

MINUTES OF AMVETS DEPT. OF NEW YORK SEC
MARCH 23-24, 2018
BINGHAMTON, NY

On Thursday March 23 a meeting of the Executive Board and Service Foundation was held in Executive Session.

On Friday March 24 Round Table meetings were held by the Finance Committee and the Service Foundation. In addition, all Zone Directors gave their reports which were in the Red Book. The Zone directors addressed the members and spoke about their respective Zones as follows:

Zone 1 Chuck Marcello

Zone 2 Les Baker

Zone 3 Floyd Fields

Zone 4 Joe Ballas

Zone 5 Tom Abarno

Zone 6 Loretta Dobrino

Zone 7 John Foster

On Saturday March 25 Commander James Gardner opened the meeting at 1000. Chaplain Chuck Harrison gave the Invocation and Provost Marshall Emory Perry led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commander Gardner read the Preamble and Executive Director Rich Rossi called the Roll Call of Posts and Officers. In addition, and prior to the Officers giving their reports the following guests addressed the members:

Colonel Scott Wence from Fort Drum

National Executive Director Joe Chennelly

Madam Presidency Laura Bugaj

Sons Commander Chip Smith

Commander Gardner left the meeting to Address the Ladies Auxiliary and the Sons of AMVETS turning the gavel over to First Vice Commander George Stondell.

THE OFFICERS GAVE THEIR REPORTS WHICH WILL BE REPRODUCED ON THE WEB

First Vice George Stondell: Georges highlighted his report which was in the book. He reported that the Snowball Express will be taking the Gold Star Mothers to Disney this year instead of Dallas.

Second Vice Les Baker: Les Baker highlighted his report which was in the book.

Finance Officer Jack Gray: Jacks report was in the book. He reported that the mileage reimbursement is \$0.54 this year. He requested that if you have a special program you want the Department to donate too that you please let him know one month before the Convention.

Judge Advocate Marty Bugaj: Marty was appointed by the Commander which was approved by the membership to sit in for Mark Phillips who was excused. Marks report was in the book.

NEC Jack Gray: Jacks report was in the book. Jack stated that he stormed the Hill at the last NEC meeting visiting 27 Congressman's Offices explaining the Goals of the Department.

Alt NEC: Rich DeJesus read his report which was in the book.

Service Foundation: Marty Ashman's report was in the Book. Marty reported that Care Packages must go to the VAVS Reps only. He stated that they received 39 Scholarship applications. Chuck Marsillo than gave the Foundations Finance Report and Marty announced the Scholarship winners and the approved Grants

Commander Jim Gardner: Jim's report was in the book and stressed that if you don't like what is going on in your Post please don't quit but vote for changes in the next election.

Executive Director Rich Rossi: Rich's report was in the Book. Rich spoke about training seminars for Zone Directors and recommends that if your report is not in the Red Book you shouldn't get paid. Rich asked for a motion too buy new bags for the flags.

Provost Marshall Emory Perry: Emory's report was in the book and in addition he reported that he was on AMVETS Radio (AMVETS RADIO. COM).

Empire AMVET Editor Phil Levi: Phil's report was in the Book and he reported that articles for the paper had to be in by April 15. A question came from the floor regarding the listing of Sons and Auxiliaries in the paper. A motion was made to have the Liaisons assist Phil in obtaining what Posts have subordinate Organizations.

NSO Denise Bugaj: Denise highlighted her report which was not in the Book but placed on the table. **Denise's report will be reproduced on the Web.**

Womens Rep. Carmella Rigoli: Carmella's report was in the Book. She stated that the VA was in need of Canteen Books and that if any Post wants to give a donation she would go to the Hospital and buy them.

Legislative Chairman Bob Becker: Bobs report was in the book and he reported that he stormed the Hill at the NEC and that nine Veterans Organizations spoke at Congress. He reported that there were seven Veterans Bills in Congress.

Resolutions: Marty Bugaj reported that there are no pending Resolutions and that if anyone wants to submit one for the Convention they must be received by the Department by May 5.

Convention Report: Rich Rossi reported on bids for future meetings can be obtained by any member and Chuck Marsillo stated he would get one for Buffalo. He asked for donations for the Hospitality room.

THE COMMANDER CALLED FOR A TWENTY MINUTE RECESS-AFTER THE BREAK WE HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE MICROPHONE WHICH CAUSED SOME WORDS TO BE OMMITTED FROM THE MINUTES

Americanism: John Turner highlighted his report which was in the book.

Drug/Alcohol: Chairman Alan Ashley corrected his report to read Veterans are not being properly treated. Alan stressed the importance of the Narcan training seminar.

PRO: Chairman Mary Jepson reported that numerous Veterans expressed their appreciation to AMVETS for their generous donations. She highlighted her report and spoke about the Maid of the Mist, the Arts Festival and Ceremony at the University of Buffalo, the Narcan Seminar and the Memorial Ceremony for the 47 Sailors who died in the Gun Turret explosion on the Battleship Iowa.

Grievance Committee: Chairman Dave Jackman reported that they have one grievance which will be handled after the meeting.

Finance Committee: Hal Queyor introduced the Finance Committee and stated that one month before the meeting they receive paperwork from the Finance Officer and go over it at the Committee Meeting and they all agree that there are no discrepancies.

Audit Committee: Chairman Jepson reported that the Audit Committee has no knowledge of a request, as per the Constitution, of the Auxiliary, Sons or Riders to produce their books for an audit or examination therefore the Committee has nothing to report.

Inspector General Chuck Harrison: Chucks report was in the Book and he moved for its adoption.

Web Master: Joe Ashman was excused. His report was in the Book and was adopted.

ROTC: Emory Perry reported for Joe Rheams and stated that there are no medals for Jr. ROTC. A motion was made by Dave Feary to award a Jr. ROTC a trip to the Freedom Foundation.

Sons Coordinator: Ron Tamberlin reported that the SOA have a new First Vice and new Finance Officer. Ron stated that he gave the Empire AMVET editor a list of all Posts that have a Squadron.

Ladies Coordinator: John Foster stated his report was not in the book but he gave a verbal report.

22 Everyday: Chairman Jim Benware's report was in the book. Jim complimented Loretta DiBrino for her article regarding Veterans suicides. He stated that there were three new members, Les Baker, Bob Layne and (not audible). Jim announced that he will be stepping down next year as Chairman.

Awards Committee: Chairman Len Scheiners report was in the book. Len stated that the Awards committee is a new Committee and he explained awards that are available and that all requests have to go through him.

VACS REPORTS: The following reports were in the book and will be reproduced on the WEB.

Bath	Larry Bunk
Northport-	Jack Maxwell
Buffalo	Art Vander bush
St. Albans	Joe Rheams

New Business: Dave Feary made a motion for the Finance Committee to consider giving the Axillary \$500. Which was taken under advisement.

Good and Welfare: A motion was made and passed that Loretta DiBrino be appointed as Department Photographer and be authorized to spend up too \$500. on a Camera.

Joe Ballas commented on Bob Becker receiving the four chaplains award and complimented him and EJ Knapik on all the work they do for Veterans. There were articles in the Red Book about EJ and Bob and they will be reproduced on the Web. Joe also spoke about the Run for the Fallen and announced they will be selling Run for the Fallen shirts with our Logo on them.

Commander Gardner then gave out VAVS Awards to Larry Bunk and Dick McDermott and Quality Post awards to Posts 1-48-245-265-797-897 and 1174.

The meeting was closed after a salute to the Flag and the Benediction

ALL REPORTS WILL BE REPRODUCED ON THE WEB