

ANNUAL CONVENTION

JUNE 20 – 22, 2025



BOOK ONE

**ROSEN CENTRE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



AMVETS
(American Veterans)
Department of Florida



AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
June 2025 Convention
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AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

June 19-22, 2025 Convention

9840 International Drive

Rosen Centre, Orlando

Convention Agenda

(Note: Agenda subject to change at the Commander's discretion.)

THURSDAY, Jun 19 2025

1:30 PM	AMVETS Executive Board Meeting - Salon 5
3:00 PM	LAUX Finance Meeting – <u>Salon 6</u>
4:00 PM	Pre-Con Meeting (Designated Officers Only) – <u>Signature 2</u> State Commander Executive Director Finance Officer Provost Marshal Auxiliary President Auxiliary Sgt-at-Arms Auxiliary Treasurer SOA Commander SOA Treasurer Hotel Staff Convention Chairs Riders President Riders Treasurer Juniors Coordinators Service Foundation President
4:30 PM	LAUX Finance Audit – <u>Salon 6</u>
4:45 PM	Finance Committee Meeting - <u>Salon 5</u>
5:30 PM	LAUX Awards Judging – <u>Salon 6</u>

FRIDAY, Jun 20 2025

9:00 AM – 6 PM	LAUX Bylaws/Scholarship Judging/Convention Advisory Committee/Awards/Presidents Council Meeting/E-Board – <u>Salon 6</u>
11:00 – 12:00 PM	Joint Meeting - <u>Salon 5</u> (AMVETS Elected Officers, Exec. Director, Auxiliary Elected Officers, Sons CMDR, Jr. AMVETS Coord, SVC Foundation President, Riders President)
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting – <u>Salon 8</u>
2:00 – 3:00 PM	2025 June Conv (AMVETS/LAUX/Sons/Riders Reps) – <u>Salon 5</u>
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Service Foundation – <u>Salon 5</u>
5:00 PM	LAUX SEC Council – <u>Ballroom A</u>
6:30 PM	Joint Opening Meeting - <u>Grand Ballroom A</u>
7:30 PM	Memorial Service (After Joint Opening) - <u>Grand Ballroom A</u>
9:01 PM	Sad Sacks Scrimmage – <u>Salon 5</u>

SATURDAY Jun 21 2025

8:00 AM – 11 AM 1st AMVETS Business Meeting – **Grand Ballroom A**
(2nd Round of Nominations)

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM JUNIORS Meeting – **Salon 9**

8:30 AM – 3:00 PM SONS of AMVETS Meeting - **Salon 4**

8:30 AM LAUX Official Business Session – **Grand Ballroom B**

11:00-12:00 PM LUNCH

12:00 -1:00 PM Program Training - **Grand Ballroom A**

12:00 - 1:00 PM Homeless Veterans Task Force – **Salon 5**

12:00 - 1:00 PM Trustee Training – **Salon 9**

12:00 - 1:30 PM Finance/990 Training – **Salon 8**

1:00 - 2:00 PM CBL Committee- **Salon 9**

1:00 - 2:00 PM Membership Training - **Grand Ballroom A**

1:00 - 2:00 PM Joint Americanism/AADAA Training - **Salon 6**

1:30 - 2:30 PM District Commanders/Committee Meeting – **Salon 8**

2:00 - 3:00 PM Commanders Training - **Grand Ballroom A**

2:00 - 3:00 PM Honors and Awards Training - **Salon 6**

2:00 - 3:00 PM Women Veterans Council - **Salon 5**

3:00 - 4:00 PM Joint VAVS Council Meeting – **Salon 6**

3:00 - 4:00 PM Riders Executive Board Meeting - **Grand Ballroom A**

4:00 - 6:00 PM Riders Meeting - **Grand Ballroom A**

4:00 - 5:00 PM Quarter Master Training - **Salon 7**

6:00 - 6:45 PM Banquet Reception – **Grand Ballroom A/C Foyer**

7:00 – 10:00 PM Convention Banquet (Mash Bash) – **Grand Ballroom C**

For Banquet online payment, visit <https://square.link/u/ldqAGKAz>

SUNDAY, Jun 22 2025

8:00 AM AMVETS General Session Reconvene - **Grand Ballroom A**
(3rd Round of Nominations)
10:30 AM ADJOURN (Swear in of New Officers)
8:30 AM LAUX Official Business Session – **Grand Ballroom B**

REGISTRATION - Desk 1

Friday Jun 20, 2025 12:00 – 4:00 PM
Saturday Jun 21, 2025, 8:00 – 10:00 AM
(\$20.00 Pre-Registration/\$21.00 On-line
After Cut-Off 10 June (\$25.00 /\$26.00 On-line)

For online payment, visit <https://square.link/u/aPQgKYfT>

QUARTERMASTER – Salon 7

Friday Jun 20, 2025 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday Jun 21, 2025 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

HOSPITALITY SUITE – SONS – Suites 235/236

Thursday Jun 19, 2025 5:00 PM - 12:00 AM
Friday Jun 20, 2025 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
8:30 PM – 12:00 AM
Saturday Jun 21, 2025 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Oct SEC 30 Oct-2 Nov, 2025 – Rosen Centre, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL
Phone 407-996-9840 –Room Rate \$139.00 – RESERVATION CUT-OFF Sept 29, 2025

**AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
SEC AND CONVENTION MEETINGS
FEBRUARY 2024 OCTOBER 2027**

					HOTEL					PRE-
					CUT-OFF		ROOM		ROOM	REGISTRATION
MEETING		MEETING DATE		HOTEL	DATE		RATE		BLOCK	CUT -OFF
SEC		02/13 - 02/18/24		ROSEN CENTRE	1/13/2024		\$139.00		472	1/29/2024
CONVENTION		06/06 - 06/9/24		ROSEN CENTRE	5/4/2024		\$139.00		682	5/21/2024
SEC		10/24 - 10/27/24		ROSEN CENTRE	9/22/2024		\$139.00		466	10/14/2024
SEC		02/20 - 02/23/25		ROSEN CENTRE	1/18/2025		\$139.00		472	2/14/2025
CONVENTION		06/19 - 06/22/25		ROSEN CENTRE	5/17/2025		\$139.00		682	6/10/2025
SEC		10/30 - 11/2/25		ROSEN CENTRE	9/29/2025		\$139.00		466	10/22/2025
SEC		02/19-02/22/26		ROSEN CENTRE	1/17/2026		\$145.00		472	2/10/2026
CONVENTION		06/18-06/21/26		ROSEN CENTRE	5/17/2026		\$145.00		682	6/10/2026
SEC		10/29-11/01/26		ROSEN CENTRE	10/27/2026		\$145.00		472	10/21/2026
SEC		02/25-02/28/27		ROSEN CENTRE	1/23/2027		\$149.00		472	2/17/2027
CONVENTION		06/17-06/20/27		ROSEN CENTRE	5/16/2027		\$149.00		682	6/9/2027
SEC		10/28-10/31/27		ROSEN CENTRE	9/26/2027		\$149.00		472	10/20/2027



Rules for the Annual Department Convention

2025

June 19-22, 2025

PROPOSED

By the AMVETS Department of Florida
State Executive Committee

CONVENTION RULES

The Convention rules are developed by the AMVETS Department of Florida Bylaws Articles III AND IV. The Convention rules are presented to the State Executive Committee for consideration at the S.E.C. meeting preceding the annual convention. The Department Headquarters will circulate those rules to the posts at least 30 days before the Annual Convention. The Convention Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates assembled at the Annual Department Convention. The Convention Rules approval vote will be the first item at the State Convention.

1. Pre-registration: The cost or registration for the AMVETS Department of Florida 2024 Convention shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00) for pre-registration and twenty – five dollars (\$25.00) at the Convention. Pre-registration applications can be purchased through the Department of Florida website at www.amvetsfl.com, under quartermaster, search for convention registration. A \$1.00 processing fee will be added per registrant. Applications can also be mailed to the Credentials Committee Chairman postmarked on or before May 25, 2024. Applications postmarked after May 25, 2024, shall not be recognized. The Credentials

Chairman is:

Brenda Binegar, Credentials Committee
24 Lois Avenue
Inglis, FL 34449

2. Registration: The registration desk shall be open during the following hours at the Department Convention:

Friday	June 17, 2025	12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Saturday	June 18, 2025	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

1. Registration Procedures: Each Delegate or Alternate must present a current membership card reflecting the post for which they are registering. A picture ID is required to verify the name on the membership card. Each Delegate must have been a member in good standing in their post for a minimum of six months before the convention. **AMVETS not meeting this requirement or membership in a post that has not been properly revalidated shall be registered as alternates and shall not have a voice or vote during the ELECTIONS (See “*” for detailed information).** Delegates from a post that has been chartered during these six months are exempt from this requirement. However, their post must be approved for Charter before June 1, 2024.
2. Delegates: Each revalidated Post in the Department shall be entitled to two (2) delegates for the first twenty-five (25) paid-up members. Each Post is authorized to have one (1) additional delegate for each twenty-five (25) paid-up members, or major fraction thereof,

over, and exclusive of the first twenty-five (25) paid-up members. The Executive Director shall advise each Post, not later than May 14, 2024, the number of delegates they are entitled to. Each Post shall be entitled to one (1) alternate for each delegate. Eligible alternates may vote only in the event the delegate they represent is absent from the floor.

3. Order of Business: The order of business shall be determined by the Chairman in accordance with the published agenda of the convention.
4. Quorum: One third (1/3) of the registered delegates shall constitute a quorum of all Convention business, providing there is at least one (1) elected officer to preside over the meeting.
5. Dress Code: Neither delegates, alternates or guests will be permitted on the convention floor wearing shorts, tank tops or sandals, etc. All shirts must have a collar. The only cover authorized is the official AMVETS cover. Reasonable accommodations will be made for all members with disabilities. All who are physically challenged should remain seated during all ceremonies.
6. Voting: During the business sessions all duly registered AMVETS present have full voice and vote. All duly registered AMVETS members shall have one (1) vote except during elections. Post delegates shall be entitled to one (1) vote each for the elective officers of the Department. All Past National Commanders, Past Department Commanders and District Commanders shall be entitled to one (1) separate vote each. The Department Commander must cast his vote in the event of a tie vote.
7. Nominations: Intentions to become a candidate for office may be announced at any time. Nominations for any office shall be made at the spring SEC and at the State Convention on Saturday of the Convention. Nominations speeches, and seconding speeches, though not required, shall be limited to 5 minutes for Commander and NEC and two minutes for all others. In addition, nominations will be reopened for each office on Sunday at 9:00 AM or immediately following the credentials report. No speeches shall be permitted on the Sunday of the elections.
 - a) Members with any intentions of running for an elected office must show valid credentials before Sunday morning elections.
8. Election Procedures: Elections shall be by roll call of revalidated Posts and shall be conducted by the Commander and supervised by the Judge Advocate with the assistance of the Provost Marshal. The order of Post voting shall be determined by a random drawing of a post number immediately following the first credentials report on Saturday.

- A. If a member nominated is unopposed, the Chair, after ensuring that in fact no member present wishes to make further nominations; declares that the nominee is elected.
9. Elections: The order for voting shall be as follows on Sunday, June 22, 2025
- A. Commander
 - B. First Vice Commander
 - C. Second Vice Commander
 - D. Judge Advocate
 - E. Finance Officer
 - F. Provost Marshal
 - G. Finance Committee Trustee (3 Year)
 - H. Service Foundation A (3 Year)
 - I. Service Foundation (2-Year)
10. Installation of Officers: All elected officers shall be installed immediately following adjournment of the Department Convention.

*** Revalidation requirements**

Every Post shall be required to revalidate its charter within seven (7) days following the annual meeting. An appropriate device to be issued by the National Department shall evidence such charter revalidation. In order to revalidate such charter, receive a Certificate of Revalidation of its charter, and have the ability to register for the State Convention, each Post, aside from any other requirements imposed in these Bylaws, shall:

- A.** Furnish the Department Executive Director with a certified list of current Post Officers. In the "Official Contact" section of the AMVETS Post Officer Form, each post will be encouraged to enter a permanent Mailing address. This address should be the one and only address to which all official post correspondence will be sent.
- B.** File Internal Revenue Form 990 for the Post calendar or fiscal year with the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS), as required by current IRS regulations, and indicate on the Revalidation form the date the 990 was filed with the IRS.
- C.** Furnish the Department Judge Advocate with two (2) copies of the Post's current Constitution and Bylaws or a certification stating the copy previously submitted has not been materially amended.
- D.** Be fully paid with all Post accounts with Department and National Headquarters.
- E.** Any post operating a clubroom, Canteen or Social Quarters shall be required to carry workers' compensation insurance (in accordance with the law of the state of Florida) and public liability insurance, including product liability and personal injury coverage, with a minimum single limit of \$300,000. Posts that maintain a building primarily for

meeting purposes shall be required to carry public liability insurance, including product liability and personal injury coverage with a minimum single limit coverage of \$100,000 or the minimum local amount prescribed by the State of Florida. The AMVETS Department of Florida and the AMVETS National Headquarters shall be included as additional insured in all policies and a certificate of said insurance shall be furnished to the AMVETS Department of Florida and to AMVETS National Headquarters.

- F.** Have at least ten (10) members in good standing at the time of revalidation.
- G.** Provide the Department Executive Director with a copy of the Post Articles of Incorporation and certificates of good standing issued by the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations.
- H.** Provide the Department Executive Director with proof of Bonding of Officers handling over \$5,000.00 of AMVETS funds. Two (2) copies of all the above must be submitted, one to be placed in the Department files and the others to be forwarded to the National Headquarters. Failure to comply with the above requirements will result in the noncomplying Post not being seated at the State Convention.



PREAMBLE

We, the American Veterans who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during and since World War II, fully realizing our responsibility to our community, to our state and to our nations, associate ourselves for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States; to safeguard the principles of freedom, liberty and justice for all; to promote the cause of peace and goodwill among nations; to maintain inviolate the freedom of our country; to preserve the fundamentals of democracy; to perpetuate the friendship and associations of these veterans; and to dedicate ourselves to the cause of mutual assistance,

“THIS” by the grace of God.



The History of AMVETS

Truly, AMVETS was born in the midst of war, for it was in August 1943, with victory still two years away, that a new organization, later to be known as the American Veterans of World War II, had its beginning. Overseas, the tide of battle was turning. The Allies had swept through North Africa and Sicily. In the Pacific, fighting raged in New Guinea. Thousands of Americans had made the supreme sacrifice. Hundreds of others were being mustered out of uniform with battle wounds and medical discharges. These men who fought in history's greatest war found it natural to seek each other's company. They were united by similar experiences in jungles, in the Arctic, in deserts, in mountains, at sea and in the skies. Thus, out of such comradeship, AMVETS came to be.

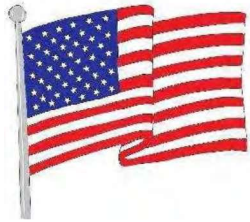
Formed in Washington, D.C., two independent veterans clubs, one on the campus of George Washington University, the other of veterans employed by the government, joined together to sponsor a servicemen's party. By September 1944, other such veteran's clubs organized throughout America. In California, Florida, Louisiana, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Texas. On Nov. 11, 1944, a Veterans Day article entitled "12,000,000 in search of a Leader" appeared in COLLIER'S. This story, written by Walter Davenport, introduced the clubs and outlined their three mutual aims: to promote world peace, to preserve the American way of life, and to help the veteran help himself. In December 1944, 18 leaders, representing these nine groups, met in Kansas City, Mo. There, a national organization was formed and on Dec. 9, 1944, the name "American Veterans of World War II" was chosen. The word AMVETS, coined by newspaper headline writers, soon became the official name. The white clover, a flower that thrives in freedom throughout the world, and is symbolic of the struggle during World War II, became the adopted flower of AMVETS.

In October 1945, two months after the end of World War II, the first national convention was convened in Chicago. In 1946, AMVETS petitioned Congress for a federal charter. AMVETS,

having displayed dignity and a sound approach to national problems, won the deep respect of Congress and on July 23, 1947, President Harry S Truman signed the AMVETS charter. The words of the Senate Judiciary Committee echoed throughout the land, "The veterans of World War II are entitled to their own organization, and AMVETS, being organized along sound lines and for worthy purposes . . . having demonstrated its strength and stability is entitled to the standing and dignity which a national charter will afford." President Truman also commented, "Were I a veteran of this war, I would prefer to have a veteran of World War II looking after my affairs, than a veteran of some other war."

When the war broke out in Korea and again in Vietnam, AMVETS requested Congress to amend the charter so that those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces would be eligible for membership. On Sept. 14, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bill redefining the eligibility dates for AMVETS membership, stating "Any person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, or any American citizen, as an American citizen, who served in the armed forces of an allied nation of the United States at any time after Sept. 15, 1940, and on or before the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States is eligible for regular membership in AMVETS, provided such service when terminated by discharge or release from active duty be by honorable discharge or separation." On May 7, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Proclamation 4373, terminating the Vietnam era and announcing the cessation of hostilities. Effective May 8, 1975, the armed forces became a peacetime service.

American veterans is now the only congressionally chartered veteran's service organization that recognizes the sacrifices of these veterans and service persons by extending membership eligibility to them. At the 46th and 47th national conventions, the contributions made by the National Guard and Reserve forces were recognized and membership eligibility was extended to include all ready reserves. Membership in AMVETS is now open to any person who has served or is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during and since World War II, including all National Guard and Reserve personnel. At the 49th National Convention in 1993, the eligibility of merchant marines who served this country in time of war was addressed and approved. Merchant marines who are considered veterans and eligible for VA benefits (and have received a DD-214 from either the Navy or the Coast Guard) are eligible for AMVETS membership.



AMVETS Department of Florida

Doug Furgeson, Commander
2939 Sunway Ln.
Lakeland, FL 33801
863-777-0938



Fellow AMVETS,

Welcome to the AMVETS annual Convention. We will be deciding our leaders for 2025-2026. If you are nominated for an elected position for the first time you must show proof of eligibility to Credentials before elections. Those who have been nominated or elected in the past and not shown proof of eligibility must show proof before elections.

In March we attended the National NEC meeting, the new National Headquarters renovations were not completed but we were able to go to the Headquarters and do a walk through, once completed it will be impressive.

I want to thank everyone for their support during my Administration. Over the last 2 years we have not had any Department Grievance hearings. I credit it to training and very knowledgeable Judge Advocate and Inspector General working with posts with issues. We continue to regain the respect of National Headquarters. Our Homeless Veterans Taskforce has done a great job assisting our Veterans. Because of the efforts our Americanism Chairman Tanya Marheine we have 2 National winners from Post 2298. We have received National awards for Membership and Programs. Our Department Quartermaster, Arlene Frisk, has done a great job with our QM store, she is also National Quartermaster subsidized by the Department of Florida.

Yours in Service

Doug Furgeson,

Department Commander



AMVETS
(American Veterans)
Department of Florida



Commander Ferguson, Fellow AMVETS,

First, I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day and honored those that gave the ultimate sacrifice to ensure we live on the greatest country on earth.

As most of you know, PDC Horace Johnson and now National Commander is battling cancer as is numerous of our fellow veterans. Let us keep all of them in our thoughts and prayers. If you made it to the Memorial Service on Friday, you seen we lost a lot of Amvets angels this past year. Let keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers also.

Please enjoy yourself and learn from the various training sessions the Department has scheduled on Saturday. We put these training sessions on for your benefit so please participate in them.

As I stated before, the documents for the SECs and Convention will be posted on our website to download prior to the event. One note on the October 2025 SEC, it reflected the wrong date, it will be the last week in October, the new dates are posted on the website. Another note, I will be negotiating the number of guaranteed room nights going forward on the contract with the Rosen. As may of you know, rooms were scarce for this Convention however, we did get our allotment per the contract and a lot more. Hopefully I can get the contract amended so we do not have to go through what we had to go through with huge waiting lists and staying at other hotels in the future. The negotiation increases will be reflected on our events page after the Convention.

I want to address the Post validations we are going through right now. According to our Bylaws, this needs to be done immediately after your elections and by the 21st of May. I am writing this report on 12 June and only about half of our 68 Posts have properly validated. I know the Commander will be talking about this also but we need to be better than this. We talked about this at the October and February SECs, I sent emails to all the Posts, and we still might have Posts that might not be able to vote because they could not get this done. We hate to be a stickler on this, but we have had 7 Posts that had their 501C19 Non-Profit revoked for not filing 990 tax returns for three consecutive years. This is unacceptable. Once this happens, it going to cost you to get re-instated not to mention being a pain and hours on the phone with the IRS. This is why we are enforcing the revalidation hard this year because we want to ensure this don' t happen again to any other Post. The Department revalidation sheet also has the required documents all Posts must provide the Department and appropriate details. You are required to send me your most current 990 (first page only please), your insurance Aaccord25, and your corporate document from

Sunbiz. Make sure National has the current Accord25 also, don' t send it to me like numerous Posts have done. The National Accord25 needs to go to National via email, do not send paper copies. Save your postage, send it to www.membersupport@AMVETS.org. FYI, National is now at their new address in Washington, PA so make sure this is reflected in your next Accord25 update. The address is reflected on the National website at the bottom of the home page and I sent the correct addresses out to all the Posts. Your Articles of Incorporation must also be done each year right after the election. The due date is 31 March for the state of Florida but don' t file them until after the election is complete. Don' t do it twice, and do not pay twice. Exempt veterans' organizations are exempt from the \$400.00 penalty for late filing so don' t worry about the penalty part. I reported to the Commander and Credentials Committee the Posts that did not revalidate. I worked with the Posts right up to the Convention to try and make sure they have a voice and a vote during the Convention but if the Post didn' t get it done it's on them. If you have any questions on any of these requirements, please feel free to call me.

Lastly, make sure you follow the chain of command. Don' t start with National without going through your Department, they will send you back to us first. We are here to help and guide. We want every Post to be self-sufficient and successful. If you need help or training in between the SECs, reach out to us anytime and involve your District Commanders. Make good use of the training the Department provides on your behalf and I wish everyone an awesome Convention.

Have a great Convention, learn, communicate, and have some fun.



**Richard McKern, Executive Director
Department of Florida**



AMVETS
(American Veterans)
Department of Florida



PDC A.J. John, NEC
Department of Florida
2780 Cabernet Cir
Ocoee, FL 34761-5044
(407) 766-7515
craftsman011@gmail.com

Commander Furgeson, Department Officers, and AmVets members. Here is an Update on National Headquarters progress from National Executive Director Joe Chenelly. Additional information on National to follow.

The project is going quite well now, having picked up a ton of momentum over the past several weeks. We are on track to begin AMVETS NHQ staff working full-time in the building next month (June)! It is still on budget, taking into account that the addition of an elevator was moved from the second phase of this overall plan into the first phase because it was much more cost and operationally efficient to do so.

In this first update blast, we will show you what the public will always see first: the front of the Headquarters building. Three new flag poles were just installed this week, but a whole lot had to be done first.

Included in this update are photos that begin from when AMVETS first purchased the former synagogue at this time in 2024. We knew the building needed a major facelift, but we weren't aware that major surgery was needed below the surface.

After taking down the front canopy so that roofers could get to work, it was discovered that the ground beneath the limestone walkway just outside the front doors was incredibly eroded from water and burrowing animals over seven decades. Underground camera work found the issue before one tap by a skid-steer loader caused it to collapse. The steel beams were badly compromised.

New steel and grating were installed, and new concrete was poured and formed, creating a beautiful, new walkway.

The building formerly had five very worn wooden doors in the front. They did not let in any light, and one could not see outside. They were changed out this month with new, stunning doors you will be able to see in the linked PDF. We went from five doors to two doors and three windows. The doors are ADA accessible, wide enough for scooters, equipped to automatically open/close on demand. They have tinted glass with black, steel framing. They look great from the road, but the biggest impact, in my opinion, is how they have transformed the lobby inside, letting in great natural light. Now being able to see out front from inside, the lobby seems even more spacious and warm.

A new, wider walkway was installed that goes to the road and also to the three flagpoles that were installed this week.

There was a weathered, inoperable flagpole when we took possession last year. Early in construction, we moved to get the pole serviceable so that we could fly the colors even while construction was being done. A local contractor volunteered their time, refurbishing the pole and replacing the pulley system. National Commander Horace Johnson came in from D.C. to raise the flag in December and formerly break ground. With the new flag poles now up, the old pole is set to be installed later this year five miles away at the AMVETS Charities Family Service Center.

Big, bold AMVETS signage will be installed very soon, and new landscaping is on its way. Once completed, the front will be worthy of our organization and will present a great first impression for all who visit or even just drive by.

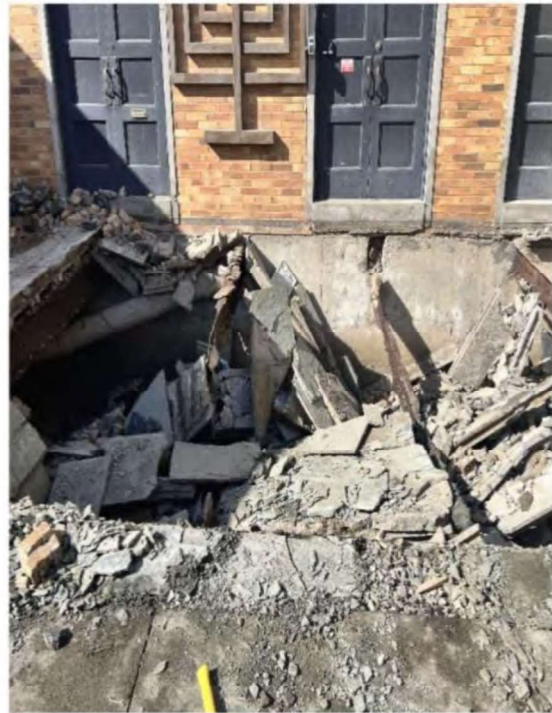
One other note that really is not an update but may need to be said once again: Each part of the AMVETS Family will have dedicated space in the new headquarters when they wish to use it. That has always been the stated promise and plan. AMVETS is a family.

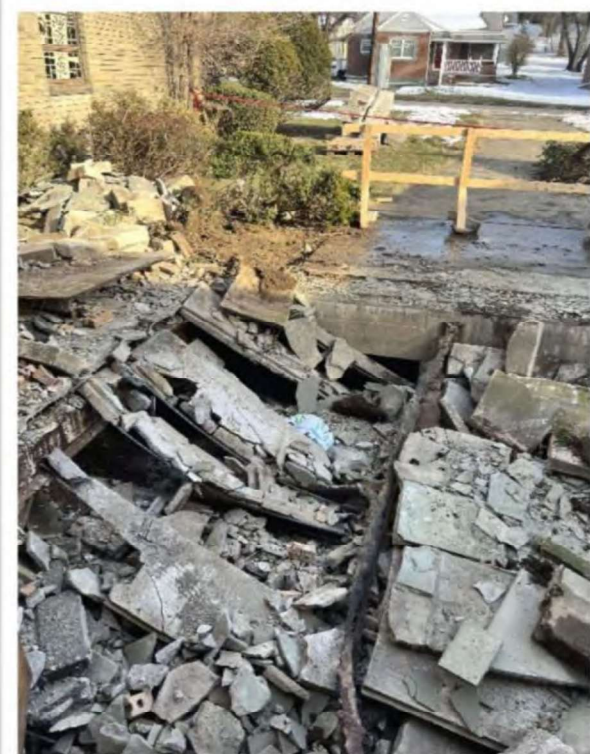
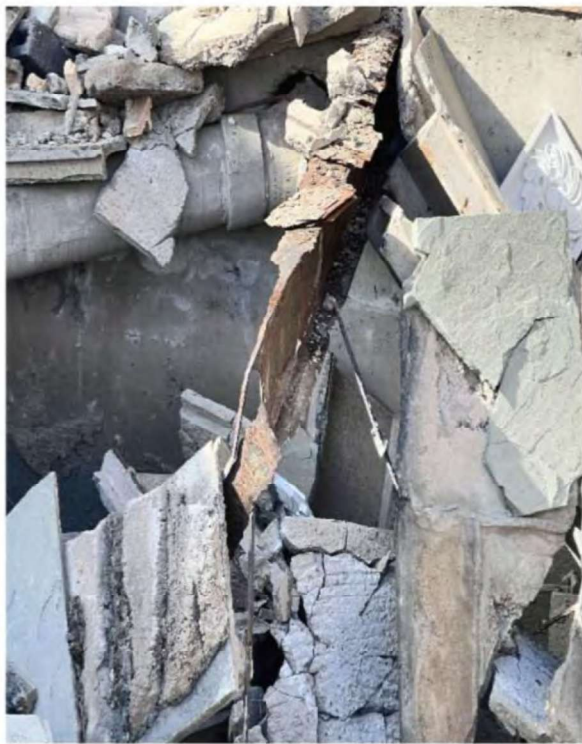
More updates will come out at least every couple of weeks until work is complete.

(Full URL to the PDF of photos: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:us:54904709-cf0d-4556-b6e9-a6204fd03300>)

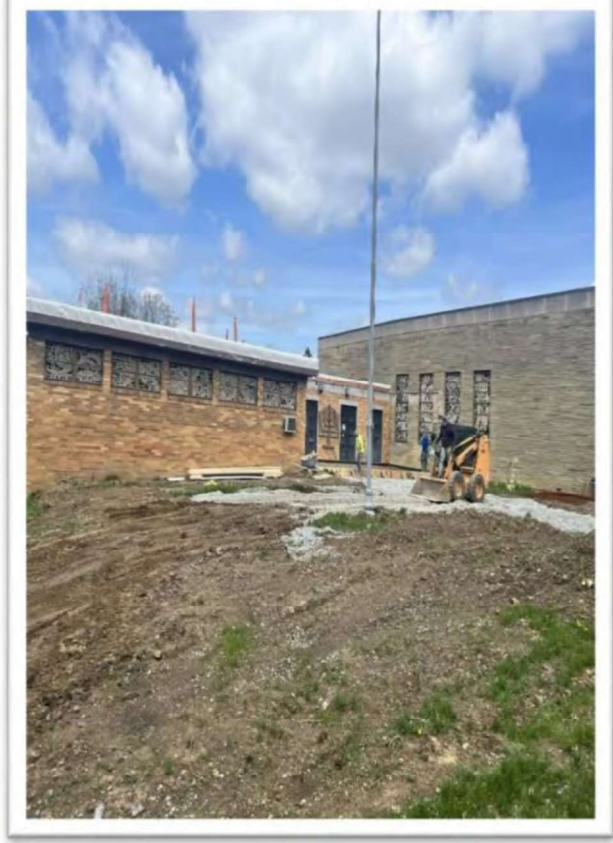
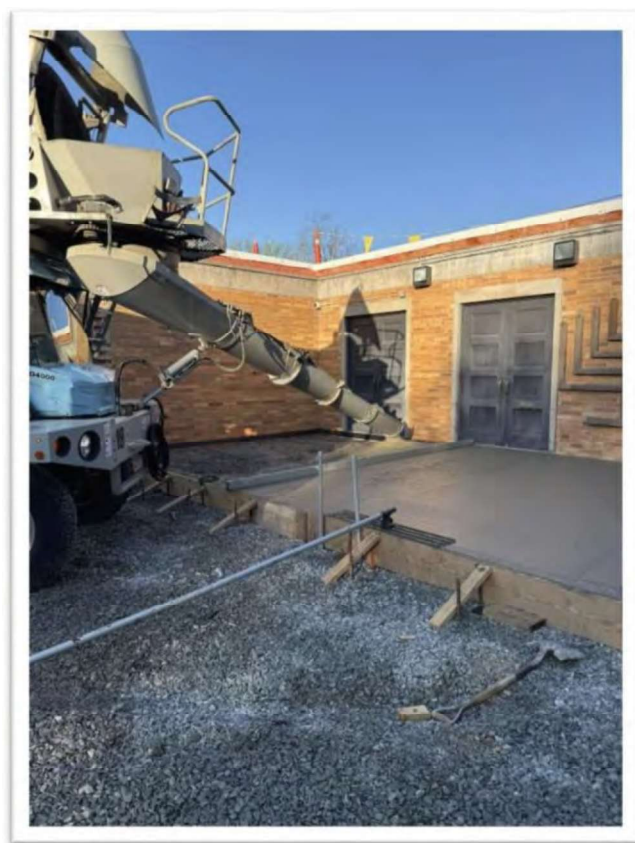
The AMVETS National Headquarters will be losing two of its long-term employees to retirement. Mrs. Carolyn Taylor-Harrison will be retiring after 25 years, and Mrs. Linda Hudson will be retiring with 26 years of service to the AMVETS. These two ladies have been invaluable to the members of this Department and the Department of Florida would like to extend best wishes to both of them as they move on to retirement.

Yours In Service
PDC A.J. John, NEC

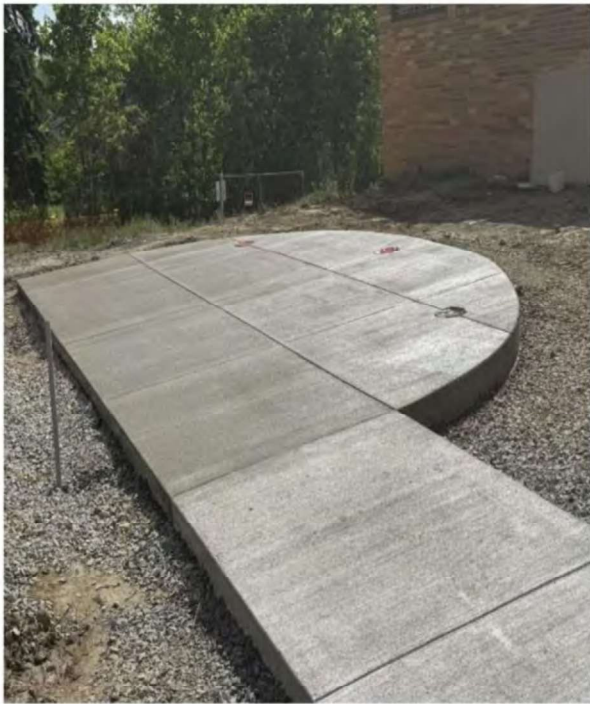
















Commander and fellow AMVETS, welcome to the June 2025 convention. As of writing this report we have a total of 17,417 active members. Less than half of the posts have complete revalidations. This is unacceptable, our national bylaws require us as a department to revalidate, and our department bylaws require each post to revalidate. The department of Florida has a couple of other steps that must be completed to be revalidated. We have been putting this information out at every SEC and convention since I have been a part of the department, and I have been involved with the department for 10 years. There are reasons for the revalidation, such as making sure posts have the proper insurance, completed IRS responsibilities, corporate papers updated and updated bylaws. The reason department harps on the revalidation process is because we are responsible for you to National. All the requirements for revalidation are to make sure posts are complying with local, state and federal laws. It is protection for the posts and for the department. We are not a loosely organized group of people, and having said that, you must run your post by the bylaws and think of it as a business that ensures the right of that post to vote accordingly to its delegate strength. Anything less and you are taking away the right of your members having their voices heard. Everything you need to know about anything involving AMVETS is either on department's webpage or nationals. If you are an officer of the post, you should take responsibility for that position and research what that position entails. This is why it is better to walk the chairs; you learn along the way.

Okay now, that is out of the way. I would like to thank all the post 1st vices that I have worked with for the last 2 years. I won't say it was easy, but it was interesting. Between switching from Netforum to (@#*)+\$ and then back to Netforum. It was a battle, but we overcame it. Now national is just clearing up a hack to the membership site. Keep in mind the words of the national commander when he was a department commander, "We are all a work in progress". Thank you for what you do!

Dean Richards

Department of Florida

1st Vice Commander

"Rangers Lead The Way"



Department of Florida
2nd Vice Commanders Report
June Convention 2025

Commander Furgeson,

I wish to express my appreciation to all Florida AMVETS Posts that have been reporting via the National Programs Portal. As the reporting period from January to June comes to an end, it is important that each Post ensures all volunteer hours are accurately recorded. Many AMVETS members participate in qualifying activities daily but often do not get recognized in your Post's total Program Values.

It is beneficial to maintain engagement with members regarding your Post Programs, highlighting our duty as Veterans supporting fellow Veterans and their families. Our objectives include identifying training needs, developing effective skills for utilizing Programs Reporting, and coordinating successful programs and events. Access to the Programs Portal is encouraged by all members and can be done via computer, tablet, or cell phone. Email verification will be required before submitting reports. A training session is scheduled at 12pm on Saturday, June 21, 2025, during the Convention, following the first business session.

Additionally, I am available to assist with Program events, report submissions, or any inquiries related to individual Post data saved and recorded on the Portal. Comprehensive program reporting by every member supports our goals and aids our leadership with key AMVETS legislative priorities. I am confident that our Florida Posts will continue to lead our nation with our significant amount of Program Values!

Respectfully,

Kevin J Butwill
2nd Vice Commander
Department of Florida



JAN – May 2025 Program Values

Total cost of programs
value

\$3,627,616.57

Cost of total hours

\$3,396,482.61

Cash Donation

\$77,424.67

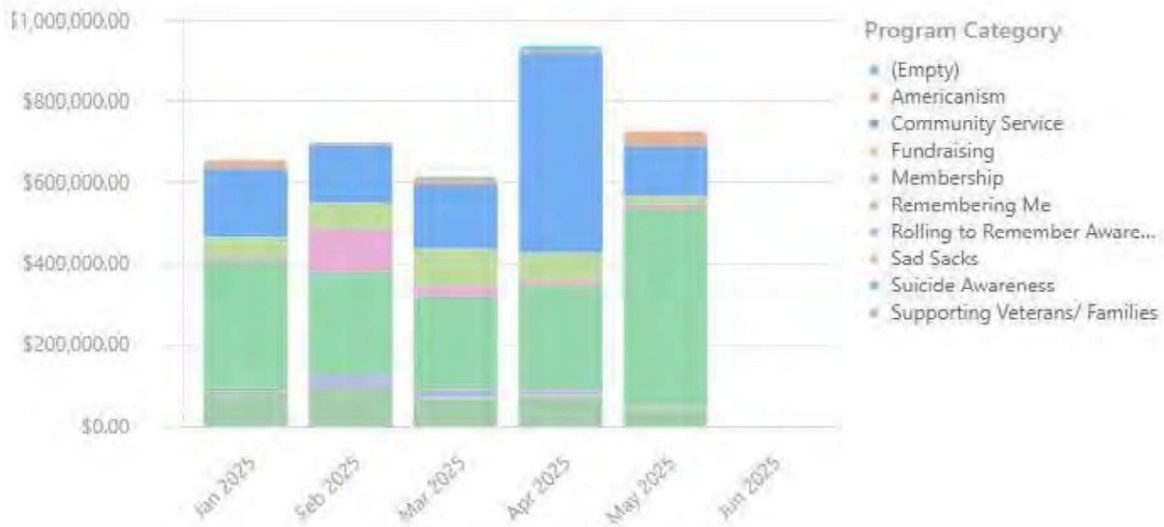
Cost of mileage

\$89,487.30

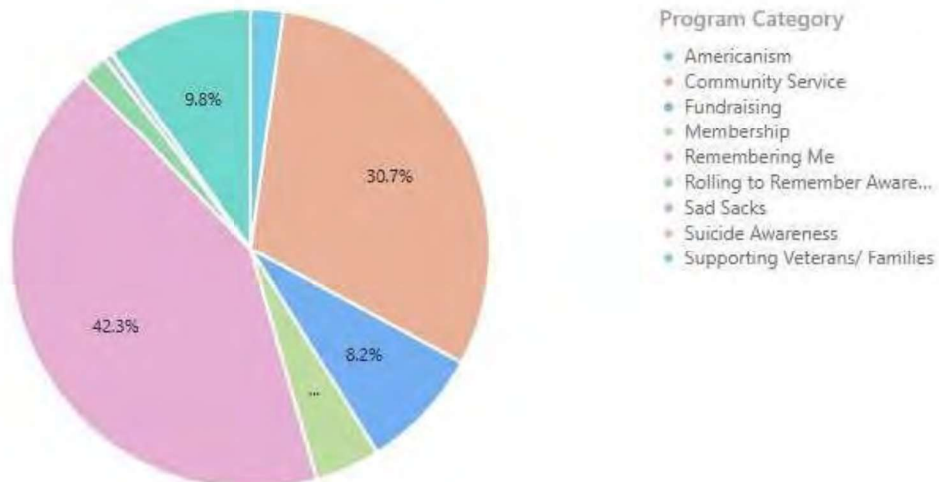
Activity cost

\$64,221.99

Segmented Report



Programs Break-down





FINANCE REPORT DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

FROM THE DESK OF THE FINANCE OFFICER

June 2025 Convention

June 10, 2025

Members of the Executive Board and Members of the Department of Florida, Greetings!

It has been an honor to serve as your Finance Officer for the 2024–2025 administrative year, entrusted with the essential responsibility of managing the Department of Florida's financial accounts. This role requires not only careful attention to detail and a strong commitment but also a deep understanding of our financial landscape.

My responsibilities go far beyond just attending State Executive Committee (SEC) meetings and conventions; this work is ongoing. We consistently process and pay invoices to ensure our vendors and service providers are compensated promptly. After reimbursements, checks are carefully prepared, printed, and mailed to our posts across the state to honor our commitments and maintain positive relationships. We regularly make crucial financial decisions, each of which directly impacts our organization's overall health and sustainability. Therefore, it's essential that we make informed choices during SEC meetings and conventions that align with our long-term goals and objectives.

The budget is a dynamic document that needs regular updates and careful monitoring of expenditures compared to projected revenues as we manage the department's financial realities. This ongoing process is crucial for ensuring fiscal responsibility and accountability. My involvement with the department's financial operations has revealed the complexities of resource management, and I have greatly benefited from learning the details of our business. This experience has significantly enhanced my understanding of our organizational needs and priorities.

Through a deeper understanding of our revenues and expenses, my position within the leadership team has been further strengthened. I am committed to ensuring transparency and fostering open communication with the membership regarding our financial status.

In addition to this report, I have submitted the approved working budget for 2024–2025, updated as of June 6, 2025. This budget outlines our financial strategies and priorities. I am also presenting the proposed budget for 2025–2026 for your review and vote.

I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts as we work together to achieve our shared vision for the future of Florida's financial stewardship.

Finance Committee

On February 21, 2025, the finance committee held an emergency meeting to address the urgent need for funding for homeless veterans. During the meeting, Steve Cantelli (98) shared a concerning case about a veteran who received only \$500 a month. This veteran experienced delays in receiving his funds, which ultimately led to his tragic death.

To improve the situation, the committee proposed utilizing Zelle for instant fund transfers. Zelle, being more secure than other applications, allows tracking of transactions. The finance committee discussed the option of creating a separate Zelle account specifically for emergencies, ensuring that this account would be included in the finance policy.

The committee approved a motion to incorporate this emergency Zelle fund policy as an appendix. This decision highlighted the importance of obtaining approval and committee authorization for any transactions made through this fund. The Department Executive Board approved the "Emergency Zelle Fund Policy" as well.

Each action item completed successfully. I want to extend my gratitude to PDC Terry Corson (777), AMVET Doris Dixon (1219), and AMVET Brenda Binegar (447) for their unwavering dedication to the service of this committee and the Department of Florida. Thank you!

Accounts & Budget

As of June 06, 2025, the total balance of the Florida Department's financial accounts is \$507,074.22. The combined total of both checking accounts, the general and quartermaster accounts, is \$143,665.67. The total amount in all savings accounts is \$36,615.55, while the total in all investment accounts, including money market accounts, is \$326,793.00.

The department has a line of credit totaling \$50,000 in the form of credit cards, with \$41,970.78 currently available for use.

One Certificate of Deposit (CD) will mature on June 30, 2025, from an initial investment of \$105,000, generating an income of \$5,617.50, which brings the projected total to \$110,617.50. This amount will be reinvested using the money market account to achieve the \$1,000.00 required interval. The reinvested CD projected total will be \$114,400.00 with an annual percentage rate (APR) of 4%, expected to yield \$4,400.00 upon maturity on June 30, 2026. Another CD is set to mature on January 23, 2026, with a value of \$115,000.00 with an APR of 4.15%, yielding \$4,772.50 in projected income. This CD will also be reinvested at a favorable rate.

For the approved budget of 2024-2025, actual operating expenses are **\$240,669.52**, while the budgeted amount is \$339,200.00. Currently, the total operating revenue stands at **\$234,865.87**. Comparing the current operating revenue to the operating revenue reported during the 2025 February SEC which was **\$117,365.16**. That is an increase in operating revenue by \$117,500.71. Consequently, the **net revenue is -\$5,803.65**. The net revenue during the 2025 February SEC was -\$12,614.85. That is a \$6,811.20 increase in revenue. Please be mindful that we still have convention revenues being generated as you are reading this report during the convention. The additional revenues will come from the convention registration, banquet ticket sales and raffles, and the quarter master who may generate \$10,000 during this convention alone.

The plan remains to reduce overall operating costs to enhance the department's revenue and return on investment for Quartermaster services.

Post Refunds

Since February 2025, AMVETS National has deposited \$24,574.00 into the department's general account for post membership refunds. This significant amount reflects our diligent efforts to ensure that all eligible posts receive their rightful reimbursements.

Following these deposits, I have taken the initiative to mail out refunds to each post as I received the corresponding reports from our Executive Director, Richard McKern. It has been my priority to process these refunds promptly and efficiently, ensuring that all posts are taken care of as quickly as possible. By adhering to a reasonable timeline, I aim to maintain transparency and accountability throughout this process, making sure that no post is left behind and that our members feel valued and recognized for their contributions.

External Audit Initiated for Department of Florida

Commander Douglas Furgeson (32) initiated an external audit of all financial records and accounts for the Department of Florida. He appointed an independent audit team comprising Beth Endrick (26) and Dan Mayo (44) to conduct this thorough review.

The audit team convened on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at AMVETS Post 26 in Dover, Florida. The meeting was attended by yours truly, Dr. Jondexter Toombs (4), Executive Director Richard McKern (78), and PPC Inetta Bullock (44). The primary objective of this audit was to meticulously examine all financial transactions and processes that have occurred since the last external audit, which concluded on May 6, 2023. We anticipate the full report will be presented to the membership during this June 2025 convention.

Ensuring Financial Due Diligence

In other financial news, the Florida Department has ensured full compliance with its insurance and bonding obligations. Following the SEC meeting in February 2025, all invoices were processed and paid promptly. Additionally, the IRS Tax Form 990 was submitted ahead of schedule, with accountants providing a public disclosure version to the department. Looking ahead, our accountants are prepared to begin the department's tax return process immediately after June 30, 2025. The current approved budget for 2024-2025 will be closed on that date, June 30, 2025.

Submitted and Attested By:

Dr. Jondexter Toombs, DM

Finance Officer
Department of Florida
Tampa, Florida



Department of Florida

2024-2025 Budget



Approved June 2024



2024-2025 BUDGET
7/1/2024 through 5/23/2025
As of 06 JUNE 2025
ACCOUNTS/INVESTMENTS

		ACTUAL	PROJECTED	DIFFERENCE
R	Edward Jones MM (1/29/2025) 4.67%	\$ 793.00	\$ 830.00	\$ 37.00
R	Edward Jones CD (1/23/2025) 4.15% Matures 1/23/2026	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 119,772.50	\$ 4,772.50
R	Edward Jones CD (6/17/2024) 5.35% Matures 6/30/2025	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 110,617.50	\$ 5,617.50
R	Edward Jones CD (7/2/2024) 5.00% Matures 6/29/2026	\$ 106,000.00	\$ 111,300.00	\$ 5,300.00
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 326,793.00	\$ 342,520.00	\$ 15,727.00
R	Wells Fargo 9241 FLS Holding Account)	\$ 15,749.74	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 250.26
	Wells Fargo (Quarter Master account 3850)	\$ 36,927.31	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 15,072.69
	Wells Fargo (Checking account 1194)	\$ 106,738.36	\$ 108,000.00	\$ 1,261.64
R	Wells Fargo Business Savings (Juniors 9217)	\$ 10,085.88	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 1,914.12
R	Wells Fargo Market Rate Savings 9225	\$ 10,779.93	\$ 10,780.00	\$ 0.07
	TOTAL BANKING	\$ 180,281.22	\$ 198,780.00	\$ 18,498.78
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS & BANKING	\$ 507,074.22	\$ 541,300.00	\$ 34,225.78
R	<i>Denotes: Restricted Account</i>			

GRANTS (Provided by DOF and Post Donations)

	CATEGORY	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
	PROGRAM GRANTS			
R	SCHOLARSHIPS			
R	A - GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP 1-4 Yr College	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -
R	C - JR ROTC DON RHINEDRESS SCHOLARSHIP 1st Year College	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
R	JROTC MEDALS, MAILING AND SUPPLIES	\$ 3,298.05	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,701.95
R	HONORS & AWARDS	\$ 3,648.26	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 33,351.74
R	AADAA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
R	AMERICANISM	\$ 344.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 656.00
R	FREEDOMS FOUNDATION Suspended	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
R	HOMELESS VETERANS TASK FORCE	\$ 900.00	\$ 24,556.00	\$ 23,656.00
R	WOMEN VETERANS Committee	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
R	VAVS REPS TRAVEL - Min 50 miles one way	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
R	TRAINING GRANT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
R	EAGLE SCOUT Program	\$ 160.99	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,839.01
R	GOLD STAR MOTHERS	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	COMMANDER'S PROJECT	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	TOTAL PROGRAM GRANTS	\$ 24,351.30	\$ 88,556.00	\$ 64,204.70
	<i>These Grants Have Not been Funded Thru DOFSF</i>			

CATEGORY	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
OPERATING REVENUES			
MEMBERSHIP	Actual	Budget	Difference
Membership Refunds from National	\$ 96,339.50	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 23,660.50
Incidental Refunds During the month from National	\$ 70.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,130.00
Membership From Posts/MAL - Processed by Department	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL MEMBERSHIP	\$ 96,409.50	\$ 122,200.00	\$ 25,790.50
FRONTLINE SUPPORT	\$ 7,867.70	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 132.30
MISCELLANEOUS			
CONVENTION BANQUET(Tickets and Donations)	\$ 4,492.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 13,508.00
REGISTRATION SECs & CONV	\$ 7,121.32	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,878.68
QTR MASTER INCOME	\$ 83,975.35	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 6,024.65
QTR MASTER INVENTORY	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -
OTHER REVENUES - Donations	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
SUBTOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 130,588.67	\$ 158,000.00	\$ 27,411.33
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 234,865.87	\$ 288,200.00	\$ 53,334.13

OPERATING EXPENSES			
COMMANDER			
POSTAGE	\$ 82.68	\$ 300.00	\$ 217.32
AWARDS	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 198.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 302.00
DISCRETIONARY	\$ 1,383.59	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,116.41
AUTO ALLOWANCE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
AUTO EXPENSE - FUEL	\$ 745.02	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 754.98
AUTO EXPENSE - REPAIRS	\$ 5,268.74	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 731.26
LODGING	\$ 721.25	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 278.75
TRAVEL (AIR)	\$ 752.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 248.00
TOLLS/MEALS/UBER	\$ 386.07	\$ 500.00	\$ 113.93
Other EXPENSES COMMANDER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL 202 - COMMANDER	\$ 9,454.67	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 14,500.00

CATEGORY	ACTUAL		BUDGET		DIFFERENCE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Actual		Budget		Difference
PHONE,INTERNET,Office,Utilities Reimbursement	\$	2,800.00	\$	2,800.00	\$ -
POSTAGE	\$	364.60	\$	2,000.00	\$ 1,635.40
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	1,139.72	\$	1,500.00	\$ 360.28
Google Meet	\$	119.88	\$	200.00	\$ 80.12
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALARY	\$	43,888.00	\$	43,900.00	\$ 12.00
TRAVEL (Gas/Airline)	\$	2,176.86	\$	2,500.00	\$ 323.14
LODGING	\$	1,859.97	\$	3,000.00	\$ 1,140.03
Konica Printer Lease	\$	3,268.86	\$	4,000.00	\$ 731.14
EQUIPMENT MAIN	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$ 500.00
Other EXPENSES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	\$	468.70	\$	500.00	\$ 31.30
SUBTOTAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	\$	56,086.59	\$	60,900.00	\$ 4,813.41
ADJUTANT					
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	900.38	\$	1,000.00	\$ 99.62
TRAVEL	\$	216.00	\$	500.00	\$ 284.00
LODGING	\$	199.36	\$	500.00	\$ 300.64
Other EXPENSES ADJUTANT	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
SUBTOTAL ADJUTANT	\$	1,315.74	\$	2,000.00	\$ 684.26
VICE CMDR FOR MEMBERSHIP					
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
TRAVEL	\$	648.00	\$	700.00	\$ 52.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$	300.00	\$ 300.00
SUPPLIES	\$	-	\$	200.00	\$ 200.00
MEMBERSHIP PROMO	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Other EXPENSES VICE CMDR FOR MEMBERSHIP	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
SUBTOTAL VICE CMDR FOR MEMBERSHIP	\$	-	\$	1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00

CATEGORY	ACTUAL		BUDGET		DIFFERENCE
	Actual		Budget		Difference
VICE CMDR FOR PROGRAMS					
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
TRAVEL	\$	522.00	\$	550.00	\$ 28.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$	300.00	\$ 300.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	-	\$	200.00	\$ 200.00
Other EXPENSES:206 - VICE CMDR FOR PROGRAMS	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
TOTAL 206 - VICE CMDR FOR PROGRAMS	\$	522.00	\$	1,050.00	\$ 528.00
FINANCE OFFICER					
POSTAGE	\$	241.67	\$	500.00	\$ 258.33
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	1,351.10	\$	1,400.00	\$ 48.90
TRAVEL	\$	359.00	\$	500.00	\$ 141.00
LODGING	\$	584.70	\$	1,000.00	\$ 415.30
PRINTING	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Cherry Bakaert Acct/Quickbooks/Payroll	\$	10,864.49	\$	11,000.00	\$ 135.51
EQUIP MAINTENANCE	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Other EXPENSES FINANCE OFFICER	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
SUBTOTAL FINANCE OFFICER	\$	13,400.96	\$	14,400.00	\$ 999.04
JUDGE ADVOCATE					
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$	300.00	\$ 300.00
TRAVEL	\$	207.00	\$	500.00	\$ 293.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$	300.00	\$ 300.00
SUPPLIES	\$	-	\$	300.00	\$ 300.00
PRINTING	\$	-	\$	100.00	\$ 100.00
Other EXPENSES JUDGE ADVOCATE	\$	-	\$	100.00	\$ 100.00
SUBTOTAL JUDGE ADVOCATE	\$	207.00	\$	1,600.00	\$ 1,393.00

CATEGORY	ACTUAL		BUDGET		DIFFERENCE
	Actual		Budget		Difference
PROVOST MARSHALL					
TRAVEL	\$	204.00	\$	300.00	\$ 96.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
DEPUTY PROVOST MARSHALLS - TRAVEL	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Other EXPENSES PROVOST MARSHALL	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
SUBTOTAL PROVOST MARSHALL	\$	204.00	\$	300.00	\$ 96.00
QUARTER MASTER					
TELEPHONE	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
TRAVEL	\$	871.92	\$	1,000.00	\$ 128.08
LODGING	\$	1,380.32	\$	1,500.00	\$ 119.68
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$	63.08	\$	250.00	\$ 186.92
NATIONAL EXPENSES QUARTER MASTER	\$	8,380.64	\$	10,000.00	\$ 1,619.36
COST OF SUPPLIES + SHIPPING	\$	71,074.57	\$	80,000.00	\$ 8,925.43
SUBTOTAL QUARTERMASTER	\$	79,518.29	\$	92,750.00	\$ 10,979.41
NAT'L EXEC COMMITTEEMAN		Actual		Budget	Difference
TRAVEL	\$	978.19	\$	500.00	\$ (478.19)
LODGING	\$	282.02	\$	500.00	\$ 217.98
Other EXPENSES NAT'L EXEC COMMITTEEMAN	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
SUBTOTAL NAT'L EXEC COMMITTEEMAN	\$	1,260.21	\$	1,000.00	\$ (260.21)
ALTERNATE N. E. C.					
TRAVEL	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$ 500.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$ 500.00
Other EXPENSES ALTERNATE N. E. C.	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
TOTAL ALTERNATE N. E. C.	\$	-	\$	1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
SONS COORDINATOR					
Travel			\$	-	\$ -
Lodging	\$	282.00	\$	500.00	\$ 218.00
SUBTOTAL SONS COORDINATOR	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$ 218.00

CATEGORY	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
OTHER EXPENSES	Actual	Budget	Difference
MEETINGS			
NATIONAL CONVENTION	\$ 14,990.40	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (7,990.40)
Spring SEC Feb (Hotel and Travel)	\$ 19,528.37	\$ 17,000.00	\$ (2,528.37)
WINTER NEC	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
NATIONAL DISTRICT III MEETING	\$ 1,041.43	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,958.57
Fall SEC Oct (Hotel and Travel)	\$ 14,405.35	\$ 12,000.00	\$ (2,405.35)
SPRING NEC	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION June	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
CONVENTION BANQUET	\$ 585.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 15,415.00
SPECIAL DEB MEETINGS	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
SUBTOTAL MEETINGS	\$ 50,550.55	\$ 96,500.00	\$ 45,949.45
PAST DEPT COMMANDERS	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
APPOINTED OFFICERS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
INSPECTOR GENERAL - TRAVEL	\$ 518.60	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 481.40
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE - TRAVEL	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
JUNIOR AMVETS	\$ 8,400.80	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 11,599.20
CONTINGENCY	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PINS	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
MEMBERSHIP TO NAT'L	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
MEMBERSHIP REFUNDS TO POSTS	\$ 10,035.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (35.00)
FRONT LINE SUPPORT	\$ 4,985.75	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,014.25
LIABILITY INSURANCE & BONDING	\$ 3,752.80	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 247.20
BANK CHARGES	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
DISTRICT III DUES	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Other EXPENSES	\$ 156.56	\$ 500.00	\$ 343.44
SUBTOTAL 213 - OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 28,149.51	\$ 51,500.00	\$ 23,350.49
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 240,669.52	\$ 339,200.00	\$ 105,450.91
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	\$ 234,865.87	\$ 288,200.00	\$ 53,334.13
NET REVENUE	\$ (5,803.65)	\$ (51,000.00)	\$ (52,116.78)

Department of Florida

2025-2026 Budget



Tentative Approval June 2025



2025-2026 BUDGET
7/1/2025 through 6/30/2026

As of _____

ACCOUNTS/INVESTMENTS

		ACTUAL		PROJECTED		DIFFERENCE
R	Edward Jones MM (1/29/2025) 4.67%	\$793.00	\$	830.00	\$	37.00
R	Edward Jones CD (1/23/2025) 4.15% Matures 1/23/2026	\$115,000.00	\$	119,772.50	\$	4,772.50
R	Edward Jones CD (6/17/2024) 5.35% Matures 6/30/2026	\$110,000.00	\$	115,885.00	\$	5,885.00
R	Edward Jones CD (7/2/2024) 5.00% Matures 6/29/2026	\$106,000.00	\$	111,300.00	\$	5,300.00
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 331,793.00	\$	347,787.50	\$	15,994.50
R	Wells Fargo 9241 FLS Holding Account)	\$ 15,749.74	\$	16,500.00	\$	750.26
	Wells Fargo (Quarter Master account 3850)	\$ 36,927.31	\$	53,777.00	\$	16,849.69
	Wells Fargo (Checking account 1194)	\$ 106,738.36	\$	106,738.00	\$	(0.36)
R	Wells Fargo Business Savings (Juniors 9217)	\$ 10,085.88	\$	12,000.00	\$	1,914.12
R	Wells Fargo Market Rate Savings 9225	\$ 10,779.93	\$	10,781.00	\$	1.07
	TOTAL BANKING	\$ 180,281.22	\$	199,796.00	\$	19,514.78
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS & BANKING	\$ 512,074.22	\$	547,583.50	\$	35,509.28

R *Denotes: Restricted Account*

GRANTS (Provided by DOF and Post Donations)

	CATEGORY	ACTUAL		BUDGET		DIFFERENCE
	PROGRAM GRANTS					
R	SCHOLARSHIPS					
R	A - GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP 1-4 Yr College	\$ -	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
R	C - JR ROTC DON RHINEDRESS SCHOLARSHIP 1st Year College	\$ -	\$	7,000.00	\$	7,000.00
R	JROTC MEDALS, MAILING AND SUPPLIES	\$ -	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
R	HONORS & AWARDS	\$ -	\$	3,700.00	\$	3,700.00
R	AADAA	\$ -	\$	2,300.00	\$	2,300.00
R	AMERICANISM	\$ -	\$	2,300.00	\$	2,300.00
R	FREEDOMS FOUNDATION	\$ -	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
R	HOMELESS VETERANS TASK FORCE	\$ -	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
R	WOMEN VETERANS Committee	\$ -	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
R	VAVS REPS TRAVEL - Min 50 miles one way	\$ -	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
R	TRAINING GRANT	\$ -	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
R	EAGLE SCOUT Program	\$ -	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
R	COMMANDER'S PROJECT					
R	GOLD STAR MOTHERS	\$ -	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
	TOTAL PROGRAM GRANTS	\$ -	\$	43,300.00	\$	43,300.00

These Grants Have Not been Funded Thru DOFSF

CATEGORY	ACTUAL		BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
OPERATING REVENUES				
MEMBERSHIP				
Membership Refunds from National	\$	-	\$120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
Incidental Refunds During the month from National	\$	-	\$1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Membership From Posts/MAL - Processed by Department	\$	-	\$1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
SUBTOTAL MEMBERSHIP	\$	-	\$122,000.00	\$ 122,000.00
FRONTLINE SUPPORT		\$	10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS				
CONVENTION BANQUET(Tickets and Donations)	\$	-	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
REGISTRATION SECs & CONV	\$	-	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
QTR MASTER INCOME	\$	-	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
QTR MASTER SUBSIDIZED NATIONAL INCOME	\$	-	\$ 25,750.00	\$ 25,750.00
QTR MASTER INVENTORY	\$	-	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
QTR MASTER SUBSIDIZED NATIONAL INVENTORY	\$	-	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
OTHER REVENUES - Donations	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$	-	\$ 194,750.00	\$ 194,750.00
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$	-	\$326,750.00	\$ 326,750.00

OPERATING EXPENSES

COMMANDER				
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
AWARDS	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	-	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
DISCRETIONARY	\$	-	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
AUTO EXPENSE - FUEL	\$	-	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
AUTO EXPENSE - REPAIRS	\$	-	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
TRAVEL (AIR)	\$	-	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
TOLLS/MEALS/UBER	\$	-	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Other EXPENSES COMMANDER	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL 202 - COMMANDER	\$	-	\$ 11,950.00	\$ 11,950.00

CATEGORY	ACTUAL		BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR					
PHONE,INTERNET,Office,Utilities Reimbursement	\$	-	\$ 2,800.00	\$	2,800.00
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	-	\$ 1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
Google Meet	\$	-	\$ 200.00	\$	200.00
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALARY	\$	-	\$ 52,900.00	\$	52,900.00
TRAVEL (Gas/Airline)	\$	-	\$ 1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$ 1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
Konica Printer Lease	\$	-	\$ 4,000.00	\$	4,000.00
EQUIPMENT MAIN	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
Other EXPENSES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	\$	-	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00
SUBTOTAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	\$	-	\$ 64,900.00	\$	64,900.00
ADJUTANT	Actual		Budget	Difference	
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$ 100.00	\$	100.00
TRAVEL	\$	-	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00
PRINTING/OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	-	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00
Other EXPENSES ADJUTANT	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
SUBTOTAL ADJUTANT	\$	-	\$ 1,600.00	\$	1,600.00
VICE CMDR FOR MEMBERSHIP					
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
TRAVEL	\$	-	\$ 700.00	\$	700.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
SUPPLIES	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
MEMBERSHIP PROMO	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
Other EXPENSES VICE CMDR FOR MEMBERSHIP	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
SUBTOTAL VICE CMDR FOR MEMBERSHIP	\$	-	\$ 700.00	\$	700.00

CATEGORY	ACTUAL			BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	
VICE CMDR FOR PROGRAMS						
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
TRAVEL	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Other EXPENSES:206 - VICE CMDR FOR PROGRAMS	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
TOTAL 206 - VICE CMDR FOR PROGRAMS	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
FINANCE OFFICER						
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	-	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
TRAVEL	\$	-	\$	600.00	\$	600.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
PRINTING	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Cherry Bakaert Acct/Quickbooks/Payroll	\$	-	\$	11,000.00	\$	11,000.00
EQUIP MAINTENANCE	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Other EXPENSES FINANCE OFFICER	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
SUBTOTAL FINANCE OFFICER	\$	-	\$	14,100.00	\$	14,100.00
JUDGE ADVOCATE						
POSTAGE	\$	-	\$	300.00	\$	300.00
TRAVEL	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
SUPPLIES	\$	-	\$	300.00	\$	300.00
PRINTING	\$	-	\$	100.00	\$	100.00
Other EXPENSES JUDGE ADVOCATE	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
SUBTOTAL JUDGE ADVOCATE	\$	-	\$	1,700.00	\$	1,700.00

CATEGORY	ACTUAL		BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	
PROVOST MARSHALL					
TRAVEL	\$	-	\$ 300.00	\$	300.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
DEPUTY PROVOST MARSHALLS - TRAVEL	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
Other EXPENSES PROVOST MARSHALL	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
SUBTOTAL PROVOST MARSHALL	\$	-	\$ 300.00	\$	300.00
QUARTER MASTER					
TRAVEL	\$	-	\$ 1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$ 2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$	-	\$ 150.00	\$	150.00
SUBSIDIZED NATIONAL EXPENSES QUARTER MASTE	\$	-	\$ 10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
SUBSIDIZED NATIONAL COST OF SUPPLIES + SHIPPI	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
COST OF SUPPLIES + SHIPPING	\$	-	\$ 60,000.00	\$	60,000.00
SUBTOTAL QUARTERMASTER	\$	-	\$ 73,150.00	\$	73,150.00
NAT'L EXEC COMMITTEEMAN	Actual		Budget		Difference
TRAVEL	\$	-	\$ 1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$ 1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
Other EXPENSES NAT'L EXEC COMMITTEEMAN	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
SUBTOTAL NAT'L EXEC COMMITTEEMAN	\$	-	\$ 2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
ALTERNATE N. E. C.					
TRAVEL	\$	-	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00
LODGING	\$	-	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00
Other EXPENSES ALTERNATE N. E. C.	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
TOTAL ALTERNATE N. E. C.	\$	-	\$ 1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
SONS COORDINATOR					
Travel			\$ -	\$	-
Lodging	\$	-	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00
SUBTOTAL SONS COORDINATOR	\$	-	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00

CATEGORY	ACTUAL			BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
OTHER EXPENSES					
MEETINGS					
NATIONAL CONVENTION		\$		24,900.00	\$ 24,900.00
Spring SEC Feb (Hotel and Travel)	\$	-	\$	20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
WINTER NEC	\$	-	\$	1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
NATIONAL DISTRICT III MEETING	\$	-	\$	1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Fall SEC Oct (Hotel and Travel)	\$	-	\$	15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
SPRING NEC	\$	-	\$	2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION June	\$	-	\$	35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
CONVENTION BANQUET	\$	-	\$	25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
SPECIAL DEB MEETINGS	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$ 500.00
SUBTOTAL MEETINGS	\$	-	\$	125,900.00	\$ 125,900.00
 PAST DEPT COMMANDERS	 \$	 -	 \$	 -	 \$ -
APPOINTED OFFICERS	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
INSPECTOR GENERAL - TRAVEL	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$ 500.00
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE - TRAVEL	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$ 500.00
JUNIOR AMVETS	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
CONTINGENCY	\$	-	\$	5,950.00	\$ 5,950.00
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PINS	\$	-	\$	1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
MEMBERSHIP TO NAT'L	\$	-	\$	2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
MEMBERSHIP REFUNDS TO POSTS	\$	-	\$	10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
FRONT LINE SUPPORT	\$	-	\$	5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
COPIER LEASE & MAINT	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
LIABILITY INSURANCE & BONDING	\$	-	\$	3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
BANK CHARGES	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
DISTRICT III DUES	\$	-	\$	300.00	\$ 300.00
Other EXPENSES	\$	-	\$	200.00	\$ 200.00
SUBTOTAL 213 - OTHER EXPENSES	\$	-	\$	28,450.00	\$ 28,450.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$	-	\$	326,750.00	\$ 326,750.00
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	\$	-		\$326,750.00	\$ 326,750.00
NET REVENUE	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -



AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA JUDGE ADVOCATE

Pam Gerhard

10118 Gerhard Ln. Lithia FL 33547

813-625-8379 amvetsfl.ja2021@gmail.com

Greetings fellow AMVETS,

Welcome to the June convention. I want to let you know how much I enjoyed working with and getting to know so many of you over the last two years. We have had no grievance hearing at the Department level and that is something that you all should be proud of. This shows what can happen when cooler heads prevail and respect and understanding take control of a situation. When you sit down and talk out your differences and work together as a team, whether you like the person sitting beside you or not the whole of AMVETS gains in strength. I hope this will be the beginning of a long-standing tradition within the Department of Florida.

With new trustees and officers at this convention it is important that the trainings are being taken advantage of. I will be having a trustee training session which will discuss the job requirements for the trustees. This will help the Commanders and Trustees to have a successful year of working together.

I hope everyone takes what they have learned back to your home Post in order to teach what you have learned. Remember the sign of a good leader is to train your replacement so that when the time comes the transition of leadership is smooth. Allowing the Post to continue to prosper.

I hope you all have a wonderful Convention!

Pam Gerhard

Dept. of FL

Judge Advocate



DRAFT CBL AMENDMENT CBL 25___

SUBJECT: Update Department of Florida Bylaws, Article IV, Section 13

SOURCE: Post 4 & District III

WHEREAS, the Department of Florida Bylaws, Article IV, Section 13 states, “No member may hold more than one (1) elected or appointed office and one (1) elected or appointed committee position on the Department level at the same time. No elected officer shall hold more than two (2) elected positions at any level of Florida AMVETS”, and

WHEREAS, some posts and districts struggle to get all officer positions filled, and

WHEREAS, it is beneficial for our organization to have competent AMVETS with experience in all levels of our organization, and

WHEREAS this change could allow highly qualified members to take office instead of someone unqualified or where a qualified member would not like to fill the position.

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Article IV, Section 13 of the Department of Florida Bylaws be changed to read:

Members in good standing may hold (1) elected office simultaneously at the Post, District and Department levels. This does not include the National Executive Committeemen (NEC), Alternate National Committeemen, or Service Foundation positions.

RESOLVED, that the generic post and district bylaws be updated to reflect the same change.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CBL COMMITTEE ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

FLOOR ACTION ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

DRAFT CBL AMENDMENT CBL – 26-01

Subject: Annual Membership Dues
Source: National Finance Committee
Endorsing Departments: WA

WHEREAS, the AMVETS organization has reached a level of life over annual members that is unsustainable financially at 83.51% lifetime members;

WHEREAS, the current dues being paid from the annual members' dues portion to national headquarters is at \$15, and has remained static for a period of 10 years when costs of operations have increased significantly;

WHEREAS, AMVETS National CBL Article VII; Section 5 states "The minimum annual membership dues, effective with the beginning of membership year 2015, shall be \$17.00 payable to the post, of which sum \$15.00 shall be forwarded to National Headquarters and \$2.00 to the department headquarters. . . " Be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS National CBL Article VII; Section 5 to be replace with the following:

"The minimum annual membership dues, effective with the beginning of membership year 2025-2026, shall be \$27.00 payable to the post, of which sum \$25.00 shall be forwarded to National Headquarters and \$2.00 to the department headquarters. . . "

Reviewed by Department of _____

Department Convention Vote (circle one): Approve Decline to Endorse As Is

DRAFT CBL AMENDMENT CBL – 26-02

Subject: Change of the Word “Subordinate”

Source: Department of Missouri

Endorsing Departments: IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI

WHEREAS, THE NATIONAL CBL. ARTICLE 14. Section 1. (a) A subordinate organization of AMVETS may be established only by a provision of this constitution. **(b)** All subordinate organizations' membership qualifications must be consistent with the aims and purposes of AMVETS. **(c)** All subordinate organizations will include in their constitution and bylaws protocol for operating during instances of national or state emergency or pandemics.

These will be in accordance with the provisions of Appendix F of AMVETS National Bylaws. THE NATIONAL CBL LISTS THE LADIES AUX/ SAD SACKS/SERVICE FOUNDATION/DEPT. CONVENTION CORP./JUNIOR AMVETS/SONS OF AMVETS/AMVET RIDERS.

WHEREAS, THE NATIONAL CBL ARTICLE 22 Section 1. All publications bearing the name AMVETS, published by the national organization, state departments, posts, subordinates or any other branch or affiliate of AMVETS, shall be under the supervision of the National Executive Committee, which shall delegate sufficient 30 general and specific authority to the National Communications Director to carry out the necessary duties. Copies of all such publications shall be sent to National Headquarters.

WHEREAS, THE NATIONAL CBL Already states and recognizes any other branch or affiliate of AMVETS. **THE AFFILIATE WORD MEANING,** to be officially connected with or controlled by another, usually larger company or organization. An entity that is related to another legal entity. To connect closely often as a member of, branch or associate.

BE IT RESOLVED: THAT IN NATIONAL CBL. ARTICLE 14. SUBORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS A.B. AND C. AND ARTICLE 15 THRU 22 DESCRIBING OTHER ENTITIES. REMOVE THE WORD SUBORDINATE AND REPLACE WITH THE WORD OF AFFILIATE IN THE AMVETS NATIONAL CBL.

Proposed AMVETS National Resolutions

to be considered at the
AMVETS National Convention
in Greensboro, North Carolina
August 20-23, 2025

BENEFITS

SUBJECT: Supporting Full Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and VA Disability Compensation

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, current law requires many military retirees to offset their military retirement pay by the amount they receive in VA disability compensation, effectively forcing them to fund their own disability benefits; and

WHEREAS, Congress partially repealed this offset in 2004 by allowing retirees with 20 or more years of service and a VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher to receive both benefits concurrently; and

WHEREAS, this partial fix failed to extend the same equity to service-connected military retirees with VA ratings below 50 percent, as well as to Chapter 61 retirees who were medically retired due to combat-related injuries with fewer than 20 years of service; and

WHEREAS, federal employees outside of the military are not subject to such restrictions, and veterans who leave service to pursue civilian careers may receive both VA disability compensation and civilian retirement benefits in full; and

WHEREAS, the Major Richard Star Act (S. 1032, H.R. 2102) has been reintroduced in both chambers of Congress to correct this long-standing injustice by authorizing concurrent receipt for combat-injured veterans forced to medically retire; and

WHEREAS, the Major Richard Star Act enjoys broad bipartisan support and would provide overdue financial relief and recognition to tens of thousands of combat-wounded veterans who were discharged for medical reasons before reaching 20 years of service; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS strongly supports legislation to fully authorize concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset, regardless of VA rating or years of service; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges Congress to pass the Major Richard Star Act to ensure that combat-injured veterans receive the full benefits they have earned through both their service and sacrifice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS will continue to advocate for the full repeal of concurrent receipt restrictions and call upon lawmakers to right this enduring inequity for all disabled military retirees.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Subject: Increase Veterans Burial Benefits

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, the VA pays a higher level of burial benefits upon the death of a veteran who dies from a service-connected illness or disability and lesser burial benefits upon the death of a wartime veteran who dies from a non-service-connected illness or disability; and

WHEREAS, the current VA burial expense payment for a service-related death is up to \$2,000 for those occurring after September 11, 2001, or up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 11, 2001. For non-service related deaths VA will pay up to \$978 toward burial and funeral expenses for deaths on or after October 2024. Due to the continued, dramatic increase in private sector funeral expenses, this benefit has been seriously eroded over the years; and

WHEREAS, while these benefits were never intended to cover the full costs of burial, they now pay for only a small fraction of what they covered in 1973 when the federal government first started paying burial benefits; and

WHEREAS, the VA should provide the resources needed to meet increasing private-sector costs of burial; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS believes there is still a serious deficit between the original value of the plot allowance benefit and its current value. Congress should increase the plot allowance for all eligible veterans and expand the eligibility for the plot allowance for all veterans who might be eligible for burial in a national cemetery, not just those who served during wartime; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges Congress and the Administration to provide the resources required to meet the critical and sensitive nature of the National Cemetery Administration's mission thereby fulfilling the nation's commitment to all veterans who have served their country so honorably and faithfully.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-03

Subject: Tinnitus & Hearing Loss Presumptive Service-Connection

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, many veterans, whether or not they served in combat or worked in certain occupational specialties, have higher than average incidences of hearing loss or tinnitus as a result of their time in service; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the second highest service-connected disability granted by the VA has been for hearing loss and tinnitus; and

WHEREAS, various studies indicate that the majority of servicemembers are exposed to some form of auditory trauma, including high-level repetitive noise, during their time in service leading to some level of hearing loss and/or tinnitus and given these findings, reasonable doubt must be resolved in favor of veterans who suffered hearing loss and/or tinnitus as a result of their service in the military; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urge Congress and the VA to grant service-connection on a presumptive basis for any veteran diagnosed after discharge with hearing loss and/or tinnitus when there is evidence that the veteran:

- participated in combat operations;
- worked in a position or occupational specialty likely to have damaged the veteran's hearing;
- or was exposed to any form of auditory trauma

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-04

Subject: VA Claims & Appeals

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, as of June 2025 the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has more than 797,000 claims pending for disability compensation and pension claims in addition to 193,521 that have been pending for more than 125 days, often referred to as backlogged claims; and

WHEREAS, due to the increasing complexity of both VA claims and appeals, the need for compliance with Court of Veterans Appeals claims decisions, continued VA requirements for repetitive and unnecessary examinations and the severe staffing shortages, progress on cases remains slow and unsatisfactory; and

WHEREAS, due to the impending drawdown, the demand for VA services and resources will continue to rise and is expected to remain high for the foreseeable future; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urge Congress to ensure adequate funding and trained staff levels for the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve upon the timeliness and accuracy of all claims and appeals being filed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS push for the Veterans Benefit Administration to process timely and accurate claims the first time they are reviewed, as well as the immediate implementation of a uniform data claims processing system, as well as, improved training for both VA claims and appeals processors to ensure a timely and accurate claims and appeals process for every veteran.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING

Subject: Civilian Credentials for Military Training & Experience

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, AMVETS recognizes that it is in the best interest of our nation to have a strong and viable veterans' employment and training system in place. Unfortunately, the unemployment rate among our nation's veterans continues to be an area of intense focus and concern, much of which is related to issues of post-service licensure and credentials; and

WHEREAS, Congress has begun to recognize the fact that veterans of all eras, especially recently separated and older veterans, find it difficult to obtain meaningful, living-wage employment. The importance of licensing and credentialing, as an integral part of the overall veteran transition process, cannot be overemphasized; and

WHEREAS, while there are certain employment programs in place for veterans, such programs must have a pro-active, long-term career focus which, not only recognize the problems of licensing and credentialing, but develops workable solutions; and

WHEREAS, every year between 240,000 and 360,000 military members make the transition from military to civilian life and employment, and as the drawdown continues, more than a million service members are expected to transition over the next few years; and

WHEREAS, as a nation we need to be prepared to do our part to assist our transitioning service members with living-wage employment opportunities so that they become valued additions to our society and economy and are able to adequately support their families; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS should encourage Congress to engage in a national dialogue to include the Administration, DoD, VA, DOL, governors, state adjutant generals, employers, trade and professional associations, and licensing and credentialing entities, to establish a process so military training meets civilian certification and licensing requirements for states in which veterans choose to live once they leave the military.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-06

SUBJECT: Continue Fighting to End Veteran Homelessness

SOURCE: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, the streets of many American cities continue to be inhabited by veterans who lack adequate food and housing; and

WHEREAS, veteran homelessness has decreased over the last few years thanks to multi-agency efforts at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of female veterans, many with dependent children, are joining the ranks of homeless veterans; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS ensure that the issue of veteran homelessness remains a priority for both the Administration and Congress; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS encourages Congress to increase the availability of affordable housing; expand education/training programs; and provide employment opportunities until all veterans are properly housed and gainfully employed.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

HEALTH CARE

SUBJECT: Continued Implementation of the Electronic Healthcare Record (EHR)

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, the transition of service members from the Department of Defense (DOD) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has long been hampered by disconnected, outdated, and inefficient medical records systems—resulting in delays in care, missing or incomplete health information, reliance on paper records, and limited ability to share data between VA and DoD providers; and

WHEREAS, the VA has committed to deploying the Federal Electronic Health Record (EHR) system — a single, interoperable platform shared with the DOD — as part of its Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) initiative to improve care coordination, safety, and convenience for veterans and providers alike; and

WHEREAS, the VA announced in 2024 and 2025 that thirteen additional VA medical centers — including facilities in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Alaska — will go live with the Federal EHR system in 2026 under an accelerated and market-based deployment strategy; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS reaffirms its strong support for the VA’s implementation of a unified, efficient EHR system across all VA facilities, in full alignment with the Department of Defense; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS recognizes the importance of the VA’s new site deployment model, standard national baseline, and commitment to interoperability as critical steps toward improving care and outcomes for all veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges continued Congressional oversight to ensure transparency, clinical involvement, and timely execution of this multi-year rollout; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS will continue to oppose any efforts to revert to the outdated VistA system, which has long hindered the delivery of high-quality, integrated care for veterans.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-08

SUBJECT: Support for the PROTECT Act to Ensure Care for Veterans Exposed to Radiation and Toxins at NTTR

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, thousands of veterans, Department of Defense personnel, and contractors served at the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) between 1972 and 2005, where they may have been exposed to harmful radiation and toxic substances; and

WHEREAS, many of these veterans have struggled to access VA health care and benefits due to the lack of official recognition of their exposure, despite facing serious health consequences linked to their service; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1400, the Presumption for Radiation or Toxin Exposure Coverage for Troops (PROTECT) Act, introduced by Representatives Mark Amodei and Susie Lee, would correct this injustice by creating a presumption of exposure for all individuals stationed at NTTR during that time period; and

WHEREAS, establishing this presumption will eliminate unnecessary barriers to care, honor the service of those exposed to “invisible enemies” like radiation and toxins, and ensure they receive the support they earned; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS strongly supports the passage of H.R. 1400, the PROTECT Act, to provide long-overdue access to health care and benefits for veterans exposed at NTTR; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges Congress to pass this legislation without delay to bring justice and peace of mind to those who served and sacrificed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS will continue to advocate for all veterans affected by toxic exposures, and to support legislative solutions that recognize and respond to their unique health needs.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-09

Subject: Military Sexual Trauma (MST)

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, the continued prevalence of military sexual assault continues to grow and has been the subject of numerous military reports, Congressional hearings, documentaries and media stories. Military Sexual Trauma (MST) is a heinous crime which is a disgrace to all of those who have worn the uniform of the Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, DoD and VA have made progress towards developing and implementing a policy that creates a tangible, visible deterrent to perpetrators through consistent prosecutions or other severely negative consequences to one's military careers, both departments must commit to improving their Integrated Mental Health Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the effects of untreated MST can be devastating to the overall health of veterans and in the successful transitioning back into their families and communities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS calls on DoD to continue to enhance its MST awareness programs, and calls on VA to continually improve its MST treatment programs and to disseminate evidence-based clinical practice guidelines to clinicians who care for veterans who have suffered from MST; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS calls upon Congress to continue its oversight and hearings related to military sexual trauma care and benefits with the goal of improving VA and DoD collaboration and improving policies and practices for military sexual trauma care and disability compensation.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-10

Subject: Expand Veteran Treatment Courts

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, there are now about 16 million U.S. veterans, including nearly two million from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the United States military instills a sense of honor, duty, leadership, commitment and respect, evident in the millions of veterans who have returned home to their communities as productive citizens, strengthened by their military experience; and

WHEREAS, an estimated twenty percent of veterans has symptoms of a mental disorder or cognitive impairment, and about 1 in 10 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan seen in the VA healthcare system have a substance use disorder and there is a well-established link between substance abuse and combat-related mental illness and an unprecedented number of veterans nationwide are appearing in the courts to face charges stemming directly from these issues; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts evolved out of the necessity for a solution-based approach to an influx of drug abusing offenders before the courts; and the Drug Court model and the Mental Health Court model are the nation's most successful, cost effective, and scientifically validated tool to deal with substance abuse and mental health issues in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Treatment Courts are hybrid Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts and have evolved out of the growing need for a treatment court model designed specifically for justice-involved veterans to maximize efficiency and economize resources while making use of the distinct military culture consistent among veterans; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Treatment Courts build upon this camaraderie by allowing participants to go through the treatment court process with people who are similarly situated and have common past experiences; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS advocates for the continued use and expansion of Veteran Treatment Courts across the country.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-11

Subject: Support for the Rescheduling and Research of Cannabis as an Opioid Alternative

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) reported in 2014 that "more than 50 percent of all Veterans enrolled and receiving care at VHA (Veterans Health Administration) are affected by chronic pain, which is a much higher rate than in the general population. Veterans who suffer from chronic pain also experience much higher rates of other comorbidities (post traumatic stress disorder, depression, traumatic brain injury) and socioeconomic dynamics (disability, joblessness) that may contribute to the challenges of pain management when treated by opioids"; and

WHEREAS, from 2004 to 2012, VA increased the number of opioids prescribed to veterans by 77%--in 2012 nearly one-third of veterans receiving healthcare from VA were prescribed opioids. The Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law (CERL) cited a VA inspector general report: "Between 2010 and 2015, the number of veterans addicted to opioids rose 55 percent to a total of roughly 68,000. This figure represents about 13 percent of all veterans currently prescribed opioids"; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 study of VHA found that veterans were twice as likely to die from an accidental drug overdose, with opioids as primary agent; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs has since drastically reduced the number of opioids prescribed to veterans, but lacks effective, low-risk alternative medications for pain management; and

WHEREAS, many veterans are prescribed multiple medications for their service-connected injuries—including opioids, sedatives, and tranquilizers, all of which are recognized to have a high potential for abuse, with use potentially leading to severe psychological or physical dependence; and

WHEREAS, with a population of approximately 20 million, at least 20% of veterans have post traumatic stress, at least 50% experience chronic pain, approximately 20% have a traumatic brain injury, and there are significant rates of alcohol abuse, depression, anxiety, and sleep disorders; and

WHEREAS, this combination of mental, physical, and pharmaceutical challenges and risks helps explain why the suicide rate for veterans is 50% percent higher than those who never served in the military, and higher still for post-9/11 veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health of Human Services (HHS) has positively affirmed the medicinal value of cannabis as antioxidants and neuroprotectants by patenting and licensing cannabinoids, the chemical compounds found in the cannabis plant; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently argued that cannabidiol (CBD), a non-euphoric cannabinoid, does not meet the requirements for scheduling because of its non-intoxicating and non-toxic nature; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has acknowledged the potential medical efficacy of cannabis by approving a first-of-its-kind smoked cannabis study on combat veterans with PTSD in 2017; and

WHEREAS, several studies suggest that where medical and adult-use cannabis is accessible, there is a reduction in opioid prescribing, opioid use, and opioid-related overdose; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has an explicit legal, ethical, and moral obligation to care for the veterans of the nation's wars, and to provide the best treatment possible to those injured in service to the country; and

WHEREAS, veterans have noted often sudden and long-lasting improvements to their ability to treat and manage their service-connected injuries with cannabis; and

WHEREAS, veterans and their loved ones have described seeing marked improvements in their relationships and ability to reconnect with their family and friends after beginning treating themselves with cannabis; and

WHEREAS, veteran patients have reported transitioning from regular states of depression, anxiety, and rage under prescribed medications to more normal functioning and better quality of life with the sole use of cannabis; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we call upon the White House and Congress to fulfill their responsibilities to the nation's veterans by recognizing the inappropriateness of cannabis' current scheduling and removing it from the Controlled Substance Act, by removing the roadblocks to expanding approved cultivation and research, and committing all necessary resources to understanding the therapeutic potential of cannabis and bringing those derived medications to veterans as quickly as possible.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-12

Subject: Supporting Women Veterans

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, women veterans remain the fastest growing population in the veteran community; and

WHEREAS, more women veterans are using VA health care services than ever before; and

WHEREAS, women veterans are reporting military sexual trauma at very high levels; and

WHEREAS, women veterans require specialized health care providers with expertise in women's health; and

WHEREAS, many VA medical centers still don't offer specialized treatments such as mammography, maternity care, and gynecology; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to support and increase the availability of high-quality gender-specific services at the VA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge VA to ensure that every VA facility has a zero tolerance policy towards sexual harassment for employees and patients.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

OTHER

Draft Resolution 26-13

SUBJECT: Advancing an Evidence-Driven Mental Health Continuum of Care for Veterans

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, since 2001, more than 140,000 veterans have died by suicide, despite a dramatic increase in federal mental health spending and the widespread implementation of “evidence-based” clinical interventions across the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, traditional manualized therapies and symptom-reduction strategies, while backed by short-term studies, have shown limited real-world effectiveness, with high dropout rates, low remission outcomes, and minimal impact on long-term veteran wellness or suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, veteran-serving nonprofit and community-based programs—particularly those emphasizing posttraumatic growth, peer support, and holistic well-being—have demonstrated positive long-term outcomes and deserve greater recognition, collaboration, and support; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS strongly encourages the VA to embrace an evidence-driven approach to mental health—one focused on measurable long-term quality-of-life outcomes such as purpose, connection, employment, and growth, not just short-term symptom reduction; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges Congress and the VA to establish and adopt a new Continuum of Wellness framework that prioritizes upstream, non-pathologizing, do-no-harm interventions—including peer-led training, resilience-building, and reintegration supports—while reserving clinical and pharmaceutical interventions for when they are necessary and evidence-supported; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS endorses a shift in national messaging surrounding veteran mental health to focus on posttraumatic growth, strength, and continued service, and continues to encourage public support for National Posttraumatic Growth Day on June 13 as a unifying reminder of veterans’ capacity to thrive—not just survive—after service.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

SUBJECT: Reauthorizing the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, AMVETS has long championed mental health and suicide prevention efforts across the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Armed Forces, and recognizes that far too many veterans—especially those not engaged in VA care—remain at heightened risk of suicide and in need of trusted, community-based support; and

WHEREAS, the Fox Grant Program empowers trusted community-based organizations to deliver upstream, culturally competent, and life-saving services to veterans in rural, tribal, and underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, the program has been widely praised for its ability to build trust, foster healing, and support evidence-driven interventions, which together provide a more complete picture of veteran risk and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the program is set to expire at the end of the current fiscal year unless Congress takes action to reauthorize it; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges swift Congressional reauthorization of the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program to ensure continuity of services and long-term partnership development; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS reaffirms its commitment to a proactive, community-driven approach to veteran suicide prevention—one rooted in connection, trust, and the belief that growth is possible after trauma.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-15

SUBJECT: Prioritization of Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs) in Federal Contracting

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, veterans have sacrificed for our country and continue to serve their communities by starting small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a goal to give at least 3% of its contracting dollars to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) each year—but many agencies still fall short of meeting that goal; and

WHEREAS, Veteran Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs) generally face real challenges in winning federal contracts, such as complicated rules, unclear guidance, and a lack of support or outreach from government agencies; and

WHEREAS, giving more federal contracts to VOSBs helps veterans build financial stability, strengthens the economy, and brings more diversity and reliability to government suppliers; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS supports the federal government's promise to award at least 3% of all contracts to SDVOSBs and calls for that goal to be enforced across every agency; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges the Department of Veterans Affairs and all other federal agencies to give VOSBs a bigger role in their purchasing decisions and to be open and honest about how many contracts go to veteran-owned businesses; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS supports creating a new option—called “Direct SDVOSB Engagement Authority”—that would let federal agencies award contracts under \$25 million directly to SDVOSBs, especially when those businesses offer unique skills, without going through the usual bidding process.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

SUBJECT: Preservation and Expansion of the VA Technology Acquisition Center (TAC) as the Central Hub for IT Procurement

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) needs modern, reliable, and secure technology to provide health care, benefits, and services to millions of veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA Technology Acquisition Center (TAC) was created in 2009 in Eatontown, New Jersey, to build on the expertise of a skilled workforce—many of whom came from Fort Monmouth after the Army’s realignment; and

WHEREAS, since then, the TAC has handled about \$50 billion in IT contracts and has been known for saving money, staying on schedule, and bringing innovation to the VA’s tech purchases; and

WHEREAS, letting other VA offices handle IT purchases separately from the TAC has led to waste, confusion, and a lack of oversight, as the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has reported; and

WHEREAS, bringing all VA IT purchases under the TAC would improve accountability, reduce costs, and match the Administration’s goals of better budgeting and more efficient staffing; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, AMVETS strongly supports keeping the VA Technology Acquisition Center (TAC) as the main place responsible for all VA technology purchases; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Congress to give the TAC full authority over all VA IT contracts—no matter which office or funding source is involved—to ensure proper oversight, prevent waste, and follow federal laws; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS supports expanding the TAC’s work to include all digital services, cybersecurity, cloud systems, and IT infrastructure improvements, building on its strong track record; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS opposes any move to weaken or split up the TAC’s responsibilities, which could hurt the quality, speed, and reliability of the technology veterans depend on.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-17

SUBJECT: Continued Use and Expansion of the Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology Next Generation (T4NG) Contract Vehicle

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) relies on modern, secure, and timely technology to deliver health care, benefits, and services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA created the Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology Next Generation contract to help quickly and efficiently buy the IT services it needs; and

WHEREAS, the T4NG contract, managed by the VA Technology Acquisition Center (TAC), has helped the VA award billions of dollars in projects to trusted vendors—including many small businesses owned by veterans and service-disabled veterans—while improving services for veterans; and

WHEREAS, the success of T4NG has made it a key part of the VA's digital strategy, helping the department respond faster and more effectively to veterans' needs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS strongly supports the continued use and growth of the T4NG contract to help meet the rising demand for veteran-focused technology and services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges the VA to use T4NG as much as possible for its IT needs to keep quality high, costs reasonable, and results consistent across the department; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS encourages the VA to keep expanding opportunities for veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses through the T4NG contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS supports strong oversight of all T4NG projects to make sure contracts are used properly, vendors perform well, and everything stays focused on the VA's mission.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

SUBJECT: Strengthening Military Readiness and National Security Through Improved Health and Resilience

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, the strength of America's Armed Forces depends on the readiness and resilience of the men and women who serve; and

WHEREAS, increasing challenges in recruitment and retention are compounded by health-related barriers that reduce the number of individuals qualified for military service and impact long-term operational effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, these challenges are not only a matter of individual well-being, but a strategic concern that directly affects national security, force sustainability, and mission success; and

WHEREAS, many of today's service members will become tomorrow's veterans—bringing with them the health challenges shaped during their time in uniform and the policies that governed their care; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS affirms the foundational role of force readiness and physical resilience in maintaining a strong national defense; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS supports Department of Defense efforts to promote whole health and mission fitness, including evidence-driven strategies to ensure that service members remain deployable, resilient, and prepared; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS encourages a full review of existing health guidelines, interventions, and policies that affect force health, in order to identify pathways that support early, proactive treatment options; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS calls for close collaboration between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure continuity of care and sustained health outcomes as service members transition into veteran status.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

SUBJECT: Establishing Pacific Branch National Veterans Park

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, on March 2, 1887, the 49th Congress authorized the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers to establish a branch west of the Rocky Mountains; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 1888, Senator John P. Jones and Arcadia B. de Baker donated 300 acres of land to create what Congress later designated the “Pacific Branch” of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 and 2022, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs was the subject of class action lawsuits (*Valentini v. Shinseki* and *Powers v. McDonough*), which cited the Department’s misuse of the West Los Angeles VA property in violation of its original purpose; and

WHEREAS, the VA Office of Inspector General has issued multiple reports criticizing the Department for maintaining non-compliant leases and failing to meet housing construction goals on the site, despite the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the National Park Service formally recognized the VA West Los Angeles property as a Historic District by placing it on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Daily News published an Op-Ed on November 11, 2024 titled “Let VA be VA. Who else can save the Pacific Branch?” which advocated for relocating clinical operations to the South Campus and placing the North Campus under the stewardship of the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service currently oversees 25 military-related sites, including 11 National Battlefields and 9 National Military Parks, but has no designated National Veterans Park unit; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS supports the establishment of Pacific Branch National Veterans Park on the North Campus of the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS calls for federal legislation to transfer jurisdiction of the North Campus to the National Park Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS affirms that this designation **will** preserve the site's historical integrity while honoring its intended purpose as a home and community for veterans and their families.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

Draft Resolution 26-20

Subject: U.S. Flag Protection

Source: AMVETS Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, the flag of the United States of America is a symbol of our country and of freedom around the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, the United States Supreme Court ruled that flag desecration is protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS has strongly supported reversing this ruling since 1989; and

WHEREAS, a flag protection amendment has bipartisan supported by a majority of American people; and

WHEREAS, all fifty State legislatures have passed resolutions asking Congress to submit a flag protection amendment for ratification; and

WHEREAS, Congress should be permitted to protect the American flag from desecration; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS petitions Congress to allow United States citizens to consider approval for a flag protection amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT of _____ ☐ ADOPT ☐ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE

