

Department of Massachusetts
Sons of AMVETS
State Executive Committee
AMVETS Post 79, Natick, MA
March 20, 2005

Commander David Spencer called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

Chaplain Leo Manning read the Invocation. Commander Spencer led the Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the Sons Preamble.

Roll Call was done by Commander Spencer.

Commander David Spencer-PRESENT
1st Vice Commander Michael Bruno-TARDY
2nd Vice Commander Henry Shilo, Jr.-PRESENT
3rd Vice Commander Charles Daviau-PRESENT
Finance Officer James Flanigan, PDC-PRESENT
Judge Advocate Cliff Kaizer, PDC-PRESENT
Provost Marshal Paul Chaves-ABSENT
Immediate Past Commander William Barry, PDC-PRESENT
Chaplain Leo Manning-PRESENT
PRO/Historian Robert Deleskey, Jr.-EXCUSED
VAVS Coordinator Cliff Kaizer, PDC-PRESENT
NEC Henry M. Shilo Jr.-PRESENT
Deputy Provost Marshal Michael Veator-ABSENT
Squadron 1-Present (Squadron 1 represented by Leo Manning)
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 147-Not Present
Squadron 208-Not Present
Squadron 495- Present (Squadron 495 represented by Joe Crump)
Squadron 1977- Present (Squadron represented by Steve Lahey)
Squadron 1980-Not Present
NO SONS COORDINATORS PRESENT AT START OF MEETING

Reappointment of State 3rd Vice Commander

3rd Vice Daviau did not pay his dues on time. The Commander has reappointed him to 3rd Vice Commander

MOTION: to approve the appointment of Charles Daviau to 3rd Vice Commander by Finance Officer Flanigan, seconded by 2nd Vice Commander Shilo. **MOTION PASSES**

GUEST-Sons of AMVETS National 1st Vice Commander Michael Mrzlak

1st Vice Commander Mrzlak thanked the Sons for inviting the National Officers out to the Commander's Roast the previous night. The other officers all had earlier flights. He told us all to keep up the good work and said he would see us at National Convention.

(The Commander explained that Mike Mrzlak is running for National Commander at the National Convention in Kansas City.)

Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2005 (Regular SEC)

MOTION: to accept the Minutes of the January 16, 2005 SEC Meeting as written and mailed by 2nd Vice Commander Shilo, seconded by Immediate Past Commander Barry.

MOTION PASSES

Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2005 (Special SEC)

Correction: strike the words "to call a meeting at this time, as well as his Authority" from the last paragraph on page 1.

MOTION: to accept the Minutes of the January 25, 2005 Special SEC Meeting as written and mailed by 2nd Vice Commander Shilo, seconded by 3rd Vice Commander Daviau. **MOTION PASSES**

Bills & Communications

- A. The Commander got an invitation to attend the Ohio State Commander's Testimonial which was held the previous night but he was otherwise engaged.
- B. The March Bulletin was received from the AMVETS. Dates will be gone over at the end of the meeting.
- C. The Commander received a letter from Mickey Britton's daughter for a 3-Day Breast Cancer walk. This will be addressed under New Business.

1st Vice Commander Bruno arrived at the meeting at this time.

The Commander passed the gavel to the 1st Vice Commander for purposes of giving his report

Commander's Report

See attached.

MOTION: to accept the Commander's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by Steve Lahey. **MOTION PASSES**

The Commander retrieved the gavel from the 1st Vice Commander at this time.

1st Vice Commander's Report

The only thing I have attended since the last meeting due to my schedule is a VA Bingo Hospital party in West Roxbury.

Membership at this time is as follows:

	New	Renew	Life	Total
Squadron 1	7	35	1	43
<i>Squadron 12</i>	13	14	0	27
Squadron 19	0	8	0	8
<i>Squadron 51</i>	7	11	1	19
Squadron 74	0	25	3	28
<i>Squadron 79</i>	16	45	3	64
Squadron 147	6	8	0	14
<i>Squadron 208</i>	11	17	6	34
Squadron 495	15	64	1	80
<i>Squadron 1977</i>	11	2	0	13
Squadron 1980	8	35	4	47
<i>MAL</i>	0	0	0	0
Total (11 Squadrons)	94	264	19	377

I have been having a printer problem. I am unable right now to print new membership cards. When I go to print the cards from the database, my printer disappears every time I try to print a card. I apologize for the delay in getting the cards, but I have been physically unable to buy a new printer. The Commander has been helping me with the printing.

There was some question about the numbers from Natick. The 1st Vice Commander will review his numbers and make sure everything is up to date for his next report.

There was also a question about how long checks are taking to clear. The 1st Vice stated that all checks received by him prior to this meeting have been given to the Finance Officer.

The Commander addressed a point on membership. There have been a lot of complaints about membership this year. Some of these complaints are very well founded. Some go back to when the Commander was 1st Vice. When he was 1st Vice, he lived one town over from the Finance Officer. His signature was on the checking account. He had the time physically to process membership on a daily basis. If a Squadron mailed a D&R on Monday, he received it by Wednesday, mailed it back out on Thursday morning and they had it no later than Saturday. Everybody got used to that for 2 years. When Harry was 1st Vice last year, he was not working a lot due to his illness. He was processing not everyday but at least every few days. That wasn't that big of a change. This year what has happened is that the 1st Vice works 12 hours, often six days a week. This means he is not home 14-15 hours out of the day and spends the other 9 hours sleeping and doing his hygiene. As a result, he's not processing membership every single day and we shouldn't expect that of a 1st Vice. The job of the 1st Vice on a daily basis is the hardest job outside of Commander. No other job even comes close. In a way the Commander feels responsible for many of the complaints, since he did coddle the Squadrons around their membership.

There was a question about life membership, which was answered by the Commander.

MOTION: to accept the 1st Vice Commander's Report by 2nd Vice Commander Shilo, seconded by 3rd Vice Commander Daviau. **MOTION PASSES**

2nd Vice Commander's Report

See Attached.

The Commander congratulated the 2nd Vice and thanked him for all his hard work this year.

MOTION: to accept the 2nd Vice Commander's Report by 1st Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Immediate Past Department Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

3rd Vice Commander's Report

The 3rd Vice apologized for missing the last 2 meetings. He had tried to attend the January meeting, but his card broke down along the way. As far as the raffle, he did not bring all of the raffle tickets to this meeting, so it will have to be drawn at a later date

MOTION: to accept the 3rd Vice Commander's Report by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

Finance Officer's Report

See Attached

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

GUEST-AMVETS 2nd Vice Commander Leon Proctor

He thanked the Sons for all the help we've been on his Committees the last few months. As a Department (AMVETS, Auxiliary, & Sons), on the Passion Plunge, we raised \$5893.00 for Special Olympics with some monies still coming in. He wants to do this again next year and has already volunteered to chair the committee for this next year. He'd like to top this next year.

The SDC also had their fundraiser at Post 51, raising \$851. We have another fundraiser coming up on April 12 at Haverhill 147. We will also be looking for some help at the SDC itself for the SDC on May 22nd. There will be a meeting on the 18th to get organized. If the Sons wants to sponsor an event on the SDC, it is \$25.00

He also wanted to encourage the Sons to work well with next years 2nd Vice.

Judge Advocate's Report

We are coming to the end of another year. We will have to make sure that our paperwork from the voting of new officers to any amendments to our Standing Rules are sent in on

time. Changes to the Standing Rules will have to pass on the floor by 51%. As of right now I only have 2 amendments, one membership and the other Awards.

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

Immediate Past Commander's Report

Since the last meeting I have been to the Jamaica Plain VA Medical Center for Bingo Parties with the AMVETS, and attended Off-Station Parties in support of AMVETS Post 79. I attended the Ham and Bean supper (SDC Fundraiser) held at AMVETS Post 51. I also attended PDP Pansy Preston's Wake and Memorial Services. I helped out with the Sons of AMVETS in Natick Meat Shoots. I attended the Valentine's Dance at Post 1980 in Marlboro, and attended quarterly VA meetings for Jamaica Plain VA Medical Center. I will be attending the Testimonials for Commander Tom Glenn and President Betty Shortsleeve.

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

Chaplain's Report

NO REPORT AT THIS TIME.

The Commander excused the Chaplain from giving a report at this time.

VAVS Coordinator's Report

See Attached

MOTION: to accept the VAVS Coordinator's Report by 1st Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Immediate Past Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

National Executive Committeeman's Report

No report at this time as nothing has happened since the last State Executive Committee Meeting. There will be a report at the May SEC.

Unfinished Business

- A. Scooters Update**-The final scooter was placed at Northampton, which gave us one at each of the 4 major facilities. We knew pretty early that we weren't going to go with JP due to a VERY low census and that it was becoming a psych unit. This sort of piece of equipment would not be of much use there. We went with the other four facilities in Northampton, Bedford, Brockton and the one placed last year in West Roxbury. That project is now completed successfully. The Commander thanked everyone who helped to raise those funds especially Squadron 79 in Natick who raised the biggest percentage of the money.
- B. VA Fund Update**-With the \$500 we got from National, the \$385 that the Commander raised at a local BINGO, the \$115 that the State was kicking in brings it up to \$1000. To date, the Commander has received checks from:

1. Chicopee for \$100
2. Hudson for \$100
3. Randolph for \$100
4. Leon Proctor for \$10
5. Millis for \$150

This brings the total up to \$1,460.00. Send any checks for this fund to the Commander made out to Sons of AMVETS Department of Massachusetts to his home. Please write VA fund on the note. The Commander will go to Wal*Mart within the next Week or so to see what sort of deal they can help us out with. He plans to go directly to the regional or state headquarters.

- C. 2005 Convention Raffle Update**-Money-wise the raffle seems to have gone over very well. We will make a few bucks on this. It was supposed to be drawn today due to not having all of the ticket stubs here. All those who have tickets should send them to the Commander and he will draw it at the next committee meeting (whichever the first one is) that happens and let everyone know who won.
- D. Brockton Bowling Alleys Update**-We approved \$100 for the Brockton Bowling Alleys at the last meeting. The check was given to Immediate Past Commander Barry for delivery today.
- E. State and National Testimonials**-There are several Testimonials coming up. Commander Tom Glenn is on Sunday April 3rd in Beverly, Commander Bob Grose is on April 9th in Mansfield, OH, President Betty Shortsleeve is on April 30th in Natick.
- F. Safe Driver's Challenge Update**-The Commander urges everybody to please attend the SDC Meeting on the 18th and the SDC itself on the 22nd. The Commander will be unable to attend due to a prior engagement.

MOTION: to sponsor one event at the SDC, the first event if possible in the amount of \$25.00 by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

New Business

- A. State CBL Committee**-The Commander asked the Judge Advocate to form a CBL Committee from among those qualified to serve on such a committee. Judge Advocate Kaizer recommended Alan Gentile (Squadron 79) and PDC William Barry (Squadron 79). The Commander appointed Judge Advocate Kaizer (Chairman), Himself, PDC Barry, Al Gentile and 1st Vice Commander Bruno to the CBL Committee.

MOTION: to accept the State CBL Committee as appointed by 2nd Vice Commander Shilo, seconded by Joseph Crump. **MOTION PASSES**

The Committee will meet in Natick on April 21st at 7:30pm. The Commander distributed copies of the Standing Rules for the Committee.

- B. 2005 Honors & Awards Committee**-The Eligibility Closing Date will be the May SEC. All Project Reports and Membership must be in the appropriate hands

no later than the close of the May SEC (May 15th) in order to be considered for awards. The 1st and 2nd Vices will not be giving reports at the SEC to help build suspense. The Committee will meet on May 19th at Roslindale Post 1 at 7:00pm. Under our current Awards Guidelines, this is a closed meeting.

C. Finance Committee-We need to start having our budget ready to be voted on at the Convention like it says in the CBLs. The Finance Committee will meet in Marlboro on April 4th at 7:30pm.

D. 2005 State Convention-The 9th Annual State Convention is June 11, 2005. The Schedule of events was announced and will also be mailed out in the Convention Packet. We will have a different meeting room this year. Commander Spencer talked to PDC Temple about how we could not raise our flags due to the short ceiling. The Commander will be handling Pre-registration. Pre-registration is due no later than June 4th. The membership deadline as it applies to delegate strength will be 30 days ahead of Convention and this will be May 11th. Change of Officer Forms must be sent in. Please send it in within a couple of days of your annual meeting.

MOTION: to set Delegate Fees to \$25.00 and Pre-Registration Fees to \$20.00 for all Delegates and Alternate Delegates by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

MOTION: to waive Delegate Fees for the appointed State Officers if they are registered as either a Delegate or Alternate by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 2nd Vice Commander Shilo. **MOTION PASSES**

All reports for the State Convention Booklet must be submitted to the State Commander no later than June 2nd. This is a drop-dead. If the Commander does not have it on June 2nd, it **WILL NOT GO IN THE BOOK!** If it received after this, it will be sent back with a note saying that you are responsible for photocopying it and putting it in the book.

MOTION: to purchase a ½ page advertisement in the Convention Book by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

MOTION: to purchase 100 Convention Pins for our National Delegates in the amount of \$100.00 by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

MOTION: to purchase 2 Tickets each for the Red, White and Blue Night and Commander's Banquet for the Convention Raffle Prize Package at \$22 each by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

The Commander reminded the body that at the SEC in July he asked and the body approved for him to purchase a White Dinner Jacket instead of renting it since he owns a tuxedo and the rental cost for the jacket alone is over \$100.00. He would

not spend more than \$100.00 on this expense. This had been done for a previous Commander who was in the same situation.

E. Sad Sacks Mini-Golf Tee Sponsorship-This is one of our usual expenses.

MOTION: to purchase a Hole Sponsorship in the amount of \$25.01 by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

F. 3-Day Walk for Breast Cancer Sponsorship-We have been asked to sponsor an auxiliary member for her Cancer Walk in the amount of \$100.00.

MOTION: to Sponsor Michelle Britton on a 3-Day Walk for Breast Cancer in the amount of \$50.00 by Judge Advocate Kaizer, seconded by 1st Vice Commander Bruno. **MOTION PASSES**

G. Post 1980 25th Anniversary Party-This event will be on April 9th at the Marlboro Fish and Game. The Commander cannot attend due to a previous engagement out of state. He is sending the 1st Vice Commander to represent the Department. He can bring an escort or another Department Officer of his choosing.

MOTION: to purchase 2 tickets to the Post 1980 25th Anniversary Party by 2nd Vice Commander Shilo, seconded by Joseph Crump. **MOTION PASSES**

Upcoming Events

Several Upcoming Events were announced by the Commander and by Squadron Representatives.

2005-06 Candidacy Announcements

Commander Spencer announced that after talking to the 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders and some of his other close advisors, that he planned to seek a 3rd term as at this time neither of those Vice Commanders were going to seek the Office of Commander.

1st Vice Commander Bruno announced that he would not be seeking elected office next year due to personal reasons, but plans to remain active at SEC.

2nd Vice Commander Shilo announced that he would be seeking the office of 1st Vice Commander.

Finance Officer Flanigan announced that he would be seeking the office of Finance Officer.

Joe Crump from Millis 495 announced that he may be seeking elected office this year but still needed to discuss this with his advisors.

No other Officer or member has made his wishes known at this time. It will be reopened at the May SEC.

Benediction was read by Chaplain Leo Manning.

MOTION: to adjourn by 1st Vice Commander Bruno, seconded by Immediate Past Commander Barry. **MOTION PASSES**

The Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.