

Mid Year Rally

General Meeting 04-29-2023

The meeting was called to order by RNP, John Reando at 2:30 with an invocation, salute to the flag and the mission statement.

NSAA reminded everyone that we represent the AMVETS, so while you do that be respectful of yourself and others or remove your cut so as not to bring negative attention to the AMVETS.

Attendance was taken. Present are RNP John Reando, RN1V Dan Macdonald, RN2V Natalie Cummings, RNJA Jim Whitcraft, RNT Paul Spuhl, RNSAA Larry Saad, Immediate Past President Tom McNamara, RNC Jeremiah Botkin, RNS Mary McCarthy, RNPO Craig Anthony and RNPCO William Sifford.

Departments in attendance are: Floridam Georgiam Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Guests in attendance are: Greg Huen, Joe Chenelli, Sabrina Bullard, Carol King, Carol Hebert, JD Dotson, Rob Quick and George Cummings

Joe Chenelli spoke about the Pact Act explaining what it does to help Veterans medical affected by their time doing service. Last year the bill was nearly dead but because of the Rolling to Remember it has been revived and the nation noticed because of the Motorcycles that were there. He needs as many of us as possible to attend. It is the Nations largest event that this ride includes. 7am to noon, Sunday, May 28th is our time to show the Federal Government that we need them to do better for our veterans.

PNC Huen from Kentucky, stated that to his knowledges, all the VSO's stood on one stage to show our unity. When spectators saw all of the big 4 standing in unison the nation took notice. It had a huge impact.

Sabrina from the National AMVETS Service foundation thanked us for all we do to serve the veterans in our community.

Carol King representing the National AMVETS Ladies Aux. She sees all we do and it has made a difference. Keep doing what we are doing.

Motion to accept the minutes by Larry Saad and 2nd by Kevin Mattson. Motion carried.

Jim Whitcraft- The board has discussed and recommends that we put this Mid Year out for bid instead of just a rotation. It will include a change for the specific dates as well, along with information about the requirements.

Motion by Kevin Mattson and 2nd by Cruse to make this change. Discussion included location, time of year, and dates that would be blocked out and various items. We would basically go back to the old format. A committee will be formed who will award the Mid Year starting in 2025. Motion was carried.

Any change of protocol in officers' reports, Section 6.2 now speaks to either hands, voice or paper ballots for voting by discretion of the presiding officers. Convention rules will be voted on at the convention. The national board is recommending a secret ballot. The 2023 rules will be presented as they currently stand. A motion by Cruse 2ND by Bob Smith. Motion was carried with no discussion.

President-John Reando- His report is in the book. He is grateful to see how many people are in attendance, And how many people are taking this seriously.

1st Vice-Dan Macdonald- A few changes-still have 10 department 124 chapters with 29 states instead of 27. We are adding Tennessee and Colorado. Membership 2979. Our goal is to break 3,000. One and possibly 2 more are opening in Ohio. That's a credit to all of you.

1290 of our riders are AMVETS with 63 being new to our organization, Auxiliary has 796 with 71 being new to the organization and 853 are SOA with 80 new to the organization. That means 214 new members to the organization that the Riders promoted to get them into the organization. Remember your parent organization because without them you are not a Rider. Pushing to sign people up is important. Membership rosters are often incomplete.

John reminded the group that every other month Dan has a membership call for 1st Vices.

\$2500 was raised from the polar plunge

2nd Vice-Natalie Cummings. \$11 Million in reporting is our best year ever. The most in the past has been \$7 million with 28% red shirt report. Florida is reporting \$1,200,000, with Indiana at \$600K and Ohio in 3rd at \$300K but they are coming after Indiana. The format for reporting will be starting 1 July which will make it easier to report and be live. Training to go paperless. This will take some responsibility off the 2nd vice and allow them to do more fundraising.

JA- Jim Whitcraft stated that the previous effort to have a conference call either monthly or bimonthly stopped due to lack of participation. He asked if they were interested in doing it again and there appears to be some interest so Jim will set that up.

Finance-Paul Spuhl The projected 2023-2024 budget which is in the book, the board approved it. We will be announcing a fundraiser so look for that. When he became the national treasurer in January 2020, he was following a person who did it for 7 years. We were at \$85K. Now our current balances are at \$149,857.

Immediate Past -Rob Quick representing Tom had no further comments

Chaplain Jeremiah Botkins-Scholarships. We are approved for 3 but a motion to award to the 4 we received. A motion was made by Larry Saad and 2nd by Dan Stinebrook. Motion carried.

SAA-Larry Saad announced that this is his last year as SAA and thanked everyone for their help. The board, the Departments, etc. He thanked everyone for his assistance.

Rob Quick stood to thank Saad for how he controls the floor and his professional manner in conducting his job.

Secretary-Mary's report is in the book. She thanked the board for appointing her and promised to do the best she can to keep their confidence in her.

Publications-Craig Anthony- he's responsible for the website and postings so he thanks everyone for their support. Thanks to the board for the appointment.

Communications-William Sifford- handles the Facebook and wants everyone to keep posting and sharing. If you have your page private make it public so you can get it out to everyone. New brochures are better for writing. If you are recruiting at the post use the website. If you are riding, take brochures with you.

Dept. Presidents reports.

Florida-Jim Merritt- Just chartered our newest chapter for a total of 26 chapters, and our total Membership of 619 members. Any questions on what we are reporting please reach out to one of us.

Georgia- Linda Botkins representing. 3 chapters, with 57 members. 41 riders and 16 supporters with \$13K in reporting. Promises to do better with rides coming up.

Indiana-John Hipps 12 chapters with 288 members. 237 are riders and 51 are supporters. Thanks to Natalie for visiting their last SEC. Chapter 11 upped their reporting 177%. State convention is in June.

John thanked the department of Indiana for sending a new chainsaw for his project, Wood for Veterans.

Iowa-Pete has 7 chapters and working to increase reporting. Thanks for all the chapters that help him out through the year.

Kentucky-JR May has 3 chapters with 97 members. Added 35 new members. A new Post in southern KY will be starting up soon. Going to have a bike night to recruit for that Post. Working hard to get more reporting.

Michigan-Joel- has 8 chapters and 152 members.

Missouri- has 11 chapters with 400 members. 341 are riders and are resolved to build their reporting.

New York-Kevin Mattson. New York has no delegates because 2 chapters did get their membership and dues in on time. Remember you will not vote and have no voice if it is late. New York is having reliability issues with their department finance officer.

New York currently has 9 chapters with 157 riders and 20 supporters. Long Island is looking to charter a new group. June 8,9 and 10 is their State convention.

\$2,500 was raised from the Polar Plunge and is much appreciated.

Ohio-JD-Thanks everyone for coming 16 chapters 463 members. Chapter 76 is pushing \$120K, with \$300K overall. He suggests putting a cap on Florida.

Dan asked that your department reports are printed ahead of time and given to the secretary.

Jim Whitcraft sent a text to JD asking for funds and within minutes he got a check for \$2,500 towards the Mid Year.

Wisconsin-Lawrence has 3 chapters. Over the last year they picked up 6 new members and now have 50. Building towards getting another in the northern part of the state.

PNP report-Larry Queensmith stands out for many reasons. He makes trips to nursing homes to spend time with our veterans. He carries flags with him and presents them to veterans to remind them that they are not forgotten. His heart is golden. This is being presented for 2024 but we still need another for 2025.

Old Business

None

New Business

Bob Smith, Ky 61- we were honored today to hear some history about our organization. He'd like to see that in print so our young people can see what we are about. He motioned that we get the board to approve a historian to record our past and 2nd by Todd Barby. Discussion: SAA reminded everyone that this is not something we can just add. There is no budget for this. We haven't had a historian since 2019. Paul suggested that our Comms officer and Publications officer are capable of handling this. Adding an additional expense might not be what we want to do at this time. George said that it was previously a volunteer so He will reach out to the past historian. JP reminded us all that if this board decides to recommend that our staff already in place handle this. Motion is carried.

Carol Hebert, national Programs Director stated that AMVETS 1 is driving a bus from California all across the nation to bring attention to Suicide prevention/Everyday 22. Asking for \$1,500 donation to sponsor that bus.

Motion by ? to donate \$1,500 2nd by Kevin Mattson to do that. Dept of California is the group of AMVETS responsible for this.

There is an agenda with the stops and events. The bus will read “ Legendary AMVETS Riders” Paul indicated that there is money in the budget using discretionary fund that could be used. New York stated that they will send \$100 to help out. Motion was carried.

Hambone would like that we state in our bi-laws to change the dates for Mid Year. March 14th is the date we are proposing. If the body wants to change and allow the date for 2024 to change. Jim will submit a resolution at the national convention to eliminate the time frame.

Chapter 51 president thanked everyone for their support and wanted to let us know how pleased they are to have us here.

Natalie brought to the floor that if you are coming to convention as an auxiliary member there are registration forms here. You must register as an Auxiliary member before you can register for the Riders group. It is \$40. Must have it by July 10. Late registration is \$60. Everyone will be refused entry if you don't register with your parent organization. Tues-Saturday morning registration.

Charter a new Chapter for Colorado. The new President was sworn in. Todd Miller was sworn in as well as one of his riders. They were presented with their new charter. They are the first chapter in Colorado. Chapter 2540.

Our convention rules cover this.

Good of the order-PNC Greg Huen-Thank you for the fundraiser from the last Mid Year Rally \$1,088. We have a PNC Flower fund that is depleted. He would like to re-route the money for flowers to show respect to our Past Commanders.

Motion by Greg to donate from the general fund, \$2,000 for the PNP Flower fund, 2nd JP. No discussion. Motion carries.

A moment of silence for 3 members that passed this week.

Nominations for :

President-**Dan Macdonald**

Nominated by Rob Quick

Larry Saad-Nominated by Kurt Knechtle

1st Vice-**Natalie Cummings** nominated by James Merritt

2nd Vice-**JR May**-Nominated by Greg Huen

Kurt Knechtle by James Merritt

Treasurer-**Paul Spuhl** nominated by John Hipps

SAA-**Rob Whistler** nominated by JD

John Hipps-by ? Indiana 12

JA—**Jim Whitcraft**-by Bob ?

John asked if anyone tasted the meat platters with cheese curds. Donated by Todd and his wife (The Barbians)-----Excellent stuff!

John asked who was going to RTR and Run for the Wall.

Good of the order....

PNP Quick-Missouri-Thanks for helping out with funeral expenses for our past Quartermaster. Made about \$1,200. John also thanked everyone who is helping Rob and John get their bikes into the trailer after their breakdown.

Paul-PNC Huen, with the aid of the team from NY raised \$1089 with a stipulation of a hair shaving. That will happen immediately following the meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Larry Saad 2nd by the group. Motion carried.

Closing Prayer by Jeremiah Botkin.

