



MINUTES
AMVETS RIDERS COORDINATION MEETING
Saturday, December 8, 2007
Updated 12/18/07

The meeting for the AMVETS Riders National Steering Committee took place at the Fall NEC Meeting at the Hilton Mark Center Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia starting at approximately 12:00 Noon. Representatives from the National Office included Mark Del Piano, Director of Membership and Jay Agg, National Publications Officer.

Attendance included Larry Arnett from Florida, Darrell & Becky Robinson from Ohio, Randy Williams, Roger Durham & Carolyn Stover from Indiana, Kim Judge, Victor Stivason & Tom Minchin from Pennsylvania, Larry Shippy from Kansas, Dennis Sweeney from Nebraska, Don Oliver from Arkansas, Jim Patterson and Gary Adams from Missouri and Michael Tharpe from New Mexico. There were two other men present for part of the meeting; one from New Mexico and one from Alaska; however, they did not sign the sheet.

All members of the AMVETS Riders National Steering Committee were present with exception of Tony Arrowsmith from Nebraska and Ray Ross from Florida.

Mark Del Piano distributed a list of Charters that had been issued to date. He asked that everyone review the list and inform him of any corrections, etc. National would like to obtain as many email addresses as possible to allow interested parties be informed of any decisions and/or progress made.

Mark Del Piano began the meeting by introducing Larry Arnett, Chairman of the National Steering Committee. Chairman Arnett recognized Darrell Robinson as Vice-Chairman and Becky Robinson as Secretary.

Copies of minutes from August meetings were distributed to everyone in attendance. Chairman Arnett suggested we bypass normal formalities of a meeting. He entertained a motion to accept the minutes as printed and distributed. Motion was made by Darrell Robinson to accept minutes; seconded by Bull Durham; motion carried.

Copies of the Agenda were also distributed.

Chairman Arnett discussed the generic Constitution and Bylaws and advised the goal is to have an annual review at every National Convention. Bull Durham stated he would like to see the statement "I Support" put back into Article VII, Section 6. Mr. Durham stated it was adopted in Indiana on a state level. Vice-Chairman Robinson asked to recognize Victor Stivason to resolve any issues with the Constitution & Bylaws. Mr. Stivason had two Resolutions to present to the Riders Steering Committee. Resolution #2 was presented requesting a National AMVETS Riders By-laws Committee be established immediately. Mark Del Piano stated he agreed this committee is needed although the resolution could not be adopted at this time due to the fact we are strictly a committee and officers have not been elected. Mr. Del Piano suggested the National Judge Advocate be contacted to have resolution reviewed. Lengthy discussion followed about the legalities involved until officers are elected. Tom Minchin commented the Steering Committee could do whatever they wish as long as it does not break the rules of the National organization. Mr. Stivason withdrew his resolution as written. Chairman Arnett appointed Mr. Stivason as Chairman of the Bylaws Committee. Mr. Stivason made a motion based on the wording of the resolution that a Bylaws Committee be formed to include each Department President and one additional person from each department to review the bylaws. Motion seconded by Roger Durham. Vice Chairman Robinson stated the Constitution needs to be added because there is wording that needs changed. Motion was amended to include Constitution. Motion carried.

Mr. Stivason presented Resolution #1 in the form of a motion that National AMVETS Riders Steering Committee include one AMVETS Riders member selected by each Department to serve as a member of the Steering Committee upon notification that a Department AMVETS Riders chapter exists. Vice Chairman Robinson seconded for discussion. Mr. Durham stated he felt it was important each Department be represented for the organization. Motion carried.

Chairman Arnett reported the Riders are ready to form up, number qualifications have been met and election of officers will be held in August at the National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Gary Adams, NEC from Missouri, proposed the question if all riders will be delegates. Members present felt officers should be elected from within Riders that have been attending meetings and those that are present at the Riders meeting at the time of election. Hopefully communications will improve as a result of additional meetings before National Convention. Mark Del Piano stated he would look into setting up an 800# for Conference Call following the Spring NEC to relay communications and information needed about the upcoming elections, etc.

Membership Cards – Chairman Arnett inquired as to who would/should send out Membership Cards. Application states National would handle. Mark Del Piano suggested he send blank cards to departments for them to issue. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the confusion of the application, dues to be collected and membership cards. Jay Agg apologized and remarked that some of the confusion was generated by information that had been given to him, basically from Delaware Department. Mark Del Piano reported that National does not have a membership database exclusively for Riders. Mr. Stivason stated the Secretary should compile data with Membership List from each Chapter prior to National Convention that could be turned over to the newly elected Secretary. Vice Chairman Robinson made a motion to table the Membership Card issue until the National Convention; seconded by Mr. Durham; motion carried. (Please note: Roger Durham submitted the Membership Roster for Indiana Chapter 2000 to the Secretary after the meeting).

Membership Application – Mark Del Piano requested information as to what needed changed or corrected on the application. After lengthy discussion, it was decided Mark Del Piano and Jay Agg will work on revising the application for clarification.

Dues – Group agreed each Chapter should decide what amount to charge, if any. Vice Chairman Robinson inquired who will dictate amount of dues that will be sent to National. Mark Del Piano stated he assumes it will be NEC; an NEC equivalent would be needed for the Riders.

Chapters – Discussion held as to how many chapters are needed before a Department Charter is required. Motion was made by Jim Patterson that only one Chapter be required to obtain Department Charter; seconded by Darrell Robinson. Motion carried.

Communications – Jay Agg offered his support by offering to include information or stories submitted to him for magazine publications and website. Jay volunteered to work directly with Chairman Arnett to fill website with pertinent information. Departments that have individual websites should also forward information to be included on National Riders website. Mr. Durham also stated forms needed and/or required should be added to the website for everyone to have access.

Uniforms – Mr. Durham elaborated on reasons why only State or Chapter Presidents be allowed to order Riders National Insigna (patch) and berets. Suggestion was made to pass information over to Mr. Stivason for inclusion in Constitution and Bylaws to establish control. Jim Patterson made a motion that each Chapter President and Department President be authorized to do the ordering for AMVETS Riders. Motion carried. Mr. Stivason disagreed with vote and asked that motion be withdrawn to allow Bylaws Committee to document proper procedure to follow. Mr. Patterson agreed to withdraw his motion. Motion was made by Mr. Stivason to disapprove motion; seconded by Michael Tharpe; motion carried.

Local, Department and Regional Insignas – Motion was made by Mr. Durham that each Department or Chapter be grandfathered as to what has been previously done with patches and placement of patches and in guidance with the Bylaws until otherwise noted. Motion was seconded by Darrell Robinson. Discussion followed. Motion was amended to state Chapter can have discretion on placement of patches until National Bylaws are approved. Amended motion seconded by Darrell Robinson. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Robinson suggested a Uniform Sub-committee be formed to make decisions on insignas, uniforms, etc. Mark Del Piano suggested a committee be formed at Spring NEC. Vice Chairman Robinson volunteered to sub-chair the committee, make contacts via email and have some feedback available for Spring NEC.

Covers – Mr. Durham made a motion Black Berets with 3” patch as purchased from Quartermaster be adopted as National Head Cover for all AMVETS Riders. Motion was seconded by Darrell Robinson; motion carried. (Note: Nothing can be added to beret; they must remain unaltered).

Chairman Arnett reminded everyone the National Convention will be held in August in Orlando, Florida. He would like to set up a tour to Nasa if there is enough interest.

Discussion was held as to amount of time needed for meetings at Spring NEC and National Convention. Group agreed to hold two 2 hour sessions at NEC and requested two 4 hour sessions for National Convention.

Discussion was held reference members with quad runners, 4 wheelers and snow machines starting a Chapter. Mr. Durham suggested this could be another function as supporters of the AMVETS Riders

Issue of Charters – Vice Chairman Robinson suggested each Department issue charters and then forward to National. Mark Del Piano reported National has to issue the charter. He stated it would be easier if proper paperwork was submitted with each charter application. The question was asked what is required from National.

Items Required:

1. Charter Application
2. Officer Revalidation Form
3. EIN Number (cannot use Post Number) – IRS requirement
4. Proof of Liability Insurance (even if covered under Post)
5. Ten Charter Members (same as Post requirement) – **Changed to 5***
6. Articles of Incorporation

Discussion was held as to number of members required. Motion was made by Dennis Sweeney that at least 8 members be required. Mr. Stivason asked for discussion; Vice Chairman Robinson seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Mr. Sweeney withdrew his motion; Mr. Robinson withdrew his second. Mr. Sweeney entertained a motion to set the number of members to 5 with a year to acquire 10 members. * Vice Chairman Robinson made a motion to allow a charter be issued with 5 members and allow a year to acquire 10 members or charter will be pulled. Motion seconded by Mr. Stivason; motion carried.

Vice Chairman Robinson made a motion to adopt “Riding for Those Who Fought for Us” as National AMVETS Riders Slogan. Motion seconded by Mr. Durham; motion carried.

Mr. Durham expressed thanks to all volunteers.

Mark Del Piano went over his list of items to address. He stated he is going to work on membership applications, forms for website, database, meeting rooms for NEC and convention.

Mr. Tharpe expressed thanks to Mark Del Piano for all his help in getting the Riders organized.

Motion was made by Jim Patterson to adjourn; seconded by Darrell Robinson. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Robinson
Recording Secretary

