

Department of Massachusetts  
Sons of AMVETS  
State Executive Committee  
AMVETS Post 79, Natick, MA  
March 21, 2004

Commander David Spencer called the meeting to order at 12:55pm.

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  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Harry Dascoli-Present  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Michael Bruno-Present  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Michael Veator-Present  
Finance Officer James Flanigan, PDC-Tardy  
Judge Advocate Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Present  
Provost Marshal Paul Chaves-Present  
Immediate Past Commander William Barry, PDC-Present  
Chaplain Leo Manning-Present  
PRO/Historian Robert Deleskey-Excused  
VAVS Coordinator Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Present  
NEC Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Present  
Squadron 1-Present (Squadron 1 represented by Leo Manning)  
Squadron 12-Not Present  
Squadron 19-Not Present  
Squadron 51-Not Present  
Squadron 74-Not Present  
Squadron 79-Present (Squadron 79 represented by Thomas Fraser)  
Squadron 208-Not Present  
Squadron 495-Not Present  
Squadron 1977-Not Present  
Squadron 1980-Not Present  
Squadron 1996-Not Present  
NO SONS COORDINATORS PRESENT AT START OF MEETING

**Approval of Minutes of January SEC**

**MOTION:** to accept the Minutes of the January SEC as written and mailed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

**Bills & Communications**

The Commander received a box of printed and bound Guide Books. They were printed out at the time and expense of Bob Grammer of Squadron 1 in Roslindale. These will be given out on an as needed basis as they are limited in number to about 15-20. He would like to make sure these get to any New Squadrons that form, and to anyone who needs a copy. A letter was sent out to Bob Grammer thanking him for doing this for the Department.

### **Commander's Report**

\*\*Commander Spencer turned the gavel over to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander for purpose of giving his report\*\*

See Attached

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

\*\*1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Dascoli returned the gavel to the Commander\*\*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander's Report**

See Attached

**MOTION:** to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander's Report by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander's Report**

See Attached

**MOTION:** to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Veator. **MOTION PASSES**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander's Report**

See Attached

**MOTION:** to accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander's Report by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Judge Advocate Kaizer. **MOTION PASSES**

### **Finance Officer's Report**

The Finance Officer's Report was read by Commander Spencer as the Finance Officer had not arrived yet.

See Attached

**MOTION:** to accept the Finance Officer's Report by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves.

The remainder of the Finance Report was tabled pending the arrival of the Finance Officer.

### **Judge Advocate's Report**

See Attached

**MOTION:** to accept the Judge Advocate's Report by 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Veator, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

### **Provost Marshal's Report**

No report at this time

### **Immediate Past Commander's Report**

Since the last SEC I went to the VA Hospital in Jamaica Plain and helped the AMVETS with BINGO and served food and drinks. I also went to Post 495 for a Sons fundraiser for a Hawaiian Night. There was also a fundraiser for Joe Crump's Step-sons Children. I also attended an Off-station party at Natick 79.

**MOTION:** to accept the Immediate Past Commander's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

### **Chaplain's Report**

See Attached

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

### **PRO/Historian's Report**

The PRO/Historian was absent from the meeting, but sent along the History Book for viewing by those present. There is a disappointing lack of pictures from things the Commander has not attended. Please send in any pictures from your Squadron to the Commander who will forward them to the PRO

### **VAVS Coordinator's Report**

The VAVS Coordinator received an email from National Coordinator Colley regarding Tom Fraser's VA Representative Status. They had not received his paperwork. This will have to be redone and resubmitted.

See attached for remainder of report.

**MOTION:** to accept the VAVS Coordinator's Report by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Veator. **MOTION PASSES**

### **Unfinished Business**

The Commander handed out copies of the updates CBLs from National.

The Sons State Commander's Testimonial will be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Hudson Post 208. The Commander's Sister is in charge and all ticket requests must go through her. The maximum number of tickets that can be sold is 100, minus any complimentary tickets given out. The cut-off for ticket sales will be May 16<sup>th</sup> (May SEC). The Food will be prepared by Ronnie MacDonald. There will not be a head table per se. The Master of Ceremonies will be AMVETS PDC Ed Veator. The menu will be pork, carrots, green beans, roasted potatoes, salad, rolls, dessert. Tickets are \$30pp. The Chaplain, Provost Marshal, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice have official duties at the Testimonial. The dress code: the Commander will be wearing a 2-piece suit, Officers should NOT be in uniform (except the Provost Marshal), but can wear a long-sleeve shirt and tie or short-sleeve shirt & tie with a jacket. NO COVERS (Except the Provost Marshal).

The Finance Officer arrived at this point, so the meeting reverted to his report

The motion to accept the Finance Report was removed from the table and brought back to the floor.

There was a question of monies from the Walk-a-thon monies from last year

**MOTION:** to accept the Finance Officer's Report by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

There was another State Pool started at a rate of \$20 per month for 5 months. Contact Sonny Kaizer at Natick 79 for details. He has three people signed up now. It will be drawn in August. The Commander asked for a copy of a letter explaining the Pool, and a sign-up list to be included in the next mailing. As with the previous drawing, all funds not going to prizes will go to purchase a Scooter for the VA system.

The Department is still waiting for Deceased Member Notifications. Please send these in so that we can get our list to the AMVETS. These forms should be sent by the Squadron Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander or Chaplain and go to the State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, who should send them to the State Chaplain and to National Headquarters. These should be sent in ASAP.

### **New Business**

April 10<sup>th</sup> Event. It was decided at the Finance Committee meeting, that we need to try something to raise funds. It will be \$10pp. Ticket sales cut-off will be April 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was discussed prior to the meeting today that the cut-off number should be a minimum of 60 Tickets. If there aren't at least this many, we will cancel it and hang up signs explaining this and reimburse money. A workers list was set up to get people here to help set-up and break down.

**MOTION:** to hold a Patriot's Day theme function on April 10<sup>th</sup> at Natick 79 by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

As we should have done said action on February 15<sup>th</sup>, the following motion was made:

**MOTION:** to suspend the Charters of the Squadrons (Clinton 19, Randolph 51, and Marshfield 1996) who do not have at least 8 members until such time as they have at least 8 members by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by Finance Officer Flanigan.

**MOTION PASSES**

It was discussed whether to purchase a tee sponsorship at the Sad Sacks State Mini-Golf Tournament. This is something we do every year and is part of our budget for this year.

**MOTION:** to purchase a tee at the Sad Sacks State Mini-Golf Tournament by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

### **State Convention 2004**

The Commander set the tentative Convention Schedule. We will only have one day of meetings, but will have two sessions as follows:

8:30am-9:00am: 1<sup>st</sup> Registration

9:00am-9:45am: 1<sup>st</sup> Business Session

10:00am-12:00pm: Joint Opening Session/Memorial Service

12:00pm-1:00pm: Lunch Break  
12:30pm-1:00pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> Registration  
1:00pm-5:00pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Session

The Commander asked for any comments regarding the schedule before sending it out in the Convention Packet. We only used about 3 hours last time and we still cannot amend the Constitution and By-Laws as these are National documents. The only votes that will require 2/3 will be procedural votes. Only the elections should take a significant amount of time.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander is in charge of Registration. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice is also able to appoint a person to assist the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander for Registration Purposes.

**MOTION:** to allow the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander to appoint someone to help him with registration by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno.

**MOTION PASSES**

**MOTION:** to pay the registration fees of whomever the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander appoints to help him with registration if they do not already have their fees covered by the State by Provost Marshal Chaves, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

**MOTION:** to pay the registration fees of the appointed officers for this Convention by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Veator. **MOTION PASSES**

The Elected Officers do not pay Registration Fees because the Constitution & By-Laws requires them to get a vote. Their status comes from the virtue of office. The Appointed Officers have every right to be in the Convention Room, but do not get a vote unless they are registered as a delegate.

Delegate Strength has reverted to what it was two years ago. Each Squadron will get 2 votes for the first 25 members, and 1 vote for every 15 or major fraction thereof after that. The breakdown will be in the mailing. The cutoff date for calculation is 30 days prior to Convention. The day 30 days prior to Convention is Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The final total for delegates will be determined on this date by membership figures recorded with the State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.

We are required to set registration fees 60 days ahead. The May SEC falls within the 60 days so we need set them now. Last year's fees were \$20 for registration or pre-registration for every Delegate or Alternate Delegate.

**MOTION:** to set Delegate Fees at \$20 for the 2004 State Convention by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Provost Marshal Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

Officer's Reports (and other materials) for the Convention Booklet. These will need to be in the Commander's possession 10 days ahead to allow for time to bind them. This date will be June 9<sup>th</sup>. They can be hand delivered, dropped off at his post, sent via email,

or mailed by Postal. Please do not delay on sending in reports on time to allow time for binding.

The Proposed Awards Guidelines were handed out prior to the meeting. They were discussed as far as adopting them in spirit for this awards season, specifically for the Son of the Year Award. Their final approval can wait until July or September SEC.

**MOTION:** to use the guidelines established in the Proposed Awards Guidelines to determine awards for the 2004 Convention by Finance Officer Flanigan, seconded by Judge Advocate Kaizer. **MOTION PASSES**

The Cut-Off for awards will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. All materials (reports, membership, essays, etc.) must be submitted by this date to the appropriate Officer. If at least two essays are not received by this date, then it will be left to the Awards Committee to choose an appropriate winner based on their best recommendations and their knowledge of the Organization. The Awards Committee will meet on Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

Squadron Change of Officers Forms must be in to the State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander before any Delegates are registered for that Squadron, including State Officers. Squadron Nominations should be in April with Elections in May. As long as your elections are completed before Convention and you have submitted a Change of Officers form, your Squadron will be all set.

All Pre-printed 2004 Membership cards must be returned to the Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you do not submit them in time, you may be subject to a \$16.00 fee per card not returned. You may also be unable to have your delegates seated at State Convention.

**MOTION:** to purchase a one page ad in the AMVETS 2004 Convention Booklet by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

**MOTION:** to purchase 100 Convention Pins by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

In regards to the State Commander's State President's Testimonial, Commander Spencer found out that he is to be given a complimentary Ticket. He would like to give the two tickets he is allocated in the Sons Budget to the highest ranking officer who is otherwise not covered. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Dascoli will be covered by his post, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Bruno cannot attend. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Veator will be given the two tickets and has decided to take Judge Advocate Kaizer with him.

### **Upcoming Events**

- A. Auxiliary 208 Jump Rope for Heart, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm
- B. Sons State Patriot's Day theme night, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 6pm
- C. State Commander's/State President's Testimonial, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at Haverhill 147

- D. Auxiliary 208 Blood Drive, April 20<sup>th</sup>
- E. AMVETS Training Seminar at Natick, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-1pm
- F. AMVETS Walkathon, Winthrop 48, April 25<sup>th</sup> at noon
- G. John Sisler, AMVETS National Commander Visitation, Apr. 29-May 2.
- H. Sad Sack State Mini-Golf Tournament, Berlin CC followed by cookout at Hudson 208, May 2.
- I. SEC, May 16, 2004 at Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center
- J. State Sons Commander's Testimonial, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 at Hudson 208
- K. Hudson 208 Annual VA Fishing Derby at Riverside Rod & Gun Club, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004
- L. Convention, June 17-20, 2004 at Sturbridge Host Hotel
- M. Off-Station Parties:
  - 1. Mar. 31, at Marlboro 1980
  - 2. Mar. 31, at Natick 79
  - 3. Apr. 7, at Tyngsboro 247 at 6:30pm
  - 4. Apr. 13, at Fitchburg 29 at 6pm
  - 5. Apr. 21, at Marlboro 1980 at 6pm
  - 6. Apr. 22, at New Bedford 62 at 5:30pm
  - 7. May 11, at Fitchburg 29 at 6pm
  - 8. May 23, at Marshfield, Courtney's Restaurant at noon

### **50/50 Raffle**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander counted a total of \$255.00 for the drawing, with a prize total of \$128.00. The winner was drawn by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander and was 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Michael Bruno. New Tickets will be sent out in the next mailing.

Benediction was read by Chaplain Leo Manning.

**MOTION:** to adjourn by Provost Marshal Chaves, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Chaves. **MOTION PASSES**

The Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm

**NEXT SEC: May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the Sturbridge Host  
Hotel & Conference Center at 1pm**