiegand
2ND Vise Cmdr Brian Svacina.
1 yr. Trustee Dennis Burdck
2 yr. Trustee Ron Griffin
3 yr Trustee Stu Kholin
Provost Marshal Kevin Gunderson
JA Ed Flint
Finance Officer Robert Lund
NEC Dennis Barrington
Alt. NEC Jim Ruppel

Upcoming Events
Sept. 17th-19th State Cammpout Brussels
Oct. 2nd SEC Green Bay
Dec. 3rd State Dance Waupaca
Dec. 4th SEC Waupaca

Commander this concludes my report and I move for its adoption
National District V Commander Mary Wait .................. 45
Kansas, Larry Shippy, NEC .................................. 46
Nebraska, Deborah Wehrli, NEC .......................... 47
North Dakota, Murray Strom, NEC ...................... 48
Texas, Bobby Lumpkins, NEC .............................. 49
Membership
We as a district venture into the changed post pandemic world with cautious optimism to reinvent ourselves with outreach and solicitation for membership using technology in more effective meaningful way but not forgetting the time honored human compassion of personal contact.

Programs
Think tank organization at the National convention should allow us to approach programs in new light for standard sanctioned programs and or other as appropriate.

Service
Particularly, we have supported veterans, families, friends in the wake of devastating life loses at memorials, funerals, psychological support due to financial loses, and pointed those in need in direction for available assistance at home and federally

Our NEC and district officers have stayed in communication throughout the past Covid ridden year with good and welfare care, and Amvet communication just as a “family”should.

Upcoming Events
District is looking forward to dedicating bell tower hopefully within next year in Nebraska. An AMVET presence will be “HUGE”. District is expected to continue support of National programs such as selection of Americanism students from each state, particularly for November youth conference

Legislative
None known

Communications/PRO
We received a gracious thank you from Karen Christner, widow of NEC Albert Loyd Christner, for the memorial gift from district 5 at the time of “Loyd’s” demise, May 29,2021. Loyd was a large voice for the support of veterans in his state of Nebraska and our nation. His funeral at rural Wauneta and military graveside service at Fort McPhersonNational Cemetery was conducted with AMVET presence and reflected his deep love for his God and country in the music of “Fight the good fight” and “Onward Christian soldiers” his memory will be cherished and the value of his personality and physical presence is irreplaceable.

Other
The consensus of opinion is that we are happy to be back to the beginning of a “new normal.”
Membership
A membership and information AMVET table was set up at Kansas Vietnam veterans and family reunion 2021 during long hot June weekend for recruiting and reaching out to veterans and families.

Membership applications are passed out periodically to members for recruitment since mingling at various venues is now allowed. Encouragement to ask eligible family and friends to join up as well as reserve and active duty preparing to leave service or remain.

Programs
Provide Toys for tots gifts for community children and financial donation.

Provide vavs workers and monthly donation to Robert J Dole VA medical center hospital vavs.

Awarded a selected student as a deserving youth for Americanism youth conference to be held in November 2021. Yearly financial contributions to ft dodge Ks veterans and Winfield KS veterans. Donated new style battery operated golf cart to ft dodge staff for travel around their large campus to quickly and easily access cottages, outlying buildings, hospital and nursing homes, chapel, museum etc. Financial Donations to 2 KS veterans hospitals.

Although process slowed down we restore and supply used bikes for Hutchinson KS needy youths

Service
AMVETS Contingent traveled and performed/attended Memorial Day honors at old Fort Dodge national cemetery. Military honors provided by ft Riley honor guard to the historic 1800s and recent veterans interred at the site. Veteran Visitation to our post at old ft dodge was still restricted.

Service officer supported at Vietnam veterans reunion and to answer questions about claims and benefits.

Upcoming Events
Appearances in KS river festival parade if opened up, fort dodge run when allowed, our annual Christmas party and giving to VA hospitals and care homes and needy children. AMVETS Fall booth at KS state fair Hutchinson KS.

Legislative
None

Communications/PRO
We provide/maintain a well viewed motorcycle awareness roadway billboard sign and amvets signs.
Report of Deborah Wehrli, NEC Department of Nebraska

Membership
Membership has been slow to none due to the virus.

Programs
Post #8 in Blair along with the VFW #1251 do a joint Scholarship for a senior in the Blair High School, also a joint Memorial service for Memorial Day.

As a Department, we are involved with 11 different schools across the state for the ROTC program. The department also does Christmas cards for all the Veterans at Christmas time that is in the four Veterans Homes.

Service
As the country starts to open up we have nothing on the agenda for the foreseeable future.

Upcoming Events
Our AMVETS post will be holding a fundraiser in the fall time.

 Legislative
LB64 in Nebraska Change provisions relating to the taxation of social security benefits on a sliding rule. LB387 in Nebraska Change provisions relating to the taxation of military retirement benefits – 100 percent tax-free for all retires.

Communications/PRO
It is with deep sorrow that on the 29 of May 2021 that Loyd Christner passed away.

He will be greatly missed on the National level and in all aspects of helping veterans and the state veterans groups.

Other
The Department of AMVETS has been working on the carillon and bell tower project and NSF for the last 2 years. With the pandemic putting everything to a halt. Hopefully, we can get back on track and get this project finished this year.
Report of Murray Strom, NEC
Department of North Dakota

Membership
All posts are back to holding monthly meetings in person. Elections are being held and new leadership is in place to get back to recruiting and retaining current membership. It is very important to get posts active to keep members interested in helping other veterans and their communities.

Programs
ND has conducted ROTC program, Americanism, Triple Crown Wrestling, and pocket constitution in all North Dakota schools.

Service
We are performing more honor and color guard service because other veteran organizations are folding up. Several posts performed flag retirement ceremonies retiring thousands of flags.

Upcoming Events
State SEC will be October 23, 2021, and ACOVA will be August 12-13, 2021.

Legislative
State legislature approve the use of Gaming trust funds to pay for specials and property taxes and land and canteens. They also approved veterans court and veteran spouse license portability.

Communications/PRO
Veterans Administration in North Dakota is using Tax check off dollars, license plate sales, and honor coin sales to fund veteran need programs.
Report of Bobby Lumpkins, NEC
Department of Texas

Membership
Membership is still coming in, it's about average. We brought up at sec in June, we all agreed that we could do better.

Programs
Working with schools to get them on board for Americanism, and still put out rotc medals, and working hard on Olympics. We are still waiting to get all of the volunteers back in the V.A.

Service
We gave way over 500 mattresses, sent to veterans out of post 52. And still working with homeless veterans, and the dallas career center.

Upcoming Events
We are going to have a hot dog cook out for the vets at the v.a. in Waco on July 3 2021, 11:30am.

Legislative
Lawmakers left a lot of unfinished business by voting the section of the state budget that funds the legislative branch.

Communications/PRO
We have help with a marketing team to help with membership.

Other
I am still running for 3rd vice.
National District VI

National District VI Commander Charles Wharton ........ 51
Alaska, Don Oliver, NEC ...................................... 52
Arizona, David Johnson, Second Vice Commander ........ 53
California, Heidi Holguin, NEC ............................... 54
Hawaii, Donald Lazarus, NEC .................................. 58
New Mexico, Sarah Langley, NEC ............................ 60
Oregon, Murray Cooksley, NEC .............................. 61
Washington, Steve Bird, NEC .................................. 62
Report of Charles Wharton, National District VI Commander

Membership
Over the past 15 months of CovidShutdowns and gathering Restrictions, the Departments of District VI have had many non-renewals. Efforts to recruit were severely impacted. Since the lifting of restrictions, all the Departments have ramped up their efforts to regain memberships and I am glad to report they have exceeded my expectations.

The assistance of National Membership personnel has been a very positive influence in several Departments.

Programs
National District VI staff has been actively involved in training Department Staff in CBL procedures and other facets of proper record keeping. Officer training over the phone and email has been beneficial in several instances. In my one in- person visit to the unorganized State of Idaho, I conducted 16 hours of instruction on procedures required to run a Post and a Department for which they expressed their gratitude.

The individual Department reports have details on specific Programs.

Service
The curtailment of public activities has hampered many places where Department and Post personnel conducted service related activities. VA Claims writing and Benefits Assistance processing seems to be increasing while still trying to take care of the backlogs created by the previous lockdowns.

Upcoming Events
The District VI Departments will be attending Membership meetings in person, again, bringing up to speed new Post and Department Staff on current situations, training staff on procedures, and attending public functions in person.

There is still a lot of work to be done to re-awaken all of our membership and Leadership, and as of this writing the Covid-19 DELTA variant may be requiring individual Governors to re-impose necessary mandates to protect the Public Health. I feel confident District VI Departmental Staff will apply lessons learned last year and continue to move forward in 2021-22. Many NEC reports contain plans aligned with AMVETS Programs.

Legislative

I can best describe the State and Federal AMVETS Legislative efforts as Sluggish and sometimes a standstill. Depending on many variables in the states political environments, there have been small victories that are encouraging us to continue the legislative agenda in District VI.

Communications/PRO
Communications is my favorite subject. I can not emphasize enough the importance of having as many email addresses as possible between Posts and Departments, and likewise from Departments and National Staff. We could accomplish nothing without the communication abilities afforded us through email. Most of District VI Departments have improved their lists dramatically which is an encouraging sign.

Other
As of my last report, the new Dept. of Hawaii was struggling to make the 500 member mark in their 2nd year, New Mexico had closed their largest Post and needed to re-validate another 5th Post all the while striving to conduct a membership drive to RE-GAIN their necessary 500 members for a Department. They have both been successful. There are now 4 Posts in Un-Organized Idaho, but it seems very likely they will have by December (5) chartered Posts to apply for a Department Charter.

I have nothing but complements for all those involved in these endeavors in one of the most difficult of environments.

I also would like to point out some leaders that have made this possible,, at National, Harry Neal, Carolyn Taylor-Harrison and PNC Jim King. At District VI, Duane Herman, Steve Bird and Glenn Skinner. In Hawaii, Cmdr. Lazarus and all his Department Staff, and in New Mexico, Cmdr. Tommy Knight, Executive Director Rick Young and all their Post Commanders. Of course, none of this would have worked without oversight by Joe Chenelly and Commander Brown. Further proof that our organization can work from the top-down or the Post to National level as long as we all read our emails. Thank you.
Report of Don Oliver, NEC
Department of Alaska

Membership
Our department has not done a great deal of membership activity except to reach out to try to get our current membership involved again.

Legislative
Legislative and communications are closely tied. Again, it seems like Beetle Bailey is alive and thriving. Without direction and hand holding from Sarge, he doesn't do much. We're working on that.

Communications/PRO
See legislative.

Other
Our department and posts are shaking off the effects from Covid having all of us in the dark. Elections were held and some new faces and some old faces. Membership, programs and legislative are struggling to catch up. I feel like there could be more help available from National, especially on accessing instructions or directions to make these positions more productive. Alas, this is continuing to elude us. We get a lot of requests for Veterans Suicide Awareness. Any veteran that isn't aware of that issue has long since missed that bus. Along that line, the VFW and American Legion are also clamoring for the veterans attention to same issues. The wheel continues to be re-invented I guess. As AMVETS continues to attempt to come up to speed again, it will be a long uphill battle to do so. We can't seem to raise awareness at the post levels on our mission and goals, past hearing them at the beginnings of monthly meetings.

It seems that only the National Sons leadership made the once annual trip to Alaska this year and they didn't give much notice. Bummer. Maybe next year. Looking forward to getting re-motivated at the convention this year in North Carolina.
Membership
Department of Arizona currently has eight active Posts with a total of 1,103 members. Post and 1st Vice Commanders focus efforts on recruiting new members while maintaining rapport with existing members to encourage annual renewals. Post #0770 has a collective membership total of 846. This includes Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of AMVETS. Please find the most current Post #0770 membership report included.

Programs
Finding creative and safe ways to continue serving the AMVETS Mission through new and unprecedented times has brought about great new ideas. Officers and members alike are still turning in volunteer hours generated through service in a multitude of channels throughout the community, not just locally but across Arizona. The AMVETS Department of Arizona worked diligently to support the efforts of the Post statewide. I am proud to work alongside these members who have found inventive ways to help. Through these dedicated members we continue to strive.

Since May of 2021 Post #0770 have stepped up to the mission volunteering 2036.5 hours with 315 volunteers driving 4311 miles collecting cash donation in the amount of $19,829.12, reporting a total valuation of $79,961.59. All funds raised are a direct result of activities like Bake Sales, hosting meals, raffles, and silent auctions.

Communications/PRO
As of this report Post #0770 is the only Post reporting donation values.

- $450.00 sent in way of monetary donation to aide in hurricane relief efforts
- $400.00 sent in way of monetary donation to aide in the wildfire relief
- $500.00 monetary donation to the AMVETS National Service Foundation

VSO/VAVS: As the Service Officer, I have been very busy processing claims from all over Arizona I have helped 31 Veterans start new claims in the past year. The mental health of our veterans continues to be the thing that drives me in pushing through the VA system, accessing resources to help every Veteran in need.

Honoring Veterans Loss: We have suffered many losses in this last year, all as difficult as the next. For those of us who served and left a part of ourselves behind during our military service will always remember the ultimate sacrifice of our fallen comrades. I would like to recognize those we have loss in this last year;

- Gil Devine, U.S. Navy, AMVETS Department of Arizona 2nd Vice Commander, AMVETS Post #0019 Commander
- Leo Pimple, U.S. Army, Past AMVETS Department of Arizona Judge Advocate, AMVETS Post #0089
- Mitchell Wilson, U.S. Marines, Past AMVETS Department of Arizona NEC, Judge Advocate AMVETS Post #0770
- Arthur Olson, Past Sons of AMVETS Department of Arizona Commander, Sons of AMVETS Post #0770 Commander

Farewell and following seas may God bless them in his house forever.

Upcoming Events
- AMVETS National Convention- August 2021
- Tucson Standdown- August 2021
- Labor Day Events - September 2021
- Nam Jam- October 2021
- Veterans Day -November 2021

In Closing, AMVETS members, volunteers and staff perform incredible work everyday across this great country providing benefits counseling for survivors and Veterans alike.

Let me leave you with this closing though, “Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day unseen, unheard, always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. For death leaves a heartache no one can heal but love leaves a memory no one can steal.”

With this I say farewell and following seas, may God bless them in his house forever.
Report of Heidi Holguin, NEC
Department of California

Membership
Total Members = 7997
Life Members = 7253
Annuals = 744

This year California AMVETS was able to hold a
in person DEC with also the streaming availability
through zoom, so all members had the ability to join.
We were the first to make this happen with great success
and positive outcomes in effort to move forward with
the new normal of 2021.

California Department membership is well over 7,000
strong. Also, Post compliance improved greatly in
20-21 term. A “Job well done” goes out to those Post
leaders who took the time to help get their respective
posts compliant per state and federal regulations.

Posts that do not have a lot of active members are of
concern for our new administration. Social media,
television calls and personal visits will be used to reach
out to all Posts and we, together, will look follow up
with our absent members, those who we know are still
alive but have not come around anymore. This effort
will take time, but it will start as soon as possible. It will
be equivalent to the “buddy check” we incorporated
during the pandemic.

Beyond our need to increase membership, training, in
all areas of post management and compliance, will be
emphasized. Post Commanders, your encouragement
for every post in AMVETS CA, to assist those who
are new to this organization or new to their respective
position, is also “encouraged”. District and Area
Commanders are part of that formula. As stated by
our previous Department 1st Vice Commander, Ross
Smith, now our Department Commander, “when we
are trained properly, we are in a better position to
help others in our communities.” I plan to follow up
on several new Posts to ensure that they are compliant
and functional. My overall objective is to touch every
Post in our Department. Please ensure that your Post is
revalidated before July 14, 2021.

Department 1st Vice pledge is to perform all duties well
within the best of my abilities. In turn, I am asking all
7,997 of us rally behind this new administration with
a “CAN DO” attitude. Let’s elevate AMVETS visibility
and integrity, to all Veterans in need of help.

Francisco Juarez
1st Vice Commander
Membership

Programs
Our Department continues to lead, by example, with
the highest National reporting numbers, in District VI.

Welcome Home
Total veterans served November 2013 to date: 5,568
Total items delivered: 69,754
Value of Items: $2,626,625

Activities
• Submitted Grant application to Stater Bros.
Charities for $10,000
• Started Facebook Fundraiser for Welcome Home
• Possible partnership with Pasadena Elks Lodge
(bedding, pillows, pots & pans for WH)
• San Diego – Open position – Job posted on Indeed
and at San Diego VA
• WLA Team – Cal-Vet’s donation of Scooter,
wheelchairs, and misc. items, Moved truckload
of Living Spaces beds from Long Beach to WLA
Building

Suicide Awareness
83 lives to date have been saved. However, there has
been limited activity due to the pandemic. A meeting
was held in January, February, as well as June. Suicide
Awareness jersey have been ordered with the “save one
logo” as fundraiser. Liz Reilly has successful completed
the Mental Health 1st Aide Train the Trainer course in
May. Lisa Roybal continues to bring suicide awareness
throughout the state by ensuring every post has received
pamphlets, bracelets, and other resources to pass out to
members throughout the state.

ROTC John Byrum continues to receive request for the
ROTC/JROTC Medals to come in, sixty plus have been
sent out to date. Despite the post pandemic this has been surprisingly good. Special thanks to the post and their members that went out and presented the awards on behalf of AMVETS.

To date, we have not been unable to sponsor any ROTC/JROTC events due to COVID 19 and our current budget. Hopefully down the road we will be in a better position to sponsor again. Our support is not only vital to their programs but a great way for us as AMVETS to put our name out to them, and the communities they live in.

Americanism had a total of 9 Winners K-1st grade $25, 2-5 graders $50, and 6-8 graders, $75 equaling a budget of $500.

Volunteers=2328
Hours=13,519.45
Volunteer Hours Value @$27.20= $367,729.04
Miles=68,816
Value@ 54 Cents/Mile =$37,160.64
Activity Costs=$21,864.07
Cash Donations= $10,351.02
Total value of Programs= $437,104.77

Jeff Lukens
2nd Vice
Programs

Service
Recently AMVETS of California, represented by Department Commander David Black, was asked to attend the Fresno Congressional Gold Medal Recognition Day at the Veterans Memorial Museum.

In partnership, between the Chinese American Citizen Alliance (CACA) and AMVETS, there were 4 living Chinese American Veterans and 5 Widows of Veterans that were honored and presented Congressional Gold Medals through the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project, for Patriotism, Sacrifice and Valor. Additionally, Commander Black presented each of the living 4 with AMVETS Department of California, Certificates of Appreciation for their Meritorious WWII Military Service. Note: ABC-NBC and CBS media coverage were present, along with the current newspaper.

The Department would like to say “Thank You” to Commander Black for his leadership and steadfast vision in which he led the Department through these unforgettable times of the pandemic, for not 1, but 2-years at the helm. Along with his new Executive Board, he set sail focusing on: Membership, Technology Updates, Fundraising and the ability to Streamline Department Business models. Commander Black, Again Thank You and God Bless your future endeavors.

Finally, Commander Ross Smith— “Welcome” the Department of California awaits your continued vision, leadership and to assist you with your desired goals for the Department and Posts in this upcoming year. Commander Ross, you are Committed, Dedicated and Caring and this fit great with the Commanders seat.

All Department Committee are again ramping up, but a few are currently in motion for the benefit of the Veterans, their families or for our communities:
- Suicide Awareness Committee.
- Legislative Committee (State & Federal).
- Fundraising Committee
- Women Veterans Committee

I do hope by the time that the National Convention in Greensboro rolls around, that ALL Departments and National HQs are back on their feet, progressing nicely and still being safe & healthy. That is my Hope and Wish.

Smokey Rickerd,
Executive Director
AMVETS Department of California

Upcoming Events
Transition Training Sessions July 30- July 31. Possible Fundraising Events Car Show at Piccadilly Inn, Fresno-Department/Charities September Or October.

Legislative
AMVETS, state legislative services hard work and advocacy efforts has paid off by legislation bill AB 935, purposed in 2014. The word “Veteran” on the Driver’s License has created ease of understanding a veteran’s status to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). By having the word added is allowing the veteran to be contacted by Country Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) regarding eligibility to receive state or federal benefits. This Bill also eliminates the numerous types of IDs, that Veterans have – by a simple change as a pride for veterans.

As a result of the change the total count of veterans visiting their CVSO have been 192,000, between 2015-2020. That has allowed 70,000 veterans to file claims otherwise these benefits may have not been known to them. If it had not been for the Drivers license program (AB 935) many veterans and their families would have not benefited from their service-related health care benefits. The benefit also will be passed on to the spouse once the veteran passes.

AMVETS state and federal legislative programs continue to have a tremendous impact on Veterans. California has a total of 1.8 million veterans in the state in which we are changing lives through legislation. The total bills introduced this year have been 77 Bills, having half of the bills reduced to “only addressing Pandemic concerns.”

Seth Reeb, the advocate at the California State Capitol has stated, “There has been a wide range of issues during this 2021 legislative year that Reeb Government Relations has worked to address. The top issues of concern have been increasing funds for CVSO which have been underfunded for years. Predatory for-profit schools that have a loophole in the 90/10 rule which has caused veterans to lose out on quality of education. Lastly Military Sexual Assault by working closely with stakeholders to address issues related to Military sexual trauma (MST).

Lastly on behalf of California Energy issues AMVETS stand strong and supporting the continued growth and prosperity of the California oil industry. We oppose all efforts to reduce, restrict, disrupt, or eliminate the California oil industry by either local, state, or national authorities. By opposing these efforts, it can save hundreds of veteran’s jobs and their livelihood.

Lorraine Plass
3rd Vice

Communications/PRO

We continue to schedule as many meetings as possible, via telephone conference and zoom meeting. We send out constant emails, concerning our members, and have encouraged “buddy checks” to be done at all post levels. This year we are in the process of state of the art first of the kind website for the Department. This type of services will enhance AMVETS with the ability to conduct training, a way of communication to include post training events. The website will also have the ability for membership renewals online making the job of the 1st Vice easier as well as saving on resources. Lastly the website will stay updated with legislative information and other information and services that will benefit veterans.

Other

From our State Commander, Ross Smith

It is my humble honor to be selected as the new AMVETS Dept. of CA Commander for 2021-2022.

Goals to be accomplished this year:

- advantage of our members, their families and communities making it easier and simple to allow an easier resource to communicate back and forth. We now have capabilities that have never been used before. Such as personal testimonials, to post events, as well as training guides and the ability to not only engage our members, but most importantly the ability to reach out to perspective new members. Our website will be something that EVERY AMVETS in the state will be proud of. Posts need encouragement (Post Pandemic). I plan

- to travel to as many post events as I possibly can.

I want to use the position I hold to the benefit of
our posts and members. Our communities need to be reminded after this pandemic that AMVETS is here and ready to help and assist any way needed. Training must be done on a regular basis. Our board will be trained properly from top to bottom. This will ensure continuity moving forward with great success.

To work with our legislative body to ensure that bills are being passed that don't just say something but does something for our Veterans.

MY PROMISE IS THIS!

To work tirelessly every day for of our Dept. and this organization.

WE ARE AMERICAN VETERANS WE ARE AMVETS
Report of Donovan Lazarus, NEC
Department of Hawaii

Membership
Department of Hawaii is happy to report two new charter Post HI-0006 and HI-0007, and Rider Charter 4 Post. Our AMVETS Hawaii West Oahu Veterans Center is helping to increase our membership with volunteer opportunities in our communities.

Programs Activities
Our program initiatives at our West Oahu Veterans Center (WOVC) continue to improve the lives of veterans, service members and their families. WOVC is a gathering place for military and civilians in our community to meet for the betterment of our veterans and their families. We have hosted over 68 events this reporting period at our center at no cost to veterans’ organizations and other nonprofits organizations.

Events includes:
Post Meetings, Scout Troop Meetings, Commissioned Officer Swearing-in Ceremonies, Awards Ceremonies, CPR/AED Training, VA Home Loans Benefits Classes, Yoga Classes, Karate Classes, Bootcamp Workouts, 5K-Runs, Graduations Party, Birthday Parties, Food Truck Festivals, Car Shows, Bike Shows, Car Wash Fundraisers; and Games: Softball, Tennis, Ping-Pong.

AMVETS Hawaii Biomodulator program for the alleviation of chronic pain as an alternative to the pharmacological approach to pain management.

Mission statement: To reduce the chronic pain of our veterans and active-duty service personnel so they can fully reclaim their lives and the dignity they deserve.

**The Lt. General Henry “Hank” Stackpole (USMC, Ret.) Legacy Project
- IRB being completed by Dr. William Humphrey on 25 January 2021
- Tripler Army Medical Center Interdisciplinary Pain Management Department personnel will include pain medicine specialist Justin T. Matsuura, MD and physician assistant Erica Masi. P.A. Masi has three years of Biomodulator and clinical expertise leading the Biomodulator program. Dr. Brian McLean is past head of the TAMC’s Integrative Pain Management Department with many years of clinical understanding in this micro-current technology. He will be serving as an advisor and consultant to this study.

AMVETS VET-HEAL and Suicide Prevention Program: a year-round program aims to help reduce the number of suicides and to support veterans with medical needs to access the best quality healthcare, including mental health and specialized services (traumatic brain injury, polytrauma, post-traumatic stress) and live longer, healthier lives. The department and all posts support this program to include the HEAL program online training.

Prisoner of War/Missing In Action (POW/MIA) Program: members participated in the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), Repatriation and Memorial ceremonies.

Naval Air Station Barbers Point (NASBP) Memorial Restoration Project completed. The memorial was re-dedicated on 6 June 2021, during the AMVETS Hawaii’s Battle of Midway 79th Annual Commemoration Ceremony. The NAS Barbers Point Memorial honors the service of all veterans, civil service employees, and government contractors who served at NAS Barbers Point from 1942 during World War II, Korean conflict, Vietnam War, NASA missions, Cold War, and Persian Gulf War, until its closure in 1999.

The University of Hawaii West Oahu and AMVETS Hawaii Program: a year-round program that aims to help Veterans empowered through STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs to be successful in their degree program. The STEM Lab aims to teach various educational workshops to help our military, veterans, and their families achieve their educational goals. The department provides the STEM center furniture and flags (Military Services, State, and the U.S.).

The Hawaii Veterans Beekeeping Program: a year-round on the job training (OJT) program aimed to help support veteran beekeepers with training on honeybee biology, colony management, queen rearing,
Report of Aurelie Mulcar, NEC
Department of Hawaii (continued)

apiary economics, and other valuable skills. The department hopes this program will become a model to spread veteran beekeeping programs nationwide to assist veterans and families of veterans through bees. AMVETS Hawaii sees Beekeeping as a pathway to economic stability, closeness with nature for post-traumatic stress support, reintegration into civilian life with fellow service members, continued education, career training, social networking, and a fascinating hobby that supports agriculture and natural ecosystems.

Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Program: a year-round program aimed to help provide life skills and educational courses to at-risk youths. Hawaii Post 4 continues to provide certified mentors as part of the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Program. The department presents leadership awards to youths who display exceptional leadership skills.

Dept. donations includes:
- 320 masks for Homeless Veterans, veterans, and family members.
- 6 Boxes of can food and other groceries items

Services
VA claims information, and other assistance to veterans. VAVS Representatives attended quarterly scheduled meeting.

Hawaii Post 4 has allied with United Healthcare Community Health Workers to receive tips on the location of homeless veterans on the island. Through this program, we can provide homeless veterans with resources, toiletries, and food items. Walmart has been generous in providing a grant for some supplies.

Upcoming Events
Dr. John Henry Felix Veterans Cemetery Dedication Ceremony: 28 August 2021. Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery will be renamed to be known as Dr. John Henry Felix Veterans Cemetery with AMVETS logo to be placed on the dedication plaque. AMVETS Hawaii in partnership with the State of Hawaii will build/dedicate a memorial and host a reception to honor Dr. John Henry Felix (COL, USA, Ret. And COL, USAF, Ret.) for his donating most of the land at our Hawaii Veterans Cemetery to the State of Hawaii and his over 75-years of community/national civil service. Address: Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery Visitor Center, 45-349 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744.

Veterans Alternative Healthcare Summit for Hawaii, 4 – 5 November 2021 (1000-1600), University of Hawaii – West Oahu. Address: 91-1001 Farrington Hwy, Kapolei, HI 96707

Ewa Battlefield Commemoration Ceremony: 4 December 2021 (0900-1030), Ewa Battlefield 1941 Airfield Concrete Ramp, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707.

Legislative
Legislative Director, Rodney Boucher continues to meet with Hawaii State elected officials, VA Leadership, military leaders, neighborhood boards, and local media face-to-face, via emails, letters, and online platforms to help build public awareness to support legislation impacting Veterans: support for AMVETS National legislative priorities: Healthcare Access/Coordination; Women Veterans; Mental Health & Suicide Prevention; Military Sexual Trauma (VA & DoD); Traumatic Brain Injury; Toxic Wounds & Environmental Exposures; VA Oversight, Accountability & Improvement; and, Economic Opportunity.

Communications/PRO
PRO, Corwin M. Colbert, continues to engage in our community service program initiatives by building relationships with community leaders, organizations, companies, schools, charitable organizations, and veterans other service organizations; to write letters to elected representatives and to voice support on the issues that matter to our military families. Improving communication for Department and Posts online presence on website and social media platforms will help to attract new members and share information with members, clients, friends, and viewers alike. This will allow clients to request appointments directly from the website and automatically request and post reviews from current and recent customers to boost your rating and visibility online.
Report of Sarah Langley, NEC
Department of New Mexico

Membership
No new members, because of the pandemic it is hard to get new members

Programs
Post 7 We have helped put up flags at the VA Hospital on Holidays. Helped a Veteran move Have made calls to Veterans to find out how they were doing.

Post 12; Has not done any of their programs which it would normally have done if not for the pandemic. They have not done any community activities, drives, etc due to stay at home order given by the Navajo Nation President. Virtual activities is non-existent due to the lack of Wi-Fi, computers etc.

90st 2017 Have put flags up Holidays at the cemetery's and other places. Helped a Veteran move this past weekend. Have talked to Veteran's and told them where to go to get help in the area.

Service
Post 12; the only activities were those on an individual based and one on one with Veteran who were in dire need of service during the pandemic which included delivery of food, water, and essentials.

Upcoming Events
Post 7 will start doing more Voluntary things since the state is opening things up. Like Voluntary at the Veterans Memorial park.

Post 2017 will help and Voluntary with the Adaptive sports program (the 6th, 7th, & 8th) of Aug in UTE Lake NM with a fish fry on a Friday night

Post 12 The only activity scheduled thus far is with the Development of a Memorial park for which they have been meeting with the Plan & Design contractors monthly with social distance, mask and other Health protocols.

Legislative
Post 12 No activities in this area with the exception of those that are being forwarded to the Navajo Nation Legislative branch in reference to policies related to housing.

Communications/PRO
Post 12 Communication has come to a standstill until such time as the Navajo Nation opens back up for services.

Other
Post 12: Our Post is having difficulty maintaining operations and fear that if things do not change, it is very possible that we may lose this Post. The state will try to get more Veterans to join AMVETS since the pandemic is about over. We hope at least.
Report of Murray L Cooksley, NEC
Department of Oregon

Membership
Now that Covid 19 is regressing and things are opening up in the State of Oregon, this is a great opportunity to recruit new members. I challenge all AMVETS to personally recruit one new member. With only five percent of the population being veterans, it is not difficult to find those who are serving or have served, both of which are eligible.

Programs
We look forward to programs opening up again and our department is looking forward to participating in the sending of a deserving scholarship recipient to Freedoms Foundation in the fall.

Service
We have partnered with handinhandfarm.org, a farm that partners abused animals and abused children. The results are life changing. We now take care of their flag raisings, dedicated two of their flagpoles, and are bringing older veterans to share their wartime experiences with the children. We will be meeting with them on both Labor Day and Veterans Day.

Upcoming Events
Looking forward to seeing my fellow AMVETS, Sad Sacks, and NEC at the national convention in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Legislative
Please do your best to keep up with our legislative efforts and vote for items that improve things for veterans, past, present and future. Of notable concern is the amount of veterans who die from suicide – our highest mortality rate.

Communications/PRO
Once again, we must emphasize the contacting of current post members, now that Covid 19 is regressing. A great topic to bring up? What did you do during the pandemic? What can your AMVETS posts and officers do to better support you?

Other
Please ensure you have my latest contact information:

Murray Cooksley
NEC Department of Oregon
Post Office Box 1771
McMinnville, Oregon 97128-1771
(971) 241 – 1139
murraycooksley@gmail.com
Report of Steve Bird, NEC
Department of Washington

Membership
Life Member 2,110
Annual Member 418
Total: 2528 Ranking 16
Growth 2.2% Ranking 29
Renewal 64.9% Ranking 32

The State Department Executive Committee (DEC) Annual Meeting was held in person at Post 1, Tacoma WA. on June 5, 2021. This was the first formal face to face meetings of the DEC since the imposed Covid 19 Pandemic restrictions were put in place.

2021 Financial Audit of the Department accounts is scheduled for July 16, 2021.

Programs
For 2021: 47% percent (7 of 15) of Posts have reported programs through the online database at end of June 2021.

Service Department
The service department have increased since the pandemic and are able to continue claims processing. The new Service Department director is in place and has been active in learning the job and meeting new DEC reporting requirements.

The AMVETS Department of Washington Service Department currently employs two service officers.

Services are provided under contract with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. Under this contract there are two performance requirements that must be met, the claims approval rating “batting average” and the cost per claims. This contract arrangement serves Veterans through increased assistance in evaluating and processing valid claims and it serves the citizens of the State through increased revenues generated when Veterans receive monetary benefits through successful claims.

Service Foundation
The Department Service Foundation continue to utilize a contract fundraising agency with proceeds being distributed to the Service Department and subordinate department organizations through grant requests.

Legislative
The department Legislative Director, Charles (Chuck) Wharton, continues to be active as a member of the Washington Governor’s Veteran Advisory Committee. Mr. Wharton is also a member of the Washington State Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC).

Veteran/Military Related Bills as of July 12, 2021:

SHB 1250 Purple heart state
Sponsor(s): SGOV(Orcutt)
Status: C 213 L 21
Bill Summary: Designates Washington as a Purple Heart State that honors people who have received the Purple Heart award. Authorizes various agencies to erect signs recognizing that Washington is a Purple Heart State and to accept gifts or donations to assist efforts related to Washington being a Purple Heart State. Creates three accounts in the custody of the State Treasurer where the gifts and donations received by the specified agencies must be deposited.

SHB 1314 Veteran diversion/invol comm
Sponsor(s): CRJ(Young)
Status: C 125 L 21
Bill Summary: Requires a facility to inquire about a person’s veteran’s status after arrival in a behavioral health facility and coordinate with Veteran’s Health Administration facilities if the person is a veteran or eligible for veteran’s services.

SHB 1438 Property tax/health expenses
Sponsor(s): FIN(Orcutt)
Status: C 220 L 21
Bill Summary: Expands which medical expenses can be deducted when calculating “combined disposable income” for the purposes of property tax relief programs.

SB 5032 Alt public works contracting
Sponsor(s): (Hasegawa)
Status: C 230 L 21
Bill Summary: Extends the use of alternative public works contracting procedures until July 1, 2031. Amends the duties and membership of the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board. Amends the design-build, general contractor/construction manager, and job order contracting procedures. Requires the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board to develop best practices for increasing and sustaining access to contracting opportunities in alternative public works for minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses, and small businesses, and report to the Legislature any recommendations for changes to the statute by June 30, 2022.

Communications
The department, through the Communications Director has subscribed to Zoom and to date held multiple Zoom meetings successfully. The committee meetings scheduled prior to the annual meeting were all held via Zoom video conferencing and resulted in a much improved and timely completion of business completion and reporting from key committees.
National Officers

National Commander Jan Brown ........................................... 65
National First Vice Commander Greg Heun .......................... 66
National Second Vice Commander Don McLean ..................... 67
National Third Vice Commander Bill Clark ............................. 68
National Judge Advocate PNC James B. King ......................... 74
National Finance Officer Don Stream .................................... 75
National Service Foundation President William Kilgore .......... 76
National Ladies Auxiliary President Delores Baggett .............. 77
National Sons Commander Richard Thibodeau ....................... 78
National Executive Director Joseph Chenelly ........................ 79
Chief Medical Executive Cherissa Jackson ............................. 81
Chief Development Officer Christine Kirkley ......................... 82
National Membership Director Harry Neal ........................... 84
National Service Director Michael T. Black ......................... 86
National Communications Manager Miles Migliara ................. 87
I have come to the end of my “bonus” year as AMVETS National Commander. While it was a strange year for all of us it brought several firsts for AMVETS.

I was able despite COVID-19 restrictions to testify to the Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs from the comfort of the National Headquarters building. (No parking issues!) First Commander to do live video testimony- I was still nervous with only Miles in the room with me. Our primary issues were mental health and suicide prevention.

We spent the bulk of the winter and spring working on “Rolling to Remember” demonstration ride. We had not heard from the Pentagon since submitting our application July 2020 and looked at most every large parking area in a 50-mile radius of the Capital. We literally didn’t have a firm staging place until two weeks before the ride. (Thank you, Mayor Bowser, for lifting restrictions.) We worked nonstop those 10 days to be ready for riders at R.F.K. Stadium for the Sunday before Memorial Day. I have to say that it was a success in spite of it being the 2nd coldest Memorial Day weekend in the history of the area, and did I mention that it rained most of the weekend?! I’m pretty sure there was not a rain suit available anywhere in the area. We had an amazing crew of volunteers from the AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary, Sons and even our Junior’s President was there helping. (Our executive director, Joe Chenelly, had almost his whole family there working.) Thank you AMVETS family!

I did end the year being able to attend several department conventions and it was so good to see our AMVETS family again.

After “R2R” was put to bed until next year we started on our national convention. A huge thanks to our AMVETS, National Service Foundation, Ladies Auxiliary and Sons staff (a very much bare bones staff) for jumping in and making this convention happen.

I’d like to thank my AMVETS Family leadership-Madame President Dee Baggett, Commander Richard Thibodeau, President Tom McNamara, President Abigail Lewis and my line officers for maintaining and moving forward to make AMVETS the best Veterans organization we know it can be.

Thanks for your confidence in me as I continue to serve AMVETS as a “2 and done” commander.

Yours In Service,

Jan C. Brown
AMVETS National Commander 2019-2021
Hello Commander, and NEC.

As we all know it has been a rough couple years. We are slowly getting back on track with regards to our membership. Our numbers are still lower than normal we need a little extra work to get them back up. Make a visit, phone call, or send a little note to see how things are going. We are going to loose roughly 10,000 members this year. That's a large number of none renewals. A simple nudge from a Post member goes a long way to retention.

It's is good we are getting back to normal so to speak. We are a long way from where we was but working to get there. Keeping our HQ contacts available was a key to our continued success. We have a lot of post struggling to survive if you're one of the fortunate ones see if there's something your post can do to help them get back above water. COVID affected everyone of us in a different way.

Rolling to Remember was a great success for the awful weather we had. It was a extremely special event that brought veterans from many different VSO's together to support the mission of remembering, and bringing home our lost but never forgotten Warriors. Fantastic event! I urge you to attend next year if you're available to. I assure you that you will be impressed.

It was also so good to get out again and visit our Department's, and post making Conventions and just general visits again! I would like to congratulate all of our newly elected, and re-elected officers from the post level up! It all starts at the post level. That's where we get the work done. The task of taking us into the future of our mission of supporting our veterans starts there. So in closing if there's anything I can do to help please reach out.

God bless our military, and our Veterans!

Commander this concludes my report please accept it at the proper time.
Report of Don McLean,
National Second Vice Commander

Greetings AMVETS,

Well, it has definitely been a challenging two years, but most of us have survived. The states have mostly lifted their restrictions on meetings/gatherings and we are getting back out there. I have had the opportunity to travel in the past few months and have visited a number of Departments. You are doing good with the reporting, but I know we can do better. Hopefully we can meet more people and help our veterans better.

While looking at the numbers of Posts reporting, we are only at 69% and Departments are at 86%. This is down from a year ago but not by much. We just need to make sure that we report all that we do. Please don't wait until later to input your actions as we need these numbers on a daily and weekly basis. We never know when Congress or even the IRS will call and want to see our reporting. Remember that our mission is Veterans helping Veterans and these numbers show that and give us credibility. They show that we are serious about issues that affect veterans, for example homelessness, and natural disaster relief. The reporting is also a good tool to show potential members what we accomplished and gives the post and Department a record of past activities. Post, Department and National District Commanders and 2nd Vices need to make sure the hours are being put in.

Our big event Rolling To Remember, (R2R) went off very well. It was the 2nd coldest Memorial Day in Washington and it was raining until about ten o'clock, but we still had in the neighborhood of 15000 people on motorcycles for the event. Due to the uncertainty of where the ride was being staged there were about seven thousand motorcycles that didn't show, but they have assured us they will be there next year. Yay. I want to thank all those who participated by either riding or volunteering to help make the ride so successful.

I don't know when the VA Hospitals will start allowing our volunteers back in but remember you can still call Voluntary Services at your facility and make arrangements to drop things off. Check with them to see of any specific needs. Also, check the veterans in the local nursing homes or long term care facilities for their needs. Some don't have family to check on them.

I know that some people have been having difficulty in logging in to the reporting page. Part of the problem is the age of the server that system is on. We are aware of the issue and are striving to rectify it. Please email Colondra, Programs Manager, (cetheredge@amvets.org) or myself (coasty69@me.com) with any questions. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

I would like to thank all of the Headquarters Staff for all the hard work you have put in this past year to make everything as smooth as possible and helping me when I needed it. I especially want to thank Colondra for the untold hours spent keeping an even keel. I want to thank all the green hats who do the grunt work that gives us our numbers, and I want to thank all the Department 2nd Vices that made sure it was input correctly.

To all the delegates, try to attend the Program, Membership and other Roundtable discussions to get more information about how our organization works. Thank you for a great two years.

That is my report Commander, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.
NEC LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021

PREPARED BY
Bill Clark
Justin Brown
Madison Lamp

PREPARED FOR
AMVETS Membership
Our country has been grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly a year now, and the focus on Capitol Hill has been on responding to the coronavirus. This pandemic has changed the nature of how a lot of us are working, but it hasn’t changed our focus or commitment to American Veterans. With a pandemic ravaging the globe and a contentious Presidential election taking place simultaneously, there were a lot of political battles on Capitol Hill. Even through this partisanship, there were many wins for veterans that came from the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs.

AMVETS is exceptionally proud to have worked with the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (HR 7105). This package reflects an entire two years worth of hard work and collaboration with many different Congressional staffers, Congress members, and veteran service organizations. This package was one of the most important pieces of veteran legislation in the 116th Congress and it was passed into law on January 5, 2021.

The Isakson/Roe package included most of AMVETS legislative priorities, including veterans benefits, healthcare improvements for women veterans, Agent Orange benefits, VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) eligibility, and medical malpractice laws. Throughout the 116th Congress, AMVETS has publicly voiced support for many of the individual measures included in the large package. We were most specifically supportive of language that was included from S. 332 Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act, S. 4511 Veterans Benefits Enhancement and Expansion Act, S. 514 Deborah Sampson Act, S. 4883 Brian Tally Act, and S. 4594 Caring for the Survivors and Families of Veterans Act of 2020.

AMVETS has been fighting for veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange chemicals for the entire 116th Congress. At the 2019 National Convention, AMVETS members voted to expand eligibility for Agent Orange related illnesses. Chloracne, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, and porphyria cutanea tarda are all on the list of presumptive Agent Orange illnesses, but they have a cutoff date of only one year following exposure to Agent Orange. It is unreasonable to require a veteran to provide documentation of when their symptoms began so long after the fact. AMVETS supported the language in this bill that would remove these one-year requirements from the three illnesses linked to Agent Orange exposure.

The backlog of medical disability examinations is an issue we know has had a domino effect on millions of claimants and appellants’ lives. We supported the improvements that this bill will make to the claims process. This bill will clarify licensure requirements for contractor medical professionals to perform medical disability exams and it will require the VA to provide the disability benefits questionnaire online. AMVETS advocated for both of those changes.

AMVETS has made our commitment to women veterans clear to DoD and VA. We have urged them to enhance their programs to ensure that women veterans receive high-quality, comprehensive primary and mental healthcare services in a safe and sensitive environment at every VA health-care facility. This bill will help ensure the VA can address women veterans’ needs who are more likely to face homelessness,
unemployment, and go without needed health care by eliminating barriers to care and services. It will expand group counseling for veterans and their family members and call centers for women veterans; increase the number of days of maternity care VA facilities can provide, increases the number of gender-specific providers in VA facilities, training clinicians, and retrofitting VA facilities to enhance privacy and improve the environment of care for women veterans; authorizes additional grants for organizations supporting low-income women veterans and increases resources for homeless women and their families; and improves the collection and analysis of data regarding women veterans, expands outreach by centralizing all information for women veterans in one easily accessible place on the VA website, and requires the VA to report on the availability of prosthetics made for women veterans.

AMVETS advocated to include language in this bill to change how the VA responds to a claim for damage, injury, or death on Standard Form 95. We supported a proposal in this bill which will require the VA to provide a recommendation for legal representation, the VA doctor's employment status, and if the claim involves a contractor, the importance of obtaining legal advice as to the statute of limitations. We also support changes that would enable eligible spouses to retain DIC upon remarriage at age 55 instead of age 57.

The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 is a complex bill that touches on many different issues veterans encounter when using the VA. We worked hard to include changes in this bill in hopes that it will make the VA a better place for the veterans it serves.

Following some very inexcusable events at the VA last year, AMVETS was one of the first organizations to call for the resignation of VA Secretary Robert Wilkie in December 2020. The VA Office of Inspector General found that Secretary Wilkie set a tone that was unprofessional and provided the basis for senior administration officials to put out information to national reporters to question the credibility and background of a veteran who filed a sexual assault claim. AMVETS called for Wilkie's resignation because he betrayed the trust veterans put into the VA and he betrayed the trust of all sexual assault victims.

Our whole team at AMVETS believes we need to work together to foster a VA that is welcoming to all veterans. We did not feel Secretary Wilkie was adhering to that priority.

In early November when it became evident that Joe Biden had won the presidential election, AMVETS began working with Biden's VA transition team. Our legislative team has had meetings with the transition team to discuss our legislative priorities with them. We have had initial discussions with the newly appointed Secretary Denis McDonough and we look forward to working more closely with him and his team.

AMVETS is still focused on our number one priority of working with the VA and Congress to provide veterans with the best mental health care. We worked with President Trump's PREVENTS task force members to help with these goals. In June of 2020, President Trump presented The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) Roadmap at the White House. The Roadmap is the culmination of a year-long collaboration with over 150 public and private stakeholders, including AMVETS leadership and HEAL Team. At the announcement of the roadmap, we felt optimistic moving forward. By October of the same year, we became concerned about the implementation and lack of focus that was being given to the PREVENTS roadmap.

In October of 2020, our number one legislative priority became law: The John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019. AMVETS has been supportive of this legislation and urged for its passage since it was introduced in March 2019. This is a major victory for veteran mental health and AMVETS was involved every step of the way. In December of 2020, the President signed another package of bills aimed at improving mental health care and services for veterans and troops. The package of bills, the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care and Treatment (COMPACT) Act includes nine parts intended to help prevent veteran suicides. The package of bills that became the COMPACT Act was part of an agreement between House and Senate Veterans Affairs leaders to pass major veteran mental health and suicide prevention legislation before the end of the year and the end of the 116th Congressional session.
Since the new administration has taken over the White House, our team has been spending time getting to know the new VA appointees. In early February, Dennis McDonough was confirmed by the Senate to serve as the 11th Secretary of Veterans Affairs. We have had phone and video calls with Secretary McDonough who will participate in this year’s convention in Greensboro, North Carolina.

AMVETS is proud to have had many opportunities to testify in Congressional hearings this year. In March, National Commander Jan Brown testified in a joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee to speak about AMVETS legislative priorities. Commander Brown focused her attention on AMVETS’ number one legislative priority, veterans mental health. AMVETS called on Congress to spend the totality of any proposed budget increase for VA Mental Health on a VA/DOD Mental Health Center for Innovation. We asked Congress to spend the majority of the mental health budget on alternative, novel, and nonpharmacological approaches such as posttraumatic growth, recreational therapy, yoga, and other approaches that VA has not fully embraced. Portions of the funding need to go to non-profit community providers who have been effectively serving veterans.

In addition to mental health services, Commander Brown included 501(c)(19) nonprofits, women veterans, COVID-19, employment opportunities, cannabis research, and Rolling to Remember in her testimony.

On the same day that Commander Brown was testifying, AMVETS submitted a statement for the record in a House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing focused on women veterans. Cherissa Jackson assisted the legislative team with writing testimony. In our testimony, we wrote that the VA needs to put serious effort into gaining the trust of women veterans again. We mentioned two specific bills we were advocating for on the hill: The Protecting Moms Who Served Act and The Access to Contraception Expansion for Veterans (ACE Veterans) Act.

We are working with our allies on Capitol Hill to reintroduce the Charitable Equity for Veterans Act. The Charitable Equity for Veterans Act is the bill that will allow congressionally chartered 501(c)(19) nonprofit organizations to accept tax deductible donations. This bill was introduced in the 116th Congress by Representative Ron Kind. Senators Cassidy and Duckworth have agreed to introduce the bill for the first time in the Senate while Representative Kind has agreed to introduce the bill in the House for our first joint introduction of the legislation. We are waiting on Representative Brad Wenstrup to agree to introduce the bill in the House so that it is introduced with bipartisan support in both chambers. In 2020, we worked to have the language from this legislation included in COVID-19 relief bills without success.

On June 8, AMVETS’ Executive Director Joe Chenelly testified in a House Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing for the proposed 2022 VA Budget. This is maybe one of the most notable legislative wins of the year thus far. This is the first time AMVETS has been invited to testify on the VA’s budget proposal. Normally, the members of the Independent Budget (DAV, PVA, and VFW) are the only VSOs that are invited to testify. AMVETS was invited this year specifically to address our concerns with VA mental health services. We have been told that VA Secretary Dennis McDonough read our compelling and impactful written testimony twice.

In addition to testifying in three different hearings so far this year, we have been keeping up with our Weekly Legislative Update. Every week, we gather the most important news stories, AMVETS news mentions, and upcoming events and communicate them all in a short report. Thanks to the help of many people at AMVETS, we now have over 100 subscribers. Anyone can subscribe to the legislative update by emailing madison@thenimitzgroup.com.

Memorial Day weekend was a large success that required all hands-on deck. AMVETS received numerous news mentions and interview requests when the news broke that AMVETS will take over Rolling to Remember, formerly known as Rolling Thunder. While working on background projects in the beginning phases of Rolling to Remember, the legislative team got directly involved when we received news that the Pentagon was going to block access to their parking lot for the event. Immediately, we garnered support from Members of Congress to contact Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and demand that the DOD open their parking lot for the event.
Representative Brian Mast was the first member we reached out to and he was a great advocate on behalf of AMVETS. Rep. Mast did numerous interviews with the media urging the administration to sign the permit; including numerous National Fox News interviews that Joe Chenelly also participated in. Rep. Mast also sent a letter to President Biden to pressure him to override the Pentagon’s decision to block access to their parking lot. More than 30 other Republican members signed this letter, including Representative Darrell Issa, Representative Lee Zeldin, Representative Nancy Mace, Representative Chip Roy, and Representative Guy Reschenthaler.

Representative Darrell Issa was another strong advocate on behalf of AMVETS. Representative Darrell Issa and Representative Ken Calvert wrote a separate letter to the Pentagon Building Manager urging him to immediately review AMVETS request for permission for the use of the Pentagon parking lot. Rep. Issa introduced legislation on behalf of AMVETS just weeks before Memorial Day weekend. HR 3103, Let Veterans Honor the Fallen Act, would require the Secretary of Defense to permit a veterans service organization to use the parking lot at the Pentagon for an annual veteran-led remembrance motorcycle ride.

In addition to garnering support for the parking lot permit, we worked to make sure the event incorporated meaningful legislative items. We included our legislative priority, the veteran suicide crisis, in all of the messaging items for the event. The weekend was an appropriate opportunity to bring awareness to the veteran and service member suicide epidemic. Memorial Day is a day to remember those who died in active military service. Since 9/11, an estimated 7,057 service members have died during military operations. Comparatively, suicides among active duty personnel and veterans of those conflicts have reached 30,177. This year and in years to come we will continue to highlight this issue and do everything we can to work with Congress and the VA to change that horrifying statistic.

Our legislative team worked hard to engage with Members of Congress in lieu of the event. We sent a personal invitation to over 20 members including the entire Motorcycle Caucus. We invited multiple members to speak at the event. Overall, we received great feedback from Congressional offices offering their support and appreciation for the event.

The AMVETS Legislative Team supported and fought for the passage of nearly 20 bills in the 116th Congress (2020):

- HR 7105 Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020
- S 332 Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act
- S 514 Deborah Sampson Act
- S 4883 Brian Tally Act
- S 4594 Caring for the Survivors and Families of Veterans Act of 2020
- S 785 Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019
- S 5072 Vet Center Improvement Act of 2020
- S 4511 Veterans Benefits Enhancement and Expansion Act of 2020
- S 3235 Veterans Posttraumatic Growth Act
- HR 7795 Veterans Benefits Fairness and Transparency Act
- HR 4154 Leave No Veteran Behind Act
- HR 6141 Protecting Moms Who Served Act
- HR 7111 Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020
- HR 3228 VA Mission Telehealth Clarification Act
- HR 3932 Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness Act
- HR 4194 National Suicide Hotline Designation Act
- S 4068 Forgotten Vietnam Veterans Act
- HR 5757 Military Sexual Assault Victim Empowerment Act
The AMVETS Legislative Team is supporting and fighting for the passage of nearly 30 bills in the 117th Congress (2021):

HR 617 No Coronavirus Copays for Veterans Act

Fiscal Year 2021 Congressional Budget Resolution—which includes COVID-19 relief funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

HR 958 Protecting Moms Who Served Act

S 189 Veterans' Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act

S 344 Major Richard Star Act

S 458 Veterans Claim Transparency Act

HR 781 Veterans’ Telecommunication Protection Act

HR 1276 VA VACCINE Act

HR 475 Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021

HR 1476 PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act

S 1915 ACE Veterans Act

S 1944 Vet Center Improvement Act of 2021

HR 845 VA Billing Accountability Act

HR 2326 Veterans Cyber Risk Awareness Act

S 1147 Retired Pay Restoration Act

HR 2800 The Wingman Act

S 194 SERVE Act

S 1183 Veterans Medical Marijuana Safe Harbor Act

H.R. 2789 To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to administer a pilot program to employ veterans in positions that relate to conservation and resource management activities.

S 1607 Student Veterans Transparency and Protection Act of 2021

S 1467 VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act

HR 2591 DUMP Opioids Act

HR 1022 PAWS Act

S 1972 Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act

HR 3512 Healthcare For Our Troops Act

S 1875 Veterans Emergency Care Claims Parity Act

Draft: I am Vanessa Gulliéén Act

Draft: Improving Veterans Access to Congressional Services Act

Draft: Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act
Report of PNC James B. King, National Judge Advocate

The past 18 months has been a difficult time for AMVETS and for the country overall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have had to alter our methods of operating oftentimes in sharp contrast to our Constitution and Bylaws.

We will be presenting amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws aimed at providing guidelines in case of any future national emergencies or pandemics of this sort. I want to publicly thank Terry Corson, Paul Shipley and Charles Kissel for their assistance in putting these together.

We have also had a greater than normal number of issues to be decided. I don't know, maybe this was a product of the lockdowns and frustrations which we all were subject to during this time. It will be good to see everything back to normal or at least near normal.

As always, I can be contacted by phone at 410 913 2780, or by email at jim1941@live.com.

This concludes my report and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

Jim King PNC
National Judge Advocate
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Report of Don Stream,
National Finance Officer

National Commander Brown, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

Financially, we've gone from very rough at the start of the pandemic to once again being quite strong. The budget for Fiscal Year 2022 contains funding to restart programs that were suspended in cost-saving moves, and begins the rebuilding of the National Headquarters staffing.

The National Finance Committee has met numerous times over the past year virtually, remaining flexible and proactive as conditions continually changed. These changes included

This was accomplished by careful, conservative management of funds by NHQ staff, especially Ms. Daniasha White, the chief finance officer at HQ.

The annual financial audit was completed and reported to the NFC in March. The report from our auditors was another confirmation that our organization’s finances are being managed wisely, transparently, and in accordance with IRS regulations and our internal procedures.

All indicators are that 2022 holds a great deal of promise for our organization. I appreciate your confidence and support.

That completes my report. I move for its acceptance at the appropriate time.
Commander Brown, National Officers, National Executive Committee, and fellow AMVETS, I stand before you to report on the activities of the AMVETS National Service Foundation.

The National Service Foundation accomplished as much or more in the past year than in any other year in our organization's long, storied history. That is always our goal, but to be able to do so in perhaps the world's most challenging times in recent history, is absolutely remarkable.

Our National Service Department fought for and won more than $2 billion in direct compensation for veterans this year. A record. This despite many vacant service officer positions, and despite that our service officers had to largely work from home with VA regional offices closed to staff and the public.

The National Service Foundation funded and oversaw the first Rolling to Remember demonstration ride, the world's largest veterans event and the world's largest one-day motorcycle event. Rolling to Remember brought thousands together in Washington over Memorial Day Weekend, capturing the nation's attention over the most important weekend of the year. The AMVETS name was seen by Americans from coast to coast 1.5 billion times because of Rolling to Remember. This despite denied permits, incredible uncertainty, the Pentagon shutting us out, many other related events being canceled, and COVID-19 restrictions being in place.

Our NSF-owned thrift stores set gross and net revenue records in each of our eight locations, doubling revenue totals from just a few years ago. This despite government-forced shutdowns in 2020 and 2021 restrictions on store capacities, labor shortages, and ever-rising wages and costs to do business. Our thrift stores are now on course to top $2 million in revenue for the first time ever in 2022.

We have developed new fundraising tools, using email, social media, search engines, and online campaigns to solicit donations from new population groups in ways we've not leveraged before.

Our board of trustees and staff met many more times than normal over the past year, working hand in hand to navigate the ever-changing landscape effecting the great things AMVETS does. Together we found innovative ways to accomplish our mission and best serve veterans and their families when they needed it the most, and while other organizations were failing.

Even while providing so much, the NSF has returned to solid financial standing. Our 2022 budget has its best bottom-line in at least a decade. Yet, we will be able to fund aggressive growth in services offered in the coming year.

We will continue with conservative spending and big goals to make the AMVETS family stronger and help more veterans than ever before.

This concludes my report, and I move for its acceptance.
“Always Remember” is a theme that fits these past 2 years well!!

Thank you for the privilege of serving with the first female Commander – Jan Brown.

I was proud to be present on Veterans Day in 2019 when AMVETS announced in front of the Lincoln Memorial that AMVETS would be hosting 2020’s Memorial Day Weekend Demonstration Ride renamed “Rolling to Remember”. I was so glad to see that the AMVETS were able to still host a slightly different event in 2020 and I was able to be there in 2021 for the first full event. I wish the AMVETS family continued success with this event.

Life has been so different the past 16 months. Facebook became a great way to see what everyone was doing. All the pictures of you ladies that made masks kept us inspired. Some of us that cannot sew found other ways to help. I could not be prouder to say that I belong to the AMVETS family! Everyone had to think outside the box. The projects and hard work continued! I am so proud to belong to this organization and see all the work done for our Veterans and their communities.

My program has been Freedoms Foundation. Denise Rodzen, National Americanism Officer, and I teamed up to help raise funds for much-needed generators. We are well on our way to “Powering Up” for our future.

In closing my thanks to Commander Jan Brown, Executive Director Joe Chenelly, National Service Foundation President Bill Kilgore and the AMVETS family for the kindness and courtesies extended our Auxiliary, Headquarters staff, and myself. Thank you for the two years and I will “Always Remember”!

Commander Jan Brown – thank you for your leadership, guidance, friendship, and everything that you do.

I wish everyone a successful and productive “LIVE” Convention!

Be kind, be safe and be yourself in all that you do and “Always Remember” to check up on your sisters and brothers!

God Bless us and God Bless America!

Dolores “Dee” Baggett
National President
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary
2019 - 2021

Report of Delores Baggett, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary National President
Report of Richard Thibodeau,  
Sons of AMVETS National Commander

AMVETS Commander Jan Brown, National Officers, and NEC,

With the Pandemic closures are winding down, the Sons of AMVETS are starting to get more active. I am happy to report our membership is 101% or up 151 members as of July 13, 2021, compared to 2020 final membership numbers. Our project reporting is starting to build up at $5,495,140 but not yet finalized for 2021. Final 2020 we were at $8,251,259 in reporting. Now that things are opening, our project reporting should pick up dramatically as I am hearing a lot of activity at the local levels.

Rolling to Remember was an awesome experience for the Sons that attended, and we are looking forward to helping as much as we can next year. We will push our membership hard this year to get more volunteers. The weather kind of put a damper on things, but we still had a great time. Whatever help you need from the Sons, please do not hesitate to ask.

Personally, I am very thankful to have been given the opportunity to serve as National Sons Commander through the past two years. The Pandemic added additional twists, but the experience was incredible. It was great to meet so many great veterans and AMVETS family members throughout my travels. I was extremely fortunate to have traveled to State Conventions (Maine, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin) this year. I also traveled to Alaska for the 4th of July weekend. It was so nice to see AMVETS family friends again.

My project this year is Help Heal Veterans and will continue thru the 2020-2021 membership year. Help Heal Veterans provides free therapeutic arts and crafts kits to hospitalized and homebound veterans. These craft kits help injured and recuperating veterans improve fine motor skills, manage stress, cope with symptoms of PTSD and TBI while also improving their sense of self-esteem and overall physical and mental health.

Thank you, National Commander Jan Brown, Executive Director Joe Chennelly, National Officers, National Service Foundation and Sons Coordinator Carol Hebert for your continued support of the Sons of AMVETS and making us part of the AMVETS family.

“Sons Serving Veterans”

Respectfully submitted,

Richard H. Thibodeau
Commander
National Sons of AMVETS
Report of Joseph Chenelly,
National Executive Director

National Commander Brown, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

Your AMVETS National Headquarters has weathered the storm, served more veterans over the past year than any other time in recent memory, and is once again growing.

It was not easy. It was not pretty. We had a skeleton crew for much of it, but we are now full throttle ahead, ready and determined to keep great things happening as we strive to take our advocacy and service to an even higher level in Membership Year 2022.

Those of us at National Headquarters are grateful for the patience, support, guidance, and leadership you each provided us in 2021. Thank you!

Since our virtual March NEC meeting via Zoom, AMVETS hosted the world's largest veterans event in person. Rolling to Remember in Washington, D.C. over Memorial Day Weekend was a tremendous success in advocacy and financially.

Some 15,000 patriotic Americans came together, demanding full accountability for our nation's missing in action and prisoners or war, while raising massive awareness of the mental health crisis plaguing the veterans community. And we helped reopen the United States.

Americans heard about AMVETS more than 1.5 BILLION (1,500,000,000) times this spring through this motorcycle demonstration, which began at the famous Robert F. Kennedy Stadium and wove through the streets of D.C., shutting down about 20 percent of our nation's capital, around the National Mall, past the White House and Congress. The world was watching and AMVETS was visibly leading!

Everyone who was involved in any way should be extremely proud of what was accomplished. And I am grateful for each who helped in any way.

The law enforcement agencies, led by the Metropolitan Police Department's Special Operations Division, were incredibly supportive and collaborative. A special thanks to all the officers, especially MPD Commander Robert Glover.

It was a full-fledged family effort. The Sons of AMVETS were absolutely amazing. The AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary were stellar. The AMVETS Riders led from the front. Your fellow AMVETS and your National Headquarters staff were dynamite. I can not adequately express how grateful I am for the hundreds of volunteers who made this a reality.

And it was all accomplished in insanely adverse conditions. The pandemic, federal restrictions, local restrictions, skyrocketing costs, permits being denied, terrible weather, roadblocks and paralyzing uncertainty at every turn, combined to create the perfect storm. So many wanted AMVETS to give up, to put it off for another year, to keep quiet and just hide away. But this was too important to too many veterans, Gold Star Families, and many other patriots to not make it happen. And make it happen is just what AMVETS did! I hope everyone in and around this organization takes a lot of pride in that.

Rolling to Remember is now the veterans community's premier event, and it is AMVETS making it happen.

It also needs to be known within AMVETS that it was the AMVETS National Service Foundation that fully funded Rolling to Remember. The NSF board of trustees accepted this big risk, and it paid off.

Among the more common directives I hear from NEC members is that we need to do more, spend more to raise AMVETS' profile. More people around the nation need to hear about the great things AMVETS is doing. I fully agree. As you will hear in detail during this convention, Rolling to Remember accomplished that. With about 330 million people in the United States, and 1.5 billion media impression about AMVETS through Rolling to Remember, the verified statistics indicate each American heard about AMVETS five times this
spring. That is unprecedented and extremely valuable. Exposure like that would cost at least $15 million to purchase, and even then it wouldn't be as impactful.

We are already working on putting together an even bigger, more visible Rolling to Remember in 2022. I hope you'll be part of this, accomplishing our mission and making AMVETS a household name. I am confident it will be worth your time and cost to take part yourself next year.

Once the pandemic started, and all revenue streams halted in 2020, NHQ streamlined already tightly designed functions. Staff shrunk. Hiring stopped. New ways to operate virtually were developed. And we became even more conservative in spending. All while committing to not reduce services provided.

There were times when things took longer to accomplish. But the remaining staff evolved, found ways to be more efficient, worked longer hours, better leveraged technology. We are now rebuilding staff with those new tools and methods in mind. We are stronger and smarter than when COVID-19 struck. And we will keep getting stronger, thriving.

I encourage you to read the reports from each NHQ and NSF department head. Please take the time to see how our National Service Officers broke records this year in obtaining more than $2 billion in benefits for veterans and their families. How we've become the go-to veterans service organization in suicide prevention in training and legislation. How our HEAL Program is leading the way in groundbreaking conversations around cannabis. How new partners are eager to join with us in bettering the lives of veterans and their families.

Out of the darkness that engulfed so many other organizations, AMVETS has emerged as a bright star. And 2022 is going to be a fantastic year for all of us.

This concludes my report, and I move for its acceptance at the appropriate time.
The HEAL Program has been continually active during 2020-2021. We started our partnership with Military Hire, a Veteran employment platform where Veterans not only come seeking employment but also employers looking for qualified Veteran candidates. This partnership assisted with the launch of the “Women Veterans Employment Pilot early 2021. We had over 150 women veterans out of over 500 interested in the pilot and enrolled 50. The Pilot assist with job placement and job readiness. The Pilot was for 3 months.

Last Thanksgiving and Christmas, the HEAL Program along with “Speak Life,” a local nonprofit, fed over 900 Veterans and Senior Citizens. We raised funds from my existing partners and other local businesses. Not only did we feed these Veterans, but we also provided information about AMVETS and the resources we provided.

In the Spring of 2021, we launched the updated version of the Suicide Prevention online training. We received funding from the Christopher Reeve Foundation to assist with the upgrades. We had many AMVETS members take the course with wonderful feedback about the updated content. We also did an ASIST training with Prince George County Police Department, and they were given access to the training as well. We did a follow-up with Montgomery County Police Department with a roundtable Zoom discussion about the effectiveness of their ASIST training and online training. They provided a lot of incite to how they are using all the tools we taught in the daily duties.

Most recently, we created the first ever “Veterans Alternative Healthcare Summit” on June 27, 2021. This summit was designed to discuss the efficacy of cannabis and how it’s saving the lives of Veterans. The was the first time a VSO (Veteran Service Organization) openly discussed cannabis with cannabis leaders, companies, and Veterans in the cannabis space. We received an outpour of interest from thought leaders wanting to speak on panels and the summit gained international support from Canadian, Caribbean and Latin American countries. After the summit, the analytics showed we had over 21.8K engagements at the conference. The summit remained available to registrants for 2 weeks and now the entire summit is housed on the HEAL Program Landing page for anyone to view.

We are endorsing Montel Williams’ RTM (Reconsolidation of Traumatic Memories) Protocol, a PTSD holistic treatment options for Veterans. We will be submitting a letter of support to assist with getting this treatment to qualified Veterans.

Upcoming events include another “Veterans Alternative Healthcare Summit” in Hawaii on November 4-5, and a ROSE (Respect Our Sheroes Experiences) event on November 5 in Hawaii. We have been asked to assist with providing life-giving essentials to unsheltered veterans with “Advanced Nutrients,” a sponsor of the summit, to over 1K homeless in Los Angeles, CA.
Corporate Partnerships

1. Lowe’s Partnership

The 2021 grant from Lowe’s kicked off in February, with the first cycle of Generation T scholarships closing in May. Approximately 13 scholarships were awarded, and the second grant cycle was launched in July.

Memorial weekend, coordinated with AMVETS State Commanders to secure members to engage with CBS’s “Taps Across America” which was being hosted at various Lowe’s stores around the country.

Through the partnership, AMVETS was introduced to WD40 and for a second year, the company will be launching a cause marketing campaign that was run at Lowe’s stores and on-line.

2. Humana

AMVETS new contract was finalized, and Humana is looking to engage more with other marketing, financial support and in-kind support related to Rolling to Remember and the HEAL program. The details of increased involvement are being discussed.

3. Other Opportunities

AMVETS continues to collaborate with the Census Bureau and the IRS to engage the veteran community in their programs.

The Development department is collaborating with the HEAL program to strategize on funding opportunities related to events being organized for 2021-2022.

There are other conversations with corporations to donate for general support of the organization.

The Development department solicited organizations to exhibit and sponsor the 76th National Convention.

Direct Mail and Digital Campaigns

1. Direct Mail Strategy

We continue to be resourceful with our mailings. While we have decreased the number of individuals for some mailings, we are mindful of people who are receiving the campaigns, selecting what we believe will bring the best return on our investment. As mentioned in previous meetings, we continue to test with each of our campaigns. Additionally, we are working to incorporate more stories received from our program directors, as well as pictures of AMVETS leadership and members.

2. Digital Campaigns

We continue to create digital campaigns connected with our direct mail campaigns and stewardship messages. For key campaigns such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day and End of Year campaigns, we are intertwining our digital messages with social media posts in an effort to continue to build our email database and engage others who might not be donors or know about the AMVETS mission.

Strategies are also being built around #Giving Tuesday.

3. Donor Data

Coordination continues with our vendors to analyze our databases, working toward stronger and more targeted engagement both online and offline. A major donor campaign is being developed which will be launched in late Fall of 2021.

Rolling to Remember

1. Outreach continued to motorcycle groups and dealerships prior to and after the staging location was determined. After the event local dealerships were contacted for feedback and to maintain the lines of communication for 2022.
2. Coordinated with various internal and external entities to execute the event.

3. R2R 2022 - Marketing documents are being created to solicit sponsors and involvement from motorcycle groups as well as dealerships.

4. R2R 2022 - Permits have been filed with the National Park Service.

5. R2R2022 – Conversations have started with RFK for use of their campus for pre-ride events and staging area for the ride.
National Commander, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS: The Pandemic slowed membership, but we kept recruiting and building with all the government mandated closures.

We are working toward a Dept in Idaho. We recently opened Idaho 1901. The Commander, Ayriss Torres, is active-duty National Guard and Miss Idaho. She will be competing in the Miss America Contest. The Post is meeting near University and gaining traction with veterans in the school. The Departments are active and building. New Posts include OH-7604. HI-0007 and PA-1076.

In 9 months covered by this report, Sept 2020 to end of June 2021, 5573 annual members, 1163 life members and had 100 life conversions. Dept and HQ initiatives have raised awareness of our mission. New members dropped 1000 from the previous member year. Our biggest issue is retention. Today we have 9839 member we will drop from the roster on 1 September. They have 2-year invoices in the place. We have 10,448 2020 members that haven't renewed for the 2021-member year. These number are consistent over the last three years. We end up dropping close to 10,000 non renewed annual members each year.

Member engagement is the essential to retain veterans in AMVETS. The National HQ AMVETS Update and the Nimitz group Legislative updates are emailed to half of our members. The other half doesn't have emails. A few Depts have Newsletters to keep their states aware of the work they are doing. There are several Posts producing interesting newsletters for their members. Most of these newsletters are digital. Think of ways to engage the other half of our members without emails. Get more emails! We are competing in the world for attention. Encourage your Posts and members to build Facebook pages and search AMVETS and become friends with other AMVETS posts and members. AMVETS Rolling to Remember is the largest veteran demonstration in the world to raise awareness of POW, MIAs and mental health issues suffered by many vets as they return to the civilian world. 22 veterans take their lives every day. An astounding number. Your elevator speech should include:

AMVETS hosts the largest veteran's demonstration in the world every Memorial Day

AMVETS will represent you, free of charge, with your VA Claim.

AMVETS Career Centers find veterans good paying Jobs.

Add information about your State and Post programs that are helping veterans.

When your Posts are ready to set up a recruiting table let them know the Dept has loaner table cover to help the professional presentation. Email membership@amvets.org with the date of your event and include an address for the support box. It contains brochures, membership applications and co-branded bling provided by our partner USAA.

The average age of veterans in AMVETS is 68 years old. Younger members are liking what they see, the average age of new members is holding at 58, a full ten years younger than the average. Retention is the key. We need to keep them in the “Family” for 20 years. 78 is young and active in this age in Americas today. Provide information in your newsletters they can relate to. Yes, they remember Popeye and probably didn't know he was a real person recently passing. They are interested in health and world events. Was it mercenaries that killed the president of Haiti? Who hired them? Play, Who is this pictured from 30 years ago. The best member engagement is a two-way street. Ask for member opinions and listen and implement the good ideas.

If you haven't seen it the video below it puts your service in perspective and shows the shrinking pool of veterans in America. We need to be surgical in our approach to gaining members. Setting up in front of Wall Mart is good to sell clovers but a table at a VA or a base exchange has 100% eligible traffic. Get the AMVETS word out, put a flag retirement box in front of your local library.
Report of Harry Neal,  
National Membership Director (continued)

or city hall with an AMVETS logo on it? Now’s a good time for planning and phone calls.

https://facebook.com/Vox/videos/501761786678095/

This concludes my report and I move for its acceptance.

Harry Neal,  
National Membership Director  
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Report of Michael T. Black, National Service Director

Please see below our productivity for the last 12 months.

**August 2020- July 2021**

Total Amount of Benefits paid out: $2,047,827,392.00

Total amount of claims open: 115,839

Average payment per claim: $1,482.00

Appeals forwarded to the CAVC (Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims): 12

International Claims: 25 different countries around the world

**NEW MEMBERS**

Life: 19
Annual: 28
Total: 47

**PERSONNEL**

During the last 18 months the service officers have continued to move forward. Even during COVID, when other veterans service originations had to shut down. We were able to service our client’s and even some of theirs. We were still processing VA claims remotely from our homes and offices, with no face-to-face appointments. We started before the pandemic with 53 service officers, and we lost 11, leaving the National service officers with 41 officers.

Currently, we are working to fill all these open positions. We have promoted Denise Bugaj our Region 1 National Service Director out of the Buffalo New York office to Deputy National Service Director. Denise has been with the service department for over 25 years, and she is extremely active with the Department of New York. Last year we approached Ft Hood Texas (shoemaker Center), Waco VARO Texas, Seattle VARO Washington, and Hartford VARO Connecticut and after a 15 month wait, we were finally granted offices in each of these locations.

**OUTREACH**

During the Corona Virus our outreach programs remained limited. We are still handling many claims on military installations here in the United States and overseas. We are now handling multi-VA claims for veterans that are living and working out of country. We have hit a milestone of claims being worked in 25 foreign countries. These claims are from all over the world from the Philippines to Germany the Caribbean and Central America. We are processing claims by email and phone out of our Phoenix, Pittsburgh, and St Petersburg offices. I am also still looking to expand the service officer corps to 6 more states in the future. Those offices are Jackson Mississippi, Salt Lake City Utah, Reno Nevada, St Paul Minnesota, Honolulu Hawaii, and San Juan Puerto Rico. These are all critical offices that we need for the future.

A special note to Dennis Schible, our National service Officer out of the Indianapolis Regional Office, who continued to pick up and recondition items such as stair lifts, bariatric lift chairs and electric mobility chairs. Making sure every item worked properly before distributing to veterans and family members who are ineligible to receive through the VA or Medicare at no cost to them. This is just one of the things that he does to help his community. Thank you, Dennis, for your service.

In summation, I and the National Service Officers would like to thank you for all the support from the National Service Foundation and the many state departments. Without this we could not possibly assist the many thousands of veterans, widows, and orphans in the United States and Overseas that our officers now serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael T. Black
Report of Miles Migliara,
National Communications Manager

Commander Brown, National leaders, NEC representatives, and AMVETS headquarters staff,

AMVETS’ communications department is in the process of onboarding a communications specialist in an effort to provide better internal/external communication through more support.

Projects

AMVETS hosted a Facebook Live in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Million Veterans Program in early May which reached 13.7k people and had 428 total engagements.

AMVETS hosts our organization’s first virtual NEC in March which streamed to YouTube. The meeting lasted one hour and 45 minutes with no lagging or internet disconnection. Could be seen as a viable option for future National meetings when needed.

AMVETS’ legislative team and Communications department collaborated when AMVETS National Commander Jan Brown delivered virtual testimony in March to provide clear, crisp audio and video during a live-streamed hearing.

AMVETS communications department is in the middle of website development, creating a new site focused on simplicity, centralization, modernization, and with phone friendliness in mind.

Rolling To Remember 2021

Rolling to Remember was quite a success, as we saw more than 10,000 people in the RFK parking lot Memorial Day weekend. The weekend of, we saw every local news outlet covering the ride. Nationally, we accommodated CNN, FOX NEWS, Getty Images, Yahoo, Reuters, Newsmax and more. Below is a breakdown of the total media reach we received stemming from Veterans Day (announcement by Facebook Live of Rolling to Remember 2021) til June 1st:

The overall media perception of Rolling to Remember was positive and we received an enormous amount of free publicity. AMVETS’ name was more circulated that Rolling to Remember. Even though the main purpose of the ride is POW/MIA and veteran suicide awareness, it’s tremendous that the public was made aware of who is hosting this meaningful demonstration.

We received arguably more national attention than local. It is uncertain we will match that in 2022 without as much focus on the Pentagon situation, however now that we are recognized nationally, we should see national news outlets reaching out in May for ride updates and details.

This is my report and I move for it’s adoption at the proper time.

Miles Migliara
Communications,
AMVETS
Spring
National Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes

Saturday,
March 6, 2021

Meeting Conducted
Online via Zoom
Evening Session
(6:00 p.m.)

Approval of the NEC Minutes
by Commander Jan Brown

COMMANDER BROWN: I need a motion to accept the approval of the minutes from the last NEC meeting a year ago.

(Chorus of “So moved.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: A motion has been made and seconded to accept the minutes from the last NEC meeting. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed, same sign?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. Minutes have been approved. Do we have any visitors right now?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Do we have any visitors right now?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: No? At this time, we will start with the NEC reports. District I, Marty Ashman, if you will start with the district reports.

MR. ASHMAN: My report is in the book. There is not much going on in the district due to COVID. All the states in my district have reported to the NEC. You can read them in the book.

I do keep in touch with the state commanders and NEC reps for their states. And we did have a Zoom meeting two weeks ago that went very well. And I appreciate, Joe, your being there and helping us out with that.

Commander, that is my report, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Dana?

MS. DILLON: My report is in the book, and I have nothing to add to that. It is good seeing everybody, and I hope my report is accepted at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Laflin.

MR. LAFLIN: My report is in the book, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Spreng.

MR. SPRENG: My report is in the book, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Is there anybody here from New York? Jack Gray? He did have a report, so it is in the book.

MS. DILLON: Commander?

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes?

MS. DILLON: Marty is from New York.

COMMANDER BROWN: Well, that is true. He has a report in the book, so we are good. Art Rodriques?

MR. RODRIQUES: My report is in the book. With my COVID today, I am not feeling that well, but I am here. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: We appreciate that. Thank you, Art.

All right. District II, Jerry Gurnari.

District II

MR. GURNARI: Good evening, Commander Brown, officers and fellow AMVETS. I am Jerry Gurnari, National District II commander. My report is on page 12, and I would like to highlight and add a few notes.

On page 12 and 13, my name is misspelled as Gerald. It is Gerard, G-e-r-a-r-d. If we could kindly make that correction.

Programs continue to be exercised as we follow guidelines to stay safe. The tale is told as we review the reports on our national Website. Speaking of programs reporting, I tried logging in yesterday and today, and I can’t get it. It is saying that it is not safe, and there is an address there, AMVETS.us. It doesn’t say AMVETS.org. I am not sure what is going on with that, but I couldn’t do my follow-ups yesterday or today.

Immediate Past National Commander Rege Riley has been a great influence to the Department of Pennsylvania and all the departments in District II in many ways, and long before he became National Commander. Let me explain.

Department of Pennsylvania continues to hold the highest standard with the most posts in our district, and continually achieves 100 percent reporting, first ahead of the other six departments in our National District II for every six-month interval of national programs reporting period.

Congrats. Thank you, Rege Riley, PNC, and Pennsylvania AMVETS.

National District II also continues to hold the highest percentage of reporting at 97 percent. This is highest over the other districts as reported for the July to December 2020 reporting period.

In previous reporting periods going back to when I made commander, July through December 2019, January to July 2020, and again most recently July to December 2020, the highest percentage of the other AMVETS national districts.

Bravo, and thank you for all you do, AMVETS National District II.

Currently Honor Guards providing services in our community are very active and is the largest reporting of programs. A consolidated list of all the posts and supported organizations is now in progress. Let’s all get our active Honor Guards listed on the new national list.

There isn’t a national post list or a national standard operating procedure document. I am sure these topics will be discussed at the Honor Guard Committee meeting during the convention this August in Greensboro.

It was also mentioned to me by Harry that we would be seeing this more in the future with revalidation.

Service within the districts: Our posts, department, national service officers continually assist members, veterans, families, and obtain veteran benefits. Also military veteran assistance state and local benefits in their community.

I saw there was a time when funding was a concern with the pandemic going on, and I strongly recommend we increase continued funding for our national service officer program.

The next National District II meeting information will be released in the near future after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, and that we can travel safely to meet without health concerns.

Commander Brown, this is my report, and I
call for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Department of Delaware?

MR. SMITH: Commander, my report is on page 14, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

District of Columbia?

MR. EVERETT: My report is on page 20 in the book, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

District III. Deric Everett.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is on page 17 of the book. We had some pretty good activity during this last period. We had three posts out of the state were selected to handle the food giveaway from First Energy. That was a resounding success. The rest of it is all pretty much waylaid by COVID but we have accomplished some things. When you get a chance, take a look.

I respectfully request that my report be considered and approved at the proper time. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

District III. Deric Everett.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

District IV

MR. EVERETT: My report is on page 20 in the book, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MR. STUART: Yes. My report is in the book, Commander, such as it is. We are still pretty well locked down in Louisiana, and actually my post will be opening Monday. It has been closed since last March.

COMMANDER BROWN: Well, I am glad it is opening.

MR. STUART: I ask for it to be adopted at the proper time, Commander.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

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COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

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COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

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COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

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COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

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COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

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COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

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COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

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COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.

MR. STRACKA: Greetings. My report is in the book, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Stracka, West Virginia.
There are still a few posts, because of the COVID, are just now starting to open after being closed for a year. And last weekend we did have a ZOOM meeting, and it went very well. This is my report.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. All right. We will move for its adoption at the proper time.

Illinois, Chris Studebaker.

MR. STUDEBAKER: Commander, my report is on page 30 of the book, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Indiana. I think that is Mike Davis.

MR. DAVIS: Yes, Commander. Indiana’s report is in the book, and one correction to that is that our spring conference has been canceled for this year.

COMMANDER BROWN: It has.

MR. DAVIS: I move for my report to be accepted at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: All right. Iowa.

MR. REMINGTON: Commander, Barry Remington. My report is on page 32, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MR. SMITH: My report is on page 33. I have one correction. The SEC meeting scheduled for April 10 has been canceled by the commander. And I am going to call on Murray Strom from North Dakota to give his report.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MR. STROM: Murray Strom here, North Dakota. I sent my report in. It should be in the book, and I ask for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

National District V, Mary Wait.

District V

MS. WAIT: Mary Wait is here. Can you hear me?

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes, ma’am.

MS. WAIT: All right, thank you. Thank you to everyone for the hard work you have done during this unprecedented time. My district report is in the book, and I ask for its adoption at the proper time. And I am going to call on Murray Strom from North Dakota to give his report.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MR. STROM: Thank you. Larry Shippy?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. District VI, Charles Wharton.

District VI

MR. WHARTON: Thank you, Commander Brown. District VI Commander Chuck Wharton. My report is in the book on page 46, and I move for its adoption at the proper time. I would also add that we are holding our breath waiting for guidance for election methodologies in our respective states if we need alternatives. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: All right. Did Don Oliver ever check in? He does have a report in the book.

Sandra Durbin. Sandra from California? She does have report in the book.

Aurelie Mulcare from Hawaii? Did you join us?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: How about Sarah Langley? I know she is here. Sarah, you are on mute.

MS. LANGLEY: Can you hear me now?

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes, ma’am.

MS. LANGLEY: My report is in the book. I do not believe anybody is here for Lloyd Christner today.

COMMANDER BROWN: Okay, thank you.

MS. WAIT: And Larry is here.

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes, I saw he was here.

MS. WAIT: I am going to let him use my phone.

COMMANDER BROWN: Okay.

MR. SHIPEY: This is Larry Shippy, alternate NEC from Kansas, and I move for the adoption of my report that is in the book at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. All right.

Is Bobby Lumpkins here, Texas?

MR. LUMPKINS: Yes, Bobby Lumpkins from Texas. My report is in the book on page 44, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Did I miss anybody from District V?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: All right. District VI, Charles Wharton.

Let’s see. Arizona wasn’t listed. Is anybody from Arizona here?

MR. EPPS: Mr. Epps.
Our longtime Americanism and AADA chair-
man, and who is also an alternate, Ron Hall, has retired because of health issues. Former National Programs Director Karla Lathroum has stepped up into these positions. First Vice Ed McKinnon is working on the department’s scholarship program. Our department Honor Guard has performed two funeral services for deceased veterans in the last three weeks.

The post donated $1,000 to a needy veteran from the Veterans Assistance Fund. Our April DEC will be April 11 in Waldorf, Maryland. And we have decided, because of COVID, to move our convention next year from two days to just one.

Our Legislative Committee to the Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland has been on hold because they keep canceling the meetings, and now they say aren’t having another meeting until September. And we held our first department Finance Committee meeting on Zoom on January 23rd, and it went really well. And we have been doing virtual VAVS Committee meetings with the VA hospitals.

I hope everyone stays safe. I am really getting older. Instead of a high and tight like I used to, I have a bald and tight. God bless you all.

COMMANDER BROWN: Can we do it after I finish District VI?

MR. MAHONEY: Yes, ma’am.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. I will remember to call you. Murray Cooksley.

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Murray, Oregon? I saw you earlier.

MR. COOKSLEY: Here I am. Murray Cooksley, Department of Oregon. My report is found on page 54, and I would like to ask for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Steve Bird, Washington state.

MR. BIRD: This is Steve Bird, NEC, Department of Washington. My report is on page 55. I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Mr. Mahoney, we are back to you.

MR. MAHONEY: All right. Our First Vice Commander Ed McKinnon and a committee have created a new membership incentive plan for our department. The posts are working hard on membership renewals but it has been tough with COVID restrictions in our area.

Our DEC was conducted remotely on January the 16th with roughly half of our post and department officers participating. Our posts continue to monitor and assist veterans throughout the department.

Our financial support from our thrift shop was cut in half to what we were normally receiving monthly. A big financial plus was realized when Post 5 of Bristol, Virginia, donated a sum of $10,000.

Post 14 of Portsmouth, Virginia, has donated money to the Hampton Veterans Medical Facilities, the Southeastern Virginia Eastern Shore Food Bank.

Members have also participated in the Christmas wreath laying at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Post 511 went through an extensive audit by the IRS, and they are happy to report that as of December, the IRS is satisfied that they have met their expectations.

Post 50 of Pulaski, Virginia, reported donations of $1,200 to Vittles for Vets at Pulaski Christmas Store and the southwest Virginia cemetery.

Post 30 continues to meet in person while adhering to the requirements set forth by the governor of our commonwealth. And they are donating both dress and work clothes to the Hampton VA Medical Center.

Post 18 of Winchester, Virginia, opened our post home in Stephens City after months of preparation. All AMVETS members are invited to join once we are once again able to open in public. All the meetings since November have been virtual.

Our Ladies Auxiliary now has 15 members and our Sons have 18 members, and we are working to get our charters completed so that we will be off and running when we reopen.

We would like to recognize Post 50 for their generous donation of post furniture, Post 7 for their advice and continuing financial support, and both Grover Gaming and --- for their generous contribution of time, help and furnishings and support.

It is with great sadness that we recognize the passing of Whitey Turner of Post 7, who was my NEC alternate. He is also a past department commander and a past post commander.

We would also like to recognize Nate Block of Post 14, who passed away as a result of COVID. He served on his PEC of his post home in Portsmouth as well as he was the vice commander of our department.

And finally we recognize Scott Newland of Post 69 in Virginia Beach for his active participation in the AMVETS program. And he also
passed away.

All of our posts are actively trying to recruit new members, assist veterans and volunteer in their communities. I apologize for getting my report in late but this is my report for the Department of Virginia, and I ask that it be approved and accepted at the proper time. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Did I miss anybody?

MS. KENYON: Yes, ma'am. This is Caroline Kenyon, alternate NEC for the Department of Massachusetts. I believe my NEC, Walter Peacey did submit a report. I am not sure what page. Please accept this report at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Hold on, let me see here. He did not submit a report.

MS. KENYON: He did not. Well, Massachusetts -- it has been very slow getting back into the swing of it thanks to the COVID. So as soon as we get the okay from the governor to open up a lot more posts that we have, it is going to be a slow process for us. Other than that, it is going to be one of progress for me. Please accept my report.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Anybody else that I missed?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Going once, twice, three times. I will entertain a motion to accept all the department and district reports at this time.

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: So moved, Greg Heun.

COMMANDER BROWN: Second?

MR. JONES: Second.

COMMANDER BROWN: Who was that?

MR. JONES: Tom Jones, Delaware.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Motion has been made and seconded to accept all the department and district reports. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of "ayes.")

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed, same sign?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. We will now hear the National Finance Officer's report. Don Stream.

(Pause)

Committee Reports
Finance Committee
by Don Stream

MR. STREAM: Okay, can you hear me now?

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes, Don.

MR. STREAM: Okay, I apologize. Good evening, Commander and members of the NEC. Just a few -- my report is on page 65 of the book. Just a few comments here.

The National Finance Committee met yesterday afternoon via Zoom as we have done many times over the past year working with National Executive Director Chenelly, National Controller White and several other officers from the National Headquarters staff.

I would like to take this time just to add something here. I want to thank the National Headquarters staff, from the Commander on down, for the fine work they have done during this past year when things have really been tight. They did an outstanding job, and I think the membership should know that.

The Finance Committee received the annual independent audit report, and it was very well done. We were in good shape. We are on the right track, with day-to-day operations managed and executed well.

The 2021 budget is being done with very slim margins due to the fact of COVID and everything like that. Extremely low spending relative to past years. Low-projected revenues, reduced staff at National Headquarters have already been at bare bones. They have done a great job considering that.

Having this meeting virtually instead of in person is really saving us about $30,000, so that is a big savings. That is the average cost of an NEC meeting.

Also we have -- our focus on this year's budget is to be as conservative as possible with all meetings while still meeting our mission. We wanted to be prepared for whatever may come our way this year, and so far we have been.

We have found ways to do more with less. So we should be really proud of that. All of you should be proud of that. Again, I want to thank you, national staff, and everyone who has helped on that. It takes all of us working together, and I know we will come out of this even stronger than before.

COMMANDER BROWN: I have a motion to accept the finance report.

MR. STUDEBAKER: Second, Studebaker. NEC from Illinois.

COMMANDER BROWN: I need a first.

MR. STUDEBAKER: Okay, I move.

PNC KING: I believe Mr. Stream made a motion to accept his report.

COMMANDER BROWN: Okay, I move.

MR. STUDEBAKER: Yes.

COMMANDER BROWN: Oh, I am sorry. So Chris. All in favor of accepting the finance report, signify by saying aye?

(Chorus of "ayes.")

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed, same sign?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried.

MR. STREAM: Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER BROWN: Mr. Kilgore, VAVS.

VAVS Report
by VAVS Chairman PNC W.G. “Bill” Kilgore

PNC KILGORE: National Commander Brown, national officers, and members of the National Executive Committee: My report is abbreviated today because most operations of the VAMCs across the country are shut down for outside volunteers to go into the medical centers for volunteer work.

I received quite a few AJR, which are the annual joint reviews, which are recapped reports on volunteer activities from the past year and monetary donations.

Also these reports are plans for volunteer organizations' projects for the upcoming year. As always, I ask that the VAVS representatives in their local facilities attend their virtual meetings, and volunteers at local posts can still collect materials that are needed by veterans in hospitals and nursing homes, and deliver them to the facilities. They will take them if you bring them to them.

National Commander Brown, this concludes my report, and I move for its adoption.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Is there a second?
PNC KING: Second, King.

COMMANDER BROWN: There has been a motion and a second to accept the VAVS report. All in favor -- I am sorry. Is there any discussion?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: All in favor, please signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed, same sign?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried.

Commander's Report
by Commander Jan Brown

I guess my report is next. It is on page 57 in the book. I would just like to add a couple of things.

I wasn't planning on doing a second year. It has been kind of slow as far as travel. I have made a couple of meetings and a couple of events. I want to reach out and I want you all to know how hard this staff has been working. Even though you may not think they are working that well from home, but I would argue to say that they have worked harder from home. If I called Daniasha at 2:00 in the morning, more than likely she would be up working. Same thing with some of her other team.

Our membership people work very hard, and now that we are getting programs up and running again, but the whole staff, the whole building, has really stepped up to the plate and are working through this.

So we are hoping to be back in the office, everybody, by June if not sooner. And we look forward to a National Convention this year. I move that my report be accepted at the proper time.

MR. BAGGETT: Second, Florida.

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: I have a motion on the floor and duly seconded. Are there any questions?

(No response)

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: Hearing none, all in favor, signify by aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: Opposed, likewise?

(No response)

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: Motion carries.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you, Greg. You are up, Mr. Heun.

National 1st Vice Commander's Report
by Greg Heun

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: As Jan said, it has been a rough year, and the staff at headquarters has tremendously stepped up to the plate to get things done. And I would like to thank them. They have, not once, not received a call or a question.

My report is on page 58, Commander. And at the appropriate time, I would like to call for its adoption.

COMMANDER BROWN: All right. I am going to run through all our reports first so Don McLean?

National 2nd Vice Commander's Report
by Don McLean

2ND VICE CMDR MCLEAN: Yes, present. Thank you, Commander. My report is on page 59 in the book. I also have been working closely with different members of the headquarters staff, they have always been there every time I have placed a phone call, and I thank them for their assistance.

So I ask for my report to be approved at the proper time, please.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Mr. Clark?

National 3rd Vice Commander's Report
by Bill Clark

3RD VICE CMDR CLARK: Commander and members of the NEC, my report is on page 60. I would like to acknowledge Justin Brown. It was a joint effort to put the report together --. Commander, I move for my report to be accepted at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: I would entertain a motion that all the officer reports be accepted at this time.

MS. DILLON: Dillon, Connecticut.

PNC KING: Could I say something, Commander?

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes, I just saw that I missed you, PNC King. So why don't we do your report first.

Judge Advocate's Report
by PNC Jim King

PNC KING: Okay. My report is on page 64. I do have a couple of comments out of it, if I may.

We have had a lot of the turmoil I guess would be a good word for it this past year due to the pandemic. And I think in the future we need to be prepared for some kind of a national disaster or something like this coming up again. So I am proposing we put together an Appendix F, which would be used only in the case of a national disaster or a pandemic.

I already have one volunteer to help me put this together, and I would look for a couple more. If you would like to do so, please contact me either through e-mail or by my phone.

Earlier somebody had mentioned that they needed or were seeking guidance on how to take care of elections and conventions this year. If you read my report, there are a couple of suggestions in there. And again those are just suggestions. One thing I know about AM-VETS is that we have always been innovative. And if there is a way to accomplish something we will find it.

So these aren't the only ways you could do it, but they are suggestions. With that, Commander, I would move that my report would be adopted at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Let's try that again. Let's accept the officers' reports at this time.


COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MR. BROWN: Second. Mr. Brown, Ohio.

COMMANDER BROWN: The motion has been made and seconded to accept the officers' reports. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed, same sign?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion passed.

National staff reports. Executive Director Chenelly.

National Staff Reports
by Executive Director Joseph “Joe” Chenelly

MR. CHENELLY: Good evening, everyone. My report is on page 70. We have a lot going on at headquarters as always. I know -- I don't want to sound like a broken record. It
has been --- as has been reported, as Finance Officer Stream had mentioned.

We have done a lot more with a lot less. And we -- as many of you know, we have very little administrative help at this time. National Commander allowed for her executive assistant to go, and unfortunately we had some layoffs and some tough decisions to make to stabilize.

We are once again thriving and I will also -- we will be go through our different leadership and our professional staff. We do not have a programs director at this time. We do not have an acting programs director either.

The programs report though is in the book on page 76. I also want to talk a little bit about Rolling to Remember. Our last meeting we had a year ago this month, we were preparing for the first Rolling to Remember.

Unfortunately because of the pandemic we were not able to have an in-person event. We did still do a small-scale in person event, and Commander Brown and National Riders leadership led a convoy around the Capitol.

But we are looking to do an in-person event this year. And we think it is very important. We know there are at least about 10,000 motorcyclists planning to come to DC one way or the other. So we are working very hard to have a place for them to gather safely to start the day. This is the day before Memorial Day.

This will still be the nation's largest one-day motorcycle event and the nation's largest pro-veterans event of the year. We are having some trouble. The Pentagon does not want us gathering there. We had a few other sites that have fallen through unfortunately but we are determined to find something so we would love to see people in Washington, DC. If you go to RollingtoRemember.com, of course AMVETS.org, or if you contact us, and we will also be sending information out as more details come forward.

But I want to finish personally saying how proud I am of our dedicated professionals at headquarters. Working from home certainly has challenges. And a lot like when we all first got cell phones, you just become that much more connected. And now that we have cell phones and laptops, work is just pretty much around the clock, which is -- it works out.

We are very much looking forward to National Convention. I will provide an update under new business on that.

At this time, if our Chief Development Officer Christine Kirkley could please give your report.

Chief Development Officer's Report
by Christine Kirkley

MS. KIRKLEY: Yes, sir. Good evening. Thank you, Commander. Thank you, NEC, officers and other staff.

I move for my report on page 72 to be adopted at the proper time, and I am happy to answer any questions if there are any.

MR. CHENELLY: Thanks, Christine.

Our Chief Medical Executive Cherissa Jackson.

Chief Medical Executive's Report
by Cherissa Jackson

MS. JACKSON: Hi. Good evening, everyone. To NECs, to Joe Chenelly, to Commander Brown. My report is on page 74. I ask that it get adopted at the proper time. Thank you.

MR. HOECHERL: May I ask a quick question for Cherissa?

MS. JACKSON: Absolutely.

MR. HOECHERL: With all this COVID and everything else, do we have, are we stillbasings our veterans' suicide rate at 22 per day or have we had any types of updates?

MS. JACKSON: No, sir. So it takes about 2 years for us to get the accurate assessment of 2 years' prior, so we won't know how severe the suicide rate was in 2020 because of COVID until probably next year or the year after.

It takes about 2 years for them to get an accurate count.

MR. HOECHERL: Thank you, ma'am.

MS. JACKSON: You are welcome, sir.

MR. CHENELLY: Great question. Our National Communications Manager Miles Migliari.

National Communications Manager's Report
by Miles Migliari

MR. MIGLIARI: Hi, everyone. The communications report is on page 75, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. CHENELLY: Thanks, Miles. National Membership Director Harry Neal.

Membership Director's Report
by Harry Neal

MR. NEAL: Membership is rocking and rolling. The staff is doing well. We are answering phone calls on a daily basis, over the weekends and even late into the night, you know, for our brothers out in California.

Things have chilled down a little bit in membership. We used to get around 800 members a month. We are down to about 500. I think this is a lot because the Green Hats are just not able to get out and meet and greet and set up tables.

We do have support packages available. Let your posts know when they are ready to set up. Shoot us an e-mail with an address and we will get them a support package out. Even though COVID has slowed a lot of things down, we managed to build a post during this last year in Alabama. Johnny Millingdale built AMVETS Post 316. So COVID isn't slowing the Alabama boys down at all.

I just wanted to mention -- I am going to put it up to the camera here so you all can see it -- I encourage all of you to wear this pin on your hat. You have got to get three members to do it. It is the Commander's pin, and if you recruit three members into AMVETS, shoot me an e-mail, and we will get you the pin.

And when we all meet up at convention, any pin that I see on a hat, you can meet me in the Sons' lounge and the drinks are on me.

That concludes my report, please accept it. It is in the book.

PNC STAHL: Harry.

MR. NEAL: Yes, sir.

PNC STAHL: Art Stahl from Pennsylvania. We have an SEC next weekend, and we are bringing a new post in next weekend to the Department of Pennsylvania.


MS. LANGLEY: Thank you.

MR. WHARTON: Harry left out Washington Post 16 is brand new this year.

MR. NEAL: They are a motorcycle group, right?

MR. WHARTON: And another Riders, yes. We are working on that now.

MR. NEAL: Right. So hopefully we will see them in DC. It is a long run.

MR. CHENELLY: Thanks, Harry.

National Service Director Michael Black.
Our service department, the largest operation representing the very large percentage of the NSF budget, proportionately it was hit hardest early in the pandemic.

The VA closed its offices to in-person work, and we had to implement hiring freezes. But our corps of National Service Officers found new ways to communicate and represent veterans, their families and their survivors.

That was so important as the need for representation dramatically grew during the pandemic. Even with all the challenges, our service officers were able to bring more than $1 billion to service-connected wounded, injured and ill veterans during this time. A truly remarkable accomplishment of which every AMVET should be proud.

We continue with our conservative spending and aggressive goals to make AMVETS stronger and help more veterans than ever before. This concludes my report, and I move for its acceptance.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Mike Black is back.

National Service Director’s Report by Mike Black

MR. BLACK: Good evening, Commander, and members of the NEC.

My report is on page 81 in the book. I do have a couple remarks I would like to make. The National Service Officers or the service officers of AMVETS have been working hard over this last year, working through COVID.

Like a lot of you know, the VA regional offices and a lot of the hospitals have been closed, and we moved our offices into our homes to actually work claims.

We are one of the very few service officers that basically — we were only down for about a week or so at the beginning of COVID, so we continued the work full-time.

We have also had time during this year to open two new offices. We opened a new office at Fort Hood, Texas, and at the end of March we will finally have the VA regional office in Seattle open up.

For benefits, for the last six months, the total amount of benefits paid out to veterans is $1,018,114,102. ‘This coming out to basically an average payment per veteran: $1,461, with 121,000 active claims that we are working right now.

We have also sent two claims on to basically the court of appeals of veteran claims, which is the court that is higher than the BVA. And the AMVETS service officers are now operating and working claims in 25 different countries around the world.

Commander, I move my report for adoption at this time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. I would like to entertain a motion to accept the national staff reports.

1ST VICE CMR HEUN: So moved, Greg Heun.

2ND VICE CMR MCCLEAN: Second, McClean.

COMMANDER BROWN: Got a motion and second to accept the national staff reports.

PNC PIENING: I have a suggestion. Joe Piening.

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes, sir.

PNC PIENING: ‘This is to Joe. Joe, I would check the property around Fed Ex Field. There is a tremendous amount of parking area out there and you certainly should be able to utilize that.

COMMANDER BROWN: They turned us down.

PNC PIENING: You already checked that?

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes.

MR. CHENELLY: It was a great location, Joe. It really was a great location. We walked the property with them, and then they told us it didn’t align with their mission. We are not sure what that means. We don’t really have time to figure that out right now. We are moving forward. We are talking with RFK’s parking, although their parking has drastically been reduced. That stadium is going away.

PNC PIENING: One more suggestion, Joe: How about Andrews Air Force Base?

MR. CHENELLY: We will look into that, Joe. Thank you. We had not thought of that. Appreciate that.

COMMANDER BROWN: Let’s try it again. A motion on the floor to accept the staff reports. It has been seconded. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes”)

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed, same sign?

MR. WILBURN: Aye.
MR. GRAY: Sorry. I have had a lot of trouble getting through. I am sorry.

COMMANDER BROWN: Hearing no old business, under new business.

New Business

COMMANDER BROWN: PNC Hotop is not able to give the Grievance Committee Report and has asked PNC Brown to do so. Are you there Mr. Brown?

PNC BROWN: Yes, I am. The National Grievance Committee met virtually Thursday afternoon to hear three appeals. The members of the committee are myself, NEC from Tennessee Ron Bottomley and PNC Hotop. He is the chairman of the committee. Also in attendance were National Judge Advocate Jim King, National Commander Jan Brown, and National Executive Director Joe Chenelly.

We had three appeals. And I believe each one of these has to be voted on individually. Mr. King, if I read the outcome of each appeal, do we vote each one or do you want me to read them all?

PNC KING: They should be voted on individually.

PNC BROWN: The first appeal was filed by Mr. TJ Smith of Ohio. The committee determined that the charges should be dismissed without prejudice. I want to be noted that I, PNC Brown, recused myself because I am from the Department of Ohio.

PNC KING: Move to accept.

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: Second, Greg Heun.

COMMANDER BROWN: A motion has been made and seconded to accept TJ Smith of Ohio, to dismiss without prejudice. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Those opposed, same sign.

(No response)

MR. : Aye.

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried.

PNC BROWN: The third appeal, an appeal filed by Ms. Elizabeth Knight of New Mexico. The committee determined that the charges should be dismissed without prejudice also. I move for its adoption.

PNC KING: Second, King.

COMMANDER BROWN: A motion has been made and seconded for Elizabeth Knight of New Mexico, a motion to dismiss without prejudice. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

PNC BROWN: myself and the committee would like to thank you very much for your time in allowing us, in choosing us, I should say, to be part of this committee. And that concludes the report of the National Grievance Committee. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: Mr. Chenelly, you are up. National Convention.

MR. CHENELLY: I believe everyone is looking forward to getting together in person. Of course, we are scheduled to do so next at our National Convention in late August in Greensboro, North Carolina.

We have a lot of conversations with the hotel and the convention center there. I believe they are ready for us. In fact, the hotel as we speak here is a bubble hotel for the Women's NCAA basketball tournament, and next week they will be a bubble hotel for the men's NCAA basketball tournament.

I bring those up because it shows they are going to be very careful. They are obviously highly trusted by a major institution, being the NCAA, to follow all protocols and provide a safe environment.

I believe they will be able to do the same for
us. National Commander Brown and the national executive director for the Ladies Auxiliary and the chief operating officer for the National Service Foundation will be going down later this month for a very small site visit, a quick site visit, in and out in one day.

North Carolina is still locked down pretty tight. But they do anticipate to be able to fully host us in August. So I think that is good news. The one concern that we still have at the headquarters is whether our members will be interested in trusting to come.

I urge all of you, if you want an in-person National Convention this year, please let those who you represent know. This is going to be done the right way. It is going to be safe, and please encourage them to come.

We need to have quorum for the elections and voting on bylaws, resolutions, some really important work that we were not able to get done last year. We need to get it done this year so we need members to come to the convention. We need delegates so we can have a quorum. Commander, that completes my report.

MR. COOKSLEY: Question: What hotel is it at?

MR. CHENELLY: Sure. It is the Sheraton at Four Seasons in Greensboro. There is information on AMVETS.org under convention. Information will be coming out here in the next -- including online registration.

We need people to start registering so we have a good idea of how many people are coming. By the way I should have mentioned, I neglected to mention that the hotel has said that they would work with us on minimum room nights and minimum food and beverage.

Those are big business decisions on whether or not this can be viable. With them saying they are going to work with us, that makes it viable on the business side as well.

COMMANDER BROWN: Any other questions?

MS. KENYON: Madam Commander, what are the dates for the National Convention this year?

COMMANDER BROWN: I don't have that off the top of my head.

MR. WILBURN: The 17th to the 22nd.

MS. KENYON: What was that again? Repeat, please.

MR. WILBURN: The 17th to the 22nd of August.

MR. CHENELLY: Our official dates are through the 21st.

MS. DILLON: Question, Commander.

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes, ma'am.

MS. DILLON: If for some reason North Carolina or anything else is going on with COVID, will we be holding a virtual convention? What are the backup plans?

COMMANDER BROWN: Right now we don't have backup plans. So we are counting on being in North Carolina right now.

MS. DILLON: Rolling ahead, okay.

COMMANDER BROWN: We are just going to push forward because I am not doing this another year.

MR. WILBURN: Our COVID cases in North Carolina, they are slowly but surely on a downward spiral. The governor is wanting like a 5 percent. The last few days we are right at the 5 percent or barely below the 5 percent. So we are headed in the right direction unless something that we are really not expecting happens, we should be okay here in North Carolina come August.

MS. DILLON: That is great news.

COMMANDER BROWN: Speaking of convention, we need to vote on the 2021 National Convention rules. You all should have received those as an e-mail attachment.

Basically the only changes were time and place. I think I highlighted anything that was different. Is there any discussion on the convention rules?

PNC KING: Move that we accept them.

(Chorus of "Second.")

COMMANDER BROWN: There has been a motion and a second to accept the convention rules as printed. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of "ayes.")

MR. STUART: Commander I have a question.

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes.

MR. STUART: Gary Stuart, NEC, Louisiana. Why have we fallen away from having our convention in the first or second week of August?

In our constitution, it says that it will be held the first or second week of August. We have got Juniors. The third or fourth week in August, most of them are back in school. When we accepted the third week, we are going against our constitution.

COMMANDER BROWN: I am not aware of that.

PNC KING: If I could address that.

PNC KING: Years ago, we had a motion to, and accepted on the floor, it went to constitutional amendment, to -- to the first and second week of August because we had a lot of members at that time that had children going to school. And a lot schools were starting the last part of August.

We don't see it that much anymore. Another thing we run into is you only got two weeks sitting there, and that is a very limited time to try to make arrangements, especially when you are working with hotels that have other groups coming in and going out.

So we have had this several times in the past where we have actually gone into the third week or the fourth week.

MR. STUART: This makes it hard for the Juniors because like you said, they are back in school. I mean, we want them to attend their convention.

PNC KING: Sometimes you just can't get that two-week period with the hotel.

MR. STUART: We need to change the constitution then because --

COMMANDER BROWN: We can't always get the hotels.

PNC KING: I tell you what, it probably wouldn't take a lot to change that back to the month of August.

COMMANDER BROWN: We do have a motion on the floor to accept the convention rules. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of "ayes.")

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed, same sign?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Good and order? Unless there is anything else to bring up?

Good of the Order

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: Commander, if I may?
COMMANDER BROWN: Yes, sir.

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: Greg Heun from Kentucky, national first vice. I would like to announce that I will be a candidate for Commander this year, with your permission.

COMMANDER BROWN: Yay.

MS. VORHIES: Commander, if I could have just a couple minutes, Abby Lewis asked me to read a little note to you since she couldn't be present.

COMMANDER BROWN: Sure.

MS. VORHIES: And before I read her note, if I can read her writing, I would also like to add that Abby has been taking care of a lot of the veterans in the Chillicothe VA through Post 1928 in Columbus, Ohio.

She personally handwrites over 120-some cards to let the veterans know that they haven't been forgotten.

And she won't tell anyone that, but I just wanted you to know that your national president is doing what she can for our veterans out there.

So now I will read her little note, if you wouldn't mind. Commander Brown, national officers, and AMVETS family: I hope you are doing well. As we all know, that our organization has had to handle meetings very differently and I have missed seeing everyone.

I do want to mention that my project continues to be Honor Flight. Even though there haven't been many Honor Flights due to the COVID-19, I ask that you continue to support and reach out to your department Honor Flights.

I wish you all good health and hope we can be together in August for our National Convention. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: Those of who don't know, Abby turned 18 last Sunday. All right, Don McLean had his hand up, I believe.

2ND VICE COMMANDER MCLEAN: Yes, Commander, thank you. Don McLean, national second vice. I just want to announce I will be a candidate for national first vice at the convention this August. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: All right, who else had their hand up? I can't see the hands.

MR. SMITH: I wanted to announce that Greg Heun would be a candidate for National Commander but he kind of beat me to the draw. So I will double the announcement. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: Horace?

MR. JOHNSON: Commander Brown and fellow AMVETS, I am pleased to announce that I will be running for the National Third Vice in August.

COMMANDER BROWN: Jerry?

MR. GURNARI: This is Jerry Gurnari, National District II commander. Window 45. At this time, I am stating my candidacy for a position of trustee on the National Finance Committee. I would appreciate your support and vote. Thank you, Commander.

PNC KING: Point of order, Mr. Gurnari.

MR. GURNARI: Sir.

PNC KING: You are the outgoing commander for District II.

MR. GURNARI: Yes.

PNC KING: So you will be replaced?

MR. GURNARI: Yes.

PNC KING: That means you are not eligible to serve on the Finance Committee because you have to be a district commander during the year that you would serve. You understand?

MR. GURNARI: Okay. Thank you, Mr. King. I was not aware of that.

PNC KING: That is why I brought it up.

MR. GURNARI: Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: Anybody else?

PNC KING: This is J.P. Brown III, past national commander. I would like to announce my candidacy for another term on the AMVETS National Service Foundation, and I would appreciate the support of all you fine ladies and gentlemen.

COMMANDER BROWN: Any other hands up? Joe Piening?

PNC PIENING: Yes, Commander. Thank you. First of all, I am very glad to see everyone, and especially Commander Mitchell. And also I have an announcement that I will be a candidate for the National Finance Committee for re-election. And also I am a candidate for post commander of AMVETS Post 8.

COMMANDER BROWN: All right. Bill Clark?

3RD VICE CMDR CLARK: I would just like to announce my candidacy for national second vice commander at the convention in Greensboro.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Jim King.

PNC KING: I will be a candidate for National Judge Advocate again this year. And I believe Chris Studebaker, the NEC from the great state of Illinois, will be a candidate for the National Finance Committee.

COMMANDER BROWN: Anybody else?

MR. STUDEBAKER: Jim beat me to the punch there, but yes, I am going to be a candidate for the National Finance Committee again at the post-NEC. Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER BROWN: Paul Shipley.

MR. SHIPLEY: Thank you, Commander. At this time I would like to announce my candidacy for national third vice commander for AMVETS National.

COMMANDER BROWN: Paul is a commander from Pennsylvania. Anybody else?

MR. HOECHERL: John Hoecherl, NEC Michigan.

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes, sir.

MR. HOECHERL: I am not running for anything but just like to convey some information. First off, prayers for John Dowd. A past state commander, a past NECman, past quite a few things. He has been admitted to the hospital with breathing problems, so prayers for that would be appreciated.

And Carol Hebert, our executive director for the Department of Michigan, has announced her retirement at the end of our state convention in June, and the process is starting underway to replace her. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

Art Stahl, please.

PNC STAHL: I had my hand up but Commander Shipley kind of beat me in there. I was going to announce that he is a candidate for third vice commander with the backing of the Department of Pennsylvania.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Murray Strom?
MR. STROM: Commander Brown, I am just asking about the Freedom Foundation, what we are doing this year? If we send a candidate, should we tell them they are going to go? Or what is going to happen there?

COMMANDER BROWN: Honestly we don't know yet. I will check with them and get back to you on that within the next couple of weeks.

MR. STROM: Okay. Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER BROWN: Bobby Lumpkins.

MR. LUMPKINS: Commander, this is Bobby Lumpkins from Texas. And I am putting my name in for third vice in Greensboro, North Carolina.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MS. VORHIES: Commander this is Sandy from Ohio. I would like just to mention that Art Majors will be running again for Provost Marshal.

MR. : Is that one more time Art, Sandy?

MS. VORHIES: Well, yes.

MR. STREAM: Commander, I would just like to announce that I am running for re-election as National Finance Officer. And I would appreciate everybody's support at the National Convention in Greensboro.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MR. BAGGETT: Commander Brown?

COMMANDER BROWN: Yes, Mr. Baggett.

MR. BAGGETT: I would just like to announce that PDC Horace Johnson has the complete support and backing of the Department of Florida.

COMMANDER BROWN: Okay. All right, going once.

PNC BROWN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. : Second.

MS. DILLION: I would just like to say thank you to all of you at headquarters for making this possible, that we were able to actually meet and conduct our business, so thank you, all of you guys.

COMMANDER BROWN: All right. There has been a motion to adjourn. Anybody else before we --

MR. : Second.

COMMANDER BROWN: All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of "ayes.")

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: We will have the benediction. Is Gary still around?

**Benediction**

by Chaplain Gary Sallade

CHAPLAIN SALLADE: I want to read from the book of Galatians, the sixth chapter. It says this: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up. Shall we pray?

(Closing prayer)

COMMANDER BROWN: PNC Brown, would you honor to the colors, please?**

**Honors to the Colors**

by PNC J.P. Brown III

PNC BROWN: AMVETS, attention the best you can. Hand salute. Go in peace.

COMMANDER BROWN: I would like to thank everybody for attending. Stay safe, and I hope to see everybody at the National Convention this year.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.)