

Department of Florida AMVETS Riders
SEC 2/17/18

Meeting called to order at 4:12 by President Robert Wills. Opening prayer was done by Chaplain Heather Stretar and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt. at Arms Ed Flack. President Wills led us in reading the Riders creed. Attendance was taken with all officers present except Secretary Mary McCarthy, excused.

The agenda was suspended to allow for guest National AMVETS Commander Marion Polk to speak. Commander Polk discussed how the NFL denying our Super Bowl ad has helped get the AMVETS much positive publicity. NASCAR Truck series driver Clay Greenfield asked permission to put the AMVETS logo on his truck, and totally wrapped the truck in #Please Stand with the logo. We may try to sponsor this driver so he will continue advertising for the AMVETS. Two members told the commander they would donate \$500 each, and he agreed to match their contribution. Commander Polk thanked the AMVETS Riders for their support and appreciates all we do for veterans. He welcomed us to wear our Riders uniform at the National convention in August.

Officer Reports: Ed Flack and Richard Mann (2nd) motioned that we accept Department officer reports after they have all been given, motion carried.

October 2017 SEC Minutes: President Wills asked that the membership read the minutes as printed in the SEC book.

President's Report: President Wills read his report as printed. Beverly Munoz, FL12 motioned for officer reports to given without reading them verbatim from the book, 2nd Ed Flack. Past AMVETS National Commander Larry Via clarified that usually officers state the page their report can be found on and then paraphrase or read it. Motion carried.

2nd Vice President: Kurt Knechtle congratulated everyone on having 100% of chapters reporting. Special recognition goes to FL44, FL86 and FL2 who have the highest reporting numbers. Kurt reminded members of the Dept. of FL AMVETS Riders raffle, a full day fishing trip on a charter boat in the Keys. He encouraged everyone to sell their tickets, and he will gladly send out more to any chapter in need of them. He has tickets available for pickup at this SEC meeting. He asked that we please support this and other raffles done by the

Department. Kurt also discussed the Walking Canes for Veteran's program. We have cases of canes to donate, and the applications are on our Dept. of FL AMVETS Riders website. Anyone wishing to take canes back to their chapter can pick up a case from Kurt. If your chapter gives a cane to a veteran, take a picture and post it to our Dept. of FL AMVETS Riders Facebook page so Hurry Cane can see that we are giving away the canes they donated. Kurt says in 2017 we reported a total valuation of \$1,643,980. Kurt would like to see us reach a goal of \$2,000,000 in 2018. He also encouraged chapters to consider sponsoring Clay Greenfield's NASCAR truck. Kurt also discussed the AMVETS sponsored Ride 22 on June 30th. On this day, people all over the country can choose to ride wherever they want to raise money for veteran's suicide awareness. Take it back to your chapter and go to www.victoryforveterans.org for more information.

Finance: Tom Serianni stated that per the IRS, our tax year has changed. It used to coincide with the calendar year, but now will be September 1st – August 31st. We cannot change these dates but they do affect us. We are a 501c19 tax exempt organization, and the last day to file our taxes is January 15th. If our taxes are not paid for 3 years, we will lose our tax exempt status. Tom included a list of all deposits made and program expenses and checks written from Oct. 1, 2017-February 3, 2018 in the SEC book. Our current bank balance is \$5,987.57. After required dues are paid to National and the February SEC room charges are paid, we will have \$3,489.57 left. When chapters send in their DRF checks to the Department, he can email you when the check is received if you would like. Larry Via questioned why we have gone from a fiscal year to a calendar year and now back to a fiscal year. Per Vince Stretar, we were given a choice by the IRS before as to whether we wanted to go by the fiscal year or the calendar year, but now the IRS is telling us we must use the fiscal year.

Judge Advocate: Richard Mann's report is in the book. He sent in our SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) to National, and received a letter on 2/13/18 from National that they were approved. The SOP's will be put on our Dept. of Florida AMVETS Riders website.

Chaplain: Heather Stretar mentioned her report is in the book. She reminded everyone that she would like to be notified if someone in your chapter has a need she can support with cards or prayer. Please communicate with her. The Last Chapter on the National website is a place to memorialize fallen riders, and

she can help you put someone's information there. Ed Flack also reminded everyone that there is a \$250 death benefit available to the family of a Rider member who passes away.

Officer Reports: Motion to accept all reports, Vince Stretar, 2nd Ron Hoban, motion carried.

Old Business

National Gun Raffle: Kurt Knechtle has national gun raffle tickets for distribution to chapters, must sell 20 tickets to qualify to be a Quality Chapter.

SOP's: Richard Mann discussed the Standard Operating Procedure about meeting attendance passed at the October 2017 SEC. Attendance at the Riders SEC meeting is predicated on paying the registration fee for your parent organization's meeting. The E-board chose not to enforce it at this SEC meeting since we did not receive our approved SOP's back from National until February 13th. You will be required to register for you parent organization meeting at the June SEC in order to attend the Riders meeting. E-board will be checking your registration badge for the parent organization meeting at the registration table.

Uniform Policy: The uniform committee met and made recommendations for an SOP which the E-board tweaked slightly. Ed Flack read the updated Uniform Policy SOP developed by the committee. Uniform requirements for Department level E-board meetings: approved vest as per the National By-laws, jeans with no tears or holes, black boots or dress shoes, a red shirt, collar optional, ball caps are permitted and berets are optional but not required. Uniform requirements for Department level SEC meetings: red collared shirt, approved Riders vest as per National By-laws, jeans with no tears or holes, black boots or dress shoes, no headgear except approved beret. E-board members are required to wear the proper beret at SEC meetings, and chapter officers and delegates are requested to wear the proper beret but it is not required. Any Rider member may come to the Riders meeting in their approved parent organization's uniform if desired (due a late meeting, etc.). New Rider chapters will have 6 months to comply.

New Business:

Proposal of SOP on Notification: Vince Stretar wrote an SOP (Section 2) stating that all proposed SOP's will be posted on the Department of FL AMVETS Riders website and sent to AMVETS Riders POC's within 30 days prior to the meeting and within 30 days after acceptance by the membership at the SEC Meeting. He made a motion to create this SOP as stated, 2nd Clyde Ferrell FL2, Discussion, per President Wills if approved, he will contact webmaster Jill and have her add a line item for Proposed SOP's and another for SOP's, motion carried after hand count.

Department Funds and Limiting Charities: Ed Flack read a letter he wrote expressing his views on the state of the Dept. funds (being insufficient to adequately cover expenses), and how Dept. officer volunteers are spending their own money to do their job. He would like to see us limit the number of charities we support so we can cover the Dept. officers' expenses. Our chapters who support charities make up the AMVETS Riders family, so he doesn't feel it necessary for the Dept. to take on more charities and fundraising. He suggested setting up a committee that would include the finance officer to make a proper SEC budget and budget as a whole. Ed Flack made motion to set up a financial committee who would work with the finance officer to set goals (Budget for SEC, general budget, limit charities temporarily) so we can keep the Department of FL afloat, 2nd Kurt Knechtle, discussion clarified that the committee would come back to the membership with recommendations, motion carried.

Golf Tournament: FL444 will hold its 2nd Annual Golf Tournament. Any rider can come hit a round to support veterans, date April 28th.

Website: President Wills stated that events, pictures and any other important information will be posted on the Dept. of FL AMVETS Riders website, so check the website to see what is going on. There will be a map showing all Florida Riders chapters, and SOPS will be posted on the website also. Also, we should put information on the Dept. Riders Facebook page. A calendar of events will help us support each other's functions.

FL86 Plaque: Per Phil Puckett, FL86's plaque for program reporting from National AMVETS Riders has the Sons of AMVETS logo on it. Vince noted that FL2's membership plaque also has the Sons logo on it.

1st Round of Nominations for Office:

President: Bob Wills FL60

Ed "Cowboy" Flack FL44

1st Vice President: Eric Gallant FL44

Bob Wills FL60

2nd Vice President: Kurt Knechtle FL113

Judge Advocate: Richard Mann FL44

John Young FL312

Finance Officer: Tom Serianni FL312

Sergeant at Arms: Ron Hoban FL60

Chris "Hammer" Stalnaker FL2

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Bottle Raffle won by: no name on ticket, number read

Dale Earnhardt jacket won by: Sylvia Stevens FL86. Proceeds will be given to Operation Outdoor Freedom (allows disabled and purple heart veterans the opportunity to go hunting)

Tablet Raffle won by: James Dull FL113

Walking Canes: Per President Wills, please take some canes home.

Motion to Adjourn: Ron Hoban, 2nd Vince Stretar, carried

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Heather Stretar

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stretar, Chaplain (standing in for Mary McCarthy)