



2021 Spring National Executive Committee (N.E.C.) Reports



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National Executive Committee Reports



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Report of Martin P. Ashman, National District I Commander

National District I

Commander Brown, Officers, and Fellow AMVETS

Due to COVID restrictions, District 1 has been unable to hold any in person meetings in this past year. We did have a virtual meeting in November and we have one scheduled for this month. I have kept in touch with Department Commanders via e-mails and phone calls and all seem to be experiencing some problems. Each State in District 1 has submitted reports and you can see what each State is dealing with. We have an in person meeting scheduled for April 10 2021 at the Claridge Hotel in Atlantic City NJ hopefully we can get this meeting accomplished. Commander this is my report and I move for it's adoption.

Martin P Ashman
District 1 Commander
Department of NY

Report of Dana Dillon, NEC Department of Connecticut

National District I

Membership

Connecticut AMVETS Membership is currently around 81%. Most of our unpaid Members are from one post. We are working hard to get that rectified. We were able to revitalize one of our posts, Post 2. We are working to save two posts from going under. They are Post 45 and Post 24. The Commander is working with them to try to get members to step up and take leadership roles within their posts.

Programs

Our Program Value for the period that ended December 31, 2020 was \$64,199.45.

Our Program Reporting Value for the Period Ending June 30, 2021 is \$5,557.30.

Service

I do not have any information regarding our Service officer. I do not believe he has been in contact with our Commander with any updates since COVID.

Upcoming Events

Our next SEC Meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2021 at 7 pm. It will be by ZOOM. We are working with our ROTC Units on setting up for their Awards Programs.

Department Convention is Scheduled for Saturday June 19, 2021 at AMVETS Post 47 in Brooklyn, CT. Convention to start at 8 am. If an In Person Convention is not Possible, we will hold our Convention by Zoom.

Communications

We continue to be very active with Military Funeral Honors in Connecticut. January's Report was as Follows: 12 Funeral Details, 39 Personal, 156 Man Hours, 975 Miles traveled. Virtual Meetings:

The Department will be submitting a Department Resolution Change to our By-Laws that would allow for Virtual meetings and Conventions in the future. In addition to the Resolution on Virtual Meetings, the Department has three additional Resolutions that will be presented at our Convention.

- 1st Responder and Law Enforcement
- State Officer and Time Restrictions

- White Clover Award Changes

Other

Operation Gift Card: Operation Gift Card continues to be active. Al Meadows and his team meet with their contacts every month and get them the Gift Cards for distribution. Due to COVID Restrictions, they are not allowed to meet with the patients on their own.

Heroes on Wheels: John Chan recently donated a Scooter to a Veteran in Groton, Connecticut from AMVETS Post 47. We are running out of space to keep this equipment and the person who has been doing the repairs is looking to retire from it. We will be looking at other opportunities out there to keep this program up and running.

Thursday Night ZOOM Meeting: On the 2nd Thursday of each Month, the Commander holds a ZOOM Meeting starting at 7 pm to update members on current events. This meeting is informational only. No motions are made or voted on. It is just another way we are using to reach out to our members. These meetings have been very successful at bringing members together, even those that would not normally show up at in person meetings.

Newsletter: The Department has combined with AMVETS Post 47 in the monthly Newsletter. Since COVID many of our posts around the state have seen a reduction in activities and producing a Department News Letter on its own has become impractical. So, for the time being we have combined our Newsletter with AMVETS Post 47 Newsletter in order to still deliver a quality newsletter that provides our members with information.

Service Foundation: Our Service Foundation will again this year be giving out Scholarships. Applications have already started to go out. Thank you to Foundation President Douglas Newell and his Officers for the great work that they do.

VAVS: VAVS activities at the Hospitals in Connecticut came to a stop when COVID Hit. We have however

Report of Dana Dillon, NEC

Department of Connecticut (*continued*)

National District I

been keeping up to date with the Hospitals through Virtual Meetings. A number of meetings have been held, with West Haven, Newington and Rocky Hill. In addition, VA Commissioner Saadi sends out weekly updates.

CT. Posts: Many of our Posts donated Gift Baskets and Gift Cards to needy families during the Holidays. Many of our Posts celebrated in some way Veterans Day, and Wreaths Across America. AMVETS Post 47 has continued having Monthly Meetings by ZOOM.

Memorials: Connecticut has 2 new Memorials scheduled to open later this year. The 1 st one, honors those affected by Agent Orange and the 2nd one, honors Gold Star Families.

Personal: Since the beginning of the Pandemic, our commander has continued to keep in touch with his Officers and AMVET members through emails, letters, and phone calls. We have continued to do business as required, just in a little different way. The Commander stated that he was very proud of his Officers and AMVETS for continuing to take a lead in showing everyone that this Pandemic will not stop us.

On a sad note, Past Department Commander Rodney Bissonnette Passed away. He was District 1 Provost Marshall when Al Duff was District 1 Commander. Rod had a Triple By-Pass the Monday after Christmas and had been struggling with complications since.

This is my report and I ask for its acceptance at the proper time.

Dana Dillon, NEC
AMVETS Dept. of CT

Report of James E. Laflin, NEC

Department of Maine

National District I

Membership

The Dept. of Maine continues to get all of their posts to have all their annual members renew. It has been difficult to get this done due to the Governor's mandates and posts not being open and no meetings. Since we got the new membership cards the new renewals have been coming in slow. As of the last report state-wide we have had %& renewals.

Programs

The Dept. of Maine is continuing to get all posts to do reporting. It has been very difficult with all the posts not meeting until recently based on our governors mandates.

Service

The Dept. of Maine continues to work with our state dept. Of veterans services and our VA hospital to help all our veterans during this pandemic. All VSO's in the state continue to help fight for all veterans around the state especially in these times.

Upcoming Events

The dept. has only had a couple of meetings in recent months because of the state mandates. The March NEC will be doing a zoom type meeting on March 6th. We have a meeting with the hotel to discuss our state convention on June 5 thru 7 2021. As of right now we will be having our state convention in auburn, me. At the Hilton garden inn unless the governors changes the mandates. Hopefully there will be a district meeting soon.

Legislative

The Dept. of Maine continues to work with our governor and the state legislation on all bills pertaining to veterans issues. As well as the pandemic mandates. We coordinate and work with all the other VSO's in supporting these efforts.

Communications

Dept. of Maine and all of it's posts continue to promote AMVETS and it's programs and members hip drives.

Other

This is my report and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

Report of James Spreng, NEC

Department of New Jersey

National District I

Membership

Other than loss due to death/COVID we are losing membership and due to the lull in meetings, membership is not renewing. We get emails that say since we're not meeting, no sense in belonging.

Programs

Started an Equine Therapy Stable in Mays landing and have other one working with us. Trying to get funding to refurbish vacant houses for homeless Veterans. Other programs were canceled do to pandemic

Service

Our service officers are helping veterans file claims.

Upcoming Events

District #1 Meeting in Atlantic City NJ in April (pending)

NJs State Convention in May 2021 also pending

Report of Jack Gray, NEC Department of New York

National District I

Membership

1st Vice Hal Queyor Has been working with all the Post to purify all the rosters by doing a little housekeeping. As part of our recruitment program, we can not forget about our women veterans. Hal has asked each Post to strive for a 10 member gain. Remember our TEAM motto “ Together everyone achieves more”. We need your help to be successful.

Programs

In June we had to postpone our remembrance day at Fort Drum, to honor all the veterans who gave their lives in support of their country, Our AMVETS Riders has been a great program with over 150 members and growing we expected a large showing at Memorial Day in Washington D C which was also canceled but the Riders held many ceremonies in their local communities.

Service

Pat Knecht – Women Representative has been researching our homeless women veteran situation. In 2017 on a single night in January 40.000 veterans were homeless, 9% were women. There are many factors for that , however PTSD/MST are the driving forces for our women veterans.

Upcoming Events

National 1st District meeting April 17-19, 2021 In Atlantic City, New Jersey more details to follow. June 5th the Riders chapter will be supporting a Run For The Fallen. Commanders' Les Baker Testimonial dinner April 24, 2012 at Seneca Allegany Resorts& Casino 777 Seneca Blvd Salamanca, NY 877-873-6322

Legislative

Veterans Community Care-Mission Act 2018 Eligibility under the Act we will have better access and greater choice in health either at VA or a local community provider. KEY aspect prior approval from VA must be obtained

Communications/PRO

A new website was created – National 1st Dist website amvetsdistrict1.org. Please visit

Other

Service Foundation Grants –\$40,000 VAVS clothing, craft and care Kits, \$3,600 for Fort Drum, \$57,000 Post grants, \$33,000 scholarships plus many more programs

Report of Arthur Rodriques, NEC Department of Rhode Island

National District I

Membership

Membership is coming in slowly but steadily.

Programs

We have distributed 105 jackets to veterans families & homeless in our state. All clothing was donated by our posts members & their families.

Service

DUE TO COVID WE HAVE BEEN IN LOW PROFILE AS FAR AS ACTIVITIES.

Upcoming Events

HOPEFULLY WE'LL HAVE A SURF & TURF THIS SUMMER, ALONG WITH MEAT RAFFLES IF WE CAN GET THE PROPER LICENSES THROUGH THE STATE OF R.I.

Legislative

We are working with the R.I Veterans council.

Communications/PRO

We are calling our members to get their memberships in. We have also lost 6 members to COVID 19 in the last 4 months. WE WILL MISS THEM DEARLY.

National Executive Committee Reports



National District II

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Report of Gerald Gurnari, National District II Commander

National District II

Membership

Membership is holding its own although retention is challenging as many post homes are struggling to stay afloat due to restrictions during the pandemic. Reaching out to our members and showing that AMVETS care is instrumental in keeping them on board.

Recruiting new members one on one is still one of the best ways to bring in new members. We must engage in conversation with Veterans and introduce them to AMVETS.

Programs

Programs continue to be exercised as we follow the guidelines to stay safe. The tale is told as we review the reported programs on our national website.

Honor Guards providing services in their community are the largest reporting program. A consolidated list of all posts and subordinate organizations is now in progress. Let's get all our active Honor Guards listed on the new national list.

Our District II continues to hold the highest percentage of reporting at 97%. This is the highest over the other districts as reported for the July to December 2020 reporting period. Bravo!! And thank you for all you do for Veterans District III!!

Service

Service Within the District, our Posts, Departments and National Service Officers continually assist Service Members, Veterans, and Families obtain VA Benefits, Military and Veteran Assistance State and local benefits in their communities.

I strongly recommend continual funding to the National Service Officer Program.

Upcoming Events

As National District II Commander my project is to "Support the Ride" in DC Memorial Day weekend.

The next National District II meeting information will be released in the near future after Covid-19

restrictions are lifted and we can safely meet without health concerns.

Legislative

Departments in our District continue at their state and local level to engage Veteran Legislation supporting Veteran benefits.

Communications

Our National Magazine has gone away and our members continue to question what is going on in AMVETS. I am recommending bringing back the magazine.

Other

At this time I am stating my candidacy for Trustee on the National Finance Committee at the upcoming convention election. I ask for your support and vote.

Report of Eugene Bradley, Department of Delaware

National District II

District II Commander, District officers, Department Commanders, and fellow AMVETS.

Membership

Renewal is about 70%. The department is trying to organize more posts in Kent and New Castle County.

Programs

5 posts have reported for the period=100%. Three posts are involved in suicide awareness and assisting in food distribution to needy members and the needy in the community.

Post #2 participates in ROTC scholarships, along with major donations to the men's "Home of the Brave for Veterans," the new "Women Home of the Brave for Women Veterans" and Milford's Veterans Home during the pandemic.

The post has given out food both prepared, and whole food and groceries on a weekly basis to help the needy in the community. Set up food banks for members and families in the community. Served over 100 meals a week during the winter months.

Made donations of over \$3,5000.00 to charitable causes, in addition to two 5,000.00 dollar scholarships for ROTC graduates.

During the period, including a number of handicap ramps and handicap hospital equipment: Put new roofs on needy veterans homes.

Post #5 has assisted post #2 at its various functions and is jointly working with post #2.

Post #1694 is doing numerous fund raisers. They are planning a "White Clover" drive at various business locations in Seaford Delaware and ROTC presentations at area high schools.

Post #22 participates with community programs, blood drives, scholarships to area high school's ROTC programs, and assisting veterans in need. Made donations over \$5,000.00.

Post #8323 is active in community.

Service

Department also participated in Stand Downs in Kent and Sussex County Delaware. Assisted a number of vets through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Hosted a Veterans Day ceremony. Also heled various small businesses obtaining PPP loans during the Pandemic.

Legislative

The Department and posts are active in legislation both at the State and National level. Coordinates with the VFW and American Legion, on various pieces of legislation with both state and federal elected officials. Department maintains close relationship with key legislative leaders and their staff

Commander, this concludes my report and I move for adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Bradley NEC
AMVETS Department of Delaware

Report of Aaron J. Smith, NEC Department of District of Columbia

National District II

Membership

COVID-19 is still having an adverse effect on this Department operations. The Department has some upcoming goals which we hope to start in the spring of this year which I am sure, like other Department it depends on the stage of the Pandemic. Recruitment this quarter has been awfully slow.

National Commander, this concludes my report and I move for its adoption.

Programs

The Department continue providing funds each month to the District of Columbia Veterans Administration Medical Center (DCVAMC) Volunteer Service, which are to be used for Comfort Kits, Voluntary Services Discretionary Funds and Dental Funds.

Johnnie Collins Jr. Post #008 still is unable to return to the normal Monthly DCVAMC Community Living Center bingo since the outbreak of the pandemic, but the Post continue donating money for the hospital to finance the games and the hospital staff performs the games instead of Post #8 members.

Service

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, members of this Department volunteered to feed Veterans and senior citizens of the District of Columbia and made a financial donation.

District of Columbia Veterans administration hospital Washington DC hosted Winter Haven Day on Saturday December 5th at the Medical Center. The Medical Center targeted 300 homeless veterans and provide them with winter clothing. Because of Covid-19 no volunteers could attend. However, DC AMVETS made a financial donation.

Leadership of DC Department continued to stay informed through Zoom. Attending meetings at the department of Veteran affairs Medical Center and VISN 5 management assistance council meetings.

Other

Members of this Department teamed with the Combined Military Retiree's Associations of the District of Columbia and delivered Thanksgiving Baskets to Military Veterans and Widowers in the DC area.

Report of David Wilburn, NEC Department of North Carolina

National District II

Membership

Our Department is recruiting new members at a very slow rate due to the circumstances in our country. We are always trying to retain our membership. Due to the virus we have a great number of members who have not renewed their membership this year. Our Department has a couple of posts that haven't reopened. Several of our senior members will not leave their house. As always we are trying to get new members.

Programs

Sad to report that our Department is at 83% reporting. Still not bad considering. We are in the process to get each post up and going.

On the bright side of things our Department is involved with food drives and taking care of the sick. During Christmas our Department had several Posts participate in Wreaths Across America. We had a Riders group take over \$2,400.00 to one of our VA hospitals. The money is for the veterans who have no family members to take care of them. The veterans can buy things at the county store or canteen. We placed flags on graves for Veterans Day. One of our Posts had a drive thru hotdog dinner for Veterans Day. The city fireman displayed a huge American flag from the fire truck and we had the local sheriff and the city police present. 1,300 hotdogs were given away. The boy scouts also performed a flag retirement ceremony. One Post sent over 205 magazines to the VA hospital.

From food drives, helping the poor, taking care of the sick, and getting donations our department has been able to help the needy. When schools open and visitors are welcomed we can get the JROTC up and going. Our Americanism program is awesome in North Carolina. As of late we are at a stand still. We have had a great essay contest with several National winners. One of our Posts had a veteran who participated in virtual marathons for different occasions.

Service

Not much to report now. Pretty sure that all the VA hospitals are off limits. We had some Posts take items to drop off for the holidays. No VAVS reports at this time.

Upcoming Events

Hopefully we can have a spring DEC. We have to get our Department meeting again. Remembrance on the River is planned for this year in Weldon, North Carolina. The Department of North Carolina's Service Foundation is planning this event. They are planning to have a Field of Flags. Also, food trucks and other vendors are expected, bands and maybe a half marathon. This event will be set up for a pit stop for Riders making their way to D.C. and back from Rolling To Remember. Our event is called Remembrance on the River. Hopefully we can get back to being normal.

2021 National Convention is scheduled for Greensboro, North Carolina.

Commander, this is my report and I move for its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wilburn
NEC North Carolina

Report of PNC Arthur C. Stahl, NEC Department of Pennsylvania

National District II

Membership

Due to COVID 19 restrictions membership is behind expectations but 1st vice commander PDC Bernie McDonald is working towards a successful end of the year.

Programs

2nd Vice Commander Lucius Washington is working hard towards a successful year. He is scheduling the presentations of the ROTC awards where possible and continues to monitor post reporting.

Service

Our Department has hired a new state Service Officer, Mike Price who will be able to serve the veterans of North East Pennsylvania using Post 59 as a base until offices open up at the VA and other locations.

Upcoming Events

We are still planning for a 2021 State and National convention.

Other

Long term E.D. John Pliska retired on Dec. 31st and Pennsylvania hired Robert Forbes as the new Executive Director.

As an ARMY retiree Bob came highly skilled for the position and is fitting into the organization very well. Everyone will get to meet him in the future when we are able to have our in person meeting.

Report of Edward Stracka, NEC

Department of West Virginia

National District II

COVID-19 Impact: Following State and Federal regulations, all of our Posts were closed from mid-March through mid-May 2020. According to the severity of the transmission of the virus, some Posts were impacted more than others. All Posts continued to assist veterans with needs, whether it was getting to medical appointments or financial assistance.

Our largest Post, 38 in Falling Waters was able to qualify for a PPP loan to assist them through the closing period by keeping employees on the payroll. They are inquiring on the possibility of a second round of PPP – results are not in.

The Department is hopeful that we can have the Department Convention this June. We feel that the availability of vaccines and perhaps gaining herd immunity may make this possible. The Commander and his staff are working on moving forward where and when we can.

Membership

The Department is continuing the recruiting program initiated as described in the last reports.

Post 30 and Post 38 have a continuing recruiting drive which is working jointly with the Department's efforts. The Department recruiting committee is now working with Post 17 and 20 (our newest Posts) to assist them in their recruiting effort. During the Commanders visit to Post 14 he enlisted the Post in the committee.

The committee will continue to use the mailing campaign which is moving into its fourth year to reach out to delinquent members and those in the at large community to encourage them to join existing Posts or to work on setting up new Posts.

Department Growth: Our program to expand the Department resulted in the installation of Posts in Terra Alta WV (Post 17) and Wardensville WV (Post 20). We are still working on establishing a Post (Post 1) in Wharncliffe, WV, but the pandemic has severely hampered our efforts. We are hopeful that this Post can be opened in 2021.

Programs

The Department participated with First Energy (FE) (A large electrical provider covering a large portion of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey and West Virginia) in a food giveaway in November to celebrate the Veterans Day Week. There were ten (10) AMVETS Post that participated in this program and West Virginia had three (3) Posts that participated, Posts 30, 34 and 38 were the recipients of the funds in West Virginia. .

The Department is running a fundraising program to help raise funds to allow the Department to do more for veterans. One of the issues with the current legislative state of affairs is that although AMVETS is a non-profit organization, donations to us are not deductible by the donor. AMVETS does not meet the requirement of the IRS, the IRS Rule states:

“Donations to war veterans’ organizations are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor’s federal income tax return. At least 90% of the organization’s membership must consist of war veterans. The term war veterans means persons, whether or not present members of the United States Armed Forces, who have served in the United States Armed Forces during a period of war (including the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the Persian Gulf war, and later declared wars).”

The AMVETS organization needs to work to get this restriction changed!

In the Department's fall meeting the biggest subject of discussion was membership, both retention and recruiting. It was decided that the Department should start a campaign to attack both problems. National and District leadership has been helpful in providing information useful for recruiting and National has been generous in providing supplies and material. **What is desired is the capability to contact newly released or discharged veterans but there does not seem to be any solution to this problem.** As part of the recruiting campaign, the Department is investigating ways to contact those individuals, one of which is using social

Report of Edward Stracka, NEC

Department of West Virginia (*continued*)

National District II

media to let them know who we are and the benefits of membership in AMVETS.

Service

The Department's service focus is veterans who are in VA hospitals and nursing/convalescent homes and those who need assistance in making medical visits and rehabilitation visits. Posts 30 and 38 donate funds, driving veterans to appointments as required, and visits to the local VA hospital and nursing homes, while Posts 14, 17, 34 and 40 provide the same to the VA centers and nursing homes in the central and western part of WV. This is in conjunction with the Department's recruiting drive. All Posts visit members in the hospital and attend visitations and deliver memorial bibles to the family of deceased members.

Other

The Department has had a large turnover in the Officer staff last year and is working to continue the revitalization of the programs with the formation of new committees and a program to have Department Officers visiting all Posts at least twice a year or more. The Department will be developing committees and working in conjunction with the programs under way or in development by Posts 14, 17, 30, 34, 38 and 40 to continue to enhance our membership and retention of members.

The Department has a change of venue for the Annual Convention – we having the Department Convention at the Alpine Lakes Resort in Terra Alta WV that will allow families to accompany the Department Officers and other attendees.

The Department web site plan has been revised and it and four of the seven posts now have websites. The URLs for the existing websites are:

amvetswv.org
amvetpost17wv.org
amvetpost20wv.org
amvetpost30wv.org
amvetpost38wv.org

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Stracka
NEC, Department of WV

National Executive Committee Reports



National District III

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Report of Deric Lew Everett, National District III Commander

National District III

Membership

Getting in new members is going great, just like Third District always does, but renewals is dismal. We are just not getting our members to re-up. This is something we are going to work hard on the second half of the year. I will email each Department Commander, Post Commander and Post First Vices to concentrate on this,

Upcoming Events

None. I canceled Third District Executive Meeting due to the pandemic. I did not want the responsibility of getting someone infected and dying at the expense of a meeting.

Report of Charles Doubek, NEC Department of Alabama

National District III

Membership

The Posts in the Department of Alabama are continuing to actively recruit new members and are participating in local events where there is the opportunity to recruit new members.

Programs

Post 23 held a Christmas party in early December. Post 21 is continuing to remodel the Post to better serve the community.

Service

The Department made a \$500 donation to aid a homeless vet in finding a place to stay until she could make permanent arrangements with the VA.

Upcoming Events

Post 21 is planning a Pony and Mule fund raiser in April. Due to the COVID virus the Veteran's Breakfast and the Karaoke night have been suspended.

Legislative

No activity to report.

Communications/PRO

No activity to report.

Report of Allen Baggett, NEC Department of Florida

National District III

Membership

The following numbers are the Department of Florida current membership numbers. The department reports 5,510 annual members and 10,079 life members for a total of 15,589 members. Also reported 1,711 MAL life members and 377 annual MAL members for a total Department membership of 17,677 members.

Programs

Programs are very slow and not being able to hold any Department meetings for over a year has really cut down on reporting. As of this time all posts are reporting with a total of \$2,089,078.15 in program reports.

Upcoming Events

Hopefully we will be able to hold the National convention in Greensboro in August, it will be great to see everyone again it has been to long between meetings.

Report of Frederick Bates, Alternate NEC Department of Georgia

National District III

Membership

Department of Georgia has 37 new members, 265 annual members and 1459 life members for a total of 1724 members. We have 171 Non-Renewed for 2021. This is a problem that we are working with all post to increased membership and to get the Non-renewals back into our posts. We now have 15 Post in the Department.

Programs

The Department of Georgia has a total of 100% of Post Reporting at the end of December 2020. As of 31 January 2021, we have 13% of the post reporting. These number will increase within the month when we should be at 100%. We had a total 5,990 volunteers with 29,672 volunteers' hours with 151,367 miles which gives the Department a total program value of \$808,225.00 for the period ending December 2020

Upcoming Events

Department held the January SEC via ZOOM. 10 out of 15 Posts participated. All Department Officers were in attendance. The Department has since purchased its own ZOOM annual contract and will use it if in-place meetings continue to be a problem during the pandemic.

The Department of Georgia April 2021 SEC will be held 10-11 April 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 207 North Willie Lee Parkway, Warner Robins GA. Telephone 855-680-3239. The Department of Georgia. The June State Convention will be held 5-6 June 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 207 North Willie Lee Parkway, Warner Robins GA. Telephone 855-680-3239. The September SEC will be held 18-16 September, 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 207 North Willie Lee Parkway, Warner Robins GA. Telephone 855-680-3239.

Communications/PRO

The department has a New PRO Wanda Rice. She setup a ZOOM account for the Department which was used for the Department January SEC.

Report of Gary L. Stuart, NEC Department of Louisiana

National District III

Membership

I reached out to the Department and all posts for their activity and only received feedback from one post. Louisiana is still pretty well shut down due to COVID 19. I hope when this pandemic is over things will get back to normal. With everything shut down and no feedback from most of the post and the department this is all I could come up with.

Programs

The Department is at 33% reporting. 59 volunteers 216 hours for total of \$8375.31.

Report of Michael Olsen, NEC Department of South Carolina

National District III

Membership

1st Vice Commander John Reynolds reports that we have 433 annual members 872 life members for a total of 1305 members.

Programs

2nd Vice Commander Michael "STORK" Schwartz has the following Programs report for the 2nd through the 4th quarter of 2020:

We are at 29% reporting to National.

Programs were Community Service, Sick and Hospitalized Veterans, Fund raising, Military Funeral and Honors, Support for troops, Scouting, Homeless Veterans, and Membership Activity.

Volunteers: 55

Hours: 252 x \$25.43 = \$6,408.36

Travel: 1,503 x .14 = \$210.42

Expenses: \$629.50

Donation: \$0.00

Total: \$7,248.28

Service

Our VAVS provide service at our local VA hospitals and coordinate with our local posts to support activities such as bingo and Ice cream parties We have two certified VAVS Carson Brogden provides services to the Colombia VA Hospital and Lowell Mills provides services to the Charleston VA Hospital over public-health concerns, ongoing restrictions and uncertainties related to the global COVID-19 pandemic most of these activities have been suspended.

Upcoming Events

3rd QTR SEC 21 March 2021 Post 70 Port Royal, SC
Department Convention 20 June 2021 Post 111 Abbeville, SC.

Legislative

We have encouraged our members, families and friends to visit the AMVETS legislative Action Center page to register for updates and support the Calls for Action i.e. sending letters to their Senators and Congressmen.

Communications/PRO

Continue to show support in our local communities by attending and supporting local events, dedication ceremonies and fairs whenever possible.

Report of Ron Bottomley, NEC

Department of Tennessee

National District III

Membership

First Vice Commander Mark Frederick reports we have 3178 members in good standing. 945 annual members, 1639 life members and 584 members at large. Renewals stand at only 58.3%, well short of the National Department Average of 62.23%. We have a lot of work to do to improve our numbers.

As a Department, we have 378 renewals which is 19th overall but stand at 24th as a Department in renewal percentage.

When it comes to new members, we stand at 10th, with 56 new members and 5th in Growth Percentage of 2.45%.

Our focus has to be on renewals remembering that our current past due members will be due for 2021 in a few short months.

Programs

Second Vice Commander Kathi J. Duncan says Department of Tennessee program reporting indicates a challenging trend for AMVETS. Reporting for the three previous December reports shows an average total program value of \$732,241. However, the December 2020 reporting period has a total program of \$298,849. Shockingly, this is a drop of \$529,233 over the December 2019 period. The contributing factor to this alarming decrease is likely the COVID-19 pandemic. While the final 6 months of the year usually indicate a huge increase in community service efforts, the pandemic has made this a very trying time for us all. We must find new and innovative ways to combat these obstacles and assist our veterans, their families and our communities in the coming year. Sharing these innovative ideas among us will help to promote the AMVETS community service mission and overcome these challenges which include:

- Post members afraid to leave homes even to visit their home posts
- Inability to visit veteran nursing centers or local nursing homes

- Unable to have Christmas parties for need children
- Difficulty attending funerals...or having them even for our veterans
- Unable to visit homebound vets

Despite these difficulties, our Dept of TN Posts were able to assist needy children and held “drive thru” Christmas giveaways. They reached out to nursing homes asking how can we help. While unable to visit, gifts and money for parties were still sent. No matter the challenges, AMVETS held food drives and delivered food to the needy. Several Posts combined resources with their Ladies Auxiliary and Sons to send packages to the troops. Our honor guards will always be available when families are able to have veteran’s services... even if “later rather than sooner.”

The Department of Tennessee continued its participation in the 9-17 Project where free copies of the U. S. Constitution was passed out to 8th grade students. This year, we gave over 20,000 constitutions across the State.

ROTC/JROTC programs are also impacted by COVID-19. Very few presentations will be made in person. AMVETS will furnish the Awards and Certificates to the participating schools, they will make the presentation in a closed ceremony.

Legislative

Veterans Day on the Hill, sponsored by TVET was canceled this year due to COVID-19.

TVET continues to monitor and sponsor legislation on behalf of veterans in the State. For this legislative session there are 25 Bills before the Senate and 20 Bills before the House of Representatives pertaining to veterans issues. AMVETS Department of Tennessee are charter members of TVET and active in its efforts to get support of legislation from the Congressmen.

Upcoming Events

The Fall and Spring SEC’s were canceled due to COVID-19 as was District III’s meeting

Report of Ron Bottomley, NEC Department of Tennessee

National District III

The State Convention is still scheduled to be held June 2 -5 at Glenstone Lodge in Gatlinburg, TN.

Communications

Public Relations Director Rob Watkins suggested Posts do a display of Americanism Contest winners each year. He said this could be in the form of a “show and tell” display at the Post or a Church, Community Center, Government Building or School Board. Ribbons could be added to the winners entries for additional recognition. The entries could be put on display, opening in a media invited event, lasting a week or more allowing additional viewers.

Exhibition of patriotic Americanism, created by young people, will bring parents who could be veterans and interest other veterans and patriotic people in the community. Each veteran that views the exhibit is a potential new member. A good sales pitch or posted example of the work the Post does in the Community will encourage the veteran to join.

Get the Community involved and let them see the great programs and things your Post does in the Community and you will find new members and supporters.

Other

The Department of Tennessee, along with the Departments Service Foundation, Posts 22, 101, 104 and 1776 donated \$14,050 towards the building of The Veterans Memorial Park overlooking the French Broad River and the East Tennessee Veterans cemetery.

National Executive Committee Reports



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Report of Richard VanNatta, National District IV Commander

National District IV

Membership

Across the District we are doing better lately. 1st Vice Bidstrup and Department 1st Vices have been working hard to give tips and help to our Post so they can retain membership. Even with all the starts and stops we continue to renew and sign up members.

Programs

We ended up with 82% Post reporting. 4 Departments achieved 100% Post reporting with 100% Department reporting. Post still continue to provide items or support to Veterans homes. Some are providing food, housing and other support they need. District 2nd Randolph attended ground breaking for a Womens Veterans housing.

Service

The VSOs continue working to refill claims or work to help veterans. Department of Michigan is working to get VSOs trained as they hadn't any AMVETS VSOs for a few years.

Upcoming Events

We canceled District meeting for end of February but looking to do one online.

Legislative

The Departments continue to communicate with legislators at State and Nat'l. They put out alerts for members to call.

Other

I want to Thank You for your service and what you are doing for our Veterans. Let's all take time to remember the Veterans we have lost due to this virus. I hope everybody stays safe and well.

Report of Chris Studebaker, NEC Department of Illinois

National District IV

National Commander Brown, National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

Membership:

Illinois AMVETS has been very busy since our last meeting. We have been working hard on getting all of annual members renewed and getting new members signed up. The department had around 9,021 members end the 2019-2020 year. Currently, the department has 8,828 members. Furthermore, we offer a wide variety of membership tools to gain attention and set us apart from other department VSOs. We offer online capabilities to join IL AMVETS and our cutting edge website sets us apart from others. Illinois AMVETS is constantly trying to improve our coverage and remain at the fore front of Illinois veterans' organizations.

Programs:

We at Illinois AMVETS are proud to report again that we got 100 percent in program reporting again for the year. This has been an ongoing tradition for us for numerous years, but it is also a struggle to get posts to report all of the great activities they do helping our veterans and service members. Some posts just don't like the spot light on them. In addition, Illinois AMVETS volunteers continue to work to provide volunteer events such as bingo, picnics, and the like.

Illinois AMVETS has many programs that are getting ready to start up again on a yearly basis. The first is our ROTC and JROTC program that we have in the department. Each year we give out around 400 medals to high school and college students throughout the state and overseas. This program is funded by the service foundation and personal donations.

Service:

Amvets Department of Illinois currently has 6 department VSOs located throughout the state. All VSOs are working thoroughly and effectively to assist veterans and their families proven by filing 4,182 claims bringing in approximately \$40,316,689 (recovery) and \$13,227,623 (retro) worth of benefits this recent

calendar year (2020). We couldn't be prouder of our service officers, they are second to none.

Legislation:

The Illinois General Assembly is currently not meeting very often because of COVID-19. The Illinois Amvets Legislative Directors Keith Wetherell has been involved with everything veterans related. If you have any questions referring to any vet related Illinois legislation please call or email him at 1-800-638-8387 or keith@ilamvets.org.

Communications:

We have a full time communications director at Illinois Amvets State Headquarters. Ashley Murphy oversees all IL Amvets PR, social media, and communications. If you want something shared, disseminated, or to be noticed in Illinois call or email Ashley at 217-528-4713 or ashley@ilamvets.org .

Upcoming Events:

The Department of Illinois has not been able to hold any department meetings since February 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions in the state of Illinois. We are hoping that the restrictions will be loosened up by June so that we can hold our annual convention safely and elect new leaders to run our department. Our headquarters has also moved from its current location to the building right next door. It is where flag world is currently located. The street address is 2206 South Sixth Street Springfield, IL 62703.

Our Department Convention is June 4-6 at the President Abraham Lincoln a Double Tree by Hilton in Springfield, IL.

Any questions please contact our State Headquarters at 217-528-4713.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Studebaker
NEC Illinois

Report of Kenny Burton, NEC Department of Indiana

National District IV

Membership

As of December 31st, 2020 the Department of Indiana stands as follows:

112 New Members. 897 Renewals for a total of 1,009 Annual Members. 9 New Life Members with 3,200 Current Life Members. Total Membership so far this year stands at 4,218 Members.

Programs

For the Department of Indiana as of December 31st, 2020 our Program Reporting is for a total of Volunteers 9,832, Hours 28,522.3, Miles Driven 135,838.8, Activity Cost \$30,049.90, Cash Donations \$28,741.29 for a Grand Total of \$803,130.71.

Service

Our Veterans Service Officers so far this year have processed 61 total Claims (Most done remotely due to COVID restrictions). So far 7 have been Approved with 1 Denied. As a result so far \$7,972.78 in Monthly payments with \$20,700.77 in retro Awards.

Upcoming Events

Tentatively our Spring Conference is Scheduled for April 9,10, and 11th in Muncie, Indiana. Muncie Post 12 will be the Host Post for this event. Our State Convention will be held June 4, 5 and 6th in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Legislative

No Report

Communications

We had a ground breaking Ceremony in Merrillville, Indiana December 7, 2020, for a Womens Veterans Shelter with their children. In Attendance was our National Commander Jan Brown, National Women Veterans Chairperson Lisa Wilken, 4th National District Commander PDC Jackie Randolph, Indiana District 2 Commander Vanessa Dillion, Aide-De-Camp North PDC Steve Grott, and Amvet Larry Hearn. This facility will be called The Webb House.

Report of Barry Remington, NEC

Department of Iowa

National District IV

Membership

Membership remains slow but steady. We have had to turn in a couple of charters due to members being placed in nursing homes or they have all passed away. One post could not maintain the required 10 members so they have joined a nearby post.

Programs

Programs are still a problem. Some of the posts feel that since there are so many restrictions within the state that they do not have to report their programs even though some have done fundraising activities and have participated in events such as Veterans Day. Some post are still doing military rite funerals which are reportable but feel that they aren't necessary due to Headquarters not being open or just answering the phones and opening the mail once every few days.

Service

The larger posts are participating in military funerals, and doing their reporting. Post 49 has been involved in 53 funerals so far, and doing their reporting.

Upcoming Events

The 4th National District meeting slated to meet on February 27 has been canceled due to the pandemic for the last at year. It was scheduled to meet in North Pekin, Illinois but was canceled this week.

Legislative

The state legislature is just beginning their session and there are several bills being introduced pertaining to veterans. We will be tracking their progress, but I would guess that the majority will not be even brought up on the floor for a vote.

Other

We are still planning on having our Department Convention this year in June. It will be held in Marshalltown at the Best Western Hotel.

Report of Alan R. Smith, NEC Department of Kentucky

National District IV

National Commander Brown, National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

The AMVETS Department of Kentucky SEC meeting was held on January 9, 2021 at AMVETS Post # 61 Louisville, KY. With 23 members and one guest (Department of PA Commander Paul Shipley who announced he is a candidate for National 3rd Vice Commander) present. All reports were given and adopted.

National 1st Vice Commander Greg Heun addressed the floor and discussed that AMVETS membership was about 10% less than normal for this time of year.

Department Commander Adkins gave report; and thanked post 61 for hosting the SEC

1st Vice Commander gave report membership is down and people are not coming to posts like they did due to COVID.

Executive director gave report: push membership we are way behind.

2nd Vice commander gave report programs are down this year due to COVID, make sure you report anything you do

3rd Vice commander gave report, Tax exempt bill for VSO's still on hold, due to no legislative sessions because of COVID but should pass into law this year.

Son's coordinator gave report; sons are doing Great

Finance officer report, Finances are down but we are making it, \$115.00 collected for scholarship program.

Service Foundation, we are holding on, and the Convention corporation reported the 2021 state convention will be June 10-13 at the Holiday Inn Hurstbourne Louisville KY, room rates \$111.00 + 16.07% tax, we need convention AD's and honor rolls as soon as possible.

Riders Coordinator gave report, riders SEC was held by phone, chapter 64 disbanded due to age of members, hope to charter 2 new chapters this year.

Department IG gave report a couple of posts are having problems will have more to report once problems resolved.

New Business: None:

Old Business: None:

Good and welfare: Mike Wurts of AMVETS post 95 was presented department of KY AMVETS of the year award, April 24, will be midyear riders meeting at Post 61 Louisville, Our next SEC meeting will be held at AMVETS Post 67 Clay City KY on April 10, 2021 at 12 noon.

Commander Brown this concludes my report and I move for its adoption.

Report of John Hoecherl, NEC

Department of Michigan

National District IV

Commander Brown, Members of the National Executive Committee and Guests:

Unfortunately, this report is almost the same as my last one. In October Governor Gretchen Whitmer almost totally reinstated her COVID restrictions. This shut down all of the Posts in the State. As I write this, all the posts have been open for 1 week. We are barely getting started to get reorganized.

Membership

As you can imagine, membership is way down. Current members are either passing away or only being able to renew online. The problem is that under the restrictions, there is no possible way to recruit any new members.

Programs

Michigan finished the reporting period at only 71%. This is not surprising since any event that was scheduled during the holidays had to be canceled. After all, if you can't do any programs, you can't report it. Since Michigan has only been back for 7 days, we obviously have not had time to do any programs.

Other

The Mid-Winter SEC will be on February 20th at the Ramada Inn in Grayling.

Our State Convention will be held June 17th-20th at the Auburn Hills Marriott in Pontiac.

Finally Executive Director Carol Hebert has announced that she is retiring at the end of State Convention.

This concludes my report and I ask for its acceptance at the proper time.

Report of Robert E. Lee, NEC

Department of Missouri

National District IV

National Commander, National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee, and Fellow AMVETS:

Membership

Department of Missouri currently has 34 active posts with a total of 3527 current members (919 annual and 2608 life members). The Commanders and 1st Vice Commanders of Membership at the Posts are encouraged to work on pursuing annual renewals for the 407 members that expired on 8/31/2020 and the 390 members whose membership expired on 8/31/2019. As a secondary project, these members will be contacted to encourage re-joining the organization. There are opportunities in areas within the Department to establish posts that are being evaluated.

Programs

Program reporting for the reporting period which ended on December 31, 2020 was a tremendous success. We had 34 of 34 posts (100%) report online. There was a total of 4,930 volunteers who performed 24,176 hours in services that covered 313,646 miles. These services were valued at \$792,857.75! The reporting period which ends on June 30, 2021 is at 12% reporting (4 of 34 posts reported to date). The current total of 71 volunteers who performed 156 hours in services that covered 1,127 miles. These services were valued at \$6085.78! The 2nd Vice Commander of Programs will continue to work with posts and encourage to report programs online.

Service

1. Department of Missouri has 3 Service Officers in the St. Louis area to assist with Veterans and VA claims. The Department is currently seeking a replacement for the Service Officer lost in the Kansas City area along with filling the positions in Columbia and Poplar Bluff. There is a candidate for the Columbia VA but finalizing is dependent on the current COVID-19 Pandemic. The long-term plan is to have a Service Officer in each of the 5 VA Hospitals.
2. The Commander's Project is to support posts throughout the Department to help them survive the pitfalls of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Ongoing projects continue to include military funerals, homeless Veterans, supporting Veterans Hospitals and homes, and supporting JROTC and ROTC programs.

Upcoming Events

1. Our upcoming SEC meetings in 2021 will be held at the Inn at Grand Glaize in Osage Beach on the following dates: February 6-7, April 17-18, and October 2-3.
 2. Our 75th Annual Dept. Convention (which would have been held on June 6-7, 2020) will be held on June 5-6, 2021 at the Inn at Grand Glaize.
- Respectfully submitted, Robert E. Lee, NEC
Department of Missouri, Reported: February 4, 2021.

Report of Sandra Vorhies, NEC

Department of Ohio

National District IV

Membership

The Department of Ohio continues to connect with our members and communities to improve on membership.

In staying in touch with our members we let our members know how important that they keep their membership up to day and to inform them that membership is going forward and to also ask if there is anything they may need.

Programs

Ohio continues to programs that have engaged organizations and the community and in return has become a good membership tool for us. We continue our Junior ROTC Units, ROTC Units support. We work beside the Junior ROTC units in the high schools with Flag Retirement Ceremonies, placing American Flags on veteran graves and for ceremonies at our Posts.

We continue to move forward with our “1 is too Many” Suicide program to help our veterans that feel that suicide is the only way to be free of pain and worries. With the COVID 19 Virus mental illness has become more of a problem. So please reach out to your neighbors to see how they are doing. Just a hello can make a difference.

Service

Our Ohio VA facilities (homes and hospitals) continue to receive support from our Posts. Through receiving cards letting them know that we are thinking of them, grooming and clothing items. In the communities that have nursing homes we must also remember to reach out to our veterans so they do not feel forgotten. Just a card with a little note can make someone's day.

We are very proud of our Service Officers who continue to reach out and be available for any veteran that is in need of assistance. The work our Service Officers do is priceless.

Upcoming Events

The Department Mid-Winter Conference is set for the weekend of February 19th and through the hard work of our Department Executive Director, Don McCauley

and staff we will have a safe and good Mid-Winter Conference.

We have a few State Programs that we hope can go forward (Pool Tournament and Bowling Tournament) of course the State Guidelines for the COVID 19 will be followed.

As stated before we are AMVETS Family continues to provide cards and items to our veterans which is an ongoing program. Working side by side with the Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, Sad Sacks and Juniors we are accomplishing what needs done to assist and to let our veterans know that we are here for them.

Legislative

Ohio will be honoring individuals that have and continue to support the AMVETS Mission in legislative matters. The individuals will be recognize at the Mid-Winter Conference Legislature Breakfast.

Ohio prides itself on the continued advocating on behalf of all veterans and their families before the Ohio Legislature, Department of Veterans Affairs, state and local agencies. Our members have become actively involved by attending meetings, writing letters and contacting their local and state government officials.

We continue to advocate on:

- Mental Health & Suicide Prevention
- Toxic Wounds
- Service Dogs & Assistive Technology
- Complementary & Alternative Medicine (CAM)
- Charitable Gaming

Communications/PRO

Commander Andy McElrath's project is The Callen Foundation. They are a 501(c)(3) organization based in Westerville, Ohio and their mission is to provide resources to Ohio's military families in times of crisis.

Other

Department of Ohio continues to be dedicated to our mission of helping our veterans, families and

**Report of Sandra Vorhies, NEC
Department of Ohio (*continued*)**

National District IV

communities. If there is anything that we can help you with please reach out to us.

We wish everyone a healthy 2021.

God Bless America

Report of Mark Reiling, NEC

Department of Wisconsin

National District IV

Membership

Last year's membership was 3588. As of February 5, 2021, total membership was 3471. Wisconsin has 909 annual and 2562 life members. Out of the annual members, 529 members are in good standing in the state of Wisconsin.

Programs

As of February 5, 2021, the department of Wisconsin is at 11% program reporting with 6 out of 57 post reporting. Wisconsin reached 100% for the whole year of 2020 and will reach 100% again in June 2021.

Service

The Department of Wisconsin has been conducting business via teleconferences. Commander Robert Lund conducted our Wisconsin SEC meeting via teleconference January 16, 2021. Wisconsin has Executive meetings via teleconferences on the third Tuesday of each month.

Upcoming Events

Tentatively, June 24 -27, 2021 Wisconsin State Convention Location Green Bay WI.

Legislative

The department of Wisconsin voted at the SEC January 16,2021 to elect a chair representative in charge of legislative matters between the Department of Wisconsin and National 3rd Vice Commander. It will be an appointed position by the commander instead of electing a Department 3rd Vice Commander.

Communications/PRO

There is nothing to report at this time.

Other

There is nothing to report at this time.

National Executive Committee Reports



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Report of Mary J. Wait, NEC National District V Commander

National District V

Membership

In order to enhance personal protection from COVID 19 membership recruitment and maintenance approaches have been limited to friendly phone calls to members and other veterans and cards to some with varying results.

Programs

Americanism programs continue in schools where possible throughout the district, they are encouraged and available in hopeful preparation for 2021 national recognition and if not at a local level.

Service

Volunteer services reduced due to virus however there are limited services continuing at VA hospitals where personal contact is not required. There are continued money contributions to VA hospitals.

Upcoming Events

None

Legislative

None

Communications/PRO

The district leaders communicate by chatting periodically.

Other

The VA is reaching out to veterans in most states in our district with instructions on how to receive COVID immunizations at a VA facility.

Report of Larry Shippy, Alternate NEC Department of Kansas

National District V

Membership

Status quo

Programs

Financial support of Dole VA medical center volunteer program on monthly basis. Attendance at AMVET members funerals. Veteran coalition supported through virtual attendance. Other old and planned new programs on hold due to COVID.

Service

S O webinar provided by my NSO. Financial support provided to NSO local office.

Upcoming Events

Normally planned events for spring and summer are on hold.

Legislative

New post CBL written by Post 36 and forwarded after state adjutant committee approved and sent to national.

Communications/PRO

Update on COVID vaccine for high risk veteran categories: KS VA Medical Center sent letters to those veterans to receive Moderna vaccine.

Report of Albert L. Christner, NEC Department of Nebraska

National District V

Membership

Still trying to get new members.

Programs

We sent Christmas cards and money by mail. Because of COVID 19 we could not visit the veterans in the four veterans homes.

Upcoming Events

We hope to have an SEC meeting in March.

Legislative

We hope to attend Legislative Day if and when it is scheduled.

Other

Our Executive Director, Deb Wehrli, keeps the members informed from National and Department.

Report of Murray Strom, NEC Department of North Dakota

National District V

Membership

2021 membership has a better outlook than 2020. Still getting new members and trying to work on annual renewals as the climate here starts to reopen fully.

Programs

Americanism is in the schools and are due back shortly. Participation is down due to the school model here in the state.

Service

We have been doing funeral honor guards around the state as requested. Several post are still doing old flag collections with the use of a retired flag receptacle placed strategically around there city. Retirement ceremonies will be held in spring and summer.

Upcoming Events

Department SEC will be held in May 15 in Bismarck ND AMVETS ,pending date conformation. ND ACOVA will be held on FEB 18-19 in Bismarck ND To Veterans affairs For all ND Veterans.

Legislative

ND Legislature is working on various bills to help ND Veterans and Now serving Service men and women. College tuition waivers, patriotism projects in schools, Death and other benefits for State Active Duty, and veteran spouse licenser portability are some of the bills working. We are also trying to get a Veterans Court started in ND.

Communications/PRO

Nd VA is offering any Veteran in VA Healthcare 65 or older Covid-19 shots who ever wants one and makes an appointment From February 4- 17. They plan on scheduling more vaccinations in the future with extra doses available.

Other

ND is about 75% open with no mask required outdoors or in bars and restaurants. I hope this covid-19 goes away soon so we can get back to the old normal.

Report of Bobby Lumpkins, NEC Department of Texas

National District V

Membership

We are still doing our best at getting out to get memberships.

Programs

We are still working with schools on doing what they can to get the kids interested in doing Americanism. We're still giving out baskets, working on ROTC, AADAA, Special Olympics, scrapbooks, Career Center, and blood drives.

Service

We went to Edinburg, TX to present the 2020 Veteranpreneur grant winner from Lowe's & AMVETS to Rene F. Avendano Jr.

Upcoming Events

Still going to have a SEC in March in Tyler, Texas at the Holiday Inn.

Legislative

We still go down to the capital

National Executive Committee Reports



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Report of Charles E. Wharton, NEC National District VI Commander

National District VI

Membership

Membership development District wide has been severely curtailed for the winter due to Covid-19 closures of all public events and private meetings. Some Departments have been able to reach out better than others. As spring and Vaccinations begin to allow for more opening of venues I am expecting membership drives to begin in earnest.

Programs

Many of the states public health restrictions have prevented the majority of our usual programs from being carried out. Some Departments have achieved partial successes even during the shut downs.

An outstanding exception has been the Department of Hawaii and its efforts to rebuild and relocate the Naval Air Station Barbers Point Memorial. Built to honor all those who served there from 1942 to 1999, it was removed in 2018 after NAS Barber Pt. had been closed for 19 years. Apparently, the Veteran public registered their dislike for it's absence and AMVETS Hawaii is actively proceeding with this great public remembrance project.

Service

While we all have reports of the usual Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket giving to the less fortunate amongst us, the ones I like the best come from the smaller Departments like New Mexico. I discovered the Dept. Commander Tommy Knight and Executive Director Rick Young busied themselves delivering food to food banks and winter supplies for needy Veterans. The same can be done in the city despite Covid-19 when you drop the Farmers to Families food Box on the porch, ring the bell and step back 6 feet like Post WA 0001 2nd Vice Richard Holcomb.

AMVETS always find a way.

Upcoming Events

If your looking for an excuse to go south and west in the spring, check with Department of Arizona for news of the Golf Tournament, maybe mid-April ? Or, call the Department of New Mexico to see when the dedication

will be for the recycled (USPS mail box) drop boxes for worn out United States Flags will be.

Legislative

Emailing Legislative requests seems to be the primary method employed since face to face prohibitions have been in place. Only time will tell if it is as effective.

Communications

Posts and Departments have been encouraged to increase their databases with email addresses of members.

Report of Don Oliver, NEC

Department of Alaska

National District VI

Membership

The usual complaints—where's my card—why can't I get into membership records—why don't I get info from national or dept regarding anything—why am I always asked for email address?

Programs

I have no idea about district and our dept leadership is MIA for the most part. Our exec. dir. forwards every communication from Nat'l that he gets to all posts and post commanders.

Service

See above answer

Upcoming Events

We are trying to figure out how to hold meetings and/or elections without violating mandates for COVID.

Legislative

It appears that most of the third vices are still unable to do their job duties because of lack of motivation to even find out what their job duties entail. The NEC has provided contact info to the legislative dept but failed to give access to the magic wand that waves and produces instant results for no effort expended

Communications/PRO

Intra-departmental communications are welcomed by our Exec. Dir. who sends them QUER through out the dept. It seems that every one is all-knowing or all could care less. Pretty easy to do nothing if nothing is communicated.

Other

Our department wishes for world peace, a campfire to sing Kumbaya around and that summer falls on a weekend so we can have our campfire. On a more serious note, our dept. is pretty much hamstrung because of COVID. Like the uncertainty of various restrictions preclude much of our meager attempts to do anything. We need a campfire

Report of Sandra L. Durbin, NEC Department of California

National District VI

Membership

Ross Smith, 1st Vice Commander

Total Life members: 7,231

Total Annual Members: 249

Total Members: 7,480

As this terrible pandemic rages, our members are still in the trenches, helping in any way we can. Buddy checks, have become the norm. Checking on our fellow Veterans, is of the utmost importance.

Even during times like these, we continue to reach out to get new members, and we have. We understand our membership numbers are not where we want them. New avenues of reaching out are being developed by this Department. I am confident that things will change in the near future. We will never quit on each other.

This Department just held its first all virtual DEC. We understand the need to use technology to our advantage. A new webpage is being constructed to keep up on our social media pages, and to keep our membership more informed. This update will also allow our members to renew or become a member online. "Together we can."

Programs

Francisco Juarez, 2nd Vice Commander

Volunteers: 2,983

Volunteer Hours: 19,992.25

Value @ \$25.43 per hour: \$508,402.92

Miles: 79,640.50

Value @ \$0.14 per mile: \$11,149.66

Activity cost: \$53,210.27

Cash Donations: \$31,361.58

Total value of Programs: \$604,115.00

Ray Delgado, VAVS Coordinator

Due to COVID, the VA hospitals have restricted volunteers, until further notice. No hours to report

John Byrum, PDC,
Chairman Youth Activities

Due to the COVID 19 issues shutting down schools and activities the ROTC awards and other events have been put into slow motion per say. With California restrictions in place, unfortunately I/we have only had a few schools requesting the ROTC Award at this time. Some are working on line to do their presentations and some are planning to do ceremonies when schools hopefully reopen by August 2021. I/we will support as best we can for now. Hopefully this will change in the near future, as ROTC/JROTC are a big part of our programs.

Lisa Roybal,
Suicide Awareness

Other than handing out hundreds of wrist bands, with the suicide hot line telephone on them, not much else has been done, due to COVID.

Welcome Home Project

The AMVETS Welcome Home Program has made over 5,520 successful deliveries throughout California; San Diego County, Orange County, Long Beach, Greater Los Angeles and Fresno, Tulare and Merced County. The first delivery was made to a Veteran in San Diego County the week of Thanksgiving 2012 with a "Welcome Home" celebration. A residence is made a home by moving in beds, sheets, pillows, blankets, dressers, night stands, couches, coffee tables, end tables, dining room tables and chairs, refrigerators, pots and pans, and special request items, such as towels or lamps. This "Welcome Home" delivery set the standard of thanking formerly homeless Veterans for their service and getting them not only off the streets, but also into a furnished residence, providing them with purpose, hope and dignity. AMVETS is "Committed to Serve... Those Who Served" ®

Number of veterans served 5,520

Number of items delivered 69,298

Value of delivered items \$2,610,662

Report of Sandra L. Durbin, NEC Department of California (*continued*)

National District VI

Service

Most members continue to serve our fellow veterans whenever we can. Our Scholarship Committee has continued to award scholarships to worthy veteran students. The Woman Veterans Committee has been fund raising to add monies for future projects. I personally have been delivering meals to shut-in veterans, and veterans in my community during this pandemic.

Upcoming Events

Due to COVID, there are no pending events.

Legislative

Lorraine Justin, 3rd Vice Commander

The Veterans committees, for both houses, have changed the names, of the committees to "Military and Veterans Affairs. Previously, they had not mentioned military, in the committee name, even though, the military has always been part of the committees' purview.

The 2021-2022 legislative session, convened on December 7, 2021, and the new 2021-2022 Legislature, was sworn in. This is the beginning, of a new 2 year term, and any previous pending legislation falls away. For the first time, the Senate Military and Veterans Committee, is comprised of all veterans. Between the Senate, and the Assembly, there are now 7 veterans, on these committees to support us. We will stay abreast of any upcoming bills, that pertain to veterans.

Communications/PRO

During the COVID shutdowns, we continues to email, and access our membership, via zoom. We are working on creating a better website, to better serve our membership.

Other

Smokey Rickerd, Executive Director

From Department of California - Happy 2021 everyone.

As everyone understands, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has continued to certainly flip everything

around, leading everyone in different directions and causing havoc on people's lives, especially the Seniors and Veterans. God bless them and families in which lives are being touched! Here at CA-AMVETS Department Headquarters, it continues to undergo a few impactful changes due to the COVID-19, but the Commander, the 1st Vice Commander, the ED, and others still present these changes as being "Positive and Productive" for the Department of California and brighter opportunities will come alive, soon for our members and the Veterans we serve.

Because of the COVID-19, the Department was again unable to hold our 2021 (Winter) DEC Conference in a mutual location together. Therefore, since members from up and down the State could not travel and attend the Conference, the Department Commander decided to move forward and provide the 2nd Virtual (Zoom) DEC in order to protect our member's health and safety.

January 28, 29 and 30, 2021, AMVETS Department of California presented its 2nd Virtual (Zoom) Department Executive Conference. The results of the presentations and program was well produced and very well received by the members, with the members stating the overall DEC, was well-planned and presented. A Special Guest speaker was invited to help bring the members up-to-speed and updated on the 2021 Medicare changes and how certain insurance programs could assist members and their families with services and possibly the coverage could be Free or at Reduced Costs. Also another good & pleasant surprise for the Conference was having AMVETS National Headquarters 2nd Vice Commander McLean to join the Zoom Meeting and to contributed with his comments and suggestions—Thank Commander McLean! Again, the ED and Staff are already thinking ahead, trying to improve upon the next Conference or Convention ZOOM Presentation.

During this period of the COVID-19 "Shutdown", the Department of California did continue moving forward to reorganized and move the Department; Closer to a city-hub that can provide better air transportation to the Department Headquarters; Greater opportunities for business and corporation to support and identify

Report of Sandra L. Durbin, NEC Department of California (*continued*)

National District VI

with AMVETS Headquarters; Closer proximities to Universities, Junior Colleges, Vocational & Technical Institutions, which are associated with student Veterans which in turns equates to acquiring more new AMVET members. The current (Temporary) location is located at Chukchansi Park, the Home of the Fresno Grizzlies and the site of the former World Series Champions, the Washington Nationals AAA Franchise. 1800 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721 (Note, mailing address: P.O. Box 2309 Tulare, CA 93275). The Department is searching for a new home!

The following Department Programs/Projects or Committees are currently in motion for the benefit of the Veterans, their families or for our communities:

- Suicide Awareness Committee
- Legislative Committee (State & Federal)
- Department Post Grants
- Fundraising Committee-Planning & Preparation
- Scholarship Committee

David Black, State Commander

Greetings from the west coast. We continue to push forward and navigate COVID concerns. Unfortunately, we have lost a few members to this horrible virus. We continue to encourage our Post to follow CDC and local municipalities and their requirements as well as their recommendations with it comes to meeting face to face. We that said California held its winter DEC via ZOOM. We had a great turn out under the current situation. We had up to 47 members join our DEC as well as National Second Vice Commander Donald McLean (MA). Thank you for joining us and fielding some questions. We were able to conduct business and within 4 hours' time.

Within this past year we have seen a few departmental officers step down from their positions for various reasons. This has put a bit of a strain on finding replacements. One reason is the self-imposed requirements that need to be reviewed. As we look to the future, we need to find different qualifications that will benefit our mission statement. This form of a

hurdle has opened other questions regarding having so many officer positions; meaning, are they needed? Can we streamline and reduce the number of positions and refocus on our Post and community support? This is our conversations now. We will continue to look at this.

California department has completed our relocating from Tulare, California and moved to Fresno, California. We are currently residing in temporary offices now and our relocations committee is in the process of finding a permanent home. We are truly excited about this new direction. More to come.

We look forward to getting back to normalcy and being able to meet face to face. With that said we understand that the online platforms are now a tool in our box. I am encouraging our officers and post to become familiar with hybrid meetings. Offer both F2F (face to face) and an online platform at the same time. Now is the time for us to look at ways to remove the barriers that keep us from moving forward and embrace streamlining. Our new veterans do not like all the bureaucracy. They want to have the CAMARADERIE with a PURPOSE.

Thank you for all you do – I appreciate all our servant heart members and their families. God Bless you all and be safe.

Report of Aurelie Mulcare, NEC

Department of Hawaii

National District VI

Membership

Our AMVETS West Oahu Veterans Center is helping to increase our membership with volunteer opportunities in our communities.

Programs

Our program initiatives at our AMVETS West Oahu Veterans Center is improving the lives of veterans, service members and their families, a gathering place for military and civilians in our community to meet for the betterment of our veterans and their families. We have hosted over 40 events at our center at no cost to veterans organizations and other nonprofits organizations.

AMVETS Hawaii Biomodulator program for the alleviation of chronic pain as an alternative to the pharmacological approach to pain management. Mission statement: To reduce the chronic pain of our veterans and active-duty service personnel so they can fully reclaim their lives and the dignity they deserve.

****The Lt. General Henry "Hank" Stackpole (USMC, Ret.) Legacy Project**

- IRB being completed by Dr. William Humphrey on 25 January 2021

- Tripler Army Medical Center Interdisciplinary Pain Management Department personnel will include pain medicine specialist Justin T. Matsuura, MD and physician assistant Erica Masi. P.A. Masi has three years of Biomodulator and clinical expertise leading the Biomodulator program. Dr. Brian McLean is past head of the TAMC's Integrative Pain Management Department with many years of clinical understanding in this micro-current technology. He will be serving as an advisor and consultant to this study.

AMVETS VET-HEAL and Suicide Prevention Program: a year-round program aims to help reduce the number of suicides and to support veterans with medical needs to access the best quality healthcare, including mental health and specialized services (traumatic brain injury, polytrauma, post-traumatic stress) and live longer, healthier lives. The department and all posts support this program to include the HEAL program online training.

Prisoner of War/Missing In Action (POW/MIA)

Program: members participated in the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), Repatriation and Memorial ceremonies.

Naval Air Station Barbers Point (NASBP) Memorial Restoration Project: Phase 1 is 90% complete. Department Commander Donovan A. Lazarus appointed Colonel Jason C. Seal (USMC, Ret.) as the NASBP Memorial Committee Chair, with Colonel Arthur N. Tulak (USA, Ret.) as the Vice Chair to rebuild the memorial. The memorial was built/dedicated in 1999 honoring all veterans, civil service employees, and government contractors who served here in almost 60 years of service as the pre-eminent Naval Air Station in the Pacific Theater - supporting this country from World War II, Korean conflict, Vietnam War, NASA missions, Cold War, and Persian Gulf War, until its closure in 1999.

The University of Hawaii West Oahu and AMVETS Hawaii Program: a year-round program that aims to help Veterans empowered through STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs to be successful in their degree program. The STEM Lab aims to teach various educational workshops to help our military, veterans, and their families achieve their educational goals. The department provides the STEM center furniture and flags (Military Services, State, and the U.S.).

The Hawaii Veterans Beekeeping Program: a year-round on the job training (OJT) program aimed to help support veteran beekeepers with training on honey bee biology, colony management, queen rearing, apiary economics, and other valuable skills. The department hopes this program will become a model to spread veteran beekeeping programs nationwide to assist veterans and families of veterans through bees. AMVETS Hawaii sees Beekeeping as a pathway to economic stability, closeness with nature for post-traumatic stress support, reintegration into civilian life with fellow service members, continued education, career training, social networking, and a fascinating hobby that supports agriculture and natural ecosystems.

Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Program: a year-round program aimed to help provide life skills and educational courses to at-risk youths. Hawaii Post

Report of Aurelie Mulcare, NEC Department of Hawaii (*continued*)

National District VI

4 continues to provide certified mentors as part of the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Program. The department presents leadership awards to youths who display exceptional leadership skills.

Dept. donations includes:

- 1500 masks for Homeless Veterans, veterans and family members.
- 10 Boxes of can food and other groceries items

Service

VA claims information and assistance to veterans.

USS Arizona Memorial, Pearl Harbor Visitor Center: Hawaii Post 1 continues to provide volunteers and support.

VAVS Representatives conduct visits with hospitalized veterans and home visits with sick and elderly veterans.

Hawaii Post 4 has allied with United Healthcare Community Health Workers to receive tips on the location of homeless veterans on the island. Through this program, we can provide homeless veterans with resources, toiletries, and food items. Walmart has been generous in providing a grant for some supplies.

Upcoming Events

NASBP Memorial Re-Dedication Ceremony: xx March 2021 (0900-1000), at the Kalaeloa Airport, 91-1259 Midway Road, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Battle of Midway 79th Commemoration: 6 June 2021 (0900-1030), at the Kalaeloa Airport, 91-1259 Midway Road, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Ewa Battlefield Commemoration Ceremony: 4 December 2021 (0900-1030), at the 1941 Air Field, Ewa Battlefield, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Legislative

Legislative Director, Mr. Rodney Boucher continues to meet with Hawaii State elected officials, VA Leadership, Military Leaders, Neighborhood Boards, and Local Media through face-to-face, via emails, letters, and online platforms to help build public awareness to support legislation impacting Veterans: Support for AMVETS

National Legislative Priorities: Healthcare Access & Coordination; Women Veterans; Mental Health & Suicide Prevention; Military Sexual Trauma (VA & DoD); Traumatic Brain Injury; Toxic Wounds & Environmental Exposures; VA Oversight, Accountability & Improvement; and, Economic Opportunity.

Communications

PRO, Renee Kama, continues to engage in our community service program initiatives by building relationships with community leaders, organizations, companies, schools, charitable organizations, and veterans other service organizations; to write letters to elected representatives and to voice support on the issues that matter to our military families. Improving communication for Department and Posts online presence on website and social media platforms will help to attract new members and share information with members, clients, friends, and viewers alike. This will allow clients to request appointments directly from the website and automatically request and post reviews from current and recent customers to boost your rating and visibility online.

Report of Sarah Langley, NEC Department of New Mexico

National District VI

Membership

No new members in the state as far as I know.

Programs

Post 7 has helped with passing out food baskets to the homeless at church. Also took hot meal at Christmas time to neighbors. Took Christmas cards out to Volunteer service for them to put on veterans tray at Christmas. Post 12 has sent there report in. Post 2017 helped feed the home less in northern N M Put flags at the cemetery near Portales gave out goodie bags to the Children in Portales. Post 1944 no report.

Service

Post 7 have made phone cards to Veterans and sent out Christmas cards.

Upcoming Events

We hope to have more zoom meetings with state members.

Legislative

None

Communications/PRO

Just phone calls and cards

Other

This pandemic has taken a toll on all of New Mexico organization.

Report of Murray Cooksley, NEC

Department of Oregon

National District VI

Membership

As the pandemic COVID 19 continues we are still having problems meeting in person. As a result, some posts are meeting virtually on zoom, skype and messenger. It is imperative to check on our membership. Now that the vaccinations are being administered we need to check on our members safety. For example, the VA starts with veterans over 75 years of age, then 65 years of age. Also, every county has an immunization program regardless of whether a veteran has VA health benefits or not. Our Department has a scheduled meeting for Saturday, February 20th.

Programs

Another veterans organization has implemented a program to check on post members. We need to be doing the same. There may be veterans in our posts, or veterans that members are aware of, that need our help. A phone call or email or text message or a message on messenger could make the difference in someone's life.

Service

We have fielded some requests for assistance to veterans and families of veterans during the pandemic COVID 19. This gives us good visibility in helping those in our local communities. Please remember to report these activities in program reporting. This helps preserve our tax free status as a veterans service organization.

Upcoming Events

Due to the pandemic COVID 19 it is difficult to anticipate any upcoming events. Hopefully our membership will be getting vaccinated in the near future. A doctor tells me once everyone is vaccinated, hopefully things can get back to normal.

Legislative

With the new administration, some legislative priorities have changed. We need to ensure that veterans remain in the political eye. Ensure that you know who both your state and national senators and representatives are – especially if they changed in the last election.

Communications/PRO

As we used to say in the military: "Communicate as if your life depends on it- because it does!" Be proactive in keeping in touch with posts and members. Use mail if they are not online. Use the telephone. Send text messages if they use text messages. Send emails if they use email. The bottom line is we need to be in touch with our membership if we are unable to meet together live.

Other

I can be reached by email at murraycooksley@gmail.com or (971) 241 – 1139 or PO Box 1771; McMinnville, Oregon 97128-1771.

Report of Steve Bird, NEC Department of Washington

National District VI

Membership

New Post chartered in 2020.
Department Membership/Other
Life Member 2097
Annual Member 352
Total: 2,105 Ranking 15
Growth % Ranking 23
Renewal % Ranking 29

Communications/PRO

The department, through the Communications Director has subscribed to Zoom and to date held multiple Zoom meetings successfully.

Programs

For 2020: 40% percent (6 of 15) of Posts have reported programs through the online database. The Service Foundation is supporting program activities and service department through grants.

Service

The service department has been limited due to the pandemic but has been able to continue claims processing. The new Service Department director is in place and has been active in learning the job and meeting new DEC reporting requirements.

The AMVETS Department of Washington Service Department currently employs two service officers.

Services are provided under contract with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. Under this contract there are two performance requirements that must be met, the claims approval rating “batting average” and the cost per claims. This contract arrangement serves Veterans through increased assistance in evaluating and processing valid claims and it serves the citizens of the State through increased revenues generated when Veterans receive monetary benefits through successful claims.

Upcoming Events

Service Foundation meeting February 22, 2021
Department Executive Meeting March 6, 2021

Legislative

The department Legislative Director, Charles (Chuck) Wharton, continues to be active as a member of the Washington Governor’s Veteran Advisory Committee. Mr Wharton is also a member of the Washington State Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC).

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Report of Jan Brown, National Commander

2020 was one heck of a year - I've worked more out of my basement than my office, learned to navigate zoom meetings, canceled trips, missed friends and hugs, learned to keep an extra mask in my pocket so I'm not continually walking back to the car, the list could go on and on.

As the county where headquarters is located has not deemed it safe to return to traditional work operations, HQ staff continues to work from home. Many of us are here on a semi-regular basis, mail still needs picked up, bills paid etc.

We continue to finalize details for Rolling to Remember in May. Last year we were able to find success despite complications caused by the coronavirus and continued to bring awareness to veteran suicide and are POW/MIAs still missing. We look forward to this year's demonstration ride and we anticipate a large showing in our nation's Capital.

While most welcome the winter holidays and festivities, many annually face a much more bleak reality: loneliness during a time of the year associated with gatherings and/or furthered inability to make ends meet and provide for their families. This year was no different, and due to the rise in COVID-19 cases nationwide, further isolation and uncertainty looms in the minds of many veterans and their families. I'd like to thank all AMVETS who participated in socially-distanced food drives, delivered hundreds of hot meals, and raised money for food pantries in desperate need of funding throughout the month of November, essentially feeding thousands of veterans and families in need. Together we fed thousands and delivered a less bleak end to 2020. Regardless of the obstacles facing, our organization continues to go above and beyond in our service to fellow veterans and their families.

Currently we are pressing forward to have our annual convention in Greensboro, NC- not saying anything is definite yet but we are optimistic. It may look different than other conventions, how we are not sure, but we do want to meet in person. If you are able to be vaccinated I encourage you to do so, for you and for others.

Although we are not together this Spring please continue to check it with each other and include as many members as possible in events happening in your areas. I hope that we are able to deliver our reports in person this Summer and until then let's continue to better serve our fellow veterans.

Report of Gregory S. Heun, National First Vice Commander

Good afternoon Commander, NEC members, and guests.

I just got the membership list from Harry and the numbers could use help from us all. During the 2019, and 2020 years we have over 14,000 members who haven't renewed. That's a staggering number. We are sending the renewal request out but Post contact is a much stronger appeal to most who are on the fence. It's easy for them to toss out the paper but a personal contact is all it takes most of the time. Think of the effort spent getting that new member? Then think of the effort spent trying to keep him, or her. Engagement is what they joined for not to be left alone. Most who join want to feel they are a part of the bigger picture, and if are made a part of it the chances of you retaining that member just grew profoundly. An updated list is sent out regularly by Harry; it is a tool we need to start using. Department Commanders have the list broken down into post and send it to the Post Commanders. I believe if they try the number of delinquent members will drop. The fact is it's harder to get them back after they leave so we need to make the first step of contact.

COVID has affected us all, some worse than others but nonetheless. We are all feeling the pain of it. Every aspect of our lives has been touched one way or another. Looking out for some of our AMVETS families in need is who we are. VETERANS HELPING VETERANS! So take a minute, make a call and check on the members who we know need a little extra attention. We all have them so let's look after them.

My travels have been short. I've been to a few places, but it's a little worrisome when you start seeing the numbers rising like they are. Be respectful of others and cover up. I pray the worst is behind us, and brighter days ahead.

God bless our family, friends, and those who lost their lives protecting us!

Commander this concludes my report.

Gregory S. Heun
National 1st Vice Commander
(502) 819-6318

Report of Don McLean, National Second Vice Commander

Greetings AMVETS,

I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving and that whatever holiday you celebrated in December was joyous. As we enter the new year let us be more proactive with the regulations that are in place for safety. Know what they are and how they affect you and your Post. If your Post has a canteen, make sure to work with the local health department so that you can be open and be a haven for veterans to gather and stay safe.

The down side of this COVID, we had to extend all of our award programs, Americanism, ADAA, Quality Posts, and Employer of the end of this year. Delays with the Postal Service, state and local health and safety restrictions put a damper on participation. We now are planning to judge these at National Convention.

Programs has gone thru some interesting times in November and December. We had First Energy Co. donate funds to Posts in their service area to provide food to veterans thru a drive up program. About ten posts were involved in five states. It went very well.

Then there was the call from Lowe's, one of our partners, and they wanted to donate Christmas trees to D.C. and the area. A quick call to a few Posts and that was done.

Then a person from Wisconsin called headquarters and said his company had put together a large amount of care packages and wanted to distribute them to veterans in his area. He was put in touch with a local post for this. Good times.

We also had a Ventranpreneur Business Grant with our partnership with Lowe's awarded to Rene Avendano of Texas. He is a 24 year Marine veteran who is going to start a plumbing and HVAC business. He is also hoping to form an apprenticeship program thru either the VA or the Texas State Veterans Commission so veterans can use their GI Bill benefits and work as an approved apprentice.

I know that all of you are doing what you can under your guidelines to assist veterans and your community.

Please check on fellow post members as some may not be able to or feel safe enough to go out. See if any need food or other shopping done for them, or just talk and keep them company for a while. All I ask is that you make sure to report all the contacts you have. I know it is difficult for in person visits at the VA Hospitals right now, but the hospitals still need some things and checking with Voluntary Services, appointments can be made to drop things off. We need to constantly show congress and the VA that we continue to care for our veterans.

Some people have had an issue with logging on to the reporting page and I believe we have taken care of those.

If any one needs assistance with that or help with any program report, please contact Programs Director Bunmi Moses, bmoses@amvets.org or myself at coasty69@me.com.

That is my report Commander



NEC LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021

PREPARED BY

*Bill Clark
Justin Brown
Madison Lamp*

PREPARED FOR

AMVETS Membership





116TH CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- ✓ H.R. 6395 FY2021 NDAA with Agent Orange Amendment
- ✓ S. 332 Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act
- ✓ S. 4511 Veterans Benefits Enhancement and Expansion Act
- ✓ S. 514 Deborah Sampson Act
- ✓ S. 4883 Brian Tally Act
- ✓ S. 4594 Caring for the Survivors and Families of Veterans Act of 2020
- ✓ S. 785 Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019

* ✓ = passed into law

AUGUST 2020-FEBRUARY 2021

Our country has been grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly a year now, and the focus on Capitol Hill has been on responding to the coronavirus. This pandemic has changed the nature of how a lot of us are working, but it hasn't changed our focus or commitment to American Veterans. With a pandemic ravaging the globe and a contentious Presidential election taking place simultaneously, there were a lot of political battles on Capitol Hill. Even through this partisanship, there were many wins for veterans that came from the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs.

AMVETS is exceptionally proud to have worked with the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (HR 7105). This package reflects an entire two years worth of hard work and collaboration with many different Congressional staffers, Congress members, and veteran service organizations. This package was one of the most important pieces of veteran legislation in the 116th Congress and it was passed into law on January 5, 2021.

The Isakson/Roe package included most of AMVETS legislative priorities, including veterans benefits, healthcare improvements for women veterans, Agent Orange benefits, VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) eligibility, and medical malpractice laws. Throughout the 116th Congress, AMVETS has publicly voiced support for many of the individual measures included in the large package. We were most specifically supportive of language that was included from S. 332 Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act, S. 4511 Veterans Benefits Enhancement and Expansion Act, S. 514 Deborah Sampson Act, S. 4883 Brian Tally Act, and S. 4594 Caring for the Survivors and Families of Veterans Act of 2020.

AMVETS has been fighting for veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange chemicals for the entire 116th Congress. At the 2019 National Convention, AMVETS members voted to expand eligibility for Agent Orange related illnesses. Chloracne, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, and porphyria cutanea tarda are all on the list of presumptive Agent Orange illnesses, but they have a cutoff date of only one year following exposure to Agent Orange. It is unreasonable to require a veteran to provide documentation of when their symptoms began so long after the fact. AMVETS supported the language in this bill that would remove these one-year requirements from the three illnesses linked to Agent Orange exposure.

The backlog of medical disability examinations is an issue we know has had a domino effect on millions of claimants and appellants' lives. We supported the improvements that this bill will make to the claims process. This bill will clarify licensure requirements for contractor medical professionals to perform medical disability exams and it will require the VA to provide the disability benefits questionnaire online. AMVETS advocated for both of those changes.

AMVETS has made our commitment to women veterans clear to DoD and VA. We have urged them to enhance their programs to ensure that women veterans receive high-quality, comprehensive primary and mental healthcare services in a safe and sensitive environment at every VA health-care facility. This bill will help ensure the VA can address women veterans' needs who are more likely to face homelessness, unemployment, and go without needed health care by eliminating barriers to care and services. It will

expand group counseling for veterans and their family members and call centers for women veterans; increase the number of days of maternity care VA facilities can provide, increases the number of gender-specific providers in VA facilities, training clinicians, and retrofitting VA facilities to enhance privacy and improve the environment of care for women veterans; authorizes additional grants for organizations supporting low-income women veterans and increases resources for homeless women and their families; and improves the collection and analysis of data regarding women veterans, expands outreach by centralizing all information for women veterans in one easily accessible place on the VA website, and requires the VA to report on the availability of prosthetics made for women veterans.

AMVETS advocated to include language in this bill to change how the VA responds to a claim for damage, injury, or death on Standard Form 95. We supported a proposal in this bill which will require the VA to provide a recommendation for legal representation, the VA doctor's employment status, and if the claim involves a contractor, the importance of obtaining legal advice as to the statute of limitations. We also support changes that would enable eligible spouses to retain DIC upon remarriage at age 55 instead of age 57.

The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 is a complex bill that touches on many different issues veterans encounter when using the VA. We worked hard to include changes in this bill in hopes that it will make the VA a better place for the veterans it serves.

Following some very inexcusable events at the VA last year, AMVETS was one of the first organizations to call for the resignation of VA Secretary Robert Wilkie in December 2020. The VA Office of Inspector General found that Secretary Wilkie set a tone that was unprofessional and provided the basis for senior administration officials to put out information to national reporters to question the credibility and background of a veteran who filed a sexual assault claim. AMVETS called for Wilkie's resignation because he betrayed the trust veterans put into the VA and he betrayed the trust of all sexual assault victims. Our whole team at AMVETS believes we need to work together to foster a VA that is welcoming to all veterans.

We did not feel Secretary Wilkie was adhering to that priority.

In early November when it became evident that Joe Biden had won the presidential election, AMVETS began working with Biden's VA transition team. Our legislative team has had meetings with the transition team to discuss our legislative priorities with them. We have had initial discussions with the newly appointed Secretary Denis McDonough and we look forward to working more closely with him and his team.

AMVETS is still focused on our number one priority of working with the VA and Congress to provide veterans with the best mental health care. We worked with President Trump's PREVENTS task force members to help with these goals. In June of 2020, President Trump presented The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) Roadmap at the White House. The Roadmap is the culmination of a year-long collaboration with over 150 public and private stakeholders, including AMVETS leadership and HEAL Team. At the announcement of the roadmap, we felt optimistic moving forward. By October of the same year, we became concerned about the implementation and lack of focus that was being given to the PREVENTS roadmap.

In October of 2020, our number one legislative priority became law: The John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019. AMVETS has been supportive of this legislation and urged for its passage since it was introduced in March 2019. This is a major victory for veteran mental health and AMVETS was involved every step of the way. In December of 2020, the President signed another package of bills aimed at improving mental health care and services for veterans and troops. The package of bills, the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care and Treatment (COMPACT) Act includes nine parts intended to help prevent veteran suicides. The package of bills that became the COMPACT Act was part of an agreement between House and Senate Veterans Affairs leaders to pass major veteran mental health and suicide prevention legislation before the end of the year and the end of the 116th Congressional session.

***The AMVETS Legislative Team supported and fought
for the passage of nearly 20 bills in the 116th Congress:***

HR 7105 Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D.
Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement
Act of 2020

S 332 Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act

S 514 Deborah Sampson Act

S 4883 Brian Tally Act

S 4594 Caring for the Survivors and Families of
Veterans Act of 2020

S 785 Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans
Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019

S 5072 Vet Center Improvement Act of 2020

S 4511 Veterans Benefits Enhancement and
Expansion Act of 2020

S 3235 Veterans Posttraumatic Growth Act

HR 7795 Veterans Benefits Fairness and
Transparency Act

HR 4154 Leave No Veteran Behind Act

HR 6141 Protecting Moms Who Served Act

HR 7111 Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020

HR 3228 VA Mission Telehealth Clarification Act

HR 3932 Veterans Preventive Health Coverage
Fairness Act

HR 4194 National Suicide Hotline Designation Act

S 4068 Forgotten Vietnam Veterans Act

HR 5757 Military Sexual Assault Victim
Empowerment Act

This concludes my report and I move for its adoption.

Report of James B. King, National Judge Advocate

Commander Brown and Members of the NEC,

The past 12 months have been somewhat turbulent due to the rules put in place to fight the nationwide pandemic. AMVETS have had to make a lot of adjustments individually and as an organization. To better prepare for similar circumstances in the future I will be proposing a new “Appendix F” to our National Bylaws for use in case of a national disaster or another pandemic. I already have one volunteer to help craft this and am looking for a couple more. If you are interested, please contact me at jim1941@live.com.

Time for annual meetings and elections will soon be here. While some of our posts and maybe departments will be able to hold their meetings and conventions in the normal manner, I know that many will not. This will call for some innovative solutions to elect new leaders for the coming year.

For post elections one method might be to hold elections by ballot box placed at your post home or a central location such as a shopping mall if you can get permission. An election committee could be appointed to oversee the voting and ensure that votes are properly cast. After the ballots are all cast, the committee would tally the votes and report the results.

Department elections could be accomplished via emails. Candidates could be solicited by sending emails to each post commander asking for recommendations. A list could then be sent to all posts with a notice of their voting strength. Votes could then be cast by the post commander or designee via email to the Department ED or Adjutant and an election committee. After the votes are cast, the election committee would report the results. The oath of office could be performed by conference call.

These are just suggestions. I’m sure that some of you can devise other methods to accomplish the requirements.

One last comment concerning elections. AMVETS National Constitution Article VII, Section 4, states “national executive committeeman and alternate

national executive committeeman shall serve for a term of two years, with the departments of Alabama through Missouri, including the District of Columbia, selecting in the even-numbered years and Montana through Wyoming selecting in the odd-numbered years.” In keeping with protocol established last year and to preserve the proper sequence of these positions, those NECs elected in 2018 will retain their office until 2022.

This concludes my report and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

R/S

Jim King PNC

National Judge Advocate

AMVETS (American Veterans)

Report of Donald Stream, National Finance Officer

As of January 31, 2021, there was a total of \$293,434.93 in cash in the General, Growth, Pledge, and Metropolitan bank accounts and a total of \$182,505.66 in accounts payable and accrued expenses. The quarterly grant of \$62,500 was paid by NSF at the end of January. As of March 1, 2021, we have received the 2nd draw of the Paycheck protection plan.

We have received revenue of \$1,970,896 against a budget amount of \$1,622,082. Membership is \$245,522 ahead of budget so far this year. The approximate income percentage breakdown is as follows: All grants and other income 33%, membership dues income 27%, Heritage Income 12%, Investment Gains 11%, Sweepstakes Income 8%, Contributions 7%, and Affinity Group 2%.

Actual expenses totaled \$1,708,779. Income exceeded expenses by \$262,117. After Unrealized Losses, Transfers into Life Membership, and Depreciation Expense of \$(1,880). Income exceeded expenses by \$268,567. The percentage breakdown of expenses is as follows: General and Administration 71%, Programs Services 14%, Fundraising 15%.

I want to thank the membership for allowing me to continue as the National Finance Officer this fiscal year and I will continue to work for each of you and keep you informed as to the state of AMVETS financial status.

Report of PNC William G. Kilgore, National VAVS Representative

National Commander Brown, National officers, and members of the National Executive Committee.

Report of: W.G. "Bill" Kilgore, National VAVS Representative

My report is abbreviated, because most operations at VAMC's across the country are shut down for outside volunteers to go into the medical centers to do volunteer work.

I have received some AJRs (Annual Joint Reviews) which are recap reports of volunteer activities from the past year and monetary donations. Also in these reports are plans for volunteer organizations projects for the upcoming year.

I will, as always ask that local VAVS Representatives attend the virtual meetings being held at their facility.

Volunteers at local Posts can still collect materials needed by Veterans in hospitals and nursing homes and deliver them to the Volunteer Office at your local VAMC.

National Commander Brown this concludes my report and I move for its adoption.

Report of PNC William G. Kilgore, National Service Foundation President

Commander Brown, National Officers, National Executive Committee, and fellow AMVETS, I stand before you (on Zoom) to report on the activities of the AMVETS National Service Foundation.

The National Service Foundation has fought through the economic turmoil caused by COVID-19 pandemic, overcoming the severe impacts of temporary closures of every NSF-owned and every partner-owned thrift store in the nation. Americans largely stopped charitable giving to organizations not directly related to the public health crisis. And to top it all off, it was a presidential election year, which are always the leanest years for nonpartisan organizations like ours.

This caused instability and could have turned very bad for our long-term future, as it did for some of our fellow veterans organizations. But we reacted quickly and strategically to stop the bleeding and stabilize. We clamped down our spending, doubled our outreach efforts, and implemented innovative tactics for fundraising and (most importantly) to continue delivering high-quality services to veterans and their families.

Now we are once again in solid financial shape. For the first time in a long time, we are not spending more than we're bringing in. We will maintain this extra conservative approach for the rest of the year, remaining ready for whatever comes our way as we progress into 2021.

All our stores are open and are now designated essential services, so they should be allowed to remain open if another shutdown is ordered. Revenues are once again increasing, and new locations are being considered. We also now have an online shopping component that will remain operational for good.

We have developed new fundraising tools, using email, social media, search engines, and online campaigns to solicit donations from new population groups in ways we've not leveraged before.

Our Service Department is our largest operation,

representing a very large percentage of the NSF budget. Proportionately, it was hit the hardest early in the pandemic. The VA closed its offices to in-person work, and we had to implement hiring freezes. But our corps of national service officers found new ways to communicate and represent veterans, their families and their survivors. That was so important as the need for representation dramatically grew during the pandemic.

Even with all the challenges, our service officers were able to bring more than \$1 billion to service-connected wounded, injured and ill veterans during this time. A truly remarkable accomplishment of which every AMVETS should be proud.

Once again, we are planning to host the nation's largest pro-veterans advocacy event this Memorial Day weekend. While last year's inaugural "Rolling to Remember" motorcycle demonstration ride was forced to go virtual when our nation's capital city was shut down, many still showed up in Washington. This May, we are working toward being able to host it in person.

We will continue with conservative spending and aggressive goals to make the AMVETS family stronger and help more veterans than ever before.

This concludes my report, and I move for its acceptance.

Report of Dolores “Dee” Baggett, National Ladies Auxiliary President

To AMVETS National Commander Jan Brown, National Officers, PNC'S, NEC, and all AMVETS Members:

My Theme is “ALWAYS REMEMBER” I never realized how true this would at this time!!!

The Auxiliary has truly shown that they always remember why we are here and why we do what we do. In these challenging times, I have seen the AMVETS Family all over this country, band together and come up with some highly creative and needed service projects. WHAT AN AWESOME ORGANIZATION WE BELONG TO!

As we prepare to hold the first ever NEC by ZOOM, we will have another “first!”. This has been a year (or two) of firsts!! When we left NEC last March, I would never would have guessed all the changes that would transpire in our day to day lives!

My Project again this year is Freedoms Foundation.

My goal is to add to funds raised and buy a generator for the MacArthur Building. By having a generator in this building, heat and electricity would allow the kitchen, dining room, a classroom, game room, lounge, and some dorm rooms to remain available for seminar and conference attendees on property.

Freedoms Foundation has been providing virtual programs as their campus did have to close. They are taking reservations, starting this summer as they plan to resume on campus classes for teachers. The seminars for our youth will hopefully resume soon after that.

We are planning on holding the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Seminar the second weekend in October. Please remember, all the AMVETS family is encouraged to attend. We had quite a few AMVETS at our last seminar and they had a great time. The brochure can be found on our website. Our Americanism Officer, Denise Rodzen, will have tickets available to win a trip (or 2) also!! At the National Convention we will be drawing the 2019 winners and the 2020 winners!



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT! Americanism Project lapel pins are available for purchase for \$5.00, as we still have some available!!! Please let Denise or me know if you would like some! I thank everyone for their support.

To my AMVETS Family - Thank you for all that you do – I pray for each one of you. God Bless us all and I hope to see you soon!

Dolores “Dee” Baggett
National President
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary
2019 – 2021

Report of Richard Thibodeau, National Sons of AMVETS Commander

AMVETS Commander Jan Brown, National Officers, and NEC,

The National Sons Officers have been in constant communication throughout the pandemic and are utilizing Zoom to have E-Board meetings. Nancy continues to do a fantastic job, and we are grateful for all she does for us and the AMVETS family.

The Sons will hold our Spring NEC meeting on Saturday, March 6th from 1-4 PM via Zoom.

Sons of AMVETS volunteering slowed down due to Covid-19 to \$2,528,413 in Volunteer project reporting or down 56% from a year ago. Our membership is currently at 14,759 members or down 16% from a year ago. Membership is starting to come in more frequently now that Squadrons are starting to get more active.

Hopefully, the vaccination process is in full swing soon and we will be able to travel again. The Sons are very much looking forward to Rolling to Remember and having the National Convention this year.



My project this year is Help Heal Veterans. Help Heal Veterans provides free therapeutic arts and crafts kits to hospitalized and homebound veterans. These craft kits help injured and recuperating veterans improve fine motor skills, manage stress, cope with symptoms of PTSD and TBI while also improving their sense of self-esteem and overall physical and mental health.

These are incredibly difficult times for all of us. Know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Please be safe and be well!

“Sons Serving Veterans”

Respectfully submitted,

Richard H. Thibodeau
Commander
National Sons of AMVETS

Report of Joseph Chenelly National Executive Director

National Commander Brown, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

It was one year ago this month we all last met in person. It has been a long, difficult year for many of our members and certainly for the AMVETS family as a whole.

Your National Headquarters staff has worked hard throughout these troubled times. As we adjourned our meeting in March 2020, the county in which our national offices sit levied strict restrictions, effectively closing our building to employees. While the restrictions have loosened to a degree, we are still prohibited from having staff officially in the building. We've figured out how to make it work, using tele- and web-based-technology in new ways. And some highly dedicated people, including our National Commander, have continued coming in safely to complete tasks requiring in-person efforts.

As approved by this body in an August vote by email, our staff numbers have shrunk. We've streamlined functions, pulled together more than ever, and have always kept our members as our top priority. While some things, such as issuing membership cards, take a little longer for now, your National HQ remains fully functional and stable.

I am grateful for your willingness to give this "virtual" format a try for this meeting. We want your oversight and insight, remaining connected nationwide. This is what we need to continue best serving you and all AMVETS members.

National HQ's motto for several years now has been to "thrive not just survive." That's what we as an organization were doing right up until a year ago this month. But to be honest, there was a period over the past year where we were working harder than ever to just survive.

Nearly every revenue stream stopped. Partnering corporations cut or stopped support so they could survive. The National Service Foundation was unable to provide NHQ grant funds for a time. Incoming membership dues slowed, considerably. And unexpected needs emerged in NHQ for new technologies and infrastructure to meet changes imposed on us by government restrictions. All while veterans needed us more than ever, and AMVETS was there for them.

We laid off some key staff. We froze pay for those we were able to keep on. We halted all organization-paid travel. The forced cancellation of the December 2020 NEC meeting and the 2020 national convention, and now the transition of this meeting to virtual, saved hundreds of thousands of dollars.

All of us at NHQ are grateful for the understanding, patience, and moral support you provided throughout this ordeal. Thank YOU!

Now we are back. We are once again stable, working to thrive even better than before the coronavirus.

We are planning and working to ensure we are able to safely meet in person for our 2021 National Convention in Greensboro, N.C., as scheduled. The hotel and convention center can be trusted to do the right things.

The Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons is currently serving as a "bubble" location for the NCAA basketball tournaments, trusted by the collegiate world to safely house hundreds of top-tier athletes.

The key to being able to have a successful convention this year will be our members trusting that we can meet safely. We must have a quorum, or it'll all be for nothing. All recommended protocols will be strictly followed by the hotel, food service, cleaning staff, and by those of us attending. Face coverings will be required by local code. The facility has state-of-art air handling and filtration systems in place. And many of our members will have the vaccine by then.

Report of Joseph Chenelly

National Executive Director (*continued*)

Please, if you want to have the national convention, encourage those you represent to attend and be wise in their travel to Greensboro. It'll be great to see each other again in person.

This concludes my report, and I move for its acceptance at the appropriate time.

Report of Christine Kirkley Chief Development Officer

Corporate Partnerships

1. Lowe's

Completed the 2020 contract year and currently coordinating with the Program's Department to distribute monies to awardees.

The 2021 grant application was submitted and approved. The total grant amount will be less because Lowe's no longer has a focus on the technology aspect to fill their pipeline. The information and updated addendum to the grant should be received by March 2021.

Lowe's is celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2021. With their headquarters in North Carolina, we are discussing options for their involvement in the National Convention to promote the partnership.

2. WD40

Due to the partnership with Lowe's, AMVETS was introduced to the leadership at WD40. A Veteran's Day campaign was launched in conjunction with Lowe's. While WD40 was satisfied with their AMVETS relationship, they are looking for more engagement from Lowe's at a created the store level. We have hosted an initial call to discuss a fundraising campaign in the Fall of 2021. Details will be shared as the campaign is finalized.

3. Humana

AMVETS new contract was finalized with additional funding for the organization.

Humana will be supporting Rolling to Remember with a donation to be determined, as well as involvement during Memorial Day weekend.

Humana Foundation is open for accepting applications and the monies are separate from the corporate monies already received. Kirkley will be applying for funding to support the overall AMVETS mission.

4. Other Opportunities

Kirkley is collaborating with Chief Medical Officer Cherissa Jackson to engage the cannabis industry in supporting the organization during 2021. Kirkley and Jackson are in the process of prospecting potential partnerships.

Kirkley is communicating with Carrier Global to create a partnership. Carrier is independent company manufacturing and distributing heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and has since expanded to include manufacturing commercial refrigeration and foodservice equipment, and fire and security technologies.

Kirkley coordinated with Thrift Store Program Manager Keith Haley to pilot a new in-store revenue stream.

In late November there was an introductory call with a private Foundation, The Duffield Foundation, who are interested in a long-term partnership with AMVETS to enhance our scholarship program. Due to Covid-19, the January Foundation meeting was moved to March, at which time they will review information related to a partnership with AMVETS.

Kirkley is communicating with The Washington Football Team on a potential fundraising and awareness campaign around Veterans Day 2021.

The Ralph S. French annual report has been submitted for the 2020 grant and the 2021 grant application for \$50,000 was submitted.

Additional corporate prospect research and conversations for general support are happening regularly.

Direct Mail and Digital Campaigns

1. Direct Mail Strategy

We continue to be resourceful with our mailings. While we have decreased the number of individuals

Report of Christine Kirkley

Chief Development Officer (*continued*)

for some mailings, we are mindful of people who are receiving the campaigns, selecting what we believe will bring the best return on our investment. Testing new and unique campaigns continue. We are investing new acquisition lists and strategy to potentially implement in the later part of the calendar year. There is on-going communication with the program directors for quotes and stories to share with our donors about the good work we are doing.

2. Digital Campaigns

Email campaigns continue to be created that are either connected with a particular mailing or are cultivation message that show how we are stewarding our donor's gifts.

For the second year, we launched an end-of-year email fundraising campaign. This year we incorporated a complimentary message on social media. We received a significant amount of donations of \$150 or more. Commander Brown was giving a list and corresponding contact information to personally reach out and thank the donors. We increased the total amount of donations by more than a 25% over 2019.

3. Donor Data

By the March 6, 2021 meeting we will have successfully implemented our donor data sync between Charity Engine (online software) and MoneyMaker (offline software). Historically this was not done and therefore our communication with our donors has been inconsistent or non-existent. This data sync will be occurring moving forward the first Friday of every month.

As a second step, we are matching data from our legislative database, VoterVoice, Charity Engine and MoneyMaker. The process has been time consuming, but we are expected to have it complete by March 6, 2021 if not shortly thereafter.

Rolling to Remember

1. A peer-to-peer fundraising program was finalized to engage new riders and non-riders to donate in support of the mission. This is in addition to general messaging to solicit donations and it will allow for an alternative grassroots messaging and support. The communication launch will be in March.

2. The International Motorcycle Shows attended in the winter of 2019 and early 2020, have been changed to outdoor events that will not launch until June 2021. We have been in communication with them about involvement with their shows and a stronger engagement in 2022 to promote the Ride.

3. Conversations continue with The Washington Football Team (WFT) about using their parking lot for a staging area for the ride. The space would allow for new and unique fundraising opportunities.

Report of Cherissa Jackson

Chief Medical Executive

HEAL Program

1. We established the Women Veteran's Employment Pilot to assist women veterans with employment. We used the Military Hire employment platform to match women veterans with job postings on their site. We called over 400 women veterans to actively get 50 women veterans to be a part of the pilot. The pilot included assistance with resume writing and skill building for interviews. The Pilot is for 3 months to determine the challenges women veteran face with the employment process using the Military Hire platform. We work collectively with the Career Center to transition those we couldn't assist in our Pilot.

2. New version of the updated Suicide Prevention Training launched in January 2021 with new case scenarios. 3 New scenarios were added including new case studies with kids, LGBT+ and the elderly community.

3. A new HEAL Landing page was created to offer easy access for those taking the suicide prevention training and to connect with the HEAL team quicker. The landing page features all the programs and upcoming programs created by the HEAL team. We have had many engagements with our AMVETS members and others in the community on this new page.

4. We are increasing our dialogue on cannabis as we will begin webinars on the benefits of cannabis called "CannaVersations. We will continue to push the conversation around our AMVETS Cannabis Resolution to the VA and the new administration.

5. We continue to get calls from Veterans during this pandemic for financial assistance, employment and vaccinations updates.

Report of Miles Migliara

National Communications Manager

AMVETS In The News

AMVETS' relevance in national news, whether through large traditional networks or military and veteran outlets, has remained steady early in the new year. We've appeared in CNN, USA TODAY, FOX News, Military Times, Stars & Stripes, Connecting Vets, and more, speaking on topics such as the confirmation of VA Secretary Denis McDonough, the events that took place in our nation's capital January 6, and veteran healthcare/mental health.

Social Media & Information Distribution

We continue to distribute a bi-weekly newsletter to more than 100,000 members and supporters containing information on how National is serving AMVETS and veterans in general. We steadily publish podcasts (the American Veterans Podcast) where AMVETS leadership discusses veteran-relevant news, which is available on most podcast streaming platforms and sent to media members National closely works with. Our social media engagement and following continues to steadily build as we devise innovative ways to provide content for the public. We also engage with like-minded organizations and influencers in an effort to expand AMVETS reach and garner new audiences.

Rolling To Remember

Many are seeing news graphics circulating social media as we continue to raise awareness about the ride. We continue to engage audiences belonging to different clubs and groups in hopes that they spread the word about Rolling To Remember. Updates are being made to rollingtoremember.com as we update the site with logistics for May and attempt to make the site more appealing and user-friendly. Additionally, social media engagement and followers continue to climb upward, meaning more people are supporting the ride, spreading the word, and making plans to be in D.C. in May.

Other Projects

Since AMVETS' Development department has secured a partnership with Lowe's Home Improvements to bring trade skill scholarships and grants to vets and their spouses, Communications has worked closely with Lowe's media to raise awareness of our collaborative achievements. We're currently working to recognize our 2020 recipients through local media as well as our national military/veteran reach.

Preparations are underway for AMVETS' 77th Annual National Convention, which consists of Silver Helmet arrangements, printed materials, and more.

We're working with Veterans Affairs Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs to gauge digital projects we can collaborate on as the year moves forward.

Lastly, Communications is sharing significant events and achievements local posts are a part of and continually updating the national site as appropriate.

This is the Communication Department's report and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

Report of Bunmi Moses

National Programs Director (acting)

National Commander Brown, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee and women and men of AMVETS.

There are a lot of exciting things happening in the programs department this year, starting with a brand-new programs team, including our volunteers! There has been quite a bit to learn in a very short time period, and we are incredibly excited to take it on and in order to push our organizations' mission forward! This has been a year like no other in the history of our organization and our world, and the expected the ramifications of COVID-19/ the worldwide pandemic/ quarantine will be felt for years to come. As an department, we have adapted and overcome obstacles, while strengthening our relationships, and provide the support needed to our grassroots base.

Many of our popular programs were canceled like Freedom Foundations and Warrior Transition Workshops; others like, Americanism, AMVETS Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Employee of the Year are postponed until our National Convention in August 2021. Reestablishing these core programs as quickly and safely as possible, as our country begins to open, is important to us.

First Energy

One of the first opportunities we had to connect and support our posts was through a new partnership with First Energy, who's employees in the five states they operate, raised upwards of \$50,000. They were looking for a partner to help serve their customers in rural areas of Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. In a very short window, with a gift of \$5,000, each of these posts, their members and employees of First Energy, helped give away hundreds of boxes and bags of groceries to over 1,593 families, 400 of which were veterans who identified themselves during Veterans Day weekend. It was a feel-good day at the time of the year, most needed. Ten AMVETS Posts participated:

MD-Post #10 Hagerstown
PA-Post # 159 Philipsburg

NJ-Post #2 Jackson
PA-Post # 187 Towanda
OH-Post #44 Struthers
WV-Post # 30 Inwood
OH-Post #1971 Perry
WV-Post # 34 Parkersburg
OH-Post # 1991 Defiance
WV-Post # 38 Falling Waters

Lowe's Scholarship Program

The Programs department in August, took on the management and implementation of the Second cycle of the Lowe's Scholarship program providing scholarships for construction skilled trades, technology (computer science degrees) and the Veteranpreneur grants (start business or elevate existing construction skilled trades business) for veterans, active duty (Guard/Reserves) and their spouses. Generation T is the movement, powered by Lowe's to rebuild and revitalize the skilled trades nationwide. Our goal is to award 50% of the scholarships and grants to women and minorities.

AMVETS + Lowe's Generation T scholarships awards up to \$5,000 16 veterans and 1 spouse

- Women: 1
- Men: 16
- Minorities: 7
- Spouses: 1

AMVETS + Lowe's Technology Scholarships for \$5,000 14 veterans

- Women: 0
- Men: 14
- Minorities: 6

AMVETS + Lowe's Veteranpreneur Business Grants awarded \$25,000 to 3 veterans

- Women: 2
- Men: 1
- Minorities: 3
- Spouse: 1
- Past Generation T awardee: 2

This year's our scholarships offered much needed opportunities to those who never considered the skilled

Report of Bunmi Moses

National Programs Director (*continued*)

trades an option until they realized that age, nor gender weren't barriers in these industries, and jobs are not only in high demand, offered livable wages, and provided sustainability throughout the pandemic. Winners were announced the week of Veteran's Day. We will continue to manage and develop this program, looking for opportunities to grow and collaborate with like-minded organizations

Lowe's also gave our local Maryland Post # 1988, 25 Christmas trees for veterans and families and \$1050 gift cards divided between Maryland Posts #7, 9 and 10 which they used to not only buy Christmas trees, they also bought 3 vacuum cleaners for a Veterans Transition Home they adopted and provided some really need Christmas cheer at the end of 2020.

The AMVETS Career Center powered by the Call of Duty Endowment (CODE)

Our team of rock stars exceeded our grantors 2020 objective and another major goal for 2020. We received an additional \$100,000 in June, with an additional 75 targeted veteran placement into jobs, which brought the total placement goal to 625 veterans during the term. By the end of the year our Career center had placed 631 veterans. Bringing our total number of veterans placed since 2013 to 3,253 veterans. As of November 2020, AMVETS Career Center is actively serving 2,317 veterans.

During Q3 and Q4, the AMVETS Career Center was able to provide about 14 Career Path Summary Awards to veterans which provided financial assistance for professional certifications and licenses which were in hot demand this year; and 2 additional virtual events that were highly attended and received positive feedback for the content and education it provided to veterans transitioning within their organization or to other jobs.

We increased our social media footprint by collaborating with AMVETS Communications department and other organizations through Facebook live and other virtual events.

Call of Duty Endowment created an initiative for the

organizations they sponsor. A "Thank You Game Stop Day", because a large portion of the funding originates due to the efforts of GameStop employees asking customers to make in-store donations.

Code requested that we send a list of participating veterans to visit the nearest GameStop location before November 1 from each of their partnered organizations. As a result, AMVETS Career Center responded and 8 of our veterans visited the store, took pictures and posted on Social Media tagging the Call of Duty Endowment Facebook page. Overall, a fantastic year for AMVETS CODE Career Center and even better in 2021!

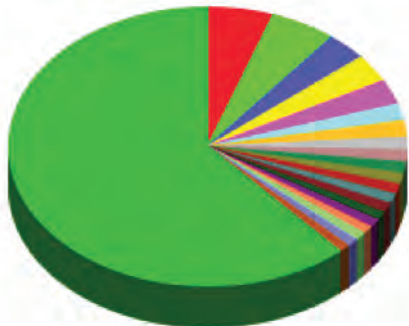
With the new Programs team, taking the helm and with the help from our volunteers, we're getting through the backlog of member requests made during the department's transition all while learning and getting acclimated with the program work-flow. It's been important for us to collaborate with other internal departments to pool our resources to continue to serve in a more holistic way. We are sincerely excited about the country "opening" up and resetting to what will be our new normal. In the meantime, we're exploring new opportunities to provide some of our needed programs and services virtually. With so many of our Posts unable to meet, gather or volunteer. Here are some of the programs our posts reported on:

2020 Programs	Volunteers	Total value	% Change from 2019
S.A.V.E./Suicide Awareness	12,667	\$2,954,139.71	-27%
Peer to Peer Support	1,591	\$216,646.66	-58%
Homeless Veterans	848	\$66,542.66	-28%
Sick/Hospitalized Veterans	2,362	\$572,214.49	-65%
Mil Funeral Honors	15,945	\$12,60,546.15	-10%
Women Veterans & Service Members	2,440	\$25,973.58	+7%
Clothing & Food Drives	1,664	\$291,546.82	-52%
Blood Drives	588	\$26,851.43	-15%
Other Community Service	12,667	\$2,954,139.71	-27%

Report of Bunmi Moses

National Programs Director (*continued*)

Total Value of all Programs in 2020: \$7,233,133 down by 72% from 2019 which was 26.7 million dollars



Indiana, Post #7476	\$387044.6	(5.35%)
Florida, Post #44	\$384616.63	(5.32%)
Arizona, Post #770	\$236912.63	(3.28%)
Texas, Post #115	\$233829.24	(3.23%)
Washington, Post #1	\$210425.509	(2.91%)
Ohio, Post #44	\$141097.92	(1.95%)
Ohio, Post #21	\$137747.657	(1.90%)
Wisconsin, Post #127	\$105354.9275	(1.46%)
Florida, Post #89	\$101428.8865	(1.40%)
Wisconsin, Post #2180	\$98081.95	(1.36%)
Florida, Post #60	\$89616.75	(1.24%)
Ohio, Post #76	\$83489.66	(1.15%)
Kentucky, Post #95	\$83471.34	(1.15%)
Florida, Post #81	\$82022.645	(1.13%)
Missouri, Post #188	\$70478.78	(0.97%)
California, Post #66	\$68896.5	(0.95%)
Wisconsin, Post #3	\$68039.52	(0.94%)
Florida, Post #4	\$67800.83	(0.94%)
Missouri, Post #1	\$66970.13	(0.93%)
Michigan, Post #2006	\$66098.61	(0.91%)
Remaining Value (for this report)	\$4449708.1697	(61.52%)

We can only imagine the effects of this global pandemic have yet to be seen or realized and therefore we'll look for solutions in mitigating the fears, anxieties, morning the losses, the depression, ptsd, loss of businesses, jobs, income, food insecurity, isolation, and so many more issues, compounded by the quarantine/ regulations on an already vulnerable population in our country, are integral to us healing as a nation together.

We appreciate your support and understanding during our transition period and welcome your feedback. We are sincerely looking forward to continuing to provide exemplary programs and services for our veterans and their families that have come to expect and need, and deserve.

Report of Harry Neal National Membership Director

National Commander, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee and fellow AMVETS:

The veterans in AMVETS are continuing to fight through the mud and rain of the worldwide viral pandemic. It not the first-time mud and rain have slowed our march.

In the first 5 months of this member year Sept 2020 thru Feb 2021 our Post, Dept and HQ initiatives have raised awareness of our mission and we have 3337 new joins, averaging 667 new members each month. The same period last year pre-COVID mud we averaged 1038 new members each month.

Here's the skinny: the average age of veterans in AMVETS is 68 years old. Younger members are liking what they see, the average age of new members is 58, a full ten years younger than the average. Retention is the key. We need to keep them in the "Family" for 20 years. 78 is young and active in this age, however only rock climbing being done is over the one in the Jack but we walk a lot. The average age of AMVETS members passing to hallowed ground is 82.

So, the key here is retaining members for 20 years. The only way to let someone know they are part of the family is to talk to them and listen to them. What has the family been doing? What have you been doing? Are you doing OK? What do you think we should be doing? Communication must happen at all levels. Posts can call members, email and mail a Post newsletter. Depts can reinforce communication with a state level newsletter. One Dept got a college intern to produce an email new letter. She didn't have to leave her dorm room, got extra credit for it and they had a great newsletter. Is your Dept talking to their MALs? Many vets are happy to help, join as Members at large, but want to do it on their terms. National HQ Communications Dept emails a newsletter to about half of our members. Are members without emails in the dark? Do they feel like they are part of the AMVETS family or are they like the parent who says, "The only time I see you is when you need money?" AMVETS has emails for 56.7% of

our family, roughly half have emails half are in the dark. How can we keep in touch with the other half, a post card? When you send it ask for an email. So, to summarize the issue we have 33,000 members as of today that haven't renewed. They have open invoices in the system, every year we drop about 10,000 so let's get creative and keep them in the family. Talk with them. You have 50% emails and 100% phone numbers.



How are we recruiting veterans into AMVETS? Commander Brown has a cool new hat pin, COVID mask AMVETS logo. Email membership your **three new members** and

proudly display your Commanders pin. Get 2 more and you get an AMVETS National HQ Challenge coin and are entered into the **recruit 5-member drive**. You could win a laptop! The odds of winning are so much better than power ball. The Laptops are paid for by USAA. They have been supporting veterans since I was in the military. USAA was built by veterans to cover veterans when other insurance companies said "eh, you're a veteran, your lifestyle is a little too risky".

The worldwide pandemic hasn't slowed Dept AL Commander Massengill down. He just chartered Alabama 316 in Loxley, got the mayor involved, the new post can use the community center for meetings. He is working on another in AL. Third District Commander Derrick Everett and Commander Massengill are working together to build a second Post in Mississippi!

We have support boxes available for Posts shaking it off and getting into the public arena again. Email membersupport@amvets.org let us know the date of your event and give an address to send the box. **What's new?** You know members can login and print cards, Posts can transfer members in with phone calls to losing Post and an email to us. Members can renew online. Refund reports help you see who renewed online. Fl won the bowl. You can call or email us and we will put a life conversion invoice in. Pay it online.

Report of Harry Neal

National Membership Director (*continued*)

Next day member gets an email with a life certificate and welcome letter from Commander Brown, the following Weds a card is mailed. No more checks to HQ. Pay it online. This just hit the street and will make your life easier, when a member renews online an email is sent to the **Post email confirmation contact** to let you know a member paid, send him his card. If you haven't designated an email confirmation contact, we will slot the 1st Vice to get the email.



Again, the video below puts your service in perspective and shows the shrinking pool VSO's are drawing from. We need to be surgical in our approach to gaining members. Setting up in front of Wall Mart is good to sell clovers but a table at a VA or a base exchange has 100% eligible traffic. Get the AMVETS word out,

put a flag retirement box in front of your local library or city hall with an AMVETS logo on it? Now's a good time for planning and phone calls.

<https://www.facebook.com/Vox/videos/501761786678095/>

This concludes my report and I move for its acceptance.

Harry Neal,
AMVETS National Director of Membership

Report of Michael T. Black, National Service Director (Interim)

August 2020 - February 2021

Total Amount of Benefits paid out: \$1,018,114,102.00
Total amount of claims filed: 705,622
Average payment per claim: \$1,461.00
Appeals forwarded to the CAVC (Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims): 2
International Claims: 25 different countries around the world

New Members

Life: 15
Annual: 26
Total: 41

Personnel

During the first six months of this fiscal year the service officers have been working very hard. All our officers and their families have been relatively healthy and virus free. We have had only one National Service Officer contract the virus. We still were able to conduct our annual Service Officer Training for the year (2020/2021). This year's training was administered via CBT (computer base training) during the month of October. We completed the training in two weeks without any break of service to our veterans. We also experience another first: every Department that has a service officer participated in this training. This led to the training of 81 out of 84 National and Department Service Officers. This CBT training saved National and Departments hundreds of thousands of dollars in training budgets. Also, during this time we were able to give out the National Service Officer of the Year Awards. This year's winners were:

- **National Service Officer of the Year 2020:**
Miguel Bolanos, Lake Nona VA Medical Center, Orlando Florida
- **Region 1 National Service Officer of the Year:**
Kevin Jones, VA Regional Office, Cleveland, Ohio
- **Region 2 National Service Officer of the Year:**
Lydia Hutson, VA Regional Office, Roanoke, Virginia
- **Region 3 National Service Officer of the Year:**
Rebekah Covas, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina

- **Region 4 National Service Officer of the Year:**
Jose Carrillo, VA Regional Office, Waco, Texas.

We are still processing VA claims remotely from our homes and some offices have resumed one day a week, with no face-to-face appointments. We started the year off with 46 service officers and we lost 3, leaving the National Service Officers with 9 open positions. We approached Ft. Hood, Texas and after a 15 month wait, we were finally granted an office. This office will be in the Shoemaker Center. Currently the office will be manned by NSO Carrillo out of our Waco office. We are also waiting on picking up the keys for the New Seattle, Washington office at the VA Regional office in downtown Seattle. Our service officer, Debbie Moore has been working steadily from her home since March. This office has been up and running but we have not been able to occupy due to COVID 19 and the Regional Office being closed to VSO's and the public.

Outreach

Due to the Corona Virus our outreach programs are still limited. We are still handling many claims on military installations here in the United States and overseas. We are now handling multi-VA claims for veterans that are living and working overseas. We have hit a milestone of claims being worked in 25 foreign countries. These claims are from all over the world, Philippines to Germany to the Caribbean and Central America. We are processing claims by email and phone out of our Phoenix, Pittsburgh, and St. Petersburg offices. I am also still looking at expanding the service officer corp to 5 more states in the future. These offices are Jackson, Mississippi, Salt Lake City, Utah, Reno, Nevada, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Honolulu, Hawaii. These are all critical offices that we need for the future.

In summation, I and the National Service Officers very much appreciate all of the support from the National Service Foundation and the many state departments that provides support!! Without this exceptional and superb support, we could not possibly assist the many thousands of veterans, widows and orphans in the United States and Overseas that our officers now serve.



Legislative Priorities

AMVETS Priorities for the 117th Congress:

- Provide prioritized COVID-19 vaccinations for veterans and healthcare delivery for veterans who have contracted the virus
- Introduce and pass legislation that will achieve a notable decrease in veteran suicide and an increase in the quality of life for America's veterans
- Allow Congressionally Chartered 501(c)(19) nonprofit organizations to accept tax-deductible donations
- Create a better VA for women veterans
- Include the VA for any COVID relief, or climate change focused legislation related to infrastructure planning, and employment related opportunities

COVID-19

AMVETS strongly urges Congress to provide prioritization of vaccines to the many high risk veterans across the Nation. VA is amply positioned to distribute the vaccine and as their 4th mission can help address the many challenges facing distribution of the vaccine. However, it is unacceptable that so many high risk veterans have still yet to receive a vaccination while many low-risk Americans across the Nation are gaining access to the various vaccines.

Veteran Suicide and Mental Health

AMVETS has prioritized suicide and mental health for the past three years. In that time meaningful legislation has been passed, but it is not enough to ensure we continue to move the needle on the most important issue facing our Nation's veterans. The VA's mental health budget has increased tremendously over the years and the veteran suicide rate has only increased or remained stagnant. This Congress, we will be working with Congress on the roll-out of the legislation we advocated for last Congress, encouraging Congress to continue to look for meaningful data regarding existing Mental Health expenditures, and working to introduce and pass legislation that continues helping veterans to live lives worth living.

501(c)(19) tax code

The Internal Revenue Code non-profit designation specifically for veterans' organizations is 501(c)(19). The key benefits are tax-exemption and the ability to accept tax-deductible donations. The current regulation requires 501(c)(19) organizations to maintain a membership of at least 90% wartime veterans to accept tax-deductible donations. AMVETS is the only one of

the "Big 6" Congressionally-chartered veterans service organizations open to all non-wartime veterans. About 38% of AMVETS members are not wartime veterans, leaving the 70-year-old organization unable to accept tax-deductible donations.

VA for women veterans

AMVETS led the way in defending women veterans in the 116th Congress. VA, Congress, and all advocates need to work together to eliminate barriers to care and services that many women veterans face. We will work to increase the number of gender-specific providers in VA facilities to enhance privacy and improve the environment of care for women veterans. We will do everything in our power to ensure women veterans feel at home and welcome at their VA's.

COVID 19 Stimulus, Climate Change Programs, and Veteran Unemployment

VA facilities are facing record shortfalls in major and minor construction funding. The bottom-line is many VA facilities are energy inefficient dilapidated old buildings. AMVETS will fight to ensure that funding for any COVID 19 infrastructure stimulus plans, as well as any efforts to increase funding to make our nation more environmentally sustainable, include the many VA facilities across the nation. Additionally, veterans are two times more likely to be unemployed then they were one year ago. As such, AMVETS will be fighting to ensure that veteran specific employment components are included for any large scale government COVID or environmentally focused stimulus plans.

Legislation that AMVETS has publicly supported in the 117th Congress:

Draft Bill: the Fair Care for Vietnam Vets Act of 2021 to be introduced by Chairman Jon Tester, which would add Hypertension to the VA's presumptive list moving forward

Draft Bill: No Coronavirus Copays for Veterans Act to be introduced by Representative Lauren Underwood

Draft bill: Protecting Moms Who Served Act to be introduced by Representative Lauren Underwood

Fiscal Year 2021 Congressional Budget Resolution—which includes COVID-19 relief funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)



AMVETS
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