



AMVETS

Convention Rules

I – REGISTRATION

In accordance with Article V § 9 of the AMVETS National Constitution and Bylaws, the following Rules for the National Convention have been presented to the National Executive Committee during the 2009 Fall NEC Meeting and have been adopted as the governing procedures for the 66th Annual National Convention.

1. **Pre-Registration:** The national department shall send each post and department official convention registration materials and instructions of online pre-registration process. ***Each delegate, alternate or national officer may pre-register no later than 30 days prior to the start of the convention. Those submitting pre-registration via U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than the 30 days prior to convention start date. You may continue to register on-line up to one full week prior to the 1st day of on-site registration at the convention at the on-site rate.*** Post and department revalidation are prerequisites to acceptance of post and department pre-registration requests by the Credentials Committee at the national convention.
2. **Membership Transfers:** A member who has transferred from one post to another must be a member of the new post for at least six months prior to the opening of the national convention to be eligible to register as a delegate or alternate at the convention.
3. **Registration at the National Convention:**
 - In accordance with National Constitution Article V §5, to register at the national convention, a delegate, alternate or national officer must be a member in good standing on national membership rolls for at least 30 days prior to the opening of the national convention.
 - In accordance with the national constitution, Article V §2(a), Posts must be chartered no later than May 1st each year to be eligible to vote at the national convention.
 - At the registration desk, **each registrant will complete the Registration Form, present a valid membership card and a government-issued, photo identification card.** Those non-members wishing to register as a “guest” are required to present a photo identification card and complete a Guest Questionnaire.
 - Registration fees will be as follows:
 - a. **Pre-registration (either online or postmarked no later than 30 days prior to start of convention)..... \$40.00**
 - b. **Registration (all registering after pre-registration is closed).....\$50.00**
 - Once the credentials have been verified by the Credentials Committee and payment is received, the registrant's name shall be entered in the registration computer database; and, the registrant will receive a convention badge, *unless the respective post or department has not been revalidated as required by AMVETS' National Constitution Article IX §8(a) and/or Article X §3.*
 - All accounts payable or any other requirement for accreditation must be settled prior to registration.
 - Members of subordinate organizations i.e., AMVET Riders or Sad Sacks who are attending the AMVETS National Convention must register as an AMVET as well as with their subsidiary organization.

NOTE: Delegate's convention registration fees are non-refundable.

Convention Registration Desk: All national convention registration will be conducted at the registration desk only

II - DELEGATE STRENGTH

As defined by Article 5, §2, delegate voting strength is defined in the following manner:

Post: Delegate strength shall be determined by post voting strength as of July 1. Each local post shall select two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates for its first 50 members or fraction thereof. Thereafter, the post will be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each additional 50 members or fraction thereof. The example below demonstrates the formula for determining post delegates:

10 - 50 members	=	2 delegates and 2 alternates
51 - 100 members	=	3 delegates and 3 alternates
101 - 150 members	=	4 delegates and 4 alternates
151 - 200 members	=	5 delegates and 5 alternates
etc.		

Department: Each department shall select one delegate and one alternate.

National Executive Committee/National Officers: Each member of the National Executive Committee, except national appointed officers, shall be entitled to one vote, providing the member's department meets the requirements of AMVETS' National Constitution Article VII §2 and Article IX §1. Past national commanders are allowed one vote each on the convention floor. The national commander shall vote only in case of a tie. This provision shall not preclude national appointed officers from registering and voting as delegates from their respective posts and departments if they so desire. To do so, they must have been duly elected and certified as post or department delegates.

III - THE MEETING

1. A minimum of two hundred and fifty registered voting delegates shall be required to constitute a national convention. In excess of 50% of the delegates registered at the national convention must be present on the floor of the convention to constitute a quorum.
2. Except as otherwise specified by these rules, *Robert's Rules of Order*, shall govern the proceedings of this national convention.
3. At all general meetings of the convention, delegates and alternates shall be seated by department. Other AMVETS' members or guests, who are registered, but not delegates or alternates, shall be seated in a separate area as designated by the national commander.
4. The chairman shall preserve order and shall call upon the national provost marshal and his deputies to assist him, if necessary. The chairman shall require adherence to these rules and shall decide questions of order and procedure, subject to the decision of a majority of delegates present and voting on the convention floor.
5. The order of business shall be determined by the chairman in accordance with the published agenda of the convention.

6. Delegates, alternates, and guests must have their registration badges prominently displayed on their clothing to be present on the convention floor.
7. Dress code: Neither delegates, alternates, or guests will be permitted on the convention floor wearing shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, ball caps or flip-flops (dress sandals are appropriate). Rider berets and Sad Sack covers will be allowed and reasonable accommodations will be made for delegates with disabilities.
8. To assist in minutes preparation and floor control, each delegate desiring to address the convention body shall proceed to the nearest numbered microphone and wait to be recognized from the podium. Upon recognition, the delegate shall clearly state for the record his/her name, post number and department. The national provost marshal, assisted by deputy provost marshals, shall maintain order at the microphones.
9. The national provost marshal shall be the sergeant-at-arms for the convention and shall be assisted by such deputy provost marshals as the national commander may appoint.
10. Instances of disorder or misconduct by an AMVETS' member shall be reported to the national provost marshal who shall report same to the national inspector general. Upon request of the national commander, the inspector general shall investigate the matter and refer the offender(s) to the floor for dismissal from the convention.
11. At the first credentials report, a state will be drawn for voting order of all elections with the states to follow in alphabetical order.

IV – RESOLUTIONS

1. No resolution shall be discussed on the convention floor unless it has been previously considered by appropriate national convention reporting committee (s). Resolutions originating from the convention floor will be read and referred by the chairman to the appropriate committee. Copies of such resolutions shall be provided to each department for review prior to consideration by the convention body. In any case, no formal vote shall take place on any resolution originating from the convention floor until a minimum of one hour has expired after first reading to the assembled body.
2. All resolutions originating at the national convention shall be typewritten, submitted in proper resolution form, and duly signed by originator or appropriate national committee chairperson.
4. Each convention reporting committee shall consider only the resolutions in which the subject matter pertains to the duties and functions of that particular committee. Resolutions that a committee does not consider its proper charge shall be referred by such committee to the proper committee. All resolutions received by the Resolutions Committee shall be assigned to one or more appropriate national committees. The Resolutions Committee shall take no other actions on resolutions other than assignment or reassignment. Decisions involving the assignment or reassignment of resolutions by the Resolutions Committee shall be final, including the return of a resolution to the committee to which it was originally assigned.

5. All committee chairpersons or their designated committee representatives shall be present on the convention floor during the consideration of resolutions to report committee recommendations. Absence of a committee chairperson or designated committee member will not preclude final action on resolutions considered by that committee, including resolutions originated by that committee.
6. All resolutions shall be treated as main motions and shall require a second in order to be considered. Upon receiving a second, the Convention Chairperson shall open debate by requesting the considering committee(s) recommendation. If the recommendation is in the negative, the committee spokesperson shall state the reason for such recommendation. After committee recommendations, the Convention Chairperson shall open discussion to the delegates.

V – DEBATE

1. Debate shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker. No more than five speakers on each side of a question shall be permitted to speak upon the same subject except by unanimous consent of the convention body.
2. Total debate on any subject shall be limited to one hour. However, debate on a resolution may be extended to a greater time by majority vote of the delegates present on the convention floor, and the time so allotted shall be evenly divided between the proponents and opponents of the resolution. The floor shall be permitted only one time to any individual delegate on any one subject except by unanimous consent of the delegates present. However, a delegate who originally proposes a matter may be accorded one minute in rebuttal.

VI – VOTING

1. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. An alternate shall have all the rights and privileges of their delegate except they shall vote only in their delegate's absence. No delegate's vote will be counted unless he/she can present a valid registration badge.
2. Voting shall be by voice or standing vote at the discretion of the presiding officer, except when a roll call is ordered by the chairperson or upon request of at least five department delegations. The election of national officers shall be by roll call vote unless candidates for national office are unopposed.
3. Each department shall select a chairperson who shall announce the vote of his/her delegation. When any delegate thereof entitled to vote demands the roll call of any department delegation, the Credentials Chairperson, using the registration file, shall call the roll of the posts and the names of the delegates appearing therein. As each delegate's name is called, he/she shall then be required to announce his/her vote at a floor microphone so that it may be officially recorded. Subject to the above limitations, any voting delegate of the convention may demand a count of any delegation thus casting its vote for the sole purpose of determining whether an equal number of voting delegates present on the convention floor supports the announced vote. If there are fewer delegates present on the floor than the votes announced, then the Credentials Committee shall use the registration card file to poll the delegation(s) to obtain a correct count.

4. Votes cast by a department cannot be challenged after the next department has been called.
5. Unit rule and proxy voting will not be permitted.

VII - COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Each reporting committee chairperson or his/her accredited substitute shall present a report of that committee's meeting to the convention body for approval.
2. The Credentials Committee shall report orally at the beginning of each daily session of the convention and whenever called by the presiding officer. A final report shall be submitted for printing in the publication of the convention reports.

VIII – NOMINATIONS

1. Duly registered delegates shall make nominations and supporting speeches for National Officers from the floor, except that nominations and supporting speeches for National Commander may be made from the podium.
2. Nomination and election of national officers shall be conducted in the following order:
 - (a) Trustee, National Service Foundation (3 year term)
 - (b) Trustee, National Service Foundation (3 year term)
 - (c) Trustee, National Service Foundation (unexpired term(s)) (if required)
 - (d) National Judge Advocate
 - (e) National Provost Marshal
 - (f) National Finance Officer
 - (g) National Second Vice Commander (Programs)
 - (h) National First Vice Commander (Membership)
 - (i) National Commander
3. Nominating and seconding speeches for national officers other than the national commander shall be limited to two minutes each. Nominating speeches for national commander shall be limited to five minutes each. Not more than two seconding speeches may be made on behalf of candidates for national commander and one such speech for candidates for other offices.
4. Persons wishing to be nominated for office, but unable to be present during nominations shall make such wishes known, in writing, to the Credentials Chairman. Such request shall include a statement that the person promises, if elected, to fulfill the duties of the office to the best of his/her ability, be duly signed and dated, and comply with Article VI Section 1 (d) of the National Constitution.

IX – ELECTIONS

1. Election of all national officers shall be by members present and voting on the convention floor. After the second ballot for any office, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped on the succeeding ballot. Following each ballot thereafter, the candidate receiving the fewest votes will be eliminated from the ballot and balloting will continue in this manner until one candidate receives the majority of the votes cast.
2. A candidate elected to and accepting a national office shall be ineligible for nomination or election for any other national office.
3. No department may change or correct its vote or be challenged by a delegate of that department within the same ballot after the next state has been recognized. A department may pass, however, when first called upon to vote.

X – SUSPENSION OF RULES

1. A section or sections of these rules may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present on the floor if such suspension is not in conflict with the National Constitution and By-Laws.

XI – MISCELLANEOUS

1. Posting of banners and signs (except the signs placed by the Convention Committee designating the seating arrangements for the departments) in the convention hall or banquet hall is prohibited, as well as, in those areas prohibited by hotel and convention center management. Areas in which posting of banners shall be prohibited will be posted on the convention bulletin board.
2. No convention bids will be received on the convention floor unless they have been previously submitted to the National Finance Committee in accordance with the rules of that committee.
3. A permanent log shall be kept by the Credentials Committee of proof of eligibility of candidates to be attested to by the Credentials Committee Chairman or Co-chairman and one other member of the Credentials Committee.