

Sons of AMVETS

Department of Massachusetts

Minutes of July 21, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm. 1st Vice Commander David Spencer acted as Provost Marshal and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the Sons Preamble. Judge Advocate Clifford Kaizer acted as Chaplain and read the Benediction.

Roll Call of Officers was done by 1st Vice Commander Spencer.

Commander William Barry-PRESENT
1st Vice Commander David Spencer-PRESENT
2nd Vice Commander Michael Bruno-PRESENT
3rd Vice Commander Philip Ingleby-PRESENT
Finance Officer James Flanigan PDC-PRESENT
Judge Advocate Clifford Kaizer PDC-PRESENT
Provost Marshal Leo Manning-EXCUSED
Immediate Past Commander David Helmuth PDC-EXCUSED

Commander Barry: The reading of the previous minutes from Convention we do not have because the tape recorder did not work. If you want me I'll give the reason why. I apologize for not getting the minutes out from Convention; the Tape recorder did not work. We had election of officers. We had one competition for 1st Vice Commander. The nomination was Dave Spencer and Henry Shilo. David Spencer was elected 1st Vice, Mike Bruno was elected 2nd Vice, Phil Ingleby 3rd Vice, Leo Manning Provost Marshal, James Flanigan Finance Officer, Sonny Kaizer Judge Advocate. Due to the problem with the tape recorder, could anyone who remembers anything from the Convention meeting please jot it down and send it to me or call me with the information. I will make sure we get some kind of minutes sent out from the Convention.

Finance Officer Flanigan brought up the distribution of membership cards to Squadrons was brought up at Convention and was left to the discretion of the 1st Vice to set up criteria for that distribution. 1st Vice Spencer mentioned that the proposal on this matter was going to be brought up today under old business.

2nd Vice Commander Bruno mentioned that there was also discussion brought up by Dave Helmuth in regards to the Survivor's Benefit Fund and the raising of dues to keep this program.

Commander Barry: Would the 1st Vice Commander like to give his report at this time?

1st Vice Commander's Report: See Attached Report

MOTION: to accept the 1st Vice Report. Motion was made by 1st Vice Spencer and seconded by Finance Officer Flanigan. MOTION PASSES

2nd Vice Commander's Report: Nothing to report at this time.

3rd Vice Commander's Report: Nothing to report at this time.

Judge Advocate's Report: I have given the By-Laws and the Standing Rules a once over since I received them from David who sent out what happened at convention. There are a number of discrepancies that need to be taken into consideration because the wording. The wording has been changed. Some of the Articles that were put in were put in and never written. Some of them were never brought up for the Department before being written in there and the wordings of a few of the articles and sections have been changed. One right off the top of my head was the \$250.00 for the Commander's Emergency Fund. The wording to that has been changed. Nothing was written up and given to us sixty days before. Therefore the changes are null and void. But the basic premise is there. The basic premise is that the Commander's Emergency fund is still at \$250.00. It was an emergency Commander's Fund but the wording has been changed.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that this issue be tabled to a special CBL meeting. This should happen in early September before the next SEC so that any recommendations regarding the standing rules can be brought before it at that time.

VAVS Coordinator's Report: Basically the quarterly meetings have been attended by "Sons of" Reps and Deps for the June meetings which would be the quarterly meetings I'm talking about. The next quarterly meeting will be on September 10th and 11th. Please check for any changes and times. Also, don't forget to write up your program reports for doing your visits. On the way up here I've been thinking about what the VAVS Coordinator job entails and there seems to be some discrepancy. My job as VAVS Coordinator stands as long as the Commander wants me there. What I do is to make sure that we have Reps and Deps at the hospitals. That is my job. My job is not to make out program reports. My job is not to find out how many Reps and Deps are doing hours. My job is to make sure we have Reps and Deps covering the VA facilities. That, as far as I know, the Commander has asked me, and that's what I understand. I understand there are a few things that National asks of the Coordinator, but at the Department that is all. At the Departments all program reports go through the 2nd Vice. Everything goes through the 2nd Vice as far as program reports of any kind, community, veterans, hospitals, VA. Everything goes through the 2nd Vice. The 2nd Vice then informs me and lets me know who the Reps and Deps are who are doing those things. I have a list of all of my Reps and Deps that I've passed out. I just wanted to make sure that this was addressed because there seems to be a little discrepancy about it. If we can get the program reports to somewhat assimilate national reporting then we can get our 2nd Vice to get a full reporting of everything that everyone is doing in the category that they are doing it: the hours in that category, the monies in that category, and each individual category. I think that it's more important to start on these categories. I don't want to jump into specific things, that's the 2nd Vice's job, but I wanted to straighten this part out

because I think some people were under the impression that it is my job to find out what hours and everything else everyone is doing.

** Commander Barry passed the gavel to 1st Vice Commander Spencer so that he could attend to a personal matter. **

Are there any questions about what I just said?

1st Vice Commander Spencer: The Commander has asked me to advise you that for the quarterly meeting on September 11, he will be unable to attend it. He has asked if you could arrange for a replacement for him for that meeting.

2nd Vice Commander Bruno and Henry Shilo will cover this meeting at Jamaica Plain.

1st Vice Coordinator Spencer: Do you have anything further to report on VAVS?

VAVS Coordinator Kaizer: No. I am surprised that nobody from Randolph is here. They were at the meeting in Brockton.

Finance Officer's Report: Gentlemen, all money and all receipts for everything so far I have received, since Convention we have one outstanding check. This check is for envelopes, \$75.00. Sitting in the bank is \$2,818.15 minus \$75.00, \$2,743.15 in the bank.

** Commander Barry returned to the meeting at this point. **

As far as receipts for money taken in for the Commander's testimonial, just all the receipts I have put together a report on where the monies went and according to the people collecting money I have a report. We did buy a lot of equipment, the flag stands etc. Our Bank has hired a new company to do their webpage. We have to come up with a different number and everything to get into it. It's not the same, it's totally different. It's probably going to be easier for me because I can download everything into Quicken so when I have a report everything will go together.

We're in good shape money-wise. Probably the best we've been in truthfully. Finishing Convention up it's the best we've ever had. A lot of that has to do with the 1st Vice getting the money in, everybody doing their job. We really need to be thinking about where we really want to be after the National Convention. We're going to have to put something together before everybody else puts something together. As far as finances are concerned any questions you have on anything. I have to put together the budget. It's getting a lot easier. I'll give you a simple budget report. You'll be able to see exactly where the money's going to go next year.

There was a question raised as to the monies raised for the hospitality room. Of the monies that were raised, \$38 was left after expenses. It was decided not to return any funds to the Squadrons as it was a very low amount per Squadron to reimburse.

The Life Membership raffle was again discussed. It was agreed upon to try to alter the Raffle to a "Running Raffle," meaning that we can sell tickets until we pass the break even point before drawing it, but would therefore be able to draw it earlier than at the 200 ticket mark. It was decided to write a Letter to the State AMVETS asking if we can alter the provisions of the original Raffle to allow us to sell to non-AMVETS family people, with any winner outside the AMVETS family winning \$300.00.

MOTION: To alter the Life Membership Raffle as described above pending AMVETS approval, made by Clifford Kaizer, seconded by James Flanigan. MOTION PASSES.

1st Vice Commander Spencer: Commander, with your permission at this time I would like to take down the flags due to the high wind currently occurring in this area.

The Commander agreed to this action.

The Commander's wife has accrued expenses from the testimonial. Has she been reimbursed?

Commander Barry: Not all of them.

The Commander had stated when we started his testimonial that he would like to give if funds were available to give a check at National to the Kentucky children's fund. The check would be given to the State Commander of Kentucky to distribute however he can to benefit children.

Webmaster's Report: Sometime earlier this week, our server went down. I have not been able to contact them. As a result anyone trying to get on the website has been getting the message "504 gateway timeout." I've tried to email the company and haven't gotten through. I've phoned the company, the lines been busy when I've called them. If this keeps up I'm going to cancel the contract with them and set up a new contract elsewhere so we can have the website up and running in time for national Convention.

Commander Barry: What is the price on that?

It is about \$15 per month, but I do everything myself.

The Commander called for a 5 minute recess.

The Meeting was called back to order at 2:15pm

NEC Report: I have received paperwork from National finally for items to be voted on at Convention if you go. I will read them from the packet to give you an idea what is to be voted on. Difficult though the last year as NEC, I have decided to no longer be NEC for Sons of AMVETS. Due to working constraints, I will no longer be able to fulfill my duties. My suggestion is that the Commander replace me as NEC and I make a motion to that effect.

MOTION: To have Commander Barry replace the NEC by National Convention, made by Clifford Kaizer. MOTION PASSES

Judge Advocate Kaizer went over the National Convention information for the benefit of those attending.

The Commander asked that we dispense with the review of Proposals sent to us from National. The approved changes will be reviewed at the September SEC.

MOTION: To accept the NEC report, made by David Spencer, second by Clifford Kaizer. MOTION PASSES

Unfinished Business

1st Vice Commander Spencer brought his proposal for the distribution of the pre-printed cards to local Squadrons. It involves a contract, which was reviewed at the meeting. The Department 1st Vice Commander will go to each Squadron meeting that he can during September. He will review the final contract with them. The Squadron Commander will sign on behalf of the Squadron and the Department 1st Vice Commander will sign on behalf of the State. Cards will be issued to the Squadron and must be returned prior to a certain date. All Squadrons who are eligible will receive all of their cards. 1st Vice Commander Spencer will be unable to go to Natick 79's meeting due to Marlboro 1980 meeting the same night. Commander Barry will be there to handle that meeting. The only Squadron not getting their cards this year will be Squadron 51 because they are new and are having problems. The Commander has been asked by the Post 51 Commander to come to their next meeting due to some ongoing problems and he and the 1st Vice Commander will be going to their August meeting.

MOTION: To approve the Squadron Membership Card Contract, with a reduction of the post-May 1st fees to \$2.00 if only the \$2.00 dues increase passes National Convention, made by David Spencer, seconded by James Flanigan. MOTION PASSES

The State Flag items are in. The only thing not in is the American Flag which Commander Barry is in the process of obtaining. The American Flag posted today is on loan from Squadron 208 and is their marching flag.

At Convention the State decided to match whatever funds were sent in from the State Squadrons as of today. The 25% match is a further \$100.00. 1st Vice Spencer believes that perhaps we may want to increase the amount. Henry Shilo proposed a further 25% of everything (including the State grant) sent in thus far for an additional \$125.00. A giant check will be presented to National President Sue Sisler at the opening ceremonies at National Convention.

MOTION: To increase the State Grant to \$225.00 for the National Homeless Veterans Program, made by David Spencer, seconded by Phil Ingleby. MOTION PASSES

Need to spend money on membership, delegate fees, 5 we have to pay for and badges, convention pins (\$36)

1st Vice Commander Spencer brought up the distribution of Convention pins. There are 2 ways to break up these pins. One is by how long people will be there and the other is to break them up evenly regardless. It was decided to use the second option. Each person will get an equal share of pins with any extra pins going to the Commander. Each person going will get 13 pins except for the Commander who will get 18. The 1st Vice was able to obtain 36 extra pins on top of the 60 we already had. The cost for these is within our original budget for the pins. The Judge Advocate and Commander were given their pins today. The 1st Vice will distribute the remaining pins to the people getting them.

It was brought up to make a donation to the children of Kentucky. They don't really have anything. The monies will be given to and distributed by the AMVETS Department of Kentucky.

MOTION: to donate \$200.00 to the children of Kentucky, made by Clifford Kaizer, seconded by Mike Bruno. MOTION PASSES

Under our Standing Rules we are required to pay for the registration fees for anyone going to National Convention from Massachusetts. This will come to \$125.00

The Commander also would like to have us have summer uniforms similar to AMVETS with patches on our sleeves, etc. This would be used during the summer months only as the jackets get rather hot during parades and meetings held during that time of year.

New Business

It was brought up to reduce the State Convention to one day in years it is possible. 1st Vice Spencer visited the New York State Convention last month for research purposes. They run a one day convention. They start at 10am and go through about 4pm, breaking for lunch. At 1pm to 2:30pm. We can go right into 1st session immediately following opening ceremonies and registration. Delegates will not have to stay overnight. The only concern is whether the AMVETS say we can do this. The officers feel that this is a good idea. We will be unable to even begin finalizing plans, but it was felt that we need to begin discussion as early as possible so people will be ready for it. There was some discussion on a format for nominations either to have one round of nominations or to open nominations in March (like AMVETS), etc.

The Commander excused himself to attend to a personal matter.

There was some discussion on the proposed uniform Department Constitution & By-Laws and how they relate to the proposed Convention format.

The Commander returned to the meeting.

There was some discussion over our Christmas Program.

-MOTION: to adjourn. Motion was made by David Spencer and seconded by Phil Ingleby. **MOTION PASSES**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm