

Department of Massachusetts
Sons of AMVETS
State Executive Committee
AMVETS McKeon Post 146, Dorchester, MA
November 21, 2004

Commander David Spencer called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Chaplain Leo Manning had surgery on November 18th and will not be here today. Commander Spencer read the Invocation. Provost Marshal Paul Chaves has a serious illness in his family and will also not be here today. Commander Spencer 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 Michael Bruno-Present
2nd Vice Commander Henry Shilo, Jr.-Present
3rd Vice Commander Charles Daviau-ABSENT
Finance Officer James Flanigan, PDC-Present
Judge Advocate Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Present
Provost Marshal Paul Chaves-EXCUSED
Immediate Past Commander William Barry, PDC-Present
Chaplain Leo Manning-EXCUSED
PRO/Historian Robert Deleskey, Jr.-ABSENT
VAVS Coordinator Cliff Kaizer, PDC-Present
NEC David Spencer-Present
Squadron 1-Not Present
Squadron 12-Present (Squadron 12 represented by Phil Wood)
Squadron 19-Not Present
Squadron 51-Present (Squadron 51 represented by Mark Serpis)
Squadron 74-Not Present
Squadron 79-Not Present
Squadron 208-Not Present
Squadron 495-Not Present
Squadron 1977-Present (Squadron 1977 represented by Steve Lahey)
Squadron 1980-Not Present
Squadron 1996-Not Present
NO SONS COORDINATORS PRESENT AT START OF MEETING

Approval of Minutes of September 2004 SEC

MOTION: to accept the Minutes of the September 2004 SEC as written and mailed by 1st Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by 2nd Vice Commander Shilo. **MOTION PASSES**

Bills & Communications

The Department received a lot of mail this time.

We received the revalidation certificates for 2004 from National. These were distributed to all Squadrons present and will be distributed to other Squadrons in the near future. Squadron 51's Revalidation Certificate is not in yet, due to the lateness of the submission of their Change of Officer's Form for 2004-2005.

Commander Spencer was invited to Commander Glenn's Christmas Party on December 4th and plans to attend with his father.

The National Executive Committee Meeting location has changed. It will now be at the Hilton Mark Center 5000 Seminary Rd., Alexandria, VA. The Phone number is 703-845-2613. The dates remain unchanged.

Commander's Report

The Commander passed the Gavel to the 1st Vice Commander and gave up the chair for purposes of giving his report.

See Attached.

Judge Advocate Kaizer wished to address the Scooters. The normal price is about \$4500 for 3, and Commander Spencer was able to pick up the 3 for about \$600 a piece. Judge Advocate Kaizer asked how this came about. Commander Spencer informed the body that he went to a store that sells scooters near where he lives and told the owner about the project. He shot for the moon and the owner bit on it, donating a whole scooter plus taking a loss on the other two. The three scooters have each had a plate attached to the basket informing them that the State Sons donated the Scooters.

Finance Officer Flanigan asked about the checks involved in this. Commander Spencer replied that we had wanted to funnel the money for the first scooter through the National Program, so that we could get recognition on the floor at Convention. National decided to distribute the monies in this account to the Departments that had not yet received a National Scooter. We had thought that they arranged to have scooters sent out to the Departments, but they only give checks out. As Massachusetts had not received a scooter from National, they turned right around and gave us a new check. This was given to the Finance Officer after the Commander returned from National.

MOTION: to accept the Commander's Report by 2nd Vice Commander Shilo, seconded by PDC Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

The Commander retrieved the Gavel from the 1st Vice Commander and returned to the Chair.

1st Vice Commander's Report

See Attached.

Squadron 79 submitted a D&R Form today to the 1st Vice Commander. This is not included in his membership report.

MOTION: to accept the 1st Vice Commander's Report by 2nd Vice Commander Shilo, seconded by Finance Officer Flanigan. **MOTION PASSES**

2nd Vice Commander's Report

See Attached.

Judge Advocate Kaizer noted that Natick 79 has lost their Programs Chair, who has been replaced by PDC Barry. Reports will be coming ASAP

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

3rd Vice Commander's Report

ABSENT-NO REPORT SUBMITTED

Finance Officer's Report

Gentlemen, I want to apologize for not having a report. I printed out the directions to the McKeon Post, picked them up and left the report sitting there. Basically I've been working with the Commander on that check for the difference of \$1505. I will submit my report to the Commander after I add in what I get from the 1st Vice Commander today.

MOTION: to accept the Finance Officer's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

Judge Advocate's Report

See Attached.

The 1st Vice Commander responded to the Judge Advocate's Report as follows:
"Having spoken with the Commander regarding the delay, which were no one's particular problem but my own, and having resolved those matters, I will apologize to Natick and to Al Gentile especially for not having gotten the cards to him personally. However, in my defense, there was no one at SEC in September when I had them there for everyone that was there. At that time, as was discussed, I was having software issues trying to update so I could issue any new cards as well as the pre-printed and developing the whole package to get them out to the Squadrons. That matter got resolved and has been taken care of. When I could meet Al and Sonny Kaizer a few weeks ago, which didn't work out due to a family commitment. I apologized for not getting them out, but bearing in mind it is not my requirement to get them out by a specific time. That is done at the convenience to the Squadron. National takes a dim view, if I understand this correctly, being issued in advance, because they are going out without D&Rs or monies coming in. It becomes my responsibility to see that they are processed in a reasonable time. I am under no obligation to submit those cards. It is traditionally done this way to help the Squadrons. No Squadron to date, of the new Squadrons, has suffered as a result of my delay. Haverhill got theirs in a timely fashion. The only one who was majorly inconvenienced was me trying to keep up with Al Gentile. We were playing phone tag and I was unable to get a hold of him. And another issue that came out was the loss of my stolen phone so I couldn't reach anybody.

MOTION: to accept the Judge Advocate's Report by PDC Barry, seconded by Steve Lahey (Squadron 1977). **MOTION PASSES**

Provost Marshal's Report

NOT PRESENT-NO REPORT

Immediate Past Commander's Report

Since the last SEC meeting I have attended quarterly meetings at the VA Medical Center in Jamaica Plain, Off-Station Parties at AMVETS Post 79 Natick, VA Bingo Parties in Jamaica Plain, fundraiser held by Ladies Auxiliary 79, Lobster Shoot at AMVETS 79 Natick, Installation at 79 Natick. I have sold many shirts and proceeds will be used for VAVS Programs. This is an ongoing project and if anyone is interested in supporting this program, please let me know. That is all I have to report Commander.

Shirts are \$10 and \$12.

MOTION: to accept the Immediate Past Commander's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

Chaplain's Report

The Chaplain did not submit a report, but Commander Spencer addressed a few things that fit under this report.

PDC/PNC David Helmuth who has been living in Michigan was injured. He had a ½ ton piece of equipment fall on him. As far as we know he is doing well. We don't have an address to send him anything. We've been trying to work on an address, but National doesn't have an address and neither does the Department of Michigan. At this point all we can do is to send him an email wishing him well.

We have also lost a member in Marlboro named Terry Quinn. We only recently found out about this.

PRO/Historian's Report

ABSENT-NO REPORT SUBMITTED

VAVS Coordinator's Report

See Attached.

Commander Spencer asked where we stand on the paperwork for all our Representatives and Deputies. It was reported by the VAVS Coordinator that we have 2 facilities reps covered.

Finance Officer Flanigan asked about feedback from the first scooter that was delivered to West Roxbury VA last year. VAVS Coordinator Kaizer reported that they have enjoyed it and are continuing to enjoy it. There was a momentary glitch, as the hospital was concerned about their insurance covering the scooter. That has been straightened out.

MOTION: to accept the VAVS Coordinator's Report by Finance Officer Flanigan, seconded by PDC Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

National Executive Committeeman's Report

I don't have a specific report. The only thing to report is the change in location for the NEC meetings, which was addressed under the bills and communications section.

Unfinished Business

We did not have an ad in the Pilgrim Awards booklet this year. The Commander never got the usual mail request from the AMVETS. His Squadron did not receive a notice either, and it usually puts in its own ad. As a result, the Commander didn't even think about the ad until the end of October, but by then it was too late.

Some officers and Squadrons are reporting that they never got their State Raffle Tickets. The Commander will address this with the 3rd Vice Commander.

The Deep Sea Fishing Trip-We will be unable to charter our own boat. We are looking at an existing trip with a group rate. The Commander asked that the Deep Sea Fishing Committee get together before the SEC to figure out our options. We will need to make a decision at the January SEC where we are going with this.

GUEST-AMVETS 2nd Vice Commander Leon Proctor

Leon wanted to remind us about what was going on with his Committees. The Americanism is off to a good start. Last year's essay contest only had one entry, but he thinks we can do better this year. He also brought up that the AMVETS are participating in "The Passion Plunge," a polar bear club type event to raise money for Special Olympics. It will be at Nantasket Beach on February 12th. He wants this to be a Department Team. He discussed a few events coming up for the Safe Driving Challenge.

GUEST-AMVETS PDC Guy Massa

PDC Massa expressed that he was disappointed in the lack of turnout from the Sons of AMVETS in his recent Walk-A-Thon. Since no Sons turned out, the Sons would not be receiving a portion of the proceeds.

He also brought up the idea of the Sons doing a "Nite at the Races." He let us know about what the costs would be.

New Business

Based on the 1st Vice Commander's Report, we are a little on the low side as far as membership goes for the 2005 membership year. We need to get our membership into the State. This has less to do with having or not having the cards on hand, than it has to do with guys not wanting to part with their money.

Our biggest downfall is that we don't have any 100 member Squadrons. All the other active Departments have at least one 100 member Squadron. We'd like to get to the 1000 member club at National. Sooner rather than later, but this needs to be a stable 1000.

The Commander also brought up about purchasing title plates for the Convention and SEC meetings. The guy that does our plaques says he can do them for around \$17.00 a piece, and if each officer donates \$20-25, then we should be able to get most if not all the title plates.

PDC Barry mentioned that he was at the Brockton VA and found out that most of their bowling alleys are broken. They are trying to raise money to get them fixed, because there are so many guys there and only 2 alleys.

MOTION: to take the \$100.00 that we were supposed to spend on the Pilgrim Awards Booklet and allocate this for the Brockton VA fundraiser when it happens by 1st Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Judge Advocate Kaizer. **MOTION PASSES**

Any Sons who work with Bowling Alley Equipment or would like to help out financially with this should contact PDC Barry

Benediction was read by Commander Spencer.

MOTION: to adjourn by PDC Barry, seconded by 1st Vice Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:30pm