

Department of Massachusetts  
Sons of AMVETS  
State Executive Committee  
AMVETS Post 161, Lynn, MA  
January 16, 2005

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

Commander Spencer read the invocation and then 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 Michael Bruno-TARDY  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Henry Shilo, Jr.-TARDY  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Charles Daviau-ABSENT\*\*  
Finance Officer James Flanigan, PDC-EXCUSED  
Judge Advocate Cliff Kaizer, PDC-PRESENT  
Provost Marshal Paul Chaves-ABSENT  
Immediate Past Commander William Barry, PDC-PRESENT  
Chaplain Leo Manning-EXCUSED  
PRO/Historian Robert Deleskey, Jr.-EXCUSED  
VAVS Coordinator Cliff Kaizer-PRESENT  
NEC David Spencer, PDC-PRESENT  
Deputy Provost Marshal Michael Veator-ABSENT  
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-Not Present  
Squadron 1980-Not Present  
Squadron 1996-Not Present  
NO SONS COORDINATORS PRESENT AT START OF MEETING

The Commander read the following statement at this time: Gentlemen, as you look at your agenda, you notice there is a lot of stuff on it, so I am going to ask that we please stay on topic, be brief and to the point when speaking and refrain from side conversations (i.e. if it is a yes/no question, answer yes or no, unless an explanation is absolutely required or elaboration is asked for. If a 5-word answer will suffice, don't speak for 5 minutes). I also ask that we try not to move around from one topic to another topic that is already later on in the agenda. I have

provided a copy of the agenda to all of you, so you know what is coming up for today. If you want something added, please let me know now so I can add it in the appropriate place.

### **Approval of Minutes of November SEC**

**MOTION:** to accept the Minutes of November 2004 SEC as submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Shilo. **MOTION PASSES**

### **Bills & Communications**

We received a Christmas card from the National Sons Commander.

We received a letter from the National Sons VAVS Coordinator that Mark Serpis has been accepted as our VAVS rep at Brockton VA.

The Commander received an email from AMVETS State Commander Tom Glenn that the District 8 raffle was about to be drawn, but they needed to sell more tickets. He forwarded the email to everyone that he had an email address for and purchased some tickets himself.

The National Mailing came in. Nothing major came up at the meeting itself. Project reports for Mass looked great.

We have one bill submitted, but this will need to be handled under New Business since it was not pre-approved and is not in the budget.

### **Commander's Report**

\*The Commander passed the gavel 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 Immediate Past State Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

\*The Commander retrieved the gavel from the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.\*

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

SEE ATTACHED

**MOTION:** to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by Immediate Past State Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

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

I have received now

Squadron 1: 12 reports, 1 pending \$4,060.00

Squadron 12: 3 reports, \$219.44

Squadron 19:

Squadron 51: 14 reports, \$12,510.00

Squadron 74: 8 reports, \$2,200.00

Squadron 79:

Squadron 147:

Squadron 208: 14 reports, \$2,881.48

Squadron 495:

Squadron 1977:

Squadron 1980: 1 report

Squadron 1996:

Total: 52 reports \$22,030.92

There was also a report submitted from Department at the Fishing Trip Committee Meeting.

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

## **GUEST: Leon Proctor and the Special Olympics**

AMVETS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Leon Proctor came to the floor and introduced Elizabeth Perry, Robert Johnson, and Colin Davidson from the Special Olympics. Elizabeth is the Chairwoman of the Passion Plunge Event, Robert is the State Executive Director of the Special Olympics, Colin is a special Olympian.

They spoke at length about signing up for the Passion Plunge, to help raise funds on February 12<sup>th</sup> in Nantasket.

## **Finance Officer's Report**

SEE ATTACHED

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

## **Judge Advocate's Report**

SEE ATTACHED

**MOTION:** to accept the Judge Advocate's Report by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Mark Serpis. **MOTION PASSES**

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

Since the last SEC meeting, I attended the Pearl Harbor Service at Faneuil Hall, Pearl Harbor Service at Natick Library, attended the quarterly VAVS meeting in Jamaica Plain, monthly BINGO parties at Jamaica Plain. I attended funeral services for Past Department Commander Bud Vidito. I attended meat shoots for Sons of AMVETS and the Department of Mass State Commander's Christmas Party.

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

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

VAVS Coordinator Kaizer read a letter formally appointing Mark Serpis as the Representative for Brockton VA.

SEE ATTACHED

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

There was a question regarding when the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year was for VAVS. It is the March Meeting.

### **National Executive Committeeman's Report**

SEE ATTACHED

**MOTION:** to accept the National Executive Committeeman's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by Immediate Past Department Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

### **Unfinished Business**

- A. 2005 Membership Drive-The Question was raised as to whether any Squadrons have not submitted at least their 1<sup>st</sup> 8 members for 2005 at this time. It was found that Chicopee, Clinton, Randolph, Three Rivers have not. There was a question as to whether membership was being sent to last year's 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Harry Dascoli. Per the Constitution and By-laws, each

Squadron not in compliance must be sent a letter informing them that they are in membership suspension. They only need to send in their membership by February 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid Charter Suspension.

### **Guest: AMVETS 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Randy Boothby**

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Boothby wanted to thank the Sons for all they did during the holiday season. The AMVETS will be doing a reverse raffle. The funds raised will be for VAVS funds during the holidays. Tickets are \$10 each, 300 tickets.

### **Unfinished Business (Cont.)**

- B. Scooters Update-We have placed the scooters at Brockton and Bedford. The Commander will be bringing the Scooter to Northampton on January 18<sup>th</sup>. He tried to get it as early or late in the day as possible to allow as many people to go as possible, however the best he could do was 4:30pm. He will be leaving Hudson at 2:30pm. If you would like to go, let him know ASAP.
- C. Newsletter-There was discussion on the Sons State Newsletter. It was sent out at the beginning of the month. It will be sent out every other month for the time being. All State Officers need to submit something for it by the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to it going out. If there are no submissions for the next one, the Commander will cease doing it. For the time being, the mailing list will be as follows: all State Officers, all Past Sons State Commanders, all Squadron Commanders, AMVETS State Headquarters, AMVETS State Commander, Auxiliary President, National Sons Headquarters, and all Posts with a Squadron.
- D. Deep Sea Fishing Trip-After the last Committee Meeting, the chairman contacted Yankee Fleet again, to find a group rate since we cannot commit to a full charter. He will try to make arrangements for a group rate with another Fleet, but most are still closed for the season. The Committee will continue to look around.
- E. Brockton Bowling Alleys Update-No further information at this time.

### **New Business**

- A. National Executive Committeeman-National is now partially covering NEC men for Fall NEC, Spring NEC and Convention. They will get 2 nights/2 per diems for Fall NEC, and 4 nights and 4 per diems each for Spring NEC and Convention. They will still need to provide their own transportation. Since there is now significant financial coverage for the NEC man, The Commander will be resigning as NEC man and appointing a new NEC man. He has already talked to several candidates about this, and the job responsibilities. The Commander appointed Henry Shilo to the position of NEC man. There was some discussion around this appointment. The meeting moved into an executive session of the Executive Board. Upon return from the executive session, the following motion was made.

**MOTION:** to table the appointment of the NEC man to a special meeting by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

The Commander made an announcement that there would be a special meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> to handle this issue, and that coming out of that meeting there WOULD be a new NEC man for Massachusetts. Pending that meeting, he withdrew his resignation from the office of NEC man.

- B. Testimonials-Tom Glenn's Testimonial is Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1-5pm. Betty Shortsleeve is Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6-10pm. Bob Grose's is April 9<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 10pm in Ohio. The Commander is not having a Testimonial, but in order to hold the date, his sister is putting together a Roast. It will be held at Natick the night before March SEC. He would like to see some of the Sons at Tom and Betty's Testimonials.
- C. State Commander's Roast-The date of the Roast will be March 19 (the night before March SEC). It will be at Natick 79 to accommodate people going to the SEC the next day. There will be rooms available at the Hampton Inn on Friday and Saturday night at a room rate of \$89.99, plus tax (9.75%). The Commander has invited the National Commander for a visit that weekend. If he (or his designee) is coming, he is planning to bring them to some different places around the State. The rough itinerary is to have them over to Hudson 208 on Friday night, to bring him either out west or to Haverhill for the morning/early afternoon on Saturday, then to have him at Natick for the Testimonial that night and the SEC meeting the next morning before bringing them back to the airport to go home. As far as complimentary tickets, the usual required ones are being put aside. Last year, nothing was asked of the Department to put this on. This year, the Commander would like the Department to pay for the tickets for the officers if we have funds available. Then the officers only have to pay for their escort. Just so that there is no confusion, this does not mean that the tickets are going to be comped, it means that the Department will pay for the tickets into the Testimonial Fund at the normal rate. The Commander's sister is in charge of the Roast, and she has set up a budget based on 34 tickets sold, with 16 complimentary tickets, for a total of 50 people.

**MOTION:** for the Department to purchase a Ticket to the Commander's Roast for each Officer, the Immediate Past Commander and Coordinators by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

**Guest: AMVETS Commander Tom Glenn**

Commander Glenn wanted to thank the Sons for the great work with the Scooters. He wanted to make sure the Sons Squadron at Randolph was recognized for their efforts in raising funds for the Brockton VA. He expressed his opinion that the Auxiliary and the Sons were not subordinate to the AMVETS, but rather equal partners with AMVETS. The Passion Plunge is on February 12<sup>th</sup>, please consider plunging with us. He also wanted to make sure that we heard about the oral history project. The SDC will be coming up in May, but there is no date set at this time.

**Guest: AMVETS Convention Corporation President Al Temple, PDC**

PDC Temple informed the Sons about the State Commander's Testimonial, which will be on April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2pm. \$30pp. See Tom Davitt or Jim Blake. It will be at the Vittori Rocci Post (Italian American War Veterans Post) in Beverly, MA. Directions will be in the Bulletin. Commander Spencer asked about possibly getting back into the room we used to have at Convention (Seminar Room). PDC Temple will look into it.

- D. National VAVS Grants Applications-\$100 grants are available from National to each facility. It can be requested by the VAVS Rep for each facility once per year. It can only be used for things of direct benefit to the Veterans (i.e. not personal expenses of the Reps & Deps, but on food, games, parties, etc.). Please note that there is a special report that must be returned to the National VAVS Coordinator within 30 days of the granting of the funds.
- E. VAVS Project-Past National Commander's Project. While at the NEC this past December, the Commander got to talking to PNC Summerall regarding his project from last year. It was Charlie's goal to get his monies spread out as far as possible. He asked the Commander as well as other Departments to get requests in for the funds ASAP. Since Ohio had made 2 requests, and had a Squadron also requesting funds, Commander Spencer decided to put in a request for \$500.00 from the fund. We got the full amount requested. Commander Spencer would like to add the \$385 that he raised since the last meeting to that, and would like the Department to kick in \$115 from the general fund to get this to a full \$1,000.00. He would also like to put requests out to each Squadron for \$100 to add to this project. We could hit \$2000 if all Squadrons give at least \$100.00. He will then go to Wal\*mart and see what they will do for us and we can get as much underwear as possible.

**MOTION:** for the Department to add \$115 from the VAVS fund to the \$885 raised by the Commander since the last meeting for the purchase of underwear, etc. by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

- F. The VAVS Coordinator submitted a bill reflecting unauthorized expenses he incurred in printing 30 VAVS Representative Handbooks.

**MOTION:** for the Department to reimburse Squadron 79 in the amount of \$173.20 for the VAVS Representative Handbooks by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Shilo. **MOTION PASSES**

Commander Spencer asked the Judge Advocate (and all officers) that he not spend more money without the approval of the Executive Committee or of the Commander.

- G. 2005-6 State Offices-At the end of the next meeting, the Commander will open up the floor to anyone who would like to make an announcement that he is running for an office and what he is running for at Convention. This is not nominations.
- H. State CBL Committee-Commander Spencer asked the Judge Advocate to think about possible members for a CBL Committee. Members of the Committee should represent the Department as much as possible (i.e. avoid multiple members from the same Squadron).

They should also be knowledgeable of Robert's Rules of Order, and the Uniform CBLs. Five members including the Commander and the Judge Advocate should be sufficient to the task.

- I. National Convention 2005-This is August 13-20, 2005 in Kansas City, MO. Sons Business will likely be starting 17<sup>th</sup>, and go through the 20<sup>th</sup>. A friend of this Department, Mike Mrzlak from Iowa, will be running for National Commander. He has been nothing but supportive of this Department since we formed and first got involved in National, and he is an all-around good guy. We should try to be there to support him if we can.
- J. The Commander announced that he will be running for National Office at the 2005 National Convention. He will likely be running for either National Provost Marshal or National Judge Advocate, depending on what the people currently in those positions are doing and who else might be running.
- K. Randolph will be running a raffle to raise funds for their Past Squadron Commander who is dying. He has no money. He has been given 3-6 months to live. Tickets will be \$5 each.
- L. Last years' State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Harry Dascoli cancer is also out of control. He has been sent home with the morphine drip, and chemotherapy has been stopped. The Immediate Past Commander and Vice Commanders have advised that when and if Harry passes away, the Commander expects the Officers to be at the wake, and hopefully also the funeral.

The Department purchased an alcoholic beverage for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander as today was his birthday.

**MOTION:** to adjourn without Benediction by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Shilo. **MOTION PASSES**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm