

# National Sons of AMVETS 2016-2017 Spring NEC Meeting

**Saturday, March 11, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 8:57 AM

**Invocation:** Patrick Holcombe, Chaplain

**A moment of silence for PNC Stanley Mellott was requested by Commander Serpis.**

**Posting of Colors:** Provost Marshal Richard Hines

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Provost Marshal Richard Hines

**Reading of Sons of AMVETS Preamble:** Commander Mark Serpis

We, the Sons of AMVETS (American Veterans), fully realizing our responsibility to our parents, Community, State and Nation associate ourselves for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To safeguard the principles of freedom, liberty, and justice for all;

To promote the cause of peace and goodwill amongst nations;

To maintain the freedom of our country;

To preserve the fundamentals of democracy;

To perpetuate the friendships and associations of the AMVET organization;

And to dedicate ourselves to the cause of mutual assistance...this by the Grace of God.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN, PNC's:**

OFFICE	NAME	ATTENDANCE
Commander	Mark Serpis	P
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Harold Collins	P
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Ken Barber	P
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	Richard Thibodeau	P
Finance Officer	Daniel K. Briggs, PNC	P
Judge Advocate	David Spencer, PNC	P
Provost Marshal	Richard Hines	P
Immediate Past Commander	David T. Strittmather	P
Chaplain	Patrick Holcombe	P
Historian	Walt Starrett	P
VAVS Representative	William Gerry	P
Legislative Director	Doug Brown	P
Alternate Legislative Director	Tracy Diggs	P
Web Master	Mick Ciesla	P
Jr. AMVETS Advisor	Paul Speigle	Excused
Inspector General	Charlie Summerall, PNC	P
Public Relations Officer	Donald P. Finnegan, PNC	P
SONS Coordinator	Robert Quick	P

<b>National Executive Committeemen</b>		
Alaska	Mike Gagne	<b>Excused</b>
Arizona	Ben Howard	<b>P</b>
Florida	Tom Serianni	<b>P</b>
Illinois	Chris Podalski	<b>Excused</b>
Indiana	Tracy Diggs	<b>P</b>
Iowa	Jim Myers	<b>P</b>
Kentucky	Robert Risen Jr.	<b>P</b>
Maine	Eric Rodzen	<b>P</b>
Maryland	Edward Stely	<b>P</b>
Massachusetts	Kenneth Moniz	<b>P</b>
Michigan	John Aldrich	<b>P</b>
Missouri	Jack Vogel	<b>Absent</b>
New York	Bill Clemens	<b>P</b>
North Carolina	Gene Rabb	<b>Excused</b>
Ohio	Randy Smith	<b>P</b>
Pennsylvania	Jeffrey Todd	<b>P</b>
Texas	Ronnie Rodgers	<b>Absent</b>
Virginia	Melvin Smith	<b>P</b>
Wisconsin	James Fabian	<b>P</b>

#### **Past National Commanders**

1983-84: Roger Damron (OH)	
1984-85: Allan McKinney (OH)	
1985-86: James Brown (MD)	
1986-87: John Creech (MD)	
1987-88: John Creech (MD)	
1988-89: Daniel Connolly (ME)	<b>P</b>
<b>1989-90: Richard Mooney (PA) -- deceased</b>	
1990-91: George Burrell (MD)	
<b>1991-92: Stanley Mellott (PA) -- deceased</b>	
1992-93: Stephen M. Turner (MI)	
1993-94: Charles Kyser (OH)	<b>P</b>
1994-95: Charles Kyser (OH)	<b>P</b>
1995-96: Randy Greene (OH)	
1996-97: Stephen M. Turner (MI)	
1997-98: Patrick Morgan (OH)	
<b>1998-99: Jim Burleson (TX) -- deceased</b>	
1999-00: Rene Valley (OH)	
2000-01: Ray Hutchinson (OH)	
2001-02: Larry Combs (OH)	<b>P</b>
2002-03: David Helmuth (MA)	
2003-04: Charlie Summerall (FL)	<b>P</b>
2004-05: Robert Grose (OH)	<b>P</b>
2005-06: Mike Mrzlak (IA)	
2006-07: Dale Byrd (OH)	<b>P</b>
2007-08: Grady "Jay" Williams II (OH)	
2008-09: Ben Haynes, Jr. (MO)	
2009-10: David Spencer (MA)	<b>P</b>

2010-11: Robert Hammett (IN)	P
2011-12: John Barnhill (MI)	P
2012-13: Jon Keith (VA)	P
2013-14: Donald Finnegan (IN)	P
2014-15: Daniel K. Briggs (OH)	P
2015-16: David Strittmather (OH)	P

### **Adoption of Agenda – Commander Mark Serpis**

Motion to adopt the agenda as printed by Ken Barber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, seconded by Harold Collins, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander. Motion Carried

### **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – Commander Mark Serpis**

Motion to approve the minutes from previous meeting as printed by Bill Clemens NY, seconded by Jim Myers IA. Motion Carried

### **Bills and Communications – Finance Officer Daniel K. Briggs, PNC**

Finance Officer Briggs announced there were no Bills and Communications at this time.

### **Officers Reports**

It was announced to accept all Reports at end of Officers and NECmen Reports.

**Mark Serpis, Commander** – Since the Fall NEC meeting held in December, the Commander shared his travel schedule. Of great honor was his attendance at the Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC. As he said, “One more item checked off my Bucket List.” The Commander also attended Massachusetts SEC meeting held in Marlboro, MA. Travelled to Warm Mineral Springs, FL for the SOA National E-Board meeting. While in FL, he visited Posts 2000 and 312. Thanked them for their hospitality. During the month of February, the Commander attended the Florida SEC and Madam President Evelyn McElvin’s Testimonial. Took the opportunity to tour the Northern parts of Florida visiting Posts for meet and greets. Also, thanked Squadrons 1992, 113, 2, 911, 45, and 100 for their hospitality and donation to his project. The Commander mentioned with regards to future Veterans Lodging requests (i.e. Sons Storm the Hill), that it is crucial to adhere to future cutoff date. Some requests were done at the last minute and it is inconsiderate for Doug Brown and Nancy Moran, SOA A.A., to find hotel accommodations for these Veterans. The Commander is looking forward to the upcoming 2017 Convention in Norfolk and is pleased with the positive ongoing communication with the AMVETS Family. In addition, the Commander announced his plans of hosting SOA National Officers and spouses for a Dinner Cruise. Handouts are available if anyone wishes to order tickets and join the group on the Chesapeake.

The Commander's project for the year is to support the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Many of our veterans are exposed to gastrointestinal infections from food or water among other environmental factors. The Department of Veteran Affairs reports that there is a high rate of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans experiencing irritable bowel syndrome and other G.I. disorders. Currently there is no cure for I.B.S. disorders. Commander Serpis urged everyone to work together for a cure and delete one illness for our veterans.

**Harold Collins, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander** – The 1st Vice Commander Collins reported on an Amendment to his Report in the book. The revised membership data is as follows:

- For 2017 – 14,353
- For 2016 -- 9,291

Also, his travel to Kentucky's Winter SEC meeting. The trip to Warm Mineral Springs, FL was very nice especially touring the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home. The Administrator Elizabeth K. Barton gave a tour of the facility. The National SOA E-Board members donated over 200 Arts and Crafts kits for the residents at the facility. Thanked Squadron 2000 and AMVETS Posts 110 and 312 for their hospitality. In February, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice attended the Department of Ohio's Mid-Winter Conference. Announced new Squadrons; Cheyenne, WY – 10 and Denis V. Cooper, FL – 941. In Maryville, TN – 22 is pending.

**Ken Barber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander** – Copies of the Project Reports were distributed in the book. At the time of writing the Report, there was \$4,750,286.86 in reporting, that is \$1,040,144.44 above last year at this time. A simplified new SOA Project Report form was also distributed for ease of reporting purposes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice encouraged all to host a "Craft Kit Day at your Post" and invite Veterans to attend, not only from your Post but also from your local community and local State and Federal VA Homes and Hospitals.

Bill Clemens of NY asked if the new SOA Project Report form needs a vote for approval? Judge Advocate Dave Spencer said, "No" since the new form is for the convenience of the SOA members for project reporting only so it is considered a generic form.

**Richard Thibodeau, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander** – The Report is in the book and thanked everyone for helping with the Hospitality Room. The following is a break-down of earnings and expenses for the week:

Income: \$5,465.00  
Pool Tabs: \$2,761.00  
Expenses: \$3,036.27  
Profit: \$2,428.73

**Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer** – The Report and the National Sons of AMVETS, Inc., Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, September 2016 through August 2017 are in the book. The Life Membership Fund is doing well increase by 13%. Thanked PNC Larry Combs for presenting to the Life Membership Committee an understanding of how the Life Membership program was designed and his projections for the Life Membership program thru 2022.

The Monetary Funds are doing great. The 990's are done. The hotel bill is paid. Parking bill will be paid.

Tom Serianni from FL asked a question on the transfer of money into the account to cover the Commander's Project. The Finance Officer said that PNC Project for PNC Daniel K. Briggs from 2014-2015 money was carried over to the 2015-2016 year and also to 2016-2017 year line item 433 · Arts & Craft Kits Project. The funds for this project had been transferred to the Previous Years Revenue at the end of his 2014-2015 term. \$70,000 from Previous Year Revenue was transferred to our savings as voted on at convention. During the year 2015-2016, Funds were raised for Commander David T. Strittmather's project. At the end of his year, his project funds were transferred to Line Item 420 - IMM PNC Project. In October of 2016 PNC David Strittmather requested the \$23,896 to donate to his charitable organization and PNC Dan Briggs also requested \$28,556. The payment of these two PNC Projects in the same month significantly drained our checking account balance and the Finance Committee determined the best course of action was to transfer funds from our savings account to ensure our checking account had enough funds to cover our bills.

Mr. Briggs attended a meeting with Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV) manufacturers of the Arts and Crafts Kits.

**David Spencer, PNC, Judge Advocate** – The Report is in the book.

**Richard Hines, Provost Marshal** – The Report is in the book and spoke about his travel to Warm Mineral Springs FL

**David T. Strittmather, Immediate Past Commander** – The Report is in the book. Thanked SOA's A.A., Nancy Moran, for doing a good job and how well the running of the office is doing. In addition, Nancy is attending the AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary, and National Service Foundation weekly meeting is of great benefit to all. The Immediate Past Commander was honored to present the memorial plaque for Harold "Lee" Reed at the SEC meeting for Michigan. He also attended the Departments of Kentucky SEC in January as an un-officiate visit to thank the Department for their support. Finalized his Project for the AMVETS Diabetes Research Institute. PNC Strittmather paid from his personal funds the expenses incurred to his trip to Kentucky.

It was mentioned about the Council PNC to remind you to nominate for the "Aid Support Award" an individual who performs beyond the call of duty and who supports the Sons of

AMVETS, too. This individual cannot be a Sons of AMVETS member. It was recommended to add to the webpage the past recipients of the Aid and Support award and to add the past Sons Coordinator to the PNC page. At the National Convention, a PNC Council meeting needs to be scheduled earlier in the week, preferably on Wednesday. And to provide the PNCs the Financial Reports.

We ask that the E-Board look into making arrangements for a tour of a Naval Ship during the National Convention. During PNC David R. Helmuth term, the Sons opened the meeting on a ship, did the opening (prayer, pledge, roll call) and then went into recess to take a tour of the ship.

Harold Collins, 1st Vice Commander assured Immediate Past Commander Strittmather that there will be a room available for the PNC Council to meet.

**Patrick Holcombe, Chaplain --** The Report is in the book. Mr. Holcombe requested to please submit all deceased notices on the SOA Deceased form so that the next of kin information and address is available as well as date of death, etc.

**Guest -- Tina Lumpkins, SAD SACKS AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary**

Ms. Lumpkins announced that Ladies Auxiliary CBL's have been distributed to all states since it was passed at the National Convention in August. A chocolate "alligator" was presented to Commander Serpis as a gift from Mr. Ed Lumpkins.

**Walt Starrett, Historian –** Announced it has been an easy week and wished all a successful Spring NEC meeting.

**William Gerry, VAVS Representative –** The Report is in the book. There are 322 SOA's volunteers, but urging more SOA to sign-up at local VA's as volunteers. Also, for Congress to do more for the VA's especially on different days of the week (i.e. Wednesday/Thursday to focus on Veteran's healthcare; Friday to Honor the Veterans, and Saturday to do a Meet & Greet) and to stop ignoring all hospitalized Veterans. There are 302 SAL members state-wide and 50 facilities. By volunteering, one is helping others and this is a take away to feeling good about oneself.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Harold Collins reported to the podium while Commander Mark Serpis left the floor to attend the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting.**

**Doug Brown, Legislative Director –** The Report is in the book. Thanked everyone for participating on the Hill especially Ed Stely MD, Bill Gerry, VAVS Rep., David and Randi Strittmather. There were 700 folders distributed at the Hill. Also, gave praised Mick Ciesla, Webmaster and Amy Webb, AMVETS Nat'l Legislative Policy Advisor for their excellent support. Presented an overview on the impact SOA's members made at the Hill.

- There were 277 face-to-face Legislative Meetings with 98 Congressional appointments
- Requested for individuals who met to send thank you notes either email or handwritten cards when scheduling follow-up appointments.
- On Thursday and Friday, Legislative meeting for follow-ups
- There were 112 who did not sign-up
- Planning for next year for SOA State to team-up with Veterans for appointments
- Essential to contact people to make appointments
- Ken Barber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District will make appointments. At the same time recommended for GA NECmen to also make appointments and continue throughout the SOA community.

Judge Advocate Dave Spencer commented on the enormous turn-out at the Hill by SOA members and the support given to AMVETS. Judge Advocate recommended for there to be a pre-registration at NEC's for AMVETS states to reach 100% presence at the Senate and Congress levels.

**Tracy Diggs, Alternate Legislative Director** – Mr. Diggs remarks/updates are similar to SOA Legislative Director Doug Brown.

**Mick Ciesla, Web Master** – The Report is in the book. Mr. Ciesla encouraged NECmen to keep the Web Master up-to-date with all the activities and events occurring at SOA Departments and Squadrons. The more exposure there is on Sons of AMVETS (i.e. pictures from the Hospitality Room), support will be received by others. It is necessary to share information on a local level. Also, by distributing Arts and Crafts Kits, that is a way to advertise SOA's mission, of Sons Serving Veterans.”

It was announced that the NEC minutes are available on the SOA website under the tab, past events.

John Aldrich MI asked if the Membership Form on the website has been corrected. Dave Spencer said, “yes.” The form has been corrected.

**Paul Speigle, Jr. AMVETS Advisor** – Thanked Commander Serpis for the appointment of Jr. AMVETS Coordinator. Mr. Speigle enjoys working with the Juniors and finds it very rewarding. The Juniors attended the wreath ceremonies with SOA members. The Jr. AMVETS Advisor announced that the Juniors will be selling luncheon tickets for their Awards Luncheon at the National Convention. This will be the Junior AMVETS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Once again, thanked Commander Serpis and all Sons of AMVETS members for their ultimate support in helping the Jr. AMVETS.

**Charlie Summerall, PNC, Inspector General** – No update

**Donald P. Finnegan, PNC, Public Relations Officer** -- No update

**Robert Quick, SONS Coordinator** -- No update

## **NECmen Reports**

**Alaska -- Mike Gagne** – Report in the book.

**Arizona -- Ben Howard** -- Report in the book.

**Florida -- Tom Serianni** -- Report in the book.

**Illinois -- Chris Podalski** -- No Report

**Indiana -- Tracy Diggs** – No Report, but added there had been 102 calls and 14 Veterans showed up.

**Iowa -- Jim Myers** -- Report in the book. Thanked the National Sons of AMVETS for the Veterans Lodging Program for helping to make it possible to bring one Veteran to the Spring NEC. Mr. Myers spoke on the four keys (Core Four Legislative Priorities) handouts and card: (1) Mental Health & Suicide Prevention; (2) Toxic Wounds; (3) Service Dogs & Assistive Technology; (4) Complementary & Alternative Medicine/CAM.

**Kentucky -- Robert Risen Jr.** -- Report in the book.

**Maine -- Eric Rodzen** -- Report in the book. Also, thanked the Department of FL.

**Maryland --Edward Stely** -- Report in the book.

**Guests – Jr. AMVETS** – Ms. Ivy Cook, President introduced the Juniors Officers:

Courtney Cummings - 1st Vice President

Danielle Pate - Jr Vice President

Joy Stopyra - Chaplain

Joey Stopyra - Sgt-At-Arms

Jonathan Hyatt - Secretary

Jovan Rosado - Treasurer

The Jr. AMVETS thanked the Sons for all their support for the past year. The Juniors have raised \$734.00. The Jr. AMVETS honored Commander Serpis with a St. Patrick's Day token – hat. The Juniors offered their services to the Sons and to please let them know whenever they can help.

**Massachusetts -- Kenneth Moniz** -- Report in the book.

**Michigan -- John Aldrich** -- Report in the book.



**Missouri -- Jack Vogel** – Report in the book.

**New York -- Bill Clemens** -- Report in the book. There are still pending issues not resolved with the AMVETS CBL. Mr. Clemens reported on a meeting held by Mr. Joe Chenelly, AMVETS National Executive Director and AMVETS PNC Jim King that the CPA results are 100% done. On the other hand, the AMVETS State of Illinois is requesting for the Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of AMVETS to conduct a financial audit and it will cost \$2,000.00 each. Will AMVETS reimburse the departments for that service?

Commander Serpis said that the meeting was held, but there are no answers. Dave Spencer, PNC, Judge Advocate that there was a meeting held last night. Madam President Evelyn McElvin and Mr. Joe Chenelly mentioned that at the next National State upcoming meeting this will be addressed and that “we are subordinates and trying to work” it out. AMVETS National sets the guidelines for Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of AMVETS.

Mr. Clemens asked If the December NEC Project Reporting information is available on the SOA website. Mr. Ken Barber said that the Budget Reporting is on the SOA website, need to download the excel spreadsheet and the current Project Report will be sent in the next mailing of NEC meeting minutes.

**North Carolina -- Gene Rabb**

**Ohio -- Randy Smith** -- Report in the book. Mr. Smith invited all SOA’s members to the Department of Ohio’s July 1<sup>st</sup> outing and flyers are available.

**Pennsylvania -- Jeffrey Todd** -- Report in the book.

**Texas -- Ronnie Rodgers**

**Virginia -- Melvin Smith** -- Report in the book.

**Wisconsin -- James Fabian** – Mr. Fabian distributed the State of Wisconsin’s NEC Report.

Motion to accept Officers and NEC Reports by 3rd Vice Commander Richard Thibodeau, seconded by PNC Chuck Kyser. Motion Carried

**RECESS: 10:13 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER: 10:30 AM**

Ken Barber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander announced that the Ladies Auxiliary are selling “Freedom Foundation Pins” which is who they support and pins are available for the purchase of \$4.00/each.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Harold Collins was appointed to the podium since Commander Mark Serpis left the room to address the AMVETS floor and was escorted by Provost Marshal Richard Hines.

## **Old Business:**

### **Status on ordering name plates through the Quartermaster**

Dave Spencer, PNC, Judge Advocate gave an update on the name plates to be ordered through the Quartermaster. The changes were approved at the 2016 Fall NEC meeting. The order form is available (Appendix I at end of minutes). The new form was distributed in the NEC book. Mr. Spencer urged everyone to use it and the only change is the year option.

Motion to accept the new AMVETS National Quartermaster Form by PNC Dave Spencer, Judge Advocate, seconded by Bill Clemens NY. Motion Carried

### **E-Board minutes are on the website**

A correction to the Agenda was noted. **NEC minutes** to be available on the SOA website. Mick Ciesla, Web Master informed all that it will be available on a the Forms section for current NEC minutes. Older minutes will be available under “Events” tab and another tab – titled “Past Events.”

### **Zip code in forms has been fixed**

It was confirmed that the zip code under the SOA forms have been corrected.

## **New Business:**

### **Expense Vouchers & Assisting Grants – Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer**

The Finance Officer announced that he has Expense Vouchers if anyone needs it. It is necessary to submit Expenses within 30 days of travel.

The following is a list of Assisting Grants that were approved by the Sons of AMVETS Members.

1. FL – 1 – St. Petersburg for their Annual Project to give Thanksgiving dinners to Veterans. Asking a Grant of \$500.00. Receipts accepted.  
Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Dave Spencer, PNC, Judge Advocate.  
Motion Carried
2. NY – Department for raising dogs/pups for Veterans. To feed the dogs until given out to Veterans. They spent \$1,000.00, but asking a Grant of \$500.00. Receipts accepted.  
Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer,

seconded by Bill Clemens NY.

Motion Carried

Dave Strittmather, Immediate Past Commander asked if it was Commander's Mitchell's project? PNC Briggs said, "yes." PNC Strittmather it is a great project.

3. OH – Department for miscellaneous items given to the Veterans at the VA. They spend \$200.00 and are asking for \$200.00. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$200.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Dave Strittmather, Immediate Past Commander.

Motion Carried

4. OH – 1991 – Defiance for their Annual Veterans Day Breakfast at the Post where they feed all the Veterans. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Bill Clemens NY.

Motion Carried

5. FL – 44 – Plant City for a 20' addition to mount on the Post's RV for outside events for the SOA's and Veterans' activities. Total cost \$1,250.00. They are asking for \$500.00. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Richard Thibodeau, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander.

Motion Carried

6. FL – 312 – North Port for their Annual Christmas party held for the Veterans Administration. Asking for \$500.00. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Kenneth Barber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander.

Motion Carried

7. FL – 88 – Bronson spent \$471.32 for their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual breakfast for 70 Veterans. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$471.32 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by David Strittmather, Immediate Past Commander.

Motion Carried

8. MD – 7 – Thurmont spent \$271.80 for their community breakfast to honor all Veterans. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$271.80 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Richard Thibodeau, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander.

Motion Carried

9. FL – 2000 – Warm Mineral Springs for expenditure incurred for a deep freezer at the AMVETS Post 2000. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Kenneth Barber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander.

Motion Carried

10. FL – 4 – Tampa for helping a Veteran's Roof spent over \$1,000.00. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Richard Thibodeau, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander.

Motion Carried

11. NY – 4 – Massena for holding a Charity Golf Tournament, Christmas Party and Thanksgiving events. Proceeds were donated to Veterans. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Bill Clemens NY.

Motion Carried

12. KY – 125 – Somerset spent \$200.00 for 80 pairs of socks, other clothing, and bars of soaps donated to homeless Veterans Nursing Home. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$200.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by David Strittmather, Immediate Past Commander.

Motion Carried

13. MI – 4064 – Laingsburg for functions to assist with food banks in their community to give to the Veterans. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Kenneth Barber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander.

Motion Carried

14. FL – 113 – Bunnell for daily items for men and women Veterans at the Clyde Lawson VA in St. Augustine. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by Tracy Diggs IN.

Motion Carried

15. FL – 98 – Holiday for assisting in putting several flush valves for the toilets at the Post. Spent more than \$500.00. Receipts accepted.

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer, seconded by David Spencer, PNC, Judge Advocate.

Motion carried

The Finance Officer gave a final total left in line item for Assisting Grants of \$3,998.88 and to please keep in mind that he needs to make phone calls and other verifications on requested SOA Assisting Grants.

The Provost Marshal assisted in handing out PNC Larry Combs' information that he put together.

**GUEST: Madam President Evelyn McElvin, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary**

Madam President McElvin expressed on behalf of the National Ladies Auxiliary members for the wonderful experience on Capitol Hill and laying of the wreaths at the War Monuments. Madam President McElvin thanked the Commander for carrying-out a family fashion way in making sure everyone was taken care of and for Sons to keep up the good work. Madam President presented a gift of a box of chocolates to Commander Serpis.

**GUEST: Heidi Dineen-Serpis, PNC AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary**

Mrs. Dineen-Serpis thanked the Department of Florida for their hospitality during their, Commander Serpis' and her trip in February and lots of great memories. PNC Heidi Dineen-Serpis made a special invitation for all Sons members to Commander Mark Serpis' Testimonial dinner to be held on Saturday, July 15, 2017 at Post 51 in Randolph, MA. Tickets are \$30.00. Also, flyers are available upon request.

**GUEST: Gary Six – AMVETS – FL – Post 16**

Mr. Six thanked everyone for their participation at “Storm the Hill” event and it was so successful due to Sons of AMVETS contribution for their presence at the Hill.

**National Convention**

Commander Serpis invited the PNC's to the upcoming 2017 National Convention in Norfolk, VA. Also, noted that spouses are welcome and please notify Nancy Moran, SOA A.A. for reservations. Thanked all the PNC's for attending the NEC meeting. It has been a tremendous support to have so many PNC's present. A letter will be sent out with additional information on the National Convention. If possible, people can share hotel rooms if no spouse or guest attend the Convention. The Sheraton is an eight-minute walk from the Marriott. All meetings will be held at the Marriott. The meeting room for SOA holds 150. There was an issue with the hotel rooms for the Convention so if the Marriott is booked, there are rooms available at the Sheraton. The reason why a lack of rooms at the Marriott is due to AMVETS provided the wrong check-out date of August 12<sup>th</sup> and not the correct date of August 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be shuttle service available from the Marriott to the Sheraton. The night life near the Sheraton is very pretty. There is outside cafes and outside dancing. The battleships are right there, the Wisconsin, etc. The Commander encouraged everyone to book their reservations early. Also, try the Marriott again since certain rooms that AMVETS CA has on hold, may be available now.

The Commander asked for a show of hands on how many NECmen have made reservations. A comment was made that reservations were made early; and therefore, there were no problems with the check-in and check-out dates. Also, Commander Serpis will be contacting PNC's to find out if spouses will be coming and on the hotel rooms availability.

## **Officers Dinner Cruise**

Commander Serpis announced the Officers Dinner Cruise to be held on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Special guests will be AMVETS Commander Harold Chapman, Joe Chenelly, AMVETS National Executive Director and Madam President Evelyn McElvin, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. The boat has up to 118 seats. It would be nice if it is full with Sons as well as AMVETS and Ladies Auxiliary Members. Please take a flyer for further information.

### **GUEST: Harold Chapman, AMVETS National Commander**

Commander Chapman thanked everyone for the work that was done during the week. The Commander was very proud of the turned-out at his Testimonial, standing room only. The Commander very graciously thanked all the Sons for all that they do for the Veterans. Also, thanked them for supporting his Project, “The National Desert Storm War Memorial.”

### **GUEST: Joe Chenelly, AMVETS National Executive Director**

Mr. Chenelly thanked Doug Brown, Legislative Director and Commander Mark Serpis for the impact and image shown to lawmakers on the Hill by the tremendous presence of the Sons. Also, thanked Nancy Moran, SOA A.A. for her support at the AMVETS Directors meetings in communicating on the Sons activities. Mr. Chenelly asked the Sons if there is anything that AMVETS Headquarters can assist with to please notify Ms. Moran.

## **Other Business**

Commander Serpis mentioned about the PNC’s pins that were inadvertently given away as State’s memento’s and to please return them to the SOA’s Office. Nancy Moran, SOA A.A. confirmed that some were returned to the office. PNC Chuck Kyser needs a pin and it will be mailed to him.

PNC Chuck Kyser requested a picture be taken of the 13 PNC’s present at the NEC meeting in front of the flags.

### **HHV Arts and Crafts Kits – Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC**

It was announced that the Sons of AMVETS will be presented an award “Partner of the Year 2016” for the work that Sons of AMVETS is doing. HHV is writing an article on this and as soon as it is available, it will be posted on SOA’s website. Finance Officer Daniel Briggs, PNC will invite HHV Officers to the National Convention for their presentation of the Award to SOA.

## **50/50 Raffle**

Mick Ciesla, Web Master was the winner of the 50/50 raffle. Mr. Ciesla donated his winnings of \$53.00 to Commander Serpis' Project, "Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America."

**Benediction:**                      **Patrick Holcomb, Chaplain**

**Honor to the Colors:**            **Richard Hines, Provost Marshal**

**Adjournment:**                    **11:29 AM**

# APPENDIX I

## AMVETS National Quartermaster

P.O. Box 211  
Lakeview, OH 43331  
Phone (800) 454-3254

### Sons of AMVETS Name Badges

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIP TO:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT BADGE       DISTRICT BADGE       SQUADRON BADGE  
(Brushed Silver with black lettering)      (Light Blue with Navy Blue lettering)      (White with black lettering)  
Click here to add years to your badges       Enter years here \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON # \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_

<u>NAME ON BADGE</u>	<u>IF OFFICER, LIST OFFICE</u>

**SHIPPING:**  
1-5 BADGES      \$4.50  
6 AND ABOVE      \$6.50

NUMBER OF BADGES x \$14.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
SHIPPING \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:  
AMVETS NATIONAL  
QUARTERMASTER