



2026 SPRING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS





2026 Spring National Executive Committee Reports

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AMVETS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Call Meeting To Order.....National Commander Paul Shipley
Invocation.....National Chaplain Jeremiah Botkin
Honors To The Colors.....National Provost Marshal Arthur L. Majors
Roll Call.....National Executive Director Joe Chenelly
Adoption Of Agenda.....National Commander Shipley
Approval Of Minutes.....National Commander Shipley
NEC Reports
District I.....Commander Lester Baker
District II.....Commander Ralph Hensley
District III.....Commander Mark Frederick
District IV.....Commander Sara Pierce
District V.....Commander Brian Bartlett
District VI.....Commander Danelle Wyatt
Committee Reports
Finance.....National Finance Officer Kelly McFarlain
VAVS.....VAVS Chairman PNC J.P. Brown
National Staff Reports.....Executive Director Chenelly
National Service Foundation.....NSF President PNC William Kilgore
NSF Executive Director Joe Chenelly
NSF Finance Director Agha Hussain
Old Business.....National Commander Shipley
New Business.....National Commander Shipley
Benediction.....National Chaplain Jeremiah Botkin
Honors To Colors.....National Provost Marshal Arthur L. Majors



National District I

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Report of Lester Baker National District I Commander

National District I

Membership

Our departments in our district have been busy holding membership drives as well as managing the membership renewals. Our departments have provided membership rosters to their local post to assist with their management of their members. Life membership process has improved on behalf of the local posts and departments. We continue to receive communication from the membership department which provides support to our membership.

Upcoming Events

On February 7, 2026, at 12:00pm the Department of Massachusetts is hosting the annual Passion Plunge for Special Olympics of Massachusetts. The next National District One Meeting is being held in Three Rivers Post #74 in Massachusetts, on Saturday February 21, 2026, at 2pm.

Programs

Programs are on-going in all of our departments. The Americanism Program has been implemented throughout the schools in each department. Each department will conduct their selection of winners to submit to National. Each department has a chairperson who has implemented this program with their committee members. Scouting Program has been developed with activities of hosting soap box derbies; merit badge accomplishments recognized by our local posts that are sponsoring these units.

Legislative

Each Department has been busy with the local State Legislators working on the Homeless Veterans interest for temporary and permanent housing. We are very pleased with the success of AMVETS National Legislation work being done.

Service

District One has been very busy with funeral services for our members that have passed away. Working closely with families and funeral homes to assist with the funeral at the cemeteries. AMVETS Department of Mass Color Guard posted colors for the Boston Celtics game in December 2025.

Other

Fred Vineyard, NEC for the Department of New Jersey has been very ill and is preparing for major surgery. Keep him in your prayers.

Report of Dana Dillon, NEC Department of Connecticut

National District I

Membership

Membership is still slow going. We continue to work on renewals and new membership.

Upcoming Events

Our state Convention should be the end of June. We will let National know as soon as we have a date.

Programs

Our programs that we do as posts continue to get inputted. A lot of our individual hours do not get reported so we miss out on those hours. We let our posts know that they need to input those as well.

Legislative

We continue to stay updated on local and national information. We advocate for our fellow veterans and military personnel.

Service

We do not have a local service officer. Most of our veterans that need to file a claim use other organizations to help them file. Many of our veterans want the personal touch, someone they can talk face to face with.

Other

CT continues to support RI. Two of the posts are selling their buildings. One has already established a place to hold meetings. The other is still using their post home.

I ask that this report be accepted at the proper time.

Report of PDC Caroline J. Kenyon, NEC Department of Massachusetts

National District I

Membership

In regards with membership. Membership is still coming in but very slowly. I've asked our State 1st Vice Commander for any updates. He stated he didn't have any current updates. So it's a work in progress.

Upcoming Events

We're having a Joint Testimony, the date is set. It will be on May 3rd at the Elk's in Randolph, MA. It will start at 11:30 AM. We're making it a brunch instead of a dinner. So more people can attend this event. Prices aren't set yet. More info to come. We're representing AMVETS at the Annual Memorial Day Service at the Bourne National Cemetery in Bourne, MA, on Sunday, May 24th. Then on May 25th, Post across the commonwealth will be hosting Memorial Day Service/Parade. Honoring those who have served and who have fought for our country's freedom and who are no longer here. We're all set for our State Convention. It will be held again at Post 79, Natick. The dates are May 29th - 31st. For room reservations go to either Hotel.com, Travelocity.com or Trivago.com. I know our Son's will be having a hospitality room at the Hampton Inn in Natick. Which is nearby to the post.

Programs

Special Olympic- We recently held our 25th Annual Polar Bear Passion Plunge. Which was done on February 7th at our Natick post off of Lake Cochituate. No matter what the weather condition is, with the cold and snow. The event was still held. So far, we have a total of \$17,605 in pledges for 65 plungers. We're still accepting pledges, but only till March 15th. The day prior, it took 5 hours to cut 14" of ice to make this happen. On January 10th and 11th, myself and our State Commander did a fundraiser in front of Walmart in Ware, MA. For 2 days each doing 4 hours. We raised \$840 for Special Olympic. We split it between the two of us. Americanism- we passed out the current information to our local schools. We'll be judging all the entries in April. Then forward the winners to National for their judging.

Legislative

Our State Senators and State Representatives are doing

their part to get bills passed. This is to forward them to our Governor's desk for her signature. So for this is one in progress.

Service

On February 21st, We hosted our National District 1 meeting. It was held at Post 74, in Three Rivers, MA. Our next National District 1 meeting is set for April 25th in New Jersey. Our State Commander is still going above and beyond. He is going across the state representing our department. This time his report wasn't as long as the last report he submitted.

Other

Our State Honor Guard is still posting colors at various events across the state. This is my report, other than that. It is one in progress. Any updates will be done on the floor. Please accept it at the proper time.

Report of Fred Vineyard, NEC Department of New Jersey

National District I

Membership

In an effort to boost membership, we have offered NJ Posts an incentive to recruit new members

Upcoming Events

No state or local events at this time

Programs

Monthly Coffee with Vets (1st Monday of month)
Quarterly Food Drive hosted by NJ Post 911 -collection goes to local food bank

Legislative

Veterans bills are watched closely by Fred Vineyard and he advocates on behalf of all Veterans

Service

VSO Vineyard assists with claims and appeals Resources provided for assistance to Veterans in need

Other

Our social media shares Veterans support groups and health and wellness events taking place throughout New Jersey

Report of PDC Joe Ashman, NEC Department of New York

National District I

Membership

New York has 5,845 members with 4,671 of these members assigned to our 62 Posts, leaving 1,174 as MALs. Although we've experienced a dip in membership, recruiting and retention of members remains a top priority, and we continue to work to attract veterans into the AMVETS organization.

Programs

New York Programs Reporting continues with the steady progress of raising our Program values. For the calendar year 2025, New York reported programs equaling a \$4,100,720 valuation. As of February 12, 2026, we have reported programs equaling a \$77,597 valuation. The dedicated work and commitment in accomplishing AMVETS program goals is key in New York continuing its involvement in supporting all of our programs.

Legislative

At our October 2025 SEC, National Commander Paul Shipley presented New York's Legislative Director, Bob Becker, with his AMVETS Silver Helmet Award. Mr. Becker has been instrumental in moving the AMVETS Legislative Agenda in Albany.

There are several bills in both the Assembly and Senate pertaining to veteran affairs which we are following:

- **Property Tax Relief (S. 8803/S. 1183):** Signed into law, this legislation allows local governments to offer a 100% real property tax exemption for the primary residence of veterans with a 100% service-connected disability.
- **Veteran Mental Health & Care (A. 10142):** Introduced to create a comprehensive veteran health care review, focusing on PTSD, depression, anxiety, military sexual trauma, and suicide prevention.
- **Expanded Fundraising (S. 6351A):** Known as the "Bell Jar Bill," this allows authorized veteran organizations to use electronic bell jar machines for fundraising.
- **Career & Education Support (2026 Session):** The Senate Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committee is advancing measures to boost employment and educational opportunities

through SUNY and CUNY systems.

- **Utility Discounts (S. 1334):** Proposed legislation to require utilities, including water, phone, and cable companies, to offer a 10% discount to veterans.
- **Memorial Registry (A. 3397):** Legislation to update and expand the New York State Veteran's Memorial and Monument Registry

Upcoming Events

- **Spring SEC** – March 20-21, 2026
- **Convention** – June 4-6, 2026

All events held at the Binghamton DoubleTree
225 Water St,
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 722-7575

Leadership

New York's 2025-2026 leadership team:

Commander – John McCullough
1st Vice Cmdr. – Loretta DiBrino
2nd Vice Cmdr. – Denise Bugaj
3rd Vice Cmdr. – John Turner
Provost Marshall – Howard Gushue
Finance Officer – Dave Feary
Judge Advocate – Marty Bugaj
Executive Director – Rich Rossi
Immediate Past Dept. Cmdr. – John Foster
National District 1 Commander – Les Baker, Sr., PDC.

Commander, this concludes my report, and I move for its adoption at the appropriate time.

Joe Ashman, PDC
AMVETS Dept. of New York,
NEC



National District II

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Report of Ralph Hensley, National District II Commander

National District II

Membership

Departments are managing their own membership drives and annual membership renewals.

Upcoming Events

Next National District II meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2026 at AMVETS Post 38, Falling Waters, WV. I am awaiting confirmation from the WV Department Commander.

Programs

As District Commander, I have attended several statewide Veteran, military and legislative events to discuss a wide variety of relevant matters.

Legislative

Attended Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Day on the Hill in Richmond, VA where I led a team comprised of 8 Veterans and Sons from AMVETS, VFW, American Legion and DAV. We briefed 3 State Senators and 10 Delegates on approved JLC legislative objectives.

Service

I served as a staff support of the Inauguration of Virginia's first female Governor, Abigail Spanberger.

Report of David Haines, NEC Department of Delaware

National District II

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

Membership

Renewal is about 90 %

Programs

5 posts have reported for the period 3 posts in the Department are involved in legislative efforts in Dover. Delaware toys for tots and ROTC programs across the State. **Food drives are a regular part of our programs.** There are two student ROTC Cadets who have be attend Freedom foundation in Valley Forge, Pa on Am vet Scholarship's. The Department has awarded Two ROTC scholarships of \$ 5000.00.

Post #2, participates in Scholarship's and ROTC Scholarships, along with major donations to the men's "Home of the Brave for Veterans" and the new "Women Home of the BRAVE" for women Veterans" in Milford Delaware and Milford's Veterans Home. Set up flu shots for members and family. Made donations of over **\$200, 000.00** for the year. to charitable causes in addition to Two \$5000.00-dollar Scholarships for ROTC Graduate's during the period. Post 2 also participated in wreaths across America. they also held their annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Post 2 also has built numerous handicap ramps for veterans in need. ony Post 2 also has the **2nd Largest** Ladies Aux post in the country with membership Just over 650 members. The Son's membership is over 500

Post #5: post has assisted post # 2 at its various functions and is picking up momentum,

Post #1694: They are doing numerous fund raisers and are planning a "White Clover drive at various business locations in Seaford Delaware.

Post #22: Membership levels remain constant. Together with the subordinates, we have donated approximately \$85,000 to local and national charities in 2025. Participation continues to grow in our community charitable endeavors. Social quarter attendance continues to improve. The post is making significant

capital improvements to our building to further improve the guest experience. Membership drive is enhanced by advertising and local businesse

Post #8323 Is active in community, and had a number of fund-raising drives including assisting of building ramps for Veterans

Service

Department also participated in legislative proposals which consisted of over \$110,000.00 going to the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund to help assist Veterans and their Spouses These funds comes from our Video lottery machines. The Department also assisted a number of Vets through the Department of Veterans Affairs The Department has also awarded numerous ROTC Award's and Schorships throughout the state.

Legislative Issues

The Department and posts are active in legislation both at the State and National level. We coordinate 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. On March 26, 2025 a Veterans Rally was held at the State Capital in Dover Delaware to support two Legislative INITIATIVES one being House **Bill 1** which creates a new Cabinet Position under the Governor which will be the new position of Secretary Of Veterans Affairs, Tis was signed into law June 30, 2025 The other proposed Bill is HB 31 Which prevents 3rd parties from taking fees from Veterans when applying for Veterans benefits that they are entitled to. This was signed into law June 30,2025; the governor has appointed a new Secretary for Veterans Affairs to a cabinet Postilion the first time in Delaware history thanks to Amvets and other Veterans organizations.

We are currently lobbying for a bill that will allow veterans access to resources and benefits that they earned through their service. Specifically, the Thomas M. Conway Veterans Access to Resources in the Workplace Act would:

Report of David Haines, NEC Department of Delaware (*continued*)

National District II

- Require the Department of Labor and Department of Veteran Affairs to create a printable notice containing state and federal veterans' resources for employers to post in the workplace.
 - The notice would include information on the Veterans Crisis Line, information on how to apply for VA benefits, and state benefits available to veterans.
- Require both government and non-government employers with over 50 employees to post this information prominently in the workplace.

“My fellow veterans signed a blank check to this country, and in return, our government makes a sacred promise to deliver the care of benefits that they've earned,” said Congressman Deluzio. “I'm proud to join with my colleagues and so many today to introduce the Thomas M. Conway Veterans Access to Resources in the Workplace Act- an important step to help bring informative resources about veterans' rights and benefits in the workplace.” There are currently 12 states who have similar laws, That's why it is important to pass it at the National level the bill has bipartisan support.

Commander, this concludes my report and I move for adoption

Respectfully submitted,

David Haines
NEC
AMVETS Department of Delaware

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

National District II

Membership

Members of the AMVETS Department of DC actively participate in events throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to recruit new AMVETS members. Post Commanders and Vice Commanders are performing admirably in managing membership renewals, which currently exceed %80. Additionally, the number of new members has surpassed last year's total.

Upcoming Events

Department members will attend the Spring NEC Meeting in Washington, PA on 7 March 2026, District II meeting (TBD), Falling Waters WV, and the District of Columbia Department Convention, June 20, 2026-Patton Hall Fort Myers, VA., Commander Clyde E. Pike will hold an AMVETS Post Members meeting for the Department of DC on 21 March 2026 in Clinton, Maryland. Commander Michael Eason will host a meeting for AMVETS Johnnie Collins, Jr. Post 0008 Members on 8 March 2026 in Clinton, Maryland.

Programs

The Department has 100% Program participants.

Post 12 secured food gift certificate donations from Harris Teeters, Inc. and is now working to expand the program by engaging other food chains across the Department. A food bank collection center, managed by Post 12, supports DC residents, veterans, and people experiencing homelessness in the DC and DMV areas. The following data represents the work of the Department: Total number of Programs=47, Total number of Volunteer Hours=4,404, Total Cost of Programs=\$125,830.26. Second Vice Commander Angela McKnight, VAVS Representative for the AMVETS Department of DC, volunteers on a weekly basis at the DC Veteran Medical Center.

Service

The Department donated money and purchased winter coats, hats, and gloves for the Winterhaven Homeless Veterans stand down event. The event was held at the Washington, DC VA Medical Center on 1 November 2025.

Post members and Department Women's Auxiliary assisting veterans and their families selecting winter gear and winter coats, providing VA claims information and assistance and providing homeless veterans and their family members with groceries, toiletries, and clothing.

Legislative

Members of Johnnie Collins, Jr. AMVETS Post 0008 will be attending Annual Operations Annapolis in Annapolis, MD on 3 February 2026. Members from Johnnie Collins, Jr. AMVETS Post 0008 attending the Women Veterans Rock legislative leadership sessions that were held on 7 November 2025 at the Washington, DC. National Guard Memorial Museum.

Other

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

Report of Andre R. Martel, NEC Department of Maryland

National District II

Membership

With a few Posts working very hard, we, as a Department, are quickly nearing the 100% membership mark already. Hoping to continue gaining momentum and log this as a very positive membership year.

Upcoming Events

The Department's PNC A. Leo Anderson Memorial Free State Award of Excellence honors one individual annually throughout the State of Maryland who has significantly contributed to the health, welfare, morale or well-being of veterans across the State. Passed award winners have included Governors, legislators, volunteers, Veterans assistants, etc. The 2026 selectee is Dr. James A. Dula, the Veterans Affairs Officer and Military Veterans Liaison to the County Executive of Prince George's County. Award banquet will be held on April 18, 2026 at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, MD. The Department of Maryland's annual family picnic will be held on May 17, 2026 at the AMVETS Farm in Frederick, MD and will include fun-food-games-music for all. The picnic is free to all AMVETS members – veterans, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders and their families. Our Department Convention will be held at Event Complex in Thurmont, MD on June 6, 2026.

Programs

We continue to have a challenge in getting Posts to report in the online reporting system. For the period ending in December 2025, only two Posts are shown as reporting, while we fully understand that many of the Post activities should be incorporated here. Will continue to work this problem at Post levels in the coming months.

Legislative

Our legislative session began in January and will continue through April with several veteran-related bills already under consideration. AMVETS led the way in planning for our "Legislative Day" in Annapolis on behalf of the Maryland Joint Veterans Committee. The event is designed to ensure our legislators are aware of the veterans' needs across the State and across VSOs so that we can speak with one voice.

Service

Service Officers for locations in and around the Baltimore area are becoming more and more scarce. We may need to develop some sort of incentive to entice personnel to volunteer. Members continue to participate independently and with Posts, helping veterans get to appointments, visiting patients in hospitals and rehabilitation centers, and nursing homes in other areas of the State.

Report of Mark Beaver, NEC Department of North Carolina

National District II

Membership

Our Department and Post membership is trending upward. Several Post have held raffles to pay for a lifetime membership for a veteran in need.

Upcoming Events

Our spring DEC meeting will be held at the Hampton Inn, Kinston North Carolina, April 17th thru the 19th 2026. We have one riders group from our Department will be feeding Veterans at the Salisbury, North Carolina State Veteran Home in March.

Programs

Our Americanism packets are being placed in our local grade schools along with our high schools. We have one of our Post that is working with a Boy Scout for him to earn his eagle scout. This will be a flag poles uprising. Each branch of Service will be represented. JROTC awards will begin shortly.

Legislative

We are attending the North Carolina Veteran Council. We have several Senators from North Carolina that is lobbying for our Veterans Benefits

Service

VAVS reports from our VA hospitals is slow at the present time. Will have more to report on as soon as possible.

Other

Commander, this concludes my report and i move for adoption. Respectfully submitted Mark Beaver NES
Department of Notyh

Report of PDC Paul W. Foresman, Alt NEC Department of Pennsylvania

National District II

Membership

We are currently working with our Posts on promoting more open-house event at Posts with Canteens, and all Posts doing activities to utilize all social and public media to provide further awareness of our organization to hopefully increase support and involvement to increase membership.

Upcoming Events

March 13-15 Spring SEC Sheraton Hershey September
11-13 Fall SEC Sheraton Hershey June 24-28 State
Convention Crowne Plaza Pittsburgh

Programs

our Posts are currently entering programs for this half of the year. We have participated in Wreaths across America, Military Funeral Honors and Honoring our Veterans currently deployed.

Legislative

Issues actively pursued: Increase the Blind/Amputee/Paralyzed Veteran pension Protect veterans against claims sharks using state legislations Make veterans justice fairer Bring attention to our needs in homeless prevention Fix Act66 of 2007 contracting cycle Expedite survivor benefit processing Increase veterans transportation network funding Expand the disabled veterans real estate tax exemption

Report of Perry C. Taylor Jr., Alt NEC Department of Virginia

National District II

To: National Commander, District II Commander, Department Commander, and fellow AMVETS.

Membership

Our mission is to increase our membership throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The posts are strategically reviewing their post roster of members. The post will look at the Member-At-Large (MAL) list to recruit the new transfers to join the post closest to them. The post will be planning membership drives to reach their goals for membership.

Programs

Our Department received the JROTC medals that were ordered. The certificates and medals will be forwarded to the posts. We are encouraging the post to support the Americanism Program and submit the Essay Winners to National. The Department is at 100% of our post reporting on their programs.

Service

Our posts participate in the Remember Everyone Deployed (R.E.D.) Shirt Friday events to show support for our service members currently deployed overseas, as well as Veterans.

Our Department Commander Bart Edwards has received his volunteer badge at the Salem VAMC. He gave out AMVETS coins to staff and patients at the Salem VAMC. Post 40 supports the paint night for the in-patient veterans of the CLC Ward at the Salem VAMC.

Legislative

Our Department 3rd Vice represents us on the Commonwealth of Virginia – Joint Leadership Council. Here are a few of Virginia's legislative bills:

House of Representatives:

H.R. 2102/S. 1032 – Major Richard Star Act

Virginia General Assembly:

HB529 – 2026 Virginia Suicide Prevention Program

JLC Initiative 2026-01 Secure the Virginia Military

Survivors and Dependents Education Program.

JLC Initiative 2026-02 Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans

Upcoming Events

- District II Meeting – April 11, 2026, West Virginia
- Spring DEC – April 10-11, Winchester, VA (Post #18)
- State DEC Convention – June 12-13, 2026, Harrisonburg VA (Post #7)

Other

The Department Commander is working on current issues to bring our Department back to the highest standards.

Report of Patricia Kishman, NEC Department of West Virginia

National District II

WV Meetings

The department meetings for WV were well attended this past year.

Post 38 will host the District Meeting on March 1st.

The Department of WV will be confirming the State Convention place and date during the spring meeting.

Membership

The posts have all done well considering the extreme weather and other issues like the one that is still looking for a regular meeting place. There are some really fun events that help boost recruitment and retain members such as the Christmas events, parades etc for Post 17 and Post 38 has been real busy with a meat Bingo and Fish Fry that boost membership.

Department Growth

We are working to get support for new posts but also want to help those without a meeting place to find a home, maybe co-locate with a restaurant or pub. I am still hoping for an update on the possibility of those homeless posts meeting at the Army Reserve or National Guard Armories.

Programs

I attended the Programs training at the National Conference. They suggested an email address be created that can be passed on to the next 2nd Vice or person doing the reporting. I created an email address for Dept of WV but am still waiting on log on approval from National. That email address is WV2ndVice@gmail.com.

One of the issues with the current legislative state of affairs is that although the AMVETS is a non-profit organization, donations to us are not directly tax exempt as with the VFW. The donations to the AMVETS if handled correctly can still be deducted as a marketing expense for the organization but that is not fair to the AMVETS that so much more time, effort and expense must be utilized to support the sponsor. The AMVETS organization needs to work to get this restriction changed!

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 donate funds, drive veterans to appointments as required, visit the VA hospital and nursing homes and the Vet centers. 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. Post 17 hosts an Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas in July, the Memorial Day Parade & the WV Kids day in the park. Posts 30,38 & 40 are also very active with similar events. Post 30 also participated in the 167th Air Wing Winter Family Day which is fun and a great opportunity for recruiting. Post 30 participated in high school sports activities including sponsoring the Lacross team and advertising with the football program. Post 40 places flags on graves and hosts a Veteran's Assembly Day for Veterans & Memorial Days. Post 40 also partners with the Salvation Army to prepare and deliver Thanksgiving meals among many other activities such as a public breakfast that generally services between 90 and 140 people with a \$4 donation. These posts are doing great work, even the small posts make such a big difference in the communities. Please don't forget that.

Other

All of the WV Posts supported funeral/memorials/ farewells to see their full reporting, their contact info is below.

Dept of WV Contacts:

- **Dept CDR Todd Kingsbury:**
Toddkingsbury@hotmail.com
- **Post 17 Jesse Keller:** ravenwiz1621@gmail.com
- **Post 40 Mark Mayfield:**
markmayfield2307@gmail.com
- **Post 30 Keith Windsor:**
Keith.windsor1775@gmail.com
- **Post 38 Joe Hutton:** jfhutton1884@gmail.com or
Jerry White: jdwhite102807@gmail.com
- **Post 20 Connie Sears Goldsmith:**
csears5@gmail.com



National District III

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Report of Mark Frederick National District III Commander

National District III

Membership

Membership continues to be an emphasis for district III with a priority set for renewals. Retention continues to be an issue with the ageing of our membership. New membership numbers continue to increase but are struggling to outpace the number of non-renewals. The Dept. of Florida continues to lead the way nationally with 577 new members as of November. The Departments of Ga. has had an emphasis on new members also with great success.

Upcoming Events

The district III meeting was held on the 14th of February in Oak Ridge Tn. with Several National Officers present.

Programs

The Departments are currently in the process of collecting and grading the Americanism contest from the local Schools. We are looking forward to some National winners at Convention in Florida.

Legislative

The Departments are actively involved in visiting their respective State Legislatures and are continuing to push bills in support of veterans.

Report of Earnestine Doubek, NEC Department of Alabama

National District III

Membership

The Department of Alabama currently has six Post, **810 members**, including **725 Life members** and 85 Annual members. Membership programs remain ongoing and are focused on strengthening our collective voice on Capitol Hill.

Programs

From **July 1 through December 31, 2025**, Department programs generated a total value of **\$108,726.91**. These efforts included:

- **674 volunteers**
- **3,390.7 volunteer hours**
- **13,877 miles traveled**
- **\$1,260 in cash donations**
- **\$4,867.99 in activity costs**

These programs continue to demonstrate our commitment to veterans, their families, and communities across Alabama.

Highlighting Our Posts

Post 7 continues to bring awareness to veteran suicide by placing informational displays throughout the community. The Post is **100% compliant in logging volunteer hours**, assists in housing homeless veterans, and remains an active partner within the community.

Post 21 was instrumental in establishing the **Veterans Treatment Court in Limestone County**, which is now entering its second year of operation. Veterans continue to enter and successfully complete the program. Post 21 is also the proud sponsor of **Scouts of America Troop 7236** and hosts a **free veterans breakfast every second Saturday of the month**. In addition, the Post has partnered with other Veteran Service Organizations to make a meaningful impact throughout the county.

Post 23 publishes a **quarterly newsletter** to keep members informed about Post activities and community events. Members continue to volunteer at the **Veterans Memorial Scenic Overlook** throughout the year. During December, the Post distributed **comfort bags to veterans residing in local nursing homes**.

Post 1955 participated in the **first annual Wreaths Across America event in Hartselle, Alabama**, honoring more than **700 veterans**. Marine Corps veteran **Martha Schook** and Air Force veteran **Herbert Statham** laid memorial wreaths at the base of the memorial stone. For the third consecutive year, Post 1955 sponsored the **December birthday celebration at the Tut**

Fann Veterans State Nursing Home. The Post also sponsored **20 wreaths for the 2026 Wreaths Across America event** during the matching period.

Legislative

SB 149/Veterans Teaching Certificate: Allows veterans with at least 60 credit hours and a 2.5 GPA to obtain a temporary certificate to teach in Alabama schools without a four-year degree.

HB 487/ Educational Benefits extension: Expands eligibility for educational benefits to dependents of veterans who have minimum 50% disability rating and have been an Alabama residents for at least five years.

SB 224/Dependent Education Access: Lowers the minimum disability rating from 40% to 30% for veterans to qualify their spouses and children for state educational benefits.

Upcoming Events

- **Virtual SEC Meeting:** February 21, 2026
- **Post 21 Annual Horse and Mule Fun Day:** April 25, 2026
- **Annual JROTC Awards:** April–May 2026
- **Annual State Convention:** June 2026 (date and location TBD)

Report of PDC A.J. John, NEC Department of Florida

National District III

Membership

The Department of Florida's annual membership currently stands at 16,840 members, consisting of 5,378 annual members and 11,462 life members. The MAL total is 2,713 members. The current renewal rate is 68%. This figure would be higher if many members were not returning as new members rather than renewing their previous year's dues.

Since the October SEC, just over three months ago, 1,471 members have either renewed or joined, reflecting steady and consistent growth across the Department.

On a negative note, AMVETS Post 100's charter was revoked in December, which has had an adverse impact on the Department's overall score.

Programs

Program reporting for the Department of Florida in 2025 reached a total of \$14,054,734.51 across all program areas.

The Remembering Me program led all categories, accounting for 38.1% of total reporting, representing \$5,296,310.64 in documented activity. This was followed by Community Services, which comprised 22% of the department's reporting at \$3,085,860.03.

Notably, the Department of Florida achieved 100% program reporting compliance for the entire year.

Among all posts, AMVETS Post 2006 led the department with a remarkable \$3,349,000 in total program reporting for 2025.

Legislative

The legislative session has recently begun in the State of Florida. At this time, no legislative action has been taken to address the issues currently affecting Florida's veterans.

AMVETS Department of Florida will continue to closely monitor all pending legislation and remain actively engaged as these matters progress throughout the session.

Upcoming Events

The Department of Florida will host its State Convention June 18-21 2026, at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL.

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

Report of Brett N. Colbert, NEC

Department of Georgia

National District III

Membership

As of February 2026, Department 1st Vice Cmdr Wanda Allen reports having 1,849 total members of which 85% (1,595) are life members, and 15% (316) are annual members. We are still working to renew the membership of 112 members. Our annual renewal rate is currently at 74%. During the months of February and March, Posts will be scheduling and hosting membership drives across the state, as we thaw out from the ice and snow storms and enter Spring.

Each Post is committed to, and actively updating their membership rosters. Removal of duplicates and deceased members in the MAL roster has been a priority where we found well over 100 members that had never been deceased. We are still working through the MAL roster and expect to have it completely scrubbed by the end of the election year.

Upcoming Events

Tentative upcoming dates: Spring SEC April 11-12, 2025 Department Convention May 29-31, 2026 All will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Warner Robins, GA.

Programs

Department 2nd Vice Cmdr Roy Montgomery reports that 100% of Georgia's posts reported at least 1 program during the July-December 2025 reporting period. This marks the 3rd period in a row that all GA Posts have reported their programs. Since the January-June 2026 reporting period has started we already have 85% of our Posts reporting at least one Program (11/13 Posts).

Some of the events our Posts have either hosted or participated in since the last NEC report are as follows:

- Wreaths Across America - at least 6 Posts participated in this Program across the state of GA Christmas
- Baskets/Food Boxes/Toy Giveaways - nearly all Posts either sponsored families or children to ensure local communities and veterans were not unsupported through the Christmas season
- The GA Service Foundation and the Dept of GA will be sponsoring two (2) AMVETS members to

attend the National Legislative Week during March 3-6, 2026.

- Posts in the Atlanta and Valdosta area will be taking part in the VA's National Salute to Veterans week (February 9-14).

Legislative

Hats on the Hill - January 21, 2026, Cmdr Milton Allen rallied AMVETS members and anyone who supports veterans to take to the Georgia Capital. This inaugural event was a multi-VSO event in which legislative priorities for Georgia Veterans were brought to the attention of lawmakers as the Georgia legislative season got underway.

Service

Nothing to report.

Other

Nothing to report.

Report of Janice Shelton, NEC Department of South Carolina

National District III

Membership

South Carolina has 6 AMVETS Posts. The Department consists of 434 Annual Members and 1015 Life Members for a total membership of 1449.

Upcoming Events

Our District III meeting was held in Oak Ridge, TN February 13-14, 2026. Our next SEC will be at Post 33, Ridgeway, SC March 21-22, 2026 Our next Convention/ Elections will be held at Post 70, Port Royal, SC June 20-21, 2026

Programs

In the past 3 months our Department has conducted the following programs: Fundraising, Remembering Me, Americanism, Community Service, Supporting Veterans and Families and Suicide Awareness

Legislative

Our Department conducted the following Legislative Advocacy: S.2981 Veterans Prosthetic Advancement and Reform Act H.R. 2137/S. 1657 Review Every Veterans Claim Act of 2025

Service

Our Department conducted the following Service Related Activities: Coffee Mess at the Beaufort Naval Hospital, Red Shirt Friday participation and awareness, Adopt-A-Vet, Christmas Cards and Care Packages for Troops overseas, Toys for Tots, Wreaths Across America, support of Savannah Honor Flight, Participation at OPFOB for Suicide Awareness and Prevention and donations to Patriot Villas for homeless Veterans.

Other

Our Department has added one new Post (Post 22) since our last NEC. We strive to increase our membership through recruiting efforts. We are becoming more active in the community to gain awareness of the AMVETS organization and mission to help Veterans.

Report of Lee Ann Adams, NEC Department of Tennessee

National District III

Membership

The Department of Tennessee total membership stands at 2130, including:

- 1565 Life Members
- 44 new Annual Members
- 293 renewals
- 472 MAL
- We have had 8 MAL transfers into a post, and 6 members transfer post to post.
- We mourn the passing of 32 of our members including Clyde Luttrell, Commander of Amvets Post 2, and 21 members from the MAL (who have since been removed from the list). They will all be deeply missed.
- Although we have added 44 new members to our rosters, we have 202 less members today than we did last July, including 108 that expired 8-31-2024 and 212 that expired on 8-31-2025. We have reached out to encourage these non-renewed members to become active again. Have they not renewed due to financial issues; change in housing location; health issues; disinterest; or not feeling welcome and involved in the organization. These theories, and more, need to be investigated to prevent losing more members and to keep our posts thriving.

Programs

Americanism – Information and requirements for entry to the 2026 Americanism Contest were sent to all posts, then sent to schools in the counties with an AMVET Post as well as to surrounding counties for distribution to the children. Contest entries were due on Jan 15 for grading at the post level. The winning post level entries will be sent to, and graded at the department level, at the SEC in February.

Our 2nd Vice is working on a standardized grading system for the contest entries for fairness and equality. It will be introduced at our February SEC.

Pocket Constitutions - Our 2nd Vice has been in contact with the 917 Society and is ordering 42, 000 Pocket Constitutions to be distributed to the 8th grade students in TN.

Reporting Hours – We are proud to have 100% of our posts reporting programs.

- Total cost of programs value - \$5,291,997.74
- Cost of total hours - \$4,949,660.81
- Cost of mileage - \$172,417.98
- Cash Donation - \$77,496.61
- Activity cost - \$92,422.34

ROTC/JROTC

All TN schools with JROTC/ROTC programs have been contacted. 200 American Flags, JROTC/ROTC medals and certificates have been ordered, to be delivered to the schools in time for their spring ceremonies.

Legislative

23 veteran related bills have been/or are up for vote in the TN 114th General Assembly, including veteran assistance programs, tax reimbursements, state park discounts, improved career pathways for veterans and their families, and more.

TNVET, a nonpartisan veteran organization that is made up of 12 separate service organizations and 50,000 members, work with state legislators to develop and support legislation addressing the needs of those who served or are serving in the US military. Recent efforts have been committed to, and successful, in securing sponsors for a new bill to raise funds for our veterans. SJR0614 'Develop lottery games that will be used exclusively to fund veterans' services', was introduced and PASSED on first consideration 1/22/2026.

Tennessee Veterans Day on Hill, in Nashville, was cancelled due to inclement weather. Without this annual event, the opportunity for TN veterans to engage with their representatives and senators on veteran related issues was dissolved. The support of all TN veterans will be needed to get legislative bills passed. It is time to contact your representative or congressman and express your support for veteran-related bills.

Service

- The TN Veteran Relief Fund (funded by the annual golf tournament) has dispersed four grants, totaling \$1,350.52, to TN veterans, or any veteran

Report of Lee Ann Adams, NEC Department of Tennessee (*continued*)

National District III

passing through TN, shown to be in an emergency situation.

- The TN Scholarship Program application window opened January 15 and closes March 15, 2026.
- ‘Team Tennessee’ completed four work projects since July 2025. Over 50 members and 5 posts participated to help our veterans in need.

Upcoming Events

- February 14, National District III Meeting, AMVETS Post 2, Oak Ridge TN.
- March 20-21, TN SEC, Cookeville, TN
- June 3-6, AMVETS Department of TN Annual Convention, Gatlinburg, TN.

Other

To improve communication and continuity within the Department of TN:

- SOPs, duties, and responsibilities are being developed for all elected and appointed TN officers and committees.
- Bi-monthly department ‘Staff Meetings’ are being held. Utilizing modern technology, our 1st ‘Zoom’ Staff Meeting was held in November saving expense, time and travel.
- Department fundraisers are being reviewed



National District IV

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Report of Sara Pierce National District IV Commander

National District IV

Membership

Membership seems to be the same all across the District, down a little than previous years. We are working on ways to retain our current annual members and gain new members. There has been lots of discussion of remembering that we are a family oriented organization and trying to recruit that way.

Upcoming Events

The next National IV District Meeting will be held February 28th, 2026 at Owensboro Post 75 in Kentucky starting at 10:00am.

Programs

Report, report, report! If you are unsure of a program is reportable or not, add it in and they will let you know if it is not reportable.

Legislative

LAW Week is quickly approaching. Each Department within the District is starting up to date with their state legislation.

Other

I attended Kentucky's SEC in January. One idea that stick with me was having all post Commanders attend or is they are unable to, they must submit their post minutes to the SEC. I will be attending Michigan's SEC on February 21st. I will be visiting Missouri in April and Illinois in June. Trying to get dates for the rest of the Districts SEC or Convention.

Report of Richard Shea Jr., NEC Department of Illinois

National District IV

Membership

AMVETS Department of IL membership was at 6,025 for 2024-25, we currently have 46 Posts active. Some of our posts are still having issues with the new program and we are working with them to help train them. At our Fall SEC we have a training session that all posts are encouraged to participate in. We offer online capabilities to join and we are constantly trying to improve our resources and our coverage to remain at the forefront of IL VSO's.

Upcoming Events

The Dept of IL held its Spring SEC in early Feb via zoom, we seem to get a better turnout for this than in person meetings in Feb due to our weather not being always favorable, and it has saved our Dept some money that we're able to use elsewhere. Our Dept Convention will be in Springfield IL at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel June 5-7.

Programs

We at IL AMVETS are proud to report that we again achieved 100% in reporting for this last year. This has been an ongoing tradition for us for many decades, but like the membership program our members are having some difficulty using it. and just like we do with the membership program we have training available at our Fall SEC. We are diligently helping our members showcase what their do for their Veterans and their communities.

Our top two programs that we take great pride in is our "Operation Red Sleigh" where with donations from individuals, posts, and the IL Service Foundation. This year we helped 20 Veteran families with gifts and a Christmas dinner. It has been a great program for us every year and it just keeps growing. Second is our ROTC & JROTC program that has been very active for many decades, we give out over 300 medals annually to high school and college students throughout our state and overseas, this program is funded by the IL AMVETS Service Foundation and personnel donations, we will be handing these out in award presentations around the state in the coming months.

Legislative

The new 104th Illinois General Assembly is getting ready to start it's spring session. IL AMVETS is currently scheduled to have our Veteran's Lobby Day at the IL State Capital on 25 Feb combined with other VSO's from around our state, last year we met with over 40 representatives and Senators and were successful in getting several bills passed to support our Veterans. If you have any questions referring to any Veteran related IL legislation please email or call our ED Joe Bartly, joe@ilamvets.org or (217)528-4713

Service

AMVETS Dept of IL currently has 1 DVSO located in the Chicago area, unfortunately like National we had to temporally downsize our service officers due to financial reasons, but with fiscal restraint and responsible actions we are gaining ground and hope to add more in the near future.

Other

IL AMVETS purchased a for profit store in 2024, FLAG WORLD founded originally in 1979 by a local Springfield IL Veteran. Flag World is a great source for your Flag needs, we are online at flagworldcorp.com Any questions please contact our State Headquarters at (217)528-4713.

Report of Richard Caldwell, NEC Department of Indiana

National District IV

Membership

Many AMVETS Department of Indiana members attended our Indiana Legislative Day @ our State Capitol rotunda in Indianapolis. We had several booths set-up for distributing AMVETS literature on our membership and programs we sponsor.

Upcoming Events

Setting up booth @ INARNG Alumni Reunion on March 7, 2026. Our next SEC/Spring Conference is March 27-March 29, 2026. It is @ Sheraton Keystone @ the Crossing in Indianapolis, IN.

Programs

Our Post 99 operates the Veterans Coffee program at our Indianapolis Roudebush VA Medical Center providing free coffee for all veterans and family in hallways of the medical facility. Our department continues our donations and volunteer services for Indiana Special Olympics events across the state.

Legislative

Our Indiana State Legislators are in their second session of hearing bills to assist our veterans with added benefits still in the works. Our IN Senate has presented four bills that have been submitted but only one received a second reading and amended back to the IN House. The IN House has submitted fifteen bills where only three have been heard with either amendments or referred back to the senate for updates.

Service

Have revamped our Department Veteran Service Officers Contacts. Dane Ludvigson is our Program Director. His contact info is cell 260-402-7464 & email: Dane.ludvigsen@va.gov. Chris Snell is our Lead Departments Service Officer. His contact info is cell 317-385-3310 & Christopher.snell@va.gov. we have two other DSO's also: Tony Bennett in Indianapolis with his cell 317-385-3276 & email Tony.bennett@va.gov. the other is Dan Taylor in Marion with his cell 317-385-3332 & email is Daniel.taylor2@va.gov.

Other

The VA office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted a Healthcare Facility Inspection of Program System in Indianapolis. The evaluation focused on five key content domains:

- Culture
- Environmental care
- Patient safety
- Primary care
- Veteran - centered safety net.

The OIG issued two recommendations for improvement in two domains:

1. Environment of care * maintain clean environment of care and prevent repeat findings
2. Patient safety * review laboratory scheduling practice change and minimize effect on clinic efficiency.

Report of Deanna Maynard, NEC Department of Kentucky

National District IV

Membership

The Department of Kentucky has 15 Posts. We recently held our Mid-Winter SEC Conference in Louisville, KY and had a Modest Roll Call, 9 Posts attended with 44 people attending.

Upcoming events

- AMVETS Dept of Kentucky, Mid-Winter Conference 2026
- January 10, 2026, Post 61, Louisville, KY
- February 28, 2026 National 4th District meeting will be held Owensboro, ky, hosted by Post 75.
- April 11, 2026, Post 130 in Franklin, KY
- June 19-21, 2026 AMVETS Dept of Kentucky, Annual June Convention 2026
Holiday Inn Hurstbourne,
1325 S Hurstbourne PKWY,
Louisville, KY 40222

Programs

Reporting hours for Programs was at the top of the list.

Legislative

Discussions about upcoming LAW week and current veterans advocacies.

Service

We raised over \$300 for the Nursing Scholarship this quarter. We continue to assist Veterans. An additional building for homeless veterans is currently being built in West Kentucky. Homeless Veterans are filling these buildings fast. Central Kentucky homeless building is almost full.

Other

Several posts upgrading or buying property to benefit Veterans and homeless veterans. Our Department's building planning is with the Lawyers and we are waiting for paperwork to get done with Louisville Metro which can take a while. The paperwork process is very difficult.

Report of Mike Cook, NEC Department of Minnesota

National District IV

We just had our sec meeting and it was a great feeling knowing that all our members had to do is drive to their posts and gather around the computer to participate in the meeting using skype. It really saves the department a lot of money not having to right out mileage checks.

Membership

We are having a hard time requiting new members. Several posts go to reserve component's during their weekend drills with food and explain what the AMVETS is all about and ask them to join. A lot of the time the older reservist say that they belong to one or two veteran's organization's and wouldn't have time to be an active member in a second or third. The younger members that are married with children say that they don't have time with their young ones in after school activities.

The members that we do get are mostly single and some transfers from other states. The members that we do sign aren't keeping pace with the members we lose through attrition or retired members leaving the state for warmer weather.

I and the Department Commander are asking is body for any idea's in getting new members.

Programs

Three weeks before the meeting I sent out a list of all the programs the AMVETS had to offer. I sat down with our second vice and we went over all of them and at our sec meeting she stressed to all the posts that one program wasn't enough per reporting period. She said that each post should be able to do at least one program a month and that there six months in each reporting period. She also said that she would be willing to help any post who asked for it and guaranteed the commander that we would have a 100% for the second reporting period.

THIS CONCLUDES MY REPORT I MOVE FOR ITS
ACCEPTANCE

Report of Doug Johnson, NEC

Department of Missouri

National District IV

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

Membership

1. The Department of Missouri currently has 29 active posts. There are currently 2661 life members and 1213 annual members good through 8-31-2026. Total current membership is 3874.
2. The Commanders and 1st Vice Commanders of Membership at the Posts are encouraged to work on pursuing annual renewals for the year along with those that expired over the previous couple of membership years. There are 594 expired memberships...199 from 8-31-2024 and 395 from 8-31-2025. If all renewed their memberships, we would have a total of 4468. For a secondary project, the Commanders and 1st Vice Commanders of Membership plan to reach out to members who have been out for an extended period to encourage them to re-join the organization.
3. There are locations within the Department that are being evaluated and considered for new posts such as Cameron and Cole Camp.

Programs

1. Programs for the previous reporting period of July 1 – December 31, 2025, included 18 out of 30 posts (60%) reporting programs online. This included 631 events, 6003 volunteers who completed 53,561 hours, traveled 195,163 miles, and services valued \$1,764,585.33.
 - a. AMVETS reporting was from 11 of 30 posts (Posts 30, 48, 67, 78, 106, 114, 116, 117, 171, 184, & 188) included 242 events, 1089 volunteers who completed 15,006 hours, traveled 55,327 miles, and services valued \$495,817.24.
 - b. AMVETS Riders reporting was from 11 of 12 chapters (Chapters 1, 30, 42, 48, 55, 106, 113, 153, 178, 180, & 188) included 389 events, 4914 volunteers who completed 38,555 hours, traveled 139,836 miles, and services valued \$1,268,768.09.
2. Prior to the end of 2025, Missouri had 100% of all posts report programs online for 15 consecutive

years! Thanks to the hard work of Executive Directors Pat Scroggins (2010-2014) and Diana Johnson (2014-2025) for putting in the work to make that possible.

3. Programs for the current reporting period of January 1 – June 30, 2026, includes 10 out of 30 posts (33 %) reporting programs online. This includes 81 events, 542 volunteers who completed 5,308 hours, traveled 19,333 miles, and services valuing \$166,724.35.
 - a. AMVETS reporting was from 6 of 29 posts (Posts 42, 67, 116, 180, 184, & 188) included 46 events, 109 volunteers who completed 621 hours, traveled 4,534 miles, and services valued at \$20,153.22.
 - b. AMVETS Riders reporting was from 6 of 12 chapters (Chapters 42, 48, 55, 106, 113, & 188) included 35 events, 433 volunteers who completed 4,687 hours, traveled 14,799 miles, and services valued \$146,571.13.

Service

1. Department of Missouri has 4 Service Officers in the St. Louis area (St. Louis VA Medical Center - Jefferson Barracks, John Cochran VA Medical Center, and O'Fallon City Hall) to assist with Veterans and VA claims. James McKay is at John Cochran VA Medical Center on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Martin Payne covers Tuesdays and Thursdays at that location. Martin Payne is also at St. Louis VA Medical Center – Jefferson Barracks (JB) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Carolyn Truvillion covers Tuesdays and Thursdays at JB. William Sifford works 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at O'Fallon City Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Two service officers also volunteer at H.E.R.O.E.S. Care in High Ridge, MO. Carolyn Truvillion is there on Wednesdays and William Sifford is there on Thursdays.

The Department is currently seeking a replacement for the Service Officer lost in the Kansas City area along with filling positions in Columbia, Poplar

Report of Doug Johnson, NEC Department of Missouri (*continued*)

National District IV

Bluff, and the Springfield area. The long-term plan is to have a Service Officer in each of the 5 VA Hospitals in Missouri and in the VA Clinics.

2. We have 2 VAVS Reps and 1 Deputy VAVS Rep in 2 of our VA facilities with credentials good through 2026: Klint Oldham at St. Louis VA Medical Center – Jefferson Barracks with Deputy VAVS Rep J Scott Adams, James McKay at John Cochran VA Medical Center in St. Louis.
3. Ongoing projects throughout the Department continue to include military funerals, homeless Veterans, suicide prevention and awareness, supporting Veterans Hospitals and homes, and supporting JROTC and ROTC programs.

Upcoming Events

1. Our Department SECs and Conventions will be held at The Resort at Lake of the Ozarks, 3080 Bagnell Dam Boulevard, Lake Ozark, MO 65049 starting in 2025 through 2028.
2. SEC meeting dates are as follows:
 - a. 2025 – October 17-19.
 - b. 2026 – February 13-15, April 10-12, and October 2-4.
 - c. 2027 – February 12-14, April 16-18, and October 1-3.
 - d. 2028 – February 11-13, April 14-16, and October 6-8.
3. Our 81st Annual Dept. Convention (2026) will be held June 12-14, 2026.
4. Our 82nd Annual Dept. Convention (2027) will be held June 11-13, 2027.
5. Our 83rd Annual Dept. Convention (2028) will be held June 16-18, 2028.

Legislation

The below House and Senate bills and resolutions of interest to veterans in Missouri reflect those that have been filed for the 2nd Regular Session of the 103rd General Assembly. This list is not all-inclusive as there are several impacting Veterans. If they pass, the proposed effective date is 8/28/2026 unless otherwise noted.

***For a complete list of 2026 Missouri House Bills and

Resolutions, please follow the link below:

Missouri House of Representatives - Legislation:
<https://house.mo.gov/LegislationSP.aspx?year=2026&code=R>

***For a complete list of 2026 Missouri Senate Bills and Resolutions, please follow the link:

Bill List | Missouri Senate:
https://www.senate.mo.gov/26info/BTS_Web/BillList.aspx?SessionType=R

1. **House Bill (HB) 1869** – Sponsored by Lane Roberts (R – District 161).
Establishes a grant program to provide funds to repair and reset grave markers for deceased Veterans.
2. **House Bill (HB) 2074** – Sponsored by Brandon Phelps (R – District 054).
& **Senate Bill (SB) 1048** – Sponsored by Travis Fitzwater (R – District 10).
Creates the “Missouri Disabled Veterans’ Dependents Tuition Waiver” to provide college tuition waivers for the children, stepchildren, and spouses of certain Veterans.
3. **House Bill (HB) 2306** – Sponsored by Philip Oehlerking (R – District 100).
Authorizes the “Missouri Disabled Veterans’ Homestead Exemption” relating to a disabled Veteran residential real property assessed value exemption.
4. **House Bill (HB) 2588 & 2869** – Sponsored by Mike Jones (R – District 012).
& **Senate Bill (SB) 1535** – Sponsored by Jill Carter (R – District 32).
Establishes the “Missouri Disabled Veterans Homestead Tax Credit Act” authorizing counties to adopt a real property tax credit for certain disabled Veterans who own a homestead.
5. **House Bill (HB) 2619** – Sponsored by Jim Schulte (R – District 049).
Establishes a special license plate for Veterans of military operations in both Afghanistan and Iraq.
6. **House Bill (HB) 2672** – Sponsored by Mike Jones (R – District 012).
Establishes the “Missouri Disabled Veterans Personal

Report of Doug Johnson, NEC Department of Missouri (*continued*)

National District IV

Property Tax Credit Act”, authorizing counties to adopt a personal property tax credit for certain disabled veterans who own up to two motor vehicles.

7. **House Bill (HB) 2673** – Sponsored by Michael Johnson (D – District 023).

Creates provisions relating to wellness checks for at-risk veterans.

8. **House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 34** – Sponsored by Tony Harbison (R – District 144).

Urges Congress to support the Major Richard Star Act to allow all medically retired service members to receive full access to their retirement pay and benefits.

9. **House Joint Resolution (HJR) 105** – Sponsored by Matthew Overcast (R – District 155).

Proposes a constitutional amendment exempting from taxation certain real and personal property owned by former prisoners of war, veterans with a total service-connected disability, and Purple Heart recipients.

10. **House Joint Resolution (HJR) 113 & 144** – Sponsored by Mike Costlow (R – District 108) & Tricia Byrnes (R – District 063).

Proposes a constitutional amendment granting homestead and personal property tax exemptions to certain veterans proportional to the veteran’s disability rating.

11. **Senate Bill (SB) 1581** – Sponsored by Jason Bean (R – District 25).

Establishes the “Veterans Mental Health Initiative Act” relating to ibogaine treatment.

12. **Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 77 & 88 & 94** – Sponsored by Angela Mosley (D – District 13) & Jill Carter (R – District 32) & Brad Hudson (R – District 33).

Authorizes a property tax exemption for disabled veterans

Other

None currently.

Respectfully submitted on February 5, 2025.

Communications/PRO

Commander’s Project: Not identified at this time.

There are many projects, programs, and events being conducted at posts across the state. Please follow AMVETS Department of Missouri on Facebook along with individual AMVETS posts across the Department.

Report of Patrick Rowley, NEC Department of Ohio

National District IV

Membership

Ohio membership is still strong but it's showing signs of a little struggle. We have 545 membership then last year. Last year 27,295 This year 26,750 Some of the post have already raised their dues. To get ahead if they do pass it at National convention.

Upcoming Events

Our mid winter conference will be Feb 19-22. At the Marriott in Columbus. Our state convention will be June 11-14. Same hotel. The 4th. Dist will be at Owensboro Kentucky Feb 27 -March 1.

Programs

Programs Ohio was 100%for first half . We reported \$14,813,244.88 in all programs. Post 89 out of Columbus was the highest reporting Post at \$7,508,928.92 . And they were in between Post for a couple months. That amount is up there for one Post. Just shows the importance of reporting.

Legislative

Our legislatures of the year Sen Tom Pattgo Sen Patrick Brennan Sen. Mike Doviila Civil servant of the year Nancy Day Achayer

Service

I know every Post is out helping our Brother and sister veterans. They are visiting hospitals and doing great work in our community. Ohio is one of the few states that has all organizations of the Amvets family. Also our veterans crisis line. 1 is too many.

Other

Ohio Amvets is always try to do training at our conferences, and our Convention. We also give officer training once a year in July for the new officers and any Amvet that wants to attend. Without training and education we grow stagnant.

Report of Ralph Waring Beck, NEC Department of Wisconsin

National District IV

Membership

The Department of Wisconsin has 53 Posts with 2597 life members and 267 annual members for a total membership of 2864. Eleven Wisconsin Posts remain under suspension for failure to revalidate in the prescribed time period. Failure to comply with the requirements for revalidation prior to the Department Convention in June 2026 will result in their Charters being pulled. District Commanders have been charged with the responsibility of meeting with the Post Officers to assist in their revalidation.

If you visit AMVETS National's website and click on "Membership" and from the dropdown menu select "Resources & Forms" you come to a page with all National Forms. Under "Membership Forms" you can click on "12. Membership Application" which shows life memberships at \$500. However, that information needs to be updated as life memberships are now structured by age groups. Here is the current breakdown for life memberships:

- Individuals aged 55 and below: \$500
- Individuals aged 56 to 65: \$400
- Individuals aged 66 and over: \$300

Upcoming Events

I have made plans to attend the upcoming 4th National District meeting in Owensboro, Kentucky on February 28th and the NEC and ribbon cutting ceremony to be held at AMVETS National Headquarters, Washington, Pennsylvania on March 7th.

Our Department Commander, Ron Griffin, accompanied by our White Clover Princess and Department Auxiliary President, have made plans to attend Legislative Advocacy Week in Washington, D.C. and to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery during the first week of March.

The annual Department Dart-ball tournament is scheduled for March 14th & 15th. The next SEC will be held in conjunction with the Department Commander and Auxiliary President Testimonials on April 11th.

A tour of the Zablocki VA Medical Center is scheduled

for April 17th. The annual Department Bowling tournament is scheduled for April 25th.

Programs

Information has been provided to all Wisconsin Posts encouraging participation in the Americanism and AADAA contests. Changes were recently made to our White Clover Princess Handbook expanding eligibility in an effort to generate more applicants. A conversation was held with National Commander Shipley requesting that our White Clover Princess be given more opportunity to participate at National Conventions in hopes that more Departments will adopt this excellent program. Our current White Clover Princess, Noel Rataichek will provide an update on her progress in establishing a Junior AMVETS Program in Wisconsin at the Spring SEC.

Wisconsin's Hospital & Service Foundation is considering changes to our local Scholarship Program that will simplify the application process. The Department of Wisconsin continues to participate in the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program and many Posts provide Military Honors for deceased veterans.

Legislative

Wisconsin lawmakers are actively considering several bills aimed at improving the lives of veterans. Key proposals include: Senate Bill 411 Provides \$1.95 million for the Veterans Housing and Recovery Program. Passed Senate Committee; awaiting further action. Assembly Bill 428 Similar to SB 411, focuses on funding for veterans' housing and property tax credits. Introduced but not yet voted on. Senate Bill 664 Lowers the disability rating threshold for property tax credits from 100% to 70%. Recently introduced; awaiting scheduling. The Department of Wisconsin is closely monitoring the progression of these bills that will impact the veterans in our state and encouraging support from our legislators.

Service

The Hospital & Service Foundation maintains a Terminal Veterans Dream Fund intended to fulfill a wish of a terminally ill Wisconsin veteran who has been diagnosed with a limited life expectancy due to a service-

Report of Ralph Waring Beck, NEC Department of Wisconsin (*continued*)

National District IV

connected disability. Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) representatives serve to assist hospitalized veterans in hospital wards, nursing homes, end-of-life care programs, foster care, community-based volunteer programs, and veteran outreach centers at the following VA facilities in Wisconsin: Chippewa Falls, King, Tomah, Union Grove and Zablocki. A volunteer is currently needed for the Middleton VA. Our Department Chaplain is diligent in the responsibility to nurture the living, care for the hospitalized and dying, and honor AMVETS who have passed away by meeting spiritual needs, visits, and officiating at services when called upon to do so.

Other

Recent events include the annual Department Winter Dance and SEC meeting held December 5th & 6th and participation in Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies on December 7th.

Respectfully submitted February 4th, 2026,

Ralph Waring Beck, PDC,
NEC Department of Wisconsin



National District V

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Report of Brian Bartlett National District V Commander

National District V

Membership

Membership is ongoing for all of District V. We continue to try to find ways of getting members. ND has 95.58% of annual members paid.

Upcoming Events

ND SEC Feb 21, 2026, State Convention May 15-17, 2026.

Programs

Oklahoma Post 11 had Suicide Prevention Training Dec 5, 2025 and Jan 17, 2026. National Suicide Director, Kevin Matteson, attended Jan 5th for guidance and support for our Programs.

Service

ND is in the process of getting a Fisher House close to the Fargo VA. Land identified and in the process of being purchased. ND Local veterans are braving the cold on Friday and Saturday Feb 6-7, 2026 by sleeping outside for 48 hours to bring future warmth to veterans and their families raising money to support the Fisher House construction.

Report of Carol L. Tschampl-Diesing, NEC Department of Nebraska

National District V

Membership

Department of Nebraska's grant program, which pays for the first year for any new members, continues to be an excellent recruitment tool for gaining new members for Nebraska.

Upcoming Events

1. AMVETS members will be working a veterans resource fair at Offutt Air Base on February 12.
2. The next Department of Nebraska SEC meeting will be held February 21 at 9 AM in Lincoln.

Programs

1. During the month of December, representatives from AMVETS Nebraska handed out Christmas cards and gifts to every veteran in all the veterans homes and two veterans hospitals throughout the State of Nebraska.
2. AMVETS in Nebraska is currently accepting applications for the AMVETS Department of Nebraska scholarships.
3. Preparations are being made to hand out JROTC awards coming up this semester at various high schools and colleges throughout Nebraska.

Legislative

1. January 30th was Nebraska Legislative Day where AMVETS representatives were able to advocate for veterans in Nebraska before the State's politicians.
2. AMVETS representatives continue to work on the Nebraska women veterans license plate bill, which is still in committee and is being pushed forward to the senate floor for a final approval vote.

Service

1. In November, donations of various items were collected by AMVETS members for the local VA Caregiver Support Program as well as for veterans living in the Victory Apartments for Veterans in Omaha.
2. AMVETS in Nebraska is helping sponsor a women veterans retreat taking place at Camp Ashland, September 5 - 6.

Other

1. Past Department of Nebraska NEC Danny Petersen passed away December 2, 2025.
2. AMVETS representatives will attend the Nebraska Veterans Home Board meeting this February 6.
3. Representatives from AMVETS Department of Nebraska have been invited by Governor Pillen to attend a round table on February 11 to discuss issues for veterans in Nebraska.

Report of Murray Strom, NEC Department of North Dakota

National District V

Membership

State Adjutant is working on MAL members to join local or close post to get the member active. 1st Vices are working on getting all yearly members renewed.

Upcoming Events

North Dakota state SEC will be held on February 21, 2026 in Steele ND. State Convention will be held on May 15-17, 2026 in Fargo ND.

Programs

Americanism is in schools and are waiting for entries to be returned for judging. JROTC is also ongoing in Fargo ND area schools.

Service

Honor Guards and Color Guards are still doing their duty despite the cold weather conditions. Funeral coins are being handed out a long with ceremonial flags. ACOVA is working on grave markers medallions for members of the armed forces who are not recognized by regular channels.

Other

When the temperature dropped below zero, local VSOs in Fargo ND area drove around the neighborhoods checking for any homeless veterans, Upon finding three homeless veterans they arranged for housing for those cold nights and made arrangements to get them into permanent housing and work arrangements.

Report of Gayla Laufenberg, NEC Department of Oklahoma

National District V

Membership

Recruitment of new Members, Members/Veterans
Appreciation Events

Upcoming Events

Refresher Training for Suicide Prevention 01/17/2026

Programs

Americanism, Fundraising, Membership, Remember
Me, Suicide, Supporting Vets/Families, Comm Svc

Legislative

Promote local legislative relationship by invite to Post
Events, including Patriot Day & Opening Ceremony

Service

Suicide Awareness & Prevention Training, Hosted
County Veterans Day Parade

Other

Purchased new Post location/building, remodeled, and
now reside at the new Post in less than 1 year

Report of Curtis Thomas, NEC Department of Texas

National District V

Membership

We are still reaching out to our members to renew. Also, we had an information booth at the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl at Amon Carter Stadium in Ft Worth TX on December 2, 2025. We passed out information about Amvets, answered benefit questions and gave out the phone number of our veterans service officer, Clay Roundtree; sold 20 Red Shirt Friday t-shirts.

Upcoming Events

Our Spring SEC will be March 13-15, 2025 at the Hilton hotel in Waco, TX; we have discounted rooms at the Courtyards by Marriott hotel next to the Hilton hotel. Our state convention will be June 5-7, 2026 at Hilton hotel in Waco, TX.

Programs

During the holidays season we passed out Christmas baskets for needy families, gave 20 Walmart gift cards to junior enlisted Army Reserve members with families to help with their holidays, hosted children's Christmas parties and made several donations to other service organizations; Food Banks, churches, etc.

Legislative

With this being an election year, we have been watching national and state legislature pertaining to veterans and their families.

Service

We make donations to the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas and cook hamburgers/hot dogs with all the trimmings at least once a quarter.



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Report of Danelle Wyatt National District V Commander

National District VI

Membership

12260?

Upcoming Events

7 Feb 2026 Spring District meeting, funeral, and 80th Convention

Programs

JROTC/ROTC awards, essay contests,.

Legislative

Update after my meeting in person at Spring NEC

Service

Funeral for WA State Commander- Kelly Byers
11/23/45 - 1/29/26 USMC(retired) SERVICE DATE
STILL PENDING

Other

I will be on a cruise from 18 March to 3 April, Please
except my 1st Vice- Jeff Lukens as Acting District VI
commander

Report of Terri Good, NEC Department of Alaska

National District VI

Membership

COMBAT Vets hold their meetings at Post 2. Through this connection they are speaking with their members and they are encouraging them to join our AMVETS family. Posts continue to hold numerous open houses by sponsoring & hosting numerous dart & pool leagues and gaining new members as a result. Super Bowl is also turning into a great event to bring in new members not only for the general membership but also our Ladies Auxiliary and Son's.

Other posts are gaining new membership as a result of Free Veteran Lunches, Meat Raffles, talking with the Community and actively encouraging guests by explaining the benefits. Getting new membership by hosting/sponsoring - Pool, Shuffleboard and Dart teams.

The Dept. has had several members in the past few months pass. We are working to get younger vets and family members to join, that continues to be a challenge as there are very few members willing to get out to Vet, events.

Dept. 1st vice sent a letter to our Members At Large (MALs), (144) asking how we at the state level can support their involvement and trf. to a post. improve communication between our department, posts and the MALs.

Upcoming Events

Our Next SEC meeting will be on March 14th. Hosting an ASYMC Salute to the Military Event. Volunteering at Fur Roundy and Representing AMVETS. Super Bowls Parties and membership drives. Supporting Special Olympic events and representing AMVETS Family. Support and participate in April's AK Honor Flight. Will be working with the Navy League in Support of Navy Week

Programs

Gathering winter clothing for Vets, donations to VA for personal hygiene kits and backpacks. A few posts are coordinating with the ROTC, to assist with connecting cadets with older veterans, enlisting them to help

support upcoming events to assist with clearing snow for the rest of winter. Members are also volunteering for Clearing snow for Disabled and needy Vets, providing transportation, helping with housing and providing for their needs. Posts are continuing to provide cold weather gear, and essentials.

Post 2 ensures that at least 1 or 2 members to attend the Unaccompanied Solider Ceremonies. Red shirt Fridays is gaining traction inside and outside the AMVETS family.

At least 2 Posts are working with "Semper Fi & America's Fund Housing Insecurity Program" National sent out multiple reminders regarding programs input deadline of Dec 31st. Mike and Christy worked together to ensure reporting was input for all posts and Dept. We know that we are still not catching everything but at least we had 100% reporting

Legislative

Post 2 and Dept. members worked with and supported Veterans Commission and Mayors office regarding their sponsored events. Dept. Officers attended several working meetings with fellow veteran organizations and State Legislators to write and pass bill regarding electronic gaming - thus providing additions funds to put towards programs. It is now out of finance committee but we have a long way to go.

Other

Some folks who are supposed to have access to add programs are having trouble, and officers who should be able to access reports for their posts or departments can't get in. Dept. 1st Vice is very appreciative and gives thanks to Member Support for their assistance and quick responses.

All posts are experiencing facility issues such as burst pipe, boilers, celling issues. This is resulting in financial strains, and taking away from Donations. I am sure other depts. an posts are experiencing the same issue - Volunteers are hard to come by in every aspect. People are getting burnt out. Most members think our posts are just social Clubs.

Report of Bill Vanasdale, NEC Department of Arizona

National District VI

Membership

Arizona has a total of 9 posts with a total of 1541 members

Upcoming Events

The next SEC meeting will be held at post 19 in Fort Mohave March 21. The Department convention will be held MAY 30th location to be determined at the SEC meeting in March.

Programs

The last information I received was over \$8500 in value was the dollar amount from volunteer hours accumulated from hours and activities.

Legislative

None available

Service

No information

Other

We did loose a post, but gained a new post in Yuma Az. This location is much like Tucson with winter visitors being veterans.

Report of Derek Hendershot, NEC Department of California

National District VI

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events: WOMEN Veterans Committee Project The Womens Veterans Committee will be delivering gift bags, to all ambulatory women, both female Veterans and spouses of veterans, that currently reside in the 8 CalVet Veterans Homes, in California: Chula Vista Veterans Home West Los Angeles Veterans Home Ventura Veterans Home Lancaster Veterans Home Barstow Veterans Home Fresno Veterans Home Redding Veterans Home Yountville Veterans Home We had a budget of \$4,000.00 and we raised an additional \$10,000.00 from donations. We will have a completed report and photographs, for the 2026 Amvets National Convention, once we finish the project. Respectfully, Sandra L Durbin PDC Chair Women's Veterans Committee Amvets Department of California

Legislative

In 2025, AMVETS Legislative Committee supported and sponsored 30 Assembly Bills and Senate Bills. Ultimately, 15 of them passing which entailed military retirement rights, housing tax breaks, spousal support, dependent educational benefits and elderly financial assistance just to name a few. We plan to continue these efforts with the assistance of Reeb Government Relations. The highlights include the following:

- **AB 88 (Ta) / SB 67 (Seyarto):** These bills extend Cal Grant and Middle-Class Scholarship Program eligibility to the sons and daughters of active-duty service members stationed outside California. The new legislation ensures that students who meet academic and financial criteria may receive state aid, even if they graduate high school in another state, as long as their parent maintains California as their legal residence.
- **AB 571 (Quirk-Silva):** Exempts the construction of the Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) until 2030, clearing the way for Orange County's long-promised cemetery.
- **AB 587 (Davies):** Requires the Student Aid Commission to include at least one public member with expertise in accessing federal educational benefits for veterans.

- **AB 1412 (Gonzalez):** Streamlines the transfer process for students with special education plans (IEPs) in military families and clarifies residency rules.
- **AB 1508 (Committee on M&VA):** Extends the authorization for the Governor's Military Council to January 1, 2031, ensuring Sacramento maintains an organized base retention strategy.
- **AB 1509 (Committee on M&VA):** Establishes the California State Accrediting Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE) within CalVet, which should reduce delays and help protect veterans from predatory schools.
- **SB 54 (Urnberg):** Excludes veterans' disability-compensation payments from household income when determining eligibility for court-fee waivers, preventing disabled veterans from being denied access to the civil courts.
- **SB 132 (Budget Committee):** This budget trailer legislation excludes certain military retirement and annuity payments from state taxable income from 2025 to 2030. This complements earlier military pension tax relief.

We plan to have an exclusive AMVETS Day at Sacramento on April 29th, 2026th. Last year, we walked the halls with CSCVC- CA State Commanders Veterans Council and approximately 45 members attended. If we can get at least 25 members from AMVETS to attend, it would be a successful event. We currently have 21 sign ups and we are expecting more.

If you have not logged into amvetsca.org, please do so and check out the legislative slides located on the Membership column. The slides give a detailed explanation of what we do for Veterans and their families regarding Veteran advocacy. It also details the difference with AB and SBs. Once we begin sponsoring or supporting AB and SBs this year, we will post them to the website with a summary and a link for further information.

SB694 is still on the move. With the assistance of Assembly Member Schiavo and Senator Archuleta and the legislative advocates across CA, we can stop these

Report of Derek Hendershot, NEC Department of California (*continued*)

National District VI

claim sharks from taking advantage of our Veterans. Claiming veteran benefits is a free service and veterans should not be charged for these submissions. Claim sharks are not VA accredited and their advice can often be misleading or fraudulent.

Reeb Government Relations is introducing Bear Flag Veterans grassroots. An advocacy tool focused on streamlining submissions and making it easier for the user to find current and former AB and SBs. Due to the work put into the website and security controls, Reeb relations will have to begin charging a monthly fee to sustain these efforts.

Look out of Legislative Advocacy Week in DC sometime around March 2026. V/r, Mike Salenga, AMVETS Dept of CA 3rd Vice Cmdr

Other

ROTC/Youth Activities Report We have begun our support to help sponsor JROTC events including Air Rifle Matches, Drill competitions, and physical endurance challenge. We hope to continue our support in the upcoming months. Our support is not only vital to their programs, but a great way for us as AMVETS to put our name out to them and the communities they live in. I have begun preparing and mailing the AMVETS ROTC Award to the schools as they request. I expect several more requests in the next couple of months. We usually send out 200+ awards.

Thank you to the Post and their members that go out and present the awards on behalf of AMVETS. Once again, I remind you that the instructors are all retired military, and membership eligible. .

“One day at a time”

John Byrum PDC
Chairman ROTC/Youth Activities

Membership

The Department of Hawaii continues to face membership growth and retention challenges due to Hawaii's exceptionally high cost of living. Despite these external pressures, AMVETS Hawaii remains highly active and visible through consistent programming, advocacy, and community engagement. Ongoing outreach initiatives presented through AMVETS Hawaii's website and social media platforms have expanded public awareness of AMVETS programs and services, strengthening engagement with veterans, service members, families, and community partners.

Program Activities

The West Oahu Veterans Center (WOVC) remains the cornerstone of AMVETS Hawaii's program delivery and collaboration efforts. Throughout 2025, the WOVC served as a multi-use community hub for veterans, active-duty service members, government agencies, nonprofit partners, and civilian organizations.

During this reporting period, AMVETS Hawaii hosted over 100 veteran-focused and community events at no cost to veterans, active-duty military, VA programs, and Established Angels Mobility program in collecting and storing Health devices, Wheelchairs, walkers to be distributed to needy in Hawaii with MOU's to collaborate with outside agencies introducing them to AMVETS. Established a Emergency food collection and distribution program to react to any emergency in Hawaii. Established feed the homeless on Oahu the Eve of Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach and deliver food by vehicle for lunch.

Upcoming Events

- May 2026 Support Gold Star Mothers & Wives Rolling to Remember.
- October Klipper Fundraiser, Make-A-Wish Hawaii to send a child and Family to Disney World and community Vehicle Give-A-Way on the 2nd 2026.
- Ewa Battlefield Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony December, 2026, | TBA
- Heal the Healers – Wellness Initiative December, 2026 AMVETS Hawaii will host Heal the Healers, a wellness initiative designed to nurture and

support individuals who dedicate their careers to prevent harm and promoting health within our communities. This program will focus on military children and family service providers, recognizing their vital role in strengthening resilience and wellness among military families.

- Supporting Children's Educational Formal Anti-drug program.

Veteran & Community Events

- VA Annual Veterans Games – Koa Challenge 2025
- Suicide Prevention 5K Runs/Walks
- Military graduations and promotion ceremonies
- Youth and family sporting events
- Motorcycle and car shows
- Poker runs and bike blessings
- Holiday concerts, cultural celebrations, and community events

Health, Fitness & Wellness

- Big Tire Bootcamp inclusive and adaptive fitness sessions
- Adaptive sports clinics and competitions
- Wellness, resilience, and recovery-based programming

Training & Education

- CPR/AED & First Aid certification courses
- VA Home Loan and benefits education briefings
- STEM education workshops
- Volunteer and leadership training

Community Gatherings

- AMVETS post and department meetings
- Scout troop meetings
- Faith-based services
- Swearing-in and awards ceremonies
- Community town halls and partner meetings
- AMVETS Department Of Hawaii
P.O. BOX 2865, EWA BEACH, HAWAII 96706
<https://AMVETSHawaii.org>

AMVETS Hawaii Public Relations team continues to expand visibility through regular social media engagement, website program updates and event

promotion, and community storytelling and veteran service highlights. Digital platforms now serve as critical tools for outreach, appointment scheduling, event registration, and transparency.

Programs

- **AMVETS–VA Adaptive Sports & Fitness Program:** In 2025, AMVETS Hawaii continued implementation of its VA Adaptive Sports Grant, expanding inclusive, adaptive recreational opportunities across Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. Since October 1, 2025, and under the current VA grant cycle, the AMVETS–VA Adaptive Sports & Fitness Program has actively served over 800 active-duty service members and veterans to date, with continued participation growth projected through the remainder of the grant period. Grant-supported activities include:
 - Adaptive sports training and competitions
 - Inclusive fitness and mobility programming
 - Peer engagement and recovery-focused activities
 - Veteran outreach events hosted at the Ewa Beach location and partner venues Program participation metrics, milestones, and outcomes are continuously tracked and shared through AMVETS Hawaii’s website and social media platforms, ensuring transparency, compliance, and public accountability.
- **Suicide Prevention Program:** A year-round initiative aimed at reducing veteran suicide by connecting participants with mental health services, traumainformed care, peer-to-peer engagement, and community and clinical support resources. Suicide prevention remains embedded across AMVETS Hawaii events, adaptive sports programming, and wellness initiatives.
- **Adaptive Fitness Program:** This program encourages individuals of all abilities to thrive through physical fitness and wellness. Its mission is to promote physical readiness, mental resilience, long-term health habits, and strong community connection. The long-term goal remains to positively impact 10,000 lives through inclusive fitness programming.
- **University of Hawaii–West Oahu & AMVETS Hawaii STEM Program:** A year-round partnership empowering veterans through STEM education, applied workshops, and academic skill development to support career readiness and long-term success.
- **Hawaii Veterans Beekeeping Program:** A hands-on, on-the-job training program teaching veterans beekeeping and agricultural skills while supporting economic sustainability, post-trauma recovery, reintegration into civilian life, and environmental stewardship.
- **Warriors ’Ohana Gardens:** A therapeutic gardening initiative utilizing vertical Tower Garden systems to promote physical activity, mental wellness, stress reduction, and food sustainability.
- **POW/MIA Program:** AMVETS Hawaii members actively support the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) through repatriation missions, memorial services, and remembrance ceremonies.
- **Big Tire Boot Camp** is a fitness program that helps disabled Veterans develop skills to assist them maintaining mobility and quality of life.
- **Created Walking Club** in a safe gated environment Veterans, Seniors and entire Community which embodies inclusion of all levels of membership.
- **Weekly Tai Chi** fitness program that focuses on balance and fitness.
- **TAKE A DEEP BREATH!** Offered weekly health, focus, energy, mental clarity, manage stress & anxiety.
- **Community Game Day!** Something for everyone to visit AMVETS Department Headquarters.
- **Veterans Home Bingo** at both Veterans Homes annually with prizes and approved snacks.
- **Established Toys for Children** not reached by Toys for Tots via MOU with others in that collection and distribution reaches those in remote locations and poorest overlooked year after year.

Legislative

In Draft: Bill:

1. To support tax relief for 100% Disabled Veterans from Vehicles registration and road tax.
2. To Country to eliminate all taxes for aging members of the Hawaii Community over 67.

3. Involved in Emergency Housing Act to remove and place all Homeless Veterans from the Streets of Hawaii.
4. To establish a Clean Vehicle Rebate Program to provide rebates for the purchase or lease of certain new and used zero-emission vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Establishes the Clean Vehicle Special Fund.

AMVETS Hawaii continues active advocacy on issues impacting veterans and families, including cost-of-living relief for senior veterans, healthcare access and physician workforce shortages, women veterans' care, mental health and military sexual trauma, housing instability and homelessness, and toxic exposure legislation. Hawaii's ongoing physician shortage remains a significant concern affecting both veteran and civilian healthcare access statewide.

Service

- VA claims assistance
- Employment and job readiness support
- Military funeral honors
- Legal and VA benefits assistance
- Transportation services for elderly veterans
- Support for homeless veterans, including food, hygiene items, and clothing

Constant engagement: Change of Command Participation down to unit levels, Active-Duty Community Service projects involving the Active-Duty leadership to assign their members to assist Veterans with HELO PROGRAMS, moving veterans, visiting veterans in homes, signing and delivery of Christmas Cards to our care home including Nurse Staff.

Other

The AMVETS Department of Hawaii remains resolute in its mission to serve veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. Through strong partnerships, impactful programming, national recognition, and continued advocacy, AMVETS Hawaii continues to strengthen communities across the State of Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.

BRAVE Hawaii 2025 Award: In 2025, Commander Donovan A. Lazarus was honored as a recipient of the BRAVE Hawaii 2025 Award, recognizing exceptional leadership, service, and dedication to community empowerment, youth advocacy, and veteran support across the State of Hawaii.

VA Pacific Islands Recreation Award: The AMVETS Department of Hawaii was awarded the VA Pacific Islands Recreation Award in recognition of outstanding support and achievement during the 2025 Annual Veterans Competition (Koa Challenge). This award underscores AMVETS Hawaii's leadership in adaptive sports and veteran-centered recreational programming throughout the Pacific Islands region.

Report of Glenn Skinner, NEC Department of Washington

National District VI

Membership

We are half way through the 2025-2026 year. We our DEC is March 21, 2026 Current Life members 2044 Annual members 469 Total members 2513 New Members State wide we had 50. But we also lost so many of our aging Veteran members. Looking forward to finishing off the year strong.

Upcoming Events

Job Fair will be held February 26, 2026 in Tacoma, WA. Preparations are underway for Washington State Patriotic Day 2026 to include a Celebration of America 250 and we are hoping you will join us again this year. Just like last year the 2026 Program will be held at Pioneer Middle School, 1750 Bob's Hollow Lane, Dupont, WA 98327. The date and time: March 21, 2026 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

Programs

Our Department continues to lead by example, with the highest National reporting numbers in District VI.

Suicide Awareness: Our PTSD group continues to work diligently, to bring veteran suicide awareness to everyone. They passed out wrist bands, with the crisis line number, and will gladly go out to other organizations and talk about veteran suicide. The PTSD group meet every Tuesday of the month and are inviting veterans to be a part of this mission.

VAVS: We continue to support our veterans, both in the hospital, Old Soldiers Home and the Veterans homes throughout Washington. The needs of Women veterans, continue to be addressed daily, throughout our state. The hard work and determination of our department makes positive results visible in our communities.

ROTC group across the state works tirelessly, to keep our ROTC programs going. We have more events coming up in the next few months that we will also support. Our support is not only vital to the ROTC programs, but it also gives us a chance to get the AMVETS name out to them and their communities. Post 1111 is actively preparing to support the ROTC Awards Presentations for South-East WA and East-Central Idaho.

We have made a monetary donation to the Post Veterans Scholarship which is administered by the Walla Walla Community College Foundation. We have made a monetary donation to the local Scout Troop 305. The Department Staff has been very busy taking good care of our members and through involvement in our communities. We network with our communities' agencies, and businesses.

Communications/PRO

We continue to schedule as many meetings, via telephone conference. We send out constant emails concerning our members and our Posts. We have an on-line Newsletter, and are striving to get everyone on our email list, to save money.



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Report of Paul Shipley, National Commander

National Commander Shipley's report will be provided separately at the meeting with the latest information to include excerpts from his testimony before Congress, which takes place March 4.

Report of Mary Lanphere, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary National President

Greetings National Commander Shipley, Past National Commanders, National Officers, NEC's, members and guests.

Travel has been limited up to now, but where I have traveled to has been memorable experiences. Thank you for all the hospitality shown. I enjoy meeting and socializing with members and making new and lasting friendships.

At the time of you reading this, I hope our weather has calmed down. Thank you to those who, despite the cold, snow and ice, continue to help others in need. Before we know it, we will be complaining about the heat.

We will be meeting at our new headquarters in Washington PA, commonly called WashPa. I appreciate your patience as we transition to our new location. Any constructive input is welcomed. Remember, things happen and things may not be perfect, but working together as a family will make things easier for everyone. Special appreciation to our Headquarters staff, especially Carol and Sonja, and to Commander Shipley for his respect for our Auxiliary.

"Standing With Our Heroes" is my theme for this year. "Tunnel 2 Towers" my project. I chose this charity because of working with Veterans for so many years as a nurse. Many do not see or realize the effects of those returning home with a disability, or the effects of a family when their loved one does not return home due to death. I strongly encourage you to take the time to go to the "t2t.org" website to see the many programs that is offered.

One of the devastating problems in our society is Veteran homelessness. Our Veterans should never experience two things, homelessness, and hunger. T2T is working to eradicate this problem by building or beautifully refurbishing buildings for Veterans to live in across this nation. Besides stable housing, services are provided to find out what caused the person's homelessness. 0.93 cents of every dollar donated is used for the cause. Thank you to those who

have donated thus far. The more we give, the more of our heroes are helped.

Our Auxiliary motto, "We waited together, now let's work together." AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary does wonderful things for others as shown in our service reports. Let us take strength from that and remember during our meetings that working together towards a goal strengthens our auxiliary, not greed for power, or personality conflicts. Remember to conduct yourself as you would want your children to act and be an example for them and the community.

God Bless you all and thank you for your beautiful hearts helping others. I look forward to my future visits with you.

If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.

Mary A. Lanphere

National Auxiliary President

Report of Sandy Vorhies, National First Vice Commander

Commander Shipley and fellow American Veterans,

I want to first thank the Membership Team Katie Ford, Ashley Piper, Ben Moser, and Director Warren Cox for their dedication to our AMVETS Family and being available for our membership needs.

The membership department has been having quarterly zoom meetings with the departments and national district membership vice commanders. Through the quarterly meetings we want to set up a better connection between the national membership department and those responsible for membership. However, we must come together as a team for this to be effective and I do believe we are conducting this.

Let us remember that AMVETS posts are a local chapter or building that serves as the foundation for the AMVETS national organization, which supports veterans through social activities, community service, and advocacy. Posts provide members with a place to come together and access resources while also serving as a place for community functions.

We should also keep in mind our brothers and sisters currently living in prisons. AMVETS Posts found within prisons can generate beneficial results. For example, Post 42 – Marion, OH makes stuffed animals for the EMS, Police, and Agencies that may deal with children that have or are experiencing a tragic situation. They also provide the stuff animals to other areas of Ohio for use. These veterans also raise funds for a women battered shelter, and for a local high school to help with athletic fees. This is just an exceedingly small example of what this Post has and continues to do.

Since our Fall NEC in December, we have gained 1 new AMVETS Post – SC – 22. With SC-22 we have gained a total of 5 new AMVETS Posts since August 2025.

At our February 4th membership roundtable, we began discussing the importance of reviewing and understanding veterans' various discharges. We will be looking at this subject further soon.

A discussion on the discharges being kept was also held. Remember that the discharges should never be kept. Once the discharge is reviewed and approved or denied, the discharge needs to be given back to the veteran.

Please consider starting new posts in your department. You can find information on how to build a post in the Membership tab on the national website (amvets.org) you can always reach out to the Membership Team if you have any questions.

As a member of your National Leadership Team, I will serve you in the most honorable way.

With high regard,



Sandy Vorhies
National First Vice Commander
AMVETS (American Veterans)

Report of Chris Studebaker, National Second Vice Commander

Commander Shipley, National Officers, Members of the NEC, and AMVETS,

The programs department has been running at full steam since our last meeting. We have access to the Airtable now and Ben is able to add or remove users or edit posts program information. If your department leadership does not have access yet please get a hold of the programs department. The leadership that gets access to the Airtable is the Department Commander, Executive Director, and Department 2nd Vice Commander. If the posts want the information off the Airtable they need to get a hold of the departments leadership for that information.

Programs reporting numbers were low this last reporting period. We are not sure what is going on if people are having trouble getting online or was it something else. We need to make sure we are getting the word out to all posts that the only way to report programs is by doing it online. The programs department will not accept any forms sent in for us to report their posts programs. We received numerous forms this reporting period from posts. If your posts are having trouble reporting programs just get a hold of the programs department and we can set up a training seminar online. Just as a friendly reminder you only get seven days after the reporting period ends to get your programs entered. I want to thank everyone for all of their hard work getting your programs reported and helping the posts that are struggling to report. Just remember anyone in the post can report programs for the post not just the 2nd vice commander.

We have a new program sub category that was asked for. We added Flag Retirement Ceremony to the Americanism Category. So now when your post does a flag retirement ceremony we have a category to track it. We are also working with the program designer to get the Sad Sacks the same programs reporting access as the AMVETS and Riders. Hopefully this will already be done before you read this.

ROTC/JROTC season has started. We have been getting numerous requests for medals and certificates. We have

been sending those requests to the departments to full fill the requests. We have medals and certificates in stock for purchase. Contact the programs department with your requests. This is a great

program for posts to get involved with the ROTC/JROTC units in their communities.

The Americanism program is in full swing and I encourage everyone to talk to your high schools and get them involved in this program. The brochure and essay contest are online at the website under the programs tab and then Americanism. This program is open to all 9th,10th,11th, and 12th graders. The winner gets to go the Founding Forward in November. These essays get returned to the departments and are graded by either the department commander or the Americanism committee. The winners need to be returned to national before July 1st. Every department is allowed to send one winner from a generous donation from the National Service Foundation. Departments can send more kids if the department or posts want to sponsor that child. This is a great opportunity for these future leaders.

I want to thank everyone for their patience with the programs department as we are moving forward and getting things caught up and updated on the website. It's full steam ahead from here on out. I would like to see every post we have get programs reported this reporting period.

Yours in Service,

Chris Studebaker
National 2nd Vice Commander

Report of Joseph Chenelly, National Executive Director

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

It is a great honor to deliver this report to you today in the brand-new AMVETS Family National Headquarters in Washington, Pennsylvania.

As you hopefully see yourself, the building is officially open and fully operational. Every department has moved in, phones are ringing, and the American flag is flying high out front. Please accept my warm, personal welcome to each of you. I hope you explore the vast functional space and offices, and make this your home whenever you are in the area.

This was created for you, for our staff, and most importantly for the veterans we serve. I am extremely proud of the team that made this milestone happen and I know you will be equally impressed when you walk through the doors.

This past summer we launched two new Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs with grants from the U.S. Department of Labor — one in Phoenix, Arizona, and one in Salt Lake City, Utah. Both programs are already housing and placing veterans into permanent employment at a rate that exceeds our initial projections. These are the first two bricks in what we intend to become a national network of direct-service programs focused on the most vulnerable veterans in our communities.

At the same time, our staff has been hard at work developing an aggressive, comprehensive plan that will, by the end of 2026, finally eliminate the cash-flow struggles that have plagued this organization for decades. The plan is realistic, measurable, and aggressive. Once implemented it will not only stabilize our finances but will create significant new resources so we can dramatically expand the help we provide to veterans in dire need. Much more to come on that soon.

Thank you for the confidence you continue to place in me and the entire national staff. We are moving forward with energy, focus, and a deep sense of

purpose. Together we are building something that will serve veterans for generations to come.

Key dates for 2026:

- Rolling to Remember – Memorial Day Weekend – Washington, D.C.
- National Commander Paul Shipley’s Testimonial Dinner & Annual NHQ/NSF Budget Meetings – July 18 – Post 103, Hopwood, PA
- Pre-Convention NEC – August 19 – Rosen Center in Orlando, FL
- 80th AMVETS National Convention – August 19-22 – Rosen Center
- Post-Convention NEC – August 22 – Rosen Center
- Winter NEC Meeting – December 5 – Online

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

Report of Warren Cox, National Membership Director

National Membership/Programs Director

National Commander, National Officers, NEC Members, Executive Director, and AMVETS Family:

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your National Membership and Programs Director. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated leaders and members who remain committed to strengthening our organization and serving our nation's veterans.

Leadership Appreciation

Membership would first like to thank National Commander Shipley, Vice Commanders Sandy Vorhies and Chris Studebaker. The Commanders continue to dedicate countless hours toward improving our organization and ensuring the continued success of Membership and Programs. Their leadership, commitment, and proactive engagement are deeply appreciated.

National Headquarters Staff

We are proud to introduce and welcome our newest member to the team Shelly Hall who will serve as both Membership and Programs Specialist her family comes from a rich military background. The team members at Headquarters in Washington, PA are cohesive, motivated and stands ready to assist you with professionalism and excellence.

- **Katie Ford** – Team Lead and Membership/Programs Administrative Support
A proud Army spouse dedicated to serving veterans and her community.
Email: kford@amvets.org
- **Ben Moser** – Membership/Programs Associate
Army Ranger and Combat Veteran
Email: bmoser@amvets.org
- **Ashley Piper** – Membership/Programs Associate
Military Family Advocate
Email: apiper@amvets.org

Our Mission

Our mission remains unwavering: to provide quality service with excellence and professionalism, ensuring timely, accurate, and sound responses to all membership and program needs.

Membership Update

We are pleased to report a recent uptick in membership, with over **3,000 new joins so far this year and over 18,000 renewed**. We still have members needing to renew. Currently, **Life Membership accounts for approximately 83%**.

While Life Membership remains strong, our shared focus should be encouraging new members to enroll under **Annual Membership**. Annual enrollments generate consistent revenue streams that increase financial stability and sustainability for the organization.

Life Membership Reminder

When converting members from Annual to Life Membership, it is essential that Departments notify the Membership Team of the member's age. Life dues are billed according to age under the updated structure:

- 55 years of age and under – \$500.00
- 56 to 65 years of age – \$400.00
- 66 years of age and older – \$300.00

Life Membership applications are now available online.

Annual Membership Cards Initiative

We are excited to report that Annual Membership cards were preprinted and distributed at Convention for Department leaders to bring back to their Posts. This initiative has:

- Eliminated mailing delays
- Reduced costs associated with multiple mailings
- Improved member satisfaction

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We will continue this process moving forward. Replacement cards may be requested at membersupport@amvets.org.

Membership Initiatives

Recruit 5 Membership Drive

Members who recruit five new members will receive:

- A Gold Challenge Coin
- A Certificate of Recognition

Report of Warren Cox, National Membership Director (*continued*)

We encourage Departments and Posts to share recruiting initiatives and event photos for social media promotion at:

- membersupport@amvets.org
- media@amvets.org

Sharing successful strategies allows Departments to adopt ideas that strengthen struggling Posts nationwide.

Virtual Roundtables

Thank you to Department Leaders and Executive directors who participated in our virtual roundtables with National Vice Commanders Sandy Vorhies and Chris Studebaker. These meetings are designed to:

- Share ideas
- Address concerns
- Maintain consistent communication
- Strengthening coordination between National and Departments

Please watch for upcoming meeting notices, this meetings will be quarterly.

Dues Reminders

We ask all leaders to actively reach out to members who have not renewed. While renewal numbers are strong, we still have members who expired in 2025. Department and Post leaders should not wait—personal outreach remains critical. Additionally, by transitioning to a new vendor for dues reminders, we have reduced mailing costs by nearly 50%.

Updated Brochures and Applications

New brochures and applications have been released featuring:

- Updated imagery
- Recognition of current conflicts
- Highlighting our Proud Female Veterans

To request copies, email membersupport@amvets.org.

Programs Report

(Please see the full report from National 2nd Vice Commander Studebaker for additional details.)

Revalidations

Online revalidations have improved significantly; however, we continue to receive paper submissions. For the 2025–2026 year, we strongly encourage all Departments and Posts to complete revalidations online.

Benefits of online submission:

- Faster processing
- Immediate confirmation to submitter and National
- Reduced mailing costs
- Environmental savings

Compliance Reminder

All Posts must ensure that:

- IRS Form 990 filings are current
- Insurance documentation is up to date

Compliance is mandatory.

Recruiting Responsibility

Recruiting remains the responsibility of every AMVETS member. **Recruiting is AMVETS-wide responsibility.**

1st Vice Commanders at every level are responsible for recruiting, maintaining, and retaining members. This responsibility does not rest solely with National Headquarters. Post-level recruiting events should occur at least four times per year.

Hearts and Minds – RED Initiative

Departments and Posts are encouraged to send care packages and AMVETS literature to those deployed so that we remain the first Veterans Service Organization they remember upon returning home.

Hearts and Minds – RED – Don't just remember them. Support them.

Members-at-Large (MAL)

Departments should reach out to Members-at-Large within their zip codes and invite them to join active Posts. Many states have more MAL members than active Post members. Engaging these individuals presents a significant growth opportunity.

Report of Warren Cox, National Membership Director (*continued*)

Veteran-Owned Business Promotion

We will highlight member-owned veteran businesses on our website at no cost. Submit business details to membersupport@amvets.org for recognition and promotion.

Closing Remarks

The Team and I are honored to serve this organization and remain fully committed to our mission and to each of you. Together, we will continue strengthening AMVETS and maintaining our position as one of the leading Veterans Service Organizations in the country.

We stand firmly on our guiding principle: **Help One, Save One.**

God Bless America.
God Bless AMVETS.

ALWAYS RED

Warren & Staff

Report of Dana Bolton, National Service Director

Membership

Continue to send veteran's membership application once claim is completed.

Upcoming Events

Continue working with the Baltimore and Washington, DC regional offices outreach program.

Programs

N/A

Legislative

AMVETS National Commander Paul Shipley testified before the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee of the House VA Committee.

Service

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, the Veterans who were provided service by AMVETS were awarded \$2,456,542,310 in benefits, a marked increase from FY24. New claims awarded are at an all-time high, and despite significant reductions in VA staff, furloughs at the VA, and other obstacles which are slowing the speed at which VA processes and completes benefits claims, AMVETS was responsible for assisting thousands of veterans with their benefits in FY25, securing 1,826 benefits awarded, and more than 95,000 thousand more updated, maintained and supported. The quality of service is evidenced in the award amounts. Of note, our veterans' average monthly payments have grown by 6.6% (or on average ~\$133 more per month per veteran).

Other

We now have a Department Service Officer at National Headquarters in Washington, PA every other Tuesday each month.



National Executive Committee Fall Meeting Minutes

Held Online
Saturday, December 6, 2025

National Commander Paul Shipley: Good evening, AMVETS. Milton Allen, would you please do me the great honor of doing our invocation and benediction tonight?

Milton Allen: Father God, thank you for this day. Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to meet and to learn more about our AMVETS family and our organization. We ask that you bless each and every one that is here. Help us to have a productive and fruitful meeting. We ask that you bless us and continue to watch over this great organization, and help us to stay focused at all times. Be with each and every one of us and our families. These are many blessings we ask in your name. Amen.

Commander Shipley: Wrigley Jackson, would you mind leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Wrigley Jackson: Attention. I pledge allegiance to the flag...

Commander Shipley: Please take your seats.

Mr. Executive Director Chenelly, would you please do the roll call?

Chenelly: Yes, good evening, everyone. We will start again just with the NECs first time through, then we'll come back on alternates. We're gonna start with National District 1.

So National District 1 Commander, Les Baker?

Tom Davitt: Tom Davitt here, standing in for Commander Baker. He's unable to attend.

Chenelly: Thank you, Tom. You are seated as the District 1 Commander tonight.

Connecticut?

Dana Dillon: Present.

Chenelly: Thanks, Dana. Could you just say your name for the transcribing here?

Dana Dillon: Dana Dillon, NEC Connecticut.

Chenelly: Thank you.

Maine? ... NEC for Maine? James Laughlin?

Massachusetts?

Caroline Kenyon: Caroline Kenyon, NEC Massachusetts, here!

Chenelly: Thank you, Caroline.

New Jersey?

Fred Vineyard: Present.

Chenelly: New York? ... Anyone else from

District 1, NEC? I think that's everyone in District 1.

District 2, Delaware?

Dave Haynes: Present.

Chenelly: Perfect. Thanks, David.

District of Columbia?

Aaron Smith: Here.

Chenelly: Thank you, Aaron.

Maryland?

Andy Martell: Here.

Chenelly: Thanks, Andy.

North Carolina?

Andy Martell: Present. Thank you, Andy.

Chenelly: Pennsylvania? ... Not present.

West Virginia?

Kishman: NEC.

Chenelly: Thank you. Anyone else from District 2?

District 3, Commander Mark Frederick?

Mark Frederick: Here, Mark Frederick.

Chenelly: Florida?

AJ John: NEC.

Chenelly: Thanks, AJ.

Georgia?

Milton Allen: Brett Colbert, my NEC, is absent. I am present. I am the alternate, Milton Allen.

Chenelly: And you're also the department commander, correct, Milton? Okay, so you can seat yourself as the NEC. You won't have to answer when I call for alternates.

Louisiana?

Ernest Gobeck: Here. (This is Ernest Gobeck from Alabama.)

Chenelly: Thank you.

Tennessee?

Leanne Adams: Leanne Adams, Tennessee NEC.

Chenelly: Thanks, Leanne.

Arkansas? ... Okay. Anyone else from District 3?

Jana Shelton: Jana Shelton, NEC, South Carolina.

Chenelly: Thank you. That should wrap up District 3, correct?

Group: Yes.

Chenelly: District 4, National District 4 Commander Sarah Pierce?

Sarah Pierce: Sarah Pierce here.

Illinois: Richard Shea, N-E-C.

Iowa: Barry Remington, NEC.

Chenelly: Indiana?

Richard Caldwell: Richard Caldwell, NEC.

Chenelly: Thank you, Richard.

Kentucky?

Chenelly: Deanna, are you with us? ... Alright. Michigan?

Jean Hall: Jean Hall, NEC, here.

Chenelly: Thank you, Jean.

Missouri?

Doug Johnson: Doug Johnson, NEC here.

Ohio: Pat Raleigh here, NEC.

Wisconsin: Ralph Beck, NEC is present.

Chenelly: How about the great state of Minnesota? Not yet. Okay. Thank you.

District 5? Is our National District 5 commander here?

Brian Bartlett: Yes, here, Brian Bartlett.

Chenelly: Thank you, Brian.

Nebraska?

Nebraska NEC: Here.

North Dakota: Bartlett: Murray Strom is on, he's having audio difficulties, he's been texting me.

Chenelly: The record will show he is present.

Texas?

Curtis Thomas: Present, NEC.

Chenelly: Thank you. Anyone else from District 5 for NEC?

District 6 commander?

Danny Wyatt: Present, Danny Wyatt.

Chenelly: Thank you, Danny.

Alaska?

Wyatt: They're not available. They're at a funeral.

Chenelly: Okay.

Arizona?

Bill Osdale: Bill Osdale, Arizona, NEC.

Chenelly: Thank you, Bill.

California?

Chenelly: Washington State?

Glenn Skinner: Glenn Skinner, NEC.

Chenelly: Thank you, Glenn. Anyone else from District 6?

Donovan Lazarus: Donovan Lazarus, Hawaii Department commander. The NEC running is a little bit late. He'll be joining in a few.

Chenelly: Thank you, Donovan.

Alright, thank you. Now, if you're an alternate in any district I call, please just state your name and which state you're the alternate for.

District 1 alternates?

Marty Bujai: Marty Bujai, New York.

Chenelly: I've got Marty Bugai, New York.

Doug Newell: Doug Newell, alternate Connecticut.

Massachusetts alternate: Wayne Anthony.

Chenelly: Do we have an alternate for Maine? ... Anyone from Maine? ... Is Joe Ashman from New York on? No.

Marty, you're seated as the NEC for New York?

National District 2 alternates?

Barry Taylor: Barry Taylor, Virginia Alternate NEC.

Paul Horsman: Paul Horsman, Pennsylvania Alternate.

Chenelly: And Paul, you are to be seated as the

NEC for Pennsylvania tonight, correct?

Horsman: Correct.

Chenelly: Thank you.

Moving on to District 3 alternates?

Robert Lee: Robert Lee, Missouri.

Gary Williamson: Gary Williamson, alternate Louisiana.

Eddie Bullock: Eddie Bullock, Florida.

Mark McQueen: Mark McQueen, Arkansas.

Chenelly: Thank you, Mark. Mark, you are also the NEC tonight now, correct?

McQueen: Correct.

Chenelly: National District 4 Commander Sara Pierce?

Sara Pierce: Present.

Dennis Barrington: Dennis Barrington, Wisconsin.

Dean Frazier: Dean Frazier, Kentucky.

Chenelly: Thank you, Dean. ... Dean, your NEC's not there, correct? So you have a vote tonight.

Pierce: Yes, sir. Commander Trinidad just now got online from Minnesota.

Chenelly: Excellent. The record will show. And is he the NEC tonight as well?

Pierce: Yes, sir.

Chenelly: District 5 alternates? ... District 6 alternates?

Sandra Durbin: Sandra Durbin, Alternate California.

Donovan Lazarus: Donovan Lazarus, Hawaii, alternate.

Chenelly: Our national officers:

National Commander Paul Shipley?

Commander Shipley: I am here!

First Vice Commander Voorhees?

Sandy Voorhees: Here.

National Second Vice Commander Studebaker?

Christopher Studebaker: Here.

National Third Vice Commander Sheldon Hartsfield?

Commander Shipley: He's running late, he's excused until he's here.

National Judge Advocate Brown?

PNC Jan Brown: Here.

Deputy National Judge Advocate Ross Smith?

Ross Smith: Here.

National Finance Officer McFarland?

Kelly McFarland: Present.

Chenelly: National Provost Marshal Majors? <No answer>

Chenelly: National Chaplain Botkin?

Commander Shipley: He's excused, he's with the Wreaths Across America tour.

Chenelly: Thank you, Commander.

And our PNCs here:

PNC Joe Peining?

Peining: I'm here.

PNC Kilgore? Here.

PNC JP Brown? Here.

PNC Chapman? Here.

PNC Riley? Present.

PNC Jan Brown? Present.

PNC McLean? Present.

PNC Clark? Present.

Chenelly: Commander, you do have a quorum.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, sir.

Okay. The next item of business will be the adoption of the agenda. It is on page 3 of the NEC book that was sent out digitally and is online.

Can I have a motion to adopt the agenda?

Richard Shea: So moved, Richard Shea, Illinois.

Leanne Adams: Seconded, Leanne Adams, Tennessee.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion from Rich Shea, Illinois. A second from Adams from Tennessee?

Adams: Yes, sir.

Commander Shipley: Any questions on the agenda? All in favor of adoption of the agenda, state aye.

All: Aye.

Commander Shipley: All opposed, say nay.

(None.)

Commander Shipley: The agenda is adopted!

Next order of business: Approval of the previous two meetings' minutes. They are in the book from page 69 through page 148.

Do I have a motion to adopt?

Sandy Voorhees: Motion by Sandy Voorhees to adopt the previous minutes.

Caroline Kenyon: Second, Caroline Kenyon from Massachusetts.

Commander Shipley: Any questions on the minutes?

Dana Dillon: Yes, Dana, Connecticut NEC. There was not enough time to read the minutes from when they were sent out electronically until this meeting. So I don't know how anyone had a chance to read them all between then and now, so how can we officially accept them?

Someone: I have the time. I've read them when I got them this morning.

Dillon: Okay, that's fine then. Thank you.

Commander Shipley: Any other questions on the minutes? Hearing no further questions, all in favor of accepting the minutes? State aye.

All: Aye.

Commander Shipley: All opposed, state nay.

(Some nays.)

Commander Shipley: Minutes have been adopted.

Moving on to NEC reports.

Commander Shipley: District 1 stand-in commander Tom Davitt?

Tom Davitt: Yes, Commander. District 1, reporting for National Commander of District 1, Lester Baker.

Membership has been processed by all our departments within District 1. There have been quite a few membership drives initiated, and with some good success. I know, for

example, Massachusetts and Maine have been holding several outside membership drives and gathering new members to join the AMVETS family, so it's with positive results.

The next National District 1 meeting is scheduled in Three Rivers, Massachusetts, at Post 74 on Saturday, February 21st, 2026. The meeting will begin that afternoon at 2 p.m.

Under programs, the departments have implemented the Americanism program as well as some scouting efforts. There were several soapbox derby competitions reported by several departments and posts. Several of our posts sponsor Boy Scout troops as well as Cub Scout troops.

Things are moving pretty well. The department has been reporting programs through Airtable software. Some efforts are reaching out to all posts within District 1 to ensure accurate reporting.

Legislative-wise, each department has been busy with local legislators and the homeless veterans' interest for temporary and permanent housing is a huge initiative throughout the country. But I know in the New England states it is at the forefront of all the folks that support us and our efforts to house our homeless veterans. So this program is still going on and reaching some success.

Under services, with the government shutdown, the Veterans Day services that we usually hold—like in Massachusetts at Bourne National Cemetery—had to be relocated this year to Mass Maritime down on Buzzards Bay. They provided us space. All the allied organizations that support those efforts have been very pleased with the success of that program. They actually dedicated the first and only PTSD memorial at Bourne Cemetery. It's a beautiful creation. The artwork really speaks for itself. I will ensure that a photograph as well as the full description is passed on to the national organization.

Commander Baker was unable to attend, but I had a lengthy conversation with him the other day and we compared notes. I was pleased to see that the departments within District 1 have been responding collectively on a lot of our AMVETS issues.

That is the commander's report.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Tom. Department of Connecticut, NEC Dana Dillon.

Dana Dillon: My report is in the book. I would like to add on Rhode Island. Since my report went into the book, Post 33 has moved locations, they have closed their canteen, they will be selling their building. I will send the information of their new location and meetings.

Post 7 also has closed their canteen; they're just not making enough to make it work. They have two interested parties in selling their building and plan to still have meetings; location yet to be set. I will send that information as soon as I get it from them. I have asked for reports for both posts; I have not yet received them.

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

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Dana.

Davitt: The report from the NEC of Maine, James Laughlin, is on page 7. Their membership continues to be pretty active; all posts getting membership renewed. They are at 75% renewals right now. Upcoming events: the Department is holding a Pearl Harbor ceremony in Portland on December 7th, tomorrow. The Department of Maine also continues to work with posts on getting reports in through Airtable. The second vice is getting a good handle on the system. We consistently check on all the new veteran bills that concern our veteran community. The Department continues to work with the Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee to help all veterans in the state, closely with the State Department of Veterans Services and local VA hospitals.

The Department of Maine Convention is scheduled for June 5th through 7th, 2026, at the Senator Inn & Spa in Augusta, Maine.

At this time, I would move for the adoption of that report when the appropriate time is.

Commander Shipley: I would call on Caroline Kenyon, the NEC from Massachusetts.

Caroline Kenyon: Caroline Kenyon, NEC. My report is on pages 8 and 9. As of tomorrow, Post 74 will be doing a Pearl Harbor ceremony at the Common in Three Rivers at 2 o'clock, prior to the Commonwealth of Palmer having their fixed service. I found out that our state commander, Robert Russo, will be attending that service. Other than that, please accept my report as printed.

Commander Shipley: Very good. Thank you, Caroline. Very good report.

At this time, I would call upon Marty Bugai. I believe he's the NEC seated for the Department of New York.

Marty Bugai: Correct, Commander. The NEC report from New York is on page 11. At this time, I will move for its adoption at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: Alright, thank you very much, Marty.

Davitt: Commander, at this time, that concludes

the reports of AMVETS National District 1. And we move towards adoption. A motion to adopt the National District 1 reports?

Commander Shipley: Do I have a second?

Someone: Second.

Chenelly: Commander, I believe the Department of New Jersey is now on the Zoom.

Commander Shipley: Is Fred Vineyard present? Would you like to give a report for the Department of New Jersey, sir?

Fred Vineyard: Yes, I am. I would be honored to. We submitted it; it's in the digital book. Tomorrow, one of our posts will be doing a Pearl Harbor service at 1 o'clock in Somers Point. We have about 12 posts. I've been asking them to recruit new members and to keep reporting their programs. It's not easy; some of these posts' veterans get a little lazy, but I keep pushing them to submit their programs. And that's about it. At a later time, I ask to adopt the report that's in the digital book. Thank you.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Fred, for that report. We appreciate the information.

Doug Newell: Commander, can you hear me? Doug Newell. Dana emailed me; she had trouble with her computer, so she's not on the screen anymore.

Commander Shipley: Okay. At this time, I will accept Commander Davitt's motion to accept all the District 1 reports. Do I have a second for the District 1 reports?

PNC McLean: Second, McLean.

Commander Shipley: All in favor of the District 1 reports being accepted, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed: Nay.

(None audible.)

Commander Shipley: District 1 reports have been accepted.

National District 2, Commander Ralph Hensley?

Ralph Hensley: Yeah, this is Ralph Hensley. For the record, I'm on. I don't have a whole lot to report from the district level except I've been working with one of our state delegates to get the 501(c)(19) tax exemption written into Virginia law, which is something others may need to do for tax exemption at their state level. Virginia didn't codify it when the IRS changed it. So we're working through that. I did submit a report but didn't keep a copy. I'll leave that to

the online folks.

And with that, I'll move to Delaware for the NEC report.

Dave Haynes: This is Delaware Dave Haynes. Our report is on pages 13 and 14 in the book. I move for its adoption at the appropriate time. We're having some technical difficulties here, sorry about that.

Commander Shipley: No worries, thank you, David.

We'll move on to the District of Columbia NEC.

Aaron Smith: It's Aaron Smith, NEC for District of Columbia. My report is on page 15. I move for adoption at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Aaron.

We'll move on to Maryland.

Andy Martel: Hi, Andy Martel here. My report's in the book, but I'd like to highlight just a couple items. One is that AMVETS Maryland is hosting legislative day in Annapolis this year in February, and it's going to be a big deal with lots of legislators there. Secondly, our department DEC is tomorrow, December 7th, in Middletown, Maryland, and Commander, if you're free, you are more than welcome to join us.

Commander Shipley: I'll see what I can do about that, Andy.

Martel: Alright, thank you very much. That concludes my report, and I move it to be approved at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: Okay, thank you, Andy.

Moving on to North Carolina, NEC.

Mark Beaver: Yes, Commander Hensley, Mark Beaver. My report's on page 17 of the book. I ask for its adoption at the appropriate time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Mark.

Moving on to Pennsylvania, NEC.

Paul Horsman: Paul Horsman, alternate. Our report is on page 18, and I move for adoption at the appropriate time.

Kishman: At Kishman NEC West Virginia, our report is in the book on pages 19 and 20, and I move for its adoption.

Commander Shipley: Thank you.

And moving on to Virginia NEC.

Barry Taylor: Barry Taylor. I believe ours is in the book. I'm sorry, I just got in from the emergency room, forgive me, but I'm asking for the adoption of the report.

Someone: Hope all is okay.

Taylor: To amend my report before we adopt for Virginia, we did have a successful district meeting on October 25th at AMVETS Post 18 in Stevens City, Virginia, and all went well. At this time, I move for the adoption of the report for National District 2.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion for the National District 2 reports. Do I have a second?

Andy Martel: Second, Martel, Maryland.

Commander Shipley: Any questions on the District 2 reports? Hearing none, all in favor state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Commander Shipley: The ayes have it.

National District 3 Commander Mark Frederick.

Mark Frederick: Well, my report's on page 22. I move for its adoption at the proper time.

We'll now move to the NECs for District 3, starting with Alabama.

Ernest Gobeck: My report did not make the book, even though I turned it in. I'm going to give you a short summary. The Department of Alabama AMVETS continues to advance its mission of service, advocacy, and remembrance through active community engagement, legislative support, and unwavering dedication to veterans and their families. The period from July through October 25 reflects outstanding commitment from all posts, contributing over 900 volunteer hours and more than \$30,000 in community support. Our next DEC meeting will be February 21st and it will be online. That is my report, and I move for it to be adopted at the proper time. Also, it was sent in digitally and will be in the later part of the book.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Ernest.

Back to you, Mark.

Mark Frederick: Sorry, Commander. Next up will be Arkansas.

Mark McQueen: My name's Mark McQueen, NEC Arkansas. Report did not make it to the book. Arkansas is having problems getting

online in communication with National. With help from District Commander Mark Frederick, Arkansas is able to get online and see the programs now. Membership in Arkansas has been remaining kind of steady over the last few years. We have membership drives set up starting this spring into summer in the Little Rock area to try to grow membership there and hopefully start a post in the biggest city in Arkansas. Programs: Arkansas aims to be 100% reporting by the end of this reporting period. In closing from Arkansas, I'd just like to wish all my veterans out there a Merry Christmas. Arkansas moves for the report to be accepted at the proper time. I also want to note for the record that the Arkansas report has been submitted digitally and will be in the final rendition of the book.

Commander Shipley: Thank you. Now I move to Florida.

AJ John: Hey, good evening, everyone. AJ John, NEC from Florida. My report is on pages 23 and 24. I'd like to add that our DEC will be February 19th to the 22nd at the Rosen Center Hotel, 9840 International Drive here in Orlando. And at this time, I move for the adoption of my report at the appropriate time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, AJ.

We'll now move to Georgia.

Brett Colbert: Good evening, Commander. My report is on pages 25 through 26. I'd like to add one thing: This year, Ron Dillon, our ED, will be leaving the Department of Georgia going back to the Buckeye State. He's training a new Deputy ED, Ricardo Jacobs, and we're looking forward to good things this year. And I move for my report to be adopted at the appropriate time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you. We'll now go to Louisiana.

GaryStewart: Mary Stewart, Louisiana NEC. My report's on page 27. I move for adoption at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: Thanks, sir.

Now South Carolina?

Jana Shelton: Jana Shelton, NEC for South Carolina. I apologize, my report did not make the deadline, but I did submit it electronically today due to a communication error on our side. Membership for the Department of South Carolina: our department strives to increase membership. We are in the process of adding another post, Post 22 in Anderson, South Carolina. At present we have 735 annual members and 900 life members, for a total of 1,679. Our programs include fundraising, community service, remembering me, Red

Shirt Friday, Americanism, membership, supporting veteran families, military funeral honors, and JROTC. For service: Veterans Day parade and events, serving coffee to veterans at Naval Hospital Beaufort, currently supporting Red Shirt Friday, Toys for Tots, Wreaths Across America, and Adopt-A-Vet. Our department held a fundraiser for Savannah Honor Flight and presented them with a check for \$1,250. Upcoming events: our next DEC meeting for the Department of South Carolina will be at Post 70 in Port Royal January 18th and 19th, 2026. Our next convention is at Post 70 June 20th and 21st, 2026. Legislation: we are supporting S2981, the Veterans Prosthetic Advancement and Reform Act, and HR 2137, S1657 Review Every Veteran's Claim Act of 2025. Under other, our department strives to increase membership, programs, participation in events, recruiting, and fundraising. That is my report, Commander, and I move for its adoption at the appropriate time. We'd also like to note that that one has been digitally submitted and will be in the final rendition of the book.

Commander Shipley: Thank you for the record.

Now move to the last one for Tennessee.

Leanne Adams: Leanne Adams for Tennessee here. My report can be found on page 28 in the digital book. And at this time, I move that it be adopted at the appropriate time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Leanne.

One quick note for the district: the district is currently working closely with the 917 Society to distribute constitutions next year for the 250th anniversary. We'll be sending an email out to all departments in the near future. We would like to get as many departments as we can to help us with that cause.

Commander, that concludes District 3 reports. I move for its adoption.

Someone: Second, PNC.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion and a second to accept the National District 3 reports. Any questions? Hearing none, all in favor state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Commander Shipley: Ayes have it.

National District 4.

Commander Pierce: My report is on page 30. And I ask that it be adopted at the proper time.

Move on to Illinois.

Richard Shea: Illinois, Richard Shea, NEC. My report can be found in the digital book on page 31. I only have one addition to my report: our Illinois convention will be June 6-7 in Springfield, Illinois. I move for my report to be accepted at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you.

Indiana.

Richard Caldwell: Richard Caldwell, NEC. My report is on page 32 in the booklet, and I do want to give a shout-out for all those people that have put me in their prayers and thoughts for a speedy recovery. I had my hip replaced September 29th, got an infection in the bone for 3 weeks after that, and I'm kind of limited in what I can do. And that's why my report is short and sweet. But I just want to thank all of you for the thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

Commander Shipley: Okay, moving on to Iowa.

Barry Remington: Barry Remington, NEC Iowa. My report is on page 33. And I move for its adoption at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Barry.

Kentucky.

Commander Shipley: I know Dana wasn't on here, but isn't there a Kentucky NEC on here?

Someone: Yes, Kentucky's here. Deanna Maynard from Kentucky.

Commander Shipley: Is there any report for Kentucky? Thank you. Yes, there is a report for Kentucky in the book. It's on page 34, the digital book.

Missouri.

Doug Johnson: My report is on pages 35 through 41, and I move for adoption at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Doug.

Ohio.

Pat Raleigh: Pat Raleigh, NEC Ohio. The report's on page 42, and I move for its adoption at its proper time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you. Wisconsin?

Ralph Beck: Ralph Beck, Wisconsin, NEC. My report is on page 43 of the digital book. I just want to highlight a couple things, if I may. Our membership was previously inappropriately and incorrectly reported. It stands at 3,141. We did have our DEC earlier today; one of the

issues we addressed was having white clovers for our white clover drive. I understand that National is considering signing a contract someplace to purchase white clovers, and if that's the case, we would certainly want to support that. Wisconsin would be more than happy to take about 10,000 of those clovers when they're available. Upcoming events: tomorrow we're going to have a Pearl Harbor Day ceremony in Milwaukee at the War Memorial. We are making plans for our commander and our white clover princess to attend Legislative Advocacy Week, the ribbon cutting at National LAW, all of that happening in March, and to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We continue to support VAVS, the White Clover Princess Program, AADAA, and Americanism Programs. Our convention is coming up in June; it'll be held the 19th through the 22nd in Green Bay. And also we'll be attending the 4th National District coming up via Zoom on February 14th. That's my report, and I would move for its adoption at the appropriate time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you.

Now circling back to Michigan.

Jean Hall: Gene Hall, NEC. Oh, my report didn't make the book. But the only highlights we had in Michigan is a new rule put on the headquarters our National Cemetery, Fort Custer, did hold a ceremony, but that was done voluntarily by all the organizations set up. It was spearheaded by retired Air Force Colonel Frank Walker. They handled the whole ceremony. They did their little motorcycle parade, flyover, bagpipers, and salute, so that went on fine at Fort Custer National Cemetery without the support of the government. Parades went on for Veterans Day. Our membership is holding stable. We had one paper post that joined. Other than that, we're holding pretty stable. We had fewer people go to Gerald Ford Airport and greet veterans coming home for Thanksgiving Day. They went on from probably 7 o'clock in the morning. I got there at 9 and stayed until about 1:30, and then went on to evening time. Other than that, that concludes my report. I would like it to be accepted at its designated time. It's an oral report.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Jean.

And Minnesota.

Trinidad Uribe: Thank you very much, Commander. Minnesota's here, Trinidad Uribe. I didn't fill out a report, but one of our posts is really doing good with activities and programs. The other thing I got going is working on adding a post with Lao war veterans. Still working on that; they got the applications and they're working on that. Hopefully we'll get something going here soon. That includes my report, verbal read.

Commander Shipley: Thank you.

Commander, that's District 4's report, and I make a motion that we accept all reports at this time.

Pat Raleigh: So moved.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

PNC Riley: Second.

Commander Shipley: Motion by Commander Pierce. Any questions on District 4? Hearing none, all in favor of accepting District 4 reports, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

National District 5 Commander Brian Bartlett.

Brian Bartlett: Good evening. My report was sent in earlier today, so it's not in the book. Membership: we continue to work on trying to get everybody paid up for the year. North Dakota DEC scheduled for February 21st. Programs: North Dakota had a little problem with their Founding Forward getting notified to the participants a little late. Americanism is getting sent out; we sent out 9,000 917 constitutions to every 8th grader in the state. North Dakota continues to work on the homeless problem in the communities. And that's all I've got, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: Now move on to Nebraska NEC.

Nebraska NEC: NEC Nebraska here. My report can be found on page 46 of the book. And I move for its adoption at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you. North Dakota Murray Strom is still having audio problems, so his report is in the book, also page 47, and he moves for its adoption at the proper time.

And then Texas, Curtis.

Curtis Thomas: Hello, yes, this is Curtis Thomas. My report is on page 48 in the book. Just to let you know, we are working to finally move our Spring DEC to a different location instead of Tyler. So that's on the work, and as soon as we find out the dates and times, we'll let you know. Also, in Arlington, Texas, they just opened a National Medal of Honor Museum—brand new—and they did all the bells and whistles, so if you're in town, it's great to visit. And that concludes my report. I move for its adoption.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Curtis. Is anybody else on? Kansas? I don't think we have anybody else, so that's the conclusion of District 5, and I move for its adoption at this time.

Someone: Motion to accept, second by Sarah Pierce.

Commander Shipley: Any questions on District 5 reports? Hearing none, all in favor state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

National District 6!

Danny Wyatt: Good evening, sir. With late entry, I submitted my report today online, but I need to make a correction. I said that our next District 6 meeting was February 7th of 2025; I mean 2026. And it'll be at 1 PM Pacific time via Zoom. Our membership is 12,263 strong. Our program reporting is we are highly pushing suicide prevention and the JROTC programs. An awards ceremony. As far as legislative, the only news I have is from Washington, and I'll let my NEC give that information out. Service and... I move to have my report accepted and adopted at the appropriate time.

Commander Shipley: Do you have anything on Miles? He had surgery yesterday, correct?

Wyatt: Yup. He's doing better, he's at home, he's resting, and I sent out a text to him. He's doing better. I mean, he's just got a heel right now.

Commander Shipley: Okay.

Moving on. I know Alaska is not on. She submitted her report. It is on page 50, and I move to have its adoption at the appropriate time, sir.

Calling on Arizona.

Bill Osdale: My report is on page 49. I really apologize to this body for the vague report at that time; I had no information. Our DEC meeting on November 22nd, I was informed that our second vice had resigned and that our ED had a serious car accident and was in the hospital, so I had no information. However, after the DEC meeting, I was informed of a new Post 25 starting up in Yuma. But on the downside, Post 41 (I think around Bullhead City) the charter's about to be pulled if they don't elect new officers. Our total membership to the department is 1,413. One member of the team advised that the VA judge has announced a program at any future Vince, he'd be happy to work with that. Also, we set our state convention for May 30th. We haven't

designated a place yet. On March 21st will be our next DEC meeting at Post 19 in Bullhead City, Arizona. Again, I apologize for the rough report, and I hope for this correction that has to be adopted. Thank you.

Commander Shipley: So moving on to California.

Derek Hendershot: Derek Hendershot, NEC. My report is in the book from pages 52 to 54, but you have it labeled as Ron Robertson; my name is Derek Hendershot. So if you could correct that, that would be awesome. Just a quick thing: our women's veterans will be going to every single veterans home here in California and be doing gift baskets, so if there's something you'd like to donate from any department, we're more than welcome for that. And then also AMVETS 1 has been doing some fundraising through vacations that you can buy, and part of the proceeds will go to AMVETS 1 and spread awareness about veteran suicide. We just ended that on November 16th. But yeah, that is my report. It's in the book. I move toward adoption at the appropriate time, but please correct the name to Derek Hendershot, NEC.

Commander Shipley: Okay. Hawaii?

Donovan Lazarus: Yes, hello everyone, National Commander, we look forward to your visit next month. Our NEC report is not yet in the book but I emailed it this morning. We work 24-7 here. We train our active duty forces not just for physical fitness training and spot and race, but we trained our Marines tier level 1 lunch training that occurred a couple months ago. We received a grant for \$452,600 from the VA, and it's to train active duty service members and veterans alike. Our Veterans Center is one of two on the island here on Oahu, and we call it West Wild Veterans Center. This is where we do a lot of training, including hosting the annual veterans competition—3 days of competition: archery, beating people up, basketball, pickleball, you name it, we host it, judge it, and have the awards ceremony here as well. The adaptive fitness sports program is where the VA funding came for that—not just for Hawaii here, but also for Guam and American Samoa. So we'll have our teams hitting those other locations to conduct adaptive sports and fitness workouts. We planned and executed the Army's 250th birthday for the United States Army Pacific Command—all of the Army 250 ceremonies on the islands in Hawaii were done through AMVETS, that's with the Hawaii Commission funding and everything. So we've got a lot on our plate. We've been doing it. Unfortunately our report came in late; we just emailed it this morning. We're slacking on membership, which I think we hope we can improve on. One thing we like to do is come and showcase our adaptive sports program at the National Convention in Orlando, Florida next year. We'll bring our team and hopefully

we'll have a display table and we can share that. It's one of the only programs of its kind. And I really believe that the VA will actually increase funding for the following year. And that's as much as I can think of. I know it's a long meeting, but I move that our NEC report be adopted at the appropriate time. Thank you for your time.

Commander Shipley: Thank you.

And last but not least, Washington.

Glenn Skinner: This is Glenn Skinner with Washington. Our report's on page 55. I move to have it adopted at appropriate time. Sir, that's the end of our reports. Thank you. I move for their adoption.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion to adopt the District 6 report. Do I have a second?

Riley: Second, Riley from Ohio.

Commander Shipley: Any questions on the District 6 reports? Hearing none, all in favor state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Alright. Thank you, National District Commanders and all the NECs for your reports.

At this time, I would like to recognize a very special someone that's on our meeting here. National President Mary Lanthier, would you like to address the NEC body?

Mary Lanthier: Hi. Greetings, Commander Shipley and our AMVETS family. Welcome to the 2025 Fall NEC. First of all, I would like to wish everyone a beautiful and safe Christmas and a joyous New Year. My report is on page 60 in the NEC book. Please read it at your convenience. But I would like to emphasize my president's project, which is Tunnel to Towers. I am appreciative of the work they do to ensure our military and first responders get the resources they need to regain independence after they suffer catastrophic injuries or homelessness. They also help families with mortgage-free homes after they lose their loved ones in the line of duty. Please take time to check it out on the T2T website. I look forward to the AMVETS family coming together at our new home slash headquarters in March in Washington, PA. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have, and I look forward to visiting several departments after the first of the year. Commander, wishing you a successful NEC. And God bless you all.

Commander Shipley: Thank you, Madam President.

Someone: I make a motion to accept her report.

Dana Dillon: Second, Dana Dillon, Connecticut.

Commander Shipley: NEC Chapman with the motion, NEC Dillon from Connecticut with the second. Any questions on Madam President's report? Hearing none, all in favor state aye.

All: Aye.

Commander Shipley: We appreciate the gesture, Madam President. Thank you. And we do hope that you and your family have a wonderful holiday this year.

Mary Lanthier: Well, thank you. Thank you so much. And like I said, God bless each and every one of you and everything that you stand for—our veterans and our military.

Commander Shipley: Thank you. We appreciate all the things that the Ladies Auxiliary do for us.

I just had a text message from Commander Holcomb from the Sons. He is unable to attend this evening, but he did say that he gave a little bit for Don McClain. Don, if you'd like to throw a little bit of that at us, I'd appreciate it.

Don McClain: One second, Commander, I have to bring it up here, see what exactly he wrote for me.

Commander Shipley: Pat Holcomb is on there. Pat, would you like to say something?

Pat Holcomb: Hey, how is everybody? Good. I jumped off my other meeting right quick just to make sure I come on and say hello and greetings to everybody, and to express how thankful I am to be a part of this organization. I want to say I'm looking forward to moving in a positive direction to see if we can't make our organization even that much better. We had our NEC meeting today about 1 o'clock, and it lasted probably 3 hours, so it was quite intensive, and we got a lot done. I know we've had some things that Veterans Day, I had several ambassadors come up and wanted to know why the Sons don't have badges on their National Commander cover or the provost like the AMVETS do. Well, I'm happy to say that I told them I would look into it, see what we could do. We drafted a resolution that we will be resolution that we could have badges, but they will not be a star badge; they will be like a detective badge. It'll be a different style badge, so we can differentiate between national and that's a nice concern. We took it for a vote on the NEC just to make sure we can go forward,

and then we'll finalize it at our convention. It did pass, so we will be going forward with that to try to come in line to look like and emulate our AMVETS family, our parent organization. Also, we are working on changing SOPs for different areas of our training and filling out forms for change of all—we call it revalidation forms now—and also how to handle suspension of charters if they don't do their revalidation correctly. So we're actually trying to get information going forward to make our organization better as Sons. We are looking forward to Spring NEC. I will be up on, I guess, on a Thursday or whatever you have the plans. We're kind of waiting on some logistics from y'all, and I guess PNC Don will be sending that to me, let me know what's going on, so we can finalize our plans too. But I will be in attendance up there in Washington, PA. And I look forward to it.

Commander Shipley: Do you have anything else? Any questions or anything? And tonight, Pat, I truly appreciate it. Appreciate you and everything the Sons do for our organization. I truly believe that you are one of the things that does make this organization the greatest veteran service organization in the country. Between you and the Ladies Auxiliary, I don't really know what all we would do, but we would probably do it a lot less effectively.

Pat Holcomb: Well, I appreciate the vote of confidence for us, Commander, and I do, like I say, I'm proud to be able to work with the ladies and the AMVETS to make this into a premier service organization for the veterans.

Dana Dillon: Commander, I have a question through the chair. Do we have dates for LAW Week yet?

Commander Shipley: Your LAW Week will be March... Tuesday of that week—our NEC's on the 7th, I think it is? Or the 8th? Okay, so it'll be that Tuesday is when we'll all come in. The 7th. We will have a pre-LAW Week meeting to get everything straightened up, informational. Wednesday morning we will be going up on the hill. So they're coming in on March 2nd. And then second, in the middle of the third, we'll be up on the hill. If the 9th of the 3rd, we'll have our NEC. And then Thursday morning will be if anyone still has appointments on the hill, they'll be able to go there. Otherwise, I'll be traveling to headquarters on Thursday. We have hotel information for that as well.

Dana Dillon: Can you get it to national so we can...

Commander Shipley: Yes, I will be glad to forward that along, and that way y'all can get reservations and everything.

Dana Dillon: Thank you so much.

Ralph Beck: Ralph Beck... I have a question for the Sons. Will you be providing transportation from national headquarters to LAW?

Pat Holcomb: So that's what we're working on now, the logistics on that, so we need a little more information of how many's coming, how many would like to come over so we can nail that down. We had some confusion last time, so if we could get a good count and get the actual what everything's going on with the festivities up at headquarters that week at the NEC there, then we could have a better idea of which way we're gonna go. But there will be some people driving over and stuff, I understand, so it's kind of like, until we get a little bit more information, we will reserve the right to hold back the information that we have right now.

Ralph Beck: Thank you, sir.

Commander Shipley: Thank you for coming on, Pat. I truly appreciate it.

Pat Holcomb: Yes, sir, and I hope y'all have a productive NEC.

Commander Shipley: Alright, any other questions for the Sons Commander?

Commander Shipley: We're gonna roll on to our next thing.

Pat Holcomb: Yes, sir, I'm gonna get over here, and I thank y'all for inviting me, and I will look forward to seeing y'all all soon.

Commander Shipley: Thank you very much.

Alright, Finance Officer McFarland, please go into the fun stuff.

McFarland: Good evening, Commander. The NFC National Finance Committee met on Wednesday, December 3rd. All members were present and are accounted for. At this time, I'd like to turn it over to Aga, and he'll share his screen and give a brief summary of our finance report.

Aga: Hello, everybody. Thank you, Kelly. Please check if you can see my screen.

McFarland: We're good, Aga.

Aga: All right, thank you. Yes, I'm pleased to present the financials for the first two months of the fiscal year 2025-26, the two months ending October 2025. During these two months, we have collected 17% of the projected contributions for this fiscal year in the tune of \$340,472,805. Against that, we have incurred expenses which are equal to 15% of the total projected expenses for this fiscal year, which are in the tune of \$417,522, leaving an operating surplus of \$5,283. During this period, our endowment portfolio has accrued

an unrealized gain of \$233,000, which means that our net surplus for the first 2 months of the fiscal year is in the tune of \$283,837.

McFarland: Thank you very much, Aga.

Alright, so as you heard from Aga, the NHQ was actually operating in a positive cash flow so far this fiscal year, and also within our budget. One of the good things is last year's convention came in at around \$120,000 under budget—better than expected—hoping to continue that trend with the current convention plan that was brought to the committee and approved last year.

Phase 1 of the Washington, PA National Headquarters renovation was complete, minus the elevator and final payment of approximately \$180,000 is still due to Rocky Wire Construction Group, which we plan to pay later on early this year. We currently have about \$250,000 still held up with the state of Maryland from the selling of the old headquarters building. Now that we have our 990 filed, we're able to request to receive that money from the state of Maryland, which will help us weather the cash flow storm that we've been suffering.

A couple of departments have reached out regarding the reimbursement checks for membership and vendors. We acknowledge the delay, and we're working on getting the money out to the departments.

We'll be working on a few products, some SOPs, and some flowcharts from finance office operations and provide them to the NEC at the Spring NEC. These products and SOPs will provide insight and transparency on the AMVETS procurement payment process to include timeline and these processes for our finance office. We're also working on a revision of the AMVETS travel policy to be presented at the Spring NEC for approval, which will include formal training to NEC members to help prevent delayed travel reimbursement payouts due to voucher errors.

The 2024-25 audit began around November 17. The audit team completed the boots-on-ground portion of the audit. As of now, everything is looking very good, and the audit team is very pleased with what they've seen so far. We are currently working on the background work, and I should be able to present audit findings to you at Spring NEC.

Moving forward, the National Quartermaster Plan is still in progress. We're planning to be at a point for the National Finance Committee to appoint a working group at the Spring NEC that will take us to the next level and be prepared for headquarters to assume those duties following the National Convention in August.

One final thing I'd like to bring to the NEC and to the national districts: having their own EIN and filing a 990 with the IRS. A good question to ask at your district meetings is what EIN are you using to establish accounts? And are the national districts filing 990s with the IRS? More guidance and assistance will be available at Spring NEC. We're not trying to shut anybody down and get in the district's business. But the rule of thumb—just because it's the way we've always been doing business—doesn't always mean that it's right, so we're just trying to get to right. It has come up that some of the districts were using department EINs and things like that, and we're pushing to get to right with that. I think the commander plans on discussing this matter with the district commanders at their next meeting.

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

Commander Shipley: I have a motion. Do I have a second for the finance report?

PNC McLean: Second, McLean.

Commander Shipley: Any questions on the finance report? Hearing none, all in favor of accepting the finance report, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Commander Shipley: The ayes have it. Finance report accepted. Thank you, Kelly.

I'm gonna move on to the rest of my officers' reports currently. Did Sheldon log on yet?

Someone: I've not seen him.

Commander Shipley: Okay. National JA, do you have a report?

Judge Advocate Brown: Yes, I'm sorry, I do have a report. I sent my report in this morning. Basically, the only thing I asked for was that, if you've not sent in your Constitution and bylaws from your department and your post for review, if you could send that to me at jbrown@amvets.org, I'd appreciate it. And that concludes my report. I move for its adoption.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

Studebaker: Second, Studebaker.

Commander Shipley: Any questions on the JA report?

Andy Martell: Are you asking for a copy of all the department and post C&BLs? You're

supposed to be reviewed every year, if I'm not mistaken.

Brown: They are supposed to be reviewed locally, but if anything has had changes, please send to me.

Martell: Okay, thank you.

Commander Shipley: Any further questions? All in favor of the JA's report, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Moving on. National Second Vice Commander Studebaker.

Studebaker: Yes. Unfortunately, my report did not make the book as of tonight. It will be on page 149. I will just do a few of the highlights. In the programs department, Calandra does not work for us anymore. She has decided to move on and do other adventures, so she is no longer part of the programs department. So please, if you have not, do not send anything to Calandra's email address. We do have access to it, but we are asking for you to use programs@amvets.org email address, because Ben and Warren both have access to that. So as of now, we are asking that you send all correspondence to that email address.

And saying that with Calandra leaving the Programs Department, we currently have Ben Moser working in the programs department. He is doing an awesome and fantastic job. Warren Cox is there as the supervisor. Gracious, National First Vice Commander Sandy Voorhees has volunteered to come over one day a week, a day and a half each week, and help Ben in the programs department, plus myself, answering a lot of emails and telephone calls as I can.

So we are making progress. Things are moving in the right direction, but I do ask for your patience as we go through this changing and updating of the programs department. Things are looking up for us. We did get access to the Airtable on Thursday of this week. So I believe if your second vice commander or commander of your department does not have access to the Airtable, please send an email to the programs department and Ben will be able to get you access to the Airtable. He is now an administrator to that, so he does have the ability to do that. I know we've been waiting a little while to get this done. We had a few days there where the system went down, so we had the IT people look into what was going on. But we are back up and running, and we do have access to the Airtable.

So please, please, please ask your posts to report their programs. December is the last month of the program's reporting period for this year, the 6-month period. So I do ask that you get your programs reported.

I would like to bring one program up to everybody's attention. It was the Spirit of America conference this year. I know the gentleman from North Dakota was talking about that with communications—things were a little hectic, students not getting notified in a timely manner. We are gonna make some changes to that program so that way next year we do not have any of these hiccups. But we are gonna have training next year, definitely at the March NEC, about the Spirit of America program. We'll probably do a little bit on the Zoom call that we're going to have next year—quarterly Zoom call before the NEC. So I encourage everybody to attend those.

Other than that, Commander, that concludes my report. And I move for its adoption at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion. Do I have a second for Second Vice Commander's Report?

Danny Wyatt: Second, Danny Wyatt.

Commander Shipley: Second, Caldwell, Indiana.

Any questions on Second Vice Report?

Andy Martell: If somebody has a programs report, should we send an email to Ben? And if so, what is Ben's email address?

Studebaker: No, send it to programs@amvets.org, because a lot of those are getting forwarded to myself or they're getting forwarded to Warren or they're getting forwarded to Sandy. So we want everything to go to one central email account.

Martell: Got it. Thank you, sir.

Commander Shipley: Any further questions for the second vice report? Hearing none, all in favor, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Second Vice Report is accepted.

Moving on, First Vice Commander Voorhees.

Voorhees: Good evening, thank you, Commander. My report is on page 62. I really do not have any other additional remarks

besides what's written in my report, just that I think we're doing pretty good. We've started already and have charters for 4 new posts since our national convention, looking forward to getting a few more going than I've heard about. So please keep it up. I do ask that you reach out to your posts and your departments and make sure they're making contacts for those renewals. Those renewals are very important. And you may find a member that's been ill and no one knew about it, and there might be something you can do to help that member. So with that, I will ask that my report be adopted at proper time.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion and a second.

J.P. Brown III, PNC from Ohio.

Any questions for the membership report? First Vice.

Andy Martell: No, not a thing, Commander. She was crystal clear.

Commander Shipley: Alright, sounds good! All in favor of accepting the first vice report, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

First Vice Report is accepted.

Alright. Sheldon! Do you have a report, sir?

Sheldon Hartsfield: Commander, first I apologize for being late. I was with the Academy Selection Board, and we had 22 candidates we had to interview today with the congressman, so I apologize for my tardiness. I've been working very hard with the Nimitz group, getting things back in order. With the shutdown with the government and everything, things had been a little haphazard, but it appears that everything is in order. The weekly reports are going back out on a regular basis. And the Nimitz Group has informed me that things are getting back to normal, and notifications and the work up on Capitol Hill is continuing on. That is the basis for my report. I definitely move for its adoption.

Commander Shipley: Second, Caldwell, Indiana.

Any questions for the legislative Third Vice Report? Hearing none, all in favor of accepting third vice report, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Report passes. Thank you, Sheldon.

Hopefully you guys selected some good future officers for the academies?

Hartsfield: We had, out of 110 possible candidates, we narrowed it down to 22 finalists. And out of the 22 finalists, 10 of those got the nod. Pretty important that I'm there. I am now the new chairman of the Missouri selection board committee under Congressman Bob Andor, so it was important that we're there. And just as a side note for legislation, I talked to the congressman. We're going to be making appointments to see him during legislative week. And he is going to assist me with his other colleagues to make sure that we have no problems when we want to go see them. So you and I can get together and work out those details in the near future.

Commander Shipley: Sounds good, and definitely bring Doug Brown from the Sons in on that, too.

Hartsfield: Yes, sir.

PNC JP Brown, can you give us a VAVS report?

JP Brown: Well, Commander, one of the things that we gotta realize is VAVS kind of took a back burner with the government being shut down and the cutbacks at the VA. We're still trying to regroup with a lot of people up there to make sure that we have proper representation. I'd encourage all of you to contact your VA hospital, find out who the reps are there that can work with you to get your people back to work. I'm taking it that since Calandra's gone, Ben's gonna be doing the certifications. I'd like to remind the commanders of the departments that are on that your appointments have to be renewed every 2 years. So please get your appointments in so that we can get them recertified with that commander. I move for my report to be adopted as read.

Commander Shipley: JP, which departments are up this year, just for everybody's edification?

JP Brown: This is the odd year that'll be N through Z, the last half of the alphabet.

Commander Shipley: Alright, so if you have a department that falls into that, please make sure that we have your VAVS reps and depths for their reauthorization.

JP Brown: A lot of commanders think that they're there and they're going to continue to work. Well, yes, they are going to continue. You don't have to appoint somebody else; you can reappoint them, but we have to get them certified.

Commander Shipley: Absolutely, it's important work.

Sandy Voorhees: If I can just add, JP, that is one of the things that Ben and I are working on right now. We had to get certifications or that can sign. We had to get all that done once they opened back up, so we've got all that taken care of, so we are moving forward on all this. We're hoping to have a complete picture by the end of this coming week.

JP Brown: Sandy, I really appreciate you going over there to work on this, but even with that, I've been doing this off and on for a good number of years and it becomes a cluster towards the end. And you're gonna be having to beat on people to get it done. Good luck.

Dana Dillon: Through the chair? Is it possible to get a list of who the reps and depths are for each state that are certified at this point?

Sandy Voorhees: It should be on file there at headquarters. We finally were able to get into Calandra's laptop to get that information. So we now have it, so that is what Ben and I are concentrating on now. And also, if the right people come back to work at central office.

Dana Dillon: Okay, thank you. I can get a printout of who the current ones are.

JP Brown: Well, Commander, may I interrupt you one second? Don't get ahold of me next week; I'm leaving Tuesday to go to the Bahamas, and I will not answer my phone.

Commander Shipley: Well, you just gotta take a page out of PNC Pinings' book and get on when you're on the boat.

JP Brown: I could do that, but I'm gonna have a few adult beverages.

Commander Shipley: That's a real lack of dedication, isn't it?

JP Brown: I don't think so. I've been here since 11 o'clock this morning.

Commander Shipley: Alright, so all in favor of accepting the VAVS report, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Executive Director Chenelly, could you please guide your staff reports?

Chenelly: Yes. My report is on page 63. And Warren, our national membership director, do you have your report, please?

Warren Cox: Yes, sir. Invest family, my report is on page 65, and I move that it be adopted at its proper time. In addition, I would like to thank our current leadership for not just wearing the hat but rolling up their sleeves, getting in the trenches with us. So, thank you. That's my report, Commander.

Chenelly: You move for its adoption at the appropriate time, correct?

Warren Cox: Right. I do, sir, thank you.

Chenelly: Second, Raleigh.

We'll do all the staff reports at the same time. So, Joe, please move on to your second one.

Chenelly: Daniel Bolton, our National Service Director, report please?

Daniel Bolton: Good evening. My report is on page 68. And I move it was adopted at the proper time.

Chenelly: Thank you, Bo. I appreciate the traffic reports. We move forward. They adoption at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion for the adoption of the staff reports. Do I have a second?

Danny Wyatt: Second, Danny Wyatt, National District 6 Commander.

Commander Shipley: Any questions on the staff reports? Hearing none, all in favor state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

I'm going to turn the chair over to National First Vice Commander Voorhees for my report.

Commander Shipley: My report is on pages 57 through 59. I have really tried to be as busy moving as much as I can this year, really trying to get out there and visit as many departments as possible. If I didn't acknowledge you in that report, I truly apologize, but I've only been home for about 3 weekends of the course of this entire time I've been commander so far. Trying to get out there and represent the organization as best I can. If you have any questions on it, feel free to call me anytime. Please review my report at your leisure. If you have any questions on it, feel free to call me anytime. I'm pretty sure you can find my phone number from anybody. But at the very least, email. But I move for the adoption of my report at the proper time.

Sheldon Hartsfield: Second.

Commander Shipley: Who seconded that? Sheldon from Missouri. All in favor?

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

National Service Foundation, President Kilgore, could you please do your report?

Kilgore: Thank you, Commander. The National Service Foundation Board met today in Rockville, Maryland at 2 PM. All board members were attending. We received updates and reports to all the National Service Foundation staff. Everything seems to be going in a positive direction on finance and other operations. Every one of the staff people was either here or done reports by Zoom. We ended up hiring a new person for fundraising. Instead of being stationed here in our DC office, she's going to be working out of Utah and Arizona with that Department of Labor grant that we got to do work out there to assist veterans with services and homeless issues. Quite a few other little things that they have problems with, and we all very well know what kind of problems they have. And right now, if you want in a positive way, and we hope to be able to do more of those types of grants in the future.

Commander, that concludes my report for this time. Thank you.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion. Do I have a second for the foundation report?

Someone: Motion.

Dana Dillon: Second, Dana Dillon, Connecticut.

Ernest Gobeck: I heard Arizona, but what was the other state?

Kilgore: Utah and Arizona.

Commander Shipley: Any further questions of the Foundation? Alright. Any other questions? Hearing none, all in favor of accepting the Foundation report, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

President Vanetta, did you want to give a Charities report?

Vanetta: I can. We met at 1 o'clock today at Rockville Headquarters office. And we had an update on our Family Service Center from PNC Brown. I appointed a fundraising committee

with Dana Dillon being the chairman, Joe Keller, and Laura McFarland as the other two members of the committee. And we had a Caroline report, which we're gonna get more information and get back to me. And we'll proceed from there. That concludes my report. Let me move forward to adoption at the proper time.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

Hartsfield: Second, Hartsfield.

Commander Shipley: Motion and a second to accept the charities report. Any questions for the charities report? Hearing none, all in favor state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Are there any other committees that have a report to present here today?

Someone: About your photographer committee. I'm still waiting on the picture signed by the commander.

PNC Chapman: I have it for you, PNC McLean. I just gotta get the time to mail it out for ya. But I do have them.

McLean: Okay. Just checking. Thank you.

PNC McLean: Yeah, chairman of the Construction Committee for the new headquarters in Washington, Pennsylvania. I am pleased to report that the bulk of actually all of Phase 1 has been finalized. We are one payment away from finalizing the contract with Rocky Blyer Construction Group on that section. And everything has been going well. We had a little hiccup this past week with the heat. And thanks to a new employee, Eric, who was able to meet with them on site and go with the plumbing contractor, we have resolved that heating problem as of this afternoon. And everything seems to be working okay. And I am pleased to announce that the committee members—Mr. Shipley as First Vice, Mr. Studebaker, myself, and now Al Duff from Connecticut—we were able to complete phase one of this project with approximately only a 2% override of the budget. And that's without including any of the grant money that we have applied for that has not come forward yet. So very successful. I thank all my committee members. I thank Rocky Blyer. And I especially thank Bill Nier for the on-site superintendent work. That's my report commander, I move for its adoption at the present time.

Dana Dillon: Second, Dana Dillon,

Connecticut.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion and a second. Any questions on the Construction Committee report? Hearing none, all in favor of accepting the Construction Committee report, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Mister Benny, you have an update on the Family Service Center. Go ahead, PNC Brown.

PNC Brown: Yeah, the Family Service Center right now is in kind of a bind for cash, so I'm encouraging all of your departments to try to help raise some money to get the interior finished. The exterior has been completed with the roof completed, and now there's some demolition work that's been done already, and we're getting ready to start some construction inside. In order for us to apply for some grants, we need to get a couple rooms done so that we have people there, so that they know what's going on. We've asked in the past to have the district commanders and the state commanders go to their posts, go to their department service foundations to help make some donations. The only department that I'm aware of right now is my own department, Ohio, which gave a hefty sum. And Commander, I know you and your family have donated. I know my family has personally donated. And same way, and I'm drawing a blank all of a sudden because I don't have it written down here. We have money coming in from our good friend from California—help me out, Commander—I just threw a plane—Dr. Kissel. And he set up a program with his investments to where the dollars are going to be designated for the Family Service Center. Maybe we have some other people of influence out there that would like to do that, or have friends that may like to do something like that; it'd be greatly appreciated.

Commander, that concludes my report at this time. I move for adoption.

Commander Shipley: Second, the plan.

Caroline Kenyon: Second.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion and a second. Questions on the Family Services Center? Hearing none, all in favor, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Any further committee reports?

Someone: From the gallery, Harold Collins was unable to be on the meeting this evening. But he did ask me to convey that the family traditions committee was directed by me to look at a policy for public events that we attend—putting together a policy, especially being the Veterans Day and the Memorial Day events that we do at Arlington National Cemetery—on who will walk, what the appropriate appearance is, things along those lines. It'll be good for us to get that written down on a piece of paper as opposed to kind of running by the seat of our pants all the time. So there will be a full report for that coming out at the March NEC, but they did want you to know that they are working on it. It's not necessarily a formal report; it's just a notification that that is something that committee is working on.

Commander Shipley: Great idea.

Moving on to old business. Is there any old business? E.D. Chenelly, anything in particular?

Chenelly: No, Commander.

Commander Shipley: Hearing none.

Someone: Can we get a report on Minnesota?

Clay Roundtree: Texas, first off I would like to welcome Commander Trinidad, his first attending of NEC meeting tonight. Just want to welcome him. Everybody gave me a big ol' hello.

Trinidad Uribe: Hello! Hello!

Clay Roundtree: Yes, he will be attending a lot more. Greetings. Thank you. The conversations we've had. Okay, well, first off, like he had stated before, we were invited to a dinner for the Lao 50. I don't know if any of you know what that is, but it's the 50th anniversary of the Laos, Cambodia, Hmong veterans who fought beside our veterans during the Vietnam War. They are very excited about becoming AMVETS members. They're going to be starting their own post. They're in Minnesota. They've requested that Commander Shipley attend for the signing of the charter, which would be a great thing for Minnesota. I'd also like to thank Commander Shipley for attending with us on our trip to Minnesota. On the 18th, we had a department meeting, which was very successful. He did swear in the adjutant, and they almost have a full complement of officers now, which is greatly improved. They are also starting to get more finances in, which will be starting to reimburse national for our trips. The other part of it is Post 1. We're having some difficulty with Post 1 right now. They're having difficulty in leadership change. The new commander for Post 1 was installed in May of this year. And then all of a sudden, when she is trying to perform her duties as commander of that post, she is met with resistance from the

past commander and also of the first officer. They are having a meeting this month on the 18th. And after further investigation into this and things that have been happening there with the past commander and everything, we will be attending that meeting on the 18th. Of course, it'll be on the dime of Post 1. We don't know quite what's gonna go on with that yet until we attend that meeting. They are trying—the past commander's trying to restrict her duties and being involved with the business and the gambling end of Post 1. By the time I'm sure we get there on the 18th, we're gonna call for an audit, and we're also gonna call in for an investigation of the post. Very good. And we're probably gonna wind up pursuing charges on the past commander for misconduct. He has sent her several emails that are very disturbing, demanding her resignation because she is trying to get involved with the business of Post 1. So we're gonna call for an audit, we're gonna call for an investigation. Other than that, that is... Do what now? Nope, that was an echo. If there's no questions or anything, I move forward in adoption, acceptance of my report.

Hartsfield: Second.

Commander Shipley: I have a motion and a second to accept the Minnesota Trustees report. Any questions of the Minnesota Trustee Report? Hearing none, all in favor of accepting Trustee report, state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

I do want to say thank you to the trustees for everything they've been doing, and I do want to show the vote of confidence for Commander Uribe and all of his post commanders in Minnesota to really keep up the good fight.

Any further committee reports? Anything need to be had?

Moving into new business. Do we have any new business before this? I see Sarah Pierce with a hand.

Sarah Pierce: Yes, Commander! I have a letter here from the Department of Michigan's commander. It states to AMVETS National Executive Committee: National Bylaws Article 9 restricted Use of Organization, page 50 states AMVETS or any component part thereof shall not be used to promote the interest of any individual who is a candidate for public office or to promote otherwise any individual, political party or faction. The endorsement of an organization or product is prohibited unless specifically approved by the NEC. Any violation of this provision shall be sufficient cause for disciplinary action against the

offending member, post, or department.

I, Nat Paluzzi, Commander, Department of Michigan, respectfully request permission to endorse PuroClean, an organization that promotes franchise ownership for veterans. PuroVet is a program that promotes ownership for veterans. They were ranked 19th in the 2022 Top Franchises for Veterans by Entrepreneur Magazine. The PuroVet program launched in 2017. I feel this would be a great opportunity for the AMVETS organization to promote our name. PuroVet will post endorsements on their webpage. I approached PuroClean's Vice Chairman, Mr. Tory, for assistance in the funding of our AMVETS Lodge and Cabin's roof campaign at Higgins Lake, Michigan. He did not hesitate to cover the cost of the roof, which was estimated over \$70,000, and to have several trees cut down. Within 2 days of our meeting, he sent out a crew to assess the lodge and repairs needed. As the AMVETS representative to the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan, I requested of PuroClean's PuroVet program for support to our annual golf outing held on August 25th, 2025. Without hesitation, a generous check of \$5,000 was issued. PuroClean is nationwide and assists veterans looking for entrepreneurial opportunities. PuroVet's tour to be the keynote speaker at our AMVETS convention June 2026 in Michigan. To all members and leaderships, as Invest Depression and Michigan Commander, I am proud to endorse strong support for the PuroClean PuroVet program, a veteran-focused initiative program spearheaded by Frank Tory, Vice Chairman of PuroClean, which empowers service veterans through franchise ownership. For generations, the AMVETS organization has fought to ensure those who served our country receive the recognition, respect, and opportunities they deserve. PuroVet is exactly the kind of program which carries forward this mission by opening doors for veterans to become small business owners in a thriving \$210 billion disaster restoration industry. PuroVet creates lasting pathways to promote financial stability, independence, and community leadership. I respectfully request approval to endorse the PuroVet program. Nat Paluzzi, Department of Michigan Commander.

Thank you.

Commander Shipley: First things first, National J.A. Brown, would you please give me an opinion on this? Is this fair for debate and appropriate?

Judge Advocate Brown: I was listening to it. I'd have to look more into it. As much as I'd like to say it's okay, we need to look at it a little closer. I'm not going to give a judgment right now.

Commander Shipley: Yes. Miss J.A., I will send you a copy of this letter and the information I

have received.

Brown: I appreciate that. Thank you, Sarah.

Commander Shipley: I guess I would ask the NEC to give us the ability to vet this and make a decision like that, if the NEC would approve of that kind of action?

Dana Dillon: I will make that motion, Commander. Like in Brown, Ohio.

Commander Shipley: Okay, so I have a motion from Dana Dillon. This would be to allow the JA to review this policy and allow it to be endorsed by AMVETS as a good program, the PuroVet program through PuroClean, if it comes through the vetting. Seconded by PNC J.P. Brown III.

Questions on this motion? Hearing none, all in favor state aye.

All: Aye.

Opposed? Nay.

(None audible.)

Motion carries. PNC J.P. Brown, please vet it out, and we can have a conversation this week, and see if it's something that we will endorse or not.

Alright, any further new business for tonight?

Commander Shipley: Commander, is Warren Cox on?

Warren Cox: Yes, I am.

Commander Shipley: Warren, did you see my reply? Okay. I think Mr. Chenelly's on, if he can share it. I don't know if I can share. We, the membership has a new video that we would like to share with everyone. I think you'll be very pleased with it. It's not very long.

Commander Shipley: That would please me. E.D., are you able to get that shared out?

Chenelly: I am not. Warren, would you be able to do it? You do have permission.

Warren Cox: Okay, hang on just a minute here to share. Okay, can everybody see?

Group: Yeah. Got it, yep.

Video narration (excerpted transcript): Service doesn't end when you hang up the uniform. It's a lifelong commitment. It's a bond that only we understand. Yeah, we're veterans serving veterans. That's who we are. If you want to help your fellow veteran, we have a space for you. We're not the biggest organization out there, and we're fine with that. AMVETS size

doesn't matter as much as integrity. Here, every voice at the table counts. We're upfront with everything. We're there, we're honest. Listen to not only the committee people around the table but the people around the audience. You got something to say? It is a brotherhood and sisterhood that spans decades. A promise to protect our own regardless of when or where they served. AMVETS is very dedicated to never leave veterans behind. Yeah, from any era. We just want the veterans who want to help their fellow veterans here. That's who we are, that's where our passion is. If you want to help your fellow veterans, AMVETS is in place for you. We will help you be able to do that. Find your purpose. Find your people. Benefits. Veterans serving veterans. Scan the QR code and join AMVETS today.

Commander Shipley: I like it.

Group: Kudos. Nice.

Warren Cox: So our hopes is to get this sent out to—we'll have it on our national website and departments can use that as a tool.

Commander Shipley: Very good. I have to give a big shout-out to Corey Singletary, who helped me put this together. He's the media guy.

Someone: How long is it?

Warren Cox: It was a minute 25 on the clock that was up, so it'll be a 90-second piece.

Dana Dillon: Commander, through the chair? My only question or comment is right after Joe starts speaking, there is a gentleman in a blue cover shaking a serviceman's hand. That's... if we can get somebody with a green cover, that would be amazing.

Warren Cox: Noted.

Commander Shipley: Thanks, Dana.

Warren Cox: Thank you, Joe. Teamwork, dream work, you know how it is, JP. Another home run there, Warren.

Commander: Any other new business tonight?

Moving on. Any other new business tonight? No.

Good of the order.

Milton Allen: Commander Shipley, Milton Allen, Department of Georgia. During my invocation, I forgot something. I was wondering if we can have a moment of silence for past National Commander Boris Johnson.

Commander Shipley: Absolutely. Please, everybody, remove your covers for a moment of remembrance for PNC Johnson.

(Moment of silence.)

Commander Shipley: For those of you that had not heard, Commander Johnson passed away a few weeks ago. He was surrounded by family, and he fought the fight as long as he could against the devastating cancer that he was diagnosed with. We have been in contact with the family. A few of us were able to attend his funeral in Tampa. But they will be having a remembrance service for him in Cleveland, Ohio at the Horace Johnson Post on December 17th. And that'll be at the Cleveland Yuma Doc site where the post is, and it starts at 1400, and they will have stuff going on until 10 PM that evening. So if you have the opportunity to come to Cleveland on the 17th, please do.

Caroline Kenyon: Commander, this is Caroline Kenyon from Massachusetts. I know what their family is going through, because I had to deal with it myself. I would love to give them a hug if they would go to the national convention this coming year.

Commander Shipley: We will have to reach out to the family to see if they'll be able to attend in Orlando this year. It won't be a far drive for his wife and some of the family.

Ralph Beck: Yes, Commander Shipley. I'm proud to say that the Department of Wisconsin has participated in the White Clover Princess program since 1958—58 consecutive years. We have had a princess. And unfortunately this doesn't seem to get a lot of attention. So what I'm asking respectfully, because we do have our princess attend national convention every year, if we could give some more visibility to this program and encourage other departments to get involved. This young lady attends parades and ceremonies and all kinds of events all over the state of Wisconsin and even beyond, representing AMVETS. And because she's a young lady between the ages of 14 and 18, we draw a lot of young people into these events. So if there's some way, some channel that we could use to give more visibility to the White Clover Princess program at National Convention, we would be very, very grateful, sir.

Commander Shipley: We will look into that and see about adding a little more time or some other space for the White Clover Princess program to be showcased a little further.

Rich Shea: Commander Rich Shea, Illinois. I asked you several times in the past, and Joe several times in the past on long-range planning committee. Are we going to put forth anything with that at some point?

Commander Shipley: We finalized our list of appointments that will be issued tonight of everybody that is appointed to committees. A few things had to change this year, which

delayed it, and as you all seen, my schedule was ludicrous. But yes, I will be having a Zoom meeting with all of my committee chairs in the coming week or so. And long-range planning, I do expect you to be very busy coming out of this. I expect all of our committees to be busier than they may have been in the past. So if you're involved, get ready for a long ride, because it's gonna be some work. I don't expect you to maintain my pace, but I do want to see us get some really good work done this year, especially coming into the March NEC and then into convention. But the answer to that is yes, Rich. I do expect the long-range planning committee to be very busy here very shortly.

Wade Anthony: Commander, Wade Anthony from Massachusetts, Alton, D.C., past department commander. Just want to mention tomorrow that Natick Library is going to put on a Pearl Harbor ceremony, which is the longest ceremony in the state of Massachusetts. We've been doing it since Pearl Harbor members. There's more Pearl Harbor survivors left in Massachusetts, but we still observe it. And also February 7th at Post 79 Natick AMVETS putting on a Special Olympics. We've been doing it for 25 years, and we raise money for the Special Olympics, and we jump in a lake at Titusate, and very proud that the Department of Massachusetts represents & makes money for the Special Olympics Olympians.

Commander Shipley: That's where you guys all jump in the frigid cold water, right?

Wade Anthony: Absolutely!

Commander Shipley: That's more important. Last year was 12 inches thick, and Don McLean knows how... He's one of the first survivors that jumped in, and he knows what it's all about, also.

Wade Anthony: If Don McClain will hold my hand, I'll try and make my way up there and do it this year.

Commander Shipley: Challenge accepted. It sounds like the challenge is on. We'll see if we can get it into the schedule. I want video.

Wade Anthony: That's February 7th! I'll sponsor the National Commander for \$20.

Dana Dillon: Thanks, Dana, and also thanks District 1 for their donation also donating towards the cause.

Commander Shipley: Now, we've been affiliated with the Special Olympics for a very long time. I know PNC Pining is a huge supporter of the Special Olympics within the organization, and you see it also in a few departments that really jump onto it. So it's great that we're able to raise funds for them,

because that program is fantastic, and it gives a lot of inspiration to people that would be marginalized otherwise. So it's great work in Massachusetts and every other department that does something for Special Olympics across the country.

KJ Rado: Commander, I also sent you the picture of the monument—the PTSD monument. If you or Mr. Chenelly would like to share that?

Commander Shipley: Joe, can you blow up their screen? KJ Rado, because they have that picture right there, right now.

Chenelly: I can't do that. I mean, they won't... Is it? Yeah. Well, if it won't get up, we will put it out in the book so everybody can see it. It is a PTSD memorial. You know, because we do know that there are a lot of veterans that have dealt with PTSD through our entire nation's history, so it is very important thing to be able to build awareness about PTSD right now.

Commander Shipley: Any more good of the order?

Hearing no other good of the order...

Someone: I have a motion to adjourn.

Commander Shipley: Motion to adjourn. I heard my back.

Commander Allen, would you please lead us in a benediction?

Milton Allen: Yes, sir. Please uncover. Father God, thank you for this day. Thank you for allowing us to have a productive meeting. I ask that you please be with the family of past National Commander Horace Johnson. They have lost their patriarch. And we ask that you be with them and lead and guide them through this rough time in their life. Bless each and every member that is here tonight. Give them all traveling mercies if they're away from home. And help us to have a wonderful Christmas season. Thank you. These are many blessings we ask in your name. Amen.

Commander Shipley: Amen.

Wrigley Jackson, would you please give us honors to the colors?

Wrigley Jackson: Present arms!

Commander Shipley: Our next meeting will be first weekend of March 2026—March 7th. Thank you all for attending this evening. Happy holidays, everybody. Have a very happy holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah!

Group: Merry Christmas to everybody! Happy holidays to everyone! Merry Christmas!

Commander Shipley: Good night.

(Meeting adjourned.)

AMVETS
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