



**Call to Order: 9:00 AM**

**Invocation: James M. Fabian, National SOA Chaplain**

A moment of silence was observed remembering PNC Chuck Kyser and National Sadder Eddie Lumpkin.

**Posting of Colors: Dave Niederhauser, Provost Marshal**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Dave Niederhauser, Provost Marshal**

**Reading of Sons of AMVETS Preamble: Commander Mick Ciesla**

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**

<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
Commander	Mick Ciesla	<b>P</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Bobby Bryant	<b>P</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Owen Jackson	<b>P</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	Patrick Holcombe	<b>P</b>
Finance Officer	Daniel K. Briggs, PNC	<b>P</b>
Judge Advocate	David Spencer, PNC	<b>P</b>
Provost Marshal	Dave Niederhauser	<b>P</b>
Immediate Past Commander	Paul Speigle	<b>P</b>
Chaplain	James M. Fabian	<b>P</b>
Communications Director	David T. Strittmather, PNC	<b>P</b>
VAVS Representative	William Gerry	<b>P</b>
Legislative Director	Doug Brown	<b>P</b>
Deputy Legislative Director	Ken Barber, PNC	<b>P</b>
Web Master	Richard Thibodeau, PNC	<b>P</b>
Jr. AMVETS Advisor	Joe Kirkpatrick	<b>EXCUSED</b>



Inspector General	Mike X Marecek	<b>P</b>
Events Director	Harold P. Collins, PNC	<b>P</b>
Sons Coordinator	Rick Beaulieu	<b>P</b>
<b>National Executive Committeemen</b>		
Alaska	Mike Gagne	<b>EXCUSED</b>
Arizona	Ben Howard	<b>EXCUSED</b>
Florida	Mike X. Marecek	<b>P</b>
Illinois	Michael L. Srebalus	<b>P</b>
Indiana	Mike McDarrah/Alt. John Reeder	<b>P</b>
Iowa	Jim Myers	<b>P</b>
Kentucky	Tim Goldman	<b>P</b>
Maine	Eric Rodzen	<b>EXCUSED</b>
Maryland	Edward Stely	<b>P</b>
Massachusetts	Mike Bruno	<b>P</b>
Michigan	John Aldrich	<b>P</b>
Missouri	Jack Vogel	<b>P</b>
New York	Gary Pelletier	<b>P</b>
North Carolina	Lloyd Hunt	<b>EXCUSED</b>
Ohio	William Lutz	<b>P</b>
Pennsylvania	Richard Hines	<b>P</b>
Texas	Ronnie Rodgers	<b>P</b>
Virginia	Jon Keith, PNC	<b>P</b>
Wisconsin	James M. Fabian	<b>P</b>
<b>Past National Commanders:</b>		
1983-84: Roger Damron (OH)		<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>1984-85: Allan McKinney (OH) - deceased</b>		<b>Present in Spirit</b>
1985-86: James Brown (MD)		<b>ABSENT</b>
1986-87: John Creech (MD)		<b>ABSENT</b>
1987-88: John Creech (MD)		<b>ABSENT</b>
1988-89: Daniel Connolly (ME)		<b>EXCUSED</b>
<b>1989-90: Richard Mooney (PA) - deceased</b>		<b>Present in Spirit</b>
1990-91: George Burrell (MD)		<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>1991-92: Stanley Mellott (PA) - deceased</b>		<b>Present in Spirit</b>
1992-93: Stephen M. Turner (MI)		<b>ABSENT</b>
1993-94: Charles Kyser (OH)		<b>Present in Spirit</b>
1994-95: Charles Kyser (OH)		<b>Present in Spirit</b>
1995-96: Randy Greene (OH)		<b>ABSENT</b>
1996-97: Stephen M. Turner (MI)		<b>ABSENT</b>
1997-98: Patrick Morgan (OH)		<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>1998-99: Jim Burleson (TX) - deceased</b>		<b>Present in Spirit</b>
<b>1999-00: Rene Valley (OH) - deceased</b>		<b>Present in Spirit</b>



2000-01: Ray Hutchinson (OH)	<b>ABSENT</b>
2001-02: Larry Combs (OH)	<b>EXCUSED</b>
2002-03: David Helmuth (MA)	<b>ABSENT</b>
2003-04: Charlie Summerall (FL)	<b>EXCUSED</b>
2004-05: Robert Grose (OH)	<b>P</b>
2005-06: Mike Mrzlak (IA)	<b>EXCUSED</b>
2006-07: Dale Byrd (OH)	<b>EXCUSED</b>
2007-08: Grady "Jay" Williams II (OH)	<b>EXCUSED</b>
2008-09: Ben Haynes, Jr. (MO)	<b>ABSENT</b>
2009-10: David Spencer (MA)	<b>P</b>
2010-11: Robert Hammett (IN)	<b>EXCUSED</b>
2011-12: John Barnhill (MI)	<b>EXCUSED</b>
2012-13: Jon Keith (VA)	<b>P</b>
2013-14: Donald Finnegan (IN)	<b>EXCUSED</b>
2014-15: Daniel K. Briggs (OH)	<b>P</b>
2015-16: David Strittmather (OH)	<b>P</b>
2016-17: Mark Serpis (MA)	<b>EXCUSED</b>
2017-18: Harold P. Collins (KY)	<b>P</b>
2018-19: Ken Barber (FL)	<b>P</b>
2019-21: Richard Thibodeau (ME)	<b>P</b>
2020-22: Paul Speigle (OH)	<b>P</b>

**Adoption of Agenda: Commander Mick Ciesla**

Motion to accept Agenda by Michael Bruno, NEC MA, seconded by Jim Myers, NEC IA.  
Motion Carried.

**Approval of Minutes of the 2022 National Convention held in New Orleans, LA (emailed on 09/21/2022).**

Motion to accept Agenda by William Lutz, NEC OH, seconded by James Fabian, NEC WI.  
Motion Carried.

**FYI - No meeting held for the 2022 Fall NEC.**

In lieu of the 2022 Fall NEC meeting, Commander Ciesla noted that all Nat'l SOA Officers' and NEC's Reports were emailed on January 5, 2023.

**Bills and Communications: Finance Officer Dan Briggs, PNC**

At this time, the Finance Officer Briggs has no bills or communications to report.



## National Officers Reports

**Commander** Mick Ciesla's Report is in the NEC folder and requested for the body to have an opportunity to read it. In addition, the Commander shared with everyone on the travelling he has done since the writing of his Report. Thanked the Sons at Muncie, IN for their hospitality and congratulated them to reaching a milestone of 50,000 retired flags. In addition, Commander's visit attending Wisconsin's Sq. 127 Lady Smith in February. A fairly new Squadron and representing the Sons very well. Sq. 127 held a fundraiser "War Hawks" to provide service dogs for Veterans in need. Of interest, they get the most publicity in the area by organizing their signature program to place flags on the Veterans grave sites two weeks before the event and then take them down. The Sons at Lady Smith felt they were not doing enough so now they maintain the 800 cemetery plots. Commander Ciesla encouraged all Sons to do just "a little more" by demonstrating that the Sons are helping the Veterans. Commander Ciesla is proud on the number of Project Reports submitted by Squadrons and that shows the great job Sons are doing nationwide.

During the New Business section of the Agenda, Commander Ciesla will announce other ways to participate in volunteering and making a difference for Sons of AMVETS.

Motion to approve all Reports to be accepted at the end by Jim Myers, NEC IA, seconded by Michael Bruno, MA NEC.

Motion Carried.

**3rd Vice Commander** Patrick Holcombe's Report is in the NEC folder. Thanked PNC Collins and everyone for helping with the Hospitality Room. A special thanks to Sons Coordinator Rick Beaulieu. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr. announced on the following:

- Sold out on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Nat'l SOA coins, but will have more available by March 31<sup>st</sup> and requesting if any one is interested to contact him. The informational flyer is in his report.
- Convention shirts have been ordered.
- Freedom Cash Raffle tickets are available and ready for distribution during NEC.
- Pick-3 Raffle for May/Memorial Day and please see him if interested.

Raffle tickets will be available in the Hospitality Room, too.

Commander Ciesla thanked everyone for helping with Hospitality Room especially Ed Stely and Dick Fleagle Sons of the Maryland Department.



## Guests

**Junior AMVETS President** Joy Stopyra greeted the Sons and introduced her 2022-2023 Officers:

Sr. Vice President - Aidyn Dolf - Post 31 Evansdale Iowa  
Jr. Vice President - Corbyn Dolf - Post 31 Evansdale Iowa  
Chaplain - Ash Stopyra - Post 45 Salem Ohio  
Secretary - Peyton Jackson - Post 45 Salem Ohio  
Treasurer - Kaylynn Wojciechowski - Post 45 Salem Ohio  
Sgt. At Arms - Corey Riley - Post 45 Salem Ohio  
Parliamentarian – Joseph Stopyra, Jr.

Ms. Stopyra announced that a Junior AMVETS charter is pending in the state of New York. Thanked the Sons for their assistance in helping the Juniors. The 50/50 raffle winning #53617813 please contact the Juniors if you are the winner.

**Jr. AMVETS Advisor** Joe Kirkpatrick's Report is in the NEC folder and addressed the body by giving an update on the Juniors' activities. They all enjoyed visiting the Memorials as well as touring the Space Museum in Virginia. Mr. Kirkpatrick thanked the Sons for all of their support given to the Juniors and to please contact him with any questions.

On behalf of the Sons, Commander Ciesla thanked Mr. Kirkpatrick and the Juniors and how proud Sons are of them.

**Sons Coordinator** Rick Beaulieu's Report is in the NEC folder. Mr. Beaulieu congratulated the Sons for their hard work and great job on memberships and project reporting. The AMVETS are very proud of Sons work and not to hesitate to contact him on any questions.

Commander Ciesla commented on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr. Holcombe's and Sons Coordinator Rick Beaulieu's terrific job. Requested for the Sons to give them "kudos" for their excellent work.

At this time, Commander Ciesla leaves the floor to address the AMVETS. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bryant takes over the gavel.



**1st Vice Commander** Bobby Bryant's Report is in the NEC folder. Mr. Bryant reported, as of 5 AM today, the following data was retrieved from the online Membership Statistics:

- **4,000 - Life Members**
- **14,487 - Annuals**
- **18,487 -- Total**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bryant requested from the Sons to contact him with any questions regarding memberships or concerns.

**2nd Vice Commander** Owen Jackson's Report is in the NEC folder. Thanked PNC Harold Collins, Events Director for all the work he does for the Sons. Mr. Jackson reported on the total for Project Reports as of this morning at \$6,957,842.84. Also, noted that any project reports with comments "attending meetings" is unacceptable; therefore, need more details on the purpose of the meetings, etc.

JA Dave Spencer, PNC commented on the "why Sons do volunteer work." This is a requirement from the IRS to document all Volunteer Services by submitting Project Reports. JA Spencer stressed that meetings do not count and may be subjected to an audit by the IRS.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Jackson informed the body reporting hours for the "On the Hill" will need to be either reported for the Squadron or Department those hours cannot be reported twice. For example, Nat'l Officers will be required to report either as Nat'l SOA or under their respective Department or Squadron. Also, to inform him if their hours will be put under National and he will enter those hours.

**Finance Officer** Daniel K. Briggs, PNC's Report is in the NEC folder. PNC Briggs announced he has available blank Travel Vouchers and will request for the Provost Marshal to distribute them. PNC Briggs has a copy of the Detail Finance Report for any Sons to peruse it. The Finance Officer announced on the "Life Membership Checks" that have been returned and to please see him so that the addresses be corrected on the Sons website as follows:

- Sq. 2 - MD
- Sq. 47 - OH
- Sq. 711 - OH



- Sq. 222 – IN
- Sq. 72 – NY
- Sq. 18 – NY
- Sq.42 – MO
- Sq. 48 – MO
- Sq. 1988 – MI
- Sq. 126 – MI
- Sq. 23 – MI

Finance Officer Briggs stated on that last year in November, he took from 2021-2022 money from the Life Membership account transferred to Nat'l Sons savings account since it was not needed in the checkbook at that time. With the preparation of 2023 Nat'l Convention, in order for all Nat'l Officers and NECmen to attend the convention, Finance Officer is requesting from NECmen to approve to transfer \$30,000.00 from the savings to the checking account to ensure that everybody will make it to Nat'l Convention and whatever amount is unused will be transferred to the savings account. PNC Briggs is making this announcement so that later this will be put forward as a motion for approval.

Finance Officer noted that all bills have been paid, 990 has been completed QuickBooks have been reconciled every month so everything is up-to-date.

**Judge Advocate** Dave Spencer, PNC's Report is in the NEC folder. JA Spencer requested for all to review the recently distributed "Retention and Disposition Policy" which will be discussed during the New Business section of the meeting. Also, explained on the meaning of how an "Executive Session" be convened and; therefore, it should be transparent when held and no secrets, etc. be kept from the members.

**Immediate Past Commander** Paul Speigle's Report is in the NEC folder. IPC Speigle announced that at the PNC Committee meeting, it was requested for all Sons to contact him on individuals to be nominated for the SOA Aid and Support Award. In order to be considered, this individual cannot be Son, but someone who has been an exemplary person and promoted in assisting the Sons of AMVETS at any level. Also, along with the completed Nomination Form to please add a biographical manuscript.



Additionally, it was recommended for more Sons PNCs to be involved in the face-to-face meetings with Congress and Senate representatives by being extra assertive communicating with them via emails, phone calls, etc. The strategy is to contact representatives from one's state since ultimately these Reps want votes so they will hear from their state's citizens.

**Chaplain** James Fabian's Report is in the NEC folder and nothing to add at this time.

**VAVS Representative** William Gerry's Report is in the NEC folder. In addition, Mr. Gerry updated the body that volunteers are allowed to enter the Veterans facilities. Also, there is a great need to rebuild the volunteer force since lots of volunteers were lost during the pandemic, a lot of people retired, there is a need to bring back and start new volunteers. Since lots of the meetings held have been online virtual meetings and there are facilities that are not allowing volunteers back into the hospitals or clinics. For next month, Mr. Gerry and Mr. Kirkpatrick will be attending next month's NAC meeting and will request to them to continue the online virtual meetings for volunteers who are working class, can attend the meetings and be counted as regular volunteers. Since these virtual meetings have been going for the past three years, Rep. Gerry feels it would be good for them to continue.

Special announcement, Mr. Gerry will be stepping-down this coming year and passing his role to Jr. Advisor Kirkpatrick and both are planning to go to Denver this year so that Mr. Gerry can pass all the information he has to Mr. Kirkpatrick considering it will be trial by fire for the coming year. VAVS Rep. Gerry is requesting for the Sons to assist Mr. Kirkpatrick with new volunteers across the country.

**Deputy Legislative Director** Ken Barber, PNC's Report is in the NEC folder. PNC Barber enjoyed the "Walk on the Hill" and found it very interesting. Legislative Director Doug Brown will follow-up with an update.

**Web Master** Richard Thibodeau, PNC's Report is in the NEC folder. PNC Thibodeau announced on the following updates on the web site's Forms tab:

- COO form deleted section for Historian/PRO
- COO form added Events Director
- COO forms replaced SOA logos
- D&R removed the third page





**Inspector General** Mike X Marecek noted that he has no Report at this time.

**Events Director** Harold P. Collins, PNC's Report is in the NEC folder. PNC Collins graciously welcome the body to NEC and confirmed that no one had issues checking-in at the hotel. Events Director Collins is working on the 2023 National Convention's preparations. Also, attended a site visit for meeting rooms, Nat'l SOA Awards room and planning the Daily Schedule. PNC Collins will be contacting NECmen for their hotel room dates (check-in and check-out) information.

### **NECmen Reports**

**Alaska:** Mike Gagne's Report is in the NEC folder.

**Arizona:** Ben Howard's Report is in the NEC folder.

**Florida:** Mike Marecek' Report is in the NEC folder. Mr. Marecek thanked the Department of TX, Terry Peak, Commander, for graciously donated \$1,000.00 to "Florida's Disaster Relief Fund" as the result of the hurricane this past year. Thank you!

**Illinois:** Mike Srebalus' Report is in the NEC folder.

**Indiana:** Michael McDarrah's Report is in the NEC folder. Alt. NEC John Reeder apologized on behalf of IN Dept. Commander Tracy Diggs that could not attend due to an emergency. Also, thanked Commander Ciesla for the visit, it was a wonderful time and everyone enjoyed it. Mr. Reeder is inviting one of the Nat'l SOA Officers to attend their Spring NEC on April 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. Announced during the month of May, IN is celebrating PNC Don Finnegan's Chapter, "Run For the Fallen" and would like to challenge the Department to match Son's donation of \$500.00.

**Iowa:** Jim Myers' Report is in the NEC folder. Mr. Myers added that over 500 pairs of socks, 500 pairs of under wears and 50 gift cards were donated to the Iowa Veterans Home. The IA Department worked with Walmart who waited for a special sale to for the Department to purchase the socks and under wears and Walmart donated 20 \$50.00 gift cards along with three cases of socks.



**Kentucky:** Tim Goldman's Report is in the NEC folder. Also, KY Dept.'s Membership is coming along a little slow and thanked the Sons for having him attend NEC and is very happy to be here.

**Maine:** Eric Rodzen's Report is in the NEC folder.

**Maryland:** Edward Stely's Report is in the NEC folder.

**Massachusetts:** Mike Bruno's Report is in the NEC folder.

**Michigan:** John Aldrich apologized that his submitted Report in the NEC folder is actually the Department's Report and not NEC. Mr. Aldrich noted that Michigan's State Convention will be from June 23-25, 2023.

**Missouri:** Jack Vogel's Report is in the NEC folder. Mr. Vogel added that there is a Son at Post 106 who has done 285 funeral and has taken off from work to do 115 funerals.

## **Guest**

At this time, Commander Ciesla returns to the podium and introduces the next guest.

**Ladies Auxiliary Madam President** Karin Simmons addressed the body. Thanked the Sons, stressed how much she loves the Sons and the Ladies Auxiliary are there to assist the Sons, just "ask." Mrs. Simmons had a great time at the Memorials, at the Hill, and that the weather was not bad. Madam President's project is "The Fisher House" which many VA's facilities have it on or near their premises. The good thing about what the Fisher House offer is not only comfort for the Veterans, but also for their family members to help their loved ones, Veterans, to heal and requested to support if possible. Thanked the Sons for all they do.

**New York:** Gary Pelletier's Report is in the NEC folder and updated that NY Department's SEC is next week on 3/17<sup>th</sup>.

**North Carolina:** Lloyd Hunt's Report is in the NEC folder. On behalf of Mr. Hunt, Commander Ciesla apologized for his absence at NEC due to a water leak at his Post and did not want to leave them stranded.



**Ohio:** William Lutz' Report is in the NEC folder and to give a round of applause for PNC Harold Collins and Provost Marshal Dave Niederhauser for a job well done at the Memorials. Mr. Lutz thanked Commander Ciesla for praise given at PNC Chuck Kyser's Memorial Service.

**Pennsylvania:** Richard Hines' Report is in the NEC folder.

**Texas:** Ronnie Rogers' Report is in the NEC folder and reported on the death of Mark Clark who has been a Sons member for many years.

**Virginia:** Jon Keith, PNC's Report is in the NEC folder and that the VA Dept. has donated printed pocket "Constitution" for kids in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The cost is \$8.40 for 3,000.

**Wisconsin:** Jim Fabian's Report is in the NEC folder and personally thanked Commander Ciesla for attending and the little town was so impressed. Also, donations received for the "War Hawks" raised \$2,200.00 for two dogs to be trained and a citizen there offered to donate one of his puppies to the cause.

**Provost Marshal** Dave Niederhauser's Report is in the NEC folder and also thanked Cogan, Nate, Mike and Tim for assisting with the set-up for the Memorial services.

Commander Ciesla thanked PNC Collins and Provost March Niederhauser for organizing the buses and helping with the Sons.

**Communications Director** David T. Strittmather, PNC's Report is in the NEC folder and shared with the body on introducing a Sons States "pins" competition similar to the AMVETS. This will be to replace the Scrapbook competition held at every Annual Convention. PNC Strittmather would like to propose an entry fee of \$5.00 and \$2.50 will go to AMVETS project and the other \$2.50 will be given to the winner of the best pin. After a discussion ensued on ideas, it was decided to table it until New Business section of the meeting.

PNC Strittmather commented on the "Rolling to Remember Memorial Day Demonstration" plans. At this time, the Pentagon area to be part of this event is still pending, but will notify all when a decision has been made.

**Legislative Director** Doug Brown's Report is in the NEC Folder and thanked everyone helping out on the Hill. With Sons hard work, there were 96 people having face to face



meetings with 224 representatives. QR codes business cards were a big hit thanked to PNC Strittmather. The Representatives were amicable in getting the cards. Mr. Brown and PNC Spencer have come up with a new way to notify everyone when a new Bill is presented. It will be shared soon. Thanked Chaplain Jim Fabian for his prayers and Provost Marshal Dave Niederhauser for getting the room ready for the meeting and everyone else for doing a wonderful job.

JA Dave Spencer, PNC suggested for the business cards to be included in the Legislative folders so that it is convenient for all. Also, PNC Strittmather added that on the Priorities Flyers to print the QR Codes.

PNC Collins gave to PNC Strittmather a sample of an VFW flyer that has QR codes printed.

Motion to accept all Reports by Bill Lutz, NEC OH, seconded by Michael Bruno, NEC MA. Motion carried.

Commander Ciesla mentioned that PNC Chuck Kyser's family donated his collection of lapel pins so Commander selected pins to be showcased at Nat'l SOA HQ and the rest will be put on table in the back room for all to take as a memory from PNC Kyser.

In addition, Commander Ciesla shared with the Sons that the most memorable remembrance of PNC Kyser did while being a dedicated Sons Commander was to take every \$1.00 bill with a 'K' he received and donate it to "Toys for Tots."

**Commander Ciesla announced:**

**RECESS:** 10:22 AM

**RETURN:** 10:45 AM

JA Dave Spencer, PNC noted that the Provost Marshal had issued several fines so far to the Sons. JA Spencer suggested for the monies received be donated to Commander Ciesla's Project.

Motion to donate payment of fines to Commander Ciesla's Project by JA Dave Spencer, seconded by Michael Bruno NEC MA. Motion carried.



Provost Marshal Dave Niederhauser announced that one of the fines was given to one Sons Officer for being inappropriately dressed by wearing his cover on backwards. Commander Ciesla admitted it was directed to him and paid the \$20.00 to go to his Project. The incident happened because it was raining, left the Mall, stuck him in a small seat, the Provost Marshal was confusing him with a conversation so not to drop his cover to avoid getting dirty and accidentally put his cover backwards. Obviously, the pictures taken are evidence of this, but Commander Ciesla is happy to donate the \$20.00 to his Project.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **1. Finance – Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer Reported:**

- For all NECmen staying an extra night is \$207.48 to be paid.
- All bills have been paid, working very closely with the CPA, payroll entered on time in QuickBooks.

#### **2. Membership Program – Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer**

- Drupal 9 update – Fin. Officer Briggs spoke with the developers and it is expected by summertime Drupal 9 should be completely updated.
- At this time, please communicate any changes that the body would like to be done to Web Master Thibodeau or 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr. Patrick Holcombe or Commander Ciesla or any of the E-Board members.

Commander Ciesla added on the upcoming Drupal 9 update, some of the pages can be cosmetically changed, please send requests to Web Master Thibodeau and Fin. Officer Briggs and they will share those requests with the developers since they will be redesigning the whole page when completing Drupal 9. The following were recommended during meeting:

- a. Nathan Wuesthoff, Cmdr. and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice for the Dept. of FL requested when making member's Transfers to give permission to Departments to make those changes.
- b. PNC John Keith reminded Commander Ciesla on a list he gave him awhile ago. Commander Ciesla has it.



Motion to accept Finance Committee Report by Michael Bruno, NEC MA, seconded by Jim Myers, NEC IA.

Motion to accept Membership Program Committee Report by Michael Bruno, NEC MA, seconded by Ed Stely, NEC MD.

## **Old Business**

N/A

## **New Business**

### **Assisting Grants- Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer**

Finance Officer Briggs noted that the Committee of the Assisting Grants have reviewed the documents received as follows:

1. OH – Sq. 21

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Bill Lutz, NEC OH, seconded by Jim Myers, NEC IA.

Motion carried.

2. MO – Sq. 106

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Michael Bruno, NEC MA, seconded by Timothy Goldman, NEC KY.

Motion carried.

## **GUEST**

**Immediate Past Commander Greg Huen** addressed the body to express gratitude for Sons excellent work and is very appreciative of Sons efforts in every way by making AMVETS job easy.



### **Assisting Grants- Daniel K. Briggs, PNC, Finance Officer (cont'd)**

#### 3. ME – Sq. 1

Motion to approve payment of \$500.00 by Bill Lutz, NEC OH, seconded by Jim Myers, NEC IA.  
Motion carried.

Commander Ciesla reminded the body not to forget to submit Project Reports for all events and activities held on behalf of the Veterans.

### **Presidential Volunteer Service Award – Commander Ciesla**

Provost Marshal Niederhauser distributed information (**Addendum I**) regarding the essence of Volunteerism written by Commander Ciesla and “The President’s Volunteer Service Award.” Commander Ciesla informed the Sons on the specifics of the President’s Volunteer Service Award and the requirements for an individual to be qualified for this prestigious award presented by the President of the United States.

Commander Ciesla stated that Sons has a recipient of this Award, PNC Richard Thibodeau and reported his volunteerism through his company that is an authorized, certifying organization. Commander conveyed that the standard Squadron’s activities do qualify for hours in regards to this program and “our” volunteerism positively impacts our Veterans we nationally pledge to serve. Commander Ciesla is requesting for NECmen to share this information with their Departments’ leadership, discern the Son(s) who are actively submitting Project Reports on their volunteering activities and consider this Son(s) as a candidate(s) to be eligible for this award. Once these Son(s) are selected, please forward a detail activity report to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Jackson so that he can compile the list according to hours and age group, Nat’l SOA will order the certificate and coin and there will be a special presentation during Nat’l SOA Convention Awards Ceremony in Pittsburgh, PA.

Keep in mind, everything that Sons do qualifies also any other outside activity (i.e. Boys Scouts or other charitable organization) can be added to the hours of volunteerism through Sons of AMVETS which is a certified organization. Once again, this is a highly esteemed award signed by the President regardless of political party affiliation. It is a demonstration on the volunteering aspect in helping one another, community and Veterans. Please visit the website, <https://presidentalserviceawards.gov/>. If anyone



has any questions, please contact Commander Ciesla. In addition, the Juniors can be involved in this program and real opportunity for Sons to make a big deal with the Juniors so if you have a Junior, check with the Post that has a Junior including Boys Scouts/Eagle Scouts) and recognize those efforts that are outstanding that deserve the recognition on volunteering.

**RSF - Project Reporting – Commander Ciesla** brought to NEC men’s attention on Red Shirt Friday (RSF). This came to the E-Board attention of when submitting Project Reports that “wearing a red shirt” is considered to be documented as a project. This is not admissible and project reporting is what Sons do, ***not what they wear***.

**Rolling to Remember – Commander Ciesla** announced that the only Nat’l Officers attending will be the Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander due to funding.

**LAW Results – Commander Ciesla** congratulated everyone for the results and great job done by the Sons. Capitol Hill Representatives were delighted to meet the Sons than ever before. Encouraged NECmen to spread the word on their involvement with this endeavor and to contact Commander Ciesla or Doug Brown with any questions or assistance.

**Department Dues Remittance – Commander Ciesla** reminded the Departments to please submit dues once a month according to the Field Collection (FC) entry of memberships. For example, dues for March should be sent to HQ during the first week in April. A special recognition given to the Department of Michigan sending once a month the correct amount of dues. This procedure is easier for Nat’l SOA A. A. Nancy to keep track of remittance of dues. A suggestion was noted to add a print button on the FC page to make it easier to submit with check to Nat’l SOA HQ.

**PNC Dave Strittmather – Re-branding Scrapbook/Lapel Pins/Challenge Coins Competition** at Convention. JA Dave Spencer will notify PNC Strittmather if there are any controversies in the CBL with respect to this re-branding.

**Finance Officer Daniel K. Briggs, PNC** – update on the expense of holding the 2023 Spring NEC closer to DC. As per previously noted,





Motion to transfer \$30,000.00 from savings to checking of Operating Budget account by Finance Officer Briggs, seconded by Bill Lutz, NEC OH.

Motion carried.

**JA Dave Spencer:**

1. Hotel lodging for Veteran's Lodging re: deadline date of cut-off.

Motion to change 21 days before Convention by January 15th and Spring NEC (Veteran's Day) to November 1<sup>st</sup> by JA Dave Spencer, PNC, seconded by Jim Myers, NEC IA.

Motion carried.

2. National Sons of AMVETS Records Retention and Disposition Policy

JA Spencer reviewed the policy that was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. After reviewing some examples of how the policy would work in practice, Commander Ciesla opened up the floor for questions. After a brief further discussion, the matter was voted on.

Bill Lutz, NEC OH stated that at the NEC Men Pre-NEC Meeting it was discussed and everyone agreed to approve it.

Motion to approve the National Sons of AMVETS Records Retention and Disposition Policy by JA Dave Spencer, seconded by Michael Bruno, PDC, NEC MA.

Motion carried.

3. Deceased of SOA Life Members – At the 2021 Nat'l Convention it was requested for every Squadron to verify their Life Members if they were deceased. It is requested that Squadrons print Roster of their Life Members and notify their 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commanders to update the information online database of the deceased members.

Motion for Squadrons to update their Life members deceased by Jim Myers, NEC IA, seconded by Bill Lutz, NEC OH.

Motion carried.



**Night at the Races** – Commander Ciesla thanked the body for their participation by donating items and Sons received \$3,210.00 for Commander’s Project. The evening exceeded all expectations. Great evening for all.

**Nat’l SOA Scholarship Application deadline** – Commander Ciesla reminded all that the deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup> and to submit to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Jackson and monetary award is \$750.00 as long as the recipient is attending or will attend an accredited University or College.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander** Patrick Holcombe requested for NEC men to assist with the loading of the AMVETS/Sons Trailer by 9 PM.

**Events Director PNC Harold Collins** announced all Elected Officers to see him after the meeting is adjourned.

**Donations to Commander Ciesla’s Project, The Gary Sinise Foundation.**

- MD – Sq. 7 donated \$500.00 and Dick Fleagle thanked the Squadron
- Bill Lutz, NEC OH winner of the 50/50 Raffle #0052 donated \$220.00.

Commander Ciesla reminded the body to please look at the lapel pins collected by PNC Chuck Kyser.

**Web Master Richard Thibodeau** announced that it is approved for logos to be updated.

**Motion to Adjourn by All.**

**Motion carried.**

**Benediction: James M. Fabian, National SOA Chaplain**

**Honor to the Colors: Dave Niederhauser, Provost Marshal**

**ADJOURNMENT: 11:40 am**