



AMVETS RIDERS

National Convention Minutes

Orlando, Florida • August 21, 2026

OPENING

- The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.
- Invocation and POW/MIA ceremony by National Chaplain Jeremiah Botkins.
- Guest of Honor seated by National Sergeant-at-Arms JD Dotson.
- Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble led by Sergeant-at-Arms JD Dotson.
- Recognition of Past National Presidents: PNP-3 Bruce McElhany, PNP-7 George Cummins, PNP-8 Tom McNamara, and PNP-9 John Reando.

ROLL CALL

National Officers

Office	Name	Status
President	Natalie Cummings	Present
1st Vice President	Paul Spuhl	Present
2nd Vice President	Kurt Knechtle	Present
Treasurer	Jason Dolf	Present
Judge Advocate	Roy Randall	Present
Secretary	Howard Gushue	Present
Past National President	John Reando	Present

Departments and Department Presidents

Present: Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Delegate Count

Delegate count taken by Jason Dolf and Howard Gushue: **89 delegates** present. A simple majority requires **46** votes; a two-thirds (super-majority) vote requires **60**.

Motion to accept the delegate count, seconded. **Approved.**

Convention Rules

Convention rules presented by Judge Advocate Roy Randall.

Motion: JH (IN) • Second: DB (IN) • **Approved.**

Previous Minutes

Motion to waive the reading of the previous (Midyear) minutes. Motion: RW (IN) · Second: DB (IN) · **Approved.**

OFFICER REPORTS

All officer reports are available on the app.

Motions to accept the officer reports. **Approved.**

Treasurer Jason Dolf asked for a motion to align the organization's fiscal year with its IRS year.

Motion: Randy Dunn (NY) · Second: Greg Jennins (IA) · **Approved.**

Sergeant-at-Arms JD Dotson asked for volunteers to join the Uniform Committee to clear up grey areas in the CBL/By-Laws. He reported that 12 chapters remain in suspension related to IRS Form 990 filing, and asked for a motion to extend the suspension deadline by 60 days.

Motion: TB (OH-76) · Second: FL-2006 · **Approved.**

AWARDS

Quality Chapter Award

Department	Chapters
Florida	44, 447, 2006
Indiana	11, 13, 2919
Iowa	82
New York	245, 2000, 6472
Ohio	21, 39, 45, 76, 84, 1928, 1994
Wisconsin	1, 13, 1776

Department Reporting Awards

Place	Total Reporting by Department	Reporting per Rider per Department
1st	Ohio	Ohio
2nd	Florida	Michigan
3rd	Indiana	Indiana
4th	Michigan	Florida
5th	Missouri	Wisconsin

Additional Reporting and Membership Awards

Award	Recipient
Most Improved Reporting	Ohio Chapter 71
Most per Rider per Chapter	Michigan Chapter 93
Most Improved per Department	Wisconsin
Membership Award – Largest Department	Florida
Largest Member Increase	Indiana Chapter 13
Largest Increase – Chapter	Ohio Chapter 76
Largest Increase – Department	Iowa

Million-Dollar Chapters

Chapter	Amount Reported
Ohio Chapter 76	\$3.0 million
Michigan Chapter 93	\$1.9 million
Ohio Chapter 21	\$1.4 million
Ohio Chapter 84	\$1.38 million
Florida Chapter 32	\$1.3 million
Ohio Chapter 1928	\$1.3 million

Gold Star Mothers Awards

Presented by Tammy Pulaski, American Gold Star Mothers Service Officer, to:

- **Ohio:** Post OH-76, Chapter OH-76, Ladies Auxiliary OH-76, Sons OH-76, and Chapter OH-51
- **New York:** Department of New York Riders, NY-245, and NY-2000
- **Florida:** Department of Florida Riders, FL-17, FL-32, and FL-312
- **Missouri:** Department of Missouri Riders and MO-106
- **Indiana:** Department of Indiana Riders and IN-91
- **Kentucky and Georgia:** KY-125 and GA-10
- **Special Award:** Department of Wisconsin, Larry Redman, and WI-13

Individual Awards

Award	Recipient
National Rider of the Year	Chris Salzer (WI)
Department Rider of the Year	Megan Noble (OH)
Riding Supporter of the Year	Michelle Carney (FL-2415)
President's Award	Terri Barranger (OH)

National President Natalie Cummings was presented with a plaque from her National Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Two bids were received to host the 2027 Midyear: Chapter 12 of Muncie, Indiana, and the combined Long Island chapters. The Past National Presidents recommended Muncie, Indiana.

Membership vote to hold the 2027 Midyear in Muncie, Indiana. **Approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

Donations to Gold Star Families: Chapter FL-312 donated \$530 and Chapter WI-13 donated \$1,000.

Resolutions 01 and 02 (available on the app). **Rejected.**

Resolution 03 – Travel Policy. Motion: RD (NY) · Second: GJ (IA) · **Approved.**

ELECTIONS

After a 15-minute recess, the meeting resumed at 2:55 p.m. and the doors were secured for the election.

Motion to use handwritten ballots. Motion: TB (OH) · Second: LB (OH) · **Approved.**

First Round of Nominations (read by Roy Randall)

President	Paul Spuhl
1st Vice President	Kurt Knechtle
2nd Vice President	JD Dotson
Treasurer	Jason Dolf
Judge Advocate	Roy Randall, Robert Whistler
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kevin Matteson, Anthony Heuslmann, William Sifford

Second Round of Nominations

President	Paul Spuhl (MO), Dan McDonald (AZ), Bruce McElhaney (TX)
1st Vice President	Kurt Knechtle (FL)
2nd Vice President	JD Dotson (OH)
Treasurer	Jason Dolf (IA)
Judge Advocate	Roy Randall (NY), Rob Whistler (IN)
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kevin Matteson (NY), Howard Gushue (NY), John Hipps (IN), William Sifford (MO), Anthony Heuslmann (MO)

2026-2027 National Officers

Elections were held, and the following were elected:

Office	Name
President	Paul Spuhl
1st Vice President	Kurt Knechtle
2nd Vice President	JD Dotson
Treasurer	Jason Dolf
Judge Advocate	Rob Whistler
Secretary	Howard Gushue
Sergeant-at-Arms	William Sifford
Chaplain	John Hipps

GOOD AND WELFARE

- Kurt Knechtle: Chapter FL-2006 also earned the Million-Dollar Award.
- Natalie Cummings was presented with her Past National President vest by newly elected National President Paul Spuhl.

CLOSING

Benediction by National Chaplain Jerimiah Botkins.

Motion to adjourn. Motion: JH (IN) • Second: SC (FL) • **Approved.**

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS AND VOTES

#	Motion	Made / Seconded	Result
1	Accept the delegate count (89 delegates; 46 majority, 60 two-thirds)	Not recorded	Approved
2	Adopt the Convention Rules	JH (IN) / DB (IN)	Approved
3	Waive reading of the previous (Midyear) minutes	RW (IN) / DB (IN)	Approved
4	Accept the officer reports	Not recorded	Approved
5	Align the fiscal year with the IRS year	Randy Dunn (NY) / Greg Jennins (IA)	Approved
6	Extend the 990 suspension deadline by 60 days	TB (OH-76) / FL-2006	Approved
7	Hold the 2027 Midyear in Muncie, Indiana	Membership vote	Approved
8	Resolutions 01 and 02	Not recorded	Rejected
9	Resolution 03 – Travel Policy	RD (NY) / GJ (IA)	Approved
10	Use handwritten ballots for the election	TB (OH) / LB (OH)	Approved
11	Election of 2026–2027 National Officers	Handwritten ballot	Completed
12	Adjourn	JH (IN) / SC (FL)	Approved

Vote counts were not recorded in the original minutes.

Abbreviations: PNP – Past National President • SAA – Sergeant-at-Arms • JA – Judge Advocate • Motions and seconds are recorded by member initials and department/chapter.