



AMVETS RIDERS
CONVENTION RULES
2018

I - REGISTRATION

The following Rules for the National Convention have been presented to the National Executive Committee during the 2018 Mid-Year Rally Meeting and have been adopted as the governing procedures for the Annual National Convention. These Convention Rules will be presented to delegates for adoption by a majority vote at the start of the Convention.

1. **Pre-Registration:** The National Secretary shall send each Chapter and Department official convention registration materials and instructions of the registration process. **Each delegate, alternate, or national officer may pre-register no later than August 1st prior to the start of the convention. Those submitting pre-registration via U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than August 1st prior to convention start date. If not registered by the aforementioned date, delegates, alternates or National Officers will register at convention at the on-site rate.** Chapter and/or Department Revalidations are pre-requisites to acceptance of Chapter and Department pre-registration requests by the Credentials Committee at the National Convention.
2. **Membership Transfers:** A member who has transferred from one Chapter to another must be a member of the new Chapter for at least six months prior to the opening of the National Convention to be eligible to register as a delegate or alternate at the Convention.
3. **Registration at the National Convention:** To register at the National Convention, a delegate, alternate or National Officer must be a member in good standing on the National membership rolls for at least 30 days prior to the opening of the National Convention.
 - Chapters must be chartered no later than 1 May of each year to be eligible to vote at the National Convention.
 - At the registration desk, **each registrant will complete the Registration Form, present a valid membership card with a current Rider membership sticker and government-issued photo identification card.** Those non-members wishing to register as a “guest are required to present a photo identification card.
 - Registration fees will be as follows:
 - a. **Pre-registration will be postmarked no later than August 1st prior to start of convention.....\$10.00**
 - b. **On-site registration (all registering at convention).....\$20.00**
 - Once the credentials have been verified by the Credentials Committee and payment is received, the registrants name shall be entered in the registration data base; and the registrant will receive proof of registration, unless the respective Chapter or Department has not been revalidated as required by the AMVETS Riders National Constitution.

All accounts payable or any other requirements for accreditation must be settled prior to registration.

 - a. Members of the AMVETS Riders who are AMVETS and are attending the National Convention must register as an AMVET as well as the AMVETS Riders. Must show Proof of registration with the AMVETS.
 - b. Past National Presidents are not required to pay a registration fee.

Note: Delegate’s convention registration fees are non-refundable.

Convention Registration Desk: All National Convention registration will be conducted at the registration desk only, according to the schedule below.

NO REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11 AM SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

(Those in line at 11 am will be registered)

THE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR REGISTRATION ARE:

All Times Are Local Florida	Date	Times
Thursday	9 August	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Friday	10 August	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Saturday	11 August	10:00am to 11:00am

II -DELEGATE STRENGTH

As defined by Article 5 delegate voting strength is defined in the following manner:

5.1 The National Convention shall be comprised of the following:

A.) Each Chapter shall be entitled to two delegates and two alternates for its first 50 members or fraction thereof. Thereafter, a Chapter shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for each additional 50 members. The Riders National Headquarters will determine the total number of delegates per Chapter based on the Chapter Dues Remittance Forms as of the 1st day of July each year.

B.) Each Department President shall be a delegate.

C.) Each member of the National Executive Committee shall be entitled to vote. All Riders Past National President shall be entitled to one vote collectively at the National Convention, provided the member's Chapter and Department are in good standing. The National President shall vote only in the case of a tie.

5.2 Elections will be held at the Annual Convention, at a location to be announced no later than one hour prior to the start of the Convention. The voting will be done by hand or by voice.

5.3 Nominations of Officers will be made from the floor at the regularly scheduled general membership meeting prior to the Annual Convention.

III- THE MEETING

1. A minimum of twenty-five registered voting delegates shall be required to constitute a national convention. In excess of 50% of the delegates registered at the national convention must be on the floor of the convention floor to constitute a quorum.
2. Except as otherwise specified by these rules, Robert's Rules of Order, shall govern the proceedings of this National Convention.
3. At the general meetings of the convention, delegates and alternates shall be seated by Departments and Chapter, other AMVETS Riders members or guests, who are registered, but not delegates or alternates, shall be seated in a separate area as designated by the National President.
4. The Chairman shall preserve order and shall call upon the National SAA and his deputies to assist him, if necessary. The chairman shall require adherence to these rules and shall decide questions of order and procedure, subject to the decision of a majority of delegates present and voting on the convention floor.
5. The order of business shall be determined by the chairman in accordance with the published agenda of the convention.
6. Delegates, alternates, and guests must have proof of registration prominently displayed to be present on the convention floor.
7. DRESS CODE FOR AMVETS RIDERS NATIONAL MEETING WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:
 - A. Riders Unadulterated Beret and in the proper color.
 - B. Black Boots or Black Shoes.
 - C. Riders Patched Vest or a plain unadulterated Black Vest
 - D. Red AMVETS, Auxiliary, Sons or AMVETS Riders Dress Shirt/Long Sleeve or Short Sleeve.
 - E. Black or Blue colored Jeans, slacks, or Black Skirts in Good Condition.
 - F. A Riders Patched Jacket or plain Jacket as stated in Article 13 may be worn.
8. To assist in minute preparation and floor control, each delegate desiring to address the Convention body shall proceed to the nearest numbered microphone and wait to be recognized from the podium. Upon recognition, the delegate shall clearly state for the record his/her name, Chapter number and Department. The National SAA assisted by Deputy SAA's, shall maintain order at the Microphones.
9. The National SAA shall be assisted by such Deputy SAA as the National President appoints.
10. Instances of disorder or misconduct by a Riders member shall be reported to the National SAA. Upon request of the National President the SAA shall investigate the matter and refer offenders(s) to the floor for dismissal from the Convention if so warranted.

IV – RESOLUTIONS

1. No resolution shall be discussed on the Convention floor unless it has been previously considered by appropriate National Convention reporting Committee(s). Resolutions originating from the Convention floor will be read and referred by the chairman to the appropriate committee. Copies of such resolutions shall be provided to each Chapter for

review prior to consideration by the Convention body. In any case, no formal vote shall take place on any resolution originating from the Convention floor until minimum of one hour has expired after reading to the assembled body.

2. All resolutions originating at the National Convention shall be typewritten, submitted in proper resolution form, and duly signed by originator or appropriated National Committee Chairperson.
3. Each Convention reporting committee shall consider only resolutions in which the subject matter pertains to the duties and functions of that particular committee. Resolutions that a committee does not consider its proper charge shall be referred by such committee to the proper committee. All resolutions received by the Resolutions Committee shall be assigned to one or more appropriated National Committees. The Resolutions Committee shall take no further actions on resolutions other than assignment or reassignment. Decisions involving the assignment or reassignment of resolutions by the Resolutions Committee shall be final, including the return of a resolution to the committee to which it was originally assigned.
4. All Committee Chairpersons or their designated committee representatives shall be present on the Convention floor during the consideration of resolutions to report committee recommendations. Absence of a committee chairperson or designated committee member will not preclude final action on resolutions considered by that committee, including resolutions originated by that committee.
5. All resolutions shall be treated as main motions and shall require a second in order to be considered. Upon receiving a second, the Convention Chairperson shall open debate by requesting the considering committee(s) recommendation. If the recommendation is negative, the committee spokesperson shall state the reason for such recommendation. After committee recommendations, the Convention Chairperson shall open discussion to the delegates.

V-DEBATE

1. Debate shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker. No more than five speakers on each side of a question shall be permitted to speak upon the same subject except by unanimous consent of the Convention Body.
2. Total debate on any subject shall be limited to one hour. However, debate on a resolution may be extended to a greater time by majority vote of the delegates present on the Convention floor, and the time allotted shall be evenly divided between the proponents and opponents of the resolution. The floor shall be permitted only one time to any individual delegate on any subject except by unanimous consent of the delegates present, however, a delegate who originally proposes a matter may be accorded on minute rebuttal.

VI-VOTING

1. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. An alternate shall have all the rights and privileges of their delegate except they shall vote only in the delegates' absence. No delegates vote will be counted unless he/she can present valid proof of their registration.
2. Voting shall be by voice or standing vote at the discretion of the presiding officer, except when a roll call is ordered by the chairperson or upon request of at least five (5) Chapter delegations.
3. Each Chapter shall select a chair person who shall announce the vote of his/her delegation. When any delegate thereof entitled to vote demands the roll call of any Chapter/Department delegation, the Credentials Chairperson, using the registration file, shall call the roll of Chapters and the names of the delegates appearing therein. As each delegates name is called, he/she shall then be required to announce his/her vote at a floor microphone so that it may be officially recorded. Subject to the above limitations, any voting delegate of the Convention may demand a count of any delegation thus casting its vote for the sole purpose of determining whether an equal number of voting delegates present on the convention floor supports the announce vote. If there are fewer delegates present on the floor than the votes announced, then the Credentials Committee shall use the registration file to poll the delegation(s) to obtain the correct count.
4. Votes cast by a Chapter cannot be challenged after the next Department has been called.
5. Unit rule and proxy voting will not be permitted.

VII-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Each reporting committee chairperson or his/her substitute shall present a report of that committees meeting to the Convention body for approval.
2. The Credentials Committee shall report orally at the beginning of each session of the Convention and whenever called by the presiding officer. A final report shall be submitted to the Riders National Executive Secretary for the permanent records.

VII-NOMINATIONS

1. Duly registered delegates shall make nominations and supporting speeches for National Officers from the floor, except that nominations and supporting speeches for National President may be made from the podium.
2. Nominations and elections of National Officers shall be conducted in the following order:
 - National Judge Advocate
 - National SAA
 - National Treasurer
 - National Second Vice President (Programs)
 - National First Vice President (Membership)
 - National President
3. Nominations and seconding speeches for National Officers other than the National President shall be limited to two minutes each. Nominating speeches for National President shall be limited to five minutes each. Not more than two seconding speeches may be made on behalf of candidates for National President and one such speech for candidates for other offices.

4. Persons wishing to be nominated for office, but unable to be present during nominations shall make such wishes known, in writing, to the Credentials Chairman. Such request shall include a statement that the person promises, if elected, to fulfill the duties of the office to the best of his/her ability, be duly signed and dated.
5. Persons wishing to be nominated for a Riders National Office shall provide a summary of their qualifications and a written/typed, signed and witnessed statement that they met or exceed the minimum requirements to hold a Riders National Office as outlined in the pre-required criteria policy of the AMVETS Riders National.
6. No person shall be nominated for, or accept a nomination for more than one (1) National Office.

IX-ELECTIONS

1. Election of all National Officers shall be by delegates present and voting on the convention floor. After the second ballot for any office, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped on the succeeding ballot. Following each ballot thereafter, the candidate receiving the fewest votes will be eliminated from the ballot and balloting will continue in this manner until one candidate receives the majority of the votes cast.
2. A candidate elected to and accepting a National Office shall be ineligible for nomination or election for any other National Office.
3. All voting shall be by hand or voice. If a roll call vote is requested no Chapter may change or correct its vote or be challenged by a delegate of that Chapter within the same ballot after the next Chapter has been recognized. A Chapter may pass, however, when first called upon to vote.

X-SUSPENSION OF RULES

1. A section or sections of these rules may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present on the floor if such suspension is not in conflict with the National Constitution and By-laws.

XI-MISCELLANEOUS

1. Posting of banners and signs (except the signs placed by the Convention Committee designating the seating arrangements for Departments) in the Convention Hall is prohibited, as well as, in those areas prohibited by hotel and convention center management.
2. A permanent file shall be kept by the Credentials Committee of the proof of eligibility of candidates to be attested to by Credentials Committee Chairman or Co-Chairman and one other member of the Credentials Committee.

