2021 FALL
National Executive Committee (N.E.C.)
Report

[Images of a man waving at an event and another man hugging a woman]
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AGENDA
National Executive Committee Meeting
Saturday, December 4, 2021 | 8:30 a.m.

Call to Meeting Order (8:30 a.m. sharp) ......................................................... National Commander Gregory Heun
Invocation ........................................................................................................... National Chaplain Gary Sallade
Honors to the Colors ......................................................................................... National Provost Marshall Arthur Majors
Roll Call ............................................................................................................... National Executive Director Joseph Chenelly
Adoption of Agenda .......................................................................................... National Commander Gregory Heun
Approval of NEC Minutes ................................................................................ National Commander Gregory Heun
Visitors ................................................................................................................ National Commander Gregory Heun

NEC Reports
District I ........................................................................................................... Commander James E. Laflin
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 ................................................................................................................. VAVS Chairman PNC Bill Kilgore

National Officers Reports ................................................................................ National Commander Gregory Heun
1st Vice .............................................................................................................. First Vice Commander Don McLean
2nd Vice ............................................................................................................ Second Vice Commander Bill Clark
3rd Vice .............................................................................................................. Third Vice Commander Paul Shipley
Judge Advocate ............................................................................................... National Judge Advocate PNC Jim King

National Staff Reports ..................................................................................... Executive Director Joseph Chenelly
National Service Foundation ........................................................................ NSF President Jerry Hotop
Executive Director Joseph Chenelly
National Controller Daniasha White

Old Business .................................................................................................... National Commander Gregory Heun
New Business ................................................................................................ National Commander Gregory Heun
Benediction ....................................................................................................... National Chaplain Gary Sallade
Honors to the Colors ....................................................................................... National Provost Marshall Arthur Majors

BWI Marriot
Baltimore, Maryland
National Executive Committee Reports

National District I

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Delaware, Douglas Potter, NEC .................................. 6
Massachusetts, Walter Peacey, NEC ............................... 7
New Jersey, Mary Jane Black-Muncey, NEC ....................... 8
New York, Jack Gray, NEC ........................................ 9
Report of James E. Laflin, National District I Commander Department of Maine

Membership
the 1st district’s membership has improved slowly with all departments coming up slowly. this is due to not having the renewal cards out until this time of the year. we need to have a good membership drive to bring membership in all departments. we have worked hard at retaining members and recruiting new members, we are starting to get out there more now that things are more open.

Programs
As soon as the membership renewal cards are out we start working more on the posts reporting. All departments continue to do the best they can with all the mandates that each state has. Things should get better seeing that allot of post's have opened up more.

Service
All departments continue to work closely with there states service officers and veterans services for the va system in each state.

Upcoming events
The district i department will be attending the nec meeting in dec. Which will be a virtual zoom meeting. As well as i will try to make it to some of the departments sec meetings.

Legislative

Communications/Pro
I am trying to communicate more with the departments as i just got a list of all the departments with commanders with there addresses and phone numbers so that i can communicate with them.

Other
I hope to get each department working more on membership and programs reporting. I hope to be able to visit each department during my one year as department commander.
Report of Dana M. Dillion, NEC
Department of Connecticut

Membership
Membership and Programs Reporting:
Over the next couple of Months, we will be putting our efforts into Membership Renewals and Programs Reporting. We would like to see the Department reach 80% or better by the end of December on Membership and 100% Post Reporting by the end of December. Our Commander is planning to visit all of the posts in Connecticut within the next couple of months. Last year we lost Post 24 and Post 50 in CT and were on the verge of losing Post 2 and Post 45. I am happy to say that both Post 2 and Post 45 have new members that have taken over and both of these posts should start moving in a more positive direction.

Programs
Programs and Events:
We are starting to see National Guard events opening up again since COVID began. In the last month AMVETS has been invited to 2 Ceremonies. Our VA Hospitals have started to allow some programs to resume. But the next few weeks will tell. COVID Numbers are on the rise again and we may see restrictions put back into place. Many places in CT have put mask requirements back in place already.

Service
We no longer have a National Service Officer in CT. Hopefully we will get one soon.

Upcoming Events
Veterans Day provides a lot of opportunities for our AMVETS to get out in the community. There are parades, Luncheons, meet with students and other events planned.

We are also launching our holiday baskets at several posts.

Our Operation Gift card continues to make monthly trips to Bethesda Medical Center.

Legislative
We have our ear to the ground on upcoming and current legislation. With COVID and us not being allowed at the State Buildings yet, it has been hard to do a lot.

Communications/PRO
Our Communications and PR continue to work on getting our name out there.

Other
SEC and Service Foundation Meetings:
We held our SEC and Service Foundation Meetings on October 18, 2021. We now hold our meetings at the DAV Chapter 6 Hall Ave. in Meriden, CT. At our Department Convention in June, we also approved the use of ZOOM and other media sites for holding meetings. We are hoping to Zoom all meetings even when we hold in person meetings.

Our Next Service Foundation and SEC Meeting will be on Monday January 24, 2022.

Sad Sacks:
Our department would like to congratulate and recognize our own Dana Dillon on being the new National Sad Sack Worm.

This is my report and I ask that it be accepted at the proper time

Dana M. Dillion, NEC
AMVETS Department of Connecticut
Commander District II Commander, District officers, and Department Commanders and fellow AM-VETS.

**Membership:**
Renewal is about 80% the department is trying to organize more posts in Kent and New Castle County.

**Programs:**
5 posts have reported for the period=100% 3 posts are involved in flu shots.

**Post #2,** participates in Scholarship’s and ROTC Scholarships, along with major donations to the men’s “Home of the Brave for Veterans” and the new “Women Home of the BRAVE” for women Veterans” in Milford Delaware and Milford’s Veterans Home. Set up flu shots for members and family. Built numerous Handicap ramps for disabled Veteran and supplied Medical equipment. Formed a work detail with the JRROTC at Cape Henlopen High School to help at the Veterans Home in Milford Delaware. Made donations of over $65000.00 to charitable causes in addition to five 2500.00-dollar Scholarships for ROTC Graduate’s during the period, are preparing for Veterans Ceremony on Nov 11, 2021.

**Post #5:** post has assisted post # 2 at its various functions and is picking up momentum,

**Post #1694:** They are doing numerous fund raisers and are planning a “White Clover drive at various business locations in Seaford Delaware. ROTC Presentations at area High Schools

**Post #22** Participates with scholarship’s, Community programs blood drives Scholarship’s to area high schools ROTC Programs. Set up program for Flu Shots And assisting Veterans in need Peer to peer support. Made donations over of $18,000, 00.

**Post #8323** Is active in community,

**Service:**
Department also participated in Stand Downs in Kent and Sussex County Delaware. Assisted a number of Vets through the Department of Veterans Affairs Hosted Flag Day Ceremony. Attend meetings of the Charitable Gaming Commission.

Successfully lobbied to get the state to increase the 3% to 6% of Video lottery proceeds into Veterans benefits trust fund. This is used to help Veterans in need with financial problems.

**Legislative:**
The Department and posts are active in legislation both at the State and National level. Coordinates with the VFW and American Legion, on various pieces of legislation with both state and federal elected officials. Department maintains close relationship with key legislative leaders and their staff Commander, this concludes my report and I move for adoption.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Porter
Douglas Potter NEC
AMVETS Department of Delaware
Report of Walter Peacy, NEC Department of Massachusetts

Membership
Our posts and department is struggling to maintain and move forward with membership. We have reached out to many, but a lot say that they do not get email. Unfortunately, that is primary way that we send out renewals at the national level. Hopefully with the paper sending that is due to go out, we can see an increase in our renewal numbers. From the posts and members that I have spoken with, their biggest concern is the lack of information going out in paper form. Many do not have email accounts and/or access to on a continuous timeline.

Programs
Many posts are continuing to do what they can. We have clothing and necessity drives going on at many posts for their local VAs and Soldiers Homes. They allow us to drop off these items but we are still unable to go inside at this time. We will continue to support and do what we can for these veterans. We are also sponsoring events with money contributions to help defray their costs.

Service

Upcoming Events

Legislative
On the state level, the legislature passed the Speed Act. This act allows for the transferring of professional licensing for a uniformed member or their spouse from one state to ours in a faster streamline to ensure the continuance of their profession. It also helps with the transfer of college credits so that they may continue with their educational programs.

Communications/PRO

Other
Membership
At this time, New Jersey membership has seen a slow decline due to various reasons. Some members have relocated to other states, the covid-19 restrictions, member deaths, etc. We are actively recruiting new Veterans to join us.

Programs
Veterans Day Event – Somers Point
Gloucester Township Elementary School Americanism Program
Pearl Harbor Service – Somers Point

Service
Cmdr. Fred Vineyard is an accredited Veteran Service Officer and assists all Veterans with claims. He also advises and provides assistance and resources to Veteran family members and caregivers.

Upcoming Events
November 11th – Veterans Day Ceremony – Somers Point
November 12th – Gloucester Township Elementary School Americanism Awards Day
December 5th – Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony – Somers Point

Legislative
New Jersey Legislation is currently in the election cycle. Not many bills are up for consideration/voting until January, 2022

Communications/PRO
Please update our Department NEC for all future correspondence:
Mary Jane Black-Muncey
mjmuncey3324@comcast.net

Other
Department of New Jersey continues to keep an open line of communication with all NJ Post Commanders.
Membership
As of June 30, 2021 New York has a total of 6,502 members. New York ranks the 7th largest with a 74.64% renewal rate. Unfortunately, ten (10) NY State Posts were revoked. We now have 68 Posts. There is still a lot of work to try out and research the reasons we are losing Posts.

Programs
July 30th we supported and attended the remembrance day at Fort Drum to honor all the veterans who gave their lives in support of our country. Our AMVET Riders has been a great program with over 150 members, they have been working on planning the Memorial Day ride in Washington DC.

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

Upcoming Events
I would like to introduce our new Commander Hal Queyor and Madam President Cindy Queyor From Malone, which is in the north country of NY.
SEC is March 18-19, 2022 and convention is June 10-11, 2022 both at the Doubletree Hotel in Binghamton, NY 607-722-7575

Legislative
Veterans Community Care- Mission Act eligibility under the new act will have better access and greater choice in healthcare either at the VA or a community provider. KEY aspect prior approval from VA must be obtained.

Communications/PRO

Other
National District II

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North Carolina, David Wilburn, NEC ................................................................. 14
Virginia, John R. Cooper, NEC ............................................................................. 15
Report of Billie Ainsworth, National District II Commander

Membership
According to the latest membership report District II has 12,558 life members and 2,043 annual members for a total of 14,521. Included in this total are 1,953 renewals, twenty new life members and ninety new annual members. While total current membership is 3,380 less than it was during the last fiscal year, we believe that current efforts by departments and posts will eliminate this deficit by year’s end. To recruit new members, some departments are offering recruiting incentives to their members. Also, District II Vice Commander Edward Stracke is spearheading district recruiting efforts. Vice commander Stracke has developed a website where department officers can easily view membership data and in turn assist posts with retention and recruitment.

Programs
The district has 71% of Departments reporting program activity, but only 27 of 117 posts have submitted reports. COVID-19 restrictions have caused delays in post reporting. And in several cases, activities were impossible to conduct. For example, most VA Medical Centers curtailed all volunteer activities except cash donations. Also, government jurisdictions prevented volunteers from interacting with the public due to the ongoing crisis. However, there are also incredibly good things happening in the district regarding Programs. Since July, the district has contributed 8,891 volunteer hours, 33,636 miles, $46,172 activity cost, and $63,890 cash for a total program value of $377,602.00.

Other
District II had a very productive meeting in Alexandria, VA on October 23, 2021. There were twenty-six officers and members present. We also had three guest speakers from AMVETS National Headquarters: First Vice Commander Donald McLean, Third Vice Commander Paul Shipley, National Programs Director Ms. Carol Hebert. Vice Commander McLean provided valuable information on how the National Membership Department operates. Vice Commander Shipley provided information on the framework he intends to use while pursuing the AMVETS Legislative Agenda. Ms. Herbert provided information dealing with the National Programs Reporting System. She answered questions and provided contact information in case members need to contact her.
Membership

CORONA VIRUS-19 continues to have devastating impact on our membership operations. We are beginning to restart our program by kicking off a competition Membership Drive through July next year. The member who recruits the most new members (over seven) will be given a paid, roundtrip to our next National Convention.

Programs

This Reporting Period, this Department sponsored a Holiday Meal at the Greenleaf Senior Center in SE Washington, DC. This program is normally done the second Friday in December but due to the Covid 19, it was decided to have it in October so it could be done outside. Catered Traditional Holiday Dinner was prepared and served to over 125 seniors.

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 restart donating its funds so that hospital staff could restart the games.

Upcoming Events

On Veteran Day, this Department will be conducting a “Handouts for Homeless Veterans” Toiletries Drive. We will be passing out bags which consist of Masks, Hand Sanitizers, Toothpaste, Deodorant and Floss.

Legislative

Communications/PRO

Our new Commander Daniel Parker has identified three objectives that he wants to focus on. They go hand in hand and build on each other. They are Membership, Technology, Training and Mentoring.

The name will change but the mission is still the same. “Veteran helping Veterans”.

Other

Department Fall Executive Committee Meeting was held on October 9, 2021, at the Ft Myer, Henderson Hall Officers Club, Arlington, VA.

Commander, this concludes my report and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

Aaron Jay Smith, NEC
Michael P. Mahoney, NEC  
Department of Maryland

**Membership**

For our new membership year, 9/1/2021 through 8/31/2022, as of October 1, 2021, our Departments total % annual and life is at 84.76%. Our 1st Vice’s membership program from this previous year was a success.

**Programs**

The Department is gearing up for another year of Programs. Americanism and A.A.D.A.A. packets will be sent out to the Posts in December. Our Department will also send out scholarship applications to the Posts. Our ROTC Chairman will be gearing up for this years program. We are looking forward to another successful year with all these programs.

**Service**

Our Department Honor Guard will be continuing to work Military Funerals of our departed Veterans. They recently posted colors for the Auxiliary Car Show and performed a ceremony for a 911 Remembrance Ceremony. They also will be pulling double duty on November 7th for Veteran's Day ceremonies, that morning for a Church service in Frederick County and performing a firing at Walkersville MD in the afternoon.

**Upcoming Events**

Our Honor Guard will be participating in ceremonies for Veteran's Day. We will be holding a Department Executive Meeting on Sunday, December 5th at Post 9 in Middletown, MD. Members of our Department will be attending the fall Virtual National Executive Meeting on December 4th, 2021.

**Legislative**

Our JVC Delegation to the Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland reconvened in September. MD PDC Mike Mahoney was elected as Chairman of the JVC this year and current Dept. Commander, Bruce Rice is leading our Department’s delegation with the help of Past Chairman, Andy Martel, Maryland's Executive Director. Dept. of MD's and National Women's Veteran Legislative Committee Head, Dr. Joann Fisher was elected as Chief of Staff for the Joint Veteran Committee.

**Communications/PRO**

Our Department Executive Director, Andy Martel has been instrumental in keeping the Department meeting activities current during the Pandemic shutdowns and still offers virtual attendance to our meetings through zoom and by phone. Great job Andy.

**Other**

On behalf of Commander, Bruce Rice, myself and our AMVETS family in the Department of Maryland, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season and do something special for a Vet in need.

Thank You All and may God Bless!

Mike Mahoney, N.E.C. Dept. of MD
The Department of North Carolina would like to thank everyone who attended our National Convention in Greensboro. Hopefully we pulled off a good Convention. It was great to be able to meet this year.

Membership

Our Department is trying to maintain our membership. Still having some backlash from Covid-19. We are trying new methods for signing up new members. As we are about to start a new year, hopefully we can be productive in membership.

Programs

North Carolina is showing less than 100% reporting. Some of our posts are still not able to get out and about. On the other hand we have several posts working on the same programs as usual. We will have drive thru candy give outs for Halloween. Some Posts are helping homeless veterans with donated supplies. Some are having food drives and helping local schools. Also placing flags on graves for Veterans Day. We will have a drive thru hotdog lunch on Veterans Day and Veterans Day Parade.

The members of the Honor Guard are staying very busy. Seems like more funerals and less help. We are sending donations to the VA for the canteen. We have Posts taking care of local shut ins. Our Department is trying to stay on track.

Service

Our Department is still covering all the VA hospitals. At this time the hospitals are still on restrictions. Our representatives are ready to return.

Upcoming Events

The second weekend of January will be our Winter DEC in Clemmons, North Carolina. Hopefully we can get back on track.

Legislative

The Department of North Carolina is still attending the North Carolina Veterans Council, not much to report at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wilburn, NEC
Department of North Carolina
Membership

Membership renewal has been very slow due to COVID-19 mandates. Future membership development activities are planned when COVID mandates are lifted. At our NEC meeting future membership goal have been developed for all Posts. After, membership data has been updated at HQ, we expect Department membership numbers to increase.

Programs

Virginia has continued to lead District 11 with over 90% reporting. As of this time, program's value is over $161,728. NJROTC/ROTC programs are under review for contacts and dates for presentations. The Department is strongly involved in the Commonwealth of Virginia's suicide awareness program. Our past Department Commander sits on this board. The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations has placed AMVETS position paper as #1 for submission to the Governor and the General Assembly for approval. The National HEAL Program Manager has supported the Department of Virginia's Suicide Prevention program for National inclusion to programs.

Service

The Department again has made donations to our 3 VA hospitals and 2 Veterans Care Centers that has amounted to over $5,000 for this period. With COVID-19 issues, visits to VA hospitals has been limited for our members.

Upcoming Events

The Department of Virginia has been limited to changes to our CBL until National prints the changes for the National Convention.

Legislative

Our 3rd Vice Commander has briefed the Department on pending Legislative Veterans legislation at our last NEC.

Communications/PRO

Limited due to HQ's COVID limited office hours.

Other

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

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Georgia, Frederick Bates, Alternate NEC ................................ 19
Louisiana, Gary L. Stuart, NEC ............................................ 20
South Carolina, Kenneth Colby, NEC .................................... 21
Tennessee, Lee Ann Adams, Alternate NEC Representative .... 22
Membership
Membership is still slow but the Post 23 is making contacts from the MAL listing. In an effort to reach out to veterans Post 21 is continuing its highly successful Veteran’s Breakfast Program.

Programs
Programs include lawn mowing, military funerals and Flags over Athens for Veteran’s Day. Also fund raising, visiting sick or hospitalized veterans and other community services were reported.

Service
Post 23 had a Law Enforcement of the Year presentation, a POW/MIA flag display and placed over 700 flags and cemeteries in and around Opp, Alabama.

Upcoming Events
Post 23 will visit a local nursing home on 10 November to provide goodie-bags to veterans. There will be a dedication ceremony at Andalusia Airport for John B. Givhan (a deceased Post 23 member who served in Vietnam as helicopter pilot) and the Post will be putting out flags and the Post Honor Guard will present colors at the ceremony.

Legislative
The 3rd Vice notifies the Department membership of upcoming legislation which concerns veterans.

Communications/PRO
None reported.

Other
Membership
Department of Georgia has 25 new members, 362 annual members and 1456 life members for a total of 1818 members. The Department is trying to get more renewals by using Facebook and ZOOM to get information out. We now have 15 Post in the Department.

Program
The Department of Georgia has a total of 12 of 15 Post Reporting at the end of November 2021. As of 30 November 2021, we have 80% of the post reporting. These number 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 November 2021.

Service
The Department distributed over $2000 dollars of equipment to AMVETS Department of Louisiana Post 68 after Hurricane IDA. The Department Had a 911 memorial during this the Fall SEC, with 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.

Upcoming Events
The Department of Georgia January 2022 SEC will be held 21-23 January 2022 at e Hilton Garden Inn, 207 North Willie Lee Parkway, Warner Robins GA. Telephone 855-680-3239.

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

Membership
As of November 3 the Department of Louisiana has 6 post with a membership of 1071 members, 870 life and 201 annual. This includes 303 MAL members. We were late receiving membership cards due to hurricane Ida. They have been sent to all post to be sent to paid members. Membership dues are still coming in.

Programs
With 67% of post reporting 253 members donated 8253 hours for total program value of $248,767.32.

Service
All post are doing community service events. Veteran transport, funeral escort, girl and boy scout programs hurricane relief among other things.

Upcoming Events
The next SEC meeting will be held in Springfield at Post 68. It will be held in February. The dates will be sent out at a later date. District 3 meeting will be held Feb. 5, 2022 at Post 113 3400 Steel Rail Drive Bunnell, fl. 32110 hotel is Best Western 200 Flager Plaza Drive Palm Coast, Fl. $83.69 cutoff date Jan 22, 2022

Legislative

Communications/PRO

Other
As you may know in August the southeastern part of our state was hit hard by hurricane Ida, with a lot of damage around the Springfield area. Post 68 in Springfield opened their post as a shelter and for the use of the National Guard and Homeland Security.

The Department of Louisiana and Post 68 in Springfield would like to take this time to send a SPECIAL THANK YOU to AMVET Post 133 in Mineral Wells Texas, AMVET Post 48 in Desoto Missouri and the DEPARTMENT of GEORGIA for sending water and other much needed supplies to their area to be distributed to the citizens in that area. It was really appreciated by all. Again, thank you.
Report of Kenneth Colby, NEC of South Carolina

Membership
1ST Vice Commander reports the Department consists of 397 Annual Members and 884 Life Members for a total of 1281 Members. We had a decrease of 51 Annual Members and an increase of 13 Life Members. We have 266 Open Invoices, up from the 211 we had in March 2021. Our active membership is now 1015 members. Some of the decrease in Annual Members is due to National Headquarters purging our rosters. Post #70 lost 56 members alone. S.C. First Vice attended the National Convention in Greensboro, N.C. and went to meetings associated with membership issues. Membership cards have been distributed to local posts and are being given to members as dues are received.

Programs
2nd Vice Commander reports that membership reports to National Headquarters is at 86%.

Categories reported included: Fund Raising, Americanism, Sick and Hospitalized Veterans, Community Service, Military Funeral Honors, Membership Activity, ROTC/JROTC, and Clothing & Food.

Volunteers: 227
Hours: 628 X $27.20 = $17,081.60
Travel: 5,474 X $.54 = $2,955.96
Expenses: $1,390.90
Donations: $3,115.00
Report total: $24,543.46

The Department of S.C. will be conducting a fund drive with proceeds going to “The Big Red Barn Retreat” located in Blythewood, South Carolina. Proceeds projected to be distributed in January 2022. We will be participating in a Veterans Day function in Blythewood, S.C. in November and Wreaths Across America at the National Cemetery at Fort Jackson, S.C. in December.

JROTC:
Schools requesting Support – 42, Total Medals/Certificates - 54 Total Expenses - $287.73. The AMVETS JROTC Award consisting of a Medal Pendant and Ribbon Bar along with a Certificate is presented annually to the outstanding cadet at each participating unit.

Service
No National Service Officers were present at the SEC meeting; therefore, no reports were given. VAVSO Columbia has not had access to the VA due to Corona Virus concerns and policies. We are not conducting our pre COVID Bingo sessions at the Assisted Living Center at this time.

Upcoming Events
SEC Meeting will be held at Post 111 on 200 Long Branch Street Abbeville, S.C. at 10:00 on 16 January 2022. As reported above we will be participating in a fund raiser for “The Big Red Barn” in Blythewood, SC and Wreaths Across America and the Fort Jackson National Cemetery in December.

Legislative
We are still encouraging our members to keep abreast of National Legislative initiatives on AMVETS.org and to contact their state and local legislators concerning support of important veteran issues.

Communications/Pro
We will be out in the community supporting Veterans Day events and other events for veterans such as Wreaths Across America. We will be promoting AMVETS with volunteer service, display of uniforms and American flags. We will incorporate membership opportunities and veteran’s service opportunities at local events.
Report of Kenneth Colby, NEC of South Carolina (continued)

Other
We have advised South Carolina Posts not to hold copies of members DD-214s at their posts due to possible misuse of information on these forms and legal issues. Information concerning protocol for transferring members from one post to another as presented at the Membership meeting at the National Convention was disseminated to local Commanders and First Vices at local posts.
Membership
1st Vice Commander, Kathi Duncan reported 1,600 Life Members and 2,500 Annual Members currently listed for the 17 active Posts on the TN roster. 1,911 of these Annual Memberships are current-having renewed memberships. The importance of membership renewal was stressed.

Programs
2nd Vice Commander, Tim Woody reported that 14 of our 18 Posts submitted, ‘Program Reports’ over the past 3 months resulting in less than 100% reporting activity. Action is being taken to correct the issue and improve our ‘reporting’ numbers.

Over 40,000 Pocket Constitutions are distributed to 9th grade students in TN. Americanism Packets have been mailed out to each Post. Timing of packet distribution, entry pick-up and judging, at the local level, is up to each individual Post. All entries to be judged at the TN had 3 National Winners at the Spring S.E.C.

TN had 3 National Winners in the 2020 contest: 1 Post 90 and 2 from Post 45. The September 11, 2021 Golf Tournament showed a profit of $4,086. Tim Woody presented the ‘final place’ team (Bill Kilgore, Mark Fredrick and Jimmy T. Smith) with the customary ‘Horses Ass Awards’

Service
National Service Officer, Mike Oliver reported on claims made in TN; VA Benefit Changes and the Blue Water Navy

Other
Commander, Mark Fredrick Announced the final appointments of Committee Members, including:

- Michael Jackson - Convention Recreational Director
- Tim Woody - Veteran Outreach
- Harry Ingle - VA/VAVS Representative to Nashville Area
- Greg Elmore - VA/VAVS Deputy to Nashville Area

Sam Jones, Bill Kilgore and Larry Even were appointed as trustees for ongoing activities related to Post 7 property.

Executive Director, Lloyd Adams reported that the ‘State Office’, in Nashville, will be temporarily be handed by E.D. Adams. The current office phone number, (615) 918-0550 and email address, amvetsnstate@yahoo.com remain active. US Postal Mall will be forwarded E.D. Adams home address.

Judge Advocate, Joe Rainwater discussed the proper format for writing Bylaws; safeguards to posting photos/videos on social media and the status of the new TN Web-page AMVETS-Tennessee.org

In the name of ‘AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE’, A 12X12inch paver block, at the Cape. Jeff Kuss, USMC, Memorial in Smyrna, TN will be purchased by the department.

Upcoming Events
February 3-5, 2022: District 3 Meeting, Bunnell, Florida
March 11-12, 2022: The TN Spring S.E.C. Meeting, Post 90, Decatur, TN.
June 9-12, 2022: AMVETS National Convention, New Orleans, LA

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Adams
National District IV

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Report of Steve Bidstrup, National District IV Commander

Membership
Departments in District IV have been hard at work with recruiting new members and renewing current members. Some of the activities include job fairs, dinners, fundraisers for local, state and national programs. By being out in public Amvets gets noticed which in turn helps recruiting and keeping existing members. Most of the events are family friendly which lets the veteran know our posts are not just a place to come and drink and tell war stories.

Programs
We have 115 of 418 posts reported so far. All Departments are reported for period ending December 31, 2021. Events include helping homeless veterans, PTSD and suicide awareness and how to get help. Enlisting local businesses to help raise money for a specific cause by donating part of their sales of goods to be raffled off.

Service
Volunteering at local VA Hospitals, providing rides to Doctor appointments, the store, post meetings and functions. Providing Military Honors at funerals. Presenting our Nations colors at public events. Assisting veterans in getting the benefits they earned. Doing buddy checks to reassure them they are not forgotten. Helping at local food banks or in the community

Upcoming Events
Departments have stand downs, bowling tournaments, color tours with local ATV and motorcycle groups to provide area veterans with something to do. Veterans day observance and activities. Serving meals to veterans at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hosting Christmas parties for kids and adults.

Legislative
Contacting local, state and national representatives to keep veteran issues and local concerns in the forefront. Inviting legislators to events so questions can be asked, help with getting through the red tape. Informing the membership on legislation being considered. Sending a delegation to state capitols to visit members of both the Senate and House.

Communications/PRO
Social media is in wide use throughout the district. Facebook and websites are the most common methods of communication in use today. Inviting local reporters to local and Department events has worked very well in getting out what we do.

Other
MI Post 13 has partnered with a local ATV group of 1500 members of which 600 are veterans that don't belong to any VSO. The post has recruited several already.
Report of Chris Studebaker, NEC Department of Illinois

National Commander Heun, National Officers Members of the National Executive Committee, and fellow AMVETS:

Upcoming Events:

The Department of Illinois held its annual school of instruction is September and had a pretty good turn out with COVID going on. We held our workshops to talk about programs, membership, service officers, public relations and many other topics. We held our annual picnic at the VFW in Springfield since our new headquarters does not have the room for it. Our headquarters has also moved from its current location to the building right next door. It is where Flag World is currently located. The street address is 2206 South Sixth Street Springfield, IL 62703

We are now getting ready for our Operation Red Sleigh program where with donations from individuals, posts, and the Illinois Service foundation. We supply veterans and active duty members with gifts and a Christmas dinner. It has been a great program for us every year and just keeps growing.

Our winter SEC is tentatively scheduled for February but we are talking about having it online via Zoom if COVID is still affecting us meeting in person.

Membership:

Amvets Department of Illinois’ membership was 9,145 members in 2019-2020. The department finished 2020-2021 with 9,397 members. 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 4 department VSOs located throughout the state. All VSOs are working thoroughly and effectively to assist veterans and their families proven 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. 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. Recently held veto session was more of the same, legislation on many topics but no significant veterans’ specific legislation was passed. We plan on doing a joint legislative day in the spring 2022 to impact our legislatures and put forth many vet specific legislative items we would like updated or introduced. 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Studebaker
NEC Illinois
Report of Richard Caldwell, PDC
AMVETS Department of Indiana

Membership
Recently opened new Post 82621 in Logansport in honor of one of the 13 fallen Marines in Afghanistan airport naming post for CPL Sanchez. Helped in revitalizing a stagnate Post 25 with many new proud female veterans who voice a concern with their struggles in a man's world. Working on establishing a new post in Bright, IN for one of many other injured Marines at the airport in Afghanistan for female CPL Lainhart. New partnerships with “One Warrior Foundation” and Miami Indian Nation of Indiana.

Programs
Have organized and participated in car shows, motorcycle rides, Fund-raising efforts for our fallen comrades, set-up booths at Veterans events for informing them what AMVETS is about and what our slogan is of “Veterans serving Veterans”.

Service
We have advertised on various busy highways of what our locations and contacts are of our AMVETS Veteran Services Offices in Indiana. We also held short public-service announcements on various Indiana TV local news stations across the state. Provided huge increase filing of benefits and disability claims for Indiana Veterans. Looking to open another VSO in a centrally located University town in Bloomington, Indiana. Getting word out what great things AMVETS has to offer.

Upcoming Events
Opening a new VSO office in Bloomington, IN. Increase awareness in communities of the many benefits available from IN Department of Veterans Affairs with our AMVETS input on the Commission of IN Veterans Affairs. Raising awareness of displaying our US flag on key dates of when to post on special dates and occasions of our military past. Hold special recruiting nights at our posts in obtaining new members, along with starting new subordinate AMVETS family groups.

Legislative
Our IN Legislative Director has contacted our key State Senators and State Representatives to sponsor various new bills that would make attractive. Many others with AMVETS direction are working on our State Veteran Benefits to lure more veterans to move here, keep them in Indiana, and to provide better tax breaks for their service. We are lacking in many key areas of what our border states are offering veterans.

Communications/PRO
Many members have had great opportunities to express a positive influence in communities to help support all veterans. Have had great TV coverage on major networks across Indiana and also great articles in local newspaper of what many of our members are doing for fellow veterans.

Other
Our trustees have made great strides in trying to get our Department back on track with sound good judgement and following our CBL’s. We recently held a special SEC meeting to vote to withdraw a lawsuit filed by the past 3 suspended leaders. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of AMVETS Department of Indiana which we did not know about. The SEC voted 18 to 5 to seek removal of the lawsuit and we succeeded in doing so with it being resolved in favor of AMVETS Department of Indiana.
Report of Barry Remington,  
NEC Department of Iowa

Membership
Surprising enough, our membership is staying about where it was last year at this time. With our posts being reopened now, we are starting to see an influx of not only funds, but members and well as new members. Hopefully this trend continues and we are able to recruit new members for this year.

Programs
Program reporting has remained a problem for our department. Our Department 2nd Vice is new and is getting his feet wet and has a good idea of what his job duties and responsibilities are. I expect to see a big improvement in this area as we go forward this reporting period and into the next period.

Service
Post 2 in Des Moines has been in the forefront of a major landscaping venture at the Des Moines VAMC. Our name is prominently displayed on the grounds of this project. It has taken a lot of work and sweat to get this accomplished and it has been well received.

Upcoming Events
Our next SEC will be January 22-23 in Evansdale, IA

Legislative
Our legislature is not in session until January 2022

Communications/PRO

Other
Report of Alan R. Smith, NEC
Department of Kentucky

National Commander Heun, National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

The AMVETS Department of Kentucky SEC meeting was held on September 11, 2021 at AMVETS Post # 95 Greenup, KY. With 35 members and one guest (AMVETS National Commander Greg Heun) present. All reports were given and adopted.

National Commander Greg Heun addressed the floor and discussed Constitution and By-Laws and his project is AMVETS.

Department Commander Adkins gave report; there was a parade for National Commander Greg Heun on September 4th ending at AMVETS post 61 Louisville KY that was well attended by posts from all over the state, and thanked post 95 for hosting the SEC

1st Vice Commander gave report membership we had a problem with membership card delivery, it has been corrected and the cards will be resent and will be distributed to posts as soon as I receive them.

Executive director gave report: problem with membership cards was there was no one to sign for them and they sent them back instead of being re-delivering or leaving a card for them to be picked up

2nd Vice commander gave report if you need help with programs reports contact me and I will be glad to help you

NEC and All post commander reports were given and adopted.

Riders Coordinator gave report, We held a membership drive we now have 106 rider members up from 90 for the entire state from last year 82 program hours reported for state riders scholarship drive, Riders donated $200.00 to AMVETS department of KY

Convention corporation gave report the 2022 State convention will be June 15 – 19 at Holiday Inn Airport Erlanger KY

PDC’s reports PDC Lori Grizzle stated how proud she was that Greg Heun is KY’s first National Commander. PDC Heun remembered 911 with a moment of silence

Department Commander read National Commander Heun’s statement on 911 on the floor

The hat was passed for the Ladies Auxiliary scholarship fund $200.00 collected

Son’s coordinator gave report; craft kits will be given to all squadrons to be given to hospitalized and homebound veterans, son’s reported ½ million dollars in program value, there were 21 son’s and the son’s coordinator on the son’s SEC floor. $150.00 raised in a pass the hat for scholarship, and 487 son’s members in KY

Old Business: None:

New Business: National Commander Heun swore in and installed all appointed department officers.

Good and welfare: The next SEC meeting will be held on January 8, 2022 at 12 noon at AMVETS Post 61 Louisville KY

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

Alan R. Smith NEC KY
Membership
Membership numbers continue to decline. The main reason for this is that we are still removing deceased members from our roster. We are getting new members, but not at the rate that we are removing the deceased ones.

Programs
Michigan’s program reporting is only at 26%. The worst problem is in the reporting system. The posts are trying to report and all of a sudden, a message comes on the screen that says “Danger Danger Danger”. The person doing the reporting is worried about downloading spyware, malware, or some virus and get out of the program as fast as they can. The new National Programs Director is aware of the problem and is working on correcting it.

Service

Upcoming Events
Michigan is still looking for a location for our Convention in 2022. The Department has sent out many inquiries but no one is responding.

Legislative

Communications/PRO

Other
As you know by now, Our commander Carol Hebert has been hired by National as the new Programs Director. As required, She has resigned her office. The new Commander for the Department of Michigan is Christopher Graves. Michigan is in mourning as I write this as a beloved AMVET, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Duane Dewey passed away in October.
National Commander, National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee, and Fellow AM-VETS:

Membership:
Department of Missouri currently has 32 active posts with a total of 2898 current members (303 annual and 2595 life members).
The Commanders and 1st Vice Commanders of Membership at the Posts are encouraged to work on pursuing annual renewals for the 933 members that expired on 8/31/2021 and the 257 members whose membership expired on 8/31/2020. 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 and considered.

Programs:
Program reporting for the reporting period which ended on June 30, 2021, was a tremendous success. We had 34 of 34 posts (100%) report online. There was a 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 reporting period which ends on December 31, 2021, is 41% reported for the reporting period. We’ve had 13 of 32 posts (41%) report online to date. The current total of 1,141 volunteers who performed 6,359 hours in services that covered 80,096 miles. These services are valued at $267,902.97!
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. The Service Foundation is looking to also add a Service Officer in the Springfield/Willard area. 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. The 2nd Vice Commander of Programs will continue to work with posts and encourage to report programs online.

Upcoming Events:
1. Our upcoming SEC meetings will be held at the Inn at Grand Glaize in Osage Beach on the following dates: February 5-6, 2022, and May 7-8, 2022.
2. Our 76th Annual Dept. Convention will be held on June 4-5, 2022, at the Inn at Grand Glaize.
Legislation:
Senate Bill 120 – SB120 was signed into law by the Governor of Missouri on July 14 and went into effect on August 28, 2021. This law allows the following:
Members of the National Guard will be automatically eligible for interviews when applying for state jobs for which they are qualified for.
It creates the Department of the National Guard to oversee the state’s National Guard and makes the Adjutant General a cabinet level position.
Qualified military projects will be included in the Missouri Works Program and state data collecting forms will include a section for military personnel to request information about benefits and services.
It designates November as Military Family Month to recognize and acknowledge the sacrifices of military families.
School districts may apply for a Purple Star Campus designation through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to help military-connected students with services and resources as they transition from other school districts.
There are other Senate and House Bills pending that affect veterans.

Communications/PRO: None currently.

Other: None currently.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Lee
NEC Department of Missouri
Report of Sandra Vorhies, NEC
Department of Ohio

Membership
The Department of Ohio as stated previously continues to reach out to the younger veterans and this is proven through the younger veterans that are taking part in Post, District and Department Level programs and offices. I personally find having our younger veterans an uplifting experience with the ideas and up beat ways they are wanting to help move our department forward.

Programs
We continue to be active and support Special Olympics, our veteran homes, neighborhood nursing homes that house veterans and our veteran hospitals. We continue to reach out to our veterans that are not able to make visits to the Post. We do this because we do not want any veteran to feel left behind or forgotten.

Service
We are very fortunate to have outstanding VAVS Representatives that continue to do a great service for our veterans and their families.

We are dedicated and proud of our program 1 Is TooMany and the working relation we have with Dr. Chrisanne Gordon, founder of Resurrection Lives. We are passionate about saving our veterans from believing that the only direction to solve a problem or problems is through suicide and with the partnership with Resurrection Lives we know we can make a big difference.

Upcoming Events
Our AMVETS Day at Ohio Veterans Homes in Sandusky and Georgetown Ohio were once again cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions but we stay committed to taking care of the veterans.

*Pistol Shoot is November 7th at Post 777 – Upper Sandusky OH;
*Tommy Lipps Memorial Bowling Tournament will be held on March 19 – 20 and March 26 – 27- Host Post is 1985 – Lancaster, OH;
*Lenny Milsap Pool Tournament is the 2nd weekend in Feb. 2022 to be held at Post 1985 – Lancaster, OH

National District IV

Legislative
Ohio AMVETS prides itself on actively advocating on behalf of veterans and their dependents before the Ohio Legislature, Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs, and state and local agencies, as well as supporting Ohio’s National Guard. We also actively monitor aspects of the state budget process, which affect such issues as veterans homes, National Guard, County Veterans Service Officers, and veterans outreach programs.

We continue to alert and make our members aware and encourage the membership to become active.

We are a Voice for our Veterans and Families

Communications/PRO
Department of Ohio Commander Sara Pierce Project is National AMBUCS, a 501c3 charitable organization and owner of Amtryke. AMBUCS is a nonprofit charitable organization with a diverse membership dedicated to inspiring mobility & independence. Their mission statement is as follow, “Inspiring people to conquer challenges related to mobility and independence, through a nationwide network of volunteer chapters, working in partnership with physical, occupational and speech therapists; by providing Amtryke adaptive trykes, scholarships for therapists and many forms of community service.”

Other
We want to thank National AMVETS Commander Greg Heun for visiting Ohio for a tour and our Fall Conference. We are very proud of his service and continued dedication to our veterans, families and community.
National District V

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North Dakota, Murray Strom, NEC .......................................... 38
Texas, Bobby Lumpkins, NEC ............................................... 39
Membership
Membership is down in the district, but I’m hopeful that it will pick up in the next few months. The district is working on membership in Colorado and also Oklahoma.

Programs
Each State in District 5 is striving to make all efforts to have all posts in their state send in all the programs that they are working on

Service

Upcoming Events
All states are planning their upcoming Veterans day activities and thinking about Christmas programs for the veterans

Legislative

Communications/PRO
A Mr. Rick Young contacted Harry Neal and me. Just moved to Colorado and is working on getting posts up and running. Mr. Rick Young will work on getting a Department set up. I have offered my time if he needs help.

No communication or emails was sent to the state of Nebraska for any upcoming meetings. The District Commander and the NEC have to get their information from Kansas. Thank you, Kansas for the emails and phone calls.

Other
Due to the storage of workers at National Headquarters, trying to get answers and information is almost impossible. Send emails to the Executive Director with no response. We need to do better.

I am planning to hold a District V meeting at the Spring NEC. Time and location will be determined at a later date.
Membership

Programs

Service

Upcoming Events

Legislative

Communications/PRO
Dept of Ks experienced Poor communications between our department and HQ. After many attempts since September I personally have not been reimbursed for travel expenses for the National convention held august 2001 where I was seated as district 5 commander. The alternate Larry Shippy was excused due to family member critical illness and his reimbursement for registration has not been reimbursed after many attempts as well.

Other
For most of us traveling by air and navigating difficult airline itinerary and taking risks to even attend the convention I ask that better respect be given for our efforts.
Membership

Programs
After more than 100 years, the remains of Civil War soldier Benton Kinkead were discovered unclaimed in a funeral home in Washington State. His remains were transported home to Plattsmouth, NE where he was laid to rest next to his wife in Oak Hill Cemetery. On Oct. 30, 2021, Department of NE AMVETS members, along with other VSO members, participated in a funeral procession and interment ceremony to honor Kinkead.

Service

Upcoming Events
In December, AMVETS Dept. of NE will be giving Christmas cards containing $1 to every resident living in each and every one of the veterans homes in the State of Nebraska. Due to covid-19 restrictions, the Dept. will not be allowed to provide the same gift in a card to patients in all of the Nebraska veteran hospitals like we always have in the past.

Legislative
This past October the governor approved an agreement with the state’s public employee association to increase hourly wages by $3 for healthcare workers in all state facilities, which includes the veterans homes and hospitals. The agreement also provides for an additional 2% cost of living adjustment to begin in 2022, as well as an overtime pay increase for employees at 24/7 facilities. Currently, there has been no new admittance of residents to any of the Nebraska veterans homes since around May 2021 due to severe staffing shortages.

A new bill passed, LB78, now requires any NE resident wanting to get special Gold Star license plates must now first register with the Department of Veteran Affairs before applying for the plates through NE DMV.
Membership
Department 1ST Vice wants to convene a committee to come up with ideas on how to recruit younger members. If we can unlock this answer it would be beneficial for all Departments.

Programs
Americanism is out to post level and the chairperson wanted to get it in the schools right away so teachers can integrate it into their curriculum. The Department of North Dakota is again putting pocket Constitutions in hand for every eight grader in North Dakota schools. The program is well received and some teachers are asking for more copies for other students. The Department of North Dakota is also supporting ROTC and Triple Crown High School wrestling.

Service
North Dakota Post have never stopped doing Honor Guards and Color Guards during the pandemic. Several posts have done flag retirements and are still donating charitable funds to local needs.

Upcoming Events
North Dakota Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs will meet November 18-19
North Dakota SEC will be February 19, 2022

Legislative
We are working on getting to get full budget back for North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs to be fully staffed as it was prior to Covid 19. State VSO are working to get all records scanned electronically. The state has increased the budgets for PTSD dogs and HBOT therapies.

Communications/PRO
Department Commander Vern Dunnick has received his prostatic leg and looks forward to walking into all post meeting on his own.

Other
I have not received payment from National for convention expenses as of today. I have not had any emails or phone calls returned on the matter. I did not know the fall NEC was not going to be in Baltimore. I ordered a plane ticket and reserved my room and the room was cheaper if you did it nonrefundable so I am stuck for $273 room cost. And credit for a future flight.
Report of Bobby Lumpkins, NEC Department of Texas

Membership
We have hosted membership drives outside of football games throughout the state.

Programs
We support our local boy scouts and girl scouts. We put out approximately 350 medals. We still do blood drives when we can, we send out Americanism packages and AADAA packages to the schools, and pick up the packages when the school calls us. Take them to State department to judge them, and send the winner to National.

Service
We have drives to collect shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, put it in kits, and pass them out to the homeless. We still volunteer when we can. We go out to VA hospitals and wrap presents for the vets.

Upcoming Events
We have Thanksgiving dinner at Doris Miller Waco VA Hospital, Nov. 21, 2021 10:00. We have 12th Annual Blue Bandits & BBQ Nov 5 & 6, 2021, at post 23 in Dallas, at post 133 is having a bass catfish tournament on Nov 20, 2021, March 18-20, 2022 will be our spring SEC all welcome to come.

Legislative
The limitation of Donald Trump: Election audit bill fails to pass in Texas legislature.

Communications/PRO
Bobby Lumpkins nec is running for 3 Vice Commander in New Orleans August 16-20, 2022. thanks.

Other
National District VI

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California, Heidi Holguin, NEC ..................................... 44
Hawaii, Aurelie Mulcare, NEC ....................................... 49
New Mexico, Sarah Langley, NEC .................................. 52
Oregon, Milton Farley, NEC ......................................... 53
Washington, Steve Bird, NEC ....................................... 55
Membership
Due to Covid Restrictions on the Navajo Nation, our Post is currently at a stand still on the promotion of recruiting more new members.

Programs
Post 12 continues to work on the Veterans Memorial Park through virtual meetings with the Design Company that is working with our plans. We have reviewed 2 plans and have made changes for the final plans on October 7th, 2021. We are continuing to work with the Navajo Nation Department of Veterans Affairs with assistance to the veterans with financial, housing, etc.

Service
Post 12 continues to assist veterans on a local level by ensuring that the elder veterans are visited by other members following covid safe practices. We continue to assist veterans with receiving essential needs, water, coal, wood, etc. in preparation for the upcoming winter months.

Upcoming Events
Plans are being made to provide a Veterans Day Activity and Dinner for the local veterans in the community.

Legislative
No legislation is being submitted to the AMVETS Nationals; however Post 12 is working with restructure and development of new policies with the Navajo Nation’s Veterans Administration Office in regards to housing, financial assistance, etc.

Communications/PRO
Post 12 has run into difficulty with getting veterans on-line for applications, assistance, etc. due to the lack of internet services. We have not been able to have services upgraded in our area to deal with the amount of service that is overwhelming the system.

Other
We fear that we are losing our older members at a rate far greater then prior to the pandemic. We also lack the interest of new member involvement in the Post that is mainly due to the veteran living and working off the reservation. Only 10 percent of our current members participate in activities.
**Membership**
We are back on covid restrictions so not so much. Our newly elected first vice has never turned in or made any report for anything or any position. But hope springs eternal.

**Programs**
Our department hasn’t conducted any.

**Service**
Our department hasn’t done any service-related activities. We consider ourselves lucky to obtain a quorum at any meeting where programs and what not are discussed.

**Upcoming Events**
Hopefully we have Veterans Day covered. All the posts usually have something.

**Legislative**
Still an uphill battle but we’re working on it. Email addresses and phone numbers of legislative officers and dept. would be nice. We make do with what we have. Luckily the Nimitz Group has phone numbers and email addresses. It’s too bad their reports sit forlorn and unloved and un-opened in post email acts. And that’s when it doesn’t get kicked back as spam.

**Communications/PRO**
Our Executive Director forwards all communications to each post commander at the post e-mail address. Still looking for the commander that actually checks their post emails. We’re bound to have one somewhere sometime.

**Other**
Everybody is tired of covid restrictions. Amazing what hospitals consider “elective, not life threatening” this has resulted in a lot of tests being put off. Alaska does not have a VA hospital and the VA clinics are putting a lot of faith in tele-conference. Example—I have hypoxia due to a lung condition.

I never knew holding my phone to my ear can test my pulmonary function or blood oxygen levels or much of anything past a death rattle. It’s a new world and I and other veterans are still confined to the old world. Classic answer is “go to the ER if you need actual help.” In my case, that’s at the top of my list for places to visit while having lung issues.
Report of Bill Vanasdale, 
NEC Department of Arizona

Membership
The Department of Arizona currently has eight Posts. As of this report, there are 1,095 life members and 261 annual members for a total of 1,356. As our Northern members join us for fair weather our membership will continue to grow

Programs
With 25% of Posts reporting, we had 302 volunteers, 1292.5 hours and 2099 miles. T totaling a value of $56,121.54

Service
The service officer, David Johnson, has assisted 31 veterans with claims this years and recently has acquired an assistant, Meleagi- Suitonu-Chapman.

Upcoming Events
Our next SEC meeting will be March 19, 2022 and hosted by Post 770. The AMVETS AZ State Convention will be held the weekend of May 20, 2022 in Bullhead City and hosted by Post 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Vanasdale
Arizona NEC
Membership

Total Members = 7,834
Life Members = 7,243
Annuals = 591

The post of California is actively engaging their communities to attract new members, by allowing our brand to be recognized in a manner that is consistent with 75 years of service to others. Pandemic or no pandemic this Department will continue to be at the forefront of helping our fellow Veterans. Membership drives are in the works throughout the state. We understand the urgency to reach out to the younger Veterans and help with their wants and needs to these brave men and women. It is our goal to rethink membership events. We want families and friends to come to know this wonderful organization and the work we do.

Programs

Our department continues to set the example by ensuring the highest National reporting numbers, in District VI. We continue to serve those throughout California. We stay committed to serve those who served.

Welcome Home
Total veterans served November 2013 to date 5,676
Total items delivered 70,816
Value of Items $2,672,921

Activities
- Fresno Stand Down was able to donate clothes to veterans in need. National Commander was able to attend and visit during the Stand Down.
- Trimming of trees that overhang on tip of the building in Fresno.

Suicide Awareness

California AMVETS continue to push out Suicide Awareness throughout the communities within the state. The reporting system within the department is at 60% of post reporting any saves or outreaches. The suicide committee has created a jersey to bring suicide awareness throughout our state. The jersey amount made were 70, 20 of the jersey were donated and the committee was able to outsell all jersey made. The committee will continue to sell and order different version of the jersey to ensure suicide awareness is a top priority in AMVETS. The committee also plans to drive out to Rolling to Remember cross country while bringing suicide awareness throughout the country. The committee will fundraise to have this happen.

ROTC John Byrum continues to run the ROTC/Youth Activities despite the pandemic. The plan is to continue with AMVETS ROTC Awards. The schools have contacted him concerning the awards and expect to be fulfilling their needs soon. California AMVETS considers ROTC essential outreach for our department and the community.

VAVS continues to keep open communication between the Chief of Staff of the VA Secretary in August 2021. The topics discussed was homeless veterans. Also met with Secretary of VA Denis McDonough in October to discuss homeless veterans in West Los Angeles.
Volunteers=1815

Hours=9,918.3

Volunteer Hours Value @$27.20= $283,068.28

Jeff Lukens
2nd Vice
Programs

Service
As previously stated in the last report, the Department of California Leadership made a big decision to move the Department Headquarters from its many years of permanent location in Tulare to Fresno, CA. Thus far, the decision to move the Department seems very promising! The Department HQ through the Executive Director has brought on-board approximate 25-30 support personnel by “outsourcing” our IT, Website-Design & Maintenance, the Marketing-PR and Media Relations components, and it has been a very sound decision. Also note, the Headquarters have added a great volunteer who has established the Department Facebook account, and a VA Work-Study Student onto our staff both doing a great job!

Due to still restricted and limitations placed on “what & how” the local hotels and conventions-sites could function and what they could provide, the Department of California, for the first-time, prepared and presented its’ State Convention In-Person and at the same time, Live-Streamed All 3-days of the Convention, including the Officers Election and Swearing in by AMVETS National 2nd Vice Commander Don McLean—Thanks Commander McLean!

In addition to Commander McLean’s present, we were honored to host Department of Pennsylvania Department Commander Paul Shipley, glad for your visit. Overall, the results were very good. A lot of time, effort, and preparation prior too, during and behind the scenes were put into this 3-day event. “Good Job” by the hotel staff, our Media Group, to my Executive Assistant Bernadette Carlin and our HQ-Volunteer Heidi Holguin and HQ Work-Study Lori Small. Thanks Everyone!

Highlighting this Reporting period for the Dept. of California was the National Commander Heun Surprise Visit to California:

September 2021; AMVETS Department of California Executive Director (ED) Smokey Rickerd escorted Commander Heun to visit Post 56 (Tulare) to present Past National Commander Jim Pidgeon the AMVETS National Riders Guardian Award for 2021. While in attendance, Commander Heun also pre-sented local resident Richard Torrez Jr., Olympic Games 2020 Super Heavyweight USA-Boxer, “Silver Medalist” with an award from AMVETS Post 56, for his recognition and awareness in the Suicide Awareness Program. Sept. 21, 2021: While Commander Heun’s was visiting the San Joaquin Valley, ED Rickerd invited Commander Heun to visit the Central Valley Veterans Stand Down in Fresno CA. Commander Heun personally greeted event organizers and other VSO’s & agencies providing services to the many Veterans, including Fresno AMVETS Thrift Store Employees that were passing out articles of clothing. Commander Heun finished his visit by stopping by the Fresno AMVETS Thrift Store where he was shown around by the store manager Mark Zimmerman. An interesting and enjoyable visit within a very short amount of time! Thanks Commander Heun, for your visit.

At Greensboro, N.C., during the National Convention and at the District Meetings, District VI, elected Department of California PDC David Black as the Districts 1st Vice Commander for the FY 2021-2022.
The Departments “Officer Transition Training Session” was the first time ALL Newly Elected Department Officers gathered for formal training. The training was provided by business professionals, which handled the required training in a very professional and respectful manner. The one-day training required a work-thru-lunch, to ensure all areas were presented. Note, the Department gave each officer a thumb drive with information that can be downloaded and passed out during Post Meetings or other training sessions at Post, District or Area locations.

The thumb drives contain National & Department CBL’s, Officer Manuals, Veterans Benefits, Department Directory and much more for the Officers to refer to at any time.

The Department fielded an outstanding Contingent to represent California at the 2021 National Convention in Greensboro, N.C. Everyone enjoyed seeing old faces from other Departments and National Staff, along with meeting and befriending new AMVETS as well. Good and enjoyable time had by all. A Good Convention!

The State of California businesses, organizations and social gathering locations are really starting to relax the COVID Restrictions in some manner & locations, allowing groups to gather and socialize. The Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino, which has been a very good sponsor for the past few years selected AMVETS Charities/Department as one of their 2021 “Chukchansi Gold – Community Care Program” recipients. AMVETS was invited to the Casino for Spin for Cash Night, which allowed an AMVETS representative to spin the wheel 3-times and collected the total amount of the spins—up to $1 million dollars. Happy to announce, AMVETS walked away being $7,550 happier!

During this reporting period, some of our California VA Medical Centers are allowing some assistance from VSO, AMVETS are supporting these facilities as much as allowed.

Department Committees are again back into action for the benefit of the Veterans, their families or for our communities, especially:

- Suicide Awareness Committee
- Legislative Committee (State & National)
- Fundraising Committee
- Women Veterans Committee

The Department and Charities are now back-up planning & preparing for Fundraising events that will be occurring in coming months. A shout-out to our Leadership within the Department, Posts and Charities Boards-Good Job, Keep It Going!

Smokey Rickerd, Executive Director
AMVETS Department of California

Upcoming Events
DEC January 21-22, 2022

Legislative
2021 California legislative session passed with fewer than expected veterans’ bills being signed in due to the COVID pandemic we are still in. The bills that were signed into law dealt with a variety of issues such as professional licensure for veterans and military spouses, identifying veterans who have applied for application for state employment. One bill waived provisions in community colleges for veterans to receive credit. One bill funded legal services for indigenous disabled veterans.
California has its own veterans home loan program that allows the Cal Vet home loan program to re-finance home loans. Governor Newsom vetoed a veteran’s loan that would have created a voluntary veteran’s preference employment program for private employees. Approximately 10 veteran’s bills were held over to be voted on next year’s legislative session.

I recently campaigned to make AMVETS members who obtained their COVID vaccine from the VA eligible for the “VAX to win” which was a drawing through the California vaccine lottery to win cash prizes. Also, through the program “Voter Voice” AMVETS members made hundreds of direct communications with the Cal Vet Secretary, the CA legislature and the Governor. All these efforts helped in the resulting veterans eligible for cash prizes!

Proposition 61 came out in 2018 which would allow state government purchasing of prescription medication to the steep discount rates that the VA receives. This would have a dramatic increase in VA spending, threatening not only veterans’ access to their medication, but many other VA services. Unfortunately, the US Senate finance committee is considering bringing back this proposition. However, 13 groups including AMVETS signed on a letter in opposition to this proposal. As of October 27, nearly 300 letters have been submitted to protect VA drug pricing benefits to California congressional delegations. This is a continuous effort and has AMVETS National sending letters as well for the opposition to the Senate finance committee in line with national resolution 22-10 that was recently adopted at the national conference.

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 been encouraging “buddy checks” to be done at all post levels. The website is still improving daily and in the near future membership renewals will be available.

Other
From our State Commander, Ross Smith,

Our DEC conference was a HUGE success in my opinion. Questions that had meaning were asked. Officers were prepared to learn and give back to their respective communities.

Our move to succeed using technology rather than fearing it will pay huge dividends for everyone is this Dept. We are beyond proud of our new website. We now have the ability to be heard by the masses rather than just a few.

I was given the opportunity to be on three different television programs. One of these I was able to sit with E.D. Rickerd. These types of interviews only raise our brand awareness in a POSITIVE manner.

I continue to travel throughout this beautiful state to allow the position I hold to promote, engage, and help any veteran in need.

This Dept. will be holding its first ever AMVETS friends & family camp out – wellness weekend. We need to take care of one another in an atmosphere that is calming in nature.
Our suicide prevention committee will be traveling across this country to bring awareness to the number of veterans who take their own lives each and every day. I am so proud to be able to travel with these AMVETS on a blessed journey in an RV. We will be stopping at several AMVETS posts along the way to Rolling to Remember in Washington DC. I am truly blessed by ALL the people in this Dept. who counsel, educate, console, and raise me up daily. My life is better because of you. WE ARE AMERICAN VETERANS WE ARE AMVETS.
Highlighted donations include:
- 140 masks for Homeless Veterans, veterans, and family members.
- 14 Boxes of can food and other groceries items
- 1800 hot meals and beverages to children
- over 500 Thanksgiving hot meals with desert and beverages

Programs: Provides resources and support to active military personnel, veterans, and their families facing hardships to an array of critical human services in the following categories:

- Direct Human Service programs that address basic needs, including assistance with clothing, hunger relief, and combating homelessness.
- Educational and Career transition initiatives that prioritize readjustment to civilian life after military service, while maintaining stability for their families.
- Financial stability and educational services, including support regarding all aspects of housing and home ownership assistance.

Programs Activities: Our program initiatives at our AMVETS 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 75 events this reporting period at our center at no cost to veterans’ organizations and other nonprofits organizations. Veterans Organizations and other nonprofits organizations were able to raise needed funds for their organizations and worthy causes.

Events/Classes includes: Post Meetings, Scout Troop Meetings, USAF Delay-entry Swearing Ceremony, Military Awards Ceremonies, CPR/AED Training, VA HomeLoans Benefits Classes, Zumba Classes, Karate Classes, Bootcamp Workouts, 5K-Runs, Graduation Party, Birthday Parties, Food Truck Festivals, Car Shows, Bike Shows, Car Wash Fundraisers; and Games: Softball, Tennis, and Ping-Pong. Note. Our Fitness Workout, Zumba and Karate classes are offered to military and civilians alike 2-times per week at no cost to participants.

Monthly Car Wash Fundraisers: consists of Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Oahu, Kapolei MC-JROTC Detachments, and USAF Recruiting Delay-entry Program rotates washing cars monthly at our AMVETS West Oahu Veterans Center. Organization’s monthly car washes raised between $900 to $1200 dollars in donations.

University of Hawaii West Oahu Partnership: 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.).

Other Partnership: 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.
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.

Youth Development supports life-enhancing programs that engage youth within their communities, schools, social groups, and families, that are positive and constructive to the development of their character, and enable all young people to reach their full potential. Our focus is centered on nonprofit programs and services that connect youth to the following services and/or programs:

- Character and Leadership development services and programs that acknowledge all youth as having the capacity for positive growth and further develops and/or strengthens youth assets.
- Risk Prevention initiatives to avert risky behaviors and attitudes in youth, and efforts that work to address negative behaviors.
- Civic Engagement/Involvement organizations that provide opportunities for youth to contribute to their schools and broader communities through volunteer service.

Adaptive Sports Programs: Plan, coordinate and host competition and special events to help connect with adaptive sports, art and other recreation activities. Opened to military, veterans and civilians of all age groups.

Scuba Diving Program brings service members, veterans and family members together to experience Scuba Diving, Surfing and other Water Sports activities.

Hawaii Veterans Beekeeping Program: year-round on the job training (OJT) program aimed to help support veteran beekeepers with training on honeybee biology, colony management, queen rearing, 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.

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.
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 provides support to families, military and veteran organizations at community military and veterans gatherings. Members participated in the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), Repatriation and Memorial ceremonies.

Other National Programs: Americanism; Blood Drives; Clothing & Food Drives; Homeless Veterans; Organ & Bone Marrow Donors; Scouting; Sick & Hospitalized Veterans; Special Olympics; Support Our Troops and Vet History Project.

Service: Conducted visits with hospitalized Veterans; Military Funeral Honors; Wreath Laying Ceremonies Memorials ceremonies; Blood Drives; Food Drives for Homeless Veterans and other in need. Provided VA disability benefits claims assistance; job search assistance and resume writing services; transportation to appointments; moving of household items; and, environmental roadside cleanups.

Membership: Conducted Membership Drives; contact members to renew and/or update their contact information in National's database.

Legislative: Conducted face-to-face meetings with Hawaii State elected officials, VA Leadership, Military Leaders, Neighborhood Boards and Local Media, to include via emails, letters and online platforms to help build public awareness to support legislation impacting Veterans community.

Support 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: Conducting interviews with interviews with local media/reporters online and face-to-face; building relationships, community leaders, organizations, companies, schools, charitable organizations, VA and other veterans service organizations; hosting community service events/program initiatives; writing letters to elected representatives and voicing support on the issues that matter to our military families; improving communication within the Department - Post Commanders attending Department meetings; continue to work on online presents - websites and social media platforms to tell “our story;” working on Department’s Newsletter - to attract new members and share information with members, clients, friends and viewers alike; improving voice and online capabilities for veterans/clients schedule appointments/referrals.

Upcoming Event(s):
- Ewa Battlefield Commemoration, 80th Pearl Harbor Anniversary Ceremony: Sun, 5 Dec 2021, (0900-1000), Ewa Battlefield 1941 Airfield Concrete Ramp, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
- Suicide Prevention Awareness 5K Run/Walk: Mar 2022
Membership
post 1944 only post in New Mexico that has had 6 new members.
Post 12 due to covid restrictions on the Navajo nation, out post is currently at a stand still on recruiting new members Post 30 transferred from Deming N M to Alamogordo N M, so no activities

Programs
Post 7 has not done much because covid restrictions. We have given clothes to the homeless programs. got gifts card for thanksgiving program at the VA hospital post 12 continues to work on the Veterans Memorial park through virtual meetings with the Design company that is working with our plans We have reviewed 2 plans & have made changes for the final plans on October 7th 2021 We are continuing to work with Navajo Nation Dept of Veterans affairs with assistance to the Veterans with financial, housing & etc. post 1944 with the AADAA, worked with Juan Drug Free Org. Helped with the Veterans service claims, helped a family get a chaplain for their Father’s burial. Post 2017 helped with the luncheon at tHealingWall, Helped with the blessing ceremony on the 11th of Sept. On Aug 6th 7th & 8th Helped with the adaptive sports ceremony, getting out flags up in town & holidays

Service
Post 12 continues to assist Veterans on local level & by ensuring that the elder Veterans are visited by other members following covid safe practices. We continue to assist Veterans with receiving essential needs, water, coal wood & etc for the winter months

Upcoming Events
Post 7 will be helping churches with food for thanksgiving & will help with putting up flags on Nov 11 also getting Christmas cards to pass out at the VA Hospital if possible. Post 12 plans are being made to provide a Veterans Day activity & dinner for the local Veterans.

Legislative
Post 12 No Legislation is being submitted to the AMVETS National. However Post 12 working with the restructure & development of new policies with the Navajo Nations Veterans administration office in regards to housing, financial assistance & etc.

Communications/PRO
Post 12 has run into difficulty with getting Veterans on line for applications, assistance, etc due to lack of internet services. We have not been able to have services upgraded in our area to deal with the amount of service that is overwhelming the system

Other
Post 12 fear that they are losing out older members at a rate greater than prior to the pandemic. We also lack the interest of new member involvement in the Post that is mainly due to the Veteran living & working off the reservation. Only 10 percent of our current members participate in activities
Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the restrictions it has had a significant impact on our communities, AMVETS Dept. of Oregon and its posts attendants to meeting is down and some posts have curtailed their meeting or have gone to virtual meetings.

Membership is up in some areas and down in others, Dept. of Oregon is planning meetings with the post to discuss ways to increase membership and increase awareness of AMVETS. Posts in Oregon are still trying their best to help our veterans and our communities. Participation in fund raisers and communities project has suffered, but the Dept of Oregon and its post have found ways to still let the community know AMVETS is still here.

Posts are is still doing flag lines for events such as parades, funerals, and community events when and where they can. Post Activities:

1) AMVETS Dept. Of Oregon:
Officers from AMVETS Dept. of Oregon took part in the Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans memorial in Albany Oregon. Department officers also work with AMVETS post 1919, American Legion Post 10 and American Legion riders Post 58 to participate the B17 Alliance ceremony in Salem Oregon, Flag lines for several funeral services in the state, as well as the 20th anniversary 911 ceremony in Albany Oregon.

2) AMVETS Post 10:
AMVETS Post 10 in Coos Bay Oregon has had a rough year rebuilding their post. But they are making great stride in getting the word about AMVETS out in their area. AMVETS Post 10 has prepped the ground for a flagpole at the new Coos County Youth Sports Pepsi Field. We set up the pole and raised the American flag on Sunday, October 10th at 11:00 am. The field is located in Eastside, in front of Bigfoot Beverages 715 9th Ave, Coos Bay. There will be a dedication ceremony at a later date where we will be placing a plaque.

AMVETS Post 10 Coos Bay held its Pop Smoke BBQ Cook Off in conjunction with the Ride for the Alive. The BBQ cook off and the silent auction served as a fundraiser for upcoming AMVETS activities.

Krystal Hopper led a team of Veterans and Veteran Support Community Volunteers for the Coos County Fair Traffic/Parking Security for the Coos County Fair & Rodeo Tuesday, July 20th - Saturday, July 24th, 2021. The Fair Board made a $5000 donation to AMVETS Post 10 - Coos Bay. Led by Commander Ronnie Long, AMVETS continues to stay very active within our local Veteran Support community. We also coordinated military honors during the opening ceremony at the Rodeo. Members of AMVETS Coos Bay, Oregon South Coast Patriot Guard Riders, VFW Post Myrtle Point, & others stood flag line and assisted with military honors during the rodeo opening ceremonies Fri/Sat night.

Other activities for AMVETS Post 10 include:
Videos of flag line and military honors:
August 2021- OEF Troop Salute Bandon
July 2021- Moved Items for Widow, Bandon Honor Guard received $500 donation to SOVO
July 2021- Participated with Larry Bainum, FVA Memorial & made donation for cremation
June 2021- Lawn work for Coquille Widow, VFW Coquille received donation $100
April 2021- SOVO Veteran Support Forum
February 2021- Hosted AMVETS State Meeting
November 2020- Assisted with the Coos Bay Eagles Historic Veterans Day Dinner

Ongoing
Support various recreational activities for Fishing Veterans of America
Support various Oregon South Coast Patriot Guard Riders Missions/Events
Assisted with Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners for Deer Springs & delivered meals to homeless Veterans in ORCCA SSVF program staying at motels
3) AMVETS Post 13:
Post #13 in Sweet Home is continuing to put out flags on the streets in Sweet Home for parade days even if parade was modified or canceled, veterans’ day, Memorial Day and other that require flags.

4) AMVETS Post 15:
Nothing was reported, the department will be in contact with this post for information about the post

5) AMVETS Post 1919:
Albany Oregon Post 1919 continues to work with American Legion Post 10 and American legion riders Post 58 to participate in flag lines, such as the one for the B17 Alliance in Salem Oregon where there are restoring a B17 to flying condition, flag lines for numerous veterans and first responder funeral services around the state, the 20th anniversary 911 ceremony in Albany Oregon and the Memorial Day wreath laying at the Veterans Memorial in Albany Oregon. For Veterans Day, since parade in Albany Oregon was cancelled a drive by way paraded past various veterans’ facilities and retirement homes in the area was arranged.

6) AMVETS Post 1993:
Post 1993 reports the COVID 19 problem has hit there post hard and they have not be holding regular meetings while they try to keep their members safe.

AMVETS Dept. of Oregon and the Post in Oregon will continue to do their best to help veterans and the communities in our area. We are hoping to make great strides in increasing membership and awareness of AMVETS thru out Oregon. We will also continue to work with our brothers and sisters in the other Veterans service organizations in the state to further help the Veterans of Oregon.

Milton Farley:
Commander AMVETS National Dist. VI
Commander AMVETS Dept. Of Oregon
2nd Vice AMVETS Post 1919
Report of Steve Bird, NEC Department of Washington

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

Programs
40% percent (6of 15) of Posts have reported programs through the online database at end of September 2021.

Service
Service Department:
The AMVETS Department of Washington Service Department currently employs two service officers and has one volunteer service officer accredited by the VA. The service department have increased since the pandemic and are able to continue claims processing. Currently they are investigating more efficient automated claim processing other than VetPro. The new Service Department director is in place and has been active in learning the job and meeting new DEC reporting requirements. 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.

Processes for requesting and validating grant requests have been put in place and have revealed administrative problems within the auxiliary regarding maintaining tax exempt status.

Upcoming Events
Department Executive Meeting March 2022

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 October 31, 2021.
HB 1043 Audiology & speech compact (Leavitt) H HC/Wellness
AN ACT Relating to the audiology and speech-language pathology interstate compact.

HB 1112 Use tax exemptions (Dent) H Finance
Expands the use tax exemption for new residents and nonresident military personnel to include tangible personal property, with some exceptions.

HB 1122 State guard retirement age (Lovick) H Rules 3C
Eliminates the age restriction for enlistment with the Washington State Guard (Guard). Allows the adjutant general to extend the service age of an active member of the Guard under certain conditions.

SHB 1181 Veterans & military suicide HHSV(Orwell) H Approps
Provides for various outreach and services related to preventing suicide among veterans and military service members. • Creates the Veterans and Military Members Suicide Prevention Account and a suicide prevention community-based services grant program. • Extends and modifies the Suicide-Safer Homes Task Force. • Establishes a new special vehicle license plate emblem.
HB 1247 Mobile home park/prop. tax (Orcutt) H Finance
Authorizes a property tax exemption on leased land for tenants in a mobile home park or manufactured housing community that qualify for the senior citizen and disabled veterans property tax exemption program.

HB 1248 Leased land/property tax ex. (Orcutt) H Finance
Authorizes a property tax exemption on land leased in a mobile home park or manufactured housing community to individuals who qualify for the senior citizen and disabled veterans property tax exemption program.

HB 1357 Voters’ pamphlets overseas (Mosbrucker) H subst for
Requires the county auditor to mail statewide and local voters’ pamphlets to service and overseas voters who request them. • Changes the deadline for the Office of Financial Management to submit fiscal impact statements for state ballot measures.

HB 1439 Military surplus vehicles (Orcutt) H Transportation
Authorizing military surplus vehicles to operate on public highways.
SB 5056 Wilderness therapy programs (Salomon) S Health & Long
Requires the Department of Health to create a business license for wilderness therapy programs. • • Provides parameters for wilderness therapy programs. Requires rulemaking for wilderness therapy programs to be completed by December 31, 2022

SSB 5059 Monument protection LAW(McCune) S Rules X
Expands the definition of monument to include property owned by the federal government, state, or other municipalities. • Raises the classification of defacing a monument to a gross misdemeanor.

SB 5247 Multistate nurse licensure (Padden) S Health & Long
Concerning the multistate nurse licensure compact.

SSB 5337 Property tax/senior, veteran WM(Wilson, L.) S Rules X
Increases each of the income thresholds for the senior citizen and disabled persons property tax exemption program, by $5,000.

SB 5435 Parking spaces/disability (Wagoner) S Transportation
Permitting holders of disabled American veteran license plates and holders of Purple Heart license plates to utilize parking spaces reserved for persons with physical disabilities.

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

Other
The State Department Executive Committee (DEC) Fall Meeting was held via Zoom Conference Call on October 23, 2021. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 cases noted at the National Convention and with the Covid 19 Pandemic continuing with the “Delta Variant” The department leadership felt it would be an unnecessary risk to all to have an in-person meeting. The DEC Business meetings were held on October 15, 2021, followed by the DEC on October 23, 2021. This approach of splitting the meeting days has proved successful in accomplishing the business of the Department.

The 2021 Financial Audit of the Department accounts was completed on July 16, 2021. The audit found the financial records to be reconciled and in good order.
National Executive Committee Reports

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Hello officers and NEC members,

I have been on the road for Post visits, and I must say how impressed I am so far! I attended a couple of SEC meetings that were run with the efficiency that shows the dedication needed to display the level of success I seen. We have amazing members in “THE GREATEST VSO IN THE WORLD!” To see firsthand the work done in their communities was uplifting.

Membership drives are vital to our growth and mission, but let’s not forget retention. Retention is, in my eyes, more important than recruiting. If we lose one, it may affect many others. Keeping a positive image is important beyond words.

It has been a very interesting start to the new year. The basic concept of reading and following our CBLs has been lost somewhere. Not by all but by a few who are not allowing the good we do to show through for the greed they seek. This is not about one we are nothing as one! We are a team. That is how we grow. If we all do just a little in the end, it adds up to a great deal!

I have a goal this year that is to get the departments to take some of the calls coming into National. It is not that we won’t take them. It is that is a lot of the time the calls should be taken at the department level because they are about department issues. I think a lot is being missed by skipping chain of command. I would challenge each of you to take this home with you and share it with your leadership. I will be directing the staff to send the calls back to the departments. The idea is to ensure training is proper at all levels. Post asks the Department, Department ask National. It keeps the line of communication open from the green to the white hats.

Rolling to Remember 2022 is fast approaching. We will need as many hands as we can get. Contact information will be addressed this weekend. Fingers crossed we have great weather this time!

I will be attending the Legendary AMVETS National Riders’ Mid-Year Rally this year with an escort from KY into MO. If anyone wants to ride along, contact the Riders and they will share the information. I’m excited to be honored in such that I need an escort! I would like to thank Ohio’s Riders for the wonderful idea of this and Larry “Godfather” Saad for cleaning up the details!

Have a wonderful holiday season! I hope you didn’t overstuff yourself, but let the bird have it! Have a very Merry Christmas, and a great New Year! Remember if you can share a little this season, I’m sure we have some families and kids who would be overjoyed with appreciation for the smallest of a gift. It’s a time to share love for those who feel the loss.
Commander Heun, National Officers, National Executive Committee Members, AMVETS and guests:

I thank you for electing me to serve as your 1st Vice Commander. I am looking forward to working with all of you to recruit and RETAIN our members. We have been very good at recruiting new members, now we need to be better at keeping them.

Veterans join us because they want to feel needed and understood by people who have shared their experiences. They sometimes need help finding something to fill that empty spot inside. So let’s get them to attend a Veteran’s Day or Pearl Harbor Day ceremony. See if they want to help at the local VA hospital when you do a pizza or ice cream party. Make sure that they know that they don’t have to drink in order to join the post, that the post is just a means to help raise funds and interact with the community. Point out that the post is involved with the community by providing a color guard or honor guard detail for parades or wakes and funerals. We also offer and/or deliver meals to needy or home bound veterans and their families. Some posts do Thanksgiving dinners for the senior citizens. That is how to help them stay engaged, but don't burn them out. Then they are lost, most likely forever.

As we seek new members let us look to the fastest growing segments of service members, women. The woman veteran is out there, but does not self identify. They usually won't wear a hat or other clothing item of their branch of service. So, they have to be otherwise identified and once you find them you will find others. We need more women members to help us tell congress and the VA what their special needs are for treatment. With a larger base of women we can spread that word easier.

So let us contact the military bases or posts in your area. Hit up the National Guard units family readiness group. Ask them to let you speak with their members and talk about AMVETS, maybe put out some flyers. But most important, ASK A VETERAN. If every member was to get one new member, we would double in size. And then we could do it again. We are the most inclusive Veterans Service Organization, so lets make us look like it.

I am here, along with the membership department, to help you build your posts, your departments and our organization. Let’s do it.

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

Don McLean
Report of Bill Clark, National Second Vice Commander

National Commander Heun, National Officers, National Executive Committee and my fellow AMVETS and Guests

First, I want to thank you for your continued support in electing me as your 2nd Vice Commander. I am confident now with a National Programs Director in place, along with an awesome programs manager we have an exciting and successful year ahead of us.

As of October 26, 2021 we were at 32% of Posts and 74% of our Departments reporting. If the National District Commanders and Department 2nd Vice Commanders need help or guidance, just reach out to either myself at 910 448 1775, Carol Hebert at 301 683 4027 or Colondra Etheredge at 301 683 4031. It is utmost that we, as an NSO, turn our hours/travel and events as soon as they happen. This is how we meet our mission, “Veterans helping Veterans.”

We never know when an unexpected visit from a Congress representative or another group, i.e., IRS might want to take a look at what we are doing for our veterans across our Nation.

The last few years have been challenging, to say the least, but we survived and now we are moving ahead! With that in mind, Ms. Hebert is preparing for Zoom meetings. Our Programs Manager is working on updating the email list of all 2nd Vice Commanders, both at Post and Department levels. An arduous task as best, but as of this writing she is well on her way to completing the updates.

As you all know, there have been numerous issues with the program reporting system. We are looking into this along with changes to the Career Center system as well. Our National Programs Director has created and uploaded a video that shows detailed move by move, how to successfully navigate the Reporting System and bypass the security page. For more specific information, please peruse the National Programs Director report.

It is further our intent this year to create either a bi-weekly or monthly news flash to be sent to all 2nd Vice Commanders. This will ensure that current information is available to them to pass onto both Posts and Department members heading off any problems at either level. With this in place and the roundtables being offered, there should be no reason whatsoever that we can’t reach 100% this year!

The Career Center has successfully met 86% of the annual goal of 680 veteran placements, as of this writing, the career staff have placed 583 veterans, full time placements are at 94%, with post 9/11 veterans at 77% and 23% of the placements are female. Kudos to Ms. Ciara Singletary and her team for a job well done.

I would be remise if I didn’t acknowledge those Posts that have mastered the on-line reporting. Also, to the National staff, and of course, the Programs Director and Programs Manager for continuing to make AMVETS the best of the VSO’s serving our Veterans.

This concludes my report and I ask for its adoption as the proper time.
AUGUST 2021-NOVEMBER 2021

During National Convention in Greensboro, we saw the height of the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan. Servicemembers on the ground were put in dangerous situations and veterans back home were feeling the pain mentally and emotionally. Our staff and members struggled with the decision and the actions from the Administration. The crisis hotline for veterans experienced a 98% increase in the number of texts it received during the last two weeks of August compared to the same two weeks last year. Calls to the Veterans Crisis Line increased 7%, and online chats increased by nearly 40% during the same period, from August 13 to 29.

Right away, AMVETS called on the VA to find a way to support the men and women who served. Immediately following the bombing in Afghanistan, our team reached out to the White House and highlighted our displeasure with the outcomes of the withdrawal and asked the administration to reach out to the veteran community. Our number one priority has been veterans’ mental health and we knew in August that this focus was more important than ever.

We attended meetings with VSOs, the VA, and other organizations to discuss what was needed right now and how the Administration was responding to those needs. We participated in a meeting with White House officials, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Donald McDonough, and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. We met with them to discuss how the Administration was following through on their obligations to ensure our servicemembers and allies made it to a safe place. This effort resulted in the administration creating a dedicated hotline for veterans and organizations to report and coordinate SIV’s withdrawal from Afghanistan.

We had some very proactive meetings at the Convention in Greensboro. Before the opening ceremony, our legislative team had a 30-minute meeting with Secretary McDonough and his staff. We discussed with the Secretary our legislative goals for the year. We also had great discussions with Representative Don Bacon, who was at the event to receive the Silver Helmet Award. Further, we met representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Veterans Health Administration, and Cerner. AMVETS received word that unions and other organizations were trying to block VA’s program on National Practice Standards and immediately took action. AMVETS’ concern led the VA to schedule a meeting with VSOs and other stakeholders within 24 hours. We were the leading voice that supported VA’s National Practice Standards. Joe Chenelly was the only voice allowed to make brief remarks on a call that included the vast majority of the veteran community.

AMVETS has supported over 30 bills in the 117th Congress. We worked with Senator Bernie Sanders’s office to introduce The Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act.

This bill will eliminate the current eligibility restrictions for VA dental care and expand eligibility to all veterans receiving VA health care. It will also work to address the shortage of dentists in the U.S. by incentivizing dental school enrollment and service to our nation’s veterans and ensuring the VA maintains dental clinics in all states to meet the needs of veterans from all parts of the country. We are proud to have worked on this legislation with Sanders’ office.
Our lobbyist Justin Brown is still advocating tirelessly for the Charitable Equity for Veterans Act. Justin has had dinner with Representative Brad Wenstrup, House co-lead of the bill; Representative Kevin Brady, the Ranking Member of the Ways & Means Committee; and Senator Bill Cassidy, Senate co-lead of the bill. We are working to have the bill brought up in a committee hearing and passed out of the committee so that there will be a floor vote.

In October, Third Vice Commander Paul Shipley participated in the Ask AMVETS Facebook Live series. Paul answered an extensive range of questions spanning from all of AMVETS’ legislative efforts. Our team is still providing an excellent resource for members by sending the AMVETS Weekly Legislative Update every Tuesday. If you want a weekly update about what we’re up to and what timely news items are essential, make sure you’re signed up for our distro list.
Greetings National Commander Heun, National Officers, Past National Commanders, National Executive Committee Members, Members and Guests. Thank you for allowing me to present this report at your Fall NEC Meeting.

The past four months have really flown by! On October 7-10, I traveled to Freedoms Foundation for the Auxiliary’s Americanism Conference. The 75-acre campus, located in historic Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, is home to the 40-acre Medal of Honor Grove and where the AMVETS Youth Leadership Conference is held every November. National Commander Heun joined us for a weekend filled with history and fun!

My first official visit was in Roscommon, Michigan for their Fall Conference at Higgins Lake Lodge on Halloween weekend. It was a very busy weekend, with training on leadership, a SEC meeting, Memorial Service and a fun time at a Halloween Party!

Following weekend I traveled to Grand Rapids, Michigan for the National 4th District Commander Steve Bidstrup’s Testimonial Dinner. That afternoon was National 3rd Vice President Cindy Rice’s official visit to PAWS with a Cause, where the AMVETS and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary were invited to attend. It was a great tour!

My highlight so far was laying a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery with AMVETS National Commander Greg Heun on Veterans Day, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Also, attending was AMVETS National Sons Commander Paul Speigle and his wife Denise, AMVETS National Riders President John Reando, National Riders 2nd Vice President Natalie Cummings and PNC Duane Miskulin. Also, we were able to lay a wreath at the World War II Memorial with AMVETS National Commander Greg Heun and National Sons Commander Paul Speigle. What an honor!

My President's project is to support Freedoms Foundation by replacing the windows in MacArthur Hall. The cost for each window to replaced is approximately $1,000.00. Any Auxiliary or group of members that donates $1000.00 will be recognized with a plaque to placed on the window with your name on it. Auxiliaries/members can sell window pins to help support the MacArthur Hall window replacement.

By replacing the windows, it will keep the utility bills down by keeping the cool air in the summer and heat in the winter. Saving money from utility bills will allow Freedoms Foundation to fund more teachers and students for programs on American History and the Constitution. When I was the Americanism Officer and was able to go to Valley Forge Conference, I was amazed how students from all over the United States interact in all the activities on campus, and even in a court room.

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary supports our Nation’s Veterans and families and remain committed to ensuring every Veteran receives the care and support they have earned.

Commander Greg Heun, my best wishes for a productive National Executive Committee meeting. I look forward to a great year of success and hope to see you during my travels.

God Bless each of you, God Bless America, and God protect our military personnel.
Greetings National Officers and Members;

The start of my year has been both busy and rewarding. It is hard to believe just how fast time has passed since September 1st. As always, the National Sons of AMVETS Officers and myself have been busy supporting our AMVETS family, Veterans, and our communities. Everyone has taken their respective offices and are in full swing fulfilling those duties and achieving goals.

In September, I had the privilege to take part in the Flag Retirement Ceremony at Squadron #12, Muncie, Indiana. This ceremony has taken place every year over the last 20 years. In addition to the Flag retirement, which is an amazing display and ceremony, Sons of AMVETS PNC Don Finnegan presented personalized "Honor and Remember" and "Service and Sacrifice" flags to two families. The gratitude that was shown by these families is a reminder of how much we impact lives.

With the support of the National Sons Officers, we have also been busy promoting my project Warrior Battalion. A 501c3 charity helping veterans and their families. Warrior Battalion provides impactful programs designed to reduce veteran suicide. The Mission of Warrior Battalion is to fight the battle against post-traumatic stress and support U.S. military service members and their families through healing programs. The vision of Warrior Battalion is to end Veteran suicide.

The National Sons of AMVETS held their E-Board at a Warrior Battalion Camping Experience healing event in Palmyra, Indiana. The intent of these gatherings is to establish camaraderie, uniting veterans, families, and supporters to cope with PTSD.

It was an honor to represent the Sons of AMVETS on Veteran's Day at Arlington National Cemetery, alongside National AMVETS Commander Greg Heun, National Ladies Auxiliary President Joan Sirek, and National Riders President John Reando. Although we are not back to normal from the pandemic, the experience was every bit humbling and surreal to dedicate the day to our Veterans and to reflect on their service and sacrifice to our great Nation.

The Sons of AMVETS are working hard to prepare for the annual “Legislative Advocacy Week” (formerly known as "Storm the Hill") this Spring. God willing, we will again be able to continue the tradition and bring Veterans issues front and center.

As always, our mission continues, “Sons Serving Veterans.”

Yours in Service,

Paul R. Speigle
Commander
National Sons of AMVETS
Commander Heun and NEC Members,

It has been more normal for the office of National Judge Advocate thus far this year than the past two years. I have answered many questions from the field and approved one department’s bylaws.

I am going to ask each NEC to please inform your Department JAs That if they approve new or revised post CBLs they do not need to submit them to me for my approval. Send them directly to the National Membership Department for filing. If they have questions about bylaws, I am available to offer advice.

As before, if you need to contact me, my email address is jim1941@live.com and my cell phone number is 410 913 2780. If I do not answer, leave a message and I will return your call. Please pass this information on to your departments and posts. National headquarters frequently gets calls for someone trying to contact me.

Commander, this concludes my report and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

Jim King PNC
National Judge Advocate
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Donald Stream, National Finance Officer

As of October 31, 2021, there was an amount over $200,000 in cash in the General, Growth, Pledge, and Metropolitan bank accounts and a total of $53,925.97 in accounts payable and accrued expenses. The quarterly grant of $62,500 was paid by NSF at the end of October. As of November 1st, the auditors have begun the audit and is currently finalizing the 990 and financial statement drafts for approval.

We have received revenue of $607,145 thus far. The approximate income percentage breakdown is as follows: All grants and other income 33%, membership dues income 27%, Investment Gains 11%, Sweepstakes Income 8%, Contributions 19%, and Affinity Group 2%.

Actual expenses totaled $387,387. Income exceeded expenses by $226,367. After Unrealized Losses, Transfers into Life Membership, and Depreciation Expense of $4,795. Income exceeded expenses by $221,570. The percentage breakdown of expenses is as follows: General and Administration 71%, Programs Services 14%, Fundraising 15%.

I want to thank the membership for allowing me to continue as the National Finance Officer this fiscal year and I will continue to work for each of you and keep you informed as to the state of AMVETS financial status.
National Commander Heun, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

Your AMVETS National Headquarters continues working tirelessly to best serve you, all our members and the entire AMVETS Family.

At the same time, we at National Headquarters remain grateful for your patience, support, guidance, and leadership. Thank you!

Our first quarter has gone well despite rising costs, an ever-changing marketplace, supply chain problems, and the continued unpredictability as our various levels of government grapple with the pandemic.

As we head into the holidays, we are preparing hard for the coming year, especially Rolling to Remember. The massive national event will take place May 27-30 in Washington, D.C. It promises to be another huge draw, further raising our organization’s profile throughout the veterans and military communities.

The 2021 Rolling to Remember was our prove-in year, and we proved we are quite capable of pulling off the world’s largest pro-veterans event and the world’s largest one-day motorcycle rally.

The decision was made early on to, once again, hold the motorcycle demonstration at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in the coming year. RFK was a fantastic host this past May, and they were willing to work with us again.

Although there is great symbolism in holding the event at the Pentagon, the challenges are steep and the Defense Department was not willing to enter into real talks until this coming spring, which is way too late. We need stability and predictability, which we now have knowing RFK will be our host location.

Washington’s Metropolitan Police Department continues to be a willing, valuable partner in ensuring a meaningful, safe route for the demonstration ride.

We will again close most of the roads and streets in D.C. on May 30, passing by all the memorials, the White House, and Capitol Hill.

But the most important point to make here is that YOU ARE NEEDED. Those who came out this past May made a huge difference and had a great time. Please, consider coming to DC for this coming Memorial Day weekend and volunteer to help show the world just how much AMVETS cares about our missing in action, prisoners of war, Gold Star families, and those who made it home but are still struggling.

It was a full-fledged family effort. The AMVETS National Service Foundation, Sons of AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, and AMVETS Juniors were absolutely amazing and I expect the same in 2022.

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 are improving on what was record in the past year. 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 ground-breaking conversations around cannabis. How new partners are eager to join with us in bettering the lives of veterans and their families.

I confidentially proclaim 2022 will be the best year yet for all of us.

This concludes my report, and I move for its acceptance at the appropriate time.
Report of Cherissa Jackson, National Executive

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 Memory) (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.

The HEAL Program started “CannaChat”, a monthly FB Live Discussion that started in September 2021, to inform the community about cannabis and its efficacy. The show features leading experts in the cannabis industry to discuss how cannabis can benefit Veterans. The show takes place the last Wednesday of each month on AMVETS FB Page. The HEAL Program will be assisting cannabis research projects including a CBD Research Study at NYU and several other upcoming research studies. Our role will be assisting with recruitment efforts for these studies. Anyone wanting to participate in the research study or to learn more about the projects can contact the HEAL Program for more information. Lastly, the HEAL Summit will take place in Hawaii in March 2022. More details to come.
Report of Harry Neal, National Membership Director

AMVETS is emerging from the pandemic slowdown. Please continue to be cautious when in public. Breakthrough infections of inoculated members happen. Support boxes have masks included for crowded recruiting venues.

This member year we have 4,813 new members. The member year starts 1 Sept 2021, and the numbers are till today 19 Nov 2021. The new joins also include June, July and August, which are pushed into the 2022 member year so they don't get another invoice in three months. 71.6% of the new members have emails which is higher than our overall average of 57.5%. The current median age in AMVETS is 68.8. Our new joins average 56.9 years old. These members were 20 years old in 1995, veterans that served during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The face of AMVETS continues to change. What's on their minds. Toxic burn pits, burning oil wells, depleted uranium dust, chemically contaminated environments. It's the agent orange of this generation of vets. Be aware of their concerns, the 57-year-old veteran is choosing AMVETS.

On November 10th, IN Commander Lee Williams signed the Charter for IN Post 82621, the Cpl. Humberto Sanchez Memorial Post in his hometown Logansport, Indiana. Marine Cpl. Sanchez was one of the 13 Service Members killed in the car bombing during the evacuation of Afghanistan airport on 8-26-21 troop withdraw.

The Sanchez family was presented National Commander Greg Huen's challenge coin and framed copy of the Charter. This Post also installed officers for the Ladies Auxiliary by Dept. of Indiana Auxiliary President Lois Long. Thanks to Past IN Dept Commander Roger Williams for working to bring this post online.

Sanchez, 22, was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California, and was working as an embassy guard in Jordan. He was aiding in evacuation efforts in the final days of the war in Afghanistan when a suicide bomber with 25 pounds of explosives entered the gates of the Hamid Karzai International Airport, killing 13 U.S. service members, including Sanchez, as well as at least 180 Afghans.
We continue to advance in the digital words. We have online revalidations and email transfers. Post leaders can have a life conversion invoice in place in less than 5 minutes. Send membersupport@amvets.org the member number and we create the invoice. Dept and Post leaders can see all the Post information in the database and do real time corrections.

We are working to add phone numbers and emails for Post leaders to assist Dept and post officer communication. Dept leaders now have a consolidated list of all Posts with the member count and revalidation date when they login and select member roster. Members are beginning to renew online saving the Post and Dept work and speeding the process. Members can print a membership card online as they wait for the post to mail their cards. Each post has an email confirmation contact that gets an email alert when a member renews online. Refund reports are sent to Posts and Depts as each month closes.

We average 15 support boxes a month to assist Post recruiting efforts. We appreciate the time they are spending recruiting for AMVETS. We will continue the Recruit 5 member drive. Recruit 3 members for a Commanders pin and add 2 more for the National HQ Challenge coin. Submit on the Green hat form (membership form #22).

How are we reaching the 43% of our members without emails? Does your post mail a paper newsletter? Are posts doing wellness check phone calls? What about MALs, is anyone reaching out? Are you getting the MAL lists from your Dept so you can recruit?

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. We are competing in a 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's demonstration in the world to raise awareness of POW, MIA's 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 represents all veterans free of charge, with your VA Claim.
AMVETS Career Centers will find 700 veterans jobs this year!

AMVETS Heal Team has an online suicide prevention course. http://learn.amvets.me-sys.com/login/index.php
Add information about your State and Posts programs’
Does your Dept have loaner table covers to help posts
with recruiting? Call Bill at 410-440-4928 to purchase
a couple. Has the Dept created a state specific bro-
chure? Do you have combined Post Dept recruiting
events? 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
and masks.

If you haven’t seen it, the video below puts your ser-
vice 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 or city hall with an AMVETS logo
and your post phone number on it?

https://www.facebook.com/Vox/vid-
eos/501761786678095/

This concludes my report and I move for its accep-
tance.
Harry Neal, AMVETS National Director of Member-
ship
National Commander Heun, members of the NEC and distinguished guests,

I would first like to say thank you for allowing me the opportunity to take on the task of Programs Director. We have been stagnated for the past two years and with the pandemic hopefully in the past, now is the time for us to rise and shine.

I found that in reviewing everything in the programs folders that a lot of things are not current and needed to be updated, so the Programs team has been diligently working on updating everything that is outdated and that all manuals, brochures, forms, and postcards are giving out the same information, and will coincide with the information on the National Website. Hopefully by the time you read this it will be accomplished.

I know that a lot of problems have been with on how to report your programs, and with the server having an error message. We have been diligently helping anybody that has called us to resurrect this problem.

I have created a video that will be sent to the State 2nd Vice Commanders on how to, from the beginning to the ending report your programs, and how to bypass the error. I hope that this will help.

If anybody else would like this video, please contact us and we will send it out to you. It is not on the National website because it couldn’t be a secure video.

The second Vice Roster has been updated and by this time we hopefully have had our zoom meeting with all the State Second vices. If you would like to schedule a zoom training class for your Department or Post please contact us at National.

I would like to remind everyone that the reporting period ends Dec 31, 2021, and you have until 7 January 2022 to input your information. I know that everyone will be participating in some type of Veterans Day event please don't forget to report it.
The VAVS matching funds sponsored by the National Service Foundation are utilized for posts and Departments that sponsor projects at VA Medical Centers, State Veteran Homes, VA or VA contracted nursing homes or State Orphan Homes. This request must be signed by the VAVS representative before being submitted to National. Further information can be found on the National website under AMVETS in Action (VAVS). I have only highlighted a small amount of the programs that we have. All programs are on the National Website www.amvets.org under What we Do, then AMVETS- In-Action.

One important program that everyone should get involved with is Suicide Awareness. There is a Suicide Awareness training course under the HEAL TEAM Healthcare Advocates then click Projects

This training can be taken by anyone. I encourage each Department and Post to use this training and publicize Suicide Prevention to your members.

This is something that is important to all of us! Let's get our communities involved! Who knows, you may get membership out of it!

Our Career Center is progressing nicely. This is a nationwide program offering free-of-charge assistance to veterans, transitioning military and their spouses. I try to participate in their weekly teams’ meetings. For more statistics on their progress please refer to the National 2nd Vice report.

I attended the National meeting for District 2 and District 4. Thank you to both Commanders for allowing me the opportunity to speak on programs and answer any questions that came up.

We are also requesting the Departments and National Districts to send out the information to the posts, to use their chain of Command. With all the information and training we have been giving out, there should be no reason a post should contact National. The only reason a post should contact National, would be to get a password reset. All requests can be sent via email to programs@amvets.org.

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

Carol Hebert
Report of Michael T. Black, National Service Director

September 2021 – December 2021

Total Amount of Benefits paid out: $ 51,517,779.00
Total amount of claims open: 114,722
Average payment per claim: $1,497.00
Appeals forwarded on to the CAVC (Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims): 12
International Claims: 48 different countries around the world

NEW MEMBERS

Life: 31
Annual: 51
Total: 82

PERSONNEL

During the first quarter (September, October, November, December) the service officers have continued to move forward. During COVID, when other veterans service originations had to shut down, we were able to service our client’s and many of theirs as well. We continued processing VA claims remotely from our homes and offices, with no face-to-face appointments. We are still practicing this policy. VA regional offices are still not open to Veteran in house visits.

We started before the pandemic with 53 service officers, and we lost 11, leaving the National service officers with 41. Currently we are working to fill all these open positions. As you are aware with all the news media this is no easy task. We strive to find competent personnel dedicated to serving our veterans and their families to the best of their abilities and training.

Due to staffing and monetary concerns the New York City VARO has been closed indefinitely. Plans to relocate this office will be revisited at a later date.

Positions Filled as of November 1, 2021

Montgomery Alabama VARO, Fay Gonzales (13 years Army) paralegal

Philadelphia PA, VARO, (Elliot Miller, retired) replaced with James Hill, Retired Army Major, formerly VA benefits employee

Following Promotions

Kevin Jones, VARO Cleveland assumed position of Chief of Claims

John Thase, Pittsburg VARO assumed position of Region one Service Director

Steven Boland, Providence VARO assumed position Assistant Region one Service Director

informational pamphlets will inform and educate (Men’s and Women’s) Veterans and Family/Widows how file claims and what documents are needed. Education and information of our Veterans and Family members is key to a better repour between NSOs and clients thus facilitating a quicker response time to their claims. Making sure that Veterans and their families have CORRECT legal information concerning their claims is invaluable to everyone’s mental health and anxieties in today’s world.

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.

Respectful submitted,

Michael T Black
Report of Miles Migliara, National Communications Manager

Commander Heun, 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

Comms is producing a monthly mini-series with the HEAL Program called ‘CannaChat’, bridging the unknowns between cannabis and the role it could potentially play in veteran healthcare.

Comms is working closely with our sponsors/partners as well as AMVETS’ Project Manager in an effort to fulfill contractual duties and stand out as a veteran organization worth investing in. We are currently raising funds with WD-40 to provide scholarship opportunities for veterans and recently took part in a Veterans Day campaign with Lowe’s that was highly successful and appreciated by Lowe’s.

Comms continues to work with Commander Heun to build out and execute a vision for how we can continue to raise general awareness of what AMVETS is and how we serve American veterans.

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
Commander,
Thank you for appointing me National AMVETS Junior Coordinator. I am very honored to be able to work with our Juniors. I would like to give a little background on me and my experience with children. I have two children who are 20 and 18. While raising them I was able to stay at home and watch other people’s children. I have had a hand in raising and educating over 30 children in the past 20 plus years. I helped start the Juniors at one of our local posts in Ohio. My kids were charter members and were 8 and 5 at the time. They have held numerous positions at local, state, and national levels. I have had the opportunity to see how the Juniors work on each of these levels. Currently my daughter is a lifetime member of AMVETS and when my son’s Junior membership year ends, he will become a member of Sons of AMVETS.

I know the 2021-2022 year will be a tremendous year for our Juniors. With National President Joey Stopyra leading our Juniors we will have an incredible year full of honor and commitment to our veterans. As the coordinator I will help ensure that meetings are being run properly and adequately. I help the Juniors in their endeavors of doing projects for our veterans and communities. I will dedicate time to ensure that the Juniors understand the meaning of Americanism and why it is so important to us all. Most of all I will try to make certain we are having fun while doing it!

President Stopyra has chosen Paws With A Cause as his project and his theme is “No Day Should Be Rough”. Their Mission Statement is “Paws With A Cause enhances the independence and quality of life for people with disabilities nationally through custom-trained Assistance Dogs. PAWS increases awareness of the rights and roles of Assistance Dog Teams through education and advocacy.”

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

Sara Pierce
National Juniors Coordinator
AMVETS 76th Annual Convention

August 17-21, 2021

Post-Convention National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting

Saturday,
August 21, 2021

Held at the

Sheraton Greensboro
Greensboro, North Carolina
Roll Call by Executive Director Joe Chenelly

Roll Call of National Officers

MR. CHENELLY: National Commander Brown?

COMMANDER BROWN: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: National First Vice Commander Heun?

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: Present also.

MR. CHENELLY: National Second Vice Commander McLean.

2ND VICE CMDR MCLEAN: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: National Third Vice Commander Clark?

3RD VICE CMDR CLARK: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: National Judge Advocate PNC King?

PNC KING: Jim King is here.

MR. CHENELLY: Thank you. National Finance Officer Stream?

MR. STREAM: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: National Provost Marshal Majors?

MR. MAJORS: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: National Chaplain Sallade.

CHAPLAIN SALLADE: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: First District Commander Marty Ashman?

MR. ASHMAN: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Second District II Commander, Deputy Commander Billie Ainsworth?

MR. AINSWORTH: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: District III Commander Deric Everett?

MR. EVERETT: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: District IV Commander Richard VanNatta?

MR. VANNATTA: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: District V Commander Mary Wait?

MS. WAIT: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: District VI Commander Charles Wharton?

MR. WHARTON: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: I am present. National Development Officer Kirkley?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: National Financial Officer White?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: Chief Medical Executive Jackson?

(No response)

Past National Commanders

MR. CHENELLY: Past National Commander Piening?

PNC PIENING: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Once again, PNC King?

PNC KING: Jim King is still here.

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Smith?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Wolford?

PNC WOLFORD: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Taylor?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Stahl?

PNC STAHL: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Lipowski?
MR. CHENELLY: National District V. Kansas, Barry Shippy?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: Nebraska, Carol Diesing?

MS. WEHRLI: Deborah Wehrli for Nebraska.

MR. CHENELLY: Thank you, Deborah. North Dakota, Murray Strom?

MR. STROM: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Texas, Bobby Lumpkins.

MR. LUMPKINS: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Alaska, Don Oliver.

MR. OLIVER: I am here.

MR. CHENELLY: Thank you, Don. Arizona, Bill Vanasdale?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: Is there anyone here from Arizona?

MR. JOHNSON: Dave Johnson.

MR. CHENELLY: California, Heidi Holguin?

MS. HOLGUIN: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Hawaii, Demeatra Williams.

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: Anyone from Hawaii? New Mexico, Adrian Cisneros.

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: Anyone from New Mexico? Is there anyone here from Oregon?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: Washington, Steve Bird.

MR. BIRD: Here. Alternate National Executive Committee Members

MR. CHENELLY: I am going to read for the sake of the record the alternates who have checked in. If at the end of this, you are an alternate here and have not checked in, or I don't call your name, please come to the mic and identify yourself.

Alternate for Ohio, Tom Banyas?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: Connecticut, Doug Newall?

MR. NEWALL: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: Massachusetts, Caroline Kenyon?

MS. KENYON: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: Maryland, Fred Shinbur.

MR. SHINBUR: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: North Carolina, Randy Ferguson?

MR. FERGUSON: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Pennsylvania, Bob Bankhead?

MR. BANKHEAD: Here, sir.

MR. CHENELLY: Georgia, Wendell Rivens?

MR. RIVENS: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: South Carolina, Cathy Colby.

MS. COLBY: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Tennessee, Joe Carter?

MR. CARTER: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: I have Illinois. Is there an alternate for Illinois?

MR.: Mr. Chairman, we would like to seat Past Department Commander --- as our alternate.

PNC KING: Is that a motion?

MR.: Yes.

MR.: Second.

MR. CHENELLY: Any discussion?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: All in favor?

(Chorus of "ayes.")

MR. CHENELLY: Iowa, Dale Purdy.
Roll Call of National Executive Committee Members

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Kilgore?

PNC KILGORE: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Boettcher?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Brown?

PNC BROWN: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Miskulin?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Hotop?

PNC HOTOP: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Frye?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Via.

MR. ASHMAN: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Polk?

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Riley.

(No response)

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Chapman?

PNC CHAPMAN: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Via.

MR. ASHMAN: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Rhode Island, Arthur Rodriques?

MR. RODRIQUES: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: District II: Delaware, Doug Porter?

MR. PORTER: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: District of Columbia, Aaron Smith?

MR. SMITH: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Maryland, Michael Mahoney?

MR. MAHONEY: Here.

. MR. CHENELLY: Illinois, Christopher Studebaker?

MR. STUDEBAKER: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Indiana, Kenny Burton?

MR. BURTON: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Iowa, Barry Remington?

MR. REMINGTON: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Kentucky, Alan Smith?

MR. SMITH: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Michigan, John Hoecherl?

MR. HOECHERL: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Minnesota, John Flores.

MR. CHENELLY: Anyone from Minnesota. Missouri, Robert Lee? He is --

MR. : He is here.

MR. CHENELLY: Let the record show he is here. Ohio, Sandy Vorhies?

MS. VORHIES: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Wisconsin, Dennis Barrington.

MR. BARRINGTON: Here.
Last but not least, thank you to all the District I officers and members for a job well done in some very difficult times.

One of the most difficult jobs I was charged with was as a deputy inspector general to investigate a couple of problems in New Jersey. I had the task of investigating New Jersey State Commander Jim Spreng. After all the evidence was gathered against Mr. Spreng, a trial was heard on June 1, 2021. Mr. Spreng was deemed guilty of the charges against him, and he received a 5-year suspension from holding office locally, state or nationally.

This was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do in AMVETS because I really liked Jim and still do. I would be remiss in not mentioning that Fred Vineyard is the New Jersey state commander, and he is working his tail off to bring New Jersey back to what it once was.

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

MS. DILLON: Dana Dillon, NEC Connecticut. My report is on page 6 and 7 of the book, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MS. LAPOINTE: Good morning. My name is Kim Lapointe, state of Maine NEC. My report is on page 8, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. PEACEY: Walter Peacey, NEC, Department of Massachusetts. My report is on page 9. Please accept it, and move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. RODRIQUES: Arthur Rodriques, Rhode Island. My report is on page 12, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. ASHMAN: Joe Ashman, Department of New York. My report is on page 11, and I move for its acceptance at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: I have a motion to accept the District I committee reports.

IST VICE CMDR HEUN: So moved, Greg Heun.

MR. ASHMAN: So moved.

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion by Greg Heun, second by Marty Ashman. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Those opposed?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. District II? If you all would please line up in order.

District II

MR. AINSWORTH: Thank you, Commander. The District II commander was unable to attend, so I am the Vice Commander Billie Ainsworth.

MS. DILLON: Dana Dillon, NEC Connecticut. My report is on page 6 and 7 of the book, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MS. LAPOINTE: Good morning. My name is Kim Lapointe, state of Maine NEC. My report is on page 8, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. PEACEY: Walter Peacey, NEC, Department of Massachusetts. My report is on page 9. Please accept it, and move for its adoption at the proper time.

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COMMANDER BROWN: I have a motion to accept the District I committee reports.

IST VICE CMDR HEUN: So moved, Greg Heun.

MR. ASHMAN: So moved.

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion by Greg Heun, second by Marty Ashman. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Those opposed?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. District II? If you all would please line up in order.

District II

MR. AINSWORTH: Thank you, Commander. The District II commander was unable to attend, so I am the Vice Commander Billie Ainsworth.
MR. PURDY: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: Kentucky, Deanna Maynard?

MS. MAYNARD: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: We have already seated the alternate for Nebraska, Deborah Wehrli. North Dakota, Gary Maddox?

MR. MADDOX: Here.

MR. CHENELLY: And we have seated the alternate for Arizona, Dave Johnson. Washington, Robert Macon.

MR. MACON: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: Are there any other alternates or anyone else I have missed? Please come to the mic.

MR. NAGY: Charles Nagy.

MR. CHENELLY: What was that, Arizona?

MR. NAGY: Yes.

MR. CHENELLY: Thank you. Commander? Oh, one more.

MR. THOMAS: Curtis Thomas, Texas.

MR. CHENELLY: Thank you, Curtis.

COMMANDER BROWN: Do we have any visitors on the floor this morning? I do not see any.

We will have the NEC reports now, starting with District I.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

COMMANDER BROWN: Oh, I am sorry. We need to adopt the agenda.

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: Motion to adopt the agenda.

MS. VORHIES: Second, Vorhies.

COMMANDER BROWN: All in favor of adopting the agenda?

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Those opposed, same sign?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. For those of you that were on that, that was quite an experience. I hope we don’t have to do it again, but now we know we can. So I thought it was a pretty good experience. We had 75 people on that call, and thank heavens for a mute button.

Anyway, now we will do NEC reports.

**NEC District Reports**

**District I**

MR. ASHMAN: Thank you, Commander. Marty Ashman, District I commander. My report should be on page 5 but it is not. It says it wasn’t received in time, and that is not true. Mr. Chenelly can attest to that.

I do want to read my report. Normally I wouldn’t do this, but I am going to today.

Commander Brown, national officers and fellow AMVETS: First I would like to thank Commander Brown staff in taking us through two very tough years. It was an honor and a privilege to serve under your command.

To Joe Chenelly, our executive director: Thank you for a job well done in helping to keep AMVETS in the forefront during the last two years.
The tale is told as we review the report of programs on our national Website. Guards providing services in their community are the largest reporting program.

A consolidated list of all posts and subordinate organizations is now in progress. Let’s get all our active Honor Guard listed in a new national list.

Serving within the district, our posts, departments and national service officers continually assist service members. Veterans and families obtain needed benefits, military and veterans’ assistance, and state and local benefits in our community.

I strongly recommend increased continual funding in the department and national service programs.

Legislative communications are important as departments in our district continue at the state and local level to engage in veterans’ legislation supporting veterans’ benefits.

Congratulations, and best wishes to all the newly elected and appointed officers. It is an honor to represent and serve as AMVETS National District II commander. May you have a safe and productive convention, and I look forward to seeing everyone soon. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

This request for an excused absence is also my report, and I move for its adoption at the proper time. Jerry Gurnari, National District II commander.

COMANDER BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Ainsworth.

MR. SMITH: Commander, Aaron J. Smith, NEC from Washington, D.C. My report is on page 14, and I request that it be approved at the proper time.

COMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MR. PORTER: Commander, Doug Porter, Department of Delaware. My report is not in the book. I would like to read certain parts of it.

Our renewal rate is at 85 percent. We have 5 posts that are participating in community affairs, and all are involved with the ROTC. There have been several donations that have been made to the community, totaling well into the six figures.

This is my report, and I ask that it be accepted at the proper time.

COMANDER BROWN: If you could give a copy to Mr. Chenelly at your convenience. Thank you.

MR. PORTER: I believe he has a copy.

COMANDER BROWN: Okay, thank you.

MR. MAHONEY: Mike Mahoney, Department of Maryland. My report is on page 15, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. WILBURN: David Wilburn, Department of North Carolina. My report is on page 16. I ask for its adoption at the proper time. Thank you.

COMANDER BROWN: Thank you. I will entertain a motion to accept District II’s reports.

PNC STAHL: Arthur C. Stahl, NEC, Department of Pennsylvania, PNC. My report is on page 17 in the NEC book, and I move for its adoption at the correct time.

MR. COOPER: John Cooper, Department of Virginia. My report is on page 18. I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. STRACKA: Ed Stracka, Department of West Virginia. My report is on page 19. I have a short verbal addition. We now have another post that will come into being within the next week. And that now makes us a total of 9.

COMANDER BROWN: Can you speak up just a little bit, Ed?

MR. STRACKA: Certainly. Is that better?

COMANDER BROWN: Yes, thank you.

MR. STRACKA: Do I need to repeat myself or did you hear --

COMANDER BROWN: Yes.

MR. STRACKA: Well, we now have a new post. It is in Wharncliffe, West Virginia. It is on a golf course. So head on out there and have fun. It is on a twisted gun golf course. And my report is on page 19. I hope you adopt it at the proper time. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.
MR. STUDEBAKER: So moved. Studebaker, NEC from Illinois.

MS. DILLON: Dana Dillon, Connecticut.

COMMANDER BROWN: Okay. Motion made by Chris Studebaker, Illinois. Seconded by Dana Dillon, Connecticut, to accept the reports. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Those opposed?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. District III, Mr. Everett.

District III

MR. EVERETT: Deric Everett, National District III commander. My report is on page 22 of the book, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. DOUBEK: Commander, Charles Doubek, NEC, Department of Alabama. My report is on page 23-24, and I move that it be accepted at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: If you all would move that mic so not just me but Lisa can hear you.

MR. BAGGETT: Allen Baggett, NEC, Department of Florida. My report is on page 25 in the book. I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. BATES: Frederick Bates, NEC from Georgia. My report is on page 26 with one change. I am not the alternate NEC.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MR. STUART: Gary Stuart, NEC, Louisiana. My report is on page 27. I ask for it to be adopted at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you, Gary.

MR. COLBY: My name is Casey Colby, Department of South Carolina. My report is on page 26, and I move for its adoption at the appropriate time.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: Good morning, Commander. I am Ron Bottomley, NEC, state of Tennessee. My report begins on page 29, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: I will entertain a motion to accept District III’s reports.

PNC PIENING: So moved, Joe Piening.

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion made by Joe Piening, Florida.

MR. ROOSE: Second.

COMMANDER BROWN: Who? Please say a name.

MR. ROOSE: Randy Roose, Indiana.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Seconded by Randy Ross, Indiana. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Those opposed, same sign?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. District IV.

District IV

MR. VANNATTA: Commander, my report is on page 35, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. STUDEBAKER: Commander, Chris Studebaker, NEC, from Illinois. My report is on page 36, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. BURTON: Commander, Kenny Burton, Department of Indiana, NEC. My report is on page 37, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. REMINGTON: Barry Remington, NEC, Iowa. My report is on page 38, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. SMITH: Alan Smith, NEC, Kentucky. My report is on page 39. I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. HOECHERL: John Hoecherl, NEC, Michigan. My report is on page 40, and I ask for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. LEE: Good morning, Commander. Robert Lee, NEC, Department of Missouri. My report is on page 41. I move for its adoption at the proper time.
MS. VORHIES: Good morning, Commander. Sandra Vorhies, NEC, Department of Ohio. My report is on pages 42, and I ask for adoption at the proper time.

MR. BARRINGTON: Good morning, Commander. Dennis Barrington, NEC, Wisconsin. My report on page 43, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. I will entertain a motion to accept District IV reports.

MR. STUDEBAKER: So moved, Studebaker.

PNC BROWN: Commander Brown, Ohio.

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion has made by Chris Studebaker, Illinois. Seconded by PNC Brown, Ohio, to accept District IV’s reports. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Those opposed, same sign?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. District V.

District V

MS. WAIT: Good morning, Commander and NEC body. My name is Mary Wait, and I am the district commander for V. My report is in the book on page 44 and 5, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

I will also add that my NEC for the Department of Kansas is not attending because of illness, very significant illness of his spouse, Sharon Shippy. His name is Larry Shippy, and so he is unable to attend. And I move for the adoption of his report at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MS. WEHRLI: Deborah Wehrli, Department of Nebraska, alternate NEC. Due to our NEC for Nebraska passing away, Mr. Lloyd Christner, I have submitted a report, and my report is on page 47. I move for its adoption at the proper time.

MR. STROM: Murray Strom, NEC from North Dakota. My report is on page 48. I would like to add we are adding a post in Lisbon, North Dakota, that will be coming on line here within the next month. And I move that you accept my report at the proper time.

MR. LUMPKINS: Bobby Lumpkins from the state of Texas, NECman. My report is on page 49. I have an amendment to put. We have a Post 133 that has started delivering travel trailers to veterans all over the state of Texas. And they are going to try to go national next month.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. We have heard the reports from District V. Entertain a motion to accept these reports.

MR. HOECHREL: Hoechrel, NEC, Michigan, makes a motion to accept all District V reports.

COMMANDER BROWN: Is there a second.

(Chorus of “second.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion and second to accept District V reports. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. District VI.

District VI

MR. WHARTON: Good morning, Commander. Charles Wharton, National District VI commander. My report is on page 51. I would like to point out 2 paragraphs at the end of my report for the record.

As of my last report, the new Department of Hawaii was struggling was to make the 500-member mark in their second year. New Mexico had closed their largest post and needed to revalidate another 5th post, all the while striving to conduct a membership drive to regain the necessary 500 members for the department.

They have both been successful. There are now four posts in unorganized Idaho, and it seems very likely they will have by December five chartered posts to apply for a department charter.
I have nothing but compliments for all those involved in these endeavors in one of the most difficult of environments. And I would like to point out some leaders who have made this possible.

At national: Harry Neal, Carolyn Taylor Harrison, and PNC Jim King. At District VI, Duane Herman, Steve Bird and Glen Skinner. In Hawaii, Commander Lazarus and all his department staff, and in New Mexico Commander Tommy Knight, Executive Director Rick Young, and all their post commanders.

And of course none of this would have worked without oversight by Joe Chenelly and you, 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 e-mails.

I would ask for my report to be accepted at the proper time. In the absence of the Department of Hawaii, New Mexico and Oregon, I also request their reports in the book be adopted at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you.

MR. OLIVER: Don Oliver from the great state of Alaska. My report is in the book, and at the proper time I move for its acceptance.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thanks, Don.

MR. NAGY: Charles Nagy, Department of Arizona. Our report is on 53. I hope that it will be accepted at the proper time.

MS. HOLGUIN: Good morning. Heidi Holguin, California. My report is on page 54. I ask for it to be accepted at the proper time.

MR. BIRD: Steve Bird, Department of Washington. My report is on page 62. I move for its adoption at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: We have heard the reports from District VI. Entertain a motion to accept these reports.

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

COMMANDER BROWN: Second?

MR.: Second.

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

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Those opposed?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. Commander Heun, you are up.

National Officers’ Reports

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: Thank you, Commander. My report is on page 66, and I would request that it be accepted at the proper time.

2ND VICE CMDR MCLEAN: Good morning, Commander and delegates. My report is on page 67. I move for its adoption at the proper time.

3RD VICE CMDR CLARK: My report, short report, is on page 69. And I move for its adoption at the proper time.

National Judge Advocate’s Report by PNC Jim King

PNC KING: Good morning. My report is on page 74. Before I move to accept it, I would like to read one short excerpt from it.

We will be presenting amendments to our constitution and bylaws aimed at providing guidelines in case of another national emergency or pandemic such as we have had the past two years.

I want to personally thank Terry Corson, Paul Shipley and Dr. Charles Kissel in putting these together. I move for my report to be accepted at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Finance Officer Stream.

Committee Reports Finance Committee by Don Stream

MR. STREAM: Good morning, everyone. The National Finance Committee met yesterday morning and yesterday afternoon here. We also met in person in Youngstown, Ohio. Working with National Executive Director Chenelly, National Controller White and several others from our National Headquarters staff, we have developed and bring to you today a balanced budget for the 2022 membership year.
PNC KILGORE: Good morning, Commander, and good morning, NEC. The foundation had a meeting on Tuesday. My report is in the book. I just wanted to give you a couple of highlights.

The National Service Foundation accomplished --

COMMANDER BROWN: VAVS.

PNC KILGORE: Oh, but it says -- I am talking about the book.

COMMANDER BROWN: I am talking about your VAVS report.

PNC BROWN: Okay, excuse me. I was going by the book. VAVS: There has been no national -- we had a meeting of the NAC but it was done virtually and you know how much that gets done, even though we did have an NEC meeting that way.

Nationally with the VA, I don't think it worked too well. And the VA locally has not allowed outside volunteers to come in and volunteer for the last two years. We still do some things, you know. We have taken donations by and dropped them off but that is all they will let us do.

So there is not a great lot to report. There are still some hours we have accumulated but there is not a great lot that has been happening with VAVS. I can't tell you the name, but they have changed the name of the VAVS program in the VA to a title about seven words long.

Along with that, and the fact that I am president of the National Service Foundation, I am not going to accept an appointment to be the National VAVS rep anymore. I have had it for 13 years. I have enjoyed it but I don't feel right being the president of the board that finances the VAVS programs, so I am not going to accept it again.

So with that I move that VAVS officer’s report be accepted. Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER BROWN: Is there a second?

MR. WHARTON: Charles Wharton.

COMMANDER BROWN: Second by Charles Wharton, Washington state. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. Ms. White from our finance office will be giving the budget report.

(Pause)

COMMANDER BROWN: We will just take a couple minutes’ break until they get the door closed.

(Pause)

COMMANDER BROWN: Now can we hear? We are still going to continue with the wall. Going into national staff reports now. Cherissa Jackson, you are up.

MS. JACKSON: Good morning. My report is on page 81, I believe. There are no changes to that report, Commander Brown. So I hope you will adopt it at the proper time.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. Miles, you are up.

MR. MIGLIARA: Good morning, Commander Brown, Mr. Chenelly, national officers, and NEC leadership. My report is on page 87. I would like to read a quick excerpt from it regarding Rolling to Remember.

As many of you know, Rolling to Remember was quite a success. We saw more than 10,000, 12,000 -- I think throughout the entire weekend probably about 13,000 people in the parking lot that weekend.

Nationally we accommodated CNN, Fox News, Getty Images, Yahoo, Reuters, NewsMax, and those are only some of the national media outlets that we were able to reach out to or had reach out to us about the weekend.

A lot of the same was in 2020 as well but, you know, this year with an actual, physical, tangible ride, we definitely attracted as much if not more than we did in 2020 as far as local and national media.
A budget that remains quite conservative but also provides for our National Headquarters to return to a reasonable and much-needed staffing level.

The past 12 months have been a long road with big challenges around every curve but we have navigated it well, and I am proud to say that we are back in great shape financially.

As you can see in the financial report sent to you, each of you, and outlined in my written report on page 75 of the NEC book.

In fact, despite huge drops in revenue and added expenses for several months last year because of the pandemic, the National Headquarters bottom line is now in the best shape I have ever seen, and well in the positive but we also recognize that we can’t celebrate too early on this and move away from our conservative fiscal approach.

from our conservative fiscal approach.

The National Finance Committee received the annual independent staff audit earlier this year, and it was impressively clean. I can confidently report that we are on a high, right track with day-to-day operations managed and executed well.

Our finances are in good shape. The 2021 budget was built with very slim margins, extremely low spending relative to past years, low projected revenues, reduced staff, and National Headquarters was already at bare-bones staffing levels before the reductions.

Nearly no travel for the first half of the year. Having our March NEC meeting virtually instead of in Baltimore saved us about $35,000, the average cost of an NEC meeting, plus savings for your departments. But we have increased services to veterans and their families.

We built the 2022 budget knowing that we are still living in an unpredictable time in history, but we also know veterans will continue needing services. And AMVETS has been there for them in the past and especially in crisis management: mental health, VA claims assistance, jobs placement, food distributions, and advocacy on Capitol Hill.

The proposed budget before you today contains the resources needed for the organization to meet those needs. Over the past year, we have found ways to do even more with even less. We should all be proud of that.

Through careful planning, I believe we successfully weathered the worst, but we need to get back to growing our organization. I am confident we are on the right track to do that, and working hard we can get this done together.

Commander, this concludes my report, and I move for the adoption of the proposed budget.

One thing on the proposed budget: On your page 207 under membership recruitment, we have $20,000 that is allotted for that. Well, we in the budget committee yesterday, we broke that down into $17,000 for that, and $3,000 for the women’s female veterans’ recruitment programs.

So it is the same amount of money, $20,000. It is just broken down on two different line items.

With that, Commander, I would move for the adoption of my report.

COMMANDER BROWN: Mr. Kilgore, are you prepared to give your report now or -- oh, I am sorry. We will accept the officers’ reports and Don Stream.

MR. : Commander, is there any way we can turn up that microphone? We can’t hear a word you all are saying up there.

COMMANDER BROWN: They are going to close the wall herein just a second.

MR. : We can’t hear anything.

COMMANDER BROWN: Is there a motion to accept the officers’ reports?

1ST VIC CMDR HEUN: I make a motion to accept the officers’ reports as printed or read.

COMMANDER BROWN: Dana Dillon, second. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: All opposed?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. Now we will have Mr. Kilgore.
The overall perception of Rolling to Remember was very positive considering what happened January 6. A lot of that did not get associated with AMVETS, which is terrific.

Rolling to Remember was the event. What we found through some of the inside reports that were screenshot here, AMVETS was the more associated name and the more reached out name than Rolling to Remember itself, which is terrific. A lot of times people know the event but they don’t often know who is hosting the event.

I just wanted to convey to the NEC how much we on staff appreciate your understanding, your support and flexibility over the past two years. I just want to let you know and let our staff know how proud of them I am. They have been fantastic throughout all of this, and I hope their level of support has been apparent to you and to those you represent. I could not ask for a better team to be working with.

I move for the adoption of our reports at the proper time, Commander.

COMMANDER BROWN: Thank you. I am going to point out something in Joe’s report. And it goes to Miles too. We had 1.5 billion, that is with a b, media hits with Rolling to Remember. And if he said that, I am sorry. I couldn’t hear you, Miles. You had your mask on.

But I think that is something significant to report, and it would have cost us over $15 million to pay for that kind of recognition throughout the staff. So good, bad or indifferent, Rolling to Remember, for anybody in here there?

This is my report -- that is part of my report, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

**Executive Director’s Report by Joe Chenelly**

MR. CHENELLY: Good morning again. My report is on page 79. Our National Membership Director’s Report is on page 84. Our national service director, who is out there prepping up the under-secretary for benefits right now, is on page 86.

And while Rolling to Remember was obviously the spotlight, you know, raising awareness for POWs/MIAs, suicide prevention, it’s great to know people associate especially those two things, raising awareness for those two issues, with us.

We arguably received more national attention than local attention. I can’t promise that will be the same in 2022 but we saw a lot of success in all aspects: the ride itself and then the media and communications aspect of it.

This is my report -- that is part of my report, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

**National Service Foundation Report by PNC William “Bill” Kilgore**

PNC KILGORE: Good morning again. Sorry for the mix-up. The foundation report is on page 76. I am going to highlight a couple of things that are in it, which are very important and things that we were able to do with all the shutdowns and pandemics.
For those of you who have not met Carl Jackson yet, he was hired two years ago when I first came on board as our facilities manager. And I am going to say this right now. And if I hear it again, I will beat somebody. He is not the janitor. He is a building engineer. He has saved our organization thousands of dollars by renegotiating old, stale contracts that have been around forever and a day.

He has got us better services at a lower price. He takes good care of our building, and our building hasn't looked this good in forever.

And I will say something wonderful about our janitor Larry, who has been there longer than pretty much anybody. He comes in every night, every night he came in and sanitized that building, whether we were there or not and made sure that we were in a safe, healthy environment this whole time.

Those are the people we don’t recognize very often because they come out behind the scenes but trust me, I am there all the time, and they are very, very much appreciated. And I would like to add that to my report.

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: Can I get a motion to accept the Commander's report?


MR. : Second, ---, Ohio.

1ST VICE CMDR HEUN: I have a motion; I have a second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, signify by aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

IST VICE CMDR HEUN: Opposed, like?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Now we will go into old business. Is there any old business to bring before this body? Mr. Piening?

PNC PIENING: Commander, Joe Piening. Before we go into old business, are we going to have the proposed budget to be accepted at this NEC?

COMMANDER BROWN: I thought we did that with the Finance Committee Report, with Mr. Stream's report. We can take questions right now though, if you would like.

PNC PIENING: Well, as a member of the Finance Committee, I know the answers to the questions I am going to ask. But I would like to ask our finance director what was the train of thought on four particular items.

And the first one was membership dues. The second one is corporate sponsorship. And the third one is sweepstakes. And the fourth one is heritage income.

Those particular items have been, you know -- in my mind, like I said, I know the answer, but I want all the members of the NEC to know the answer. So if they would share their train of thought with us, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. CHENELLY: PNC Piening, if you would stay near the mic. I may need some clarification. The speakers are facing that way. We can't hear it that well on stage.

So the first question was membership. So the decrease in membership dues?

These are based on real numbers of where we are at this point. We are seeing a larger and continued percentage of members transferring to life membership, which, in turn, decreases the amount of annual membership dues we are receiving.

The same with corporate sponsorships. Pretty much everything is coming through the National Service Foundation at this point with our C19 designation, and that is obviously really the way our organization was set up.

The only fund raiser that we run is a sweepstakes, which was your third question, I believe. A sweepstakes, we have aggressively grown that year over year. We have tested different things, different amounts in the ask, and selling tickets for different prices and whatnot.

And we continue to generate more revenue off that, the two times a year that the sweepstakes are sent out.

Was there an additional question or was there additional clarification needed for those?

PNC PIENING: Heritage income.
The National Service Foundation accomplished much or more in this past year than any other year in the history of our organization. And that is always our goal, but to be able to do so perhaps in the world’s most challenging times in recent history was absolutely phenomenal.

Our service foundation owned thrift store operations set gross and net revenue records for each of our eight locations, doubling revenue totals from just a few years ago. This despite restrictions of store capacity, labor shortages and ever-rising wages and costs to do business.

Our thrift stores are now on course to top $2 million for the next revenue income year, which will be the most that our thrift stores have ever done in the history of it back in the late 40s or early 50s.

And even while providing so much, the National Service Foundation has returned to solid financial standing. Our ’22 budget has the best bottom line in at least the past decade. Yet we still are able to fund aggressive growth and services in the coming year, and we are also going to try to do an aggressive thrift store opening program and open some more stores.

This concludes my report, and I move for its adoption. Thank you, Commander.

PNC BROWN: Second, Brown, Ohio.

COMANDER BROWN: Motion made and seconded. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMANDER BROWN: Opposed?

(No response)

COMANDER BROWN: Motion carried.

PNC KILGORE: Daniasha is going to give you some of the highlights of our financial report. Thank you.

Financial Report
Daniasha White

MS. WHITE: Good morning. I am going to start off with our balance sheet for the foundation starting as of June 30, 2021. We have total complete assets at $27,826,394.28, which equals our total fund balance, liabilities and long-term liabilities at $27,826,394.28.

In our income statement as of June 30, 2021, we have total revenues at $6,505,273. We have total expenses at $5,909,054. And we have unrealized gains at $2,762,334. So our bottom line of revenues over expenses is at $3,474,905. So we are in the positive as of June 30, 2021, at $3,474,905. And that concludes my financial report.

COMANDER BROWN: Motion to accept Ms. White’s report?

MR. : --- .

COMANDER BROWN: Motion by Ron Bottomley, Tennessee.


COMANDER BROWN: Second, Deric Everett, Tennessee. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMANDER BROWN: Those opposed, same sign?

(No response)

COMANDER BROWN: Motion carried. Now into old business. Is there any old business to bring before the body?

(No response)

COMANDER BROWN: I am sorry. We forgot my report.

Commander’s Report by Jan Brown

COMANDER BROWN: My report is on page 65. The only thing I would like to add is I would like to thank the staff. It has been a really rough two years. I would like to thank Madison and Justin in the back there.

I did testify before Congress this year via camera and remote. We at least got our word out there. We worked under a lot of difficult circumstances this year. We laid off all administrative staff with the exception of the receptionist because somebody has got to answer the phones, a year ago, and everybody dug in and still made it work.
MR. CHENELLY: Oh, heritage? Heritage has gone out of the business. They have closed. We are presently looking for a new telemarketing company for dialing for dollars, not something we want to do or like to do but we do need to do.

So those are based on what we think will be realistic new numbers with a new company.

PNC PIENING: Joe, thank you very much. I appreciate it. I hope the members of the NEC understand how hard it is to put a budget together for a national organization. For a national organization, certainly anticipated income is a big part of that.

And hopefully we will all get together, and when you get your sweepstakes, send it in like I do.

MR. CHENELLY: The sweepstakes are a lot of fun, especially for our Commander, I think, who gets to call the winner. And we typically do a Facebook live stream as the winner is called. And almost every time the caller thinks that it is a, some type of scam. And we have been hung up on. But once they realize they have actually just won $10,000, the excitement fills the entire building.

PNC PIENING: I cannot speak for every member of the National Finance Committee but if by chance I did win, I would donate it back.

PNC PIENING: It looks like, if somebody on the National Finance Committee, it raises questions, wins the sweepstakes.

COMMANDER BROWN: I understand. But it is kind of an independent type thing, and any of those who have ever seen the giant bin downstairs, one: it takes us days to fill it. And then -- I am sorry, Carl -- but it takes him forever to unload it.

We spent a whole day tearing sweepstakes tickets because when they came from the vendor, they were not torn, and we had an entire staff downstairs ripping tickets. I did buy lunch that lunch.

It is fun time for us. It is a good fund raiser for the headquarters, and we do open it to anybody.

And should that happen that anybody on the Finance Committee wins, I would expect you to donate it back or at least a good portion of it. As I would do.

PNC PIENING: The question is, are members of the National Finance Committee eligible to win?

COMMANDER BROWN: I am sorry?

PNC PIENING: The question is, are members of the National Finance Committee eligible to win?

COMMANDER BROWN: I believe so.

PNC PIENING: I don't want to win.

COMMANDER BROWN: You could always donate it back, Joe.

PNC PIENING: Joe, thank you very much. I appreciate it. I hope the members of the NEC understand how hard it is to put a budget together for a national organization. For a national organization, certainly anticipated income is a big part of that.

And hopefully we will all get together, and when you get your sweepstakes, send it in like I do.

MR. CHENELLY: The convention rules are in your convention journal, if you have had an opportunity to read them. They were sent out earlier. The main changes were just basically time and date. We didn't make any other major changes this year.

So if there are no questions, I will entertain a motion to accept the convention rules.

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

(Chorus of "second.")

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion by Greg Heun, seconded by Art Majors to accept the convention rules. Any discussion?

(No response)

COMMANDER BROWN: Hearing none, all in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of "ayes.")

COMMANDER BROWN: Those opposed?
MS. DILLON: Dana Dillon, NEC, Connecticut. We all voted to have our convention in Pittsburgh. If they have taken care of the transportation, and they have taken care of the food availability, there should be no reason why we can't stay there. We have already made that decision.

Also the fact that the meeting rooms aren't that big, that means we might be able to hear what is going on. Not like here where the room next door, we were in the finance, and the service foundation, and we couldn't hear anything. So I think it being a little smaller might actually be better.

COMMANDER BROWN: Commander Stahl?

PNC STAHL: Arthur C. Stahl, PNC. NEC from Pennsylvania. We are meeting here in NEC now, and this is not even a full NEC. We are missing a lot of representation.

The NEC has to realize that you are sent here by your constituents at home, who have already voted on this position at convention.

I don't think that it is fair to the people in Pennsylvania who have worked diligently to correct the problems that were presented to them, and from I wasn't understand, it wasn't presented at the proper time.

So that is why the Finance Committee made this suggestion. But to stop the people from coming to Pittsburgh, which they voted for, I think is an injustice to all the AMVETS that voted yes to go to Pittsburgh.

I know we have gone to other conventions where we have had trouble with parking, and maybe had to walk a few minutes to a restaurant but this is the first time or the second time we have asked to go to Pittsburgh.

And I know the NEC is a governing body between the conventions, but we are at the convention. And I feel that the convention body are the ones who voted to go to the convention to Pittsburgh. And I feel it is only fair, not to take anything away from the NEC, that this be brought up and voted on at the convention body. Thank you.
COMMANDER BROWN: Convention rules accepted. And Mr. Stream, you are up.

MR. STREAM: The National Finance Committee has met at least four times regarding the previously selected national convention site for 2023. The 2019 national convention body chose the Marriott in Pittsburgh for 2023. After our National Commander, National Executive Director, the Ladies Auxiliary Executive Director and the National Service Foundation’s chief operating officer conducted site visits, the National Finance Committee voted to propose the NEC vacate the decision and remove Pittsburgh from our schedule for 2023.

The meeting space would be very tight. There is not adequate dining capacity in the hotel with just 1 restaurant in the hotel with seating for just 100 people.

There is no on-site parking, leaving parking in an off-site garage and expensive on-site valet parking as the only option.

With Pittsburgh being in a drivable destination for a large percentage of our membership, we believe affordable, convenient parking is a must to meet in Pittsburgh.

At this time, I move to cancel the bid selection for 2023, and for our national convention body this year to select a new site on Friday at the same time we consider sites for 2025.


COMMANDER BROWN: Any discussion? PNC Riley, you have the floor.

PNC RILEY: Thank you, Commander. There has been a lot of talk going on about Pittsburgh being too expensive. When I first arrived here for this convention, I was listening to a couple people talking about parking being $40 a night in Pittsburgh. Well that is wrong. It is $12 a night in Pittsburgh. And we are still working on getting it lower.

We will have shuttle service available. And the hotel has been -- redid some work for a grab-and-go lunch during convention for those who don’t have the time to sit down and eat.

The exhibition hall will hold 251 10-by-10 -- I am sorry. 25 10-by-10 tables. And there is ample meeting space with plenty of room.

COMMANDER BROWN: I am sorry, Commander Riley. Could you come up here? I couldn’t even hear you, and I am standing right in front of you. Could you come up here and speak? Thank you.

PNC RILEY: Can you hear me now?

(Chorus of “yes.”)

PNC RILEY: Once again, thank you, Commander, for giving me the opportunity to speak.

The hotel in Pittsburgh is big enough to hold a national convention, and it is only one hotel.

The map of the city was sent to the executive director outlining where the restaurants are, where the parking spaces are, and the shuttle service to be given to people who need to walk no more than what, three blocks. And if three blocks is too long, the shuttle, it will be there to take people up to the hotel.

The restaurants surround that hotel building within walking distance. No more than five minutes. The parking is not $40 a night. Let’s make that clear. It is $12 a night. And we are still working with the parking authorities to drop it even lower.

The exhibition room holds 25 10-by-10 tables, plenty of room to have the people come in and exhibit their wares.

And there is very much and very many meeting rooms available, and they are not cramping quarters. They are spacious rooms to be able to come in, sit down and not worry about getting cramped up.

I urge you to vote to keep Pittsburgh on Friday as the national convention 2023. Any questions?

(No response)

PNC RILEY: Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER BROWN: The chair recognizes Dana Dillon.
All in favor of canceling Pittsburgh, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Those opposed?

(Chorus of “ayes.”)

COMMANDER BROWN: Motion failed. All right. Is there any other new business to be brought before this body? Yes, Dana?

MS. DILLON: Dana Dillon, Connecticut. I have a question. Is it possible that we can get mics and stuff for the other rooms? And if we can’t, can we at least get it that AMVETS has it so when we have our meetings and our committee meetings, everyone can hear, because that is the purpose of our coming together.

MR. CHENELLY: We will work with the hotel again, especially some of the larger rooms. I went to a lot of the committee meetings yesterday and saw the issues we had.

I think this kind of goes back to the last motion, though. We get contracts. These contracts are proposed. The National Finance Committee goes through those contracts, sees what will actually work for our needs.

Every year I have been in this position, the National Finance Committee comes up with a recommendation, and those include A/V needs. And this hotel doesn’t have enough A/V equipment to supply all the rooms is the problem. And the bid, and what was budgeted, doesn’t meet those needs.

We are to get more where we can. We have been looking at maybe buying some of our own for when we come to some of these situations like this. This audio in here is not acceptable. This should definitely should not be an issue. Certainly we have to have this resolved by our 1:00 joint opening.

But the convention body has gone against the National Finance Committee in their selections every year that I have been in this position. I don’t know how we remedy that because obviously the entire convention body can’t get to the point where they can do site visits or really go through the details of a contract. That is something that the Finance Committee is wrestling with at this point, how we can maybe better convey the differences between the contract proposals.

COMMANDER BROWN: Does that answer your question, Dana?

MS. DILLON: To a point, but if in our contracts we have A/V stuff, if AMVETS headquarters already owns it, that is one thing they don’t have to pay for every time they go, and we know we are having a convention every year.

So I think it would behoove us to purchase the equipment and just bring it to each convention so we don’t have this problem.

COMMANDER BROWN: We are trying to keep a balanced budget, and Ms. White back there keeps us pretty tight. So we will put Sabrina on it and she will find the most expensive or least expensive one out there.

Good and Order

COMMANDER BROWN: All right, good and order? Or announcements?

(Pause)

COMMANDER BROWN: No announcements? No good and order?

MR. STUDEBAKER: Commander, I would just like to announce Chris Studebaker, NEC, from Illinois, that I will be a candidate for the Finance Committee at the post-NEC. And I would like to ask for everybody’s support.

PNC PIENING: Commander, Joe Piening, NEC, a PNC.

And I will be running for re-election to the National Finance Committee at our post-NEC. And I would appreciate your support.

MR. JOHNSON: Commander, I am Horace Johnson, the treasurer for the National Service Foundation. And I will be running for the national third vice commander and I am asking for your support.
MR. THOMAS: Commander, Curtis Thomas, Texas. I would like to ask for your support for Bobby Lumpkins for third vice commander. He will be an excellent addition to our unit. Thank you.

PNC BROWN: Madam Commander, J.P. Brown III. I presently serve on the National Service Foundation, past national commander. And I am running for re-election to the National Service Foundation.

Not only would I appreciate all of your support, but I would appreciate your vote also on the floor. Thank you.

PNC RILEY: Commander, I will just repeat what Mr. Brown said. I am a candidate for a seat on the National Service Foundation, and I look for everyone's support. Thank you.

MR. SHIPLEY: Commander, I am Paul Shipley. I am the immediate past department commander of Pennsylvania. And I am a candidate for the national third vice commander. I would appreciate everybody's support. Thank you.

MR. VANNATTA: Commander, National Fourth District Commander VanNatta. I would like to announce I am running for the one-year term for the service foundation board off the NEC floor at the post-NEC meeting.

MR. SMITH: Alan Smith, NEC, Kentucky. I would like to announce that Greg Heun will be running for national commander. (Applause)

MR. MAJORS: Commander, I would like to announce that I am going to be running for again for this position. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: All right. One more year, Art. Any other announcements?

MR. FERGUSON: Commander, Randy Ferguson from the great state of North Carolina. Thank you all for being here today.

I would like to announce that Bill Clark is -- what is it? Third vice? Second vice? I don't know. You have run for so many things, Bill. But I would like to announce that Bill Clark is running for second vice, and we would like to give him a little push.

COMMANDER BROWN: One more here.

MS. DILLON: Dana Dillon, Connecticut. District I has a hospitality room, 1768, in the first tower. We welcome you all to join us after 5 p.m. this evening.

PNC KING: Jim King, national judge advocate. And like Art, I am running one more time.

COMMANDER BROWN: And so you know, the only thing I am running for is the door on Saturday. Not that I haven't loved every minute of what I am doing but it is time to go home and take care of my husband and my dog.

Chaplain? Any other announcements or --

MR. PEACEY: I would like to announce that Don McLean is going for first vice commander. We would like your support in getting Don up the chairs. Thank you.

COMMANDER BROWN: All right, Chaplain?

Benediction by Chaplain Gary Sallade

CHAPLAIN SALLADE: I would just like to remind the district commanders, your presence is requested at this afternoon's memorial services for the procession of states so please, if you can't be there -- it is at 3:00 p.m. If you would appoint somebody to be there from your district, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

A short verse from Philippians, chapter 4. I can do all things through God who gives me strength. Shall we pray.

(Prayer)

Honors to the Colors by Provost Marshal Art Majors

MR. MAJORS: AMVETS, attention. Hand salute.

COMMANDER BROWN: We are now in recess.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.)
Hello, AMVETS Nation,

First of all, I would like recognize everyone involved with keeping our AMVETS organization going strong to help our veterans! One of my hopes this coming year is to continue to work as a family, AMVETS, Auxiliary, Sons, Juniors, and Riders, to promote the mission of this organization. Further, I fully believe and support the message that without our parent organizations, AMVETS Riders could not exist! As Riders, we are members of our parent organization FIRST!

Additionally, Riders are looking forward to our Mid Year Rally, the last weekend of April 2022, at Post 48 In De Soto Missouri! I wish to extend an invitation to all! Post/Chapter 48 definitely knows how to host a great event and get-together. (Although, it is my home post; I may be biased!)

We are also excited to join the AMVETS in planning, preparing, and executing the second (public) annual Rolling to Remember demonstration ride in D.C. this coming Memorial Day. I have attended the RTR event for the past two years, and it is with great pride that I am able to share those experiences with fellow AMVETS, Veterans, and patriots. The ride itself is a humbling experience. The focus on POW, MIA, and 22-a-Day is something dear to all of us.

The Riders Nation is committed to helping the AMVETS make RTR bigger and better each year. Our vests are our mobile billboard. The more Riders we can recruit, many traveling cross-country, the greater our national exposure and the demonstration of pride we have for this organization and cause.

Some numbers:

Riders Membership: 4 new Chapters/29 new members since August Convention
145 Chapters in 28 states
2540 Riders
410 Supporters
2950 Total Members

Riders Programs: $2,326,234.49 (January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021)
$5,470,269.26 (2021, YTD)

Bouncing back from COVID has been tough on all of us, but we have buckled down and marched on to help our Veterans, and we are still here for them with our full support!

LRB/LRS
John Reando, RNP
jreando@amvetsridersnational.org