

Department of Massachusetts
Sons of AMVETS
State Convention-Sturbridge Host Hotel
May 31, 2003

1st Vice Commander David Spencer called the Convention to order at 12:32pm. 1st Vice Commander Spencer made the announcement that Commander William Barry did not feel well and that he would be running the meeting until Commander Barry could resume his duties. The Commander will remain on the floor as long as he is able. 1st Vice Commander Spencer read the Invocation. Acting Provost Marshal Joe Crump led the Convention in the Pledge of Allegiance. 1st Vice Commander Spencer led the Convention in the Reading of the Sons Preamble.

1st Vice Commander Spencer turned the gavel over to 2nd Vice Commander Michael Bruno so that he could finish the credentials report.

Roll Call of Officers was done by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno.

Commander William Barry-Present
1st Vice Commander David Spencer-Present
2nd Vice Commander Michael Bruno-Present
3rd Vice Commander Phil Ingleby-Absent
Finance Officer James Flanigan, PDC-Present
Judge Advocate Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Present
Provost Marshal Leo Manning-Excused
Immediate Past Commander David Helmuth, PDC-Present
Chaplain Alan Gentile-Absent
VAVS Coordinator Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Present
National Executive Committeeman David Spencer-Present
Webmaster David Spencer-Present
NO SONS COORDINATORS PRESENT AT START OF MEETING

1st Vice Commander Spencer returned to the podium and relieved 2nd Vice Commander Bruno.

1st Vice Commander Spencer asked the delegates to bear with him during the reading of the credentials report, and to have 1 member of each delegation to confirm the number of delegates on the floor.

Squadron 1: 7 Delegates, 1 Officer-Confirmed
Squadron 12: 3 Delegates-Confirmed
Squadron 51: Not present at Convention
Squadron 74: 3 Delegates-Confirmed
Squadron 79: 1 Delegate, 2 Officers (one is the State Commander)-Confirmed
Squadron 208: 3 Delegates, 1 Officer-Confirmed
Squadron 495: 7 Delegates-Confirmed

Squadron 1977: 2 Delegates-Confirmed
Squadron 1980: 1 Delegate, 1 Officer-Confirmed
Squadron 1996: Not Present at Convention

31 Delegates are Present excluding the Commander (he votes only during elections). A majority vote will be 16, 21 will be 2/3rds vote.-Confirmed

1st Vice Commander Spencer called for a Moment of Silence for the 3 members who passed away during the past year. Their names are: Thomas “TJ” Rosenquist (Squadron 79), Kevin Stangle (Squadron 1980), and Neal Mael (Squadron 495).

1st Vice Commander Spencer called upon Judge Advocate Clifford Kaizer to read the Convention rules.

Judge Advocate Kaizer read the Convention Rules and made corrections based on the Uniform Department Constitution and By-Laws. Delegate Counts are one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate for the first eight (8) members, and one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate for each additional five (5) members or the major fraction thereof, as recorded by the State 1st Vice Commander 30 days prior to the Convention. National Commander David Helmuth explained that the changes were approved at the National Convention last year.

MOTION: to accept the Convention Rules by National Commander Helmuth, seconded by 2nd Vice Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

1st Vice Commander recognized the National Commander from Massachusetts, David R. Helmuth, PDC, who is also the Immediate Past Department Commander.

Commander’s Report-As read by 1st Vice Commander Spencer

Since the last SEC meeting I went to Bourne National Cemetery, as well as Off-Station Parties in Marlboro and Natick. We also at this time have two new Squadrons and 1 Squadron on the way. The new Squadrons are Marshfield 1996 and Stoughton 1977. The Delegation from 1977 is in the back and I’d like your recognition for them please. Clinton 19 is in the process of filling out their Charter Application.

MOTION: to accept the Commander’s Report by 2nd Vice Bruno, seconded by Judge Advocate Kaizer. **MOTION PASSES**

1st Vice Commander’s Report

MOTION: to accept the 1st Vice Commander’s Report as printed by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2nd Vice Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

Revalidation Status Report-

All Squadrons have submitted a change of Officers form except for Squadron 51. They will be contacted. All Squadrons have submitted their membership. All Squadrons have returned their pre-printed membership cards to the Department. As of this time, 10 Squadrons are fully revalidated with the Department for 2003-2004 and the last one will be revalidated very soon, as soon as the 1st Vice Commander can contact the new Commander.

MOTION: to accept the Revalidation Status Report by 2nd Vice Bruno, seconded by Judge Advocate Kaizer. **MOTION PASSES**

2nd Vice Commander's Report

As attached.

MOTION: to accept the 2nd Vice Commander's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by Henry Shilo (Squadron 1). **MOTION PASSES**

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: to accept the Minutes of the March SEC with an amendment to correct the year to 2003 by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2nd Vice Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

Commander Barry left the Floor at this time to rest.

Finance Officer's Report

As attached.

MOTION to accept the Finance Officer's Report by Thomas Fraser (Squadron 79), seconded by Bob Wood (Squadron 495). **MOTION PASSES**

National Executive Committeeman's Report

As attached.

MOTION: to accept the National Executive Committeeman's Report by Finance Officer Flanigan, seconded by Paul Chaves (Squadron 208). **MOTION PASSES**

Webmaster's Report

As attached. The Webmaster added that he is trying to update the Past Department Officer's Page, and he would like any info following the meeting today.

MOTION to accept the Webmaster's Report by Gerard Mathieu (Squadron 74), seconded by Henry Shilo (Squadron 1). **MOTION PASSES**

MOTION: to excuse the Judge Advocate from giving his report by Bob Wood (Squadron 495), seconded by Judge Advocate Kaizer. **MOTION PASSES**

VAVS Coordinator's Report

As attached. The newer Representatives' and Deputies' certifications have not been received from National, so they are not included in the Report.

MOTION: to accept the VAVS Coordinator's Report by Bob Wood (Squadron 495), seconded by Acting Provost Marshal Joe Crump. **MOTION PASSES**

Guest-Guy Massa, PDC

AMVETS PDC Guy Massa came onto the Convention Floor. PDC Massa thanked the Sons for supporting one of his projects this year, the Walk-a-thon, held in Winthrop. Three Sons came out to help and the largest pile of money was turned in by a Son of AMVETS. \$1,248 was raised for AMVETS, \$428 for the Ladies Auxiliary, and \$324 for the Sons. Commander Massa presented a check for \$324 to the Sons of AMVETS to be used however we see fit.

We were also informed that there would be another road race in April.

PDC Massa also handed out flyers for a USO Fatigue Party on Friday, June 27th from 7-11pm at Winthrop Post 48. A donation of \$2 is due at the door. There will raffles, etc.

Presentations of Awards

As Commander Barry could not be present, 1st Vice Commander Spencer presented the Commander's Award. The 2002-2003 Commander's Award was given to Al Gentile. He could not be present so the Award was presented to Squadron 79 Commander Cliff Kaizer.

It was announced that the Commander and 1st Vice decided to split the membership into two categories. Division 1 would consist of the four largest Squadrons, and Division 2 would consist of the four smallest Squadrons. The Division II membership award was won by Squadron 51, on the strength of more than 200% membership, and renewing all 2002 members except for the two who are now in AMVETS. No one was on hand to accept the award, so this will be presented to their AMVETS delegation on the AMVETS floor tomorrow. The Division I membership award was won by Squadron 495 on the strength of 125% membership. This award was accepted by Squadron 495 Commander Joe Crump.

1st Vice Commander Spencer also gave out the following certificates:

- Exceeding 100% membership-Roslindale Squadron 1
- Exceeding 100% membership-Randolph Squadron 51
- Exceeding 100% membership-Three Rivers Squadron 74
- Exceeding 100% membership-Natick Squadron 79
- Exceeding 100% membership-Millis Squadron 495
- Exceeding 100% membership-Marlboro Squadron 1980
- Largest Squadron in Massachusetts-Roslindale Squadron 1
- Most New Members-Natick Squadron 79

The Programs Award was presented by the 2nd Vice Commander to Hudson Squadron 208

Unfinished Business

Judge Advocate Kaizer wished to address the Christmas Fund. This was addressed by Finance Officer Flanigan. So far he has received a total of \$1,739.81. Judge Advocate Kaizer elaborated on the use of the funds. The funds will be used to place scooters in each VA facility. A 50/50 pool was started. 50% goes to the Scooters, 50% goes to cash prizes.

There was no further unfinished business.

New Business

2nd Vice Commander Bruno asked that we earmark the \$230 he personally raised for the walk-a-thon to go to the Scooter fund unless the Department has a better use for that money.

MOTION: to earmark the \$230 raised for the Walk-a-Thon by Mike Bruno to the National Commander's Scooters for Vets Program, by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Judge Advocate Kaizer. **MOTION PASSES**

2nd Vice Commander Bruno presented a check to National Commander Helmuth from Squadron 1 towards the National Scooter Fund in the amount of \$50.

Harry Dascoli (Marlboro 1980)-asked about the Lifetime Membership Procedures in regards to the way cards are issued, specifically that they be issued through the Squadron as opposed to sending them directly to the members. He was advised that all Life Membership issues must go through National, as all life membership are handled only through National. It was suggested that perhaps the National Commander could bring this to the National Life Membership Committee to address. National Commander Helmuth mentioned that all life memberships are to be sent to National directly by the member purchasing the Life Membership. 1st Vice Commander Spencer mentioned that the 1st Vice does not get a copy of the life member form from National with the number

on it. There was also not a Life member report by name at the NEC for perusal. He had to specifically request one from National.

There was no further New Business.

1st Vice Commander Spencer called for a 15 minute recess.

The meeting was called back to order at 1:30pm.

National Commander addressed the Convention Body. He thanked all the Sons in Massachusetts for their support. He mentioned the Scooters for Vets Program. The object is to place one in all 198 VA facilities in the US at \$1,500 each. The main thing is to donate to the cause by the Departments. The motto this year is “No Boundaries,” which we don’t have. So far we have placed 30 scooters across the country. We just received pledges for another \$14,000 this week alone. The system is working. They are placing their second scooter in each facility. There will be a new Uniform Department Constitution and By-Laws on the floor at the National Convention.

Joe Crump (Squadron 495) there is a problem with the online forms: When you type in “MA” onto many forms, it does not fit, and the “A” disappears. Commander Helmuth will discuss this with the National Webmaster.

1st Vice Commander Spencer asked the Convention to recognize the efforts of Joe Crump from Squadron 495. He helped set up the Convention room, and set up the flags, with no questions asked. He helped out with the Flag truck as well as a number of other things today.

The Convention asked for an update on Commander Barry. We were informed by National Commander Helmuth that Commander Barry was expected to be back on the floor in about 20 minutes.

1st Vice Commander Spencer presented Squadron 1977’s Charter to their Squadron Commander, James Foren.

1st Vice Commander Spencer informed the Department that the Squadron 208 Color Guard would be attending the National Convention. As they would likely exceed their allowed delegation size at the National Convention, he asked the Convention to make him the Department Delegate. This was allowed by the Convention by Unanimous Consent.

Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #1

See attached for original text

MOTION: to approve Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #1 by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Finance Officer Flanigan. **MOTION PASSES**

Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #2

See attached for original text

National Commander Helmuth: The new Uniform Department CBLs will be including the Immediate Past Department Commander as part of the Executive Board. He recommends adding the Immediate Past Department Commander specifically to this amendment. This verbiage added by unanimous consent.

He also noted that it needs to specifically refer to the Massachusetts Department Convention. This text was also added by unanimous consent.

It was also discussed to add the words “if funds are available,” so that it would not force us to empty the account. It will also require the Officers to raise more money to fund their staying at the Convention.

MOTION to approve Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #2 as amended by Thomas Fraser (Squadron 79), seconded by Henry Shilo (Squadron 1). **MOTION PASSES**

Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #3

See attached for original text

National Commander Helmuth noted that it needs to be specified who is allowed to approve travel. This was agreed upon as the Department Commander or the Department Executive Committee. This verbiage added by unanimous consent.

MOTION to approve Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #3 as amended, by Clifford Smith (Squadron 1977), seconded by Donald Murphy (Squadron 1). **MOTION PASSES**

Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #4

See attached for original text

MOTION: to approve Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #4 by Immediate Past Commander Helmuth, seconded by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #5

Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #5 was discarded by the Convention

Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #6 & 7

Proposal #6 & 7 refer to how to appoint the NEC, and cannot both be adopted. Both were submitted by 1st Vice Commander Spencer. He mentioned that both were submitted

to give the Convention body a choice of how to handle the NEC, as this would need to be in the Standing Rules if we are to have an NEC.

See attached for original text for #7

MOTION to approve Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #7 by Jerry Matthieu (Squadron 74), seconded by Judge Advocate Kaizer. **MOTION PASSES**

Proposed Standing Rules Amendment#8

See attached for text

MOTION to approve Proposed Standing Rules Amendment #8 by Jerry Matthieu (Squadron 74), seconded by Robert Grammer (Squadron 1). **MOTION PASSES**

Nominations

Nominations were opened for Department Officers for 2003-2004

Commander

David Spencer nominated by Paul Chaves (accepts)

Henry Shilo nominated by Robert Grammar (accepts)

1st Vice Commander

William Barry nominated by Clifford Kaizer (not on the floor to accept at this time)

2nd Vice Commander

Michael Bruno nominated by Henry Shilo (accepts)

3rd Vice Commander

NO NOMINATIONS

Adjutant

NO NOMINATIONS

Finance Officer

James Flanigan nominated by Harry Dascoli (accepts)

Judge Advocate

Clifford Kaizer nominated by ??????(accepts)

Provost Marshal

David Rice nominated by Clifford Kaizer (declines)

Paul Chaves nominated by Michael Bruno (accepts)

Nominations closed.

1st Vice Commander Spencer called for a 15 minute recess. He informed the Delegates to be back on time as the doors will be sealed when the elections start.

The meeting resumed at 3pm.

****Commander Barry returned to the floor at this time.****

Commander Barry accepted his nomination for 1st Vice Commander at this time.

MOTION: to allow 2 minutes at the podium for each person running for a contested office by Immediate Past Commander Helmuth, seconded by Paul Chaves (Squadron 208). **MOTION PASSES**

The only contested office is the office of Department Commander. David Spencer spoke first, and was followed by Henry Shilo.

Elections

Voting established in the Convention Rules as by Roll Call Vote. This is to be done by Squadron Roll Call. 1st Vice Commander Spencer instructed all Department Officers with the exception of himself and the Provost Marshal to be seated with their delegations for purposes of voting.

Commander

David Spencer was elected Department Commander for 2003-2004

Judge Advocate Kaizer cast one vote of attrition for all unopposed offices.

The Department Officers for 2003-2004 are:

Commander David Spencer
1st Vice Commander William Barry
2nd Vice Commander Michael Bruno
Finance Officer James Flanigan
Judge Advocate Cliff Kaizer
Provost Marshal Paul Chaves

The Incoming Officers were sworn in by National Commander David Helmuth.

MOTION to adjourn by Bob Wood (Squadron 495), seconded by Rich Dixon (Squadron 495). **MOTION PASSES**

There will be an Incoming Outgoing Officers meeting immediately following the Convention.

Benediction was read by 1st Vice Spencer and the colors were saluted.

The 2003 Convention was adjourned at 3:30pm

Sons of AMVETS
Department of Massachusetts
Post Convention Meeting-Sturbridge Host Hotel
May 31, 2003

Meeting called to order at 3:35pm.

Roll Call of Officers:

Incoming Commander Spencer-Present
Incoming 1st Vice Commander Barry-Excused
Incoming 2nd Vice Commander Bruno-Present
Incoming Finance Officer Flanigan-Present
Incoming Judge Advocate-Excused
Incoming Provost Marshal-Present

1st Vice Commander Spencer installed the Officers of Squadron 495 Millis.

Incoming AMVETS Judge Advocate Ken Montgomery asked that the Incoming Commander appoint David Helmuth to the AMVETS CBL Committee. This was done pending approval of the AMVETS.

Commander-Elect Spencer noted that there was a vacant seat on the Finance Committee. The current Judge Advocate was also the Immediate Past Finance Officer. He appointed PDC Helmuth to the vacant seat. The Incoming Officers present accepted this nomination.

Nominations for vacant and appointed officers will be taken care of at the July SEC, the same as the AMVETS do it.

The first mailing with the convention minutes will be out around mid-June and will have the updated Standing Rules, etc.

The Transition Meeting will be scheduled in the near future, and will occur sometime in the first or second week of July. There will be a Finance Committee meeting scheduled at the convenience of the Finance Officer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.