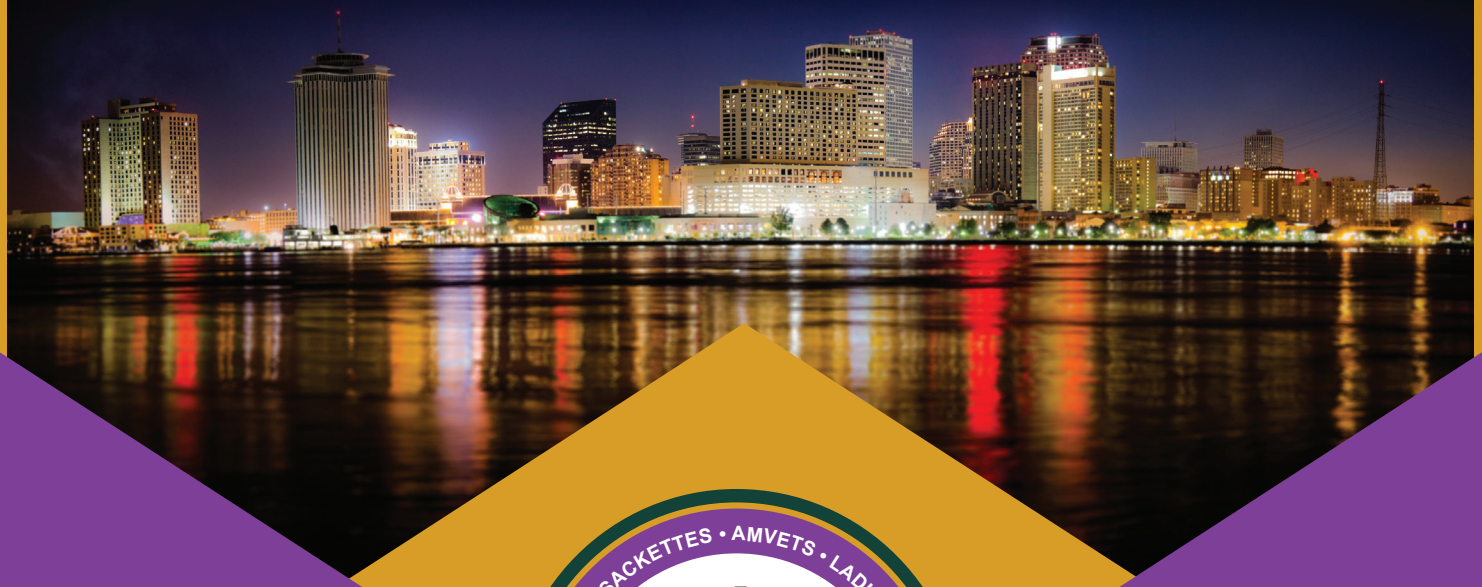
NEW ORLEANS

2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



SAD SACKS • SACKETTES • AMVETS • LADIES AUXILIARY • SONS OF AMVETS • JUNIORS • LEGENDARY RIDERS

77th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
NEW ORLEANS

AMERICAN VETERANS
AMVETS

REPORT BOOK

SERVING AMERICAN VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES FOR MORE THAN 77 YEARS

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AGENDA

AMVETS National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting

Call Meeting to Order	National Commander Greg Heun
Invocation	National Chaplain Gary Sallade
Honors To The Colors	National Provost Marshal Arthur Majors National Executive Director Joe Chenelly National Commander Heun
Roll Call	National Commander Heun
Adoption Of Agenda	National Commander Heun
Approval Of Minutes	
Visitors	
NEC Reports	Commander James Lafin
District I	Commander Billie Ainsworth
District II	Commander Allen Doubek
District III	Commander Steve Bidstrup
District IV	Commander Deborah L. Wehril
District V	Commander Milton Farley
District VI	
Committee Reports	National Finance Officer Donald Stream VAVS Chairman PNC Bill Kilgore
Finance	National Commander Greg Heun
VAVS	First Vice Commander Don McLean
National Officers Reports	Second Vice Commander Bill Clark
1st Vice	Third Vice Commander Paul Shipley
2nd Vice	National Judge Advocate PNC Jim King Executive Director Joe Chenelly
3rd Vice	NSF President PNC Bill Kilgore
Judge Advocate	Executive Director Joe Chenelly
National Staff Reports National Service Foundation	National Finance Director Agha Hussain
Old Business	National Commander Heun
New Business	National Commander Heun
Benediction	National Chaplain Sallade
Honors To Colors	National Provost Marshal Majors

Membership

Membership still continues to come in. We had one post (Post 9) in Connecticut achieve 100% Renewal. Our New 1st vice Commander is Christopher Paulhus. We in CT still have concerns that Renewal Notices are not getting to members early enough so that they can renew early. We do understand the problems that are being faced but also would like to see national AMVETS work with the Departments and posts at resolving this issue. National membership Director Harry Neal does a Great Job, but he is limited in what he can do by what he has to work with.

Programs

Programs in Connecticut have done very well in this first reporting period. 7 out of 8 posts have been reported. We are still concerned about the Online programs reporting system being discontinued. This presents two problems. Easy access to do reports in a timely manner and not having the ability to track progress regularly. It would be great if National AMVETS Programs could send out Monthly Reports tracking Post and Department progress until we get a new system up and running.

Service

We have been very busy in CT. We have set up AMVETS Tables at the Danielson Springtime Festival and the QVCC Veterans Stand Down. Our Department Service officer has been working with Veterans on getting their claims started. There is talk that our VA Hospitals are planning on reopening and allow us to start up events starting in September. We just completed another busy year with our ROTC Units around CT.

Upcoming Events

All of our Post have suspended Post Meetings until September to give our members time to take vacations and be with family. We will continue to support Veterans programs and events throughout the summer as they come up. Some posts have White Clover drive coming up. We will also be supporting any National Guard events throughout the state.

Legislative

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Communications/PRO

We are currently setting up a Department Facebook Page where we can share upcoming events as well as information and pictures of past events. We currently do not have a Updated Website and we are looking for someone who might be willing to help us get a new site up. We will continue to set up tables at local events and promote AMVETS within our communities and state.

Other

AMVETS Departmentof CT held its Convention on June18, 2022 and we were very honored to have nation 2nd Vice Commander Bill Clark with us. We elected new Officers and Mr. Clark swore them in. I am happy to announce that Ronnie Maebry is our New Department Commander. Dana Dillon was elected as our selection for new National District One Commander. I have been Elected as the New NEC for CT and Douglas Newell as the Alternate NEC for CT. I hope to see everyone in New Orleans.

Report of Walter J. Pearcey Jr, NEC
Department of Massachusettes

National District I

Membership

Membership this year is maintaining. Posts are starting to get out more and are participating in more community events. This is helping by putting our name and brand back out into the public eye. We have a new 1st Vice and he is planning some upcoming drives in various areas across the state with hopes of attracting new and younger voices for our organization.

Programs

We participated in ROTC, poppy drives, Special Olympics plunging, Americanism programs, parades along with numerous other events to bring out awareness. State Soldiers Homes are beginning to allow programs back in while VA's in the state still have restrictions. We are doing what we can to sponsor events in these facilities and trying our best to bring some comfort to those inside.

Service

None known

Upcoming Events

We have numerous parades that the department officers scheduled to attend along with multiple poppy drives for fundraising. We are now handing out small flags at these drives as the white flowers have become extremely difficult to find. We are trying new ways to bring awareness to our organization.

Legislative

We have a watchful eye on our state legislatures' doings. We have our office back open in the state house and have someone in there weekly to maintain our presence and to keep us updated on any new legislative happenings.

Communications/PRO

Our Facebook page is up and active. We are working on a new webpage as our last one crashed. We are pricing out different carriers at this time. Our State Honor Guard is set up to attend multiple events to present colors with the Boston Red Sox this summer along with the Boston Celtics again for their next season. They are also in contact with the Bruins and Patriots organizations for their upcoming seasons.

Other

We held our convention in June of this year. With people still uncertain or uncomfortable with health issues, it was poorly attended. We are trying to reach out to our Posts to find what they feel is the best way to get more involved. This is still a major work in progress.

Report of Kim Lapointe, NEC
Department of Maine

National District I

Membership

THE DEPT. OF MAINE CONTINUES TO PUSH MEMBERSHIP. WE ARE WORKING ON REACHING YOUNGER DEMOGRAPHICS. CURRENTLY WE ARE AT ABOUT 73.6% FOR ANNUAL RENEWALS.

Programs

THE DEPT. OF MAINE IS STILL STRUGGLING WITH REPORTING DUE TO SYSTEM ISSUES. WE ARE ENCOURAGING ALL POSTS TO DOCUMENT AND SEND THEIR REPORTING INTO NATIONAL.

Service

THE DEPT. OF MAINE CONTINUES TO WORK WITH OUR STATE VETERANS SERVICES AND OUR VA HOSPITAL TO HELP ALL VETERANS. ALL VSO'S IN THE STATE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH MAINE VETERANS COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO HELP FIGHT FOR ALL VETERANS IN THE STATE.

Upcoming Events

NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 16-20 IN NEW ORLEANS, LA

Legislative

THE DEPT. OF MAINE CONTINUES TO WORK WITH OUR LEGISLATURE. WE ALSO WORK WITH OUR GOVERNOR ON ALL BILLS PERTAINING TO VETERANS ISSUES. ALL VSO'S IN THE STATE WORK TOGETHER IN SUPPORTING THESE EFFORTS.

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 ITS ADOPTION AT THE PROPER TIME.

Report of Raymond Kowal, NEC
Department of Rhode Island

National District I

Finally starting to get back to the new normal. All posts have been active in numerous functions. Blood drives, boots-on-the-ground, coat and clothing drives for veterans in need, and fundraisers for the Autism Society. In August we have planned a cookout in honor of the veterans from the Bristol Veterans Home.

Our membership is growing as we come out of these rough couple of years. We have a lot of functions on our calendars for the remaining year. We continue to teach americanism and support our veterans. This is my report and I asked for it to be accepted as written.

Membership

membership is coming in slowly but surely we are currently at 80% we have held membership drives at our local stores promoting AMVETS & GAINING SOME NEW MEMBERS

Programs

We have held christmas parties for our veterans children have promoted gun safety classes with gun control as a prescribed course for veterans, spouses, & their children

Service

We have helped with our parades in R.I. We have planned fishing tournaments for our veterans & their families

Upcoming Events

We are going to set up at fairs in our state to encourage veterans to join AMVETS

Legislative

None Known

Communications/PRO

None Known

Other

None Known

Membership

We still have not recovered from the COVID-19 in reaching out to our MAL's as expected. Our Department 1st Vice Commander has continued to develop a program to locate Department MAL's by zip code that reside near our existing Posts. The Department has lost two Posts this year and is working with additional development of the operation of our Posts to reduce additional losses. Membership support from our HQ Membership Director has been outstanding.

Programs

With the loss of our Programs Reporting system, I have been unable to report true reporting of programs for this period. We again have had 100% Program reporting from our Posts. NJROTC/ROTC programs continue to build our relations with our current and future Veterans. Our Past Department Commander has been working with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and AMVETS Heal program to use as the Commonwealth's suicide training program.

Service

The Department this year has provided over $10,000 to our two Veterans Care Centers and three VA hospitals. Two more Commonwealth Veterans Care Centers will open before the end of this year in Tidewater and Northern Virginia.

Upcoming Events

The Department held our annual DEC Convention in Roanoke Virginia on 24-25 June. We elected Eddie R. Morris as the Department Commander. Since we did not have National HQ's representation at the Convention, Past Department Commander Tracy Via acted on their behalf and conducted installation.

Legislative

With the support of all of Virginia VSO's, AMVETS had the number 1 Veterans Position Paper that went before the Commonwealth House and Senate. The Governor and the General Assembly approved funding of $100,000 and corresponding legislation to create a dedicated Suicide Prevention-Awareness Coordinator. This coordinator will develop effective protocols for suicide risk screening and delivery of life saving services for perceived suicidal individuals. As of this date, the only statistical information from the VA is over two years old.

AMVETS Department of Virginia is requesting that the Virginia Department of Veterans Service remove spouse burial fees at the Virginia three state veterans cemeteries.

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) was able to get a bill passed that establishes a state income tax subtraction of retired military benefits up to $10,000. This bill defines military benefits to include retirement income and benefits paid to the surviving spouse of a veteran.

Communications/PRO

More communications with HQ is needed this year and Legislative information from our Legislative Director, if we have one.

Other

Commander, this concludes my report and I move for adoption at the correct time.

Report of David Wilburn, NEC
Department of North Carolina

National District II

Membership

Our Department is still trying to come up with better ways to keep our new members. Several of our elderly members have passed. Our Department has a little more than 2,500 members.As all other Departments we all can do a better job.

Programs

We have several posts that do bingo each month. Our Department does clothes drives for the homeless. Also handing out toiletries to the homeless. We also had several members place flags on the graves of veterans for Memorial Day. Then the next weekend pick up the flags.
Our eastern district was involved with Remembrance on The River. A pit stop for riders on their way to Washington DC. There was a field of flags for people to donate for a flag. The North Carolina traveling wall was on the grounds. We had several other displays of veterans or for veterans. One post had a golf tournament for a fundraiser. The monies were deposited into the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund. JROTC were given out and photos taken with each Cadet. Our Department also participated in the coloring, poster and essay contests.
The Department of North Carolina is working hard for veterans.

Service

We continue to have great VAVS reps. We are still at a slow pace. We have representatives for all of the hospitals. We are looking forward to a better year.

Upcoming Events

We will be meeting in Weldon, NC for our fall DEC the first weekend in October.

Legislative

The North Carolina Veterans Council meets once a month. Amvets are attending the meetings. At this time I am not aware of any new legislation.

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Communications/PRO

The Department of North Carolina had our State Convention in Greensboro. The dates were June 3,4 and 5,2022. We did not have a National Officer in attendance. We had a very successful convention.Elections were held. Here are our newly elected officers.

Commander.. Larry Reid
1st Vice…… Mark Beaver
2nd Vice ……. Ed O'NEAL
3rd Vice …… Harry Brower

We are excited for this next year.

Other

Updated Website and we are looking for someone who might be willing to help us get a new site up. We will continue to set up tables at local events and promote AMVETS within our communities and state.

AMVETS Departmentof CT held its Convention on June18, 2022 and we were very honored to have nation 2nd Vice Commander Bill Clark with us. We elected new Officers and Mr. Clark swore them in. I am happy to announce that Ronnie Maebry is our New Department Commander. Dana Dillon was elected as our selection for new National District One Commander. I have been Elected as the New NEC for CT and Douglas Newell as the Alternate NEC for CT. I hope to see everyone in New Orleans.

Membership

National District II membership is currently at 99.69 percent of the 2020-2021 level. We consider this to be a great achievement due to issues caused by the COVID Pandemic during the past two years. Retention and recruitment of members has been challenging, but thanks to dedicated department officers, the goal of 100% should be attained by the end of the 2021-2022 year.

Kudos to Departments of the District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia for exceeding the 100% combined renewal and recruitment goal. I also want to congratulate the Departments of Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. They all exceeded 98% of the renewal and recruitment goal.

Programs

National District II members continue to support VA Medical Centers with cash and material donations. Due to the COVID Pandemic, in-person volunteerism at VA medical facilities has been restricted to a few medical specialists. However, members have continued to support veterans and the community through outreach, visiting hospitalized veterans, and supporting JROTC/ROTC Programs.

We are unable to provide an accurate report of program activities because the National Program Reporting System is off-line.

Service

Service-related activities conducted during this reporting period include the following:

Provided cash donations to support prizes for bingo and other games Distributed gift bags to homeless individuals (hand warmers, socks and snacks) Visited sick and hospitalized veterans Donated gifts for male veterans on Father's Day

Participated in peer-to-peer services
Attended JROTC Awards Ceremonies at two high schools
Donated gifts for female veterans' baby shower held at the DCVAMC

Upcoming Events

77th AMVETS National Convention, Marriott New Orleans, New Orleans, LA:
August 17, 2022, 8:30 AM Preconvention NEC meeting
August 19, 2022, 2:30 PM District II meeting
August 20, 2022, 12:30 PM Post convention meeting

Legislative

The Department of North Carolina had our State Convention in Greensboro. The dates were June 3,4 and 5,2022. We did not have a National Officer in attendance. We had a very successful convention.Elections were held. Here are our newly elected officers.

Commander.. Larry Reid
1st Vice…… Mark Beaver
2nd Vice ……. Ed O'NEAL
3rd Vice …… Harry Brower

We are excited for this next year.

Communications Pro

None known

Other

None known

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

National District II

Membership

Now that COVID-19 is at its lowest point in three years, the recruitment goals which this Department started this year has been the highest since before the pandemic. Presently the department has 633 members. This is an increase in membership of 24 members since our last quarter and we are looking forward to even a better quarter at our next reporting.

Programs

The Department has 100 % Programs participation. We 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.

The District of Columbia Veterans administration hospital in Washington DC hosted Winter Haven Day on Saturday December 5th at the Medical Center. The Medical Center targeted 300 homeless veterans and provided them with winter clothing. Because of Covid-19 no volunteers are still unable to attend. However, DC AMVETS made a financial donation. Leadership of the DC Department continued to stay informed through Zoom. Attending meetings at the department of Veteran affairs Medical Center and VISN 5 management assistance council meetings.

Service

The Department Provided Homeless Veterans and the homeless community with a gift bag that included a pair of socks, hand warmers and snacks. We gave out 100 kits during the month of February. Post 0008 2nd Vice Commander Angela McKnight and her dog Coco lead the Post group that participated in the Doodle Moms of DC/Metropolitan Police Department K-9 Unit and Veterans Groups Community Parade on March 12 from 1-3 pm at Marion Park (4th and E street, S.E., Washington DC. The Post used this opportunity to Advertise for AMVETS and recruit new members.

Johnnie Collins Jr, AMVETS Post 008 held their Second Annual Family and Friends Day Cookout on Saturday June 4th from 1200 – 1700 at Joint Base Andrews; the Cookout was a remarkable success.

Upcoming Events

Legislative

Communications/PRO

Other

The Department Convention was held on June 18, 2022, at Patton Hall, Ft Myer Officer Club, Arlington. We welcomed National Commander Gregory Heun representative, National Third Vice Commander Paul Shipley, who related Commander Heun's message.

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

Report of Arthur C. Stahl, NEC
Department of the Pennsylvania

National District II

Membership

Commander Greg Heun, E.D. Chenelly and all National officers Pa. congratulates you for the great job you all did leading us through the covid 19 problems. You not only kept AMVETS at the forefront of VSO's you also held the successful "Ride to Remember" keeping our POW/MIA Veterans in everybody's minds. THANK YOU ALL.

Pa. suffered as other departments did due to covid 19 restrictions but our officers worked hard to build membership and we will work harder in 2023 to surpass national goals.

Programs

Our Programs were led by our Americanism program despite the fact that most schools held distance learning throughout the year. ROTC awarding was successful thanks to our HQ staff supporting 2nd Vice Cmdr. Kim Carson and his volunteers. Reporting for the year was 100% but 2023 reporting may be difficult due to the National problems.

If we're going back to filing paper reports, what does that say about us as an organization. The boy and especially the NEC members should have been more informed that we were having trouble with the system. I'm not sure $5M is the answer to a fix but the explanation at the last meeting was garbage. Did the old system crash?

Service

PA's State Service Officers followed the lead of our great National Service officers and led other VSO in the state with great claims helping Pa.'s veterans. We added 2 new service officers and I know as they come on board our claims will skyrocket for veterans in the future.

Upcoming Events

Our fall SEC will be the last meeting at the Radisson Penn Harris Convention Center on Sept.9-11, 2022. We are moving future meetings to the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg a.17111. Midwinter SEC is Jan.13-15, 2023, Spring SEC March 10-12, 2023 and our 2023 convention will be hosted by Post 103 Hopwood, Pa. and the 78th National Convention will be held in Pittsburgh. More convention information will be available in the future.

Legislative

Pennsylvania is supporting PDC Paul Shipley on his candidacy for reelection as National 3rd Vice Commander. Paul did an excellent job as Legislative Vice Commander but feels he did not fulfill his commitment to the members and wants to finish all he campaigned for and we ask all members to support this most viable candidate.

Communications/PRO

None known

Other

Pennsylvania's 2022-23 officers are as follows; Commander Bernard McDonald, 1st Vice Cmdr. Gene "Cookie" Raihl, 2nd Vice Cmdr. Kim Carson, JA Mark Hines, Provost Marshal William J. Slabibski, NEC Arthur C. Stahl PNC, and Alt. NEC PD2C Robert Bankhead. PDC Gerald Hawk was reinstated as the Dept. Executive Director as we search for a permanent E.D.. All officers look forward to a successful year

COVID-19 Impact

All of our Posts continue to be impacted by Covid 19. Some Posts are impacted more than others. All Posts continue to assist veterans with needs, to include but not limited to assisting with medical appointments, meals, family and community programs.

State Conference

All of our Posts continue to be impacted by Covid 19. Some Posts are impacted more than others. All Posts continue to assist veterans with needs, to include but not limited to assisting with medical appointments, meals, family and community programs.

Membership

The Department is continuing the recruiting program initiated as described in the last reports. Post 30 and Post 38 have a continuing recruiting drive which is working jointly with the Department's efforts. Post 17 has a recruiting competition that is making a difference with prizes for those with the highest number of new members. The Department recruiting committee is also working with (our newest Posts) to assist them in their recruiting effort. The committee will continue to use the mailing campaign which is moving into its fourth year to reach out to delinquent members and those in the at large community to encourage them to join existing Posts or to work on setting up new Posts.

Department Growth

Our program to expand the Department resulted in the installation of a new post . We are working on establishing new posts in WV, our commander is focusing on Wheeling and Charleston but he has the team reaching out to everyone in all areas.

Programs

Ed Stracka attended the 2nd Vice Programs meeting. The new commander would like to seriously address the Homeless Veteran Program. The Department is running a fundraising program to help raise funds to allow the Department to do more for veterans. One of the issues with the current legislative state of affairs is that although AMVETS is a non-profit organization, donations to us are not deductible as tax exempt as with the VFW.

The donations to the AMVETS if handled correctly can still be deducted as a marketing expense for the organization but that is not fair to the AMVETS that so much more time, effort and expense must be utilized to support the sponsor. According to the stature At least 90% of the organization's membership must consist of war veterans.

The term war veterans means persons, whether or not present members of the United States Armed Forces, who have served in the United States Armed Forces during a period of war (including the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the Persian Gulf war, and later declared wars)." I believe we probably meet that requirement now but proving it is difficult and should not be required. The AMVETS organization needs to work to get this restriction changed!

Services

The Department's service focus is veterans who are in VA hospitals and nursing/convalescent homes and those who need assistance in making medical visits and rehabilitation visits. Posts donate funds, drive veterans to appointments as required, visit the VA hospital and nursing homes and the Vet centers. This is in conjunction with the Department's recruiting drive. All Posts visit members in the hospital and attend visitations and deliver memorial bibles to the family of deceased members.

Other

The Department has had a large turnover in the Officer staff and is working to continue the revitalization of the programs. I think we have a wonderful opportunity for mentoring our new officers with two seasoned officers stepping down for health reasons who still have the love of service and do always take the time to mentor others. The Department will be developing committees and working in conjunction with the programs under way or in development by Posts to continue to enhance our membership and retention of members.

Report of Douglas Porter, NEC
Department of the Delaware

National District II

Membership

Renewal is about 80 % the department is trying to organize more posts in Kent and New Castle County.

Programs

5 posts have reported for the period=100 % 3 posts are involved in suicide awareness.

Post #2, participates in Scholarship's and ROTC Scholarships, along with major donations to the men's " Home of the Brave for Veterans" and the new " Women Home of the BRAVE" for women Veterans" in Milford Delaware and Milford's Veterans Home . Set up flu shots for members and family. During the pandemic gave out weekly groceries to 100 families each week for 3 months. Made donations of over $ 182. 000.00 to charitable causes in addition to two $ 5000.00-dollar Scholarships for ROTC Graduates during the period, including a number of handicap ramps and handicap hospital equipment:

Post #5: post has assisted post # 2 at its various functions and is picking up momentum,

Post #1694: They are doing numerous fund raisers and are planning a "White Clover drive at various business locations in Seaford Delaware. ROTC Presentations at area High Schools

Post #22 Participates with scholarship's, Community programs blood drives Scholarship's to area high schools ROTC Programs. And assisting Veterans in need Made donations over $25,000, 00

Post #8323 Is active in community.

Services

Department also participated in Stand Downs in Kent and Sussex County Delaware. Assisted a number of Vets through the Department of Veterans Affairs Presented ROTC RECOGNITION AWARDS AND MEDALS to 17 High schools in the State o Delaware

Successfully lobbied to get the state to put 3% of Video lottery proceeds into Veterans benefits trust fund. This is used to help Veterans in need with financial problems. Provided a $ 1000.00 Scholarship to First State Military Academy to Cadet Christopher Allen

Legislative

The Department and posts are active in legislation both at the State and National level. Coordinates with the VFW and American Legion, on various pieces of legislation with both state and federal elected officials. Department maintains close relationship with key legislative leaders and their staff

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

Membership

TN State Convention 2022 held at Edgewater Hotel in Gatlinburg 6/9-6/12/2022
Election of officers are as follows
Commander – Mark Fredrick
1st Vice – Tim Woody
2nd Vice – Kathi Duncan
Finance Officer – Mike Church
Judge Advocate – Joe Rainwater
Provost Marshall – Larry Evon
Deputy Provost Marshal – Tommy Jurnett
Chaplain – Guy Decamp
Public Relations – John Simes
Inspector General – Kurt Rust
Women's Vet. Rep. – Lee Ann Adams
NEC Rep – (2yr term election on odd years) serving 2nd year Joe Cater
ALT NEC – (2yr term election on odd years) Lee Ann Adams
Executive Director – Butch Adams
National Veterans Officer – Michael Oliver
Recreational Director – Michael Jackson
Congratulations to all newly Elected Officers

TN is Proud to announce a New Post # 325 Commander Joey King. Total amount of Post's for TN # 18 We are proud to report membership is up at all posts, and as such have recruited 212 new members since 9/1/21. The average age of members was 68, but with new recruits the average age is 57. We would like to stress the need to keep recruiting and touch on the needs of our younger members. Most importantly the ratio of male/female new recruits into the military and the need to recruit female veterans.

2022 2476 Members Dept of TN 2021 2363 Total
1560 LM 1539 LM
916 AM 824 AM
606 …… Members at Large… 666 MAL

Programs

The Programs Reporting System is under construction. Programs Reporting is currently using the attached Reporting Spreadsheet for all Post and Department reporting. The use of the spreadsheet will be effective July 1, 2022 and will remain in place until further notice.

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For the reporting period between Jan. to June TN posted 663 hours for Americanism and 5027 for Community Service. Totals were down and after talking with 2nd Vices at Post Level, the consensus seemed to be that the National database was down. TN carried 100% reporting during this time. The Department is currently working on getting pocket constitutions to each post in order to be delivered to schools by Constitution Day. This is the 5th year of delivering to 8th graders with a total of over 40K handed out. Through a corporate grant from the WD-40 Company and Lowe's Companies, Inc., AMVETS is pleased to offer scholarships to Veterans and their spouses. Generation T Scholarships are offered to Veterans and spouses who would like to enter into or advance their career in the skilled trades industry; fall applications will be accepted from July 19th through September 24th, 2022. contact Carl Jackson at carljackson@amvets.org or 301-683-4007.

Service

Silver Bayonet was awarded to Johnny Edmonds Post #389
Clyde Luttrell Post # 2 Amvets Member of the Year
Gold Star Memorial at TN State Cemetery in Strawberry Plains Honored a Medal Honor Recipient Hershel Woody Williams and his tireless dedication to recognizing the sacrifice of Gold Star and Military Surviving Families, Nationwide moment of remembrance and reflection on July 1st at 3 pm at Gold Star Families Memorial Monument.

Ms. Chelsea Stuart of Copper Basin High School was awarded by Post 911 Jeff Hartless an award for entry in the 2022 Americanism Contest.

Upcoming Events

A Department of TN Golf Tournament, Hosted by AMVETS Post 100 Etowah TN Sept 10th, 2022, Check-in 8:00 at Ridgewood Golf Club, Athens TN. To Benefit TN Military Veterans for more information, go to http://www.AmvetsTennessee.org/

AMVETS Post # 90 Decatur, TN will be hosting a BBQ Fundraiser for Uvalde Texas School Shooting Victims. August 27,2022 @ 11:30am 16334 TN-58, Decatur TN 37322
Fall SEC To be Hosted by AMVETS Post # 45 Buchanan TN
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022, AT 8 AM – 11 PM

Legislative

TN passing of their new bylaws at TN State Convention
2023 TNVET Legislative Agenda Representatives of the TNVET member organizations will meet within the next 90-120 days (by late September) to set the agenda/items that will be worked on in the 2023 Tennessee legislative session. It is our mission to meet with members of the state legislative Veteran Caucus before and after our annual conference.

Veterans Day On The Hill
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023, AT 8 AM
Cordell Hull Building

Early each February, TNVET organizes and conducts "Veterans Day "On The Hill" in the Cordell Hull State Office Building in Nashville. This building houses all state legislator offices and meeting facilities. In 2023, the event will happen on Wednesday, Feb 1st.

Any veteran may attend (this includes veterans who may not be a member of ANY state veteran organization or those whose veteran organization has not joined TNVET), although we cap the number attending at 250 due to facility constraints. The 2023 legislative agenda formulation is underway. You will have to sign up so that we have a headcount for planning and check-in purposes. THE SIGN UP FOR 2023 will open in Jan 2023. (tnvet.org)

1.)Covid Death Certificate and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

2.)Military Electronic Voting Bill

3.)Medical Cannabis Bill

4.)2nd plate for 100% disabled
As veterans know, TNVET submitted four action items for 2022. One was approved and passed into law. One put behind the budget (meaning no money was allocated for its passage (restoring 2nd disabled license plate); one was pulled from further consideration due to a legal issue that could not be corrected in time (Medical Cannabis); and one that was thought to be ready for an official summer study but was dropped from further consideration (Military Electronic Voting).

It is very likely that the voting and cannabis bills will be resubmitted by TNVET, as the groundwork accomplished in 2022 is vital to their future passage. It has not been uncommon to have to work bills for a couple of years to gain final passage.

Communications/PRO

TN has a webpage http://www.AmvetsTennessee.org/ and there is lots of valuable information on there, Calendar of events, posts, programs, resources, and past accomplishments. Please take time to visit, it's a great way of visiting TN to find a local post or even attend a function.

Other

Service Foundation Newly Elected President Jimmy T. Smith
For Good of the order:
Rest In Peace – Marine
USMC E9 MGySgt (RET)
Jim Ferguson
Jim Ferguson – 1st Vice Commander Post 1776 Nashville, Past Judge Advocate – Department of Tennessee, Past Judge Advocate AMVETS District – III, active with VFW Posts in and around Nashville and several other Veteran Service Organizations passed away February 13, 2022, at approximately 0925 hrs.

Membership

Being such a small post, we have been sponsoring dances to the open public, attending events sponsored by the Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce (also joined the BBACC), manned a membership table at events and we have a membership drive scheduled for a Biloxi Shuckers baseball game on June 11th.

Programs

Most recently we have presented the AMVETS Medal to a cadet at Biloxi High School's JROTC Program. We also man the White Clover buckets at our events and we are actively seeking out our county Veterans Services Officer in trying to gain access to our local VAMC so that we can extend service to our veterans, again.

Service

We have been limited in service to our local VAMC in Biloxi because they are STILL under COVID protocols. But, we have teamed up without host at Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis House and Museum in conducting tours for students and other groups in support of Americanism. We also recently bought a cane for one of our veterans that had better support than the one he was using.

Upcoming Events

May 6th, we have another benefit dance to increase awareness and drive up membership; May 28th, we are assisting our VSO in laying wreaths at the Biloxi Nat'l Cemetery; June 11th – membership drive at MGM Park for a Biloxi Shuckers game.

Legislative

We tried to schedule a meeting with our Congressman, Steven Palazzo to visit with us on April 2nd, but he canceled.

Communications Pro

We reached out for info on White Clovers and learned they were on back-order.

Other

Yes, we have had many complaints from our members on the AMVETS Quartermaster website. It is quite difficult to order things from it and orders that are made take weeks and weeks to get filled. Case-in-point: our 2nd Vice ordered a new garrison hat back in February and still hasn't received it. This service is unsatisfactory.

Report of Alan R. Smith, NEC
Department of Kentucky

National District III

National Commander Heun, National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

The 75th Annual Convention AMVETS Department of Kentucky was held June 16 -19 - 2022 At the Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport Erlanger KY.

On Saturday morning the convention was called to order, with 55 members and 3 guest present on the floor convention rules were adopted

Minuets from the last convention were adopted as printed.

All Department Officers, Post Commanders and NEC gave reports all were adopted

Meeting was adjourned in preparation for the joint opening meeting and memorial service

The joint opening followed by our AMVETS Memorial service was held at 13:00 and was well attended by all.

On Saturday night we honored Department Commander Bill Adkins, Auxiliary President Gardina Branscum Rich, and Son's Commander Tim Goldman with a Hawaiian theme casual dinner, the dinner was well attended, as was the dance following the dinner.

The department of Kentucky AMVETS was very happy to welcome National Finance Officer Don Stream, PDC Robert E. Lee, PDC Sheldon Hartsfield, PDC Bobby Lumpkins, and of course our own AMVETS National Commander Greg Heun who attended as a delegate.

On Sunday morning we held final nominations and election of officers, all elected and appointed officers were sworn in by National Commander Greg Heun

I would like to congratulate Dale Clark on his Election as department commander, I know that he will lead AMVETS department of Kentucky in an ever forward and positive way to continue to help all veterans and their families in KY.

Our change of books SEC will be held July 9, 2022 at 12 noon at AMVETS State HQ Louisville KY, and our next regular SEC meeting will be held at AMVETS Post 75 Owensboro KY on September 10, 2022 at 12 noon. Hotel information is Hampton Inn downtown waterfront $129.00 (207) 685-2005 and Hampton Inn South $99.00 a night (270) 926-2006

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

Membership

The Department of Georgia has ninety-three new members, 248 members renewed for a total of 341 annual members and thirty-four new Life members, 2 Life Conversion for a total of 1500 life members. This gave the Department a total of 1841 members. The Department is working to improve the renewal rate by using Facebook and ZOOM to get information out. The Department has revoked one post and added one new post. We now have 14 Post in the Department

Programs

The Department of Georgia has a total of 14 of 14 Post Reporting at the end of July 2022. As of 30 July 2022, we have 100% post reporting. We had a total 1,628 volunteers with 6,171 volunteers' hours with 39,277 miles which gives the Department a total program value of $202,115.51 for the period ending July 2022. The Department distributed 35 JROTC/ROTC medals and certificates to Post for presentation at local high schools and colleges throughout the state.

Service

The Department of Georgia Service Foundation Officers for the year are:.
1. President Fredrick Bates (2 Year)
2. Vice President Robert P. Heiss (2 Year)
3. Secretary/Treasurer Ronnie Dunn (2 Year)
4. Trustee Arthur Rushin (1Year)
5. Trustee Ametha Wiggs (1 Year)
6. Trustee Ronald J. Dillon (1 Year)
7. Trustee Bobby Rand (2 Year)
8. Immediate Past Commander) Wendell Rivens
9. Incumbent Commander Milton Allen
10. State Finance Officer Wendell Rivens (ex-officio members)
11. State Judge Advocate Albert Wright (ex-officio members)

The Department of Georgia Service Foundation donated $5000 to the Atlanta VA Health Care System. This donation will be used to supplement care and service provided to Veteran patients and their family at the Atlanta VA. They donated $1500 to the Lake City North Florida/South Georgia VA Healthcare System Patients to buy a Full-size Refrigerator to provide the smaller niceties to make Veterans stay more comfortable. We donated $5000 to AMVETS Department of Georgia Riders to help them grow the Department of Georgia AMVETS Riders. Due to COVID they did not get to do any fundraising this year. We donated $2000 to Hillgrove High School Navy ROTC for the Navy National Orienteering Championship. They won the Championship!! We donated $3.375 for Post 621 for renovation to the new CC Stephen Post 621. We are donating $1000 to the National Commander Project "AMVETS".

Upcoming Events

The Department of Georgia September 2022 SEC will be 09 -11 September 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 207 North Willie Lee Parkway, Warner Robins GA. Telephone 855-680-3239. The Department will have a 911 memorial during this SEC. We are inviting the local Fire Department and Police Department to honor their fallen brothers and sisters and participate in a candlelight memorial ceremony marking the 22nd anniversary of 911.

Legislative

None Unknown

Communications Pro

The Public Relations Officer has all Department meetings on Zoom/Facebook live so members can log in and attend virtually. This should help keep members updated on all Department issues.

Other

The Department held its State Convention 3-5 June at the Hilton Garden Inn, 207 North Willie Lee Parkway, Warner Robins, GA. The new Department of Georgia AMVETS Officers are:

Commander: Milton Allen (Post 910 Newnan)
First Vice Commander: Stephon Banks (Post 600 Taccoa)
Second Vice Commander: Wanda Rice (Post 12 Winder)
Judge Advocate: Albert Wright (Post 44 Atlanta)
Provost Marshal: Calvin Davis (Post 607 Valdosta)
Inspector General: Jeremiah Botkin (Post 12 Winder)
Finance Officer Wendell Rivens (Post 607 Valdosta)
Service Officer: Brent Colbert (Post 10 Athens)
Executive Director: Ron Dillon (Post 12 Winder)
Chaplain: Shannon Baxter (Post 12 Winder)
NEC: Frederick Bates (Post 607 Valdosta)
Nat'l Guard Rep: Kevin Ashe (Post 10 Athens)
Public Relations Officer: John Sliman (Post 12 Winder)
VA Representative: Harold Banks (Post 44 Atlanta)
Service Foundation President: Frederick Bates (Post 607 Valdosta)
National Service Officer: Bobby Rand (Post 44 Atlanta)
Mental Wellness Coordinator: Arthurine Wright (Post 44 Atlanta)
Ladies Aux. Liaison Connie Autry (Post 12 Winder)
Deputy Provost Marshal Victor Colston (Post 607 Valdosta)
Dept. Historian Connie Autry (Post 12 Winder)

Report of Joseph Piening, NEC
Department of Florida

National District III

Membership

We continue to show progress increasing our Membership and soon will be surpassing Eighteen Thousand Members. We have 72 posts and hope to have three more by the end of this fiscal year. We voted to pass the National proposed amendment to increase Life Membership with an amendment to increase Annual membership as well.

With COVID-19 on the downside we strive to have the Best Year ever, increasing our Membership.

Programs

Posts in Florida are doing a great job in promoting our AMVET Programs. We have over 80% reporting online. Our numbers could be so much higher if members would fill out Good Deed Forms.

We all look forward to National establishing a program so all Posts can report online.

Service

Florida's Service Officers filed 6,382 claims.

Total Compensation Paid of $69,970,102

Average payment per claim $1,692

They signed up 18 Life and 18 Annual for a total of 36 members.

Service Foundation granted $36,100,00 to the Department, Auxiliary and Sons. They also pay for every Program within the Department.

Officers for 2022-2023

President: PDC Larry Arnett, Vice- President: PDC A.J. John, PDC Treasurer Terry Corson, Parliamentarian: PNC Joseph Piening, Secretary: Geoff Earle

Other

The Department Convention was a huge success, and our banquet was second to none. We were honored to have Nation Vice-Commander Don Mclean, there joining us.

Commander Bullock was reelected for a second term. Commander Bullock has turned the Department in the right direction in fulfilling the Aims and Purchases of our Great Organization.

The Department Florida is very fortunate to have outstanding leadership, two of which are running for National Office:

- Retired Colonel Terry Corson for National First Vice-Commander.

- Retired Sargent Major Horace Johnson for National Second Vice -Commander

Both are well Qualified and are worthy of your support.

Report of Bob Green, NEC
Department of Michigan

National District IV

Membership

Although member deaths, reduced Post hours and Covid disruptions continue to hurt membership growth in Michigan, we've only lost about 200 members overall, from 7444 in 2021 to 7246 in 2022. Several Posts are trying different events to bring new members in. A good example is Post 13 in Higgins Lake (Roscommon) MI. They have started an annual Fall ATV event that is popular. They also have a young commander, Jim Pierce, who looks for every opportunity to recruit. The post was named Post of the Year, Jim was named Commander of the year and member Craig Robinson was named AMVET of the year at our June 2022 Department Convention.

Programs

Problems with online program reporting have seriously hurt us in Michigan. We are only at about 43% and we could be higher if we could do it online. We trained our Posts to do online reporting. Now we are asking them to do paper reporting and they are confused, complaining about the process and not reporting their activities.

We are proud of the Michigan students who are participating in the National Americanism Contests and hope to see a few national winners. At our Department convention the AMVETS (and Ladies Auxiliary) voted on a resolution regarding the publishing of prizes. The resolution will be sent to the National AMVETS Americanism Committee for discussion at the National 2022 Convention.

Service

A few posts in Michigan have participated in Pinning / Recognition ceremonies in senior living centers and nursing facilities, especially for Korean and Vietnam veterans. Several Department officers attended the funeral services for Medal of Honor recipient Duane E. Dewey in October 2021. A Michigan Gold Star family was recognized in the Honor & Remember program in November 2021.

Upcoming Events

Michigan will be honoring 5 Gold Star families with Honor and Remember ceremonies at Post 22 in Bay City. PNSC Don Finnegan (Indiana) has been instrumental in supporting Michigan's program.

Legislative

Due to significant health issues of several key Department officers, our Legislative work had to be suspended. Hope to have more to report later in the year.

Communications/PRO

Michigan hosted the National 4th District meeting in December. District Commander Steve Bidstrup wanted to increase exposure to the importance of diversity and to the PAWS With A Cause organization. The meeting was well attended and PAWS received several donations.
Also, exposing PAWS staff to Michigan Post #126 resulted in the Post being used for a unique client/service dog training for two military families with Autistic children. One family was from Texas. The other was from California. Good publicity for AMVETS and For PAWS.

Other

Our Department Convention occurred June 24 – 26, 2022 at the Doubletree Hotel in GR. We elected several officers who've never held a Department office before. It is good to see new people in these offices. I am looking forward to serving Michigan as its NEC man over the next two years. This concludes my report and I ask for its acceptance at the appropriate time.

Report of Chris Studebaker, NEC
Department of Illinois

National District IV

Membership

Amvets Department of Illinois' membership was 9,323 members in 2020-2021. Currently, the department has around 8,373 members this year as of May 31, 2022. Illinois Amvets is constantly trying to improve our coverage and remain at the forefront of Illinois veterans' organizations.

Programs

AMVETS Department of Illinois received an award for 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.

Service

Amvets Department of Illinois currently has 6 department VSOs located throughout the state. All VSOs are working thoroughly and effectively to assist veterans and their families by filing over 3,150 claims bringing in over $42 million worth of benefits to the state of Illinois just this recent calendar year (2020). We couldn't be prouder of our service officers, they are second to none.

Upcoming Events

Michigan will be honoring 5 Gold Star families with Honor and Remember ceremonies at Post 22 in Bay City. PNSC Don Finnegan (Indiana) has been instrumental in supporting Michigan's program.

Legislative

The new 101st Illinois General Assembly had a very busy Spring Session, passing major legislation to include some Veteran-related bills that Illinois Amvets facilitated. 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.

Other

Amvets Department of Illinois held its 77th department convention June 24-26 in Springfield, IL. We had the pleasure of having the National Commander in attendance. During our convention we handed out numerous awards to posts, post members, and businesses that have made a significant impact on their respective communities. The department's newly elected department commander is James Duncan out of post 100 in Jacksonville, IL.

Our next upcoming event is our annual school of instruction which is held in conjunction with our September SEC. This year it will be September 16-17 at the Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, IL. At this meeting we invite two members of every post down to learn about membership, programs, our service officers, post organization, post officer responsibilities, communication/pro, and many other things. On Saturday night we have a picnic at the Springfield VFW for comradery and to just get to meet new AMVETS and welcome them into our great organization.

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

Membership

The district continues to grow with a 4.33% growth over last year. Departments are utilizing both post and state functions to recruit new members and retain existing members. The departments are also taking advantage of national functions such as Rolling to Remember, jobs for veterans and the HEAL Team. Together, Amvets will continue to grow. Another advantage we have is the ability to sign up a veteran with honorable service to our ranks. Explaining the Amvet advantages to vets makes membership much easier.

Programs

All departments have been busy with different events, fundraisers that not only benefit each department but also each post. Cookouts and poker runs are excellent ways to raise money. With the help from the Riders, Sons, Auxiliaries and Jr's our events are very successful. The only problem is the reporting system and the lack of communication concerning when things will be back up and running.

Service

District IV continues to provide help in our local communities by donating money and supplies to hard hit areas such as the tornadoes in Tennessee this past spring. We help with honor flights, helping active duty personnel as needed, providing a way for the public to dispose of flags properly and donating new flags to local and state entities. When a local paper has a story showing what we do we all win.

Upcoming Events

We are holding membership drives, more fundraisers and volunteering in our local communities. Establishing new posts is a high priority.

Legislative

Each department continues to be present at state capitals and each senator's and representative's office. Some local governments are trying to take away our tax exempt status so all must be involved with local townships and cities.

Communications/PRO

Almost all posts and departments have a facebook page or a website to let everyone know what is happening and to make other announcements concerning veteran services and activities in local communities.

Other

By sharing what a post has accomplished, we are able to promote Amvets. Michigan Amvets Post 13 was named post of the year. They put a sign up for all to see.

Report of Richard Caldwell, NEC
Department of Indiana

National District IV

Membership

We have a newly pending chartered energized post in our upper eastern part of our state. We have two others still pending in getting their ten new members. Post 509 is looking to expand all our family subordinate organizations in expanding our community involvement. We have implemented better communication with social media outlets in promoting our AMVETS Organization.

Programs

Post 7476 has a needed materials drive along with clothing items to assist for their special projects and proper attire when released back to their communities. The Department has participated in the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs conferences recently at our Indiana National Veterans Cemetery for its expansion grant. The Department is organizing a new approach to the training in October.

Service

Our VSO's have continued to provide needed benefits for our Indiana veterans with four locations. We are ready to hire another VSO for our new location in Bloomington, IN near Indiana University. We have many newly elected officers on our Service Foundation Board of Trustees. The INSF is making our grant proposal request for state appropriations in assisting our many Indiana veterans very soon.

Upcoming Events

Our Indiana Veterans Home has scheduled our annual picnic and fish fry for September and October at their facility in West Lafayette, IN. The Department is trying to make our training conference more conclusive to all newly elected officers along with details of utilizing our CBL's updates for proper documentation in October conference.

Legislative

Our Department Legislative Director is staying in touch with our Indiana Legislators in getting several bills introduced with the new session that starts late July. He has been re-elected for another term and knows most Legislators. Indiana needs more for our veterans.

Communications/PRO

Indiana still has some billboards along major roads across the state. Our public service radio spots continue to spark interest in what AMVETS is all about. Naturally word of mouth is our best form of communication in getting the word out about our AMVETS.

Other

The election in June was not well attended but the Department has some new members willing to step up and help our future within our continued trusteeship.

Membership

The Department of Ohio as stated previously continues to reach out to the younger veterans and this is proven through the younger veterans that are taking part in Post, District and Department Level programs and offices. As a department we are also working towards bringing women veterans into the AMVETS Family and reaching out to our women veterans so that as a department we can be of better assistance to the needs of our women veterans.

Programs

Ohio continues to be active and support Special Olympics, our veteran homes, neighborhood nursing homes that house veterans and our veteran hospitals. We continue to reach out to our veterans that are not able to make visits to the Post. We do this because we do not want any veteran to feel left behind or forgotten.

We are dedicated and proud of our program 1 Is TooMany and the working relation we have with Dr. Chrisanne Gordon, founder of Resurrection Lives. We are passionate about saving our veterans from believing that the only direction to solve a problem or problems is through suicide and with the partnership with Resurrection Lives we know we can make a big difference.

Service

We are very fortunate to have outstanding VAVS Representatives that continue to do a great service for our veterans and their families. With the veteran facilities being closed and due to the COVID-19 we have had to come up with ways to let our veterans know that we are still thinking of them and are here for them. Our Sandusky, Ohio Veterans Home being opened we are planning on several events such as Christmas in July and our annual cookout for our veterans.

Our Juniors are so exciting to have within our AMVET Family. The juniors have been working hard to put together no-sew blankets and care packages for the veterans' center and on fundraising to support their projects. The Department of Ohio is very blessed to have active Juniors.

Upcoming Events

Our AMVETS Day at Ohio Veterans Homes in Sandusky and Georgetown Ohio are scheduled to go forward this year and we are so excited about getting back with the veterans

Ohio Upcoming Events are:

*The Abby McCory Memorial State Golf Tournament will be held at Medway Post #148 on August 6 & 7 2022,

*The Lowell Harshbarger Memorial Horseshoe Tournament will be hosted by Covington Post #66 – Working on the date at this time.

*The Delmar Click State Turkey Shoot will be held in Elyria at Post #32 in October. The date is to be determined.

* A new upcoming event will be Axe Throwing – the details are being worked out.

* Fall Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza October 6 – 9

Legislative

Ohio AMVETS prides itself on actively advocating on behalf of veterans and their dependents before the Ohio Legislature, Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs, and state and local agencies, as well as supporting Ohio's National Guard. We also actively monitor aspects of the state budget process, which affect such issues as veterans' homes, National Guard, County Veterans Service Officers, and veterans outreach programs. We continue to alert and make our members aware and encourage the membership to become active. We are a Voice for our Veterans and Families.

Communications/PRO

Commander Sara Pierce Project is the nonprofit organization MASH Pantry and Resource Center (Military and Service Heroes). Founded by U.S. Navy veteran Amber Hudson, MASH is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit, 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).

Other

The election in June was not well attended but the Department has some new members willing to step up and help our future within our continued trusteeship.

Membership

Membership so far this year has been slightly above where the department was at the same time last year. There are a couple of posts that have events monthly that are designed to bring veterans into the post for a meal and visit other vets and talk to them about joining AMVETS.

Programs

It was good to see that the programs department found a method for reporting programs. Having said that, I personally have not been able to download any of my posts programs on that system. I can enter the data and go to the next data entry space and what I had just entered disappears.

Service

We have participated in several military funerals, given out scholarships, held fundraisers, conducted Memorial Day Ceremonies, Flag Burning ceremonies and 4th of July celebrations. We also have participated in the Cedar Falls annual celebration with the Post 49 Color Guard leading the parade.

Upcoming Events

July 20th we will be holding a training session for the newly elected department officers. We are also in the planning stage for a 911 ceremony and Pearl Harbor Day.

Legislative

Iowa's legislature will not be in session until January of 2023. Had some success in advancing veterans issues this year, but did not succeed in all of the veterans issues that were presented to the legislature.

Communications/PRO

None Unknown

Other

None Unknown

Membership

1. The Department of Missouri currently has 30 active posts with a total of 3720 current members (1165 annual and 2555 life members).
2. The Commanders and 1st Vice Commanders of Membership at the Posts are encouraged to work on pursuing annual renewals for the 326 members that expired on 8/31/2021 and the 219 members whose membership expired on 8/31/2020. These additional Veterans would bring membership up to 4265! 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. Programs reporting for the reporting period which ended on June 30, 2021, was a tremendous success. We had 34 of 34 posts (100%) report online. There was a total of 4,697 volunteers who performed 17,818 hours in services that covered 170,671 miles. These services were valued at $640,042.42!
2. Programs reporting for the reporting period which ended on December 31, 2021, was also a success! We had 32 of 32 posts (100%) report online. There was a total of 4,152 volunteers who performed 24,169 hours in services that covered 249,976 miles. These services were valued at $958,570.49!
3. 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!!
4. For the current 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. This includes 3520 volunteers who performed 18,689 hours in services that covered 118,893 miles. These services are valued at $590,305.92.
5. The 2nd Vice Commander of Programs will continue to work with posts and encourage to report programs online. There are many upcoming events that will get reported when completed. Despite the ongoing pandemic, Missouri AMVETS trudged forward and will continue to do so to ensure the aims and purposes of the organization are upheld.

Service

1. 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 finalization is dependent on the current COVID-19 Pandemic. The long-term plan is to have a Service Officer in each of the 5 VA Hospitals.
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.
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: October 1-2, 2022, 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 – 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.

SCS/SB 882 - 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 includes 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).

2. 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

None currently

Other

None currently

Report of Bobby Lumpkins, NEC
Department of Texas

National District V

Membership

We are still working with post to get out setup membership Drives.

Programs

We continued to work on assisting our veterans.We assisted post 133 in Mineral Wells TX. Emergency Response Team, PO Box 605 Mineral Wells, TX. 76067.

Service

We have continued to assisted local residents. We got to go to the VA at Waco to serve hot dogs to veterans on the 4th of July. WE DID a lot of parades all cross TX .We are up to 98 RVs out to veterans and we have 6 veterans who still waiting.They must have served at least 200 days and haven't worse then GENERAL UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS.

Upcoming Events

We have plans to attend parades across tx.on Labor day. We have a SEC meeting on Oct.6-8,2022.

Legislative

We still go down to Austin and talk to the BINGO COMMISSIONER.

Communications/PRO

ENCOURAGING TEXTING MEMBERS AND REACHING OUT TO EACH OTHER USING TECHNOLOGY.

Other

Bobby Lumpkins is putting his name in for 2nd vice commander at the National Convention in New Orleans, August 16-20 2022. Commander HEUN THIS CONCLUDES MY REPORT AND I MOVE FOR ITS ADOPTION.

Membership

The District is working hard to get Colorado up and working with the help of Rick Young. Rick has worked numerous hours on membership. Oklahoma has been working on membership with a new post just opened
We have had some growth in the district, but we still need to work on keeping the annual member.

Programs

I just got an email from the National Programs Director stating that District V was the first District to have 100% reporting. Kudos to Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, and North Dakota for reporting for their state.

Service

None known

Upcoming Events

None known

Legislative

Contacting local, state, and federal legislators
is very important for the members of the District
V to make sure all active duty and veterans
are given the highest priority so as not to be forgotten

Communications/PRO

Communications between National and District V have been null to none. We have got to get better on this. We have to have better
communication between the National and all the District Officers.

When you have no communication, that is when you lose membership.

Other

Nebraska is still working on a bell tower and carillon for the Omaha National Cemetery. Still in the works and running out of time this year by not knowing what Nebraska winter will bring.

Report of Carol Tschampl-Diesing, NEC
Department of Nebraska

National District V

Membership

Our Department's membership recruitment is slowly picking up after facing many challenges due to the covid pandemic.

Programs

This past Spring, the Department of Nebraska awarded 2 $500 college tuition scholarships to deserving students. In addition, our Department awarded 12 ROTC medals and certificates to current students in the state.

Service

VAVS representatives are working as much as they are allowed in our state veterans' homes and veterans' hospitals based on current covid guidelines.

Upcoming Events

1. Due to covid illness, the Department of Nebraska Convention for 2022 was canceled and all existing department officers will remain the same for the ensuing year.
2. The Department of Nebraska is planning 2 department-level fundraisers: one will be a raffle and one will be the sale of challenge coins.

Legislative

The State of Nebraska is working on passing a variety of bills that will benefit veterans.

Communications/PRO

There continues to be an email scam where individuals are using the names of AMVETS Department of Nebraska officers. If you receive an email asking to donate gift cards for a fundraiser for veterans affected by covid, please do not reply! This is a scam! The Department of Nebraska only has 2 legitimate fundraisers scheduled at this time and they are listed in the events section.

Other

AMVETS Department of Nebraska is in the final stages of paperwork for the carillon installation at the Omaha National Cemetery.

Membership

Post 2017 has 3 new members. no other Post has any new members.

Programs

post 7, Has passed out and sent 14 ROTC medals, helped with putting up flags at the VA Hospital and also helped with the Honor Guard at funerals for Veterans. Post 12 said that they sent in their NEC report to National. Post 2017 Have put up flags at the businesses around town. Post 1944 have done community services for Veterans, ROTC, helped with Veterans service claims

Service

None known

Upcoming Events

Post 2017 will take disabled Veterans to a lake for a fun day, then a fish fry will have about 70 people on the first week-end in Aug, then later in Aug will have Children from the children home to a playground for a fun day then have hamb. hot dogs for them/

Legislative

See POst 12 report

Communications/PRO

Will try to keep in touch with all the Post in NEW Mexico

Other

Yes Jimmy Curley from 12 is NOT the 6th district Commander.

Membership

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

Programs

The Department Service Foundation has developed a grant process for subordinate AMVETS groups to request monetary assistance in support of independent or AMVETS National program activities.

The AMVETS National Programs Reporting for Jan-June 2022 from WA state (11 Posts total -4 =7 Posts reporting= 64%.)

The Department JROTC/ROTC presentation of AMVETS Medals conducted at various programs throughout the State.

Service

No change from previous report: The service department remains able to continue claims processing. Two recent VSO hires on board. The Service Department director is working towards possible software changes for claims tracking.

The AMVETS Department of Washington Service Department currently employs four 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.

Upcoming Events

Department audit of all accounts will be held July 27th at Post 1 in Tacoma, WA.

Legislative

The department's Legislative Director, Charles (Chuck) Wharton, continues to be active as a member of the Washington Governor's Veteran Advisory Committee. Mr. Wharton is also a member of the Washington State Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC).
Veteran/Military State Legislative Bill Tracking 20222022
Regular Legislative Session Veteran / Military Bills

Title and Summary Sponsor
HB 1122
C 258 L 22
State guard retirement age
Eliminates the age restriction for enlistment with the Washington State Guard. Allows the adjutant general to extend the service age of an active member of the Guard under certain conditions.
E2SHB 1181
C 191 L 22

Veterans & military suicide
Creates various outreach programs and other services to prevent suicide among veterans and military service members. Establishes a veterans suicide prevention emblem for license plates. Requires certain buildings, bridges, ferries, and parks to display a sign with the 988 National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline. Allows the Secretary of State to raise funds for a Washington State Global War on Terror Memorial.
SHB 1286
C 5 L 22

Psychology compact
Adopts the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact to allow professionals who are licensed in a compact state to provide psychological services through the use of telecommunication technologies and temporary in-person practice.
ESHB 1357
C 193 L 22

Voters' pamphlets overseas
Requires county auditors to mail or send a printable electronic version of the statewide and local voters' pamphlets to service and overseas voters who request them. Contains a null and void clause
SHB 1642
C 68 L 22

National guard ed. grants
Modifies eligibility requirements and the award amount for the Washington National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant program.
ESHB 1733
C 2 L 22

Long-term care/exemptions
Establishes exemptions from the payment of premiums under the Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Program for certain veterans, spouses and registered domestic partners of military service members, non-immigrant temporary workers, and employees who work in Washington and maintain a primary residence outside of Washington.
SB 5518
C 152 L 22

OT licensure compact
Adopts the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact (compact) to allow professionals who are licensed in a compact state to provide interstate occupational therapy services.
ESSB 5874
C 249 L 22

Military student residency
Expands residency for in-state tuition purposes for active duty military, National Guard, reservists, veteran, and dependent students. Includes state-registered domestic partners as eligible dependents of active duty military members, National Guard members, reservists, and veterans. Adds definitions in the residency statute for "child" and "National Guard." Modifies residency for certain students to require that the student must have lived in Washington primarily for reasons other than educational purposes for a period of one year prior to admission to a higher education institution.
SR 8653
S Adopted

Women in the military
Randall Honoring Women's Army Corps (WAC) and Women in the military.

Upcoming Events

No change from previous report: The department, through the Communications Director has subscribed to Zoom and to date held multiple Zoom meetings successfully. During COVID-19, the Department purchased a Zoom meeting account. Having meetings held frequently, not only assisted in the Department doing their business but also provided comradery as members became isolated because of the pandemic. The Department has extended its Zoom membership to other Posts, allowing them to meet with Zoom.

Other

The Department of WA. Annual Convention was successfully held at
AMVETS Post 1, Tacoma WA. on May 20-21, 22. All business meetings were held two weeks prior via Zoom video conferencing.

NATIONAL LEADERS & STAFF REPORTS

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Report of Greg Huen, NEC
AMVETS National Commander

Fellow Amvets,

This year as National Commander has been filled with numerous events, observances, and upheld Traditions. I've traveled across our great nation visiting many post and apartments. I've been honored to present awards to many deserving veterans within our organization, and serve as a representative outside of our family events.

When it comes to Rolling To Remember, we had another successful turn out. We saw more than 40,000 motorcycle riding Patriots in Robert F Kennedy Stadium parking lot Memorial Day weekend, and surrounded the ride with largely impactful demonstrations, protests, and observances. we were honored to have several veterans organizations join us that weekend as we continued to advocate 4 the accountability of our missing in action and calling for further awareness of the veteran suicide crisis. We were also able to participate in the National Memorial Day Parade. that weekend will be recognized as a staple of my time as commander, reading the world's largest one-day, veteran-related motorcycle demonstration ride.

My advocacy efforts we're not limited to just rolling to remember, as I delivered testimony on Capitol Hill in early spring. I spoke with a full VA committee on the plight a veteran suicide, the obstacles are women veterans face during and after their time the service, and pushed for better approach an execution of holistic wellness-focused programs and resources when it comes to our nation's finest.

I'm always proud to represent our organization in as many lights as possible. I was able to attend the Army Navy game in New York City this year. I also have hosted our Taiwanese allies at headquarters and during Rolling To Remember. They are with us here at this convention. if you have the chance, please welcome them to New Orleans and thank them for joining us. This is a long upheld friendship that continues to flourish with each year.

I also had the privilege of visiting our AMVETS family in Hawaii to present a Silver Helmet to dr. John Henry Felix. Dr. Felix has been instrumental in shaping the veteran community in Hawaii. As he is not able to travel, National leadership instead came to him and bestowed upon him the organization's highest award. He is above and beyond deserving of it.

Lastly, I addressed many in my home state of Kentucky in July, where I had a testimonial dinner and thank them for their support. Without that support, my time is National Commander would not have fared as well as it did. I would like to thank all of you for your support this year.

This concludes my final NEC report as National Commander. Thank you, and God bless American veterans.

Report of Donald McLean, NEC
AMVETS National 1st Vice Commander

Membership

Hello N E C members and fellow AMVETS. I am sorry to report that membership is down about the same amount as last year. We had a net loss of 4800 members in that time, sixty percent of those passed away. But we have also gained about 7500 members. Our current total, as of June 30, is 144437. We have also opened 10 new posts with at least 2 others in the works. However, we have lost 28 for any number of reasons. One of the latest posts to close could not get any member to hold any office. The previous officers were burnt out and couldn't continue.

The good news is that posts and departments continue to seek new members by holding member drives and informational stand outs. We are visible. The biggest event showcasing the organization and what it stands for is R2R, Rolling to Remember. At this year's event we had five times the participation as last year. We signed up 63 veterans. That was great, but the next day at the National parade, we had a number of groups and individuals seeking information on how to participate next year. We will be following through.

I have been to numerous military bases and passed out our membership flyers and applications. I have also talked with retirees and those in TAPS programs about making sure they have a VA claim and offer the ways to start one. I have also been to many National Guard armoires and talked with them about our organization and told them of the need to have a claim if they have been "federalized". Many were unaware of the time frame limits. We have an MOU with the National Guard, let's take advantage of it.

I hope everyone has a great convention.

This is my report, Commander, and I move for its acceptance at the proper time.

Membership
None known

Programs
None known

Service
None known

Upcoming Events
None known

Legislative
None known

Communications/PRO
None known

Other
None known

Report of Bill Clark, NEC
AMVETS National 2nd Vice Commander

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

First, let me say, as we provide service(s) to our Veterans and citizens across this great Country, fulfilling the mission and principles of AMVETS, that this year we have reached 100% reporting for the year. A first for the Programs Department and could only be accomplished with the hard work of both the Posts and Departments. As you know, the program's computer platform is no longer! Until a replacement system is established, we are using an excel format which is saved as a PDF file. Our AMVETS have adapted and overcame the reporting issues allowing 100% reporting for the year. A new system is on the horizon, but until then, the excel format will be in use. Evidenced by the 100%, our Posts and Departments have adapted and overcame reporting issues and continued to march.

The programs department has established, not only a monthly newsletter, but a quarterly zoom meeting. Both of the initiatives proved highly successful and will continue to be of high value to the programs department operations.

I want to thank Carol Hebert, National Programs Director and Colondra Etheredge, Programs Assistant (for everything) for their hard work this past year.
Also, a thank you to Ciara Robinson, Career Center Manager for continuing to ensure that Veterans are employed nationwide.

In closing I want to mention that the Freedoms Foundation trip is on for November and we are looking for a few good chaperones! If you have the time, please volunteer for this most worthwhile program. Also, anyone having an issue with the current program reporting platform, please Carol or Colondra for help

I have traveled quite a bit this year, and want to express my gratitude to the many courtesies shown to me and the hospitality. We are truly a 'family organization' and it is amazing how so many diverse individuals work together to fulfill our mission.

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



NEC & NATIONAL CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

AUGUST 2022

PREPARED BY

Paul Shipley
Justin Brown

PREPARED FOR

AMVETS
Membership

MARCH – JULY 2022

The past three months have been hectic, to say the least, on Capitol Hill. AMVETS kicked off March with powerful testimony from Commander Greg Heun highlighting the fact that Congress's number one priority needs to be creating and funding effective programs and services that significantly reduce suicide.

AMVETS from across the Nation packed the halls of Congress during Legislative Advocacy Week (LAW) whereby they demanded action on:

- H.R. 4831/S. 2530 The Charitable Equity for Veterans Act, legislation that would allow local AMVETS posts tor receive tax deductible donations;

- H.R. 4104/S. 1520 The Vanessa Guillen Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act, some of the language AMVETS managed to get included in the NDAA, but the fight continues;

- H.R. 6464 Hear our Heroes Act of 2022, the legislation would help veterans suffering from tinnitus or hearing loss obtain medical care through the Veterans Administration (VA).

- S. 3017 The Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act of 2021 will eliminate the current eligibility restrictions for VA dental care and expand eligibility to all veterans receiving VA health care.





Our AMVETS actions directly resulted in numerous Members of Congress further supporting the slate of bills that our legislative team has been working so hard on. AMVETS also hosted our first AMVETS LAW reception at the Phoenix Park Hotel on Capitol Hill whereby we awarded Representatives Bergman (Michigan) and Houlihan (Pennsylvania) for their assistance in getting AMVETS led legislation across the finish line that will provide $180 million in funding to non-profits trying innovative approaches to mental health and suicide; and will also result in VA pilot programs to try new and novel approaches. We also awarded Congressional Staffers Pat McGuigan from the office of Senator Boozman, and Essam Attia from the office of Bernie Sanders for their efforts to help veterans, and for supporting AMVET's legislative agenda.

Our legislative team has continued to press hard on the Charitable Equity for Veterans Act. We have made significant progress, but the odds of the legislation passing this Congress look dim due to the lack of legislation being considered by the highly partisan Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees.

NEC Report of Paul Shipley, NEC
AMVETS National 3rd Vice Commander (*Continue*)

Unlike the VA committees, these committees pass very little legislation, which is highly contentious when they do. Nonetheless, AMVETS is well positioned for the bill to pass when the Committees decide to consider legislation. We recently also drafted and sent a letter with solid support from our fellow VSOs, which we have attached below. We have also continued to engage the senior legislators on these committees to garner their support.

Hopefully in short order, Congress will have passed the AMVETS supported PACT Act, a record three times. The PACT Act is legislation that will dramatically increase healthcare and benefits to veterans who have had toxic exposures. In addition to expanding VA care eligibility to post-9/11 veterans, the bill creates a framework for the VA to establish presumptive service connections related to toxic exposures. It also adds 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to the agency's list of presumptive service connections.

The legislation also expands presumptions related to Agent Orange — mainly used during the Vietnam War — to veterans who served in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Guam, among other places. In addition, the bill further strengthens federal research on toxic exposures and improves the VA's resources and training for toxic-exposed veterans.

AMVETS was proud to host a rally during Rolling to Remember that showed a consolidated front among the significant veteran service organizations, including Jon Stewart. In addition to all of the legislation already mentioned, AMVETS has supported over 53 bills this Congress, also attached below. One recent piece of legislation that is particularly exciting to us is H.R. 6672, The VSO Support Act, which local AMVETS in New York largely brought about.

The VSO Support Act of 2022 creates an SBA-styled grant program to address the needs of VSO's as they fight to keep their facilities open. Specifically, this bill:

- Establishes a $25 million grant program through the VA that allows VSOs to apply for grants of up to $50,000 to keep their facilities open and operational for the community.

- Eligible VSOs must have experienced a 50% or greater loss in gross revenue collected between 4/1/20-12/31/20 compared to the same period in 2019. Grant funding may be used for Rent, Utilities, Scheduled Mortgage Payments, Scheduled Debt Payments, and Other ordinary business expenses, such as maintenance, administrative costs, state and local taxes, insurance payments, and operating leases.

VSOs will submit plans demonstrating the need for funding as well as the use of such funds to the VA Secretary, who will then prioritize grant allocation based on need. While it is late in the Congress, AMVETS will continue to press for this legislation, as well as the final passage of the PACT Act. There is time for some priorities to be passed, likely in the lame duck after the election. Our team on Capitol Hill will continue to press hard!






The Honorable Chairman Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ranking Member Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

May 25, 2022

Dear Senators Wyden and Crapo,

We need your help to remove an antiquated law harming many of America's longest-standing veterans' organizations.

Specifically, we would be thankful for consideration of S. 2530 in a legislative hearing, for a mark-up, and the passage from the committee for a floor vote.

S. 2530, The Charitable Equity for Veterans Act, has bipartisan support in the House and Senate. It was introduced in the House by Representatives Ron Kind and Brad Wenstrup and in the Senate by Senators Bill Cassidy and Tammy Duckworth. This legislation would simply address the unintended consequence in the tax code by allowing any congressionally chartered 501 (c)(19) to be eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable donations.

S. 2530 is supported by AMVETS, The American Legion, Reserve Officer's Association, Service Women's Action Network, Military Order of the Purple Heart, The Independence Fund, AMSUS, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S., Vietnam Veterans of America, TREA: The Enlisted Association, and The Military Order of the World Wars.

The non-profit designation for many veterans' organizations is 501(c)(19), and this status includes tax exemption and the ability to accept tax-deductible donations. However, an outdated regulation requires these organizations to maintain a membership of at least 90% wartime veterans to receive tax-deductible contributions. This regulation was likely created in the 1970s when nearly every military veteran was a "war veteran," defined as having served during wartime.

However, there are 2.4 million veterans who do not meet this definition. These men and women are mainly those who honorably served following the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 and before the Persian Gulf War in 1991. These members of the Nation's first "All-Volunteer Force" served, knowing full well that our Nation may call on them for war.

This antiquated regulation negatively impacts many of America's distinguished and historical veterans' non-profits who are losing their ability to receive tax-deductible charitable donations. For example, AMVETS lost its ability to receive tax-deductible contributions in 2015 due to 38% of its 250,000 members being non-wartime era veterans.

America's veterans need your help in getting this non-controversial, bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation across the finish line. COVID has significantly strained these organizations, and this legislation would benefit our community. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Joseph Chenelly
Executive Director
AMVETS

Lory Manning
Director Government Operations
Service Women's Action Network

Bob Carey
Executive Vice President, Advocacy and Strategy
The Independence Fund

Jeffrey Phillips
CEO
Reserve Officers Association

Sharon Hodge
Director for Policy and Government Affairs
Vietnam Veterans of America

Mike Farrell
Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer
The Military Order of the World Wars

Chanin Nuntavong
Executive Director
The American Legion

Larry Leighton
National Adjutant
Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA, Inc.

Frederic G. Sanford M.D.
RADM, Medical Corps USN(Ret.)
AMSUS

Kenneth Greenberg
National Executive Director
Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.

Justin G. Jump
National President
TREA: The Enlisted Association

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 Affairs community-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 Affairs to 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

Report of Joan Sirek, NEC
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary

National Commander Heun, National Officers, NEC's, Past National Commanders, Delegates, Members and Guest
Welcome to the 2022 AMVETS and AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Convention in New Orleans!
It is with great pleasure I extend greetings to you on behalf of the entire membership of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. The National Executive Board and Headquarters Staff have worked hard to make this a productive year for AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, our Veterans, and our communities.

Throughout the year I've had the opportunity to see how the Auxiliary, along with the AMVETS, Sons of AMVETS, Sad Sacks, Sackettes, Junior AMVETS and AMVETS Riders work together as a family serving Veterans and communities. Thank you for the friendship and hospitality you have showed me at your Posts, Auxiliaries and Department functions during my year as your National Ladies Auxiliary President. I've visited with many longtime friends and have met many new friends.

My project has been a joint venture with our National Americanism Chairman, Mary Lanphere, to replace the windows in MacArthur Hall at Freedoms Foundation. Freedoms Foundation's mission is to honor our Veterans, educate youth and communities about the history of our Country and the legacy of Medal of Honor recipients. As a 'thank you' for your support Freedoms Foundation will be placing name plaques on the new windows recognizing your contribution on their campus.

To Commander Heun, First Lady Dawn, Sons Commander Speigle, his wife Denise, Riders President, John Reando, his wife Kelly, Junior President Joey Stopyra, Saddest Cathy Argyle and Snappiest Faye Richardson-Green, it has been so much fun in our travels getting to know you better and working together in support of our Veteran's. Thank you for all you do!

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your National President. This year will be a year I will never forget, all the beautiful memories and fun we all shared together! I am proud to be a member of this great organization!

Joan Sirek, National President
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary
2021 – 2022

Report of John Reando, RNP9
AMVETS Riders National President

Greetings, AMVETS Family!

I've been looking forward to the 77th Annual Convention! I hope everyone had a safe trip in and enjoys a productive week in New Orleans.

The Riders are on a roll this year! We've welcomed approximately 500 new members and chartered 12 new Chapters The Riders partnership with AMVETS in hosting Rolling to Remember has done a lot to expand our reach throughout the nation. It's exciting to see this growth! I know it's only going to grow in size and scope, and I look forward to seeing what the future of the event brings to this organization and the national awareness of our POW/MIAs and Veteran suicide.



While we struggled with programs reporting after the National reporting site went down, our Riders 2nd Vice has worked closely with AMVETS staff to find a solution, and we're happy to announce that the Riders have reported 1.7 million dollars in programs this year, which is OUTSTANDING! I am so proud of this group of volunteers and all they do for our Veterans.



I've been honored to attend many AMVETS functions over this past year, including NECs, Veteran's Day in Washington, D.C., and wreath-laying at multiple memorials alongside the AMVETS, Auxiliary, Sons, and Juniors. Being invited to Hawaii to present the Silver Helmet award to Dr. John Henry Felix was the trip of a lifetime! In July we were invited to attend Commander Heun's testimonial dinner—Kentucky 95 did an amazing job!

As Riders, we are always AMVETS/Auxiliary/Sons FIRST!

LRB/LRS
John Reando, RNP9
AMVETS Riders National President

Report of Jim King, NEC
AMVETS National Judge Advocate

We've had several departments update their bylaws this year. I'm sure there are other departments that could probably do the same thing. I would suggest that you take time to examine your department bylaws and ensure that there are no conflicts with the National Constitution and Bylaws.

At a recent NEC meeting, a question was raised concerning the amount AMVETS is paying for travel using personal vehicles. At that time, I stated that the $0.35 per mile that AMVETS Is paying is actually more than the IRS allowance. I have included a quote from the IRS directive issued December 17th regarding standard mileage rates.
"IR-2021-251, December 17, 2021

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2022 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.
Beginning on January 1, 2022, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 58.5 cents per mile driven for business use, up 2.5 cents from the rate for 2021,
- 18 cents per mile driven for medical, or moving purposes for qualified active-duty members of the Armed Forces, up 2 cents from the rate for 2021 and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations; the rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2021."

As always, my office is open as I often say, 24/7. If you need to contact me my email address is jim1941@live.com and my cell phone number is 410 913 2780.

This concludes my report and I move for its adoption at the proper time

Report of Joe Chenelly
AMVETS National Executive Director (*Continue*)

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

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

This has been an extremely challenging year – in many ways, more challenging than during the height of the pandemic. But through hard work, we are persevering, continuing to serve more veterans than ever.

AMVETS' signature event, the largest veterans event in the nation, was a smashing success. More than 50,000 patriots took part in Rolling to Remember 2022, in person, in Washington, D.C. We made a massive impact in veterans advocacy, reaching millions and millions of Americans with our message, raising awareness of veterans needs and of the AMVETS organization.

For the first time in recent history, nearly every national veterans service organization – large and small – came together, standing shoulder to shoulder, on one stage, to demand our federal government keep its promises to veterans and their families. And it took place on our stage!

In addition to national leaders from more than a dozen VSOs, joining us on our Rolling to Remember stage included Jon Stewart, actor Robert Patrick, a U.S. senator, and veterans and widows who are suffering or already sustain terrible loss because of toxic exposure.

The Pass the PACT Act Rally on May 28 made national headlines on the most important weekend of the year. And it worked! A few days before our rally, the PACT Act appeared defeated in the U.S. Senate because of the large cost. But our Rally swayed public opinion, inspiring tens of thousands to contact their lawmakers, resulting in an overwhelming victory in the Senate.

This massive legislation will provide benefits to millions of toxic-exposed veterans & those who care for them. Without this legislation, most would have died without the care and benefits they earned, in many cases leaving families bankrupt.

I am grateful to the many AMVETS who came into Washington at their own expense to help make the rally and the entire Rolling to Remember event be an impactful event. On behalf of those who are suffering because of toxic exposure, thank you for stepping up in such a huge way! We need more of you to make the journey in 2023, please.

But as prefaced early in my report, this year has been especially challenging. We had to change over our entire National Finance Department toward the end of the first quarter. It took the rest of this fiscal year to recover and there is still a lot of work to do. I appreciate the patience many you showed us as we worked through serious challenges.

We are coming out of this necessary transition stronger, better managed, more transparent, and much more modern. We had not modernized our financial controls in a very long time, all while technology was rapidly, constantly improving.

The new system will make our financials more secure, centralized, and accurate. Payments will go out faster. This includes membership refunds.

Hiring and retention of staff is a nationwide problem, challenging every type of employer, including veterans organizations. The problem was severe before inflation gripped the nation. Now, it is near crisis levels for National Headquarters and the National Service Foundation. Average wages for employees in the Washington, D.C, area, are skyrocketing. Everyone is hiring, as less people are seeking employment.

Before, a helped wanted ad would garner responses from dozens of qualified applicants. Now, it take multiple ads to get just a few applicants. New hires are expecting higher salaries than ever, and they largely want to be able to work remotely, at least some of the time.

Finding veterans to hire has been an increasingly challenging task for several years, but now it is nearly impossible when looking for specific qualifications. We cannot compete with the federal government, defense contractors, and Amazon, which is hiring thousands in the DC area as it establishes its new headquarters in nearby Northern Virginia.

One possible solution we are examining is relocating our national headquarters out of the D.C. area. As we conduct a professional analysis, you will be presented with options moving forward.

The National HQ building, which AMVETS owns free and clear, is in need of important repairs and renovations that will cost several hundreds of thousands of dollars. These include two inoperable air handing units, a complete replacement of the elevator, needed rewiring throughout, and new windows. These projections do not include any cosmetic work or renovations to update space to fit present-day usage.

At National Commander Heun's direction, we are seeking a single-platform system to bring our membership database, programs reporting, fundraising, and numerous other databases into one place. This will benefit everyone and make us much more efficient.

Lastly, soaring inflation is crushing us at every turn. This National Convention will cost National about 35% more than our previous conventions. Similar hikes are expected for our NEC meetings. And general, day-to-day operational costs throughout the year are way up. We do not have the ability to just raise prices the way corporations do. We aren't selling anything to raise prices on to keep up with the increasing costs.

Revenue from Membership Dues covers just a small, shrinking percentage of the National HQ budget, and less dues are coming in as more and more Annual Members convert to Life Memberships. We are well past due to restructure Life Memberships.

The two largest veterans service organizations converted to age-based pricing years ago, and they haven't looked back. In fact, both intentionally discourage life membership until the veteran has been an annual member for some time.

On the flipside, the third largest VSO no longer offers annual and practically gives away life memberships, in a quest to gain new members. That effort has not rendered the results their leaders hoped.

Our current Life Membership program has several states in tough places. Numerous Departments have life membership percentages in the upper 90s, meaning nearly no new due revenue.

National HQ had to adjust several years back to not relying on Membership Dues to sustain operations. Part of that was doing away with the national magazine. Presently, dues cover the cost of operating the Membership Department and some of the fall and spring NEC meetings costs. Most everything else NHQ does is paid for by the annual grant from the AMVETS National Service Foundation. The HEAL program raises funds to cover its costs, and our lobbying efforts are paid for by fundraising conducted primarily by our lobbying partner.

With a recession seemingly on the horizon, inflation may slow. Prices may come back to earth, or they may not. We are preparing for both possibilities, but either way it will not be easy. The drop in the stock markets has already negatively impacted our investments, and a recession is likely to do more damage.

Report of Joe Chenelly
AMVETS National Executive Director

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.

Report of Cherissa Jackson
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.

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. Additionally, we have been asked by SyncMD to host our annual R.O.S.E. event in South Carolina in November 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.

Report of Harry Neal
AMVETS National Membership Director (*Continue*)

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

This member year 1 Sept 2021 (June, July, Aug included) to date,7/18/2022, we gained 11,257 new members. 9,188 annual,1862 Life members and 207 Life Conversions. The median age of new members is 58, our overall median age is 69. 905 of our new members are women veterans which is 8% of the total new joins. Women veterans comprise 5% overall in out rolls which is under the National Average of 11% women in the military (according to VA statistics).

They served during the wars in Grenada, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The face of AMVETS continues to change. What is on their minds? Toxic burn pits, burning oil wells, depleted uranium dust, chemically contaminated environments. We have been fighting to get the Pact Bill passed. It's close. Burn pits are the agent orange of this generation of vets. Be aware of their concerns, the 58-year-old veteran is choosing AMVETS.

Post online revalidations are working well this year. We are waiting for thirty posts to revalidate. Online revalidation modifications include adding emails and phone numbers to the receipt emailed to Dept Executive Directors and National. Post leaders can email membersupport@amvets.org with a member number and request a life conversion. Conversion Invoices are placed in minutes vs the old method of sending forms and checks to National. Dept and Post leaders can see all Post information in the database and do real time corrections. Dept leaders now have a consolidated list of all Posts with the member count and revalidation date when they login and select member roster. Members are beginning to renew online, saving the Post and Dept work and speeding the process. Members can print a membership card online as they wait for the post to mail their cards. Each post has an email confirmation contact that gets an email alert when a member renews online. Refund reports are sent to Posts and Depts as each month closes. The Finance Dept is working on ACH fund transfers to speed the refunds to Departments. Phase 2 will include the posts.

We average ten support boxes a month to assist Post recruiting efforts. We appreciate the time they are spending recruiting for AMVETS. We will continue the Recruit 5-member drive.

43% of our members do not have emails. Does your post mail a paper newsletter? Are posts doing wellness check phone calls? Who is reaching out to Dept MALs.? Are you getting the MAL lists from your Department so you can recruit?

Member engagement is essential to retain veterans in AMVETS. The National HQ AMVETS Update and the Nimitz group Legislative updates are emailed to half of our members. The other half does not have emails. Some Depts have Newsletters to keep their states aware of the work they are doing. AMVETS competes for attention. Departments Posts and members, build Facebook pages. Search AMVETS and become friends with other AMVETS posts and members. **AMVETS Rolling to Remember** was a success! Roll on its coat tails. John Stewart stumped for the Pact Act at RFK. The Nation heard the thunder of the biker's message, **We do not leave veterans behind, 22 veteran suicides every day is a systemic failure to address the mental health needs of veterans.**

Talk to a veteran get him to join in our work!
AMVETS hosts the largest veteran's demonstration in the world, Memorial Day
AMVETS NSO's submit VA claims free of charge.
AMVETS Career Centers will find seven hundred veterans jobs this year!
AMVETS Heal Team has an online suicide prevention course

Report of Harry Neal
AMVETS National Membership Director

Add information about your State and Posts programs. Depts, buy a couple loaner table covers to help struggling posts with recruiting, call Bill at 410-440-4928 to get one with the new Space Force emblem. Has the Dept created a state brochure? Do you have combined Post Dept recruiting events? Email membersupport@amvets.org with the date of your event and include an address for the support box, with AMVETS brochures, membership applications and co-branded bling provided by our partner USAA. Appreciate all you do to help veterans.

This concludes my report and I move for its acceptance.

Report of Carol Hebert
AMVETS National Programs Director (*Continue*)

National Commander Heun, members of the NEC and distinguished guests,

I want to say Congratulations and Thank you to all the Departments in helping us reach our 100% Department reporting goal for the period ending 15 July 2022. We adapted and overcame the program reporting issues, we all worked together as a team to make this happens and it shows how dedicated we are to AMVETS. We have now reported for a whole year with all departments being 100%. Let us see if we can get more posts now to report, if anyone needs help, please reach out to our Programs Team we are ready willing and able to assist

We have held our quarterly zoom call with the 2nd Vices and anyone that reports programs, we had anywhere from 33-40 personnel on the call and anywhere from 12-15 states, we included the outgoing and incoming program reporting personnel along with any posts that are willing to learn, hopefully with a new 2nd Vice coming on board we can continue to keep this a quarterly or even monthly event. The information is sent out in our monthly programs blast about the meeting along with other pertinent information. 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.

Our Americanism/AADA program is over, and we will be judging the Contest entries and essays at National Convention, if anyone is interested in helping out with that, please contact myself or Colondra so we can put you on the list as a volunteer judge. The winners should be announced at the Convention and the list of winners will be posted on the website. We will include this year the name of the student what state they are from and what post they belong to.

We have been in contact with the Freedoms Foundation for the Spirit of Youth Conference for our 9th grade winners and the program is on we will be sending 9th grade winners to Freedoms foundation this year. The Dates are 3-6 November 2022 we are looking for chaperones to help with this, if you are interested, please contact the Programs Team. Priority are our 2022 winners, but, if there are winners from past years and want to go, their name will be put on a list and if available may have the possibility of attending.

All National Scholarship program are now closed, and awardees are being notified.
.
The Employer of the Year Nominations are now closed, and the awardees will be given out at the National Convention as well as Programs Awards.
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.

Our Career Center is progressing nicely. In 2021, AMVETS Career Center successfully exceeded the 680 veteran placement goal. Good news, we have received a Grant once again from CODE Call of Duty Endowment. This will enable us to help place veterans for employment. This is a nationwide program offering free-of-charge assistance to veterans, transitioning military and their spouses. The Career Team has new titles As of January 1, 2022, the following titles are assigned:

Ciara Singletary: Chief Veteran Employment Officer
Jazmin Herring: Employment Branding Specialist
Jolicia Ashford and Bumi Ayodele: Veteran Employment Specialist

One important program that everyone should get involved with is Suicide Awareness. There is a Suicide Awareness training course under the HEAL TEAM Healthcare Advocates then click Projects.

This training can be taken by anyone. I encourage each Department and Post to use this training and publicize Suicide Prevention to your members.

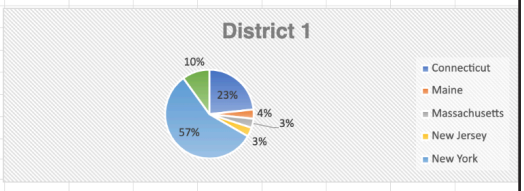
Programs is currently working on a resource directory for the states to use, if your state has a resource please send the information to programs @ amvets.org so we can compile the information and get it out to the states.

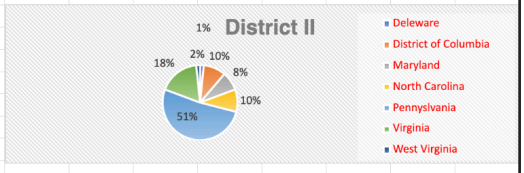
This is something that is important to all of us! Let us get our communities involved! Who knows, you may get membership out of it!

Rolling to Remember, we came, we saw, and we conquered. It was a great day of camaraderie and a nice day for the ride. The 2.2 Mile walk conducted Saturday morning was great along with all the appearances we had by many speakers. It took many months of planning for this event and a lot of volunteers and dedicated workers to accomplish this Awesome Event. I encourage all of you to come out and volunteer, some of us will be returning every year but if you only come out for one year its worth the trip.

We are also requesting the Departments and National Districts to send out the information to the posts, to use their chain of Command. With all the information and training we have been giving out, there should be no reason a post should contact National. But, we are still getting posts contacting us abut issues, so please communicate with your Districts, States, and posts.

7/15/2022			
District I	Total Posts Reporting	Active Total Posts in Dept	% Posts Reporting
Connecticut	7	8	87.50%
Maine	1	9	11.11%
Massachusetts	1	34	2.94%
New Jersey	1	19	5.26%
New York	17	64	26.56%
Rhode Island	3	5	60.00%
% Posts Reporting (over entire district):	30	139	21.58%
District I Departments Reporting:	6	6	100.00%
District II			
Deleware	1	5	20.00%
District of Columbia	6	6	100.00%
Maryland	5	9	55.56%
North Carolina	6	22	27.27%
Pennyslvania	32	46	69.57%
Virginia	11	11	100.00%
West Virginia	1	7	14.29%
% Posts Reporting (over entire district):	62	106	58.49%
District II Departments Reporting:	7	7	100.00%

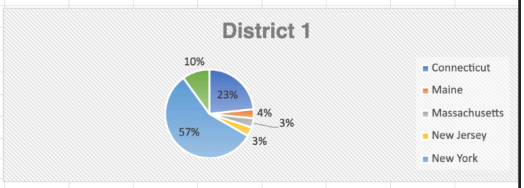


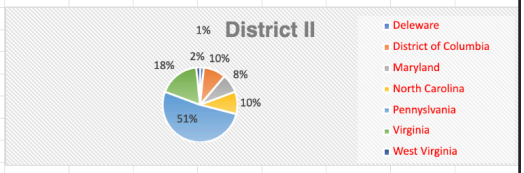


Report of Carol Hebert
AMVETS National Programs Director (*Continue*)

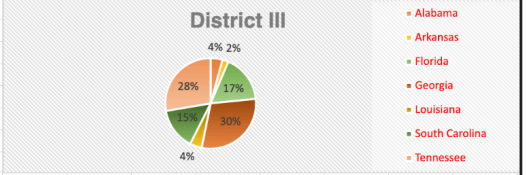
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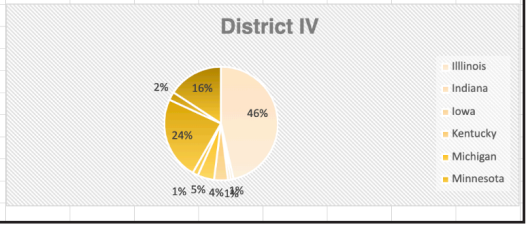
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Virginia	11	11	100.00%
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District II Departments Reporting:	7	7	100.00%



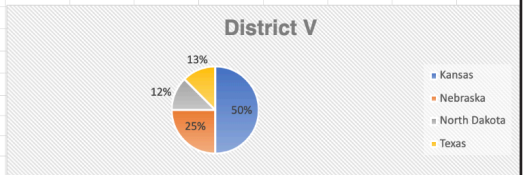


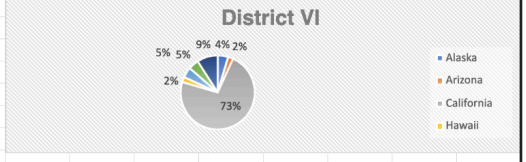
District III			
Alabama	2	6	33.33%
Arkansas	1	5	20.00%
Florida	8	71	11.27%
Georgia	14	14	100.00%
Louisiana	2	6	33.33%
South Carolina	7	6	116.67% ??
Tennessee	13	18	72.22%
% Posts Reporting (over entire district):/128	47	126	37.30%
District III Departments Reporting: 6/7	7	7	100.00%
District IV			
Illlinois	59	59	100.00%
Indiana	1	27	3.70%
Iowa	1	41	2.44%
Kentucky	5	19	26.32%
Michigan	6	50	12.00%
Minnesota	2	14	14.29%
Missouri	30	31	96.77%
Ohio	3	106	2.83%
Wisconsin	20	54	37.04%





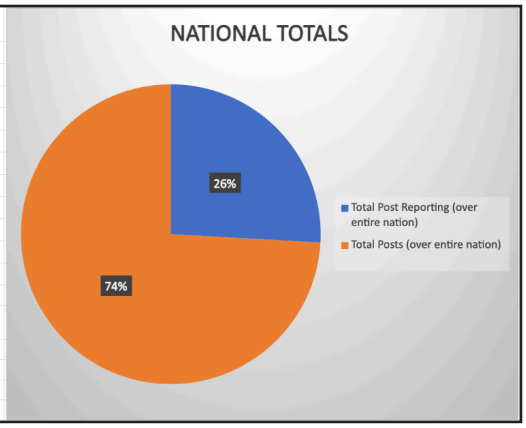
District V			
Kansas	4	5	80.00%
Nebraska	2	13	15.38%
North Dakota	1	9	11.11%
Texas	1	27	3.70%
% Posts Reporting (over entire district) /29	8	54	14.81%
District VI Departments Reporting: 4/4	4	4	100.00%
District VI			
Alaska	2	5	40.00%
Arizona	1	8	12.50%
California	32	32	100.00%
Hawaii	1	6	16.67%
New Mexico	2	5	40.00%
Oregon	2	5	40.00%
Washington	4	14	28.57%
% Posts Reporting (over entire district)/78	44	75	58.67%
District VI Departments Reporting: 5/7	7	7	100.00%





Unorganized Departments			
Colarado	1	2	50.00%
Idaho		4	0.00%
Mississippi	1	1	100.00%
Montana	0	0	
Nevada		1	0.00%
New Hampshire		1	0.00%
Oklahoma		4	0.00%
South Dakota	0	0	
Utah	0	0	
Vermont		1	0.00%
Wyoming		1	0.00%
	2	15	13.33%

National Totals	
Total Post Reporting (over entire nation)	320
Total Posts (over entire nation)	916
% Post Reporting	35%
% Departments Reporting	40



Commander, this concludes my report and I ask for its acceptance at the proper time.

Commander Heun, National leaders, NEC representatives, and AMVETS headquarters staff,

AMVETS' communications department has just onboarded a graphic designer/web developer to assist with print/digital materials needed throughout the year as well as to start modifying the national website to be more centralized, visually appealing, and user-friendly. This is a positive step in building the department to its former size.

Projects

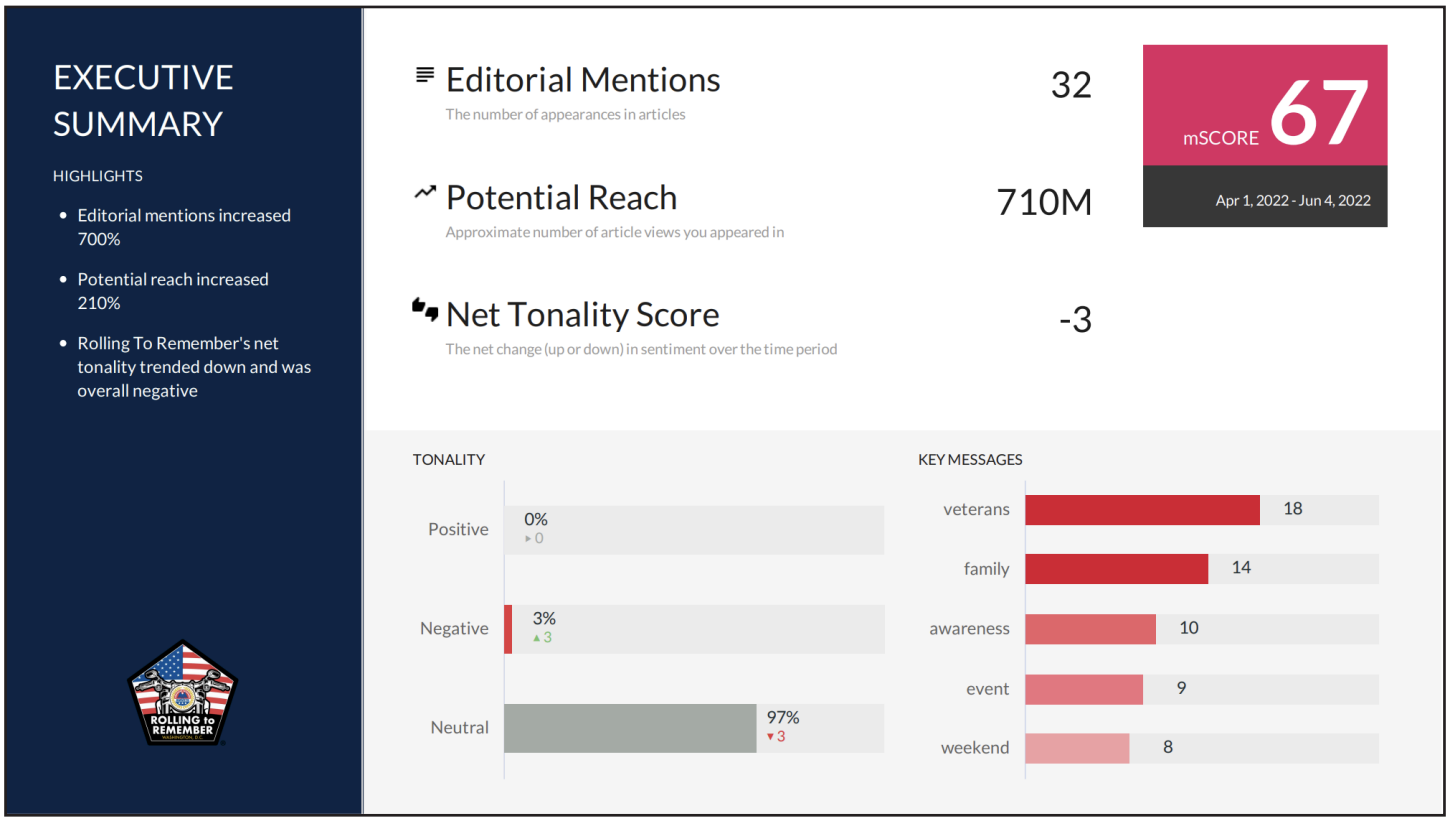
Comms is producing a bi-weekly newsletter with information on what is happening at National as well as some post highlights and content from our partners and sponsors. To opt-in to this newsletter, please email media@amvets.org.

Comms is working closely with our sponsors/partners as well as AMVETS' Project Manager in an effort to fulfill contractual duties and stand out as a veteran organization worth investing in. We are currently raising funds with WD-40 to provide scholarship opportunities for veterans and recently took part in a Veterans Day campaign with Lowe's that was highly successful and appreciated by Lowe's.

Comms continues to work with Commander Heun to build out and execute a vision for how we can continue to raise general awareness of what AMVETS is and how we serve American veterans.

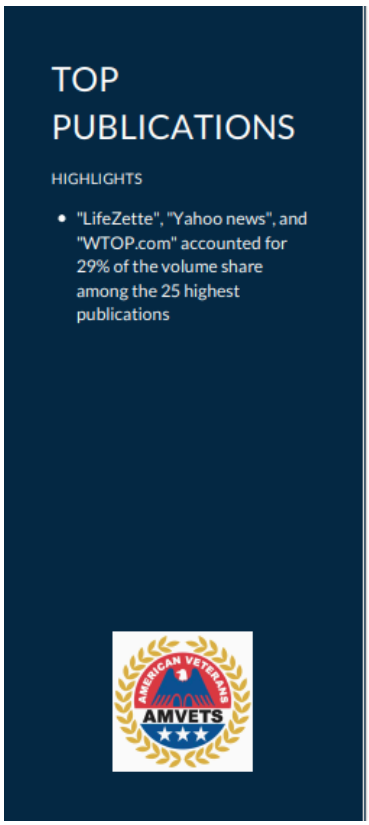
Rolling To Remember 2022

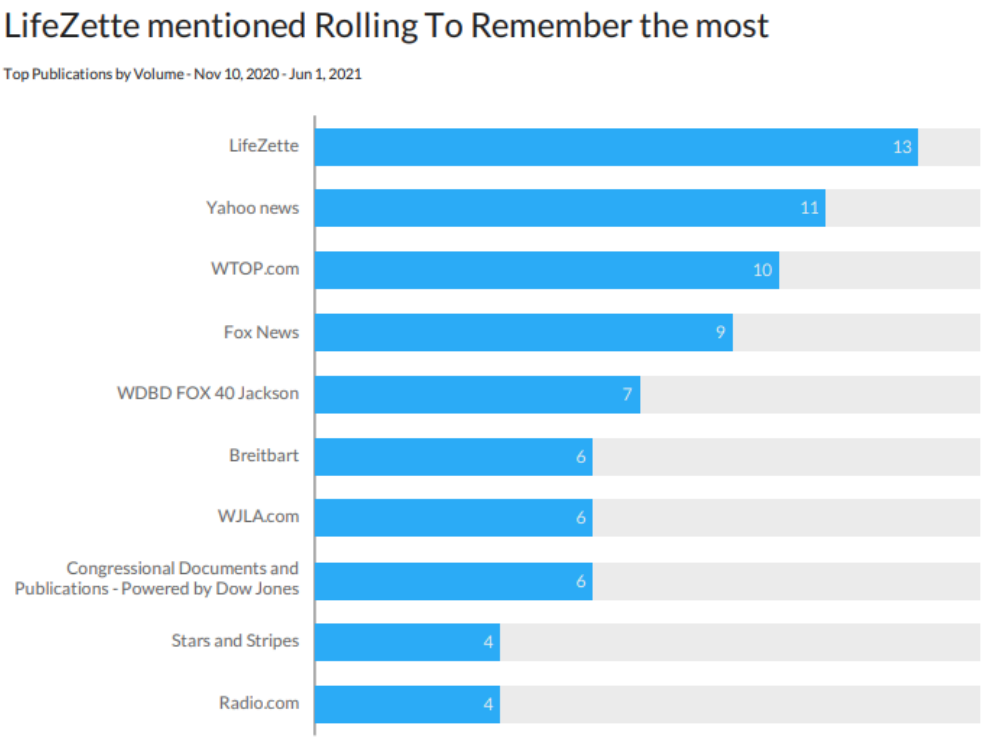
Rolling to Remember was quite a success, as we saw more than 40,000 people in the RFK parking lot Memorial Day weekend. The weekend of, we saw every local news outlet covering the ride. Nationally, we accommodated CNN, FOX NEWS, Yahoo, PBS NewsHour, Newsmax and more. Below is a breakdown of the total media reach we received stemming from April 1 through June 4:



Report of Miles Migliara, NEC
AMVETS Communications Department

In 2021, Rolling To Remember saw 1.5 billion total impressions (any media with Rolling To Remember mentioned) in large part due to the story build up to the ride (rejection from Pentagon to stage in parking lot). This drew Nationwide attention to the ride. Without that same dramatic twist leading up to the 2022 ride, we saw impressions halved to just over 710 million, where I anticipate we will see a slow, steady increase each year as the ride becomes bigger. Any newsworthy turn of events that happen before the ride will affect total media impressions and reach, much like they did in 2021.





This is my report and I move for its adoption at the proper time.
Miles Migliara

Communications, AMVETS

Report of Katie Kilby, NSF NEC
AMVETS National Development Officer (*Continue*)

Having joined the AMVETS team in late March, I am honored to be able to report on my first three months of service to this mission. I see it as a privilege to be able to work on fueling AMVETS with the financial resources, partnerships, and creativity that come from collaborative relationships to ensure the legacy of this work for generations to come.

Thus far, my priority has been researching the current sitrep of the Development Department and working on aligning strategy for my recommended priorities for this coming year. I'm also working to align that plan in a way that promotes collaboration and cross-functional annual goals across the organization that we can then support with development initiatives and strategic partnerships.

First 3 Months:

Since early April, the Development Department has:

• Spent time reviewing SharePoint files dating back to 2019
• Engaged in conversations with our current Direct Mail and agency vendors to determine the current reality and chart a path forward
o Recommended parting ways with Altus based on financial cost, communication styles, and anecdotal + statistical feedback on most popular campaigns
o Recommend celebrating 36 year relationship with Concord Direct, and increasing partnership BUT decreasing the number of annual campaigns from 12+ to 4-5 quality initiatives with ONE vendor (suggesting calendar, datebook, notecards, etc)
o We met in person with the Concord team in May – including their agency leadership. We are NOT currently under contract with Concord, but have provided the data needed for them to complete an "index" report to evaluate effectiveness and provide recommendations. We are slated to have access to a full report later this month.
o Concord has the ability to offer a more robust suite of services than we are currently taking advantage of, and I am recommending that we sit down with them again this summer to discuss options to align our Development strategy with our Marketing Strategy

• Ensure that EVERY campaign (printed, mailed, newsletter, social media, etc) is evaluated to set ourselves up for cross-functional success across AMVETS. For example:
• Direct Mailings and the bi-weekly should tell stories of impact and membership information while of course soliciting contributions
• The podcast should begin to incorporate strategic funding and corporate partnerships, as well as member highlights and community partnerships
• Although I entered the scene much too late to initiate strategy for Rolling to Remember, I am excited to already begin laying the groundwork for 2023's event:

o Diversify financial support for R2R 2023
• Grow relationships with Harley Davidson, Humana, and Lowes
• Steward relationship with Mission BBQ – possible cup campaign and increased vendor relationship for 2023

• Pursue public and private grant funds to account for 50% of anticipated budget
• Build relationships with like-minded partner organizations and ask for "in-kind" support (water, food, branding, etc) to defray overall costs
• Launch digital "Hero Wall" campaign to solicit support from Americans across the country as a build up to R2R 23

o Build out collaborative worksheet document:
• Ensure institutional knowledge
• Improve internal and external comms
• Encourage situational awareness and collaboration/delegation of tasks
• Improve efficiencies and effectiveness with vendors and internal teams

• I've been working on an informal "systems audit" to determine existing and recommended tools to increase output and effectiveness of our Development Strategy

o Recommend holding off on additional hires and investing in efficiency tools such as:
• Private foundation research tools
• End contract with CharityEngine and migrate data to Springly (all in one nonprofit software)
• We are still encountering a ridiculous number of declined charges, which correlates with decreased individual contributions, and likely the loss of trust from potential recurring donors
• Many of the features are NOT user friendly/intuitive, and the customer service is lacking at CharityEnginge

• Continue to identify all competing CRMs/software tools within the organization and adopt Springly for Development, Comms, and Membership. Possible inclusion of program outcomes to track data and metrics in phase 3.
• Consider possible contractors to assist with grant and copy writing
o Currently, we are not utilizing our CRM to steward individual donors.

In summation, I believe strongly in cross-functional teams and collaboration – both internally and externally. I have much more to learn about the legacy and structure of this organization, but I'm confident that we can fuel this organization with financial contributions (from individuals and larger entities), strategic partnerships, and in-kind donations of resources and services.

I'm excited to earn trust and grow the efficiencies and effectiveness of my department, and appreciate the opportunity that has been bestowed upon me to help ensure the sustainability of AMVETS for generations to come.



AMVETS

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