

Department of Massachusetts
Sons of AMVETS
State Executive Committee
AMVETS Post 12, Chicopee, MA
September 21, 2003

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

Chaplain Leo Manning read the Invocation. Provost Marshal Paul Chaves led the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the Sons Preamble.

Roll Call was done by Commander Spencer.

Commander David Spencer-Present
1st Vice Commander Harry Dascoli-Excused
2nd Vice Commander Michael Bruno-Present
3rd Vice Commander Michael Veator-Present
Finance Officer James Flanigan, PDC-Excused
Judge Advocate Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Excused
Provost Marshal Paul Chaves-Present
Immediate Past Commander William Barry, PDC-Present
Chaplain Leo Manning-Present
PRO/Historian Robert Deleskey-Present
VAVS Coordinator Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Excused
NEC Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Excused
Squadron 1 Commander Robert Grammer-Absent
Squadron 12 Commander Ray Provost Sr.-Present
Squadron 19 Commander-Absent
Squadron 51 Commander John Martindale-Excused
Squadron 74 Commander David Rice-Present
Squadron 79 Commander Cliff Kaizer-Excused
Squadron 208 Representative Robert Deleskey-Present
Squadron 495 Commander Robert Wood-Absent
Squadron 1977 Commander James Foren-Absent
Squadron 1980 Commander Harry Dascoli-Excused
Squadron 1996 Commander-Absent
NO SONS COORDINATORS PRESENT AT START OF MEETING

Approval of Minutes of the 2003 State Convention

MOTION: to accept the Minutes of the July 2003 SEC as written and mailed by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

Bills & Communications

We have received the monthly bulletin from the AMVETS. Convention Corp President this year is Al Temple, PDC from Post 208. Convention is scheduled for June 18-20, 2004 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel. It is noted that the main hotel is already full for Friday and Saturday. The Overflow is the Super 8 which is across the parking lot from the main hotel. Odds are that someone will drop out, so keep your ears open as rooms may open again. Pilgrim Awards will be on November 1, 2003 at the Randolph Elks. Tickets are \$25.00pp. Cocktail hour is 6-7, 7pm for the awards ceremony and dinner. The Contact Person is Frank Ciampoli, (617) 265-6842. Ads for the booklet are also available. Contact person is Joanne Butler. Ad prices are the same as last year.

The Commander sent a letter out to the Post without Sons to try and expand the Department. He has heard back on some and this will be brought up under his report.

The only Bill is that the Commander needs to be reimbursed for name badges ordered for the Department Officers. He will see the Finance Officer later.

The Commander turned over the gavel to the 2nd Vice Commander for purposes of giving his report.

Commander's Report

As attached.

MOTION: to accept the Commander's Report as written by Provost Marshal Chaves, seconded by 3rd Vice Commander Veator. **MOTION PASSES**

The 2nd Vice Commander turned the gavel back over to the Commander at this time.

Membership Update

There is no change in membership for 2003 and we are standing at 460 members, which is 100 more than the year before and by far the best we've ever done. So far for 2004 we have 13 life members, and 2 renewals and 3 new members have reached the Department Level.

2nd Vice Commander's Report

As attached.

MOTION: to accept the 2nd Vice Commander's Report as written by Provost Marshal Chaves, seconded by 3rd Vice Commander Veator. **MOTION PASSES**

3rd Vice Commander's Report

I attended the Joint Installation on September 13th at the Haverhill Post 147. That is all I have to report at this time.

MOTION: to accept the 3rd Vice Commander's Report by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Immediate Past Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

Finance Officer's Report

Commander Spencer: I received an email regarding the amounts we have in the accounts. Not taking into account anything coming out of this meeting, we have \$1,396.96, The savings is \$1,850.97. Keep in mind that the savings account is almost entirely monies restricted for the X-Mas fund 50/50.

MOTION: to accept the Finance Officer's Report by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by 3rd Vice Commander Veator. **MOTION PASSES**

Judge Advocate's Report

Judge Advocate Not Present.

Provost Marshal's Report

Since the last SEC, I have gone to National Convention in Florida, I attended the Sons 208 Pig Roast on August 23rd. I also attended the Joint Installation in Randolph, and attended the Chicopee Installation this morning.

MOTION: to accept the Provost Marshal's Report by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by 3rd Vice Commander Veator. **MOTION PASSES**

Immediate Past Commander's Report

Since the last SEC I've been at National Convention, the Pig Roast in Hudson, the State Installation last week and the Chicopee Installation today. That's my report Commander.

MOTION: to accept the Immediate Past Commander's Report by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

Immediate Past Commander Barry announced that he was upset about not being recognized at the Joint Installation of State Officers as he had wanted to give gifts to his officers. He also thought that he should have been part of presenting the Squadron 19 Charter at the same event. Commander Spencer apologized for the oversight.

Chaplain's Report

See Attached

MOTION: to accept the Chaplain's Report as written by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Immediate Past Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

Commander Spencer asked Chaplain Manning to send a get well card to John Martindale, Squadron 51 Commander who has been ill.

VAVS Coordinator's Report

VAVS Coordinator Not Present.

PRO/Historian's Report

I attended the Convention in Orlando, the State Installation, and the Squadron 208 Pig Roast. When we were at National, there were picture books submitted, but they were disappointed by the turnout. I'm hoping to get a great book in there this year. I'll be in touch with the Commanders of the Squadrons to get pictures of their events.

Commander Spencer: the cut-off for that is the State Convention, so anything that is held by then may be sent in for this year's book.

MOTION: to accept the PRO/Historian's Report by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

National Executive Committeeman's Report

National Executive Committeeman Not Present.

Webmaster's Report

The site is up, it is good, it is great to look at I think. There are pictures of all the officers on it. A number of past officer's pictures are there too. The date page is being kept up to date. I have been keeping it up to date with events that I know about from the

Department level and Squadrons, including the AMVETS and Auxiliary. Anything you guys are doing, just call it or email it into me at squadron208@aol.com and I'll be sure to add it on.

The website address is www.sonsofamvets-ma.org

From there you can log on to the national websites for the AMVETS, Auxiliary and Sons. I have tried to maintain a page for each Squadron with an up to date officers list.

Unfinished Business

X-Mas Fund update: X-Mas Fund Chairman not present.

New York City Bus Trip Update: Planning is moving along for the New York City Bus Trip. It will leave from Post 79 Natick at 6am on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and will return at approximately Midnight. It will be \$40 per ticket and we need to sell at least 35 tickets to break even, and if we sell out the bus we will make about \$800. Attendees can do whatever they want when they get there; shop, see a show, sightseeing, etc. The bus has been rented from Ritchie. We just need to get final confirmation that we can use Natick 79 as a staging area so that we may begin advertising.

Convention Review: Revalidation was perfect, all Squadrons were revalidated prior to National Convention. We also had the best year ever on membership at 460 members for 2003, just missing out on a department membership award. Programs were disappointing. We were listed with only one Squadron in the book, despite at least four other Squadrons reporting to the State. This issue was discussed at length. This was embarrassing to our candidates running for National Office, as well as our sitting National Officers. It was decided that to prevent this from happening again in the future, all Project Reports received by the State 2nd Vice will be forwarded to National on a monthly basis.

It was also noted that a new Uniform Department Constitution and By-laws was approved at the Convention. The Immediate Past Commander was also added to the voting membership of the Executive Committee and to the E-Board. Copies of these proposals were sent out in advance. The National Officers for 2003-2004 are Commander: Charlie Summerall (FL), 1st Vice Commander: George McNees (MI), 2nd Vice Commander: Mike Mrzlak (IA), 3rd Vice Commander: Dale Byrd (OH), Finance Officer: David Helmuth (MA), Judge Advocate: Bob Grose (OH), Provost Marshal: Ken Smith (MI).

The Commander distributed Program Appreciation Certificates to each Squadron that submitted reports to National. Certificates were presented to Squadron 1, Squadron 74, Squadron 79, and Squadron 208.

There was no further unfinished business.

****THE COMMANDER CALLED FOR A 15 MINUTE RECESS****

**Guest-AMVETS Department Commander Richard Burnell, escorted by
Department Provost Marshal and Immediate Past State Commander Tom Davitt**

Commander Burnell thanked the Sons for doing a great job so far this year, and asked that if they needed anything to let your Commander know because we want to work together as a family.

Guest-AMVETS Past Department Commander Guy Massa

PDC Massa thanked PDC Barry for participating in the Winthrop Walk-a-thon this past year. He also extended an invitation to the current Commander to participate again this year. There is a tentative date of April 25th.

He also addressed the Sons on Protocol and Courtesy. There are certain things that you should do, and certain things you don't do. Always show respect for certain office regardless of personal feelings. He extended an invitation to the Sons. He is forming a new Protocol Committee for the Department of Massachusetts. He would like two representatives from the Sons to sit on the Committee. This Committee will determine proper protocol for the Department for Installations and parades, as well as other things. This will be an unbiased committee, concerned with people who want to do things the right way. The two Sons representatives will have full voting power on the Committee, but other Sons may attend as well, without a vote.

Commander Spencer appointed 3rd Vice Commander Michael Veator and Immediate Past Commander Barry to the Committee, pending approval by the SEC.

MOTION: to accept the Commander's appointments to the Protocol Committee by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Squadron 74 Commander Rice. **MOTION PASSES**

New Business

There was some discussion regarding where the Sons Commander should march in relation to any Sons Color Guard, as well as encouraging other Sons Color Guards to form.

The Commander also brought up that he thought it would be nice to begin having visits from National on a yearly basis. We could set it up to have different Squadrons do functions over the course of a weekend as the AMVETS and Auxiliary do for the National Commander and National President.

The 2nd Vice Commander gave an apology for not having gotten to every Squadron last year. He wants to make sure everyone knows what the procedures for Project Reports.

MOTION: all Project Reports for fair credit and reporting must be submitted to the Department through the 2nd Vice Commander or they will not be validated. Motion made by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Squadron 12 Commander Provost.

MOTION PASSES

Commander Spencer: I was approached before the meeting by Joe Kenyon who is the Department 2nd Vice Commander for the AMVETS. He asked me to remind you that the VAVS training seminar is coming up and he also to ask if there is any way that the Department can fund in any way for the people who are going to this.

2nd Vice Commander Bruno: I got the mailing the other day and they're asking for \$25 for non reps and deps. You also have to pay for you're hotel room if you need to stay over. They are also asking for non-perishable food donations.

It was decided that until we get past the bus trip, we would not have enough money to do any discretionary spending.

****There was no further New Business****

Upcoming Events

The Commander announced the following upcoming events:

Natick Installation is Saturday, September 27th at 6pm

Hudson Installation is October 4th at 6pm

North Adams Fall Foliage Parade, October 5th at 10am

Pilgrim Awards are November 1st at the Randolph Elks at 6pm

Off-Station Party in Hudson on September 24th at 6pm

Off-Station Party in Marlboro on October 15th at 5:30pm

Off-Station Party in Millis on October 23rd at 5:30pm

Off-Station Party in Hudson on October 29th at 6pm

Off-Station Party in Randolph on October 29th at 5:30pm

Natick 79 is doing a Casino Trip on November 8th

Three Rivers 74 is running a Casino Trip to Foxwoods on November 8th.

Benediction was read by Chaplain Leo Manning.

MOTION: to adjourn by 2nd Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by IPDC Barry.

MOTION PASSES

The Meeting Adjourned at 2:45pm

NEXT SEC is November 16th, 2003 at Dorchester McKeon Post 146, MA at 1pm

