



AMVETS NATIONAL RIDERS

14 Reid Pl., Palm Coast, FL 32164

Minutes of National Convention 8-10 August 2024

Prayer, Pledge, Our Mission Statement. National officer roll call-JR May excused, all else present. PNP attendance: PNP3 Bruce McElhaney, PNP6 Don Cox, PNP7 George Cummings, PNP8 Tom McNamara, and PNP9 John Reando. Delegate count 61. Convention rules done at Mid-Year Rally need to be ratified. Motion, 2nd, passed. If at any point, we need to deviate from the convention rules it will take a motion and 2/3's majority vote to change them.

Motion to accept the previous minutes as published, 2nd, passed.

REPORTS:

Survey was given to some members. Lots of feedback on how we can improve as a board. We will start having 1st Vice, 2nd Vice and JA calls every other month, on opposite months as the president's calls. There are concerns about R2R. Sent email directly to Joe Chenelly about these concerns. We can't get better without your input.

Introduction of guests: The Sons commander Bobby Bryant gave a donation to the president's project. He helped during R2R, giving direction while in DC. Gave Bobby a donation to him personally. After losing everything from his house being broken into. Donation was \$1000.

1st Vice Report: I would like to recognize senior member Julia Leatherwood. We have 3,068 members. Natalie created a database. This database will make it easier to submit your rosters and pay dues. More info by the end of year.

2nd Vice Report: Over \$29 million reported. After many problems with the new system, it should be up and running by September 30th.

JA Report: Only 1 resolution was sent in. It came from Florida, that passed. Need to work on some sops. Previous JA resigned. Glad to get things back to straight.

JP Brown, National Service Foundation President: Service Foundation purchased a building in Washington PA. They are converting it into a Veteran Family Resource Center. Looking at starting with 8 apartments. To be used for vets and their families. Have applied for state and federal grants. Ohio charities have donated \$100,000 towards remodeling of the building and \$50,000 from another source and since we've been here, we've received nearly \$30,000. I am asking for a donation from the Riders. A plaque will be put on the wall of the center with names of donors. This is the 1st in the country. If this works out, you could see more around the country. Thank you very much.

990's Report: George Cummings and Bruce McElhaney, John Reando chaired. Jason in IN is using an email alert system. It will text them if a chapter has failed to file their 990. Motion made to accept 990 report, 2nd, passed.

Gold Star Committee Meeting The meeting was productive on how to move forward for Gold Star mothers. Awesome job collecting donations. Spent \$15,000 on buses and dinners. We have more left over so we're looking at ways to spend the money on them that weekend and do more for them. Will discuss with the board. My report is in the book.

Secretary Report : Everyone have a great time and be safe.

Publications Officer: I take care of the website. If there is anything that's incorrect from chapters or departments, let me know so I can fix it.

Communications Officer Thank you for sharing your events on FB, that's how word gets out. Great jobs putting these events together, planning, organizing, coordinating. Everyone should have a brochure in their pocket to show when you are out and about. If you need some let me know and I'll get them out to you.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FL- 804 Members, \$6.8 mil reported, have a new website.

GA- Don't know our programs reporting amount. Have a new chapter 621. We have a ride scheduled in September for veterans.

IN- 10 chapters, 323 members. Riders are 259, supporters are 64. Programs is \$302K+. Participating with community. Chapters are riding together, camping out, dinners.

IA- 188 members, 146 riders. All chapters are doing good. Raising \$\$, poker runs, cookouts, raffling off ATV we won at Mid-Year. Doing things for the community.

KY- JR May is excused.

MI- Not in meeting.

MO- 400 members, 12 chapters, possibly 2 more. Just under 2 mil in programs. Just had 2 riders pass from diff chaps, 180 and 188.

NY- 9 chapters, 189 members, 169 riders, 20 supporters. Will have a few more chaps by next year. Our posts are very scattered, so it's hard to do rides together. Dept NY raffling off a cooler.

OH- 433 riders, 83 supporters, 516 total. Added new chap, total 17. Working on another. Ride on 23d or 24th this month. Mid-Year Rally is at Circleville OH, chapter 2256.

WI- 3 chapters, 57 members, riding together more, and doing fund raisers.

PNP Reports: PNP3 Bruce McElhaney: Nice to be here and see the growth.

PNP6 Don Cox...no report

PNP7 George Cummings Just want to say, I'm proud of the riders. The growth, the camaraderie. Out there beating the streets. We're going in the right direction.

CBL Committee: Resolution on page 14 in the book. Adopted and passed.

Tom wants to add sop to national sops. Upon completion of the term, the national president will receive full rights and privileges of a past national president. If term has not been completed either voluntarily or involuntarily, all rights, privileges and benefits of past national presidents are forfeited. There was a motion, 2nd, and turned down with the nay's getting a majority vote.

Membership: nothing to add.

Programs: nothing to add.

Finance Committee: Audit was done. It turned out great.

Long Range Planning Committee: Modernizing the Long-Range Plan by incorporating what we've talked about with the database and things of that nature. It was suggested that everyone take the current one that's on the website, download it and take it to your SEC and discuss what you would like to see. We want input from the body, where do you want the organization to go or what are some things that we need to be doing as the National to advance the riders. In the next 30 days we'll have a new one on website.

Gold Star Family Committee: Nothing new to add.

Motion to accept all reports, 2nd, passed.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business:

AMVETS Charity Resource Center needs some money motion made to donate \$5000, 2nd, passed.

FUND RAISER: It's on page 28-29 in the book. Don Cox PNP6 will be running it. Tickets are \$10, anyone buying \$100 worth will receive 2 extra tickets.

GOOD OF THE NATION: Final round of nominations and elections will be Saturday August 10th at 8am.

AWARDS: Most amounts reported is Chapter-FL444. Most reporting Department of MI. Most reporting values are Chapter OH-44, and the Department of FL.

Personal Awards: for supporters and riders of the year. Supporter of the year is Hollye Colbert. The chapter rider is Kelly Dotson. Department of the Year Rider is Corey Irish. 2024 largest department is FL with 782 riders. The largest chapter of the year is OH 76. Department with largest increase is GA. Largest chapter increase is FL 86

President's Award: The Department of OH. They have increased their membership; they know the meaning of sisterhood/brotherhood. They have made a family out of it.

Quality chapters: **OH** 1994, OH51; **NY** 6472, 2000, 18; **MO** 106, 6, 113; **MI** 2273, 171, 1988, 1978, 93; **IN** 82621, 2919,11,12; **IA** 82; **FL** 292, 2415, 113, 44, 33, 2298 2001, 7, 312; **TX** 23, 36; **AZ** 770

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, passed. Prayer and retire the colors.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024

Prayer then pledge. The delegate count is 73 in attendance. 50% + 1 is 37.

Opening the floor with 2nd round nominations.

Nominations for President: Dan Macdonald accepts, Natalie Cummings accepts. Dan gave his speech and pulled his nomination. Natalie Cummings is President.

Nomination for 1st Vice: Paul Spuhl accepts. Paul Spuhl is 1st Vice.

Nominations for 2nd Vice: Kurt Knechtle accepts, Robert Whistler, declines. Kurt is 2nd Vice

Nominations for Treasurer: Jason Dolf accepts, Craig Anthony declines. Jason Dolf is treasurer.

Nominations for SAA: JR May accepts, John Hipps accepts, JD Dotson accepts.

Nominations for JA: Tom McNamara accepts.

Cast 1 vote for all uncontested positions: 1st, 2nd, and JA

Hand vote for SAA. JD Dotson elected.

Special guest: Mike Inman was the 1st recipient of our Guardian award.

The following are the newly elected Officers: **President** Natalie Cummings, **1st Vice** Paul Spuhl, **2nd Vice** Kurt Knechtle, **Treasurer** Jason Dolf, **JA** Tom McNamara, **SAA** JD Dotson.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, passed. Prayer and Retire the Colors.

Karen Cox, RNS