

2016 NATIONAL RIDERS CONVENTION
MEETING MINUTES
Sparks, Nevada

Meeting called to order on August 13, 2016 at 2:00pm PT

Invocation by Heather Stretar, Riders National Chaplain. Pledge of Allegiance led by Don Clifton, Riders National Sergeant-At-Arms. Mission Statement read by Don Cox, Riders National President.

Roll Call: Out of 9 Departments, 6 were in attendance with a total of 7 delegates: Florida (2), IA (1), KY (1), MO (1), NY (1) and OH (1). Chapter delegates totaled 24, waiting on 5 more that registered as delegates. A recount of delegates will be performed later in the meeting due to some may be attending the AMVETS, AUXILIARY and SONS swearing in ceremony. Roll call of national officers: All were in attendance.

JA, Jim Whitcraft: Called for a motion to adopt Convention Rules, motion made, 2nd and passed.

The reading of the last minutes: Motion was made, 2nd and passed to adopt them as posted on National's website.

OFFICER REPORTS:

National 1st Vice, George Cummings: We have 98 chartered members; we have 1837 Riders and 287 Supporters. We lost 3 chapters: FL1939, KY67, and OH1985. MA208 is suspended for not submitting a revalidation form. The following chapters DID NOT receive Quality Chapter recognition: AZ770; CA96; FL34 & 81; IA2 & 6; MO98; OH95, 112, 1776 & 2003; and PA187. All other chapters did meet the criteria for Quality Chapter for 2016. At the Membership Meeting it was suggested to develop an SOP to accept MAL (Members at Large). Our CBL's do not allow a MAL to join a rider's chapter, they must belong to a post first. DRF's (Dues & Remittance Forms): Chapters with a department will submit them to their departments. Departments will submit them, with a dues check, to National. Those chapters without a department will submit them, with a dues check, directly to National. The largest Riders Chapter is FL2. Motion was made, 2nd and passed to accept the 1st Vice's report.

National 2nd Vice, Tom McNamara: We have 121 chapters. Out of those 121, 88 reported and 33 did not. Percentage reported: 72.72%. Out of the 9 Departments, 4 were 100% reported: GA, IA, KY and MO. At the end of June, we had reported 4.95 million dollars. We are working on getting a drop-down menu on the "Reporting Programs" site under the "Riders" tab with specific programs in relation to the Riders. Motion was made, 2nd and passed to accept the 2nd Vice's report.

National Treasurer, Dan MacDonald: Working on SOP for his position in case anything ever happened, then someone could pick up where he left off. Want to find a certified person to do an external audit. Travel Expenses: Policy changes include appointed officers will be reimbursed for all expenses when required to attend meetings. Expenses for appointed officers cannot exceed what elected officers receive. All national officers have their own credit card so they can make their own reservations. When booking flights, can add flight insurance also as long as it's under \$25. The Finance Committee

recommends adoption of policy on use of the credit card. We are setting goals for the future. We are 1 year solvent; want to build that to 2 years solvent. Checking on getting a 501(c)3. We are way under budget. Budget was for \$45,240. We used \$25,000. Our checkbook balance is at \$57,529.13 which includes a \$15,000 CD. None of the fund raiser monies and some of the dues money have not been deposited yet.

Budget: At \$2 per member, we have \$4000 which we started last year as the Membership Choice Veteran Support Fund. I have a proposal and would like the body to vote: I'd like to take that \$4000 and put \$2000 into the Death Benefit Fund and \$2000 will go to whatever the President would like it to go. Motion made, 2nd and passed.

2016-2017 Budget: Add the Death Benefit Fund of \$5000 and the Scholarship Fund for \$5000 (award 5-\$1000 scholarships). Motion made, 2nd and passed to accept the Finance & Audit committee reports.

National Judge Advocate, Jim Whitcraft: No report at this time.

National Sergeant-At-Arms, Don Clifton: 990's Report: If your EIN has been revoked you cannot get a new EIN-you must reinstate the old one. It's illegal if you are not doing your 990 annually. Motion made to accept report, 2nd and passed.

National Chaplain, Heather Stretar: She explained the duties she performs as national chaplain. Motion made to accept report, 2nd and passed.

National Communications Officer, Kathy Campbell: Reported on social media policy. She has 759 emails that she sends blasts to. She only has 35 that come back as bad email addresses. Motion made to accept report, 2nd and passed.

National Publications Officer, Kelly Webber: She has our website up and running. Changes on how dues and remittances will be processed, updated forms. Motion made to accept her report, 2nd and passed.

David Strittmather, Past National Son's President, was introduced. He stated that the AMVETS are taking notice and are pleased with what we are accomplishing. He also is impressed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Department of FL President, Jenna Clifton: Florida currently has 25 chapters, 615 members. Working on forming 2 more chapters.

Department of IA President, Natalie Cummings: IA-49 hosted the mid-year rally. It was very productive. They had 100% reporting programs.

Department of KY President, Kristin Orem: Started a new chapter. Working on 2-3 more. Currently have 5 chapters. Programs reporting was 100%. Give donations to various charities; 22-Everyday being a big one.

Department of MO President, John Reando: Has 379 members, 13 chapters, started a new chapter this past year.

Department of NY Past President, Kevin Matteson: NY has new officers, 160 members strong, had 100% reporting.

Department of OH President, Joe Grose: OH has 17 chapters, lost 1. Working on improving programs reporting; only at 64% reporting now. Working to increase membership. Fisher House Foundation is a big charity for them annually. Raised \$5250 this year.

Motion made to accept reports from the Departments, 2nd and passed.

Delegate count was rerun at this time. 29 chapter delegates on the floor. 7 department delegates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS TO BE VOTED ON:

1ST Vice – Dues Remittance standard policy; Matrix policy & Members at Large (MAL). Having a problem with people joining the AMVETS as MAL. The AMVETS aren't checking their credentials; therefore we have no way to check their credentials. Motion made to accept the recommendation of the committee 2nd and passed. The last thing is the scholarship fund which has already been added into the budget. There will be 5-\$1000 scholarships awarded per year. A standard form will be used and the scholarships are for AMVETS members and immediate family (Riders and Supporters). It will be defined as to what constitutes immediate family. Motion made to accept recommendation of the committee, 2nd, discussion was whether it would include grandchildren. Amendment was made to include grandchildren. Question was asked why include grandchildren-because some of the grandchildren belong to the Junior AMVETS. It was voted on and 2nd that grandchildren would be included-motion passed.

2nd Vice – Long Range Plan (LRP) – The LRP is posted on our website (amvetsridersnational.org). It is a 17 page document on where we want to go in the future. Motion to accept the concept of this living document. 2nd and passed. Final copy will be available at mid-year in Missouri.

JA – Unified Constitution & By-Laws – Have 2 resolutions. At mid-year, 2015, it was brought up to come up with unified CBL's to be used by National, Departments and Chapters. In Birmingham Convention it was voted on to do it. It has been developed over the past 10 months by a committee. We are asking you to adopt this as a concept to move forward. Changes will be made with resolves next year. Resolution #001-2016 is the Unified Constitution. No major changes were made. Recommendation of committee is to adopt this. Motion to adopt, 2nd –discussion: (1) numerous errors; suggested we rework this document, instead of having many resolves next year. (2) The old document gave all power to national; this new document takes power away from national and gives it to the departments and chapters. (3) We need to build upon this document and work on it yearly. JA: This document was taken to the National JA in March 2016 and they are 100% for us going in this direction. This is a revolving document. The main difference with this document is that we'll be working under 1 document. Motion to adopt, 2nd and a hand vote was taken with the majority being 24. Motion passed.

Unified By-Laws: Resolution #002-2016. Allows consistency within the riders. Recommendation of committee is to adopt this. Motion made, 2nd, no discussion, hand vote with the majority being 24. Motion passed.

President, Don Cox: There were 2 directives this year to the state of Iowa. The floor has to ratify those directives. JA: Concerning the embroidered back patches in IA. Came about when we had a teleconference with the NEC in January 2016. Two department presidents asked us to take care of the

issue with the IA vests. They were not in compliance. A directive was sent out giving them a time-line to come into compliance. They have been given until April 15, 2017. We are asking for a vote to support our directive. Motion made, 2nd, no discussion, passed.

President-Don Cox: Asked for a motion to move from regular business to nominations and election of national officers. Motion made, 2nd and passed.

Nomination for Judge Advocate: Jim Whitcraft was nominated at mid-year. Any other nominations were asked for; hearing none, nominations were closed. Jim Whitcraft accepted position.

Nomination for Sergeant-At-Arms: Don Clifton was nominated at mid-year. Any other nominations were asked for; hearing none, nominations were closed. Don Clifton accepted position.

Nominations for Treasurer: Dan MacDonald was nominated at mid-year. Any other nominations were asked for; hearing none, nominations were closed. Dan MacDonald accepted position.

Nominations for 2nd Vice: Tom McNamara was nominated at mid-year. Any other nominations were asked for; hearing none, nominations were closed. Tom McNamara accepted position.

Nominations for 1st Vice: George Cummings was nominated at mid-year. Any other nominations were asked for; Vince Stretar was nominated; nominations were closed. Nominees for 1st Vice (George Cummings and Vince Stretar) gave a speech on why they felt they deserved the votes of the membership. Both were escorted out of the room. A hand count was taken. George Cummings received 33 votes. Vince Stretar received 7 votes. George Cummings is chosen as the 1st Vice.

JA-Jim Whitcraft asks for nominations for President. Don Cox was nominated at mid-year. Hearing no other nominations, it was closed. Don Cox accepted position.

A motion was made to cast 1 vote for all uncontested offices. Motion made, 2nd and passed.

GOOD AND WELFARE: The following awards were given:

Chapter Programs Reporting for 2015-2016IA49
Department Programs Reporting for 2015-2016.....Department of IA
Membership Award for 2015-2016.....Department of FL
Chapter Rider of the Year for 2015-2016.....Mike Bush, GA12
Department Rider of the Year for 2015-2016.....John Reando, Department of MO
Awards for Appreciation: Kathy Campbell, National Riders Communications Officer
Kelly Webber, National Riders Publications Officer
Karen Cox, National Riders Secretary
Heather Stretar, National Riders Chaplain

The raffle tickets were drawn for the I-Pad and the Gun Raffle.

The newly elected officers were sworn in by President Don Cox. Don Cox was sworn in by PNP Rob Quick.

Motion made, 2nd and passed to adjourn.

Benediction by Heather Stretar; Colors were retired.

Karen Cox
Riders National Secretary
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