

**AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY
2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, August 6, 2008

2008 National Convention Chairman Estrella Young welcomed everyone to Orlando, FL. She introduced the Past National Presidents and National Officers.

National President Heidi Dineen called the 62nd Convention to order.

National Chaplain Leslie Wunderle gave the Invocation.

National Sergeant-At-Arms Sue Dick presented the Colors.

National Sergeant-At Arms Sue Dick led The Pledge of Allegiance.

National Americanism Officer Lynda Taylor read the Definition of Americanism.

National 1st Vice President Charlene Kee read the Preamble.

National 2nd Vice President Patty Piening read the Code of Ethics.

National 3rd Vice President Dee Kreiling read the Aims and Purposes.

National President Heidi Dineen gave welcoming remarks.

National President Heidi Dineen introduced the Past National Presidents and presented them with a small token of appreciation.

National Executive Administrator Kellie Haggerty read roll call.

National President Heidi Dineen introduced the 2007-2008 National Saddest Gary Maddox who extended warm greetings. He introduced the 2008-2009 National Saddest Terry McClatchey, TX. Mr. McClatchey also extended warm greetings. National Snappiest Martha Knott, MD extended warm wishes and introduced the 2008-2009 National Snappiest Jeannine Reznik, OH. Mrs. Reznik extended greetings.

National President Heidi Dineen introduced the 2007-2008 AMVETS National Commander James P. Brown, III extended greetings. "I have seen an increase in the things you have done in Community Service, etc. This means you are there. Massachusetts should be very proud of Heidi. I have enjoyed my year with her. We have worked as a team and accomplished our goals because of you."

AMVETS National Commander James P. Brown III introduced AMVETS National Executive Director James B. King. "Thank you for all of the work you have done this year. In every program there is always a stamp of the Auxiliary in there helping. Thank you, Heidi for a wonderful year."

National President Heidi Dineen finished roll call.

National President Heidi Dineen introduced MG Craig Weldon. He spoke the about Army Community Covenant. This is Secretary of the Army Initiative to bring closer together the US Army to America's communities. Attending members were given a packet of information.

National President Heidi Dineen recessed for the unveiling of the AMVETS racecar.

National President Heidi Dineen called the meeting back in session.

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson read the Convention Rules.

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson moved to accept the Convention Rules as printed. National First Vice President Charlene Kee seconded. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

National Second Vice President Patty Piening moved for the adoption of the Convention Agenda as printed. It was seconded by Convention Chairman Estrella Young. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

National President Heidi Dineen introduced the Junior AMVETS, who extended warm greetings and thanked everyone for their support.

TAPE ENDED

National Juniors AMVETS Coordinator Evelyn McElvin stated, "My report is on Page 90. We have some new things coming out for the Junior AMVETS this year. We are going to try to put all of their forms online. Thank you for all of your help."

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson moved to adopt the 2007 Convention Minutes as printed. NEC Gloria Jasinki, FL seconded. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson stated there are no Convention Referrals.

National President Heidi Dineen called the Reports and Recommendations of the National Officers.

National President Heidi Dineen stated, "National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women and Guests:

Welcome to Orlando! I hope that this convention is a successful, productive convention. Let's get the work done so we can have some fun! A very special thank you to all the members of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Florida. I know you have worked hard to get the job done. We all truly appreciate your efforts. The second half of my term was just as enjoyable as the first half. After the Spring NEC I headed off to the Department of North Carolina. I got to be a "dancing queen"! Thank you for making my trip enjoyable. You were all certainly a lot of fun! In Indiana I began with a little tour of the highway thanks to Madam President Cathy! We visited a limestone quarry and I was fortunate to receive my own piece of Indiana limestone. The weekend continued to be an adventure as I was awakened by an earthquake! A very special thank you to the ladies of Bloomington. You were wonderful hostesses! Thank you to all of you who traveled to Massachusetts to honor me at my testimonial dinner. It was such an enjoyable night I didn't want it to end! I actually got to spend the next few weeks at home. We welcomed National Commander Brown to Massachusetts. I had the extreme honor to represent AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary in Washington, D.C. I attended a breakfast at the White House and had my picture taken with President Bush. I attended ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and near the Capitol. In the beginning of June I headed off to Iowa. The flooding is unbelievable. A special thanks to Kathy for finding a way to get to the airport! I enjoyed assisting at bingo at the veterans' home. Thank you so much for your hospitality! I had the pleasure of attending my own department's convention. Thank you to the members of the dept. for your friendship and support. You have helped me to realize my goals! I am so proud to say I am from Massachusetts! I began July in Alaska. My first visit to a state that is celebrating its 50th Anniversary of statehood. Thank you to all of you for making my visit special and welcoming both me and Ashley. As term of office comes to a close, I want to thank each and every one of you. The friendships I have made I will always cherish. I have gained some many wonderful memories. I can't thank you enough for this opportunity. I look forward to continue to be an active member. I wish all the new officers the best of luck."

"To all the National Officers that I have served with this year, you have been the best. You have been supportive. You have been an active board and we have had many valuable discussions. I am so proud to call each of you a friend. I wish you all the best on your future endeavors. Kellie, Tonya and Karen thank you for all that you do. Your jobs are not always easy but you are all appreciated for what you do. You are three dedicated employees that go the extra mile. Thank you for your patience and cooperation. To my daughter Ashley, thank you for allowing me to travel this year. I am so proud of you and all that you have accomplished at your age. I am glad that we served as Presidents together. Lastly, to my mom, thank you for your support, friendship and love. I would not have been able to accomplish so much in my life without you. You helped me realize so many dreams and accomplishments. I love you! To the Past National Presidents, I would like to leave you all with a quote that I have in my office.... The Essence of Leadership "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the quality of his action and the integrity of his intent. In the end, leaders are much like eagles ...they don't flock, you find them one at a time." Thank you for your leadership. You have set the bar for the rest of us to follow. Your dedication is appreciated! You have all put Service Above Self: and you tried to Make A Difference! Thank you!"

National President Heidi Dineen stated, "The National Executive Board and National Officers met on Saturday. We had a wonderful meeting and at this time have no recommendations. The National Convention Advisory Committee met. We are within our budgetary guidelines and everything is looking well."

National First Vice President Charlene Kee stated, "My report is on Pages 36-39. Membership is the Key was my theme for the past year. Thanks to our Membership Chairman and Local Members for the accepting the challenge and going above and beyond the call of duty. Our total membership as May 31, 2008 is 41,687; which is only 150 short of last year's total. Thanks for doing your best in renewing and promoting membership. We are pleased to welcome 15 new Auxiliaries this year. My Chairman's Award goes to Runner Up – Linda Hohn, FL, Winner – Yvonne Morris, PA." Thank you to those that submitted for this award."

Charlene handed out various Membership Awards. She stated, "The Membership Committee met on Monday. I was asked by the Finance Committee to get the feelings of the committee in regards to increasing Life Membership. After much discussion, a recommendation was made to the Finance Committee to increase Life Membership from \$125 to \$175. By doing so, we will be able to meet the needs of the budget. If passed, Life Membership that is postmarked by October 31, 2008. As of November 1, the cost will be \$175 to National. Annual Membership will remain the same at this time. It was suggested to delete the renewal present membership column on the Transmittal Form. Thank you."

National First Vice President Charlene Kee moved to approve her membership report. National Second Vice President Patty Piening seconded. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

National Second Vice President Patty Piening stated, "My report is on Pages 40-47. I do have a correction. In our volunteer hours, our total is 4,276. Our total evaluation is \$3,682,094. When you are sending in your books to JTC for their library, send them media mail. It is half the price of the regular mail. No loose papers, only bound books. My Chairman's Award goes to the Department of Indiana." Patty handed out John Tracy Clinic certificates. Patty stated, "The Committee met Monday morning. There were no recommendations. There was discussion regarding adopting a orchid. Their mother or father is a deceased Veteran. Please take the information back with you. Thank you."

National President Heidi Dineen recessed for lunch.

National President Heidi Dineen reconvened the meeting.

National Third Vice President Dee Kreiling stated, "Thanks to the people who assisted me during my accident in March, Patty Piening, Judy Fry, Heidi Dineen, and Headquarters Staff. My reports are on pages 48-57. My sincere appreciation for all the time and effort the NECWomen have given in the reporting. Keep up the great work. Our Youth Volunteers continue to grow. We raised \$40,782.67 for PAWS. My project was to raise

enough money for two dogs for disabled Veterans. Thank you for your loyalty and friendship. My Chairman's Award goes to IA-49 for the Auxiliary and Department of PA for the most increase in Youth Volunteers." Dee handed out certificates. "The Community Service Committee met on Monday. We do have two recommendations.

1. The Committee recommends to include "Go Green" with recycling values on plastic bottles, grocery bags, cans, paper, and cardboard to value at \$.05 per item or per pound for paper. If you receive reimbursement for any of these items, only mileage and hours are counted.

National Third Vice Dee Kreiling moved to adopt this recommendation. National Americanism Officer Lynda Taylor seconded. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

2. The Committee recommends to change the application for Blood Pin Awards to add "total lifetime pints" and on the second line is your yearly donation.

National Third Vice Dee Kreiling moved to adopt this recommendation. National Chaplain Leslie Wunderle seconded. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler stated, "My report is on pages 93-97. You will find that as of this point, we are meeting our budget line items. We have not yet changed the life dues from the reserve into the budget. These figures are as of June 30. Some of the line items we have not used. We have been watching our spending very carefully. The Operating Statement – I am really excited about the reimbursed expenses. Our bonding agency did give us back \$9,985 for the loss we suffered from one of our employees. This employee is in the process of being prosecuted. Overall financially, we are in great shape. The Convention Budget is on Page 96. When it comes to the audits, when you send that information back to me and we go through our checks. When we find the checks that were missing on yours, we make notes on the sheet. If we cannot find a deposit for your money, then we will come back to you. Our bank statements are reconciled monthly."

NEC Nancy Middleton, MI asked, "Under Reimbursement on Income, it shows we got the \$10,000 back. Where does it show as an expense?" National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler stated, "That was on last year's budget. It happened last July, 2007. It is under Expenses."

NEC Jeanine Reznik, OH asked, "We are over budget on Headquarters Travel. Can you explain why that is?" National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler stated, "Our staff travels to the President and Commander's Testimonial, and Officer Meetings. We used to put these under different line items such as National Officers. We decided to keep Headquarters expenses under Headquarter's line items."

National Treasurer PNP stated, "The Finance Committee met on Tuesday evening. The Finance Committee reviewed the budget for the 2008-2009 year. We accepted the recommendation from the Membership Committee to increase Life Dues from \$125 to \$175. Therefore, the Finance Committee recommends that the life membership increase \$125 to \$175. This would include \$100 to the general fund and \$75 to the Life Trust. This will come into effect October 1, 2008." PNP Susan Sisler moved to accept this motion. It was seconded by PNP Carol King, IL.

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson was asked by NEC Nancy Middleton, MI to explain how this change would affect the Departments and Locals. Betty stated, "This would be an automatic change to National. All your Local and Department ByLaws should say you pay XX number of dollars for a life membership on that level. Of that part, so many dollars will be National Funds, so many dollars would be Department Funds, and so many dollars would be Local Funds. The only thing that would be affected in your Local or Department would be the amount of money coming to National Headquarters."

Debbie Dant, IL asked, "I have a concern about the change date. Can we move that back? By the time we get home and get this information out to the Locals, they are only going to have a week or two to work on this. I would like to see us move it back to a later date." National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler stated, "I would like to move to amend my motion and change the date to November 1." National First Vice President Charlene Kee seconded. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

National President Heidi Dineen called for a vote on the whole motion to read, "The Life Membership would increase from \$125 to \$175. This would include \$100 to the General Fund and \$75 to the Life Trust Fund. This would come into effect November 1, 2008. Any Life Membership postmarked by October 31 would be accepted at the current rate. After asking for any further discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

National Americanism Officer Lynda Taylor stated, "My report is on Pages 64-69. I am so proud to stand before you today and give my Americanism report. We have surpassed \$4 million in our total evaluations!! It's not just the numbers, but the work that each of you do to support our Americanism programs. I have some totals that were not included in the report. Under reporting auxiliaries, we have 298. Under Volunteers, we have 4,218. For Total Hours we have 115,938. Total Evaluation is \$4,040,239. Our youth volunteers have increased by about 100 but the total evaluation is down. I am sorry to say there were no applicants for my Chairman's Award this year. Thank you to those auxiliaries who helped participate in the Poster, Flag Drawing and Essay contest. Please adhere to the deadlines."

National President Heidi Dineen stated, "I am sorry. The National Officers did have a recommendation which we did refer to the Americanism Committee. It was regarding the Freedom's Foundation Ladies Conference held in May. We were discussing the declining attendance and is it worth it for us to continue having this conference."

National Americanism Officer Lynda Taylor stated, "The Americanism Committee did discuss the Freedoms Foundation Conference. This would involve dropping the Freedom's Foundation Conference for the ladies for next year. It was recommended by the Committee to cancel the upcoming Conference as there appears to be a lack of interest, much higher costs, and conflicts of other National functions. I so move to accept this recommendation." National Second Vice President Patty Piening seconded. After much discussion on dropping it permanently, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

TAPE ENDED

National Americanism Officer Lynda Taylor stated, "There was also a recommendation to explore changing the Ladies Conference to the October time frame. At this time I would like to refer that to the newly elected Americanism Officer and her committee. There was a resolution that has already been referred to the Constitution and ByLaws committee to accept the Honor Flight Network as a new National Auxiliary Americanism Program. We do support that with the understanding that it does not replace Freedom's Foundation as our National Project but would be considered a co-project." Lynda presented the Patriotic Vests.

National Scholarship Officer Kay Gibbons stated, "My report is on Pages 58-63. What a year this has been! Mother Nature most certainly has presented the Country with evidence of her powers. Fuel prices (and everything else) have skyrocketed, but our members are remaining faithful to our Veterans, their communities and our students. You truly believe in our Auxiliary's Aims and Purposes. Congratulations to those Departments that increased their number of Volunteers. My Chairman's Award goes to, Runner Up – Department of FL, Winner – Department of PA. The Scholarship Committee met on Monday morning. There were 42 Scholarship applications to be judged. Kay announced Scholarship winners. There was a referral to the Constitution and ByLaws Committee that the high school and/or college transcript requirement be eliminated on the Career Start Scholarship application. We also recommend on this application that instead of

brothers and sister's names and ages, it be changed to children's names and ages. I move for the adoption of this recommendation." National Third Vice President Dee Kreiling seconded. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

Kay Gibbons continued moved to eliminate the high school and/or college transcript requirement from the Career Start Scholarship Application. Seconded by Deb Dant, IL. There was some discussion on what to use as verification in place of the transcripts. Kay stated, "We would use their eligibility with the school." National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION DEFEATED

NEC Nancy Middleton asked, "There were 42 scholarship applications. We gave out ten scholarships. There is money left over. What happens to this money?" National Scholarship Officer Kay Gibbons stated, "Part of the those funds were expended last year. This year's total is \$6,826." National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler stated, "Any left over funds are transferred to the Scholarship CD account. This sits in preparation if the time should come we do not have any donations for Scholarships. This was set up in 2001."

National Sergeant-At-Arms Sue Dick stated, "My report is on Page 87. If we can be of any assistance, please let us know. Thank you."

National Chaplain Leslie Wunderle stated, "My report is on Page 77. This year has been an honor and a learning experience. My goal this year was to create a manual. I had requested Departments and Local to send prayers. They have been coming in more and more. The manual is still in progress. Thank you."

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson stated, "The Constitution and ByLaws and the Manual in print this year. Thank you to those who made it happen, PNP Janice Hapner, PNP Brenda Kilgore, PNP Susan Sisler, PNP Carol King, and PNP Barbara Guth. I hope you have had an opportunity to read the recommendations in my report. There is still a lot of problems with the Locals and Departments. I don't have your answers. Your answers are within your Locals and Departments. I believe we need to take more time to review what is happening instead of making rash decisions. Remember the golden rule. I have two Departments; CT and LA need to turn in their ByLaws to be seated at the next Convention."

TAPE ENDED

Betty read the resolutions.

1. The Department of Ohio has submitted a resolution that the Honor Flight Network be a AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Americanism continuing project where as the Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor the American Veterans for all of their sacrifices by flying them to Washington DC to visit and reflect at their memorials; and where as the Honor Flight Network currently has 69 hubs, 39 states, and is aggressively extended their program to other cities across the national due to the fact that we are losing WWII veterans at the rate of 1200 per day. Honor Flight will continue to do whatever it takes to fulfill the dreams of veterans and especially our senior heroes. It is important to remember that they travel absolutely free; and whereas subsequent to WWII veterans, their efforts will then focus on our Korean and then Vietnam veterans, honoring them similarly; whereas in 2007 Honor Flight flew 6000 veterans to Washington Dc to see their memorial absolutely free and so desperately need our help to meet their goal to send 12,000 veterans in 2008 and on and on. Now, therefore it be resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the 2008 National Convention for further action to accept Honor Flight Network as an AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary continuing Americanism project. The committee recommended to adopt this resolution.
2. The Department of Florida AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary members feel that our Honorary members are very proud to become a part of our organization, proud to support our Aims and Purposes and they are very proud to be able to wear our official uniform and hat; and whereas the Department of Florida AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary members believe that when members are granted Honorary memberships, there are circumstances and /or qualifications that merit such distinction to allow them to become part of our great organization, and whereas stated in our Constitution "Honorary members are not eligible

for an elected office; however, they may hold an appointed office without vote, on the Local level; whereas we, the Department of Florida AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary members are known to wear our official uniform and official hat when we attend functions in the name of the AMVETS or Auxiliary. We are very proud to represent our organization in uniform. We are sure that our Honorary members would love to do the same, because they are proud of what we represent and who we are and what we do; and whereas the Department of Florida AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary would like all Honorary members to have the privilege to wear the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary official uniform and official hat and be it resolved that each Honorary member shall purchase a "Honorary Member Pin" to be worn on their official hat at all times. By wearing the "Honorary Membership Pin," this will state her status as a member. Let it be further resolved that the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary membership take this resolution into consideration granting our Honorary members the opportunity to wear the official uniform with the honorary pin attached to the hat. This was referred to the body for approval.

3. The Department of Michigan would like to change the National Constitution Section 3, Honorary Membership Third Paragraph last line without a vote, add with a vote in her Local Auxiliary (provided it is in their local ByLaws; whereas the national Constitution provides that a lady who does not have eligibility to join AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary may be accepted as an Honorary member; whereas, she shares our concern for our Veterans and our community; whereas we can appoint to an office or committee because she shows a desire to support our organization; whereas, she works next to us, collects money, works bingo, and chairs a committee, now therefore be it resolved that at the local level, in her Auxiliary, she is allowed a vote (provided it is in their local ByLaws. This was rejected in Committee. The Department of Michigan asked to have this resolution put back on the floor. This is something only for the Local auxiliary. It doesn't not affect the Department or National level.
4. The Department of North Carolina would like to a recommendation that any life member who is inactive in their local post for a period of 3 years shall be moved to the Member at Large list. This was defeated in Committee.

Betty continued, "The Training Committee report. We have had a lot of luck with this. We have two programs scheduled for this week. At the Pigeon Forge Training in January, we had 4 new states represented. Our Training this year is on January 24-26. The AMVETS are planning to hold a training seminar in Pigeon Forge this year during our training. Our seminars have always been positive. Thank you to everyone that has volunteered.

National President Heidi Dineen stated, "Our VAVS representative was not able to make it due to surgery. All of her properties have been turned over."

National Hospital Chairman Dottie Wustrow stated, "Thank you for the appointment. My report is on Pages 70-76. I do not have the results of the Yard Sale at this time. The Hospital Committee met. We have no recommendations. Thank you."

National President Heidi Dineen recessed the meeting for the day.

**AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY
2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION
MINUTES**

Thursday, August 7, 2008

National Chaplain Leslie Wunderle gave the Invocation.

National Sergeant-At-Arms Sue Dick presented the Colors.

National Sergeant-At Arms Sue Dick led The Pledge of Allegiance.

National Executive Administrator Kellie Haggerty read roll call.

NEC PNP Brenda Kilgore, Council of NEC President, stated, "The Council of NEC met on Monday. There were 24 NEC's and 26 guests present. The Committee discussed one problem, the question of inappropriate dress for people working at Convention and the inability to determine who is an employee and who is a volunteer. Therefore, the Committee has one recommendation. This is a referral to the Executive Board. We are asking the Headquarters staff to wear golf style shirts or professional dress with name badges or shirt embroidery identifying them as Headquarters staff at Convention and NEC." PNP Brenda Kilgore moved to accept this referral. Rosemary Blachowski, NY seconded. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

Brenda continued, "The 2009 Council of NEC President will be PNP Brenda Kilgore. Thank you."

National President Heidi Dineen stated, "If you have any problems with Headquarters' staff and their appearance, please come and talk to me. That is my job."

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson stated, "This is a referral to the Executive Board and no action is required."

National President Heidi Dineen called for the NEC Reports.

NEC Marie Rorrio, MA stated, "My report is on Page 109. The Department of Massachusetts is very proud of Heidi and Ashley and all of their accomplishments." She introduced the incoming Department President, Martha Berry, who extended greetings.

National Americanism Officer introduced representatives Michael DeYalso, President and CEO of Freedom's Foundation and Jason last name inaudible. Vice President of Education for Freedoms. Mr. DeYalso extended greetings and thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

TAPE ENDED

NEC Gloria Jasinski, FL stated, "My report is on Page 103." She introduced new Department President Mary Lou Maslo.

NEC Karen Simmons, AK stated, "My report is on Page 101. We enjoyed having Madam President visit us this year. We ask for your support for Leslie Wunderle who is running for National Scholarship Officer this year." Karen introduced Theresa Fuller, a new Department Delegate and Sherri Fulton, President, Auxiliary 2."

NEC Shirley Cheatham, AZ stated, "My report is on Page 101." Shirley introduced the new Department President Denise Campbell and the new NEC, Sheila Jackson-Atchison.

NEC Irene Tellez, CA stated, "Greetings from California. Our new Department President is Michelle Scovil. My report is on Page 102."

NEC Beth Michael, GA stated, "My report is on Page 104. Thank you to everyone who sent PNP Doris Burdine cards. Please keep her in your prayers. Georgia has grown this year. We have worked hard in our programs. Beth introduced Department President Eloise Brandon.

NEC Norma Studebaker, IL stated, "My report is on Page 105. Our Department President is Leslie Nell." Norma introduced outgoing Department President Beth Ann Rufo. "Illinois is proud to announce that PNP Susan Sisler is a candidate for National Treasurer. We would appreciate your support."

NEC Marcia Adkins, IN stated, "Greetings from Indiana. Our leader for this year was Cathy Hammet and her theme was Believe It Achieve It By Working Together. My report is on Page 105." Cathy extended warm wishes.

NEC Kathy Berning, IA stated, "My report is on Page 106." Kathy introduced Department President, Carol Finger.

NEC Sharon Shippy, KS stated, "Hello from Kansas. My report is on Page 106. Kansas wishes you a successful Convention."

NEC Joyce Finn, KY stated, "Greetings from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. My report is on Page 107. Our membership year was a nightmare. Our First Vice President did not send our membership in monthly and we did not have any membership until April and May. Thank you to Headquarters staff for helping us getting our membership straightened out in time so we could be seated. We have 645 new members, 1 renewal, plus our Life." Joyce introduced Department President Pamela Smith-Wright.

Alt. NEC Sondra Watson, LA stated, "My report is on Page 107. We look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans in 2009."

NEC Kathryn Kiely, ME stated, "Greetings from the Pine Tree State. My report is on Page 108. We have no recommendations at this time." Kathryn introduced Department President Bonnie Ingraham, who extended greetings.

NEC Martha Knott, MD stated, "My report is on Page 108. Our volunteers are working very hard on our programs. We are a small state." Martha introduced Department President Linda Hoffman, who extended greetings.

NEC Pat Witcher, MI stated, "Greetings from Michigan. Our report is on Page 109." Pat introduced Department President Kathy Bhela, who extended greetings. Kathy introduced Immediate Past Department President Maureen Jackson, who also extended greetings.

NEC June Leuckel, MO stated, "My report is on Page 110." June introduced Immediate Past Department Diane Pruitt and Department President Pat Kessler. "Our evaluations are up in some areas and down in others. We have had a great year. Please send a Christmas card to "A Recovering Soldier" care of Walter Reed Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20307-5001."

Department President Adeline Clark, NE stated, "Our NEC was unable to come. We wish you a successful Convention."

Department President of New Jersey, Marion Kimbrough stated, "Our NEC was unable to make it today. We are continuing working with the homeless and with the Veterans. We had a good year working a lot with the community and the nursing homes."

NEC Rosemary Blachowski, NY stated, "Our report is on Page 111."

TAPE ENDED

Rosemary continued, "Please support Dottie Wustrow for National Hospital Chairman."

NEC Margie Rabb, NC stated, "Greetings. We would like your support for Sue Dick for National Sergeant-At-Arms." Margie introduced Eva Craver as Department President, who extended greetings.

NEC Charlene Schuchard, ND stated, "My report has been handed out. Have a great Convention."

Department President Jeannine Reznik, OH stated, "We have had an excellent year. The Auxiliaries raised approximately \$8,000 for Honor Flight this year. Please support Patty Piening for the office of National First Vice President and Kay Gibbons for the office of National Americanism Officer." Jeannine introduced Department President Sharon Meyer, who extended greetings.

NEC Shelby Rhodes, PA stated, "Greetings from Pennsylvania. Our report is on Page 115. We hope we have your support for Dee Krieling for the office of National Second Vice President." Shelby introduced Department President Vivian Showers, who extended greetings.

NEC PNP Mary Barrow, SC stated, "Our membership is down just a little, but other than that we are doing fine. My report is on Page 115. Our Department President Anna Hays could not be here." Mary introduced Department Third Vice President Patty Lewis, who extended greetings.

NEC Department of PNP Brenda Kilgore, TN stated, "My report is on Page 116. It has been a delight to watch Heidi grow." Brenda introduced Department President Annick Moore, who extended greetings.

NEC Diane Locke, TX stated, "We do a lot of great work in Texas." Diane introduced Department President Judy Connell who extended greetings.

Department First Vice Peggy Santuk, VA stated, "Greetings from the Department of Virginia. My report is on Page 117. We chartered a new Auxiliary in Pulaski, VA. For a small Department, our totals are strong."

NEC Betty Schleich, WA stated, "My report is on Page 117. Our membership was slow getting in this year." Betty introduced Department President Twila Mershon, who extended greetings.

NEC Joan Slek WI stated, "Marvell Ruppel's report is on Page 118. We have had a busy year. We are very pleased to add to 2 new Auxiliaries to our numbers, #32 and #50. Please support Lynda Taylor for the office of National Third Vice President." Joan introduced Department President Georgette Sampo who extended greetings.

PNP Carol King gave the Board of Trustees report. "The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday. A discussion was held regarding Honors and Awards. Three of our donors, PNP Doris Burdine, PNP Dorothy Murrell, and PNP Sylvia Lipowski, this is the last year they will present their awards. PNP Bonnie Scott will pick up the Community Service Award for the Department, PNP Doris Burdine's award. PNP Barbara Guth will pick up the Local Nursing Home Award, PNP Dorothy Murrell. Sylvia Lipowski's Award for the Department obtaining the most new Local Auxiliaries will now become a National Award. We will no longer have the PNP Bonnie Scott Youth Volunteer Award because the last couple of years, we have not received any applications. We have submitted the name of the 2009 Humanitarian to the AMVETS for approval. Thank you."

National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler presented the first reading of the 2008-2009 Budget.

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson read the second reading of the proposed resolutions.

1. The Department of Ohio has submitted a resolution that the Honor Flight Network be a AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Americanism continuing project where as the Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor the American Veterans for all of their sacrifices by flying them to Washington DC to visit and reflect at their memorials; and where as the Honor Flight Network currently has 69 hubs, 39 states, and is aggressively extended their program to other cities across the nation due to the fact that we are losing WWII veterans at the rate of 1,200 per day. Honor Flight will

continue to do whatever it takes to fulfill the dreams of veterans and especially our senior heroes. It is important to remember that they travel absolutely free; and whereas subsequent to WWII veterans, their efforts will then focus on our Korean and then Vietnam veterans, honoring them similarly; whereas in 2007 Honor Flight flew 6000 veterans to Washington Dc to see their memorial absolutely free and so desperately need our help to meet their goal to send 12,000 veterans in 2008 and on and on. Now, therefore it be resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the 2008 National Convention for further action to accept Honor Flight Network as an AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary continuing Americanism project.

PNP Betty Lawson moved to adopt this resolution. Jeannine Reznik, OH seconded. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION CARRIED

2. The Department of Florida AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary members feel that our Honorary members are very proud to become a part of our organization, proud to support our Aims and Purposes and they are very proud to be able to wear our official uniform and hat; and whereas the Department of Florida AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary members believe that when members are granted Honorary memberships, there are circumstances and /or qualifications that merit such distinction to allow them to become part of our great organization, and whereas stated in our Constitution "Honorary members are not eligible for an elected office; however, they may hold an appointed office without vote, on the Local level; whereas we, the Department of Florida AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary members are known to wear our official uniform and official hat when we attend functions in the name of the AMVETS or Auxiliary. We are very proud to represent our organization in uniform. We are sure that our Honorary members would love to do the same, because they are proud of what we represent and who we are and what we do; and whereas the Department of Florida AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary would like all Honorary members to have the privilege to wear the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary official uniform and official hat and be it resolved that each Honorary member shall purchase a "Honorary Member Pin" to be worn on their official hat at all times. By wearing the "Honorary Membership Pin," this will state her status as a member. Let it be further resolved that the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary membership take this resolution into consideration granting our Honorary members the opportunity to wear the official uniform with the honorary pin attached to the hat.

PNP Betty Lawson moved to adopt this resolution. Seconded by Gloria Jasinski, FL. After some discussion, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question. A standing vote was completed.

MOTION CARRIED

3. The Department of Michigan would like to change the National Constitution Section 3, Honorary Membership Third Paragraph last line without a vote, add with a vote in her Local Auxiliary (provided it is in their local ByLaws; whereas the national Constitution provides that a lady who does not have eligibility to join AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary may be accepted as an Honorary member; whereas, she shares our concern for our Veterans and our community; whereas we can appoint to an office or committee because she shows a desire to support our organization; whereas, she works next to us, collects money, works bingo, and chairs a committee, now therefore be it resolved that at the local level, in her Auxiliary, she is allowed a vote; provided it is in their local ByLaws.

Department of Michigan Delegate Maureen Jackson moved to bring this motion back on the floor for discussion and vote. Seconded by Sharon Colley, MI. After calling for discussion and hearing none, National President Heidi Dineen called for the question.

MOTION DEFEATED

National President Heidi Dineen called for any announcements.

Certificates were handed out.

National President Heidi Dineen recessed the meeting for the day.

**AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY
2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION
MINUTES**

Friday, August 8, 2008

National Chaplain Leslie Wunderle gave the Invocation.

National Sergeant-At-Arms Sue Dick presented the Colors.

National Sergeant-At Arms Sue Dick led The Pledge of Allegiance.

National First Vice President Charlene Kee introduced the White Clover Princess, who extended greetings.

National First Vice President Charlene Kee introduced the St. Judes and the St. Judes family. They expressed thanks and extended greetings.

TAPE ENDED

National President introduced the AMVETS National Service Foundation President Joe Kolano and Executive Director PNC Joseph Piening, who extended greetings.

National President Heidi Dineen introduced the National Commander for the Sons of AMVETS, Jay Williams, who extended warm greetings.

National President Heidi Dineen introduced PAWS and the PAWS family, who gave warm greetings and appreciation.

TAPE ENDED

National President Heidi Dineen introduced the John Tracy Clinic and the JTC family who extended greetings and thanked everyone for their support.

National President Heidi Dineen read roll call.

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson read Election Rules #5 and #6.

National President Heidi Dineen opened nominations for National First Vice President.

NEC Jeannine Reznik, OH nominated Patty Peining for National First Vice President. NEC Karen Simmons, AK seconded the nomination.

National President Heidi Dineen called for any other nominations for National First Vice President. After hearing none, she closed nominations.

National President Heidi Dineen opened nominations for National Second Vice President.

Shelby Rhodes, PA nominated Dee Krieling for National Second Vice President. National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson seconded the nomination.

National President Heidi Dineen called for any other nominations for National Second Vice President. After hearing none, she closed nominations.

National President Heidi Dineen opened nominations for National Third Vice President.

No name, WI nominated Lynda Taylor for National Third Vice President. PNP Brenda Kilgore, TN seconded the nomination.

National President Heidi Dineen called for any other nominations for National Third Vice President. After hearing none, she closed nominations.

National President Heidi Dineen opened nominations for National Treasurer.

PNP Carol King, IL nominated PNP Susan Sisler for National Treasurer. Department Delegate, Judy Fry, PA seconded the nomination.

National President Heidi Dineen called for any other nominations for National Treasurer. After hearing none, she closed nominations.

National President Heidi Dineen opened nominations for National Americanism Officer.

Department President Jeannine Reznik, OH nominated Kay Gibbons for National Americanism Officer. PNP Sylvia Lipowski, NY seconded the nomination.

National President Heidi Dineen called for any other nominations for National American Officer. After hearing none, she closed nominations.

National President Heidi Dineen opened nominations for National Scholarship Officer

NEC Karen Simmons, AK nominated Leslie Wunderle for National Scholarship Officer. National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler seconded the nomination.

National President Heidi Dineen called for any other nominations for National Scholarship Officer. After hearing none, she closed nominations.

National President Heidi Dineen opened nominations for National Chaplain.

PNP Dorothy Murrell, TX nominated Linda McGriff for National Chaplain. PNP Brenda Kilgore, TN seconded the nomination.

NEC Sharon Gore, TX nominated Jackie McFalls for National Chaplain. PNP Barbara Guth, KY seconded the nomination.

National President Heidi Dineen called for any other nominations for National Chaplain. After hearing none, she closed nominations.

National President Heidi Dineen opened nominations for National Sergeant-At-Arms.

PNP Bonnie Scott, NC nominated Sue Dick for National Seargent-At-Arms. NEC Margie Rabb, NC seconded the nomination.

National President Heidi Dineen called for any other nominations for National Sergeant-At-Arms. After hearing none, she closed nominations.

National President Heidi Dineen opened nominations for National President.

Lucille Henson, FL, nominated Charlene Kee for National President. National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler seconded the nomination.

National President Heidi Dineen called for any other nominations for National President. After hearing none, she closed nominations.

National President Heidi Dineen introduced all the candidates.

National History and Scrapbook Chairman, Mary Ann Barnes stated, "The History and Scrapbook Committee met. We only had 3 committee members able to make the meeting. Thank you for appointing me to this position."

National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler read the second reading of the 2008 - 2009 Proposed Budget.

National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler moved to approve the proposed Income at \$443,555. Seconded by PNP Betty Lawson, TN. National President Heidi Dineen asked for the discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler moved to approve the proposed Headquarter Expenses at \$201,212. Seconded by NEC Jeannine Reznik, OH. A question was raised regarding Headquarter's Salary. Susan stated "Last year we did not have an employee for four months. This is for a full year with a new employee at a salary rate and for increases." National President Heidi Dineen asked for further discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler moved to approve the proposed National President Expenses at \$37,000. Seconded by Kay Gibbons, OH. National President Heidi Dineen asked for the discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler moved to approve the proposed National Officers Expenses at \$46,400. Seconded by Leslie Wunderle, AK. National President Heidi Dineen asked for the discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler moved to approve the proposed Programs/Services Expenses at \$13,500. Seconded by Kay Gibbons. National President Heidi Dineen asked for the discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler moved to approve the proposed Publications Expenses at \$72,500. Seconded by Patty Piening, OH. National President Heidi Dineen asked for the discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National Treasurer PNP Susan Sisler moved to approve the proposed Miscellaneous Expenses at \$1,250. Seconded by NEC Margie Rabb, NC. National President Heidi Dineen asked for the discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National Scholarship Officer Kay Gibbons finished giving out Scholarships.

National President Heidi Dineen recessed the meeting for the day.

**AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY
2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION
MINUTES**

Saturday, August 9, 2008

National Chaplain Leslie Wunderle gave the Invocation.

National Sergeant-At-Arms Sue Dick presented the Colors.

National Sergeant-At Arms Sue Dick led The Pledge of Allegiance.

National President Heidi Dineen read roll call.

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson read the Election Rules.

National Honors and Awards PNP Carol King stated, "Honors and Awards went excellent. Over 30 entries were received. Thank you for all of your hard work. To Locals, you only have to send one copy of your yearly report. We were given approval of our Humanitarian Award Winner from the AMVETS. It is Patty Petty for her work with Victory Junction."

National President Heidi Dineen stated, "National will be running the 2009 National Convention as we do not have a Department. For Convention Chair, I appoint Susan Sisler. For Co-chairs, I appoint Carol King and Heidi Dineen." PNP Betty Lawson moved for the adoption of these appointments. National Second Vice President Patty Peining seconded. National President Heidi Dineen asked for discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National President Heidi Dineen called for any old business or announcements.

National First Vice President Charlene Kee presented Madam President with a gift on behalf of the National Officers.

National Executive Administrator Kellie Haggerty read Credentials and voting strength was counted.

TAPE ENDED

National President Heidi Dineen re-opened the nomination of National First Vice President. Department President Jeannine Reznik, OH moved that nominations be closed and Patty Peining be elected by acclamation. Second inaudible. National President Heidi Dineen asked for discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National President Heidi Dineen re-opened the nomination of National Second Vice President. PNP Brenda Kilgore moved that nominations be closed and Dee Krieling be elected by acclamation. Seconded inaudible. National President Heidi Dineen asked for discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National President Heidi Dineen re-opened the nomination of National Third Vice President. NEC Joan Sirek, WI moved that nominations be closed and Lynda Taylor be elected by acclamation. Second inaudible. National President Heidi Dineen asked for discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National President Heidi Dineen re-opened the nomination of National Treasurer. NEC Norma Studebaker, IL moved that nominations be closed and PNP Susan Sisler be elected by acclamation. PNP Carol King, IL

seconded. National President Heidi Dineen asked for discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National President Heidi Dineen re-opened the nomination of National Americanism Officer. PNP Sylvia Lipowski moved that nominations be closed and Kay Gibbons be elected by acclamation. Second inaudible. National President Heidi Dineen asked for discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National President Heidi Dineen re-opened the nomination of National Scholarship Officer. NEC Karen Simmons, AK moved that nominations be closed and Leslie Wunderle be elected by acclamation. Second inaudible. National President Heidi Dineen asked for discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National President Heidi Dineen re-opened the nomination of National Chaplain. After asking for any more nominations, National President Heidi Dineen closed nominations. After a vote was taken, Linda McGriff was voted National Chaplain.

National President Heidi Dineen re-opened the nomination of National Sergeant-At-Arms. NEC Margie Rabb, NEC moved that nominations be closed and Sue Dick be elected by acclamation. Second inaudible. National President Heidi Dineen asked for discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National President Heidi Dineen re-opened the nomination of National President. Name not given moved that nominations be closed and Charlene Kee be elected by acclamation. Seconded inaudible. National President Heidi Dineen asked for discussion. After hearing none, she called for the question.

MOTION APPROVED

National Chaplain Leslie Wunderle gave the Benediction.

National Sergeant-At-Arms Sue Dick retired the colors.

National President Heidi Dineen closed the 2008 National Convention.