

NEC REPORTS BOOK





2026 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) REPORTS

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AMVETS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) MEETING

AUGUST 19, 2026
ORLANDO, FL

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

This has been a very productive year for membership in National District One. Departments have been holding membership drives resulting in an increase in membership. All Departments have aggressively tasked each 1st Vice Commander for Membership to focus on the MAL listings as well as working with renewing existing members. During my travels I have witnessed the hard work of the Departments direct focus on membership. Life Membership continues with the improvement to this process. Thank you to the National Membership Department for all their hard work.

Upcoming Events

On April 24-26, 2026, National District One met in Somers Point New Jersey to conduct our district meeting. The Department of New Jersey hosted this district meeting which had good attendance and participation by all. We also had the meeting on Zoom to allow Departments and members to still attend and participate. Special thanks to the Department of CT. for their management of the Zoom Process by Al Duff and Dana Dillon. Thank you to Fred Vineyard and to the officers of that Department for their wonderful hospitality.

Programs

Programs continue to bring great attention to our organization. The Scouting Program in support of recognizing their efforts and to the newly awarded Eagle Scouts we congratulate them all. Several Departments have hosted Soap Box Derby's with their Boy Scout Troops as well as community recognition by the local newspapers and political leaders. Department of Massachusetts had hosted their annual Passion Plunge for Special Olympics in February of this year. It was a huge success in raising over \$18,000.00 for Special Olympics. Local schools in the area and volunteers from FEDEX made this program a success. All Departments have been busy with presentations to students participating in JROTC. ROTC Program. As I met with the Department Commanders, they informed me that this is a very busy project for all. High Schools and Colleges throughout each Department, that participate in this program are very appreciative of the AMVETS

recognition of each Cadet, and their accomplishments. VAVS Program has been doing great work in each Department with on-station and off-station parties and activities for our hospitalized veterans. Several concerts have been held on the VA Hospital Campus Grounds throughout our Departments. This has helped the veterans and families enjoy a wonderful time together.

Legislative

Departments have been continuing to meet with local State Representatives and State Senators concerning veteran housing and the availability of same. Departments have been also involved with the issue of homeless veterans and families, to assist in legislation that could impact this issue.

Service

Earlier this year at the Bourne National Cemetery in Massachusetts they had set and dedicated the new memorial to recognition veterans with PTSD. This was the first for the VA Administration. Each Department participated in the annual Memorial Day Services in May, involving flag placement at local cemeteries and National Cemeteries. Departments have also reported on the program known as Hometown Heros of which cities and town have an application process, and they created a banner size flag with the Veterans picture, name, and military service. This is a great way to honor each veteran of those communities.

Other

We are sad to report the passing of Henry Peters, Department of Maine. He was a Past Department Commander and Past National District One Commander. Rest in peace.

Report of Dana Dillon, NEC Department of Connecticut

National District I

Membership

Membership continues to come in slowly as does renewals. We are in the process of having a new post Chartered in Bristol, CT. This has increased our membership by 17 new members. We are also talking to veterans in Danbury to start a post there.

Upcoming Events

CT will be hosting an upcoming National District One Meeting date and time to be announced later.

Our posts will be working to celebrate different Veterans Day events.

CT will have its SEC in September.

Programs

Connecticut continues to have strong programs. Operation Gift cards, where we go visit wounded soldiers down at Walter Reed and Fort Belvoir has been running monthly since its inception We have brought down over \$3,000,000 worth of gift cards and items. Our ROTC/JROTC program is also active. We have given out checks and awards.

Our Heroes on Wheels programs continues to help those with mobility issues that can not get devices through the VA. We recently donated two batteries for an ultra light weight power chair wheelchair which can be loaned out for veterans or their family members for short term use and travel.

Legislative

We continue to watch and support local and National legislation that affects Veterans and our military.

We just had legislation passed that will afford our CT veterans free bus passes.

Service

We continue to offer help to our veterans and refer them to VSO's for disability claims.

Other

We are going to be making a substantial donation to the AMVETS National Family Service Center. We also continue to support Paw with a Cause.

We had our Department Convention and elected our officers for the 2026-2027 year. We wish all of them a successful year in service.

We would also like to give a shout out and sincere thank you to NY National District One Commander Lester Baker for all of his years of service to veterans in AMVETS and also to veterans in his state.

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

Report of Lewis R. Auspland, Alternate NEC Department of Maine

National District I

Membership

Department 1st Vice Commander is working actively with all posts in the department. Her main goal is to assist with assigning members at large with Posts in their respective communities.

Upcoming Events

S.E.C.meetings Oct.10,2027 Post 33 Jay,Me.

Jan. 10,2027,Post 1 Biddeford,Me.

April,10 2027 Post 6 New Gloucester,Me.

May 8, 2027 Post 2 Yarmouth,Me.

All meetings at 10:00 a.m.

Programs

The 2nd vice has been active in working with Posts with the White Clover Program. He has been working with several high schools, and academy's in the ROTC programs. He is beginning to initiate an informational programs for Founding Forward Program as the new scholastic year is beginning.

Service

All Posts in the Department are very active within their communities. Advocating for veterans for Veterans Administration health care, homeless vets,veterans with substance abuse issues. They work year round supporting the veterans and family.

A current project is the Dept. Ladies Auxiliary President's project is Boothbay Vets, They provide homeless veterans with a small house on a trailer, and have land for them to put it on.

Other

This is my first time being selected to serve on my department as their Alt. NEC man. I look forward to the challenge and the learning that will come with this position.

Report of PDC Caroline J Kenyon, NEC

Department of Massachusetts

National District I

Membership

Year 2025/2026 - It started slowly with the annual renewals after the National Convention. But it progressed during the year. In the end, we did strong to keep membership up. This year the department's 1st Vice Commander wants to decrease the MAL's and to have more membership drives in certain areas.

Upcoming Events

We recently held our SEC meeting in July. Our next SEC meeting will be on the 3rd Sunday in September. Our annual Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday August 29th. The name of the tournament has been changed to the following- AMVETS dept of Massachusetts Daniel Leblanc Memorial Golf Tournament. This event will be held at the Woods Golf Club in Westminster. It's a fee of \$100 per person (team of 4 players). You can also sponsor a hole for \$100 as well. All fees/sponsor must be paid by August 21st.

Programs

Special Olympic - Once again we're planning our Polar Bear Passion Plunge for Special Olympics. Last year we raised a total of \$18,100. We're planning to have our 1st meeting sometime in September.

Americanism - Due to the Chairperson getting injured. We didn't receive any entries. So nothing was submitted this year from Massachusetts.

Legislative

Our legislators are working hard to get any legislation passed. So our governor will sign it into law.

Other

We had our State Convention in May. It was May 29th, for a gathering at the post. The convention really started on May 30th and finished on May 31st. It was an honor to have all 3 National officials present at this year's convention. Everyone enjoyed themselves through the weekend.

We didn't have an election. The results are as followed:

CMDR - KJ Urato

1 VCMDR - Dave Nicoson

2 VCMDR - Steve Belcher

3 VCMDR - Jeff Dupuis

JA - Joseph Dineen

FO - Thomas Davitt

ADJ - Stephen Garner

PM - John Pajak

2 year term:

NEC - Edward Wyzik

ALT NEC - Wayne Anthony

We also had an election for our State Service Foundation - 2 openings. The winners were- Steve Belcher and Edward Wyzik.

Our State Honor Guard are still participates in parades, wakes and funerals when requested. We recently participated in the town of Ware celebrating our Nation's 250 Anniversary. A parade was held on August 1st. We had several members of the AMVETS from across Massachusetts. The honor guard is currently waiting for word to participate in posting colors at Fenway Park for the Boston Red Sox. Right now it's too early to receive word at TD Bank Garden for the Celtic or Bruins.

It was an honor and a privilege to represent this department at these NEC meetings for the last 2 years. I know my replacement Edward Wyzik will do an outstanding job. He can always contact me for any questions that comes up.

Report of Fred Vineyard, NEC Department of New Jersey

National District I

Membership

NJ AMVETS continues to offer incentives to boost membership which appears to be lacking in some of the states

Programs

- JROTC Certificates/Medals to NJ High Schools
- NJ Dept. Scholarship awarded to 3 High School Students
- Flag Coloring Contest for K and 1st grade students
Certificates and gift cards were presented
- 2025 Founding Forward Certificate of Participation
given to attendees

Legislative

NJ Approved P.L.2025, c.33 *Requires public institution of higher education to readmit student whose enrollment was interrupted by military service

Service

Fred Vineyard, VSO continues to assist Veterans and their families with claims, appeals and resources



National District II

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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 been attending 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. only 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, There will be a Memorial service on Memorial Day.

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 businesses

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. This 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

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

National District II

Workplace Act would:

- 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.
 - o 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 as 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

The Commander and Second Vice Commander are doing an excellent job working on our membership renewals. Our new members' totals are above last years. Attended Membership and Program Training sessions held on Zoom.

Upcoming Events

The March of Columbia will held its Spring Department Convention on March, and the Department Convention on June 21, 2026, both at Spates Hall, Joint Myer-Henderson Hall, Ft Myer, Virginia, we were pleased to welcome National Commander representative, National Membership Director, Warren Cox.

Programs

I am pleased to report that the Program Reporting for the Department of the District of Colombia for this period is 100%. In the programs we reported on the Online Data System in the categories of Americanism, Community Services, Fundraising, Remember Me, and Supporting Veterans/Families. January 1, through June 30, 2026, we have reported 2125 volunteers with 16,879 hours of volunteer service for a total of \$482,197.06.

This Department took part in the Women Veterans Public Policy Day held in Washington DC. Senators and Congressional staff engaged in conversations on important topics related to veterans, including family health, veteran care, support for military children, civic engagement, assistance for transitioning veterans, VA funding and programs, as well as affordable housing for military families and veterans.

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

Service

This Department attends the Spring NEC at AMVETS National Headquarters' ribbon cutting ceremony in Washington, Pennsylvania, in November, the Women Veterans Rock, Policy Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC in March.

Attend the National District II meeting in Falls Water, West Virginia, the ROTC Ceremonies, presenting AMVETS Certificates and Badges to Cadets at Eastern High School and the Columbus Heights Educational Center in Washington, DC.

Department sponsored a Family and Friends Day Cookout at Joint Base Andrews Maryland, on June the 6th which was attend by families and friend from Washington, Maryland, and Virginia.

Performed homegoing ceremonies for three veteran's families.

Other

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

Report of Andy Martel, NEC

Department of Maryland

National District II

Membership

Latest figures show the Department of Maryland has achieved 100% membership for this fiscal year, thanks to a lot of hard work by many of our Posts. Four of our Posts have also achieved 100% and others are very near. Congratulations to all of them.

Upcoming Events

Our next DEC's are scheduled for July 19th at Post 7 in Thurmont, MD and October 4th at Post 10 in Hagerstown.

Programs

Post reporting has improved for this current term and we look forward to having all of our Posts reporting in the National system by Convention time.

Legislative

During our most recent Maryland legislative session, several bills were introduced and passed resulting in direct benefits to the veterans in Maryland. Among them were:

- Property Tax - Credit for Dwelling House of Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses
- Property Tax Credit - Surviving Spouse of Military Service Member
- Income and Property Tax Incentives
- Natural Resources - State Park Entry Fee Exemptions

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.

Six \$1,000 scholarships were presented at our Annual Convention on June 6th to Maryland students who will be attending college this coming Fall. AADAA and Americanism awards were also presented. ROTC Awards were presented at the appropriate school functions.

Other

Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed officers for this upcoming year. May your terms be very successful.

Report of Mark Beaver , NEC Department of North Carolina

National District II

Membership

Our Department of North Carolina currently has 2,500 members . Post level are trending upward. Several Post has received new member applications. Post 845 in Rockwell North Carolina has shown increase in new members due to recruiting at different function .

Upcoming Events

Our Department of North Carolina held our annual State Convention June 5th thru 7th in Clemmons North Carolina. We had the pleasure of hosting 3rd National Vice Commander Hartsfield. Commander Hartsfield swore in our newly elected Department Officers. Art Leaming Post 76 from Hickory North Carolina was sworn in as our new Department Commander. Upcoming NEC meeting in Orlando Florida National Convention. August 17 thru 21st. Several Post in the North Carolina area. Participated in celebrating America 250 Birthday on the 4th of July. We had several riding in the local town parades.

Programs

Americanism along with ROTC Awards. Post 845 Rockwell North Carolina recognized ROTC Cadet John Bergen from East Rowan High School on his mark man score. Presented Cadet Bergen with a Henry Golden Boy classic 22 rifle.

Legislative

Our Department of North Carolina has been in contact with Senator Ford form North Carolina concerning Amvets State license plates. We have also showed concerns of nine bills in the senate dealing with Veterans

Service

Vavs committee has nothing to report at this time. State Veterans Council upcoming meeting to be held in Raleigh North Carolina.

Other

Commander this is my report and i ask for it adoption at the appropriate time. Submitted by Mark Beaver NEC
Department of North Carolina

Report of John R. Cooper, NEC

Department of Virginia

National District II

Membership

Membership continues to be an emphasis for the Department of Virginia. At our DEC/SEC meeting held via Zoom on June 20th, the 1st Vice Commander reminded all that our membership is ageing. Our Post's are contacting our members at large to become Post members. Non-renewals are being contacted to reduce the decline in memberships in each Post. Our goal is to continue to grow as a leader Department in District II.

Upcoming Events

Fall DEC/SEC is scheduled for September 18-19 at Post 35 Collinsville, VA. We are VERY pleased to announce that we now have a SAD SACKS and expect them to receive their charter membership at the National Convention.

Programs

Our Department 2nd Vice Commander Jeffrey Fowler, announced that we had presented over 84 ROTIC/NJROTC awards to High Schools, Colleges, and Universities this year. Two of our Posts have supported our American Programs with submission of essays to our National Programs Department. We are 100% reporting from our Posts for the last two periods.

Legislative

AMVETS continues to be very well represented at the Joint Leadership Council with many members of AMVETS who serve in other service organizations. The major three Commonwealth issues are:

- Veterans Suicide Death Certificate Assess. AMVETS wrote this bill and is now law.
- Exempt 501(c)(19) VSO's from limits on the use of proceeds from charitable gaming: Current limitations reduce operational flexibility and can hinder the ability of VSOs to fund Veterans assistance programs.
- Stop Unscrupulous Firms from exploiting Veterans: These firms often charge fees and misrepresent them as the authority to process VA claims for our Veterans. The Commonwealth Department of Veterans Services and the majority of VSO's provide the service for free.

Service

All Post's participate in Red Shirt Friday to show support for our servicemembers serving deployed. Past Department Commander John Cooper has been selected to serve as the Grand Marshall for Veterans Day Parade in Virginia Beach this fall. The Department each quarter provides funding for the four Commonwealth Veterans Care Centers and our three VAMC's. Our Department Service Officer has expanded many new volunteer programs for our Post's and expect major outcomes.

Other

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



National District III

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Report of Mark Frederick, National District III Commander

National District III

Membership

Membership retention continues to be an emphasis for the district. New membership has also been a priority which has allowed the district to increase membership by 7.72 %

Upcoming Events

The next District III meeting will be August 21st at the National Convention.

Programs

program reporting has continued to improve in all departments.

Legislative

All departments continue to advocate and support all veterans issues in their respective States as well as on capitol hill.

Report of Morton Gould, NEC Department of Alabama

National District III

Membership

The Department of Alabama currently has six posts, 829 members, including 671 Life members, 101 Annual members, and 57 Life Conversions. As of 5 June 2026, we had a renewal percentage of 76%, with three posts achieving 100% renewal. Our Department 1st Vice Commander provided the list of Members at Large (MAL) who have joined since 1 January 2026 to the posts, encouraging post leadership to contact the MALs in their areas to see if they would like to join a post. Other membership programs remain ongoing and are focused on growing the post memberships.

Upcoming Events

Virtual SEC Meeting: November 21, 2026

Programs

From July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 department programs generated a total value of \$231,795.23 across all program areas. These efforts included:

- 1,341 volunteers
- 7,245.5 volunteer hours
- 29,706 miles traveled
- \$3,260 in cash donations
- \$9,272.14 in activity costs

AMVETS Post 21 led the department with a total of \$131,733.70, which accounted for over 56% of the department value.

The department supported 36 university/high school ROTC/JROTC award ceremonies from Feb through May 2026, recognizing 48 students for their leadership and academic achievement with certificates and medals.

Our support of all programs continues to demonstrate our commitment to veterans, their families, and communities across Alabama.

Legislative

HB 341 – Alabama National Guard Tax Relief

- Exempts the first \$5,000 earned from inactive-duty training by Alabama National Guard members from Alabama state income tax beginning in 2027.

HB 182 – Military Experience Credit for EMS Licensure

- Requires the Alabama Department of Public Health to recognize qualifying military education and training toward EMS licensure.
- Helps veterans transition more quickly into civilian emergency medical careers.

HB 155 – Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption

- Removes the annual verification requirement for permanently and totally disabled veterans receiving the homestead tax exemption.
- Reduces administrative burdens on eligible veterans.

HB 487 – Alabama GI Dependent Scholarship Program Expansion

- Expands educational benefits for dependents and spouses of veterans.
 - Lowers disability thresholds for eligibility.
 - Broadens access to scholarship opportunities.
- Military Spouse Employment Preference Legislation
- Enhances hiring and promotion preferences for military spouses in Alabama state government.
 - Allows local governments and private employers to implement similar hiring preferences.

Service

Our posts remain active in their communities, serving fellow veterans and supporting local programs. Post 7 has an excellent working relationship with other Veteran Service Organizations in their area and team up on projects on a regular basis. They continue to focus awareness on veteran suicide, helping homeless veterans find housing, supporting local JROTC award ceremonies and they are active with the Wiregrass Military Veteran and First Responder Coalition, with two post members serving on the board. Post 7 sponsored a local Patriot Day event, placed POW/MIA tables at area businesses and government buildings for POW/MIA Remembrance Day and promoted the AMVETS Americanism contest in area schools.

Post 21 remains a driving force in the Veterans Treatment Court in Limestone County. The program will graduate its second class of successful participants

Report of Morton Gould, NEC Department of Alabama (*continued*)

National District III

on 20 July, 2026. Post 21 continues sponsorship of Scouts of America Troop 7236. Members of the troop participate in the monthly breakfast hosted by the post, which is free for veterans, first responders, and their families. The post averages between 130 and 150 served during those free breakfasts. Post 21 has an active Veterans in Need Program, provides Veterans Day gift bags to 70+ veterans, and partners with other Veteran Service Organizations, developing a network of resources in Limestone County to help those in need. For the second year in a row, post members posted flags in a Field of Honor at the County Courthouse, allowing members to put a ribbon on flags as a symbol of remembrance for friends or loved ones who have served our country.

Post 23 members continue to volunteer at the Veterans Memorial Scenic Overlook, providing grounds clean up throughout the year. The post also had 8 members who provided gate security for a Rattlesnake Rodeo held in the Spring. The post participated in the Policeman of the Year award ceremony, honoring local law enforcement. During the Memorial Day weekend, they placed almost 500 Flags at six local cemeteries.

Post 1955 has primarily focused on membership growth and developing ideas to enhance the overall member experience. They are one of three posts who achieved 100% renewal. In April/May, they presented certificates and medals to outstanding ROTC/JROTC cadets at two local high schools and one state university. Post 1955 also participated in the Morgan County Memorial Day ceremony, where Post Adjutant Doubek read the names of county veterans who passed away during the past year. Five post members also visited injured veterans on eight separate occasions, providing support and encouragement.

Report of Mark McQueen, NEC Department of Arkansas

National District III

Membership

Membership is a struggle. Trying to get the younger generation. Interested is a very hard task.

Upcoming Events

Department meeting September 12

Programs

Mowing Cemetery

Legislative

Make calls to help pass the Take care of Americans Veterans Act.

Service

Help veterans transportation to Doctors appointments.

Other

Have plans to Install a Amvets memorial and flag poll at local school.

Report of Brett N. Colbert, NEC

Department of Georgia

National District III

Membership

Past 1st Vice Commander Wanda Allen undertook the important task of verifying the status of MAL members, ensuring membership records accurately reflected active and deceased members. She single-handedly researched over 300 MAL members and found 152 members have been deceased for as many as five decades.

Although the Department experienced a net membership loss during the year, this long overdue effort was necessary to maintain accurate records. 1st Vice Commander Ronnie Ogletree will work closely with Posts this year to address membership challenges and strengthen recruitment efforts. The Department of Georgia currently has a total membership of 1,859 members. Of those 1,859 members, 1,443 are life members and 416 are annual members. This year's goal is to increase the Department's membership by 20%. By being more visible to our communities and getting out and helping in events around the state. Posts are looking to fall festivals and community events as key opportunities to enhance recruitment and membership growth.

Due to the superb leadership of Post 607 Past 1st Vice Cmdr Natalie Smith, Post 607 saw their membership grow from 185 members to 313 members.

Upcoming Events

Tentative upcoming dates:

Fall SEC September 19-20, 2026

Winter SEC January 9-10, 2027

Spring SEC April 10-11, 2027

Department Convention June 4-6, 2027

All will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Warner Robins, GA.

Programs

The Dept. 2nd Vice, Roy Montgomery reported that 100% of Georgia Posts has reported at least one program during January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026. During this period, Department Programs generated a total value of \$1,931,066.92; this effort included:

- Cost of total hours \$1,802,061.26

- Cash Donation \$3,891.45
- Activity Cost \$50,008.13
- Cost of Mileage \$75,106.08

The ROTC & JROTC Program have been very active throughout the State Georgia. We gave out medals & certificates to both high school and college students.

The Department of Georgia will create a Department Calendar to share with each Post to help promote member involvement and support for each Post.

Notable Events and Programs:

- May 23 – Post 44 hosted a Fish Fry that was much more than a fundraiser. Rather than simply selling meals to raise money, the Post partnered with local small businesses, providing them with an opportunity to showcase and promote their products and services. By doing so, they transformed the Fish Fry into a community event that welcomed participation from people throughout the area.

The event strengthened relationships between the Post, local businesses, and the community while demonstrating AMVETS' commitment to supporting those around us. It was a tremendous success, and according to everyone in attendance, the fish was absolutely remarkable!

- May 30—the Department proudly partnered with Quilts of Valor to honor two deserving Vietnam veterans: Roy Montgomery of Post 44 and Frank Simmons of Post 110.

Witnessing these veterans receive their Quilts of Valor was a deeply moving experience. The joy and emotion on their faces as they were finally told, "Welcome Home," served as a powerful reminder of the gratitude owed to those who served our nation during the Vietnam War. The Department is honored to partner with Quilts of Valor in this meaningful mission and looks forward to presenting many more quilts to Georgia's deserving veterans, ensuring they receive the recognition, appreciation, and warm welcome home they have so richly earned.

Report of Brett N. Colbert, NEC

Department of Georgia (*continued*)

National District III

- June 14 – July 5, 2026 – Post 1857 observed Flag Day in a unique and meaningful way. Nearly one-third of the Post's membership came together to place 60 American flags throughout their community. Despite challenging weather conditions, members faithfully maintained the flags through the conclusion of the nation's 250th Independence Day observance on July 4.

- July 4—Post 911 was the Ambassador cheering squad for the Annual Peachtree Road race in Atlanta, Georgia. They Congratulated all the participant as they crossed the finish line.

In addition to this patriotic display, several Post members were interviewed by local media, where they shared their unique perspectives as veterans on what it means to be an American. Their heartfelt reflections helped strengthen community appreciation for our nation's values, the sacrifices of our veterans, and the enduring significance of the American flag.

- August 8 – Post 99 will have their first Car Show! This Post is looking at new ideas (to their Post) and events to promote more community involvement.

Department of Georgia is looking at new ideas to promote and involve their local communities to reach new demographics in our state.

Legislative

Commander Allen and the Department of GA partnered with 20 other VSOs to tackle key GA Legislative priorities as the State Legislative season closed. We (Veterans on the Hill) were instrumental in ensuring that only helpful legislative bills were passed and became laws. Bills that were not helpful to veterans in the State of Georgia including a version of the Claim Shark bill (GA - HR 108) were either stalled out or did not make their way out of the respective Committee. HR 108 was stalled and will be required to be re-introduced as new legislation before it can be considered again. Given the Supreme Court's decision surrounding this topic, we expect to see a complete overhaul of the bill with input from the VSO leadership.

Service

Nothing to Report

Other

The Department of Georgia is proud to introduce our leadership for the 2026-2027 Election Term:

Commander: Milton Allen

1st Vice Commander: Ronnie Ogletree

2nd Vice Commander: Roy Montgomery

NEC: Brett Colbert

Executive Director: Wanda Allen

Chaplain: Danny Sirmans

Finance Officer: Wendell Rivens

Judge Advocate: Guylee Washington

Inspector General: Likisha Cherry

Provost Marshall: Natalie Smith

Service Officer: Melvin Williams

Report of Janice Shelton, NEC Department of South Carolina

National District III

Membership

Dept of SC has 431 Annual Members, 1024 Life Members, for a total membership of 1,455.

Upcoming Events

We held our last SEC and elections at Post 70 in Port Royal on June 13-14. Our next SEC is at Post 111 in Abbeville on September 19-20.

Programs

During the past 3 months, the Dept of SC has reported 761 volunteers, 5,894 hours, 8,545 miles traveled and report totals of \$173,651.06. Noted categories reported were: Fundraising, Community Service, Remembering Me, Americanism, Supporting Veterans/Families, and Membership.

Legislative

H.R. 6047, the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefit Expansion Act

H.R. 1228: Prioritizing Veterans Survivors Act

H.R. 210: Dental Care for Veterans Act

H.R. 647: Ensuring Veterans Final Resting Place Act

Service

Our Department conducted the following service related activities: Coffee Mess at the Beaufort Naval Hospital, Red Shirt Friday participation, support of Savannah Honor Flight, Participation at OPFOB for Suicide Awareness and Prevention, Donation to Rolling to Remember, Women Veterans Day Celebration, Participation in Memorial Day parade and events.

Other

Our Dept and all Posts in SC are striving to increase our Membership through active recruiting efforts. Our community involvement has increased as well as our efforts to gain awareness of the AMVETS organization and our mission to help Veterans in our community.

Report of Lee Ann Adams, NEC Department of Tennessee

National District III

Membership

TN membership stands at a total of 2,150 members including;

- 1,682 Life Members (2 new memberships added this year.)
- 468 Annual Members (110 new memberships added this year).
- We achieved 4.8% growth over the 2024-25 totals.
- 120 deceased members were removed from our rolls.
- Monthly recruiting reports are submitted from our posts.
- Department Recruiting awards for individuals have been approved for 2026-2027. Post membership awards will remain in place.
- Our Department Website aided in recruitment of 4 new members during 2025-26.

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 11-12, 2026 - TN Fall 2026 SEC Meeting. Post 2, Oak Ridge, TN.
- Oct. 3, 2026 - Dept. of TN Golf Tournament. Sponsored by TN Post 100. Held at The Ridgewood Golf Course, Athens/Etowah. Open to the Public.

Programs

- Americanism Awards have been distributed to winners of the 2025-26 contest.
- 174 members of TN JROTC/ROTC programs were awarded medals, certificates and US flags.
- 42,000 '250th Year' Pocket Constitutions have been ordered. Distribution to TN 8th grade students will be held in September.
- 'Team TN' completed 2 large scale projects for veterans in need. Numerous smaller scale projects have been completed by individual posts across TN.
- Total Programs Value for 2025-26: \$4,876,747.94

Legislative

HB1635 - Signed 06-04-26. Expanding eligibility for interment in TN State Veterans Cemeteries to include those who honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Components, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard for at least eight years collectively, or

who were called to service under state orders regardless of length of service

Impact: Eligible individuals are buried at no cost, with spouses, surviving spouses, minor children, and dependent incapacitated children also eligible under federal rules.

SB2483 - effective 4-27-26. Directed the Dept. of Veterans Services to conduct a study on county VSO resources, underserved areas, operational capacity, outreach efforts, partnerships, and potential funding mechanisms. Report due 12-31-26.

Purpose: To identify ways to strengthen local VSO's and improve access to benefits.

Stalled Efforts

Disabled Veteran Property Tax Reimbursement: TNVET had bipartisan committee support for recommended changes. The bill died in committee due to funding constraints.

State Veteran Lottery: TNVET sought to establish an instant-ticket lottery to fund the TN Fund for Veterans' Assistance. The bill was rejected due to the need for a State Constitution Amendment.

TNVET plans to reintroduce the bill in the 2027 session.

Service

The Veteran Relief Fund (funded by our annual golf tournament) supported 4 veterans, totaling \$1,352.00. TN AMVETS donated funds to:

- Tennessee Veterans Homes \$2500.00
- St Jude Research Hospital - \$2000.00
- Quilts of Valor - \$350.00
- United Veteran Council of East TN. - \$500.00
- Tennessee Veterans - \$200.00.
- VA Support Grants to our VAVS Reps - \$3725.00

Other

- We were honored to have both our National Commander Paul Shipley and National Ladies Auxiliary President Mary Lanphere in attendance

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

National District III

at our 2026 Dept. Convention.

- Our Dept. “Officer SOP’s”, and our “Committee Duties and Responsibilities” aid in a smooth transition as leadership positions change.
- Dept. Staff Meetings are being held bi-monthly, on “Zoom”, to assure TN is moving in the right direction.
- The Dept. of TN State Convention was held June 3-7, 2026, in Gatlinburg, TN.
- Results of the 2026-27 elections for Dept. of TN Officers are:

Commander - Frank Kusiowski

Executive Director - Jeffrey Hartless

1st Vice Commander - Dwayne Kindell

2nd Vice Commander - Bill Jasper

Finance Officer - Tim Woody

Judge Advocate - Jessie Decker

Adjutant - Carla Bell

Provost Marshal - Larry Evon

Deputy Provost Marshal – Tommy Jurnet

NEC - Lee Ann Adams (2nd of 2-year term)

ALT NEC – Jessica Tracy (2nd of 2-year term)



National District IV

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Report of Jean Marie Henning, NEC Department of Illinois

National District IV

Membership

Amvets Department of Illinois membership has slided down a bit, with 6,137 members for 2025-2026. Our 1st Vice's have been diligently going through our rolls and removing duplicates and correcting errors. Our Posts are still getting used to the new/old system. There has been a slight adjustment for some members using it, and a welcome back for others. We offer a wide variety of membership tools to gain attention and set us apart from other department VSO's. We offer online capabilities to join and we are constantly trying to improve our coverage and remain at the forefront of Illinois Veterans' Organizations.

Upcoming Events

We will be having our annual September School of Instruction in Springfield IL Sep 18-19, 2026.

IL Amvets is very proud to announce the ownership of "Flag World" where you can get all of your Flag needs. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10am -3pm Central Standard Time. Feel free to contact them at (217)522-6558 or email flagworldcorp@gmail.com

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

Programs

We at Illinois Amvets are proud to report that we again achieved 100% in program reporting for this last year. This has been an ongoing tradition for us for numerous years, our Posts are still getting used to the new program. Our Department Officers are diligently helping as much as we can to showcase what our members do for their veterans and communities.

Two of our top programs that we take great pride in is our "Operation Red Sleigh" where with donations from individuals, posts and the IL Service Foundation. We were able to help numerous veterans and active duty members and their 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 a very active program for many

decades. We give out annually around 400 medals to high school and college students throughout our state and overseas, this program is funded by the IL Service Foundation and personal donations.

Legislative

Along with our various Department Officers attending National LAW week at our Nations Capital, we also in IL held a Lobby Day where members from around the state gathered to convince our legislators to do the necessary work on behalf of our over 500K Veterans. If you have any questions referring to any veteran related Illinois legislation please call or email our Executive Director Joe Bartley , joe@ilamvets.org (217)528-4713.

Service

Amvets Department of Illinois currently has 1 full time Department VSO that travels throughout the State of Illinois. Our VSO is working thoroughly and effectively to assist veterans and their families by filing over 300 claims bringing in millions of dollars' worth of benefits to the Veterans in the State of Illinois. Our service officer program is in the top of the Nation in claims submitted and we continue to be a leader in the industry. We have also recently started a volunteer service officer program that we pay for their accreditation, of those we currently have 2 that have gone through our program. We couldn't be prouder of what our service officers do for our Veterans.

Other

The Department of Illinois held its 82nd Department convention in Springfield IL at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel on 5-7 June 2026. We elected our new IL Department Commander Army Veteran John Cole out of Post 90 in Dekalb, IL.

Report of Richard Caldwell, NEC

Department of Indiana

National District IV

Membership

AMVETS Department of Indiana honors the dedication and contributions of veterans across Indiana. We hold award ceremonies recognizing outstanding service within the community. We have networking opportunities for veterans and supporters. We offer entertainment and social activities celebrating camaraderie among veterans, their families, and supporters. Membership requires at least 97.5% of veterans to be veterans or cadets. Approximately 29% of members are not in good standing while 71% maintain good standing.

Programs

The department had no complete program totals provided by the posts. A few posts were noted as having reached the 600K mark. The department delivered 28 ROTC medals to schools and universities. We frequent our Indiana Veterans Home for fish fry's and picnic events. We attend all our annual military ceremonies for honoring our veterans of those living or deceased. We have many fundraising events with our Rider's group with their rides everywhere. We hold annual events in many posts for community causes and support.

Service

We attend monthly meetings with our Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs in regard to grants. Total expenses decreased by 30% from \$50,457 to \$ 39,652. The Indiana Service Foundation has a vacancy for a VSO as well as money to further the effort to continue to assist veterans. Our AMVETS VSO leadership is highly regarded across our state as a top-notch, with high integrity, professional group in obtaining our veterans the benefits and compensation they have earned. Our Indiana Service Foundation reinforces their commitment to maintaining efficient operations, financial control, and community support for veterans.

Upcoming Events

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by a majority vote of members present at our convention to confirm the selected dates for AMVETS Department meetings and conferences in accordance with Article

II, Section 2. Approved Dates: Fall Conference: November 6-8, 2026; Spring Conference: April 2-4, 2027; Annual Convention: June 4-6, 2027; Mandated Fall Conference: November 5-7, 2027. A meeting Site Planning Committee discussion focused on committee to help ensure that AMVETS Department of Indiana and its subordinate organizations have meeting locations scheduled well in advance of future events.

Legislative

Property tax deductions for disabled veterans were initially replaced by a less favorable tax credit, but the original deductions were later restored without change effective July 01, 2026. Beginning July 01, 2026, Indiana veterans who currently receive a property tax deduction must refile using Form 51186 to maintain or claim their benefit. Veterans must file between July 01, 2026 and December 31, 2026 to avoid losing the deduction for the next tax cycle. File with the county auditor in that time frame. If rated 100% disabled, prepare for full homestead property tax relief beginning with taxes payable in 2027. If rated 10% to 90% disabled, expect changes in how credits are applied; filing Form 51186 helps preserve eligibility.

Other

Our department members also discussed the financial impact of gaming machines on the AMVETS organization. While gaming-machine revenue may benefit the organization financially, concerns were raised that veterans may lose money or develop gambling-related problems. The discussion was voluntary in nature and did not establish a mandate.

Report of Mary Van Horn, NEC

Department of Iowa

National District IV

Membership

We have lost 3 Posts this year with a potential for adding one more. That is currently being worked out. It will be located in our northern tier as we have lost so many in that region. We are actively working with Posts to contact members in the MAL listings to pull so of those members to their Post to get them engaged. One Post in our capitol city continue to grow with several new members this month alone. This same Post is actively raising funds to build a new building. They recently purchased a 2 acre property and have site plans in the local jurisdiction for review. This Post is our oldest and most active. We look forward to what is coming from them in the future. They will celebrate their 80th birthday this year.

Upcoming Events

Our Fall SEC will take place on October 17th with Joint opening at 9am at Des Moines AMVETS Post 2 at 2818 5th Ave Des Moines Iowa. Our January SEC will be held on January 16th 2027 at Evansdale Post 31 in Evansdale Iowa. Our Spring Quarterly SEC will occur on April 17th 2027 in Richmond Iowa at Post 107 located at 402 AMVETS Road in Richmond. State Convention will be held June 4-6, 2027 at Cedar Falls Post 49 located at 1934 Irving St. Cedar Falls Iowa.

Programs

The Department is very proud to participate with the ROTC and JROTC programs throughout Iowa each year. These groups participate with Bingo nights, dinners, Flag Retirement ceremonies, and other events throughout the year and it is our honor to present awards to the deserving cadets each year. This year we had 12 different units we recognized. Cedar Falls Post 49 also held a dinner for those commissioning from the University of Northern Iowa. Our 2nd Vice continues to work with some of our smaller rural posts to get information to enter into programing reporting. This was a challenge this year with some issues this Spring with the reporting system. We have multiple Posts with Honor Guards who cover funeral services and parades. One Post hosts the City wide 4th of July parade and has done it every year for the past 25 years. Other Posts have found their niche in various service projects. The

2 largest Posts Des Moines and Cedar Falls host weekly events at their Post homes. Des Moines buses in the Veterans from Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown (approximately 45 miles away) for a traditional Thanksgiving and Easter Dinner. In addition, they host the Annual Veterans Standdown every year in September. They also hosted the State's Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day this year. Cedar Falls Post 49 runs events daily and works closely with the UNI College ROTC program. They regularly provide Honor Guard services for there sporting events in the Fall and winter. This Honor Guard also does in excess of 300 funeral services each year.

Legislative

All Iowa state agencies are undergoing a comprehensive review of all existing administrative rules. Initiated under Governor Kim Reynolds' Executive Order 10 (EO10), this statewide "Red Tape Review" is a coordinated effort to simplify the Iowa Administrative Code, eliminate outdated or redundant regulations, and reduce unnecessary restrictive language across state government. The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs is systematically evaluating every rule chapter under our jurisdiction to ensure our regulations are clear, effective, and pose no undue economic burden on Veterans in the State of Iowa. Our next Veterans Day on the Hill will be January 20,2027. Dave Wilkins with AMVETS Post 2 recently accepted the 4 year appointment for AMVETS Commissioner. One piece of Legislation did pass to benefit 100% Service Connected Veterans. These Iowa veterans can attend State universities free of charger for their tuition. This was big win.

Service

Eight of the sixteen soldiers killed in the current Iran conflict lived in Iowa or were stationed with the 103rd Sustainment Command out of Des Moines Iowa. As we continue to work together to serve our Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, we remember Iowans / Americans affected by the attacks on U.S. Forces on Saturday, December 13, 2025, in Palmyra, Syria, and on Sunday, March 1, 2026, near the Port of Shuaiba, Kuwait. All of these Soldiers had families,

Report of Mary Van Horn, NEC Department of Iowa (*continued*)

National District IV

friends, civilian jobs outside the military, hobbies, and were living full lives. Blessings on each of these Soldiers and their families. For me – this event reinforced why our mission in support of Veterans is so important. Everyone who served in uniform took an oath of service – truly writing a blank check made payable to the American people for the cost of “up to and including my life”. We must never forget their sacrifice.

- Two Soldiers of the 1st Squadron 113th Cavalry 2nd Brigade Combat Team 34th Infantry Division (Iowa Army National Guard), Staff Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar of Grimes and Staff Sergeant William “Nate Howard of Marshalltown, were killed by a lone gunman suspected to be connected to the Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS). Several Soldiers assigned to this unit sustained career ending injuries and continue to be receive treatment at U.S. military facilities around the country. AMVETS Posts and Riders were Proud to be part of these ceremonies and support for these families.

In January 2026 Our Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs began a project Still Serving Iowa Veterans Podcast. Podcasts are presented once per week on topics of interest to Veterans. These podcasts have ranged from identity and requirements for various VSO's to predatory claim sharks and feel good stories regarding presentation of different award and quilts of valor. They have been viewed by over 17,500 views and over 5,400 unique viewers after they are pushed out to social media. Their goal is to have conversations with each County VSO, each service for Vetran and mental health organizations such as NAMI. AMVETS Iowa was pleased to help kick off this program.

Other

The Department of Iowa held its Annual State Convention June 12-14, 2026. Kevin Reece US Navy from Post 107 Richmand Iowa was elected Department Commander. For the first time in over 15 years we have a new NEC. Mary Van Horn our Alt. NEC has stepped in to fill the very big shoes of Barry Remington.

Barry was able to attend the Department Convention for short periods of time and it was great to see him.

Report of Michael Cook, NEC

Department of Minnesota

National District IV

Membership

The Department of Minnesota has encouraged the posts to go to the reserve centers throughout the state during their weekend drills and encourage the reservist to become members of the Amvets.

Upcoming Events

Minnesota's next SEC is October 3rd. site to be determined,

Programs

The posts have been doing cook outs for Veterans. the hope is to develop comradery and a sense of family. Some posts have had fishing outings and We have gone to Veterans Homes and have taken the Veterans out fishing. After catching the fish, they go to a picknick park and cook the fish caught.

Legislative

This is an even year. that means it's a Budget year. Veteran's organizations were on the hill ensuring all Veterans programs were not cut. We got the job done.

Report of Patrick Rowley, NEC

Department of Ohio

National District IV

Membership

We are down for the year. 536 members. 497 are cause of death. Renewal percentage is 71.38%. Trying to get new members is tough with the economy.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 15-18 Marriott Columbus Northwest. 5605 Blazer Parkway Dublin Ohio 43017.

Programs

Donated money to the Special Olympics Bowling. Installed handicapped accessibil ramps for veterans. Girl scout cookies to V.A. hospitals. Meals for vets.

Memorial day events state wide. Flag retirement ceremonies. To many to list

Legislative

Res 27-01 adopt, Res 27-02 adopt, Res 27-03 adopt, Res 27-04 adopt, Res 27-05 adopt, Res 27-06, amend on Floor. Res 27-07, amend.

Service

Service officers are busy. Cincinnati 145 claims. Over \$400,000.00 recovered in retro and compensated money. Cleveland 209 claims.\$600,000.00 in retro and compensated money. Columbus 644 claims \$1,000,000.00 in retro and compensated money. Dayton 175 claims. Over \$76,000.00 Retro and compensated money. Wright Patterson 160 claims over \$800,000.00 retro and compensated money.

Other

We do have new Dept. Officers. Commander Russell Kosier, 1st. Vice Al Manley, 2nd. Vice Dusty Hall, 3rd. Vice John Ruby.

We do have state events all Amvets family are invited. Ohio state golf July-15+16 post 84 Jackson Oh.

Cornhole tournament Sept 12 1991 starts at 11:30. Horseshoe Torney Sept.19th post 1776 Logan.

Report of PDC Ralph Waring Beck, NEC

Department of Wisconsin

National District IV

Membership

The Department of Wisconsin revoked charters of Posts for failure to revalidate in the required timeframe leaving us with 43 active Posts and 2809 members. All members who belonged to the Posts that were revoked have been transferred to active Posts or have become members-at-large. District Commander's have been charged with the responsibility of securing the charters and assets of the revoked Posts and turning them into the Department. All Posts are working to refine their membership rolls to ensure that deceased members have been removed and the Post's statistics are current and accurate.

Upcoming events

I have made plans to attend the 2026 National Convention in Orlando, Florida from 18-23 August. While there I will attend the 4th National District meeting and the scheduled NEC meetings. Wisconsin's next SEC meeting will be held at the 29-Pines Sleep Inn & Suites, Eau Claire, on September 19th. Activities are planned throughout the State to commemorate Labor Day on September 7th. Our Department Campout will be held on September 11th & 12th at Plymouth Rock Campgrounds. The date of our December SEC has been set for December 12th and will be held in conjunction with our Department Winter Dance held on the previous evening. We will be participating in local and state-wide events commemorating Pearl Harbor Day.

Programs

Wisconsin Posts participated in the Americanism and AADAA contests. Winners were announced at our June 2026 Convention and first place winners were forwarded to National for judging. Our new White Clover Princes, Lily Ann Krueger, began her reign at the conclusion of our Convention and has already participated in over a dozen events throughout Wisconsin including Post Installation Ceremonies, picnics, parades, fundraisers, and Memorial Services. Our outgoing Princess, Noel Rataichuk, will be attending the National Convention in Orlando and will have the opportunity to address delegates in hopes that more Departments will adopt this excellent program. Wisconsin's Hospital & Service Foundation made

significant changes to our local Scholarship Program simplifying 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 twelve bills aimed at improving the lives of veterans. The highlights of some of the bills include providing additional funding for: the Veterans Housing and Recovery Program, state-administered grant programs, the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program, and removing the funding cap for the Wisconsin GI Bill. The Department of Wisconsin is closely monitoring the progression of these bills that impact the veterans in our state, and we are encouraging support from our Representatives for these important pieces of legislation.

Services

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-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, Middleton, Tomah, Union Grove and Zablocki. 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 Information

Recent events include the annual Department Convention held June 18th through 21st. Kevin Gunderson was elected Department Commander for 2026-2027. He is a Retired Army combat veteran who has been awarded the Bronze Star. At the Convention the delegates reviewed several Department and

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

National District IV

National resolutions and CBL changes. The delegates voted to reject National Resolution 27-01 supporting statehood for Puerto Rico and to reject National Amendment 26-2 which would have authorized a \$5 increase in annual membership dues. Budgets were adopted for the Hospital & Service Foundation and the Department for 2026-2027. PDC Wayne Amborn was re-elected Chair of the Hospital & Service Foundation, and PDC Ralph Beck was elected to be President of the Past Commander's Club (the PACK).

Respectfully submitted July 30th, 2026:
Ralph Waring Beck, PDC, NEC
Department of Wisconsin



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Report of Brian Bartlett, National District V Commander

National District V

Membership

ND is gearing up for Annual Members to pay when I get back with new membership cards.

83 members have not paid as of this month for the previous year.

46 will drop off for nonpayment since 2024.

Post 20 in Steele continues to pay for everyone who joins first year membership and they have a \$0 dollar cost to be a member of that post.

Upcoming Events

ND Fall SEC will be on October 17, 2026 in Steele ND
ND AMVETS Post 9 hosting Veterans Stand down
Thu, Aug 20, 2026 9:00am - 2:00pm.

Programs

Red Shirt Fridays has been consistent throughout the posts in ND.

10,000 - 917 Constitution books have arrived and are being processed to send to every 8th grader in ND sponsored by AMVETS Dept of ND.

Legislative

Nothing at this time

Service

ND Fisher House land has been acquired is estimated at \$8 million for the construction costs.

Honor Guards and Color Guards continue to be supported.

Other

NE & CO is looking at the bylaws for District 5 for updating

Report of Dr. Carol Tschampl-Diesing, NEC

Department of Nebraska

National District V

Membership

The Department of Nebraska's grant program, which pays for a first year for new members, continues to successfully recruit many new members to our Department.

- AMVETS Department of Nebraska, along with several local posts, are helping sponsor a women Veterans' retreat to be held September 5-6 at Camp Ashland Nebraska.

Upcoming Events

- AMVETS Department of Nebraska will be hosting an information table at the 5th Annual Nebraska Women Veterans' Symposium in Kearney, September 18-20.
- The next Department of Nebraska SEC meeting will be in October, with the specific date and time TBD.

Other

The Offutt Air Force Base Air and Space Show will be held August 8-9 at Offutt Air Force Base.

Programs

- This past spring, the Department of Nebraska handed out 13 AMVETS JROTC awards to students in high schools and colleges across Nebraska.
- AMVETS Department of Nebraska awarded 3 Department Scholarships, worth \$500 each, to deserving students.
- AMVETS members from local posts marched in a 4th of July day parade in Omaha.
- AMVETS Department of Nebraska will have an information booth at the Offutt Air Force Base Resource Fair in August.

Legislative

- Governor Pillen, along with the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, is partnering with local Veteran service organizations to help get the word out about Nebraska's new Korean War Veteran Recognition Program. This program is designed to recognize and distribute specially minted challenge coins to the estimated 2400 Korean War Veterans living in Nebraska.
- The next Nebraska Veterans Council Meeting is July 20 in Lincoln.

Service

- AMVETS members will be attending the Nebraska Veterans Home Board Meeting in Scottsbluff on July 23.

Report of Curtis Thomas, NEC Department of Texas

National District V

Membership

We are continuing to contact past members encouraging them to return as members. Participating in community events and informing them of who we are and we do for veterans, their families and throughout the communities we serve.

Upcoming Events

Our Fall SEC will be October 30 - November 1, 2026 at the Hilton Hotel in Waco TX.

Legislative

Although the legislature is not in session, we continue to monitor what is happening with veterans issues.

Service

We've had and attended Memorial Day Ceremonies, fed and donated clothing to homeless veterans and the local homeless in the communities, involved the the Boy/Girl Scouts in our activities such as placing flags on veterans gravesides and flag retirement ceremonies. We also donate money and time to other charity organizations.



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Report of Danelle Wyatt, National District VI Commander

National District VI

Membership

Recruitment through Veteran resource fairs

Upcoming Events

Aug 2026

Programs

JROTC/ROTC award ceremonies, Flag details
Memorial Day

Legislative

Richard Star Act helped get the word to push the vote

Service

Escort unclaimed remains to Mt Tahoma National
Cemetery and escorted the Wall That Heals

Other

I would like to thank all that has supported me this last
year and it was an Honor to have served as District VI
Commander.

Report of Terri Good, NEC

Department of Alaska

National District VI

Membership

All posts have hosted numerous and reoccurring open houses to attract new members. Participated in and hosted many community events to encourage and obtain new membership as well as talking with our annual members about the benefits of renewing their membership. participated in the Annual Bike Blessing, setting up a booth for AMVETS and talking to the community about AMVETS mission and signing up new members. Post 2 was contacted by the VA in Fairbanks in need of someone to assist a veteran who had to fly in for medical services and needed transportation to and from the airport as well as to the hospital, to Fisher House. Post 2 received kudos from the Fairbanks VA for staying with the veteran and ensuring he was taken care of, and safely getting him back to his flight to return home. As a result, they are looking to establish an AMVets post for their Veterans.

We are starting to see new and younger members and encouraged that some are willing to be on the board to effect greater changes... They are our future

Upcoming Events

Our next SEC meeting is Sept 11th.

We are all planning for Veterans day activities as well as the holidays to ensure veterans and their families have a place to go and what they need.

Programs

Participated in multiple Memorial Day events around the state from, the Local Rolling Thunder Event at the States Veteran Memorial on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day, to the Cities Memorial Day Service at the Park Strip (providing sound equipment as well as filling where needed), and MC Services at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery. Continued support for the Special Olympics and JROTC. We have members that work with the city and the Mayor's Veteran Commission to support community events.

Several posts hosted Flag retirement ceremonies that included local JROTC and Airmen from JBER.

Our native members are very active in community and

donate their time by performing traditional dances and activities. Additionally, they are very active in the construction of a Native Veterans Memorial.

Legislative

Post 2 has attended special functions with our State Senators, Representative, and Community Leaders, sharing the AMVETS Story and ensuring veteran issues are at the forefront. Members from Post 2 continue to show representation at Change of Command Ceremonies on local military bases. This encourages positive interaction between the Active Military and the local veteran community and businesses. Additionally, we have 2 members on the Mayors Veterans Commission and have developed relationships while promoting AMVETS

Service

All Posts have contributed to our veterans by assisting shut ins and building ADA access for veterans in need, assisting elderly veterans with house cleaning, going to the grocery store, and coordinating with the one of the JROTC's for community service. We have members that work with the city and the Mayor's Veteran Commission to support community events.

Other

Post 49 is in process of hosting a meeting in September with Commanders/President of all local Veteran and other non-profit organizations to discuss ways to better collaborate, best practices and common challenges.

Report of Brad Koland, NEC

Department of Arizona

National District VI

Membership & Community Impact

The Department of Arizona commands a strong regional presence with nine active posts comprising 849 primary members. When combined with the Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of AMVETS, and Junior AMVETS, the total active network reaches 1,476 members. This robust membership base drives strategic community outreach, focusing on service, local partnerships, and member engagement.

Targeted Outreach Programs

- **“Work for Widows” Days:** A newly launched, community-driven volunteer initiative that pairs service teams and local contractors with widows and widowers. Volunteers handle a wide spectrum of household demands, ranging from basic weed pulling and administration to advanced roofing, plumbing, and electrical repairs.
- **Statewide Mobility Scooter & School Support Program:** Spearheaded by the Sons of AMVETS, this initiative refurbishes donated mobility scooters to provide low-cost or free personal transportation to individuals in financial need. The program recently expanded to support campus safety; AMVETS refurbished and donated four custom EMS utility golf carts to local middle schools to safely transport injured students off athletic fields. Since this first school donation, three other schools requested EMS golf carts. AMVETS provided those additional requests.
- **Educational Workshops & “Coffee Talk”:** To improve quality of life and awareness, the department hosts “Coffee Talk” informational sessions. These workshops educate veterans and community members on critical VA benefits, property tax exemptions, disability rating changes, tech-education resources, and healthcare pathways.
- **Community Engagement:** Civic footprint expansion continues through tribal community partnerships, youth recruitment drives, live entertainment, and family-oriented social events like cook-offs and “Bring a Friend” dinners.

Upcoming Events

RIDERS:

- Post 19 Hotter than Hell Poker Run Sep 26, 2026
- Post 770 Overnight ride Oct 9 – 11, 2026
- National AMVETS Riders Ride of Remembrance May 30, 2027

POSTS:

- Post 89 Adopt A Highway cleanup Oct 24
- Post 770 Golf Tournament Oct 31, 2026
- Post 770 Karaoke every Wednesday and Saturday
- Post 770 Dart Tournament every Friday
- Post 770 First and Third Monday every month.
- Post 19 Karaoke every Friday

SONS:

- Post 770 Chicken Fried Steak dinner and Monica Baltz music Nov 7, 2026
- Post 770 Grilled Pork Tenderloin Chop dinner Dec 5, 2026
- Post 770 Grilled Shrimp dinner with Two-Step Lessons Jan 2, 2027
- Post 770 Surf & Turf dinner with the live concert of the City Limits Band Feb 6, 2027
- Post 770 Surf & Turf dinner with the Jesse Colt Band Mar 6, 2027
- Post 770 Chicken Fried Pork Chops dinner with open country dancing Apr 3, 2027

Programs

The Department of Arizona operates several year-round initiatives to support members, veterans, and local families: These all-volunteer programs produced over 16,000 volunteer hours, over 10,000 miles driven, close to 300 different volunteers, giving the combined valuation of over \$500,000.

- **Work for Widows:** Dedicated days providing hands-on assistance to surviving spouses.
- **Mobility Scooter Program:** Distribution of specialized mobility equipment to members in need.
- **Holiday Gift Drive:** Joint effort with the Riders and Ladies Auxiliary to deliver Christmas presents to families.
- **Meal Assistance:** Free food provided at post

canteens or delivered directly to homebound members.

- 90+ Birthday Celebrations: Annual events honoring senior members who reach age 90 and older.
- Suicide Prevention: Trained members working directly with the VA to support mental health crisis intervention.
- Break for Vets: Emergency financial assistance providing a monetary boost during temporary hardships.
- School Supplies Drive: Collection and distribution of classroom materials for children in need.
- Weekly Offsite Fellowship: Wednesday gatherings focused on meaningful conversation and personal growth.

Legislative

Disabled Veterans Relief: House Bill 2792 was signed into law, providing a 100% property tax exemption on primary residences for 100% service-connected disabled veterans, which also covers qualifying surviving spouses starting in the 2027 tax year.

Services

The Department of Arizona provides several different services. Highlighting a few: AMVETS ensures memorial remembrance and if needed memorial restoration is accomplished for each member.

Donate wheelchairs for individuals in need. In the last 12 months Posts throughout the state donated over \$80,000 worth of medically compliant chairs. Scholarship fundraising continues throughout the year for students to apply for help with their goal of furthering their education.

A few posts throughout the state have plugged into the “Adopt A Highway” program to keep their community clean by routine trash removal and ground maintenance along county highways. There is also a robust Chaplain’s program where visitations in hospital, homes, and where need in the community happens on a continuous basis. This program is also deeply involved with Celebration of Life events and

weddings. Our longtime VSO Dave Johnson has retired, and we are currently training three new VSO to keep continued services for our vets and community.

Other

Department of Arizona added two new posts this past year. Post 1 in Tucson has a building with a bar and canteen. Post 25 in Yuma started a Thrift Store to support the community and implement the start of this new post. Department of Arizona will be starting a podcast to cover topics about veterans and family support. Post 7 in Mesa has joined forces with the Arizona Veterans Resource Center to give veterans full service stop for any resources they may need.

Report of Derek Hendershot, NEC Department of California

National District VI

1st Vice Commander Report

The Membership Committee worked on sharing the membership funds applications for posts to use for membership drives and replacing outdated and/or broken membership marketing items. There were fewer applications this year. A membership application training was provided to those in attendance at the DEC's and the June 2025 convention. Its purpose is to provide support for AMVETS Posts and their membership activities. The goal of the committee is to support posts and target communities for new post standups to further the mission of AMVETS and serve new communities and Veterans. The Membership Committee also resubmitted the updated 24-25 PnP to be reviewed, which included the procedure for the Fund Request and some language changes.

The membership committee continues to support current cities in the process of starting a post: Paradise, California, and Bakersfield, California. The working list of cities discussed this year is still:

Northern

- Tracy
- Bridgeport/Yreka
- South Lake Tahoe
- Paradise (in process)

Central

- Bakersfield
- Paso Robles/Templeton

Southern

- San Gabriel Valley
- Oceanside
- Sorrento Valle

Thank you to the Membership Committee members for your dedication to AMVETS and to the mission of supporting the work of the posts in California. Thank you for allowing me to serve in 2025/2026!

Shelley Huff

1st Vice Commander
559-563-1577

Programs

Dept of California's total cost of program value: \$4,878,323.62. VAVS is always active throughout the state with deputies distributing gift cards and assisting at VA hospitals, Vet Centers, Peer Programs as well as veterans living in treatment facilities and VA housing assisting about 340 veterans a month. The activity cost for the last three months was approx. \$10,500.00

Department of California ROTC/Youth Activities Report – Ending June 2026

Another strong year with JROTC events. Schools are back on track and AMVETS California stepped up with outstanding support. We helped sponsor several events including JROTC Air Rifle Matches, Drill Competitions, Physical Fitness Challenges, and Academics. We continue to reach out and support LAUSD, SFUSD, and SDUSD with their programs, and hopefully will continue. This type of 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.

Another banner year for AMVETS ROTC/JROTC Medal with ribbon and certificate. I began the process of sending out the packets with Medal, Ribbon, Certificate and cover folder in December. Since that time I have sent out two hundred and eleven (204) awards/packets. I have received several positive comments on our Awards and the presentation folder.

Another big plus this year; PDC Sandra Durbin went out and spoke to over a dozen schools with a great motivational talk. I have received a lot of positive feedback from instructors.

We had several Posts and their members 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. Department approved budget line item for 25/26 fiscal year, \$16,500.00. We closed out on 30 June 2026 at \$16,662.69.

John Byrum PDC

Chairman ROTC/Youth Activities

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

National District VI

Americanism Report

We had 3 schools participate in the Americanism/AADAA programs we had 6 1st place winners and 2 2nd place winners. Each winner will receive \$150.00 and 2nd place winners will receive \$100.00. Our AADAA winner will receive \$150.00. Each Post will receive \$200.00 for their respective Posts awards dinner.

Legislative

AMVETS Dept of CA Legislation focused on advocacy that expands access to veteran mental health services, suicide prevention programs, peer support networks, and crisis intervention resources, with special attention to the unique mental health needs of California's women veterans and survivors of military sexual trauma. Legislation that strengthens California's competitive position for retaining military retirees and disabled veterans, including full state income tax exemption for military retirement. Legislation that protects California veterans from federal CalFresh eligibility reductions following the enactment of H.R. 1.

AMVETS supported SB 694 and also the Maj Richard Star Act as supported by the Son's of AMVETS and Auxilary during legislative day at the Capitol.

This year, Dept of CA had their own AMVETS legislative day at the Capitol where the spoke to over 20 Senators and Assembly Members representing the state of CA.

Service

California Service Foundations programs are thriving and play a vital role in supporting veterans. Initiatives such as AMVETS ONE's "Leaving No Veteran Behind" strengthen camaraderie, expand assistance to veterans and their families, and address the urgent issue of veteran suicide. AMVETS ONE successfully completed its 5th national tour. The WELCOME HOME program helps former homeless veterans settle into new homes with essential furniture and other housewares. so far in 2026 they have served over 137 veterans with over \$ 60,000.00 in furnishings and over \$7000dls in gift cards to enhance the lives of veterans further reducing the anxiety and hopelessness of providing.

Department Of California Commander's Report

- The past year for AMVETS Department of California has been a journey of advocacy, engagement, and travel, marked by significant accomplishments that strengthened our mission to serve veterans.

- Our efforts began in July with a trip to Oceanside, California, where we scouted a new site for AMVETS ONE and visited the Oceanside Thrift Store to meet with managers and discuss potential to Partner and host AMVETS ONE. We also connected with the North County Veterans Association, touring their building and grounds to explore opportunities for collaboration.

- In August, I had the honor of being a guest at the White House for Purple Heart Day, aside from being there as a guest of the Purple Heart Hall of Honor I spoke about our AMVETS' & AMVETS ONE mission of serving those who served. Later that month, I delivered a Suicide Awareness Briefing to over fifty personnel, providing critical information and distributing AMVETS resources to potential members. August also included participation in the AMVETS National Convention in Greensboro, NC, and then Legislative Day in California for Veterans, where we canvassed offices in the State Capitol to advocate for SB 694, protecting veterans from claim sharks.

- September saw us in Tulare County collaborating with other VSO's and donors for the "Fore the Cause" luncheon, where AMVETS Department of California and in specific Tulare County received a grant to further our community initiatives.

- November was a particularly impactful month, beginning with meetings at Ontario Region Hockey Headquarters to secure donations for AMVETS ONE. I also traveled to Washington, PA, and Uniontown, PA, as a guest speaker at a local High School and then on to Valley Forge PA to attend the Founding Forward. Next, I traveled to Washington, DC, where we joined other AMVETS and marched carrying flags in the D.C. Veterans Day Parade. During my stay in D.C. I had the honor to visit the Gold Star Mothers Headquarters and meet and talk with many mothers; I also had the

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

National District VI

opportunity to attend a moving ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and Woman's Memorial hosted by AMVETS National HQ. The Keynote and primary speaker being our National Commander. I then visited the Vietnam Wall to pay respects.

- December began with a solemn Pearl Harbor ceremony, where I met with the Department of Hawaii Leadership in Honolulu. I visited Punchbowl Cemetery to pay my respects to fallen veterans. Later that month I accepted the invitation of AMVETS Post 56 meeting and Christmas Celebration. During my visit to Tulare, I had the pleasure of viewing the taping of our ladies Auxiliary AMVETS Live Podcast. The month concluded with the AMVETS Service Foundation meeting in Garden Grove.

- January brought the National Commander's visit to California, starting with his arrival in Palm Springs. Over the following days, we met with Posts 66, 77, 48 and 2, visited Loma Linda VA and the San Bernardino Vet Center, and conducted tours of Long Beach with the Director and West LA VA facilities to include New Directions. We also focused on veterans' mental health, delivering presentations on suicide awareness and engaging in camaraderie with local veteran organizations. The National Commander had a full itinerary while visiting the state networking with the leaders of multiple programs throughout. Toward the end of the month, we confirmed plans for the National AMVETS ONE tour.

- February featured acts of compassion and outreach. We gifted two compassion blankets to gravely ill veterans. I had the honor when invited Department of Ohio to attend their Convention in Dublin, OH, where I participated with the Veteran Woman's Committee in preparing gift bags for women veterans in shelters.

- March was devoted to legislative efforts in Washington, DC, including Legislative Advocacy on the Hill to advocate for our legislative priorities, we attended our National Commander's Testimonial, and then a press conference in support of TAPS. This period also included participation in the NEC meeting

in Washington, PA. Invited to join the California Legislative Rapid Response Team attending weekly meetings.

- April was centered on national and state advocacy, with a National Charities Zoom meeting, the California State Commanders Veterans Council with Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, and then our own AMVETS Advocacy Day and Capitol visits to further strengthen our legislative impact.

- In May, we launched the AMVETS ONE Mission, traveling through Missouri, Ohio, Kansas, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, furthering our national engagement. My month concluded with a quick visit with those participating in Rolling to Remember. During my stay in D.C. I attended ceremonies at Arlington, the Vietnam Wall, the Korean War Memorial, and the Woman's Memorial honoring all fallen and past veterans.

Throughout the year, our ongoing commitments included weekly AMVETS ONE meetings, RED Friday Advocacy, continuous Buddy Checks, and constant communication with Department HQ, the Service Foundation, and National HQ. These collective efforts ensured that AMVETS Department of California remained a visible, active, and supportive force for veterans across the nation.

AMVETS Department of California is made up of dedicated team members who consistently provide exceptional service and represent our veterans and organization with honor. 2025-2026 California State Commander, Josephine (Jo) Keller

Report of Glenn A Skinner, NEC Department of Washington

National District VI

Membership

Current Life members: 2044

Annual members: 469

Total members: 2513

New Members State wide we had 60. But we also lost so many of our aging Veteran members. Looking forward, to finishing off the year strong.

Upcoming Events

Job Fair October 13, 2026 in Tacoma, WA

61st Auburn's Day Veterans Parade November 7, 2026

Programs

Suicide Awareness: Our PTSD group continues to work diligently, to bring veteran suicide awareness to everyone. They pass 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 inviting veterans to be a part of this mission.

VAWS: 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 and JROTC 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 and JROTC Awards Presentations for South-East WA 2027. 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:

Legislative

ESHB-2534 Military families/Education: Makes changes to school district requirements for enrolling children of military families, transferring their education records, and providing them with services and accommodation.

ESHB-5827 Veterans/discharge: Allows an individual to provide a predischarge certification to claim the veterans civil service preference.

Other

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

Fellow AMVETS,

I have had the honor of serving as your commander this year, and I cannot express the pride I have in working with so many talented individuals across the United States. You are what makes this organization the premier Veteran SERVICE Organization in the country.

Following our NEC in March, I have traveled to many departments, visited many individual posts, and met many AMVETS in their local areas. I have had conversations about membership, programs, individual struggles, legislative advocacy, and more. I appreciate hearing your stories and struggles.

The most important message I can share is that we are much stronger together as a team. AMVETS can overcome any obstacle. We can have passionate disagreements, but we must be respectful and listen to each other.

The AMVETS organization has been in a unique period of growth and evolution. Over the past decade, we have seen a transition in business practices and membership. We have become a lean business machine that has trimmed the fat and grown production. I must give credit where credit is due. Joe Chenelly, Warren Cox, and the whole HQ team are outstanding. The new facilities are going to bring in a new era of AMVETS advocacy and leadership in the National Veteran Service Organization community. This will translate to more department growth and support as well as post development.

I am happy to have been in on the creation of partnerships with Wreath Across America and the American Gold Star Mothers. Through coalitions, we are stronger, and with AMVETS leading the coalitions, we position our organization to continue to be the premier organization that it is.

Finally, to the Green Hats. Know that your leaders are a reflection of you. We take our cues from the conversations that we have with you. Never be afraid to approach an AMVETS officer. We are here to serve. No

question is unimportant and no member's opinion should be unheard.

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your National Commander. I will continue to look for ways to serve our great organization, and I challenge you to do the same.

Yours in Service,

Paul M. Shipley
National Commander of AMVETS

Report of Patrick Holcombe, National Sons of AMVETS Commander

My AMVETS Family,

Today, I am filled with a profound sense of pride - not for what I have done, but for what *WE* have accomplished together as a family. As I deliver this final report as the National Sons of AMVETS Commander, my heart is full of gratitude.

First and foremost, thank you! Thank you for the support you have shown me, not just this past year, but throughout the many years I have climbed the ranks of this organization. You are more than just members; you are my FAMILY, and your dedication to our missions of helping and serving Veterans is the heartbeat of everything we achieve. We set out this year with a vision, and because of your tireless work, that vision has become a reality. I want to congratulate every one of you on a truly historic year. We have seen our membership grow, bringing new energy and new voices into our ranks. We have raised record funds to support Veterans' causes, ensuring that those who bore the battle are never forgotten.

But perhaps most importantly, we have made our presence known nationwide. From the halls of Washington to the local posts in our smallest towns, people know who the AMVETS Family is. They know we are a force for good.

As Sons of AMVETS, most of us did not have the opportunity to serve our country in uniform. But through this organization, we have found our own way to serve. We are the guardians of the legacy of our Veteran family members. We are serving our country *now* with the same fervor and commitment they showed in the past. We are the hands that help, the voices that advocate, and the shoulders that support.

However, as we celebrate these victories, I must leave you with a challenge. Our work is never truly finished. I call upon each of you for continued diligence in your duties of office and, more importantly, to the oath you took at your induction. That oath - to serve our Veterans, our communities, and our Nation - is not a one-time promise. It is a lifelong commitment. We must

remain dedicated to making the AMVETS Family the absolute best it can be. When we work in harmony with the AMVETS, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Juniors and the Riders, we are an unstoppable force for American Veterans.

As I prepare to pass this gavel, please know that this is not a "goodbye." It is simply the beginning of a new chapter. My term as Commander may be ending, but my service to this organization and to our Veterans will continue for as long as I have breath in my lungs. I look forward to working alongside you in the trenches, focused on a successful and vibrant future for the organization.

I wish you all a productive, informative, and truly inspiring convention. I hope you leave here with new memories, strengthened friendships, and a renewed fire in your belly for the year ahead. May God bless our Veterans, may God bless the AMVETS Family, and may God bless the United States of America. Have a great convention, and please, travel home safely.

Respectfully yours in service,

Patrick Holcombe PDC
National SOA Commander

Report of Natalie Cummings, National AMVETS Riders President

Greetings National Commander Shipley, Past National Commanders, National Officers, NEC members, AMVETS Family, and distinguished guests.

Over the past few months, I have continued traveling throughout the AMVETS Riders Nation, visiting Chapters and Departments across the country. It has been inspiring to see the enthusiasm our Riders bring to the AMVETS Family and the positive impact they continue to make in their communities.

I am proud to report that the AMVETS Riders achieved a record-breaking \$32,500,000 in Program Reporting, accomplished by a membership of just 3,215 Riders. That is an incredible testament to the dedication of our members and their unwavering commitment to serving veterans and supporting the AMVETS Family.

During this reporting period, we welcomed 13 new Chapters, continuing the growth of our organization. We also introduced new officer training manuals at the Mid-Year Rally to provide consistent guidance and help develop future leaders within our Chapters and Departments.

We are also launching a new AMVETS Riders Suicide Awareness Training Program to equip our members with resources and training to better support veterans and their families. My presidential project, “We Got You,” has now reached more than 1.6 million shares. The purpose has always been simple, to let every veteran, family member, friend, or coworker know that if they are struggling, they are not alone. Together, we can continue breaking the stigma surrounding mental health and remind those in need that someone cares.

Thank you to the National Executive Board, our Department and Chapter leadership, and every AMVETS Rider for your dedication and commitment. Together, we continue to strengthen our organization and make a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Cummings
National President, AMVETS Riders

Report of Sandy Vorhies, National First Vice Commander

Commander Shipley and fellow American Veterans,

I want to thank the Membership Team—Katie Ford, Ashley Piper, Shelly Hall, Ben Moser, and Director Warren Cox—for their dedication to our AMVETS family and for always being available to support our membership needs.

I also want to thank the Departments I had the privilege of visiting this year. Your outstanding hospitality was deeply appreciated.

During my visits, many conversations focused on membership and revalidation forms and procedures. If you have suggestions for improving these forms or processes, please share them with National Headquarters. We always welcome your input.

The Membership Department has been holding quarterly Zoom meetings with the Departments and National District Membership Vice Commanders. These meetings have strengthened the connection between the National Membership Department and those responsible for membership. To be effective, we must continue working together as one team, and I believe we are making meaningful progress.

Accurate email addresses for your Membership Vice Commander, Commander, and Executive Director are essential to maintaining strong communication. Please review your contact information and ensure all email addresses are current.

AMVETS posts are local chapters and facilities that form the foundation of our national organization. They support veterans through social activities, community service, and advocacy, while giving members a place to gather, access resources, and host community functions.

Please consider starting new posts in your Department. If your state is not yet a Department, contact Warren Cox for guidance on the steps needed to become one. Information on building a post is available under the Membership tab on the national website, amvets.org,

and the Membership Team is always available to answer questions.

As a member of your National Leadership Team, I will serve you with honor.

With high regard,



Sandy Vorhies
National First Vice Commander
AMVETS (American Veterans)

Report of Chris Studebaker, National Second Vice Commander

National Commander Shipley, National Officers, members of the NEC, AMVETS, and Guests,

Welcome everyone to national convention. Where has the time went. It just seems like yesterday we were in North Carolina at national convention. This has been quite a year for the programs department. The programs department has been super busy this past year. We have made numerous improvements to the department.

We renegotiated the Airtable contract for a three-year term and we were able to lower the cost of the contract and save AMVETS thousands of dollars a year. The system will still operate the same as it always has. Just as a friendly reminder the programs department does not accept paper reports any more. All programs have to be entered online through the mini extension. We have made tutorial videos on how to report programs online. If your posts or departments would like them just contact us and we will email them out. As you all know programs reporting is one of the most important things we do. We use all of the data that our posts input to let our law makers know how much we do for our fellow veterans. It is hard for a law maker not to give us some time to hear our legislative agenda after they find out how much time and money we donate to help our fellow veterans. Just as a friendly reminder we have two reporting periods January 1st to June 30th and July 1st to December 31st.

One of the most exciting things we in the programs department accomplished this year was we now have White Clovers, ROTC/JROTC medals, and certificates online for purchase. The way to purchase these items is you have to log on to your NETFORM account and go to the shopping cart for purchase. Right now only AMVETS members can purchase these items. We are working with NETFORM to see if we can add the rest of the family to purchase these items. I know members and departments have been asking for white clovers to purchase for years and we have come through and now have these items for everyone to purchase. For convention we will be selling white clovers and ROTC/JROTC medals onsite. That way you can purchase them here in Florida and take them home with you.

It will save your post or department a little money on shipping. We have created a QR Code for convention so when you scan it it will take you right to the shopping cart.

We have also added a new program to the mini extension for reporting under the Americanism Category and it is flag retirement ceremony. We had many posts and departments reach out and ask for this program category and we have now added it. Just as a friendly reminder if you are doing this ceremony with the Scouts you have to decide where to report it, either with the Scouts or as Flag Retirement Ceremony not both. We are also working with AirTable to give the Sad Sacks the same reporting access as our posts and riders chapters.

In July we finished judging scholarships for this year. I want to thank everyone who helped judge scholarships this year. We have numerous scholarships every year ranging from 1,000 dollars to 4,000 dollars a year. These scholarships are available for students, veterans, active duty, guard/reserves, and spouses. The window for scholarship entries is January 1st till April

30th. If you know of any one that might be eligible for these scholarships, please let them know and have them go to our website and under the programs tab we have a scholarships tab. All the information about each scholarship is there.

Before we left for convention the programs department is starting to mail out the packets to the winners for the Americanism contest. These winners are the ones for the Spirit of America Conference at Freedoms Foundation. If you know who the winner is in your department, please let them know we need those packets returned as soon as possible to be able to arrange travel plans. This is going to be a great conference again this year but we want to get the travel booked and get the best prices for airfare. This conference is the first week of November. I want to thank the Service Foundation for their continued support of this program and all the departments, posts, or auxiliaries who also raise funds to send extra Kids to this program.

Report of Chris Studebaker, National Second Vice Commander (*continued*)

In closing it was an honor and a privilege to serve as your second vice commander this year. I took this responsibility very seriously. Programs is the most important thing we do in this organization. I want to thank the team for all of their hard work this past year. We have accomplished many things to make the department run better and make things easier for our posts and departments. I want to thank Warren, Katie, Ashley, Ben, and Shelly for all of their hard work. They all have done an amazing job and I know will continue to do so.

I move for the adoption of my report,

Chris Studebaker
National 2nd Vice Commander
AMVETS
U.S. Navy Veteran

Report of Joseph Chenelly, National Executive Director

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

It is my distinct privilege to present this year-end report on the outstanding progress and energy at AMVETS National Headquarters. Your AMVETS National Headquarters had its best year in a long time.

Our move to Washington, Pennsylvania, has ushered in a new era of excellence. With the exception of Membership/Programs Director Warren Cox and myself, every member of our NHQ team was hired after the relocation. The results speak for themselves: we now have twice as many veterans on staff as we maintained for years in Maryland—an achievement that strengthens our authenticity, credibility, and connection to those we serve.

Leading the charge is my newly promoted Chief of Staff, Spenser Toth. Spenser and his team have brought exceptional leadership, sharp coordination, and an unrelenting drive that elevates every department. Their work has streamlined operations and amplified our impact nationwide.

Equally impressive is Warren Cox, who continues to excel as Membership Department Director while also expertly leading the Programs Department. Warren and his dedicated team of four have delivered remarkable results in membership growth and program delivery, consistently exceeding expectations with creativity and commitment.

Across the entire National Headquarters, every staff member is highly motivated, mission-focused, and united by tremendous teamwork, bold innovation, and a remarkable can-do attitude. This is a team that does not merely meet challenges—it conquers them with enthusiasm.

Our new national headquarters building in WashPA has now been open for a full year and is everything we hoped it would be—a modern, efficient, and inspiring home for our mission.

Financially, NHQ completed the first major step in our recovery from the past several years of truly struggling with cashflow. For the first time since prior to the pandemic, NHQ finished cashflow positive. We are also right on budget while providing more and better services and programs than I have seen in my 10 years in this office.

AMVETS is once again leading from the front on Capitol Hill, at the VA's Central Office, and at the White House. We are just as – if not more – influential and impactful in our veterans advocacy as are the few Veterans Service Organizations that are much larger than us in membership size and money spent. Rep. Mike Bost, the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, recently said AMVETS is a juggernaut, punching well above our weight class. That should make every AMVET proud.

As many of you know, and as we will discuss at length during this year's convention, there is real turmoil in the VSO community right now, as two large organizations and several federal employee unions are opposing a massive bill that would benefit more than 32,000,000 people (veterans, their families, and survivors). Meanwhile, AMVETS, the American Legion, Wounded Warrior Project, Vietnam Veterans of America, MOAA, TAPS, Dole Foundation, and many others have united in support of the Take Care of America's Veterans Act.

That turmoil is not because different organizations have differing positions. The harm has come because some of the groups that oppose the TCVA have decided to attack the organizations that see and support the value in this massive omnibus legislation. AMVETS will never back down to bullies, particularly when we know we are on the right side. I look forward to discussing this a lot over the next few days.

Meanwhile, the National Service Foundation staff is mostly working out of the AMVETS National Capital Region Headquarters in Rockville, MD. They are doing important work every day, particularly our Service Department, which continues to regrow and increase already highly impressive numbers, our Finance

Report of Joseph Chenelly, National Executive Director (*continued*)

Department, and our Human Resources team.

The National Service Foundation is embarking on a very aggressive plan to quadruple the number of NSF-owned thrift stores over the next four years. That will have a major, positive impact on the entire organization.

Regarding our National Convention, the compressed schedule was rough in 2025 and it will be challenging again this year. The savings have been substantial, as we needed. We are hopeful that if an increase for annual Membership dues is adopted by the Convention Body this year, we will be able to go back to a four-day convention in 2027.

As great as the past year has been, AMVETS' future is very bright.

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 and 2027:

- 2026 Winter NEC Meeting – December 5 – Online
- 2027 Spring NEC Meeting – March 6 – NHQ in Washington, PA
- Rolling to Remember – Memorial Day Weekend – Washington, DC
- Pre-Convention NEC – Aug. 18 – Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, NV
- 81st AMVETS National Convention – Aug. 19-21 – Sparks, NV
- Post-Convention NEC – Aug. 21
- 2027 Winter NEC Meeting – December 4 – Online

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

Report of Warren Cox, National Membership Director

National Commander Paul Shipley, Executive Director Joe Chenelly, National First Vice Commander Sandy Vorhees, National Second Vice Commander Chris Studebaker, National Officers, Distinguished Delegates, Department Leadership, and Members of the National Executive Committee:

It is both an honor and a privilege to present the 2026 National Membership & Programs Report. This past year has demonstrated what can be accomplished when leadership works together with a shared vision. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the outstanding leadership and teamwork of National Commander Paul Shipley, Executive Director Joe Chenelly, National First Vice Commander Sandy Vorhees, and National Second Vice Commander Chris Studebaker. At National Headquarters, we believe in one team with one mission.

Leadership & Communication

Our Membership & Programs staff conducts weekly Microsoft Teams meetings to coordinate projects, discuss priorities, resolve issues quickly, and ensure our Departments receive the highest level of support.

We have established two separate quarterly Zoom meeting series to better support our Departments and improve communication across the organization. National First Vice Commander Sandy Vorhees hosts the quarterly Membership Zoom meetings, while National Second Vice Commander Chris Studebaker hosts the quarterly Programs Zoom meetings. Together, these meetings strengthen communication between National Headquarters and our Departments and reinforce our commitment to transparency, accessibility, and responsive leadership.

We firmly believe in boots-on-the-ground leadership. By remaining accessible, communicating consistently, and working directly with our Departments, we ensure communication lines remain open and needs are met.

Membership

Throughout the year, our department has continued improving membership services, streamlining

processes, and strengthening support for our Departments and Posts.

We are proud that more than 80 percent of our membership consists of Life Members. While this reflects tremendous loyalty, it also presents financial realities as operating costs continue to increase.

The proposed \$5 annual dues increase is essential to sustaining the level of service our members expect and deserve. The projected increase in membership revenue is contingent upon approval of the proposed dues increase.

Renewal reminders have been sent to all members with expiring annual memberships to encourage timely renewals and improve member retention.

Membership Card Distribution

Membership cards for the upcoming membership year are available here at the National Convention. Department Commanders or their designated Department leadership representatives are asked to sign for receipt before departing Convention. This process saves AMVETS significant printing, packaging, and postage expenses while improving accountability. DO NOT give cards to Members until payment is secured

Monthly Membership Newsletter

Our new Monthly Membership Newsletter has been distributed to Department leadership by email and will continue serving as an important communication tool throughout the year.

We encourage every Department to submit photos, membership success stories, community service projects, special events, and accomplishments so we can highlight the outstanding work taking place across our AMVETS Family.

Staff Recognition

The accomplishments of the Membership & Programs Department would not be possible without an exceptional staff. I extend my sincere appreciation to Katie Ford, Ben Moser, Shelly Hall, and Ashley Piper

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

for their professionalism, dedication, and tireless work throughout the year.

Looking Ahead

Our priorities remain clear: continue growing and retaining our membership, strengthen communication, modernize operations and technology, deliver exceptional service, support our Departments and Posts, and continue being responsible stewards of our members' dues.

The strength of AMVETS has never been found in one office or one individual—it is found in our volunteers, our Departments, our Posts, and a leadership team committed to working together for the good of the entire organization. Working together as one team with one mission, we will continue building a stronger AMVETS for today's veterans and generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren Cox
National Membership & Programs Director

Report of Dana “Bo” Bolton, National Service Director

The organization demonstrated **stable benefit delivery**, **continued growth in veteran compensation**, and **consistent production of new awards** throughout the year. During the reporting period, AMVETS maintained a strong and consistent level of service to veterans nationwide. Overall, the data indicates an organization delivering greater economic value to veterans through consistent claims advocacy and effective benefit administration despite a gradually declining award inventory.

- The organization increased the overall value of benefits delivered to veterans- totally more than **1.8 Billion** during this period.
- Monthly compensation remained above \$205 million throughout the year and exceeded \$210 million by the end of the reporting period.
- Average monthly benefits increased nearly 7 percent, reflecting greater financial impact for the veterans served.
- Operational productivity remained stable, with approximately 120–180 new awards generated each month

Key Annual Outcomes

Performance Indicator	Beginning of Period	End of Period	Trend
Monthly Benefits Paid	\$205.4M	\$210.5M	+2.5%
Average Monthly Payment	\$2,119	\$2,266	+6.9%
New Awards (FYTD)	1,373	1,070*	Strong production maintained
New Award Benefits (FYTD)	\$1.81M	\$1.54M*	Consistent value

*Beginning in November the VA fiscal year resets, so FYTD totals restart and are not directly comparable to the previous fiscal year.

Expanding AMVETS Footprint Though Partnerships

- Created an MOU with Washington State adding 4 new service officers.

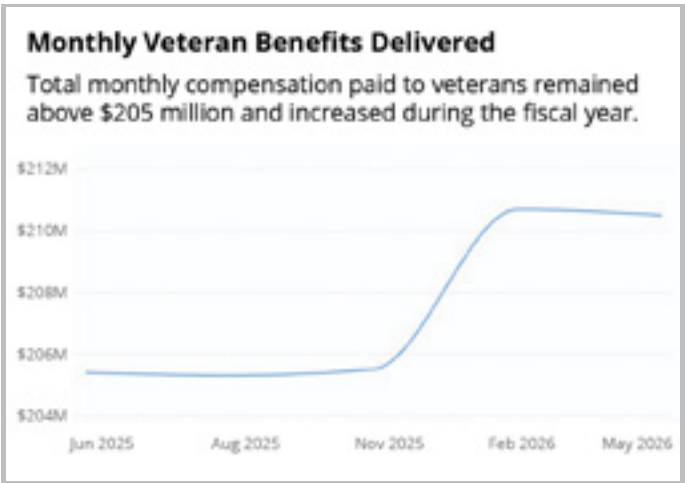
Major Trends

1. Veteran Compensation Continued to Increase

Perhaps the strongest trend was the **steady growth in compensation delivered to veterans**.

Monthly benefit payments remained remarkably consistent:

- June: **\$205.4 million**
- August: **\$205.3 million**
- November: **\$205.5 million**
- February: **\$210.7 million**
- May: **\$210.5 million**

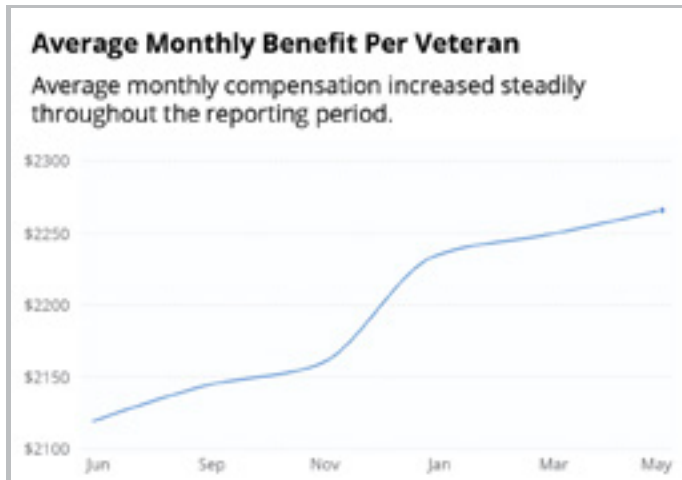


Total monthly payments increased by approximately **\$5 million per month** over the reporting period for the following reasons:

- higher disability ratings,
- increased dependency awards,
- more complex/high-value claims.

Report of Dana “Bo” Bolton, National Service Director (*continued*)

2. Average Veteran Pay Increased Monthly



Average monthly payment rose almost continuously:
+\$147 per veteran/6.9% growth

3. New Awards Remained Consistent

Throughout the reporting year the organization continued producing approximately:

- 115–180 new awards each month

Highest production:

- October: 182
- September: 160
- April: 136

Lowest:

- February: 115

The monthly variation is relatively small, suggesting stable operational performance.

4. New Award Dollar Value Remained Strong

Monthly benefits created by new awards generally ranged between:

\$150,000–285,000

This indicates the organization consistently generated meaningful new compensation for veterans rather than relying solely on maintaining existing awards.

5. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) services remained stable throughout the reporting year.

- AMVETS maintained more than 4,000 active survivor awards each month while delivering approximately \$7.3 million in monthly benefits.
- Average monthly benefits increased modestly, reflecting continued financial support to surviving spouses and dependents through statutory benefit adjustments

6. Survivor Pension

The Survivor Pension portfolio demonstrated **consistent operational stability** throughout the reporting year.

- Active awards declined from approximately 2,385 to 2,296, a net reduction of **89 awards (3.7%)**.
- The decline averaged approximately **7–8 awards per month**, indicating normal portfolio attrition rather than operational issues.

Key Takeaways

Organizational Strengths

The data suggests several strengths:

- Stable national workload
- Increasing benefit value delivered to veterans
- Consistent production of new awards
- Strong performance from large regional offices
- No evidence of major monthly volatility or operational disruption
- Benefit payments remained exceptionally stable throughout the year

Opportunities

Potential areas for management focus include:

- Replicate best practices from consistently high-performing offices
- Continue emphasizing higher-value claim development, as reflected in increasing average payments.



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