AMVETS

FALL 2022

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 3, 2022

REPORT BOOK

SERVING AMERICAN VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES FOR MORE THAN 77 YEARS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fall 2022 National Executive Committee Agenda 2

District I Commander 3

District II Commander 8

District III Commander 13

District IV Commander 19

District V Commander 28

District VI Commander 32

Leadership/Staff Reports 37

AGENDA

AMVETS Fall 2022 National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting

District I Commander
Connecticut
Delaware
Maine
Massachusetts
New York
New Jersey

District II Commander
D.C.
Maryland
North Carolina
Virginia

District III Commander
Alabama
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
South Carolina
Tennessee

District IV Commander
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Missouri
Ohio
Pennsylvania

District V Commander
N. Dakota
Kansas
Nebraska
Texas

District VI Commander
Alaska
California
New Mexico
Washington

Leadership/Staff Reports
National Commander Don McLean
National Auxiliary President Karin Simmons
1st Vice Commander Bill Clark
2nd Vice Commander Horace Johnson
3rd Vice Commander Paul Shipley
National Judge Advocate PNC Jim King
National Chaplain Milton Allen
National VAVS Representative PNC JP Brown

National Staff Reports
National Executive Director Joe Chenelly
National Service Director Michael Black
Chief Medical Executive Cherissa Jackson
Acting Membership Director Carolyn Taylor-Harrison
National Programs Director Carol Hebert
National Communications Officer Miles Migliara

Report of Albert J. Duff, NEC
Department of Connecticut

National District I

Membership

Membership continues to come in steadily. AMVETS Post 45 has reached 100% renewal. Membership Director Douglas Newell continues to work with our post in getting memberships renewed.

Programs

Many posts have continued getting their reports to me which in turn I submit to the National AMVETS. Many of our programs continue to be very active. Some of these programs include Operation Gift Card, Take a Vete Fishing, and Veteran Stand Downs. AMVETS Post 47's Military Funeral Honor Guard continues to be very active.

Service

VAVS activities are still not up and running due to continued restrictions at our VA hospitals. We do continue to support our Veterans that are in nursing homes.

Upcoming Events

Our Post throughout the state are planning their Veteran Day activities. they are also planning activities for Pearl Harbor Day and Wreaths Across America. AMVETS Department of Connecticut will host the next National District One Meeting which will be held on November 18th, 19th, and 20th at the Marriott in Windsor, Connecticut.
We are excited that our National Commander will be attending.

Legislative

With Elections fast approaching, We in Connecticut will be watching closely for the results. A lot has been accomplished over the last few years and we want to see that trend continue into 2023. We in Connecticut continue to receive Legislative updates from the National AMVETS as well as from our Legislators.

Other

The AMVETS Department of Connecticut would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Many will celebrate with family and friends. But let us not forget those who will not have that opportunity as they continue to serve our country in allparts of the world. Remember to keep them and their families in your thoughts.

Membership

85%

Programs

All posts have been doing fundraisers 2 ROTC cadets to attend Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge.

Service

The Department has assisted numerous Veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Upcoming Events

trip to Vietnam memorial in April 2023 veterans day ceremony.

Legislative

Department and Posts are actively involved on the National and State level with Legislators.

Membership

THE DEPT. OF MAINE CONTINUES TO GET ALL THEIR POSTS TO PUSH TO HAVE ALL THEIR ANNUAL MEMBERS RENEW. WE ARE AT ABOUT 70% FOR ANNUAL RENEWALS. IT'S BEEN HARD TO GET POSTS BACK ON LINE WITH MEETINGS. WE ARE SLOWLY GETTING MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS IN.

Programs

THE DEPT. OF MAINE CONTINUES TO STRIVE TO GET ALL POSTS BACK ONLINE TO REPORT ALL PROGRAMS. OUR 1ST VICE IS TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH IT, BUT BECAUSE OF THE VIRUS IT 'S HARD TO GET MEMBERS TO SEND THEIR REPORTS IN.

Service

THE DEPT. OF MAINE CONTINUES TO WORK WITH THE MAINE VETERANS COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO HELP FIGHT FOR ALL VETERANS IN THE STATE. WE ALSO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE STATE DEPT. OF VETERANS SERVICES AND OUR VA HOSPITAL TO HELP
VETERANS.

Upcoming Events

THE DEPT. WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL PEARL HARBOR DAY CEREMONY ON DEC. ALSO OTHER POSTS ARE HOLDING LOCAL CEREMONIES.

Legislative

WE'RE CONSTANTLY CHECKING ON ANY NEW VETERANS BILLS THAT CONCERN VETERANS.

Communications/PRO

THE DEPT. OF MAINE CONVENTION WAS HELD JUNE 3-5 AT THE HILTON GARDEN INN, RIVERWATCH IN AUBURN MAINE.

Other

THIS IS MY REPORT AND I MOVE FOR IT'S ADOPTION AT THE PROPER TIME.

Report of Raymond Kowal, NEC
Department of Massachusetts

National District I

Membership

Membership is going very slow. Our overall numbers are down post pandemic. We are doing our best to get the word out there about our mission and goals. Gaining new members is of the utmost importance and continues to be our top priority.

Programs

Some programs are up and running at full speed while others are a work in progress. We held our annual fishing derby for veterans with invites being sent out to all VA facilities within the state. Hudson Post 208 along with our state department officers attended the event and it was a great success. We are supporting events the best we can at all facilities across our commonwealth.

Service

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Upcoming Events

As I write this, we have a group led by AMVET Jim Chartier doing their 90 mile walk across the state. This is their 7th year of doing it and trying to bring veterans' concerns to our state house and to the citizens of our state. He starts the walk at AMVETS Post 12 in Chicopee and ends it on the stairs of Beacon Hill Statehouse.

Legislative

We have the ever watchful eye on our state legislatures to ensure the veterans needs are being met here within our commonwealth.

Communications/PRO

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Other

Our State Honor Guard has presented colors for the Boston Red Sox, Celtics and the Bruins. They are working on being able to hold a 50/50 raffle at some of these events also for a way to raise funds for our department.

Membership

Commander Emery Perry has been working with all the Posts to purify all our rosters by doing a little housekeeping. As part of our recruitment program, we can forget about our women veterans Cmdr. Perry has asked each Post to strive for a 10 member gain. Remember our team motto "together everyone achieves more". WE need your help to be successful.

Programs

Our VAVS reps and volunteers are still locked out of many of our V A hospitals not permitted to visit our fellow veterans. VAVS reps still go to the hospitals to drop supplies .

In July we attended the remembrance day at Fort Drum to honor all the veterans who gave their lives in support of our country. Our AMVETS RIDERS (more than 100 New Yorkers) had a great showing at the Memorial Day celebration/parade in Washington DC.

Service

Our women's rep has been researching the homeless women's situation. In a single night 40,000 veterans were homeless, with 9% being women. There are many factors, however, PSTD/MST are the driving forces for our women. fishing tournaments for our veterans & their families

Upcoming Events

New York's next SEC meeting will be March 10-11,2023 at the Doubletree hotel in Binghamton, NY 607-722-7575. The State convention will also be at the Doubletree June 10-11,2023.

Legislative

None Known

Communications/PRO

None Known

Other

None Known

Report of John R. Cooper, NEC
Department of New Jersey

National District II

Membership

Membership cards were mailed to NJ Posts along with Membership Incentive Plan

Programs

Waiting to hear if Gloucester Twp School will hold their annual Americanism Program.

Service

Fred Vineyard - VA Accredited VSO continues to assist Veterans with filing for benefits.

Upcoming Events

In Somers Point...
November - Veterans Day
December - Pearl Harbor

Legislative

Continue to support New Jersey and Congress bills to assist Veterans

Other

Unknown

Report of Aaron J. Smith, NEC
Department of District of Columbia

National District II

Membership

The Department has accelerated our goals for the coming year. Our goals such as recruiter of the year, one member recruiting one new member, etc. which were delayed last year because of the COVID-19 has been reestablished.

Programs

The Department continue providing funds each month to the District of Columbia Veterans Administration Medical Center (DCVAMC) Volunteer Service, which are to be used for Comfort Kits, Voluntary Services Discretionary Funds and Dental Funds. Johnnie Collins Jr. Post #008, Monthly DC VAMC Community Living Center bingo has changed since the outbreak of the pandemic. The Post is now donating money for the hospital to finance the games instead of physical participation.

Service

Post #12 is responsible for five (5) universities and institutions that have ROTC programs in the District of Columbia, they continue the great relationship with the American University, Catholic University of America, Georgetown University, George Washington University and The Institute for World Politics. There was no ceremony this year due to the pandemic, but the cadets that were due to receive awards did get them. The awards were presented to Major Brian Marcotte, Commander of the ROTC Consortium Program. The DC Post #109 is advancing a goal to begin a Post Women's auxiliary by the first of the year.

Upcoming Events

District of Columbia Veterans administration hospital Washington DC is hosting Winter Haven Day this year at the Medical Center. This year the Medical Center has targeted 300 homeless veterans and will provide them with winter clothing. Because of Covid-19 no volunteers can attend. However, DC AMVETS will make a financial donation. The Department will host their Annual Seniors Citizens Christmas Party for the Seniors at Greenleaf Senior Center, 1200 Delaware Ave SE Washington DC.

Legislative

Unknown

Communications/PRO

Unknown

Other

Members of this Department teamed with the Combined Military Retiree's Associations of the District of Columbia and delivered Thanksgiving Baskets to Military Veterans Widowers in the DC area.

Report of Andre R. Martel, NEC
Department of Maryland

National District II

Membership

I am very pleased to report that the Department of Maryland achieved a 100% membership rate during the past year (2021-2022). Strong efforts by several Post Commanders and 1st Vices were definitely responsible for this achievement. Although off to a sluggish start, we look forward to another successful year in 2022-2023.

Programs

Programs kick-started in FY 2022 with an upspurt in AADAA, Americanism, and Scholarship programs. We were able to award $8,000 in academic scholarships while presenting awards to multiple grade entrants for both AADAA and Americanism. We were thrilled to be notified that we have multiple national-level award recipients in those categories. Well done by all the entrants and by our programs administrators at Post and Department levels.

Service

We continue to keep in touch with our hospitalized and ailing veterans across the State and at multiple VA centers. While visitations are still restricted, we continue to provide entertainment, gifts, social activities, and support (monetary and otherwise) to several locations. We continue to participate in monthly virtual call-in sessions with VA centers and continue two-way communication between those centers and the veterans we serve.

Upcoming Events

The holidays are right around the corner and multiple events are planned at each Post and in service to several VA locations. The Thrift Store holiday celebration will be held again this year in Laurel, Maryland which is not only a festive evening but an opportunity to support approximately 15 different charitable organizations with gifts from the Thrift Stores and matching donations from the Department of Maryland. The Department continues to conduct Executive Committee meetings, now mainly in person although virtual attendance is also allowed in the new hybrid format.

Legislative

Bills will be introduced into the legislature in January and, while no pre-filings are currently available, we anticipate a dozen or more bills will concern veterans and aid to veterans across the State.

Communications Pro

None known

Other

Congratulations to SGM James Childs, Jr. who officially retired from the District of Columbia National Guard after 25 years, 7 months, and 7 days of service. SGM Childs is also the Post Commander of AMVETS Post 115 in Lanham, MD and represents the Department of Maryland on the Maryland State Veterans Commission. Congratulations “Big Sarge”!!

Report of David Wilburn, NEC
Department of North Carolina

National District II

Membership

Our Department is still around 2,200 veterans. We are still working on retaining members. Not many younger people interested.

Programs

Our Department has several posts involved with programs. Just to mention a few. We are placing flags on graves of veterans for Veterans Day. One post had a Stand Down. We are getting our JROTC medals and certificates to each post. Golf tournaments were held this summer and fall to raise money for posts.

One post is having a drive thru hotdog meal on Veterans Day. So we are busy with programs. The Honor Guard is always working and looking for new members.

Service

VA Hospitals are still closed for most volunteers. When they reopen we can get back to helping the veterans.

Upcoming Events

January 13-15,2023 DEC. Clemmons, North Carolina.

Legislative

The Department of North Carolina is attending our state veterans council meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina. No other Legislative activity at this e.

Communications/PRO

Unknown

Other

We are very excited about the rumors of one or two new Amvet posts.

Report of John Cooper, NEC
Department of Virginia

National District II

Membership

Our Department 1st Vice Commander has been working with the MAL's list to move membership to local Posts.

Programs

Our Department 2nd Vice Commander has continued to provide monthy reporting of programs to National HQ's

Service

The Department will sponsor and participate in the Wreaths across America this fall. One of our Post has worked with the Department to collect food and donations for our fellow AMVETS impacted by several disasters.

Upcoming Events

As always, all of the Posts in the Department will hold holiday events for fellow AMVETS and Veterans.

Legislative

Department has been instrumental in getting a position approved and funded for a Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services Director. This has been a major effort within the Department for the past three years for Suicide Prevention programs.

Communications/PRO

None known

Other

At the last District II meeting, the major item was contacting staff at National HQ's. Our Department Officers need that ability to do their jobs.

Report of Charles R Doubek, NEC
Department of Alabama

National District III

Membership

Post 001 maintains contact with current members to inform, update and gather feedback.

Post 021 is continuing to strive to meet their goal of 100 members. Membership retention is 94% and they are averaging 1.5 new members per month.

Post 23 is working on getting the remaining unpaid members up to date.

Post 2018 has 48 Members on the roster, 56 in the Ladies Auxiliary, 29 AMVETS Riders and 19 Sons of Amvets.

Programs

Post 001 is planning a Veterans Resource pamphlet for veterans in their community. They also publish a Quarterly Newsletter and reach out to members in need.
Post 021 veteran support activities incudes but is not limited to: lawn mowing, military funerals, the Flags over Athens program, an Annual Horse, Pony and Mule Show fundraiser, driving veterans to medical appointments, working at the Athens Veterans Museum and fundraising for the Post.

Post 023 has a Rattlesnake Rodeo fundraiser each year and honors a Police Officer of the Year from the surrounding communities. There is a Spring fundraiser is held each year. Post 2018 has logged 1,165 service hours resulting in a total program value of $60,170 during the five-month period from January 1st through June 10th, which includes $10,000 from the Riders Chapter.

Service

Post 23 members do volunteer work at the Veterans Memorial Scenic Overlook though out the year and continue to work on the placement of a handicap access ramp at the site. The Post takes part in an ROTC Awards program for local schools. On Memorial Day flags were placed at over 700 graves in the local area.

Post 2018 does monthly visits and programs are conducted at the William F. Green VA Hospital. Post members volunteer weekly to help a non-profit Veterans Indoor Yard sale to raise funds for 501c19 Veterans organizations. Bi-weekly maintenance is provided for a neighborhood commons area partially owned by Veterans. The Post has been meeting with a local Boys Scout troop to assist them with a new charter to be sponsored by AMVETS Post 2018. A Memorial Day Celebration and shrimp boil was held on 5/30/22 with over fifty people attending.

Upcoming Events

Due to COVID restrictions Post 001 does not have any in person events scheduled. However, Zoom membership meetings are scheduled.

Post 021 holds a veteran's breakfast on the second Saturday of each month, participates in the Flags over Athens on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veteran's Day. Fundraising and membership drives occur at the Post every Friday. The Themed Dinners, Karaoke Night and the Speaker Series have resumed.

Post 2018 will hold Bingo every week on Thursday nights. Fish fry's will be held each Friday night. Monthly visits to the W. F. Green Veteran's Hospital will continue. The annual Veteran's Day Parade will be held in Elberta and flags will be placed on Veteran's graves. The Post will participate in the Town's Thanksgiving Dinner and provide gift cards to Veteran families in need.

Post 023 has a monthly meeting every 2nd Thursday and a Quarterly newsletter is sent to the membership. A Veteran's Day Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Opp Senior Center.

Legislative

Information concerning Congressional Legislation of interest to Veterans is being communicated to the Membership.

Other

Uknown

Report of Lucius Brandon, NEC
Department of Georgia

National District III

Membership

Department of Georgia membership is off to a good start. The Department of Georgia has seen its membership increase since the COVID phase has passed. Since October 1, 2022, Georgia has recruited or renewed 166 members to our membership count. Georgia is growing its membership through the free membership program available to all women Veterans using grant money made available to the National Women's Veterans Council.

Though we are making gains, we are still well short of our membership count from 2022. Department First Vice Commander Banks has asked each post to have a membership drive before the end of this reporting period. Department Commander Milton Allen has tasked all AMVETS members to recruit at least one new member so that the Department of Georgia would have more than 2,000 members by June 2023.

At our September SEC meeting, the Department First Vice Commander had a workshop to re-train or teach all First Vice Commanders about the membership program and online system. National Riders Chaplain Jeremiah Botkins and Department President Kevin Ashe have been actively pursuing new Riders and Supporters membership so they can form another Chapter. Commander Milton Allen is continuing his recruiting efforts and encouraging Posts to increase or start a Sons Squadron at their post.

Programs

Department Second Vice Commander Wanda Allen held a workshop during September SEC for all Post Commanders and Second Vice Commanders to inform them of the changes to Programs reporting online. Currently, we have 86% of our Posts reported in this Program reporting period. And with Veterans Day, we expect to have all Posts reporting by the end of November.

Veterans Day proved to be a huge opportunity to accomplish many program hours for the Department of Georgia. Commander Milton Allen participated in Georgia's 41stt Annual Veterans Day Parade. Several other Posts held Veterans Day ceremonies. And other Post members went to visit Veterans that are in nursing homes or are unable to leave their residences.

Legislative

The Department of Georgia is teaming up with NSO Bobby Rand to ensure Veterans know how to take advantage of their benefits using the PACT Act and the listed presumptive. Also, NSO Bobby Rand is making sure our AMVETS and their family members affected by the Camp Lejeune water contamination are getting the proper advice before entering into any agreements with lawyers to file lawsuits.

Other

The Department and Posts officers feels that the communication procedures with National is unacceptable. The Department leadership feels that it is very difficult to reach members of the national leadership. We are receiving newsletters from the Communications department and sporadic communication from the Programs office.

We also believe that the National Headquarters needs to re-evaluate the welcome message for the AMVETS general number. The message should be more professional. If the switchboard operator is overworked and can not handle all the calls, maybe a second switchboard operator is needed. Also, maybe directors and national leadership inform the switchboard operator inform the switchboard operator that they are in their office or not available to accept calls.

Service

The Department of Georgia Service Foundation is still instrumental in supporting Posts with funds to make their upcoming events a success. The Service Foundation recently approved a monetary allowance to make it possible for the Department of Georgia to publish a website.

Report of Alan Smith, NEC
Department of Kentucky

National District III

National Commander McClain, National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS: The AMVETS Department of Kentucky SEC meeting was held on September 10, 2022 at AMVETS Post # 75 Owensboro, KY. With 35 members present. All reports were given and adopted. Minutes of the last SEC, and Agenda were adopted as printed in the News Paper. PNC Heun was recognized as being present. Ladies Auxiliary President addressed the floor, if you want to start a new AMVETS Auxiliary let me know and I will be glad to help we have chartered 3 new Auxiliaries in KY so far this year, also I can help if you want to start a JR's at your post.

The Department IV Commander discussed not using TV lawyers for Camp Lejeune water claims; there were over 700 lawyers recognized to help with that. AMVETS was instrumental in getting all the major VSO's together except the American Legion who wanted to go it alone to get the Pact act passed, Commander wants a letter drafted and signed by all KY post commanders to National HQ stating we want people working at National HQ every day we can never get in touch with anyone about anything, and calls are never returned, computer system is of no use to us and coms are almost nonexistent. PNC Heun addressed the floor, National has approved to get a new computer system up to $500,000, but you can't just buy one off the shelf, it has to be custom designed and programmed for our specific needs and this takes time.

There is a new phone system in place that updated from 250,000 phone calls a day to 1,000,000 phone calls a day to make sure everyone that leaves a message gets their calls returned. Everyone AMVETS, Auxiliary, Sons, Jr's and riders will all be on one computer system, a push has come from all departments to have all AMVETS National employees back to work full time. Department 2nd Vice Commander gave a report: make sure you get your program reports to me so I can get them to National, you can count those who wear red shirts on Friday as 8 hours per person, events with other VSO's, VFW, AL etc. can count as program hours.

JEVCO report was given. We are working on a new veterans nursing home in Bowling Green KY.

NEC report was given and adopted
Finance report was given and adopted

Suicide prevention chairman gave report I can't find or get anything from national, the latest information I could get was from 2020 report adopted. Service officer west gave a report, no staff or medical personnel have died of covid at the veterans nursing homes but 4 patients have, we can't visit nursing homes in person now, but have meetings by email and zoom. The hat was passed and $186.00 was collected for the ladies scholarship program

Son's coordinator addressed the floor membership is down this year, we have done over $58,000 in programs value, we are running a 50/50 raffle to be drawn at the state convention $20.00 a ticket with 3 chances to win, the KY son's received 6 national awards this year, and department of the year 2 years in a row.

Service foundation, Convention corp, gave reports, reports adopted
Post commanders gave post reports all reports adopted
KY Post #125 donated $13,000 to flood victims

Unfinished business discussed hotels for state conventions motion made and 2nd to go to Erlanger KY Holiday Inn for the next 2 years motion passed. New business the next KY SEC will be at AMVETS post 125 Somerset KY on January 14th at 12 noon.

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

Membership

As of Nov. 5 2022 the Department of Louisiana has 5 post with a membership of 914 members, 878 life and 36 annual members

Programs

The Department is at 50 % reporting (some people want to drive the train and blow the whistle but nobody wants to shovel the coal). The three reporting post are reporting 102 volunteers donated 355 hours with a total value of $25076.64. I think instead of moving forward with reporting we are moving backwards. The reporting that system that we are using now is what we used before computers.

Service

Most post are getting ready for Veterans day with fish fries and cook outs. Our Department service officer is actively assisting veterans with issues from filing claims to appeals.

Upcoming Events

Our next SEC meeting will be in Springfield Louisiana in February. Post 68 will be the host post. Dates will be sent out at a later date. Chandler - White Post 7 in Alexandria will be changing the name of their Post to Chandler - White - Polk Dec. 10 and 11 to honor PNC Marion Polk. Information on hotels will be sent out at a latter date.

Report of Kenneth Colby, NEC
Department of South Carolina

National District III

Membership

First Vice Commander reports the Department consists of 404 Annual Members and 921 Life Members for a total of 1325. The Department had a decrease of 58 Annual Members and an increase of 10 Life Members. We have 281 open invoices.

Programs

Programs for the second quarter of 2022 reporting was at 100%. We logged 282 volunteers and 847 hours. Report total was: $35,801.81. Noted programs categories included Fund Raising, Americanism, JROTC/ROTC, Homeless Veterans, Community Service, Membership Activity, Patriotism Flag, Memorial Day Commemoration, Military Funeral Honors, Sick and Hospitalized Veterans and Scouting.

Service

We continue to promote AMVETS with community events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. We support a monthly Veterans breakfast where items and events of interest can be shared.

Upcoming Events

We will have an AMVETS table set up at Doko Park in Blythewood, SC on 12 November 2022 for the Annual Veteran's Day Recognition. Our next SEC Meeting will be held at the VFW Post on Abbeyville, SC on 21 and 22 Jan. 2023. We will be participating in Wreaths Across America at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery.

Legislative

We continue to advise members to follow National Legislative Initiatives at AMVETS.org and to contact their local legislators concerning support of Veterans issues.

Other

We continue to lose members due to death, loss of post homes for meetings, poor participation and general lack of enthusiasm. We continue to discuss these issues and possible solutions at our SEC Meetings. Data for this report was compiled from various reports to the SEC.

Report of Lee Ann Adames, NEC
Department of Tennessee

National District III

Membership

Membership is up at all posts. The Dept. of TN currently has 18 Posts totaling 2078 members. This includes 91 new members since Aug. 1 (45 life members / 46 Annual members). We continue to investigate new methods of recruitment, with retention being the focus.

The average age of our current membership is 68, but average age of our 'new' members is 57 stressing the need to recruit and pay attention to the needs of our younger members. Also of note is the ratio of female/male new recruits into military service and the need to recruit women veterans into AMVETS. Of our new TN AMVETS members, 12 are women.

We are proud to announce the opening of our new AMVETS Post 325, in Murfreesboro, TN

The membership committee has spent the last few months scrubbing the Member at Large (MAL) list, finding 173 of the 679 MAL's listed were deceased. We also recognized that many of our veterans' applications, made online, were accepted without listings of their branch of service or phone number.

Programs

Program tracking remains integral throughout our posts. Awaiting the new 'program reporting' system, at National, TN Posts are encouraged to submit program reports to the Dept 2nd Vice, on a monthly basis. These individual Post reports are then compiled and forwarded to National. Assistance is available, thru the Department, for Posts having difficulty in the reporting process to facilitate and maintain accurate State records.

Thru our Americanism Program, our posts distributed 37,649 pocket constitutions to 8th grade students throughout 24 counties of TN. We hope to increase that number, engaging students in more of our counties, next year.

4 TN students attended the Freedom Foundations, Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference, Nov 3-6, 2022 at Pigeon Forge. 3 of the students' trips were funded by the TN State Service Foundation. The 4th was funded by AMVETS National Service Foundation.

All posts are encouraged to stress the relevance of Americanism to our students this coming year, distributing and turning in Americanism Packets before the Spring S.E.C.

The Annual Dept of TN Golf Tournament, in Etowah, TN was a huge success thanks to Post 100, the 20 teams who participated and all who assisted with the coordination and running of the event.

Service

Tennessee Posts remain active assisting veterans in need: building ramps; assisting in home repairs; providing transportation; procuring medical equipment; assisting in storm and disaster relief efforts, as well as providing socialization activities by visiting hospitals and nursing facilities.
With the approaching Holiday Seasons, our posts are actively addressing the nutritional needs of our less fortunate veterans, preparing food baskets and gifts for these local veterans.

Upcoming Events

Dept of TN Spring S.E.C. Meeting, Post 2, Oakridge, TN, Feb 24-25, 2023 (Post 2 will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary)

Dept of TN State Convention, Gatlinburg, TN. June 1-4, 2023

Legislative

Legislation has been proposed and recommended for the state to place a Veterans Service Officer in every county. We are awaiting approval and funding.

Other

26 delegates, from the Dept of TN were present at The National convention, August 16 - 20.
We are proud to have received the National Awards for:
- Recruiter of the Year - Dwayne Kindle, Post 44
- Americanism – Post 389
- Technology – Dept of TN

Membership

Amvets Department of Illinois' membership was 9,397 members in 2020-2021. The department finished 2021-2022 with 9,284 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 forefront of Illinois veterans' organizations.

Programs

The AMVETS Department of Illinois reached 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. No program data is available due to the reporting link being inoperable.

Service

The 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 $52.5 million worth of benefits to the state of Illinois just this recent calendar year (2021). Our service officer program was 3rd in the nation in claims submitted during the Covid stricken 2020 year. Our service officers recently held a town hall meeting at the Bloomington VFW post to inform veterans and family members about the newly signed PACT Act and why it is so important to go through a service officer and not the lawyers on T.V. plus many more topics associated with this act and what information is needed to either start their claim or get an old claim resubmitted. We had a great turn out for this event and are planning on having another one. We couldn't be prouder of our service officers, they are second to none.

Upcoming Events

The Department of Illinois held its annual school of instruction is September, over 100 members representing 55 posts were in attendance.

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 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 via Zoom.

Legislative

The new 102nd Illinois General Assembly had a very busy Spring Session passing major veterans related legislation. A list of highlighted legislation is listed below. We plan on doing a joint legislative day in the spring 2023 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/PRO

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.

Illinois AMVETS 2021-2022 Legislation Highlights
HB0020 Passed for Gold Star Family members to have their own license plate. HB1290 Now adds Honorable Discharge, Honorably discharge, Other than Honorable Conditions, and General under Honorable conditions. HB1915 Now adds the Folds of Honor special plates.

HB2770 Veterans preference for State Procurement HB2776 Homeless Prevention which amends the eviction code HB3255 Veterans Service Officers and supervisors must be Honorably discharged HB3515 VAC can serve more than one county but must have at least one delegate from that county HB3865 The lawyers seeking clients for class action must disclose that there is a cost for filing a claim SB505 Illinois National Guard will no be entitled have the State flag given to next of kin upon death SB1533 A Vet with at least 10% disability may trap without a license.

Any questions please contact our State Headquarters at 217-528-4713.

Report of Richard Caldwell, NEC
Department of Indiana

National District IV

Membership

Held VA Artistic Arts mask-making session as another therapy for PTSD Still working on two new posts to add by 1st of year.

Programs

Attended numerous Veterans Day activities across the state. Participated in a parade in Indianapolis.

Service

Our 4 DSO's have submitted over 600 claims pending since our 4th District meeting in Indianapolis.

Upcoming Events

Delivering turkey meals to shut-in veterans. Visiting veterans in Nursing homes to hand out Christmas cards to veterans in facility.

Legislative

Planning for next Legislative Day in Indianapolis at our State Capitol for veterans to meet their State Representatives We will have a vendor table.

Other

We held our make-up CBL's training in Indianapolis. Two posts are still pending completion.

Report of Barry Remington, NEC
Department of Iowa

National District IV

Membership

Surprisingly the membership in Iowa has grown over the pst year. The reason behind this is probably due to veterans realizing that they need to join a VSO because of the situation on the Hill. Also, the word about AMVETS is starting to get out due to the activities that we as a VSO are doing to get the media's attention.

Programs

Post 49 in Cedar Falls has ramped up activities for the year. The most interesting has been 6 Vietnam veterans participated in a program with the UNI ROTC unit. Several of the cadets are now participating at our monthly meetings, and in the. We also were invited to their training session on the history of the Vietnam War. It was a very exciting meeting with cadets and they were highly interested in hearing our perceptive and feelings about that war

Service

There were several activities within the Department celebrating Veterans Day. Many of our posts conducted programs honoring veterans.

Upcoming Events

We will be having our next SEC meeting in January and our Department Convention will be held at the Waverly AMVETS the first weekend in June.

Legislative

Our legislature does not go into session until January 2023. However, the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs has several items that are going to be brought up to the legislat ure concerning veterans benefits

Membership

1. The Department of Missouri currently has 29 active posts with a total of 2928 current members (357 annual and 2571 life members).
2. The Commanders and 1st Vice Commanders of Membership at the Posts are encouraged to work on pursuing annual renewals for the 876 members that expired on 8/31/2022 and the 307 members whose membership expired on 8/31/2021. These additional 1183 Veterans would bring membership up to 4111! For a secondary project, these members will be contacted to encourage re-joining the organization.
3. There are opportunities in areas within the Department to establish posts that are being evaluated and considered.

Programs

1. Total programs for the 2021 calendar year were as follows: 8,849 volunteers that performed 41,987 hours in services that covered 420,647 miles. These services were valued at $1,598,612.91!!
2. For the last reporting period which ended on June 30, 2022, there were 30 out of 30 posts (100%) that reported via the paper programs reporting form on account of the online access being down for upgrades. These reports included 3520 volunteers who performed 18,689 hours in services that covered 118,893 miles. These services were valued at $590,305.92.
3. Programs reporting via the PDF forms are slowly trickling in for the reporting period which started on July 1, 2022. To date, 3 of the 29 posts have submitted at least 1 program. There have been many great programs and events that need to get reported. Near the end of the reporting period, all programs reporting forms will be submitted via email to National as a Department package.

Service

1. The 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. A part-time service officer is being trained for placement into the City Hall in O'Fallon. The long-term plan is to have a Service Officer in each of the 5 VA Hospitals in Missouri.
2. The Commander's Project is to fundraise for AMVETS National Convention which is scheduled to take place in St. Charles, MO, in August 2025 and to grow membership and posts in the KC area.
3. Ongoing projects continue to include military funerals, homeless Veterans, supporting Veterans Hospitals and homes, and supporting JROTC and ROTC programs.

Upcoming Events

1. Our upcoming SEC meetings will be held at the Inn at Grand Glaize in Osage Beach on the following dates: February 4-5, 2023, and April 15-16, 2023.
2. Our 78th Annual Dept. Convention will be held on June 3-4, 2023, at the Inn at Grand Glaize.

Legislative

1. Senate Bill 882 – EFFECTIVE DATE AUGUST 28, 2022: Sponsored by Senator Bill White (R-Joplin, MO) with information released to the media on January 6, 2022. On March 9, 2022, the Seniors, Families, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee voted to pass this bill.

This act modifies and establishes provisions relating to military affairs, including Vietnam Veterans Day, Missouri Orange Heart Medal, information of services of state agencies for veterans, school choice for students of military families, and professional licensing informational webpage for members of the military.

a. VIETNAM VETERANS DAY (SECTION 9.085)
i. Currently, Vietnam Veterans Day in Missouri is celebrated on March 30th of each year. This act modifies the date to March 29th of each year.
ii. This provision is identical to a provision in SCS/HB 2455 (2022).

b. MISSOURI ORANGE HEART MEDAL (SECTION 41.589)
i. The Governor is authorized, upon recommendation of the Adjutant General, to present the Missouri Orange Heart Medal to individuals who were members of the Armed Forces that served in the Vietnam Conflict and were subsequently affected by exposure to Agent Orange during their military service. Not more than one Missouri Orange Heart Medal shall be awarded or presented to any one person and nor shall the Missouri Orange Heart Medal be awarded to or retained by any person who separated from service under dishonorable conditions. The Missouri Orange Heart Medal may be presented to the surviving primary next of kin in the event of death of any individual subsequent to his or her service who would be entitled to the Missouri Orange Heart Medal.
ii. This provision is identical to a provision in SCS/HB 2455 (2022).

c. INFORMATION OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCIES FOR VETERANS (SECTION 42.051)
i. Currently, every state agency is required to ensure that any new or modified form used to collect data from individuals include questions to identify veterans and provide information and assistance to any requesting veterans. This act modifies the questions to include immediate family members. Additionally, this act provides that the Governor may maintain a website consisting of the information provided to veterans and immediate family members of veterans from any state agency.
ii. This provision is identical to a provision in SCS/HB 2455 (2022).

d. SCHOOL CHOICE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES (SECTION 167.020)
i. If the parent or legal guardian of a pupil is an active-duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the parent or legal guardian may register the pupil with the school district and the school in the school district of the parent's or legal guardian's choice if certain documentation is provided. Unless otherwise required by law, this act shall not require a school district to provide transportation services to a pupil registered in a school district chosen by a parent or legal guardian if the pupil would not otherwise be registered in the school district and school in the school district according to current law.
ii. This provision is identical to a provision in SCS/HB 2455 (2022).

e. DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION INFORMATIONAL WEBPAGE FOR MILITARY MEMBERS (SECTION 324.001)
i. This act requires that the Division of Professional Registration shall maintain an easily accessible webpage containing the Division's rules, regulations, and procedures related to the professional licensing of members of the Armed Forces of the United States, honorably discharged veterans, and spouses of such members or veterans.
ii. This provision is identical to a provision in SCS/HB 2455 (2022).

*There are no amendments to this bill.
Senate Bill 941 – EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2022: Sponsored by Angela Mosley (D - District 13 – Part of St. Louis County). On March 2, 2022, hearing conducted by the S Seniors, Families, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee.

1. This act provides that state employees in support care assistance positions for Missouri veterans' homes shall receive a wage in the amount of at least $15 per hour and no more than $22 per hour. The wage shall be effective on January 1, 2022, with an annual increase or decrease based on inflation every following year. ***There are no amendments to this bill.

Senate Bill 1013 – EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2022: Sponsored by Senator Stephen Roberts (D – District 5 – Part of St. Louis City). On April 6, 2022, SCS voted "Do Pass" S Seniors, Families, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee (4958S.02C).

This act modifies provisions relating to job training programs, including the Show-Me Heroes Program and Missouri One Start Program.
SHOW-ME HEROES PROGRAM (SECTION 620.515): This act provides that the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development may award grants from the Show-Me Heroes Program or a program administering the Show-Me Heroes Program to one or more non-profit organizations that facilitate the participation of veterans and active-duty United States military personnel transitioning to civilian employment in apprenticeship training programs, as described in the act. The grant shall be used only to recruit or assist veterans or active-duty United States military personnel transitioning into civilian employment to participate in an apprenticeship training program in this state.

This provision is identical to a provision in the truly agreed to and finally passed SS/HB 2400 (2022) and in SCS/HB 2455 (2022). *There are no amendments to this bill.

1. Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 28 – EFFECTIVE MAY 3, 2022: Sponsored by Senator Bill White (R – District 32 – Dade, Jasper, and Newton Counties). On May 3, 2022, the Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions, and Ethics Committee voted to adopt.

This concurrent resolution urges the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

This concurrent resolution is identical to HCR 58 (2022).

*There are no amendments to this resolution.

1. Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 28 – EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 2022: Sponsored by Senator Bill White (R – District 32 – Dade, Jasper, and Newton Counties). On May 13, 2022, the Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions, and Ethics Committee voted to adopt.

This concurrent resolution calls on the United States Congress to enact legislation allowing for the inclusion of the Newtonia Battlefields in the National Park Service through the expansion of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in order to preserve the history of the Civil War.

*There are not amendments for this resolution.

Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 35 – EFFECTIVE UPON VOTER APPROVAL: Sponsored by Senator Bill Eigel (R – District 23 – Part of St. Charles County). On January 26, 2022, voted "Do Pass" S Seniors, Families, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee.

This proposed constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, creates the Department of the National Guard, which shall consist of the Adjutant General and shall administer the militia and any programs relating to military forces.

This amendment is identical to SCS/HJR 6 (2021) and is similar to the truly agreed to and finally passed HJR 116 (2022), SJR 7 (2021), SJR 59 (2020), and HJR 103 (2020).

*There are no amendments for this resolution.

1. As of December 2021, there is a proposed resolution to the Missouri Constitution (submitted by Sen. Tony Luetkemeyer and Rep. Ashley Aune) for property tax exemptions for veterans with total service-related disabilities. Should it pass the legislature (session began January 5, 2022) and make it to the ballot, the question would appear as this: "Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to exempt veterans of the Armed Forces with a total service-connected disability from property tax on the veteran's real property?"

Communications/PRO

There are many projects, programs, and events being conducted at posts across the state. Please follow AMVETS Department of Missouri on Facebook along with AMVETS posts across the Department.

Other

None Unknown

Membership

Our Posts are having more activities and are being able to visit our veterans that are in the hospital and homes (there are protocols that must be taken before visiting)
We were provided Active Shooter Training on Saturday morning by the Columbus Ohio Police Department. This was a very good training and provided us with much useful ideas on how to react and think about before, during and after an active shooter incident. The Ohio Women's Committee is planning to come together at each of our Department District in order to be able reach out further within our communities to reach the women veterans.

Programs

Ohio AMVETS Charities is a 501c3 organization and has been in existence since 2016. It is the charitable arm of the AMVETS Department of Ohio. The Charities Board has provided much needed assistance to our AMVETS Posts and continue to do wonderful work. 1 Is To Many AMVETS Department of Ohio is committed to bring the number of veteran suicides down to zero by addressing the underlying issues that cause it. 1 Is Too Many will be working with at risk veterans who are dealing with issues like opioid/drug abuse, PTSD, other mental health conditions, financial issues, legal issues, convictions and more. What 1 Is Too Many does and will continue to do is help veterans who are in crisis mode, who need a helping hand, and who don't know what resources are available to them.

Most importantly, this program will put them directly in contact with other veterans who have "been there, done that" and have dealt with some of the same issues. We will be the ones who will help them get through their low points. This program will also bring veterans together through AMVETS to do activities to help bring that camaraderie back that some veterans may be missing. The sounds, smells, sights, and feelings of war are something that veterans know all too well and will never forget. Because of that reason, we all came back a little different than before we went over. Many times, veterans cannot come home and talk freely to our families and friends about what we've went through while deployed. The burden of war sometimes causes us to withdraw from friends and family.

Service

AMVETS Department of Ohio Service Officers are working diligently to serve all veterans that need assistance. Currently the service officers are in Columbus, Chillicothe, Cleveland, and Dayton. We are very proud of our Service Officers.
(June through August 2022)

- Claims 418
- Contacts 1,442
- New Power Attorneys 333
- Retro Monies Recovered for Ohio $241,379.96
- Compensation Monies awarded in Ohio $133,969.39

Upcoming Events

Department of Ohio will be assisting the Veterans Homes and our communities with holiday cards, food and personal items the next couple of months.
Department Billiards Tournament will be held on February 18 & 19, 2023 at AMVETS Post 24 – 1016 Leo St., Dayton, OH 45404

Legislative

Ohio continues to support the legislative priorities. We understand that staying active and reminding our legislators of what is needed will keep Veterans upfront and not forgotten. Through writing and speaking to our legislators through out the year is a must.

Other

Commander Sara Pierce project this year is the M.A.S.H. (Military and Service Heroes) Food Pantry and Resource Center based out of Marysville, OH. Founded by US Navy veteran Amber Hudson, MASH is an Independent 501(c)3 nonprofit, homegrown organization that provides resources to meet personal needs local veterans may have: (i.e. food and hygiene items, support resources, vocational assistance, and more).

There are currently two locations, Grove City and Delaware, with another on the way in Wooster. The Capital University and The Ohio State University Social Work Intern Program is currently assisting M.A.S.H. with the development of a PEER Support Program to address mental health and substance abuse diagnosis.

Their MISSION is: "M.A.S.H. provides crucial support and resources along with a variety of programs for our American Veterans, Military families, and Survivors throughout Ohio. Our goal is to always honor and respect those who keep us safe and free." Please visit www.mash-pantry.org for more information.

Membership

We are still working on getting tablecloths for all posts to help with recruiting efforts.

Programs

North Dakota will have ROTC, Americanism, Triple Crown Wrestling, and Pocket Constitution for all 8th graders in ND schools. ND sent two students and two chaperones to Freedom Foundation and would love to tell the story from there point of view.

Service

We will be preforming flag retirements, Honor Guards, Color Guard, and Gold Star Family Recognitions.

Upcoming Events

We are having a spring SEC in February 2023 and ACOVA is scheduled for DEC 1-2, 2022

Legislative

We are working with the legislature to change law to allow 50%of taxes collected from Veteran sponsored gaming to go to Post War Trust Fund to fund Veteran programs.

Other

Fargo is working on a Fisher House for the VA Hospital. They are moving to top of list.

Membership

We keep putting out the good word about what AMVETS can do for veterans. We call prospects and new members

Programs

Donations Christmas wreaths at veteran cemeteries ; preparing for veterans parade with participation in local parades

Service

Clean up post yards, improving landscapes. Efforts with the goal of increasing interest in AMVETS. Keeping in touch and visiting Ill veterans. Meals provided for veteran families

Upcoming Events

Christmas party for members; trip to visit our historic fort dodge asap that is still losing veterans to covid complications, downsizing from large post buildings to smaller less expensive venues

Legislative

N/A

Report of Carol Tschampl-Diesing, NEC
Department of Nebraska

National District V

Membership

The free membership offer for new female members from the National Women Veterans' Committee has been a very helpful recruitment tool for the Department of Nebraska, resulting in several individuals taking advantage of this offer and joining since this fall.

Programs

The Department of Nebraska is preparing for the upcoming holiday season when we will present a Christmas card containing a gift of $1 to every veteran in each of the Nebraska veterans' homes and hospitals throughout the state.

Service

Our VAVS representatives continue to serve in our Nebraska veterans' hospitals on a regular basis.

Upcoming Events

The Department of Nebraska recently held our fall SEC meeting where fundraiser challenge coins were revealed. Funds raised by the sale of these beautiful coins will be used for the maintenance costs of the carillon bell tower being built in the new Omaha National Cemetery. This fundraiser will be an ongoing event. Coins cost $10 each. To purchase coins, contact Deb Wehrli at coldwarvet81@ yahoo. com

Membership

WE ARE STILL WORKING TO IMPROVE OUR GROWTH USING SEVERAL OUR POST ARE HAVING MEMBERSHIP DRIVES.

Programs

We are making efforts to make sure that all posts are getting their reports in on time.

Service

All VAVS are working hard to meet the needs of all the veterans when we can get into the hospital.

Upcoming Events

We have an upcoming visit to Mineral Wells on Veterans Day. We will deliver baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Legislative

Working on legislation to help veterans.

Other

We are reaching out to each other using technology.

Membership

We try to do what National instructs us to do.

Programs

Nothing has been turned into my email account or the Department Executive Director to forward to me

Service

See answer to Programs

Upcoming Events

Veterans Day, Women's Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

Legislative

None

Other

None

TOTAL MEMBERS- 7661
ANNUALS- 527
LIFE MEMBERS- 7134

Thus far I have completed 1st Vice Training at a Northern Area meeting in Eureka Ca on September 17, 2022. There were approximately 15 AMVETS members present. I will be conducting 1st Vice Virtual Training on October 22, 2022. I am waiting on a date for the Central Area meeting to conduct 1st Vice Training. During the Recent October DEC conducted 1st Vice Training as well. In the coming months multiple Posts will be conducting their own membership booths which I will attend as assist as many as I can. Quarterly 1st Vice ZOOM training/roundtable. This year I am trying to implement virtual training. Our 1st training session was cancelled due to conflicting meetings. We have rectified that issue and will be able to have the meetings on the following dates: December 8, 2022, March 9, 2023, May 11, 2023. This will be a way for the Department of California to better engage and have open dialogue with our Posts regarding 1st Vice matters and best practices to obtain membership.
Jeff Lukens
1st Vice
Membership

Programs

Suicide Awareness
California AMVETS continue to push out Suicide Awareness throughout the communities within the state. The reporting system within the department is at all-time 100% which is outstanding. AMVETS ONE: Leaving No Veteran Behind providing Healing, Hope and Honor. AMVETS ONE was designed to engage members from all Veteran service organizations--not just AMVETS--and the community at large in reducing stigma and highlighting local resources to prevent Veteran suicides through the use of earned media.

We are the dedicated members of AMVETS Department of California who actualized this idea and witnessed firsthand the success of AMVETS ONE's inaugural tour across America in May 2023.

Thanks to overwhelming community support for this awareness and advocacy effort, we recognize that we have an opportunity to build on the momentum of the AMVETS ONE tour and solidify our position at the "tip of the spear" to better serve those who served. We can do more than build awareness; we can proactively save lives. Therefore, in response to a successful mission, AMVETS ONE will travel across America once more in May 2023 with a 6-city tour from Sacramento California to Washington DC.
AMVETS ONE Tour Across America https://youtu.be/og7BZMsz3zg

ROTC/YOUTH ACTIVITIES REPORT: Contrary to a rumor, there is a budget for ROTC/JROTC AMVETS Award (Medal, ribbon, and certificate). As the school year has started, I expect to be receiving communications from schools concerning awards and event support. I have currently received a request for award support of a JROTC Air Rifle Match. Our support is not only vital to their programs but a great way for us as AMVETS to put our name out to them, and the communities they live in. Once again, I remind you that the instructors are all retired military, and membership eligible.

John Byrum PDC
Chairman Youth Activities

VAVS
For months of July, August and September 2022. Our reporting numbers have been the same.
$5,700.00 Activity Cost Miles: 1164 Cost: $5,820.00
Total: $11,520.00
Community in Venice California have volunteering: 12 hours Sept 10, 2022 Car show. Traveled 10 miles total.
Ray Delgado, Post 2 Commander, PDC, Pass President
AMVETS Foundation

Service

The State of California is still watching the issues evolving around COVID and the start of increase cases of New Variants that is being reported by the National CDC. But at this time, the COVID Protocol has been reduced, except for such areas as Hospital, Medical Offices and Laboratories, which still required masks.

However, up and down the state of California are prepared, at any time, to bring back the mask as well. Several communities up/down the state is allowing the business owners to still have the final decision on having the customers wearing or not wearing a mask to enter their establishments. AMVETS Department of California members are still moving forward and still trying to make a difference within the state:

The Department of California Podcast Production (in 2022) is still strong and gaining momentum, with an increase in viewers each month. Each Podcast has special guests, discussing various subject matters that will be of interest to the viewers, regarding VA Benefits, local service programs, AMVETS issues and concerns, to Vocational/ Tech Training & College programs. The Podcast is supervised by Heidi Holguin, Department Social Media Coordinator.

Department of California is still very active in various projects and services up & down the state with VA Programs being supported by AMVETS, CA-AMVETS support & partnering with MLB Minor League programs, various collaboration's groups, along with many veteran organizations and non-veteran entities to assist throughout our communities, including participating with JROTC and ROTC programs, Veterans Stand-Down & Women Veterans Stand-Up events. The Northern and Central area Honor Guard Units are very active in participating with Veterans Funeral Services, Honoring the Fallen Hero's, and their families. Also, the Honor Guards are very active in specail Veteran Events/Function up and down the state.

Department Committees are to be active as much as possible for the benefit of the Veterans, their families or for our communities, especially:

- Suicide Awareness
- Legislative (State & National)
- Scholarships
- Homeless Veterans Assistance
- Women Veterans
- Community Service
- ROTC
- Americanism

The Department is working to get back on track to revalidate Posts to have them become active once again, along with AMVET members who has become MAL members, back to being in "Good Standing". Time will tell!

Smokey Rickerd, Executive Director
AMVETS Department of California

Legislative

The End of Legislative Session 2021-2022 was September 30. Reeb Government Relation has been working on behalf of the AMVETS with the California Legislature to help improve the quality of life for Veterans and their families. During the 2022 legislative year, we worked on and monitored 90 military and veteran bills. A total of24 of those bills were sent to the Governor, who has until Sep 30 to act on all Legislation.
Before we get started, I wanted to note that on August 10 President Biden passed a comprehensive $1.5 billion federal piece of legislation on presumptive toxic exposures. So, this will make it easier for all generations of veterans to receive care and benefits from the BA on tocsin issues. Seth's report says to include only those bills that were signed as it would be a 14-page legislative report if we listed all the bills that did not pass.
During the pandemic, the work, usually done by me in members visiting the capital offices has been relegated solely to Reeb Government Relations during the pandemic, as access to visit members has been denied previously and severely limited since the pandemic started. Special thanks to Seth and Dana for representing the state capital in making a full-on representation and for 1 million calls and emails to the legislature to support our bills. Have a great DEC it will be great to see all of you.
Please take special note if you have recently been ill,
I hope you will test yourself before sitting in closed & tightly seated sessions, out in public and I would ask that you all mask up and observe the hand sanitizers as you go in and out of the convention rooms. Yes, alcohol kills 99 point % of germs, and it dries our hands out, so, bring & use lotion to counteract that dryness.
May I suggest you also Cover your coughs and, please use hand sanitizer, to protect those who are going through cancer therapy among us? Thank You.
LORRAINE JUSTIN
State 3rd Vice Commander

Membership

New Mexico has three new members.

Programs

Post 7 has delivered meals to a Veteran that needed food. Helped put up flags at VA Hospital on 4th of July.one member is on the Honor Guard for funerals. etc. Post 1944 helped with 911 ceremonies help with Veteran's service claim & Americanism Post 12 provided 5 Military honors for Veterans at funerals, Provide assistance to Veterans with water hauling & chopping wood. Visited Veterans in Nursing Homes. Helped Veterans with applying for benefits by completing forms, etc.

Service

Attended a ceremony at Berg Parkin Farmington, helped get an increase in disability rating. Helped Gold Star Mothers with Memorial Monument Dedication. Post 2017 Post flags for all holidays & American Legion Chapter with cleaning & resetting Veterans headstones at a cemetery

Upcoming Events

Post 7 will help with putting up flags at VA Hospital on the 11 Nov, will get gifts cards for Veterans for Christmas at the Hospital & for the fisher House. will help with putting sacks together for the patients at the VA for Christmas like Christmas cards & canteen books, etc. Post 2017 will Distribute gifts for Veterans for Veterans Day

Other

Post 12 sent their NEC report into National. Hope they got it and hope the right person gets this.

Membership

Membership drives and support of Posts remains minimal due to residual effect on membership participation following the Covid 19 pandemic.

Upcoming Events

Spring Department Executive Meeting

Programs

Ongoing support of the JROTC/ROTC Awards Program

Service

The service department has experienced a turnover of the Director Position and the resignation of a VSO. A new director appointment is pending. The department has retained ability to continue claims processing. The AMVETS Department of Washington Service Department currently employs three service officers. 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.

Other

The Department of WA. Fall DEC Meeting was successfully held at AMVETS Post 1, Tacoma WA. All business meeting were held one day prior in person and via video conferencing.

NATIONAL LEADERS & STAFF REPORTS

NATIONAL LEADERS

National Commander Don McLean 38

National Auxiliary President Karin Simmons 39

1st Vice Commander Bill Clark 40

2nd Vice Commander Horace Johnson 41

3rd Vice Commander Paul Shipley 42

National Judge Advocate PNC Jim King 47

National Chaplain Milton Allen 48

National VAVS Representative PNC JP Brown 49

STAFF REPORTS

National Executive Director Joe Chenelly 50

National Service Director Michael Black 51

Chief Medical Executive Cherissa Jackson 52

Acting Membership Director Carolyn Taylor-Harrison 53

National Programs Director Carol Hebert 54

National Communications Officer Miles Migliara 56

Report of Don Mclean, NEC
AMVETS National Commander

Fellow Amvets,

It is my hope that you and your families are remaining healthy as we enter the winter season.

These first few months as National Commander has been filled with multiple events, observances, and upheld traditions. I've traveled across our great nation visiting many Posts and Departments and served as a representative outside of AMVETS events.

Early travels have taken me to Washington State, where I met with Department leaders and several posts. I visited Idaho, and while I was unable to visit any of the four posts that stretch across The Gem State, I attended a Coast Guard reunion with the intention of introducing my fellow Coasties to the organization and gaining new members. After meeting with several veterans, I believe we did just that.

Other states I've visited include New York, where I attended an observance for the late Past National Commander (2001-02) Joe Lipowski. We thank him for not only his service to our great nation, but to his fellow veterans as a leader of AMVETS. I also traveled to Michigan, where AMVETS National Programs Director and Army veteran Carol Hebert was honored on the Michigan Military & Veterans Hall of Honor. A long-time AMVET who has held numerous important roles within the organization, Carol is well deserving of this honor and it was an honor to attend her induction ceremony.

I'm always proud to represent our organization in as many lights as possible. In September, I attended an observance held at the Pentagon in honor of National Prisoner of War & Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day. I believe that an AMVETS presence at these events is non-negotiable for future National Commanders as we host Rolling to Remember. I met with U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. This Veterans Day, I also went to Arlington National Cemetery's national observance, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown alongside Ladies Auxiliary National President, Sons of AMVETS National Commander, and AMVETS Riders' National President. Prior to that, I attended a White House breakfast and visited with U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh (a fellow Massachusetts native) and U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. On Sunday of Veterans Day weekend I presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in association with the Spirit of Hope Foundation.

Lastly, I've traveled home to Massachusetts several times for the Department Executive Committee meeting, keeping in close contact with Department and Post leaders in the state. I also participated in the National District I meeting in Connecticut. I've maintained routine contact with our District Commanders and my Vice Commanders.

This concludes my NEC report. I wish you all happy holidays and will do all I can to ensure a successful and impactful 2023. Thank you, and God bless American veterans.

Report of Karin Simmons, NEC
NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Membership

AMVETS National Commander Mclean, National Officers, Past National Commanders, members and guests.
Welcome to the 2022 Fall NEC. I am honored to have been elected AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary President. I thank the many PNP Mentors that helped me as I climbed up the chairs. Their knowledge was invaluable.
My theme is Honor. Remember. Teach. Honor our active military – Remember our Veterans – Teach our children to Honor and Remember.

My project is Fisher House Foundation – an organization helping Military and Veteran families for over 30 years. Fisher Houses can provide 7 to 21 suites and accommodate 16 to 42 family members. They are professionally furnished and decorated and feature a common kitchen, dining room and living room. Thanks to Fisher House over 430,000 families have been served culminating in $547 million in savings for lodging and transportation costs. Fisher House Foundation has several other major programs such as Hero Programs – donations of airline miles and hotel points to bring families to the bedside of injured or ill service members; the Chairman's Award which recognizes innovative programs for military and veteran communities and a Scholarship program for children and spouses of military families.

I am looking forward to visiting Auxiliary Departments across the country. So far, I have attended the Fall Conference in Michigan at the amazing Higgins Lake Lodge. I was also honored to be invited to attend the Veterans Day program at Arlington Cemetery. It was raining, we were all soaked to the skin but we prevailed. National Commander Don McLean, myself, National Son's Commander Mick Ciesla, and National Riders First Vice Dan Macdonald presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I was further honored to present the wreath at the 25th Anniversary of the Military Women's Memorial (formally known as WIMSA).
Commander McLean, I wish you a successful

NEC and look forward to seeing you at the Spring NEC in March.

Karin Simmons – President

AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary

Report of Bill Clark, NEC
AMVETS NATIONAL 1ST VICE COMMANDER

National Commander, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee and AMVET members,

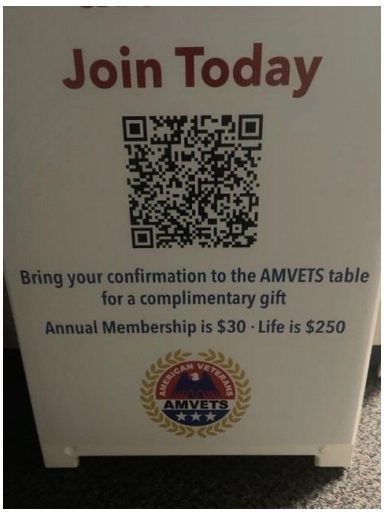
Thank you in advance for your continued support in my year as your 1st Vice Commander and I am pleased to present my first report from that position. I attended two ceremonies as the presenter of employer of the year award to the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Governor's Working Group and Employers Group individual award to Mr. Rodney Woody, this award was newly created in 2020 and a North Carolinian has won 3 years running. On October 27th, I was the keynote speaker for the 11th annual Salute to Veterans sponsored by the Rockingham Hospice Facility. On the 9th and 10th of November, I was at national headquarters meeting with the membership department and with the National Commander. On November 11th we placed wreaths at the WWII, Vietnam, Korea and the Women's Vietnam Memorials. We face many challenges but, as always, recruiting new members is the biggest challenge we face, along with keeping our annual members in the fold! Currently, we are at an annual renewal rate of 34.5 %. Last year closed at a 78.24%, losing 15 % of our annual members.

Our current membership is at 110,837 up from 108,902 in 2021-22 with 5% being female veterans. I will mention that the Women's Veteran's Committee has received a $3,000.00 grant from National to be used for membership recruitment. Based on current data Dept. of FL is in the top position at 2764 for renewals and also the top position for new annuals at 228. Great job Florida, keep up the excellent work. This year we have a membership drive at National that involves the National Districts. The high recruiter of all six districts will receive round trip fare and four nights lodging at this year's National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Als, along with two tickets to both the Silver Helmet Banquet and the Commander's Banquet.

The winning District will receive three nights stay at the National Convention (Wed., Thurs. & Fri.) and also two tickets to both the Silver Helmet and Commander's Banquet to use as they determine. A key point to any membership program is communication. Meet, talk with, explain etc. what AMVETS is about and the service(s) we provide Country wide. The gaining of new members is the responsibility of all AMVETS members. It is incumbent upon us to continually strive to attract new members.

The image below shows the QR code that you simply point your smart phone camera at and it will bring you to a membership signup application. A hard copy of this is available from the membership department. Contact Warren Cox if you would like a copy.

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



NEC Report of Horace Johnson, NEC
AMVETS NATIONAL 2ND VICE COMMANDER

National Commander McClain members of the NEC and distinguished guests,

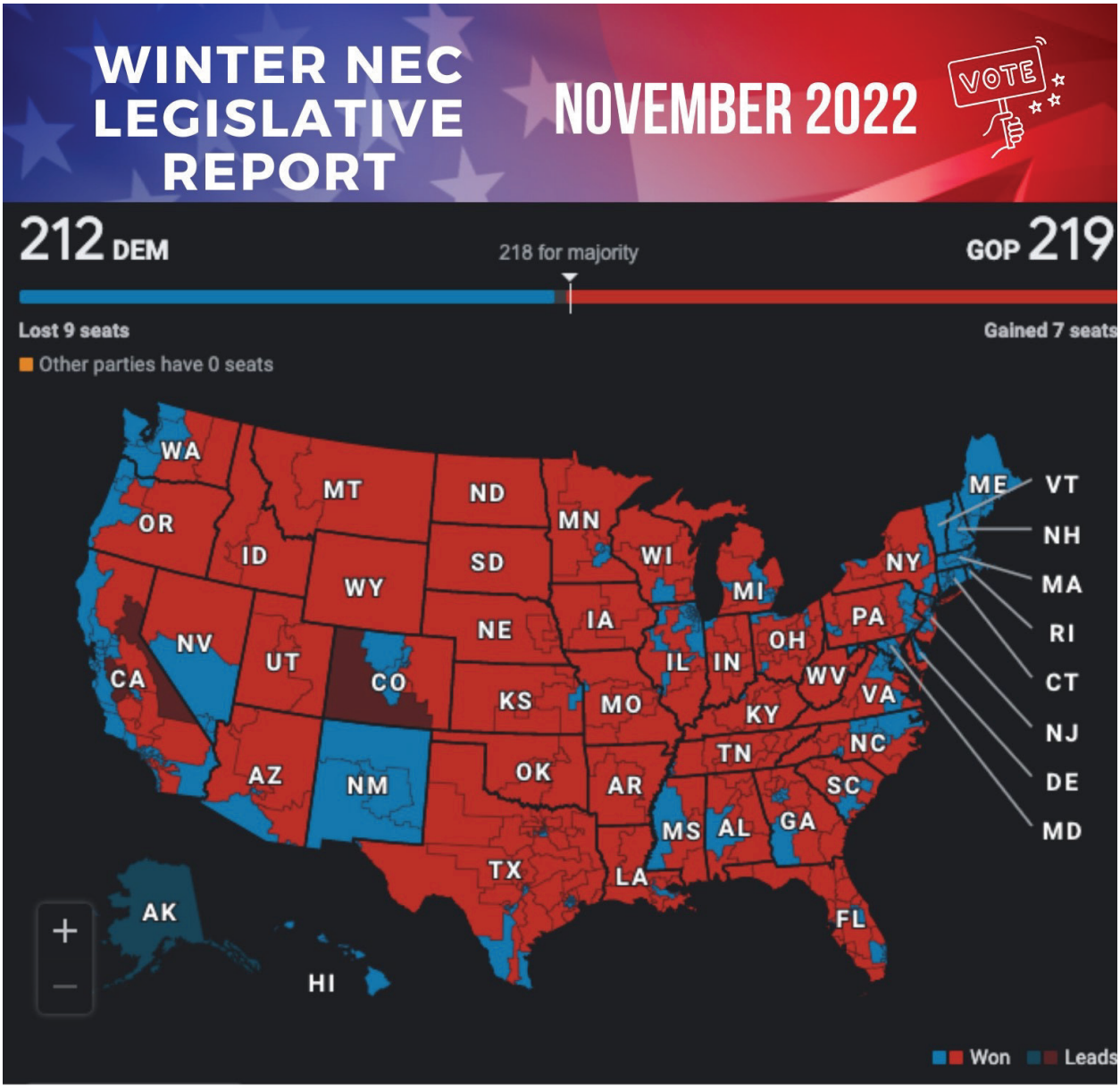
First of all, I want to thank you for having faith in me enough to elect me as your National 2nd Vice Commander. As I explained to you during the time, I was crusading to become 2nd Vice; I will do all that I can to improve our programs reporting system. We are looking into what it will take to be able to restore that real-time reporting system and be able to get credit for all that we do; it is a work in progress.

As we wind down to the end of the year, to date, we have 18 Departments that have not reported, for that list, see the National Program Director's report. Fellow AMVETS, I know the Program Reporting System needs upgrading, because, in my opinion reporting what you do for others is one of the main reasons We/I joined this Service Organization; to help fellow Veterans, their Families, and the Communities around us, so we must keep track of what we do to see how effective we are being in what we promised to do; that is like a score card to keep us moving forward. Reported. I encourage you to report whatever you do in order to keep our Organization leading the way in order to keep others wanting to be a part of a Dutiful Organization like AMVETS. I realize some wait until the last minute to send in the reports but the earlier the better. I also ask that the National District Commanders to please contact their states in their districts and remind them to report their activities. Veterans Day I'm sure was celebrated in all states in some types of capacity, so don't forget to report those events.

The Freedoms Foundation, 3-6 November 2022, was successful, I planned on attending, I bought the tickets, rented my car, then got sick, and refused to be around all those students, and Faculty sick. I was told that although they had a low turnout; they were mighty and represented us well, all had a great time. Thank you to the Departments that sent their Students, and to the National Service Foundation/AMVETS Charities for Sponsoring those students, we couldn't have done it without you. We encourage all states to send a representative from your state, The students get so much education out of this program, and they form new bonds with student from other states and make everlasting friendships. Some students have even come back as Chaperones. There is a program next year in October 5-8, 2023, we are encouraging any State 2nd Vice or Americanism officers to attend to give you a firsthand experience of what the 9th Grade students will be going through in November. This is an AMVET program and as such the AMVETS should be more receptive to attending this wonderful event. Applications will be sent out if you are interested or please contact the Programs Team and we will get you the information.

VAVs REP/Dep appointments for the states of A-M. which ended 31 July 2022 some states have still not been updated and we are now in the process of reminding the N-Z states that they need to look at their REPs/DEPS to see if they need to be updated. Even if it is the same individuals, we need the new forms with the current state Commanders Signature and this year's date. The States A-M forms need to be sent to National now, the States N-Z need to be sent in by 21 July 2023 but the earlier the better so we can have them sent out to the VA locations by 31 July 2023.
Scholarships will be opening up in January which is for Veterans, Spouses of and Grandchildren of Veterans we encourage those to apply. The Lowes Scholarship is also available to anyone that will be looking at going into the trades profession.

PDC Horace Johnson
AMVETS National 2nd Vice Commander



PREPARED BY

Paul Shipley
Justin Brown

PREPARED FOR

AMVETS
Membership

The end of the 117th Congress…
And like that, another Congress is in the books for the AMVETS Legislative Team as of January 3rd, 2023. AMVETS has a lot to be proud of over the past two years. Some of our favorite moments include:

- AMVETS hosting center stage at Rolling to Remember at the most pivotal moment for what ultimately became the passage of the PACT Act
- AMVETS taking a firm stance alongside Senator Gillibrand for significant change in advocating for victims of Military Sexual Trauma
- AMVETS remains the veteran organization that does not waiver in our commitment to lower and address the suicide epidemic
- Commanders Jan Brown, and Greg Heun, proved their mettle as champions on Capitol Hill by providing powerful testimonies. Proving AMVETS has a clear and intentional advocacy agenda for all of our Nation's Veterans

AMVETS efforts focused on the passage of the PACT Act resulted in Commander Heun and Executive Director Joe Chenelly standing in the East Room of the White House for the most significant signing ceremony in recent history. The PACT Act will be a game-changer for veterans. And while AMVETS played a critical role in the PACT Act, they continued to take the lead, by being the loudest voice, on the issues that are most negatively affecting the highest number of veterans, resulting in death and sexual trauma: mental health/suicide and military sexual trauma.

We are still working hard to get some bills across the finish line. However, we expect some movement of veteran-related legislation in the lame-duck session and will provide an End of Congress report in the next NEC update.

What the election means for Veterans

All in all, a pretty dull election as it relates to the committees. No Senators on SVAC lost their seats. Only one member, Elaine Luria, lost in the general election. For some perspective, 2010 resulted in all Democrats on HVAC other than 3 losing their seats (Corrine Brown, Mike Michaud, and Tim Walz). Major wave elections tend to disproportionately affect HVAC as they have historically had a lot of freshman members that have tended toward swing districts and districts with a high proportion of veterans.

In 2010, there was a net R gain of 63 seats in the house and 6 R seats in the Senate. This election doesn't even begin to approach that. Nonetheless, the Republicans will have what looks like a 3-4 seat, an extremely narrow majority, which will still change things up significantly for HVAC.

Additionally, with the loss of Rep Elaine Luria, the lead Dem seat on DAMA is open. Also, we can expect a fair amount of shake-up in membership of the committee regardless as most would not argue HVAC as a final destination committee of choice, unfortunately… This will especially hold for rank-and-file members not offered leadership positions on HVAC via their subcommittee.

With the House flipping to the Republicans, we anticipate they will be particularly interested in exploring suicide and mental health. This issue saw insufficient attention in the 117th Congress as the Senate and House generally supported traditional mental healthcare expansion programs that have proven ineffective for the past two decades, with high costs and an extraordinary lack of data supporting their outcomes.
We will provide another update once we get some sense of leadership selections/committee assignments at the beginning of the new Congress.

HVAC-Republicans

- Mike Bost IL-12
- Jack Bergman MI-01
- Jim Banks IN-03
- Chip Roy TX-21
- Tracey Mann KS-01
- Barry Moore AL-02
- Nancy Mace SC-01

👎 Madison Cawthorn NC-11 (Was beat by Chuck Edwards in the primary, who also won the general election)

- Troy Nehls TX-22
- Matt Rosendale MT
- Mariannette Miller-Meeks IA-02
- Jake Ellzey TX-06

HVAC-Republicans

- Mark Takano CA-39
- Julia Brownley CA-26

👎 Conor Lamb PA-17 **Lost Senate Primary Bid**

- Mike Levin CA-49
- Chris Pappas. NH-01

👎 Elaine Luria VA-02 (Lost to Jen Kiggans, this district has historically had it's freshman placed on HVAC (Glenn Nye, Scott Taylor, Elaine Luria)

- Lauren Underwood IL-14
- Colin Allred TX-32
- Frank Mrvan IN-01
- Lois Frankel FL-21
- Elissa Slotkin MI-08
- David Trone MD-06
- Ruben Gallego AZ-03
- Raul Ruiz CA-25
- Marcy Kaptur OH-09
- Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick FL-20**SVAC-Democrats**
- Senator Patty Murray
- Richard Blumenthal
- Maggie Hassan

SVAC-Republicans

Senator Jerry Moran
Senator John Boozman

Legislation that AMVETS has publicly supported in the 117th Congress:

Fiscal Year 2021 Congressional Budget Resolution—which includes COVID-19 relief funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

House of Representatives:

HR 303 Retired Pay Restoration Act
HR 475 Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021
HR 617 No Coronavirus Copays for Veterans Act
HR 781 Veterans' Telecommunication Protection Act
HR 845 VA Billing Accountability Act
HR 958 Protecting Moms Who Served Act
HR 1022 PAWS Act
HR 1276 VA VACCINE Act
HR 1281 To name the Department of Veterans Affairscommunity-based outpatient clinic in Gaylord, Michigan, as the "Navy Corpsman Steve Andrews Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic".
HR 1282 The Major Richard Star Act
HR 1476 PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act
HR 2326 Veterans Cyber Risk Awareness Act
HR 2591 DUMP Opioids Act
HR 2634 To designate the Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Facility Expansion of the Department of Veterans Affairs Alvin C. York Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as the "Sergeant John Toombs Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Facility".
H.R. 2789 To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairsto administer a pilot program to employ veterans in positions that relate to conservation and resource management activities.
HR 2800 The Wingman Act
HR 3512 Healthcare For Our Troops Act
HR 3888 CHIP IN for Veterans Act
HR 4471 Improving Veterans Access to Congressional Services Act
HR 4571 Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans in Combat Environments (SERVICE) Act
HR 4732 Protecting Benefits for Disabled Veterans Act of 2021
HR. 4824 The Stop Copay Overpay Act
HR 4831 Charitable Equity for Veterans Act
HR 4949 The Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021
HR 5483 The Inform VETS Act
HR 5509 Student Veteran COVID-19 Protections of 2021
HR 5776 Serving Our LGBTQ Veterans Act
HR 5819 Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act
HR 5901 Veterans Education is Timeless Act
HR 6227 Military Dependents School Meal Eligibility Act

HR 6307 Tiny Homes for Homeless Veterans Act
HR 6464 Hear our Heroes Act of 2022
HR 6672 - VSO Support Act of 2022
HR 8081 the Wounded Warrior Bill of Rights Act

United States Senate:

S 189 Veterans' Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act
S 194 SERVE Act
S 344 Major Richard Star Act
S 458 Veterans Claim Transparency Act
S 1147 Retired Pay Restoration Act
S 1183 Veterans Medical Marijuana Safe Harbor Act
S 1467 VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act
S 1520 Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act
S 1607 Student Veterans Transparency and Protection Act of 2021
S 1875 Veterans Emergency Care Claims Parity Act
S 1915 ACE Veterans Act
S 1944 Vet Center Improvement Act of 2021
S 1972 Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act
S 2530 Charitable Equity for Veterans Act
S 3017 Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act
S 3025 Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2021
S 3047 Veterans Pro Bono Corps Act of 2021
S 3163 RURAL Exams Act
S 3388 Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2021

NEC Report of Jim King, NEC
AMVETS JUDGE ADVOCATE PNC

Commander McLean and NEC Members,

It has been a normal year for the office of National Judge Advocate thus far. 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)

NEC Report of Milton Allen, NEC
AMVETS NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Membership

Membership drives and support of Posts remains minimal due to residual effect on membership participation following the Covid 19 pandemic.

Upcoming Events

In the upcoming months, I plan to organize a Zoom Roundtable for the Chaplains. A " Meet and Greet" to share ideas and challenges, and to promote a Chaplain's Corps within AMVETS.

Programs

Since my appointment in August this year I have begun to construct a Chaplain's Library, to aid our Chaplains and members in the day to day roles in AMVETS.

Other

The Chief Communications Officer, Miles Migliara, and I have been working together to create the Chaplain's Corner on the National Website. The webpage will archive all Chaplain's Library literature and documents. We are researching the possibility of using the webpage as a means of being more accessible to the members of AMVETS if needed.

NEC Report of John P. Brown, III, NEC
AMVETS NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE PNC

National Commander, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee, and Fellow AMVETS.

The VAVS will not be able to provide a report on the Volunteers, Hours, or the values at this time due to the reconstruction to the VA Volunteer system, the shut down on the AMVETS Programs Reporting System, and the recovery of getting the volunteers registration for the past two years.
In the essence of the two system being rebuilt to better calculate the much-needed information pertaining to our veteran's volunteer and the value that it serves, the Programs Department is also working on the recuperation of not having a stable director within that time frame. Programs Department appreciate your patience as we will be working on getting all volunteers appointments certified with their respective facilities. Programs need the help of the Department Commanders to communicate any changes withing their facilities, such as a death or a volunteer change. This can be done by ensuring that the proper forms for your Representative and your Deputy along with the Chief's contact information is submitted.

Programs has a partial list the Reps/Deps, please check with National to ensure they are tracking your appointees. To ensure that it is not an overload only the upper states A-M will be accepted and certified at this time. Forms for the lower states N-Z will not be accepted until after July 31, 2023. Anyone who has not received an AMVETS cards, please email National at programs@amvets.org , chebert@amvet.org and/or cetheredge@amvet.org.

I would personally like to thank Colondra for the hard work effort, she put in to making sure that the Voluntary Service Program for ambush continues to be strong in the future. We will make it even better.

In conclusion, continue working with your Chief to complete your Annual Joint Review Reports (AJRs) so that your hours are being tracked and showing that AMVETS is in the business of showing how much we cares. Keep up with the communication with your Caregivers, they may need assistance themselves.

Thank you for your time, talents and for showing our brothers and sisters at the VA that they are not forgotten and that AMVETS still care!

Commander, this concludes my Report, and I request it be adopted.

NEC Staff Report of Joe Chenelly, NEC
AMVETS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

National Commander McLean, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

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

The first quarter of this Membership year went quickly. Headquarters' financial health is improving, as our new Finance Department has regained full functionality. We hope every Departments' (state) leaders have seen the positive changes in the way membership refunds are paid.

Harry Neal retired after more than 10 years leading the national Membership Department. We thank him for his dedication to the organization. Membership is running well, and a new department leader will be in place in early 2023. We are preparing for the restructured Life Membership plan's implementation in September 2023.

Information Technology challenges persist, but we've made great strides in ensuring AMVETS' operating systems and databases are more secure and efficient than ever. HQ staff is preparing to move forward with a new database platform that will stay within the existing budget and improve ease of use for vice commanders across the nation.

By the time we meet on December 3, I believe we will have secured an approved hotel for the March NEC meetings, which are to include the AMVETS Legislative Advocacy Week and the Silver Helmet Gala. Also as discussed and approved at the National Convention, the hotel will be large enough to hold for our events and house all attendees. It will also be closer to Washington. The rooming rates will be higher than in past years. Inflation and the harm the pandemic restrictions and shutdowns imposed on the hospitality industry are catching up with everyone trying to hold conferences or dinners.

In seeking a new location, we only considered properties offering enough meeting space and room rates under $200 per night. The BWI Marriott, where we held the NECs the past several years, is too small to host our Spring NEC meetings, given the Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of AMVETS also meet then. It also did not have a room large enough to hold the Silver Helmet.

We at National Headquarters remain grateful for your guidance and leadership. Thank you!

I encourage you to read the reports from each NHQ and NSF department head. Please take the time to see how our Programs is modernizing and how our National Service Officers keep smashing records in what they are providing our fellow veterans.

This concludes my report, and I move for its acceptance at the appropriate time.

NEC Staff Report of Michael Black, NEC
AMVETS NATIONAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

September 2021 - December 2022
$729,554,918.00
Total Amount of Benefits paid out:
Total amount of claims open:
111,293
$1,639.00
ETERANS

Average payment per claim:
Appeals forwarded on to the CAVC (Court of Appeals for **Veterans Claims):** 19

International Claims:
48
different countries around the world
Life:
15
Annual:
17
Total:
42
NEW MEMBERS

PERSONNEL
In the last year we have seen a move from covid fear to covid tolerance and acceptance. There have been several spikes in cases but for the most part the Service Department has been able to escape any serious problems. Random VA closures have made the hybrid work schedule able to continue with no major breaks in service to our Veterans. Claims continue to rise at a phenomenal rate. Camp Lejeune/Pact Act have added substantially to this rate. Currently we have not hired any new personnel since the last quarter. Unfortunately, we have lost 5 NSO's and I'm expecting more.

Most of these openings are a direct result of our current pay scale. Two Retired, and three have left for other Veteran related government jobs.This is going to be a definite problem in the coming year.

Resignation's as of September 1, 2022
Fay Gonzales, Montgomery VARO Alabama
Anthony Aragon, Phoenix VARO Arizona
Nicholas Holt, St Petersburg VARO Florida
Gene McCreight, Wichita VARO Kansas
Heath Haug, Roanoke VARO

Virginia
Positions Filled as of August 1, 2022

OUTREACH

AMVETS continues to follow tradition with reaching out to our immediate community and our Veterans worldwide. Service officers who are stationed in VA facilities and satellite offices continue to contact and facilitate programs and care to those veterans and their families who are in need. Many of our NSO's continue to go out to the community to serve Veterans and their families on their own time and ours.
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.

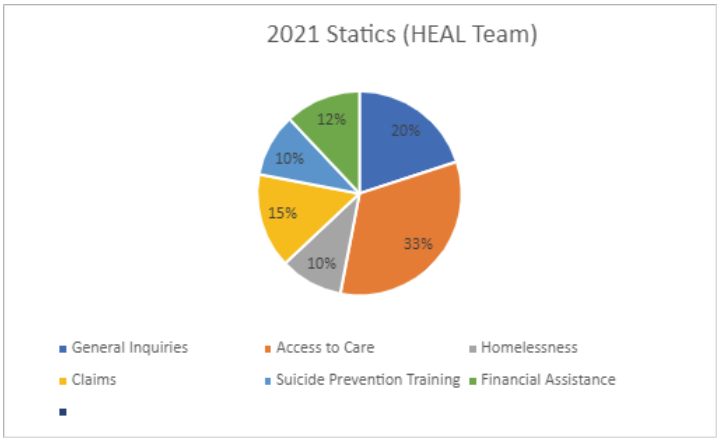
NEC Staff Report of Cherissa Jackson, NEC
AMVETS CHIEF MEDICAL EXECUTIVE

HEAL has been doing very well in 2022. We hosted a viewing of the "Unprescribed" Documentary in Kansas City, Missouri on April 19th, 2022, at the PlexPod Westport Commons. There was a panel discussion with cannabis advocates and legislators. This documentary brought awareness to veteran suicide and highlights the positive effects on veterans lives everyday.

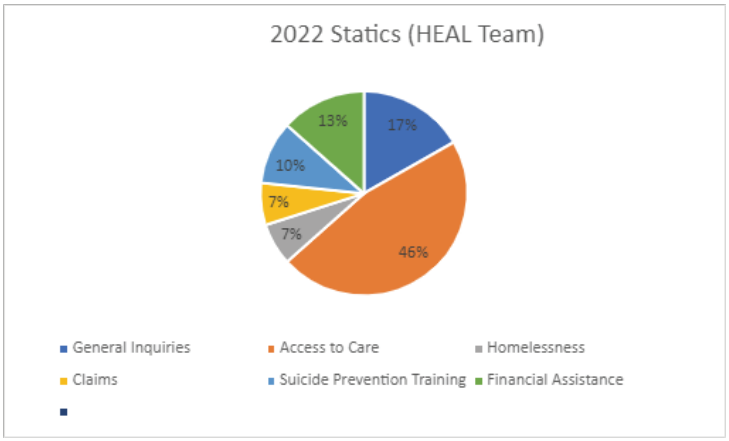
The HEAL Program hosted the Annual 2.2 Mile Run/Walk for Rolling to Remember on May 28th, 2022, in honor of MIAs, POWs and Veterans we lost to suicide. The run was a success with over 100 attendants and over 5k engagements on Facebook.

On June 27th, 2022, HEAL made history during a Healthcare Summit in Hawaii with PTSD awareness, suicide prevention, and cannabis research being the forefront of the conversation. There has never been a cannabis event held at a VA center in history. The event was located at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, HI. We received interest from leaders across the country including Montel Williams and Dr. Sue Sisley who were our guest speakers.

HEAL also accompanied Steve Ellmore, the creator of the "Unprescribed" Documentary which shed light on alternative medications available for veterans as well as the importance and effectiveness of cannabis on Veterans in June 2022. HEAL calls are experiencing a steady rise in veteran assistance. We have served over 150 veterans in 2022; a 33% increase from last years statistics and expected to increase another 20%. We are projecting up to 180 veterans assisted by the conclusion of this year. Below is a comparison of 2021 AND 2022 statistics for veteran interactions.



***Representation of 100 cases in total for 2021



***Representation of 150 cases in total for 2022

Additionally, we have been asked by SyncMD to host our annual R.O.S.E. event in South Carolina in April and May of 2022. We continue to have interest in our Suicide Prevention online training including the state of Virginia and other participants. We encourage everyone to take the training. More to come.

NEC Staff Report of Carolyn Taylor-Harrison, NEC
AMVETS ACTING MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

2023 Membership Renewals were emailed to the members who had email addresses, and those who didn't they were mailed via the postal service to the members. They were a little late this year going out. The 2023-24 year we will get them mailed to the members earlier. They cannot go out too early because of certain criterias. We are working on making it better for our members.

Membership Percentages:

Please see in the 1st Vice Commander's report.

Our mission this year is to strive harder to educate our officers on how to enter and renew members. Work more with the Departments/Post on how important it is to apply monies to the members records asap. National get lots of calls from members who have paid their dues to the post and departments and the money have not yet been applied. And in a lot of cases it never does. National will have to give the members in some cases their membership when the posts and departments hold on to their money. We have a lot of duplicate/triple members in the data base and in some cases some members are in 5 times. The system doesn't generate cards for those members. We have to correct it, make cards for those members in house.

Our data base is full of members with Red xs, meaning there was no money applied to their record, The member cannot log into the website to pay their dues ect. National will have to correct it.

Our goal for the 2023-24 - Membership year with the members' cards is to have the cards sent to National Headquarters and we will separate them and mail them to the perspective post/departments. And the post will mail them to the members when their dues are paid. National have had to reprint cards (inhouse) that have already been printed by our printers. To cut down the cost of cards and postage we believe this will be the better way. It was done in previous years with no problems. Some post are giving the members their 2023 cards before they renew. That has created a lot of problems that National have to correct.

Membership Contest:

Recruit 5 is ongoing. We welcome anyone to recruit members into your post. Use the Green for Green hats form. The Top Recruiter will receive AMVETS Coins, and a one week trip for 2 to Carlsbad in California. One of three laptops.

We also have another contest that the 1Vice Commander of National explains in his report. Please read.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve in this position.

NEC Staff Report of Carol Hebert, NEC
AMVETS NATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR *(Continue)*

National Commander McClain members of the NEC and distinguished guests,

We held our quarterly zoom call with the 2nd Vices and anyone that reports programs. The information is sent out in our monthly programs blasts which will be starting back again soon, the zoom call is open to anyone looking for information or needs help with program reporting.

We will be holding our second zoom meeting a few days before the December NEC meeting. If anyone is not getting our programs blast and would like to receive it contact us at programs@amvets.org and put BLAST in the Subject line or contact us to see if we have your current email, people change emails and sometimes forget to update it with us.
As we wind down to the end of the year as of right now, we have 15 Departments that have not had any posts reporting for their state which are;, Rhode Island, District of Columbia, Maryland, West Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, ,Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, Alaska, California ,Hawaii, Oregon. I realize some wait until the last minute to send in the reports but the earlier the better. I ask that the National District Commanders to please contact their states in their districts and remind them to report their activities. Veterans Day I'm sure was celebrated in all states in some types of capacity, so don't forget to report those events.

Thank you to the Departments that sent student to Freedoms Foundation, 3-6 November 2022 and to the National Service Foundation/AMVETS Charities for Sponsoring those students, we couldn't have done it without your help. We had a small group of students, but they were mighty and represented us well, all had a great time. I encourage all states to send a representative from your state, The students get so much education out of this program, and they form new bonds with student from other states and make everlasting friendships. Some students have even come back as Chaperones.
We were lucky enough to have the Pennsylvania State Second Vice and The State Commander from North Dakota as chaperones this year as well as Dr. Kissel from California, thank you very much for participating.

If you want to see what the program is like, volunteer to chaperone, once you see the program it will make you want to come back. There is a program next year in October 5-8, 2023, we are encouraging any State 2nd Vice or Americanism officers to attend to give you a firsthand experience of what the 9th Grade students will be going through in November. This is an AMVET program and as such the AMVETS should be more receptive to attending this wonderful event. Chaperone applications will be sent out if you are interested or please contact the Programs Team and we will get you the information.

We are currently receiving a lot of Eagle Scout requests and we are putting those on hold until 1 February 2023. So please let your states know this. We need to concentrate on the end of year program reporting volunteer hours and values.
Veterans Day I was in Maryland for the week and participated with The AMVETS National 2nd Vice and Riders National 2nd Vice in the wreath laying ceremonies at the WWII Memorial, Vietnam Wall and the Korean War Memorial, as well as participated with the National Commander and Missouri State commander at laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

VAVs REP/Dep appointments for the states of A-M. which ended 31 July 2022, some states have still not been updated and we are now in the process of reminding the N-Z states that they need to look at their REPs/DEPS to see if they need to be updated. Even if it is the same individuals, we need the new forms with the current state Commanders Signature and this year's date. The States A-M forms need to be sent to National now, the States N-Z need to be sent in by 21 July 2023 but the earlier the better so we can have them sent out to the VA locations by 31 July 2023.

NEC Staff Report of Carol Hebert, NEC
AMVETS NATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Scholarships will be opening in January which is for Veterans, Spouses of and Grandchildren of Veterans we encourage those to apply. The Lowes Scholarship is also available to anyone that will be looking at going into the trade's profession.

The Career Center is doing a wonderful job:

AMVETS Career Center placed 230 veterans in the third quarter at a cost per placement of $350.73. At that point, we successfully met a little over 77% of our annual 630 placement goal. Our full-time placements stood at 94% and our Post 9/11 veterans maintained at 77%. 86% percent who were placed stayed on the job more than 6months and 89% percent stayed for at least 12 months. With a steady 23% of women veteran placements, our team look forward to attending targeted women events to increase female veteran recruitment. The top three employment industries for those placements were Defense Contracting, Government, Business/Finance. The average salary was $63,000.

As of today, the career center has placed 624 of our placement annual goal. It is projected that we will exceed the annual expectation.

Lastly, I would like to thank the National Commander and National Executive Director for coming out to Michigan for my Ceremony.

Commander this concludes my report and I request a motion to approve its acceptance.

NEC Staff Report of Miles Migliara, NEC
AMVETS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Social Media

We are currently running a steady, long-term social media followers growth campaign that began in October. The many goals in increasing our following on social media include spreading our message and brand awareness as well as leveraging our platforms as a tool when approaching potential sponsors, partners, well-known celebrities, etc. The campaign has yielded just under 100 followers for the month of October, and building on this steady, predictable rate of growth will lead to healthier social media engagement.

Public Relations Officers (PROs)

Rolling to Remember was quite a success, as we saw more than 40,000 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, Yahoo, PBS NewsHour, Newsmax and more. Below is a breakdown of the total media reach we received stemming from April 1 through June 4:

Newsletter

Distribution of the newsletter has stalled the last few weeks as we wait for our new CRM platform, Springly, to upload and clean our newsletter distribution list. The newsletter contains news from headquarters, headquarters in the news, legislative priorities, the latest podcast episodes, statements from national leadership, post and member highlights, & more.
The newsletter goes out to a list of about 170,000 and those looking to sign up can do so by emailing media@amvets.org.

Projects

- Comms continues to work with My Front Page Story where Headquarters is able to highlight our members through a 'Veteran of the Month' release. This collaboration began in March 2022.

- AMVETS is revisiting our Futures 4 Forces campaign with Lowe's and WD-40. Comms is sharing in-house-created content as well as providing virtual meeting assistance for this partnership.

International News

In October, we coordinated an interview between AMVETS National Third Vice Commander PAul Shipley and Bloomberg Government regarding Congressional post-election turnover in VA Subcommittees. Story can be found here: https://bit.ly/AVNEWS102022

Days before Veterans Day, we were approached by Military.com about the 40 year anniversary of the formation of the Vietnam War Memorial Wall. We were able to coordinate feature interviews between PNC JP Brown and Past State Commander Sheldon Hartsfield, both Vietnam veterans with intriguing stories and perspectives from their deployments. Story can be found here: https://bit.ly/AVNEWS110622

National Website

The updated national website is running. There are small changes being made weekly, updating outdated forms, making user experience easier, etc.

Future Projects

Legislative Advocacy Week | Rolling to Remember


AMERICAN VETERANS
AMVETS