

NATIONAL AMVETS RIDERS CONVENTION

August 25,2023

Larry Saad, NSAA-stated that Phones should be off and keep conversations to a minimum. This is a national convention not a Department convention so keep your comments relevant to issues on the National level.

Julia Leatherwood one of our oldest Riders was in the house. Julia is 89 this year and rides trail horses, and rode to RTR

Attendees: John Reando, RNP, Dan Macdonald, RN1V, Natalie Cummings, RN2V, Paul Spuhl, RNT Jim Whitcraft, RNJA, Larry Saad, RNSAA, Jermiah Botkin, RNC, Tom McNamara RNP8, Mary McCarthy, RNS, William Sifford, RNCO, Craig Anthony, RNPO

Past National Presidents: George Cummings

Department Presidents: Florida, James Merritt, Georgia, Kevin Ashe, Dan Bloem, Indiana, Ron Marah, Iowa, Harold May, Jr. Kentucky, Brandan Erskine, New York, Barb Cruse, Ohio

The Meeting was called to order with an Invocation and Pledge of allegiance followed by the reading of our Mission statement.

Roll Call of Officers and Department Presidents as well as the Past National Presidents was taken.

Guests in attendance: Nicole Jordan, President and founder of women's Glamping in Maine. She is a US Army veteran who travels the nation for quilts of honor. She started 3.5 years ago Veteran Women's Glamping. There are less than 350 retreats for women and thousands for men.

She brings these women veterans to Maine and pays for all their expenses. She spends the entire year fundraising to pay these expenses. Just because service time is over doesn't mean they are forgotten.

44 is the new replacement for 22 everyday. 22 is just the women. She thanked us for our time and asked us to do a fundraiser. We need to show these female veterans that we care and save each of them from being a statistic.

The convention rules were reviewed by Jim.

Casey made a motion and 2nd by Brandon to accept to accept the convention rules. Motion was carried.

Kendall Ashe sent a thank you note for the scholarship that was awarded.

National Officers' reports are in your book.

John asked that you have your department report form filled out to help speed things up.

Hambone made a motion and Casey 2nd motioned to accept the reports as written. Motion was carried.

No Unfinished business.

New Business: Don from AMVETS came to tell us that the meeting will resume in the morning.

Anthony spoke about mid-year rally at Circleville (2256)

SOP- that are recommended by the national board regarding Riders officers who leave their post for another cannot retain their office We are Asked to adopt the SOP's. Motion by Florida, 2nd New York was

passed by the group saying you can not hold a Riders office if you are not a member at that post.

1st Roy, NY, and 2nd by Snake from Kentucky to lose your vote if they are not up to date on their 990's and revalidation. Motion was carried.

Resolutions were voted on.

01-2023 allows Trike and Sidecar to be included as approved Rider vehicle -Motion by Bloem and 2nd by Barry Bridgerton . Motion carried.

02-2023-Motion to adopt Cruse and Dan Bloem,2nd, motion to approve amendment was carried.

03-2023- SOP's go to JA. No revalidation will be accepted without your SOP. Motion by JR May and 2nd by Snake to adopt was carried.

04-2023-Department who send SOP's must go through to the National JA. Motion by Snake-Kentucky, 2nd by JR May to adopt. Motion carried.

05-2023 -At mid-year rally the body agreed to rotate the mid-year event with a change in verbiage for time frames. Form to be filed prior to mid-year for the following year.

Motion Hambone, Florida, Erskine from New York, and the Motion carried

06-2023 Sets up the authority to set up an AMVETS Riders honor guard and uniform criteria.

Motion JR May, Kentucky and Kevin Ashe from Georgia. Clarification is that it is a separate uniform only to be worn for an honor guard.

Motion was passed after discussion.

13.13-Only the following patches.

Eliiminate 10" Patch and use 8" or 12" only.

Motion by

Cruse Ohio, and 2nd by Ga. Ashe for honor guard to be formed locally with specific information on Uniform. Motion carried with 1 nay

<https://www.amvets.org/military-funeral-honors>

Suggestion by T. McNamara to amend the amendment to remove the bottom rocker. Motion by Kevin Ashe and 2nd by Dan Bloem . Motion carried.

National Commander, Don McClean came on the floor. He stated that the Riders rock and he was impressed with the participation at RTR. He encourages anyone who can go to it should go. He thanked us all for the fundraising we do all year. He read a story in Readers Digest about people who complained about bikers to show how riders can be misunderstood. He presented a check for our President's project. He also threw out the first pitch at the ball game last evening.

John made it clear that the Commander was straight from the heart and a huge supporter of all the Riders do for the organization.

Motion by Erskine from NY and 2nd by Hambone to hand in reports and not read them. Motion carried.

Dan-Chapter revocation-On July 15 there were 9 chapters not in compliance. 3 are left but 2 are folding. There is 1 left and membership committee voted to revoke their charter (Hawaii).

Motion Dan Bloem and 2nd by Casey Macdonald, Iowa to revoke their charter. Motion carried by the body. While we never want to do this, it sends a message, especially since they are repeat offenders.

Hambone Florida. He handed out information on Mid-Year Rally.

Kevin Mattson who is the national chair for Everyday 22spoke. AMVETS passed a resolution for each subordinate chapter to create committees and be a liaison to Everyday 22. The numbers per the VA is 17. That number went to 27 during COVID. Kevin will share his story. All you do is ask.

The program works. Now it's just not AMVETS. His information is on the National AMVETS website as well as the Dept. of New York web page. 6 Million from Lifetime membership will go to National Service Foundation.

Paul Spuhl-Finance committee voted to have a national expense for travel to our chapters. The committee decided to purchase a side by side to raffle to raise money for travel expenses for National officers. Drawing in Florida at Mid-Year Rally.

Awards: Quality chapters are: Florida 2, 9, 26, 33, 42, 81, 86, 444, 1992. Georgia 10 Iowa 31, 49, 82, 49 and 82. Ind. 12, 13, 2919 and 82621. Ky 61, 123 and 125, along with a department certificate for all 3 chapters winning quality awards. Mich. 1988 and 2273, Missouri 1, 6, 30, 106 and 188. NC 845 and 905. NY 48, 245 and 6472. Ohio 21, 26, 44, 45, 76 and 2256. Texas 23. Quality Department is Kentucky.

Membership Largest chapter- Ohio 76.

Largest Dept-Florida

Largest chapter growth by numbers, Ohio 76- +41

Largest Dept. Growth by numbers Indiana-+70

Largest chapter growth by % Texas 36.

Largest Dept growth by %-Georgia

Dan thanked everyone for their hard work growing Membership.

Programming-Most improved chapter by membership-NC 905

Chapter of the year based on Membership 2415 Florida

Chapter of the year-Reporting Chapter 44 Florida

Dept. of the Year based on Membership-Indiana Ohio was only \$20 behind

Over \$15 Million in reporting which is over twice what was reported last year.

Dept. of the Year in program reporting-Florida

Natalie developed the program that made our reporting what it is by being able to track it easily. Thanks to our Legendary Riders.

Supporter of the year. Monica Gilardi from Florida 1992

Rider of the Year-Amy Hueffmeier, Mo 180

Department Rider of the Year-Harold "JR" May

Special Recognition 2023 Gold Star-Jeremiah Botkin

Presidents Choice award-Lori Barton

Presidents new Vest was presented to John Reando. He said he hoped he did his job well.

The Guardian award will be presented for 2025 to Tom McNamara. Tom's message of hope was spread to so many veterans.

The Juniors came on the floor. The outgoing President, Joyce Para. Her theme was suicide awareness. Newly elected Aiden Dolf is President. He introduced his newly elected board. John presented the outgoing President with an AMVETS Riders sweatshirt.

Ken motion and 2nd Kevin Ashe to adjourn followed by an invocation from Jeremiah and salute by SAA.