

Department of Massachusetts
Sons of AMVETS
State Executive Committee
AMVETS Post 495, Millis, MA
July 20, 2003

Commander David Spencer called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

Commander Spencer read the Invocation. Provost Marshal Paul Chaves led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commander Spencer led the reading of the Sons Preamble.

Roll Call was done by Commander Spencer.

Commander David Spencer-Present
1st Vice Commander William Barry, PDC-Present
2nd Vice Commander Michael Bruno-Tardy
3rd Vice Commander Michael Veator-Present
Finance Officer James Flanigan, PDC-Present
Judge Advocate Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Present
Provost Marshal Paul Chaves-Present
Immediate Past Commander William Barry, PDC-Present
Chaplain Leo Manning-Tardy
PRO/Historian Robert Deleskey-Present
VAVS Coordinator Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Present
NEC Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Present
Squadron Commanders were present from Squadron 79, 208, and 1980.
NO SONS COORDINATORS PRESENT AT START OF MEETING

Commander's Appointments

Commander Spencer announced his appointments for 2003-2004:

- 3rd Vice Commander: Michael Veator
- Chaplain: Leo Manning
- VAVS: Cliff Kaizer
- PRO/Historian: Robert Deleskey

The Appointment of the NEC will be discussed a little bit later in the meeting.

MOTION: to accept the Commander's Appointments by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

Approval of Minutes of the 2003 State Convention

MOTION: to accept the Minutes of the 2003 State Convention as written and mailed by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by Finance Officer Flanigan. **MOTION PASSES**

Bills & Communications

The Commander has received a couple of Communications from National.

The National Convention Awards Banquet will be held as usual, free for delegates, \$30pp for all others.

The proposed CBL changes for the National Convention will be discussed after the SEC meeting if anyone wishes to discuss them.

The Main Convention Hotel is full, and the AMVETS rate cutoff date has passed. If anyone wants to reserve a room, you will have to do so at the second hotel, and at the higher rate.

Two things to keep in mind about the agenda: normally we have Thursday off. This year we do not. Also, final nominations will be on Friday, not on Saturday morning. This was due in part to what happened last year with the Ohio delegation. After the close of nominations, they had one hour for caucusing, but due to the large size of their delegation, had difficulty getting their votes in line for the roll call. Immediately after the close of business on Friday, all the Departments will be able to go into their caucuses.

Commander's Report

As attached.

MOTION: to accept the Commander's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 3rd Vice Commander Veator. **MOTION PASSES**

1st Vice Commander's Report

Since Convention, I have been to 2 off station parties, I was in 2 parades (Randolph & Natick) and I was at the Clam Bake here yesterday.

Commander Spencer gave the membership totals. See attached for details.

MOTION: to accept the 1st Vice Commander's Report and the Membership report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

3rd Vice Commander's Report

I attended the Memorial Day Services on May 28, 2003 at Gloucester City Hall. On July 12, I attended the Millis Installation and installed the Squadron with 1st Vice Commander Barry.

MOTION: to accept the 3rd Vice Commander's Report by Harry Dascoli, seconded by Judge Advocate Kaizer. **MOTION PASSES**

Finance Officer's Report

Finances as they stand, \$1,905.78 in the General Fund, \$1,749.51 is in the savings account. Keep in mind that the savings account is almost entirely monies restricted for the X-mas fund 50/50. The more Squadrons we can get in on this, the better.

MOTION: to accept the Finance Officer's Report by Harry Dascoli, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

Judge Advocate's Report

I don't specifically have a report. I have been to a few functions. Mostly I've been active with the Christmas Fund, going to the Squadrons, trying to get them in with two or three. Some just seem to think that two or three is just two little or maybe beyond doing, but 2 or 3 from everybody means 30 extra people.

MOTION: to accept the Judge Advocate's Report by Finance Officer Flanigan, seconded by 3rd Vice Commander Veator. **MOTION PASSES**

Provost Marshal's Report

I do not have a report at this time.

Comdr. Spencer: how did ticket sales for the bottle go? Provost Marshal: We sold 17, I have not gotten the Finance Officer or yourself yet. After the second Vice arrives, we will draw it.

MOTION: to accept the Provost Marshal's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 3rd Vice Commander Veator. **MOTION PASSES**

VAVS Coordinator's Report

At this point, I still have the VAVS membership that I did at Convention. Nothing has changed. September 8-10 will be the quarterly meetings. The VAVS Seminar weekend will be in Massachusetts this year.

MOTION: to accept the VAVS Coordinator's Report by Provost Marshal Chaves, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

PRO/Historian's Report

I do not have a report at this time.

MOTION: to accept the PRO/Historian's Report by 3rd Vice Commander Veator, seconded by Judge Advocate Kaizer. **MOTION PASSES**

Unfinished Business

Revalidation Status Report: At this time we are fully revalidated with National. All Squadrons and the Department are set so we are good to go into Convention. All we have left are the new cards which will be going in at the end of this week.

Convention Review:

Commander Spencer: This was put on as a general discussion item. We may wish to try this again, but I would like to know how you all feel it went before we try this again. Does anyone have any comments?

Provost Marshal Chaves: I thought it went fairly well. There's room for improvement, but there always is no matter what, but I feel it was better than the Convention the year before. I noticed then that we had people show up the first day and were MIA the second.

Finance Officer Flanigan: We're not governed by the AMVETS. We can do things that will help us. We ask "Would you mind if" as a courtesy. We're not as big as they are. There's a lot of reasons, we don't have as many problems that they do.

Commander Spencer: At the July 1st meeting, there was some concerns brought up about some people feeling cowed in a way into not saying anything so that the Convention could get done with. There was some feelings brought up in regards to not giving us enough time to discuss the things in the first place even if we wanted to. I just wanted to have it brought up in discussion. When I made this proposal last year as the 1st Vice, I'd intended to do it for two years to see how it went over two years. If it went well both years, we'd just keep doing it. If it didn't work one year, we could look at it and say "why didn't it work that year" and do one more year to see if that year was just a fluke or a bad year.

1st Vice Commander Barry: It's the most people we ever had at Convention.

Commander Spencer: Part of what hurt us this year was we had the Flag Truck. Normally the Memorial Service would have started at 9. What I'm thinking we might want to do this year is we can pull an hour before the Memorial Service. Whatever time it is, we start 1 hour ahead of that, recess during the Memorial Service which will put a lot of Sons on the floor for the Memorial Service. That would get us through the call to order, invocation, Pledge, Preamble, roll call, agenda, approval of minutes, Convention rules, maybe even as far as the Commander's Report.

There was no further unfinished business.

New Business

The proposed 2003-2004 Budget was sent from the Finance Committee for approval. There are two changes. Budget is attached.

MOTION: to approve the 2003-2004 Budget with changes by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

2nd Vice Commander's Report

As attached.

Chaplain's Report

No report at this time

MOTION: to accept the 2nd Vice Commander's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

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

Fines for Fun and Charity

The Commander brought up that he would like to do some small fundraising by fining officers for various infractions. These fines would be collected by the Provost Marshal throughout the year and go to a charity to be selected by the Provost Marshal and approved by the SEC. No vote is needed for this. All officers are excused for the current meeting.

Finance Officer Flanigan: Who are the Officers, including the appointed ones?

Commander Spencer: The Officers are, at this exact moment, I'm the Commander, Billy is the 1st Vice, Mike Bruno 2nd Vice, Mike Veator 3rd Vice, you're the Finance Officer, Sonny is the JA, Paul is Provost Marshal, Billy's the Immediate Past Commander, Leo is

the Chaplain, Sonny is the VAVS Coordinator and Bob is the PRO/Historian. That is all the Officers at this exact moment.

Functions for 2003-2004

The Commander proposed a day trip to New York City. People could do whatever they want; see the sights, do some shopping, catch a show, etc. This trip would happen on November 29, which is two days after Thanksgiving. The plan would be for the bus to leave between 5 and 6am, and to return between 10 and 11pm. The bus would leave from AMVETS Post 79 (Natick). We are looking at a ticket cost of about \$40.

We are also planning to run trips to the casinos. One will be run by Natick 79, and thereafter will be a Department Function. The Casino trip is tentative for sometime in October.

Harry Dascoli brought up the possibility of a Motorcycle Ride. It seems like these are starting to happen more frequently, and that we may be able to raise funds this way. Harry will get some more information (Costs, etc.) on this and get back to the Committee.

Commander Spencer will send a letter to Commander Burnell to get written approval for the bus trips.

Department Newsletter

A letter will be sent to each Post that has a Sons Squadron to ask each of them to send their Post newsletter to the State so that we can get all the information on what is happening out to the other Squadrons.

National Convention Delegates

We currently have listed for Delegates: Paul Chaves (208), Robert Deleskey (208), Shawn Sprague (208), Rick Rivers (208), David Spencer (Dept. Delegate), William Barry (79), Sonny Kaizer (79), Henry Baggs Jr (79), John Boothby (51). This gives us nine delegates on the floor. If anyone else is going, now is the time to let us know. You have until the end of the week to let the Commander know.

AMVETS State Golf Tournament Sponsorship

MOTION: to sponsor a hole at the AMVETS State Golf Tournament by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

Pilgrim Awards Booklet Ad

MOTION: to purchase a full page ad in the Pilgrim Awards Booklet at the cost of \$100.00 by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

NEC

There was some general discussion around the position of NEC

Commander Spencer appointed Clifford Kaizer to the position of NEC for year 2003-2004

MOTION: to accept Clifford Kaizer as NEC by 2nd Vice Bruno, seconded by Finance Officer Flanigan. **MOTION PASSES**

Announcement by 1st Vice Commander Barry

1st Vice Commander Barry announced that he is resigning from the office of 1st Vice Commander for health reasons effective immediately. He will be around to help out, and will remain as the Immediate Past Commander. He was thanked by the Executive Committee for all his hard work and effort.

MOTION: to accept the 1st Vice Commander's Resignation by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

Commander Spencer announced that he will be open to suggestions for the office of 1st Vice Commander. Anyone may suggest a member of the Department before the end of today after the meeting. The Commander will make a phone poll of the E-Board for approval of the new 1st Vice Commander.

Upcoming Events

The Commander announced the following upcoming events:

50th anniversary End of the Korean War at Charlestown Shipyard Park-July 27th 1pm.

National Convention-August 4-9

Sons of AMVETS 208 Pig Roast, August 23 11am, \$10pp.

Labor Day Parade in Marlboro\

Joint Installation of Officers, September 13 (Probably in Haverhill) at 6pm. All Officers should be there in full uniform.

Randolph Installation, Sept. 20th

Haverhill Installation, Sept. 20th

North Adams Fall Foliage Parade, in October

Raffle

The Provost Marshal pulled the ticket for the bottle of booze donated by Millis Post 495.

The Winner was Mike Bruno.

MOTION: to pay for one nights stay at the National Convention for Immediate Past Commander Barry by Finance Officer Flanigan, seconded by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

Benediction was read by Chaplain Leo Manning.

MOTION: to adjourn by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by IPDC Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:30pm

NEXT SEC is September 21st, 2003 at Chicopee Post 12, MA at 1pm

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

