

# **THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OF THE JUNIOR AMVETS**

## **PREAMBLE**

We the sons and daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren of the AMVETS, Auxiliary and Sons of AMVETS, fully realizing our responsibility to our parents, Community, State and Nation associate ourselves for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States; to safeguard the principals of Freedom, liberty, and justice for all; to promote the cause of peace and goodwill among nations; to maintain inviolate the freedom of our country; to preserve the fundamentals of democracy; to perpetuate the friendships and association of the AMVETS organization; and to dedicate ourselves to the cause of mutual assistance...this by the Grace of God.

## **ARTICLE I NAME**

The name of this organization shall be National Junior AMVETS.

## **ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES**

The aims and purposes of this organization is as follows:

1. To serve our country in peace as in war, to build and maintain the welfare of the United States of America toward lasting prosperity and peace for all it inhabitants.
2. To encourage, in keeping with the policies of our Government, the establishment of concrete plan to secure permanent international peace and to assist in the maintenance of international peace.
3. To inspire in our members a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership, for the preservation of our American democratic way of life.
4. To help unify divergent groups in the overall interest of American democracy.
5. To become purposeful citizens in a republic with full knowledge of the responsibilities as well as the privileges of citizenship.
6. To cooperate with all duly recognized veteran's organizations in the furtherance of the aims of the veterans.
7. To aid in the fulfillment of the aims and purposes of AMVETS, our parent organization.
8. To keep the public forever reminded that the veterans served to preserve peace, liberty, and democracy for the Nation.
9. To promote the welfare and fellowship of our members and families.
10. To recognize in Junior AMVETS that the organization known as AMVETS was Chartered by Congressional action on July 23, 1947, is the parent organization, and that Junior AMVETS exist solely to promote the interest of the parent body of the AMVETS; therefore cannot act independently except as it favors the objects of the parent body.

## ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

- Section 1. Junior AMVETS shall be organized with the National, State, National District and Local organizations. Each level shall be approved by the corresponding level of AMVETS, the parent organization, and shall be subordinate to that sponsoring level.
- Section 2. The National Department shall be composed of the National officers and representatives from each State.
- Section 3. The National District organization shall be composed of the National District officers and representative from each State within the National District. The boundaries of each National District shall be that in accordance with that of our parent organization, AMVETS.
- Section 4. The State Department shall be composed of the State officers and representatives from each local organization within the State. A State Charter may be issued by the National Department when there exists at least two (2) local groups with a membership of eight (8) members per group, the Charter application having been approved by the State Department of AMVETS.
- Section 5. A local organization may be formed by eight (8) **new eligible** individuals, approved by both the Local AMVETS Post and the State Department AMVETS, and if there exists, approved by the State Department of Junior AMVETS. To maintain the Charter, each Post must have a membership of not less than eight (8) members.
- Section 6. The sponsoring AMVETS organization and Auxiliary shall appoint a Junior AMVETS coordinator to guide, advise and cooperate with Junior AMVETS on that corresponding level.
- Section 7. The National Executive Committee consisting of all National Junior AMVETS Officers shall be the governing body between any and all meetings. The Immediate Past National President shall be on the Executive Committee for the following year after his/her term of office.
- Section 8. Each level of Junior AMVETS shall be governed by their respective Constitution and Bylaws, approved by the parent organization, and which shall be not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Department of Junior AMVETS.
- Section 9. In the event of surrender or cancellation of a Junior AMVETS Charter all money, records and property shall be surrendered to the AMVETS Post to be held in escrow until that Charter is reactivated or reissued. If a Charter is not active after a period of three (3) years, any and all properties become possessions of the respective AMVETS Post and Auxiliary, and there exists no Auxiliary, these properties become possessions of the respective AMVETS Post.
- Section 10. No Junior AMVETS State Department or individual Junior AMVETS Post shall be permitted to hire professional promoters for any fund-raising projects.
- Section 11. A Charter for Junior AMVETS, State and Local, shall be issued by the National Department of Junior AMVETS, and shall remain open for a period no longer than six (6) months.

## ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Eligibility for membership in Junior AMVETS is limited to the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandchildren of AMVETS, deceased member of AMVETS, members of the Auxiliary, Sons of AMVETS and a serviceman who died and who would have been eligible for AMVETS membership, including all children that they may be legal guardian of from the age of five (5) to and including, seventeen (17) years.
- Section 2. A person shall become a member of Junior AMVETS upon establishing eligibility and payment of annual dues.
- Section 3. Junior AMVETS must annually renew their membership by December 31 for the following year, after December 31 the Junior AMVET must re-establish eligibility.
- Section 4. No person who advocates the overthrow of the United States Government and no person who refuses to uphold the Constitution of the United States shall be privileged to become or continue to be a member of Junior AMVETS.
- Section 5. There shall be one form of membership-active regular membership and the membership year will be the same as that of the parent organization, AMVETS, January 1 to December 31.
- Section 6. Any member in good standing may transfer to another group upon acceptance by that group. Notification shall be sent to the post that they are transferring from.
- Section 7. A Junior AMVETS membership shall be accepted only after:
- A. A membership application is completely filled out by the parent (s) or guardian (s); and
  - B. The application is approved for verification of sponsor by the post membership director, and
  - C. The release form is returned to the Junior AMVETS post property signed by the parent (s) or guardian (s).
- Section 8. The Junior AMVETS Leadership Manual consisting of copies of membership application blanks, opening ceremonies, release forms, plus other items available, shall be given to any post interested in forming a Junior AMVETS post. **The National Junior AMVETS coordinators will supply the manuals.**
- Section 9. Each AMVETS post that has a Junior AMVETS should have an AMVETS and Auxiliary Chairmen who are members in good standing of their respective organization and appointed by the Commander and President of the local post.
- Section 10. Every Junior AMVET shall complete a Junior AMVETS membership application to be retained by the local post.
- Section 11. Every Junior AMVET shall fill out a Junior AMVETS release form, which shall be kept on file at each individual post. Purpose of this form is to protect the organization should misfortune occur.

- Section 12. Each Junior AMVETS post shall submit a mid-year report to the National Junior AMVETS President, the National Junior AMVETS Junior Vice President, National AMVETS Coordinator and the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Junior AMVETS Coordinator postmarked by December 31.
- Section 13. Each Junior AMVETS post shall submit a complete activity report of the year to the National Junior AMVETS President, the National Junior AMVETS Junior Vice President, National AMVETS Coordinator and the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Junior AMVETS Coordinator postmarked by June 15, which shall be signed by the Junior AMVETS Junior Vice President.
- Section 14. Each Junior AMVETS post shall adopt at least one (1) service project each year.

## **ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION**

- Section 1. There shall be but one Constitution, which shall be the governing, instruments for the National, State and Local Junior AMVETS. Each level shall have its own bylaws by which to govern the business of that respective group, but these Bylaws shall not be in conflict with the National Constitution and Bylaws, or in the case of the local organization, in conflict with the bylaws of their respective State Department of Junior AMVETS.
- Section 2. Books of the Treasurer and Secretary, as well as the records and reports of all officers and chairmen shall be open for inspection by the membership of the group.
- Section 3. The President shall be ex-officio member of all committees, standing or appointed, of that organization.

## **ARTICLE VI OFFICERS**

- Section 1. The elected officers of all levels of Junior AMVETS shall be a President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms and Chaplain.
- Section 2. The National Junior AMVETS President elect shall appoint the Public Relations Officer and Parliamentarian.
- Section 3. Other officers and chairmen, standing and temporary, shall be appointed by the President, when necessary, and with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- Section 4. Nominations for all officers shall be made from the floor. Elections shall be by secret ballot.
- Section 5. All newly elected or appointed officers shall assume duties as provided in the provisions of their respective by-laws.
- Section 6. A copy of all officers of each Junior AMVETS State Department and individual Junior AMVETS post shall be filed with their own State Department of AMVETS and the National Junior AMVETS President and Secretary, no later than October 1 of each year.

## **ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. The President shall be the executive head of Junior AMVETS and shall be responsible for the successful functioning of all officers and the accomplishments of the organization.

The President shall:

- A. Represent Junior AMVETS at all functions
- B. Preside at all meetings of the Junior AMVETS
- C. Appoint officers, chairmen and committees.
- D. The President may vote only in case of a tie.

Section 2. The Senior Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of duties and in the absence of the President, shall preside. The Senior Vice President shall serve as Membership Chairman.

Section 3. The Junior Vice President shall assist the President and the Senior Vice President. The Junior Vice President shall be the Program Chairman.

Section 4. The AMVETS and/or AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Coordinators shall be responsible for collecting and recording all Junior AMVETS moines, including membership and providing the Junior AMVETS Treasurer with accurate records of the Junior AMVETS moines. The Junior AMVETS Treasurer shall prepare a financial statement showing receipts and disbursements of such moines.

Section 5. The Secretary shall record all minutes and be responsible for all correspondence and notices at the directive of the President and/or the Executive Committee.

Section 6. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall be responsible for the Colors and shall maintain order at all meetings.

Section 7. The Chaplain shall offer prayer at all meetings and shall guide the spiritual welfare of the membership.

Section 8. The Parliamentarian shall interpret the Constitution and By-laws as requested.

Section 9. The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for news releases pertaining to the activities of Junior AMVETS.

Section 10. All officers shall perform the duties as prescribed in the Constitution and their respective bylaws and those assigned from time to time. Officers shall be required to turn over files, property and the procedure books of that office at the conclusion of the National Convention.

## **ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS**

- Section 1. The National Junior AMVETS shall meet in convention at the time and place of AMVETS Annual National Convention.
- Section 2. State, District and Local Junior AMVETS may meet as prescribed in their respective bylaws.
- Section 3. The National Executive Committee shall hold a National Executive Committee meeting in conjunction with their parent organization, AMVETS, at their spring National Executive Committee meeting.
- Section 4. The National Junior AMVETS President, with the approval of the coordinating committee, can schedule a full training session at an agreed upon location.
- Section 5. Only Junior AMVETS attending National meetings shall have the privilege of going on a Junior AMVETS social activity.

## **ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1. Each post shall be notified in writing of recommended changes sixty (60) days prior to the National Convention to amend this Constitution.
- Section 2. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting upon notification. A unanimous vote is required without notification.
- Section 3. All amendments adopted by Junior AMVETS become effective only and immediately after approval by the corresponding level of AMVETS.
- Section 4. All business meetings of Junior AMVETS shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order, revised.
- Section 5. This Constitution shall automatically be amended by any action taken by the parent organization, AMVETS, affecting the Constitution of the Junior AMVETS.

# THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS OF THE JUNIOR AMVETS

## ARTICLE I NATIONAL CONVENTION

- Section 1. Nominations and election of National Junior AMVETS Officers shall be as described in the National Constitution of Junior AMVETS. No National Junior AMVETS President may be elected to more than one (1) consecutive term unless there is a unanimous vote to that effect. No member-at-large shall be eligible to hold a national office. Any Junior AMVET seeking the office of National President shall have been a National Officer for at least two (2) years prior.
- Section 2. The National Executive Committee shall be composed of all National Officers and the immediate Past President. This Executive Committee all with one (1) vote shall meet at the National Convention site prior to the official opening of the National Convention of Junior AMVETS, and at the Annual National Executive Committee meeting to be held in conjunction with their parent organization, AMVETS, at their spring National Executive Committee meeting. Contact between meetings shall be via mails, and this may be in the release of information by bulletins and/or mail vote, as the circumstances may arise.
- Section 3. Members of the National Convention shall consist of National officers, Past National Presidents, National standing chairmen, State and Local delegates.
- Section 4. Delegates to the National Junior AMVETS Convention from each Junior AMVETS post shall be limited to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates for the first twenty (20) members, plus one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each additional fifteen- (15) members or better portion thereof based on membership figures recorded with the National Junior AMVETS Senior Vice President thirty (30) days prior to the National Convention. Registration fee shall be set forth by the National Executive Committee.
- Section 5. Each member of the National Junior AMVETS Executive Committee shall be entitled to a vote at the National Junior AMVETS convention just as delegates representing their individual Junior AMVETS posts.
- Section 6. No member of the Junior AMVETS National Executive Committee shall be eligible to serve as a delegate of his/her Junior AMVETS post to a National Convention, as long as he/she is a voting member of the National Junior AMVETS Executive Committee.
- Section 7. One or more than half of those registered and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 8. A. The National Junior AMVETS Coordinating Committee shall consist of a Chairman, (the National Junior AMVETS Coordinator), additional three (3) AMVETS appointed by the National Commander, the Chairman of the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Junior AMVETS Coordinator, three (3) additional Ladies Auxiliary members appointed by the National President of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and a representative(s) from the Sons of AMVETS.
- B. The individual members of the Committee shall be given specific duties in guiding and assisting the individual officers of the Junior AMVETS, as well as advising and guiding them generally.
- Section 9. The National Junior AMVETS Executive Committee shall approve all final decisions made by The National Junior AMVETS in reference to financial matters.

Section 10. Providing the funds are available in the National Junior AMVETS treasury, National Convention expenses of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) shall be paid to the National Junior AMVETS President, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) each for the National Senior Vice President, National Junior Vice President, National Treasurer, National Secretary, National Sergeant-at-arms, National Chaplain, National Public Relations officer and National Parliamentarian. This payment is also contingent upon the fulfillment of duties of office. Discretion of payment shall be made by the National Junior AMVETS Executive Committee.

Section 11. Providing funds are available, officers attending the Spring NEC will be reimbursed half their travel expenses by plane, bus or train and up to \$ .30 per mile by automobile.

## **ARTICLE II NATIONAL OFFICERS**

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a National President, National Senior Vice President, National Junior Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Sergeant-at-arms, National Chaplain. The National Junior AMVETS President shall appoint the National Public Relations Officer, National Parliamentarian and all other officers as may be deemed necessary and approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The National President shall preside at the National Executive Committee meetings and the National Convention. The national President shall prepare the agenda for such meetings and arrange appropriate meeting times and place for same with the AMVETS National Headquarters. The President and/or Public Relations Officer shall prepare and submit an article for publication in the American Veteran. The National President shall notify the Secretary as to release of meeting notices and/or bulletins. The National President within 30 days of induction to the office shall send a complete itemized report of the financial standing of the Junior AMVETS to the National Commander (AMVETS National Constitution and By-laws XIX, Section 3). The National President is responsible for the success of the year's activities.

Section 3. The Senior Vice President shall serve as Membership Chairman and in the absence of the National president shall serve as President.

Section 4. The Junior Vice President shall serve as the Program Chairman.

Section 5. The Secretary shall take minutes of all National meetings and shall send meeting notices, Convention calls, information and instructions, as directed by the President and/or Executive Committee. The minutes after approved by the President shall be released to all state Departments, districts and local groups. The secretary shall also prepare a directory of Junior AMVETS Officers, National Officers, State Officers, District Officers and local President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all National moines. The current year's books shall be available at all National meetings and open for inspection by any member of Junior AMVETS.

Section 7. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall keep order at all National meetings and shall be responsible for posting the colors and displaying the National Junior AMVETS charter at all meetings.

Section 8. The National Officers shall be the liaison between the State department and the National Department and each National Officer shall work directly with the corresponding state officer.

Section 9. No bulletin may be released by a National Officer without the approval of the National President.

- Section 10. Except as herein described, the duties of the National Officers shall be as described in the National Constitution of the Junior AMVETS.
- Section 11. The installation of newly elected Junior AMVETS officers shall be prior to the adjournment of the National Convention and the choice of installing AMVETS officer shall be that of the newly elected President.
- Section 12. A Junior AMVET shall not be eligible for the office of National Junior AMVETS President unless he or she has held an elected office in National Junior AMVETS at least two (2) years, and is at least fourteen (14) years of age.
- A. No junior AMVET under the age of twelve (12) may run for an elected office (Senior Vice, Junior Vice, Treasurer and/or Secretary) unless his/her birthday will be by the next National Convention.
- B. No Junior AMVETS who will reach the age of eighteen (18) during the current calendar year may be elected as a National Officer.

### **ARTICLE III DUES**

- Section 1. The annual National dues shall be not less than five dollars ( \$5.00 ).
- Section 2. The dues for the local and State department shall be left to their own discretion.
- Section 3. Annual dues are payable September 1 and all dues from new members or renewals received after that date shall cover the next calendar year's dues.  
Annual dues are due December 31.

### **ARTICLE IV AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1. Each post shall be notified in writing of recommended changes sixty (60) days prior to the National Convention.
- Section 2. These Bylaws may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting upon notification. A unanimous vote is required without notification.
- Section 3. All amendments adopted by National Junior AMVETS become effective only and immediately after approval of the corresponding level of AMVETS.

shley Hughes  
AMVETS National Junior President

Amanda Speigle  
AMVETS National Junior Parliamentarian

Edward W. Kemp  
AMVETS National Commander

AMVETS National Judge Advocate

Cleve Geer  
AMVETS National Junior AMVETS  
AMVETS Coordinator

Evelyn R. McElvin  
AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary  
Junior AMVETS Coordinator

August 16, 2006  
Date Approved