

## 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION MOTIONS

**Wednesday, August 23, 2023**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis (MA) moved, second by Sherry Marecek (FL) to accept the Convention Rules. **MOTION CARRIED**

National Americanism Officer Laura Bugaj (NY) moved, second by PNP Barbara Valley (OH) to accept Paulette Joy as timekeeper. **MOTION CARRIED**

National Honors and Awards Chair PNP Leslie Wunderle (WA) moved, second by PNP Patty Piening (FL) to adopt the agenda as it may be amended. **MOTION CARRIED**

PNP Kathy Berning (IA) moved, second by Denise Rodzen (ME) to approve the 2023 NEC minutes as published. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Thursday, August 24, 2023**

Sherry Marecek (FL) moved, second by PNP Kathy Berning to adopt the Convention Resolution to recategorize Fisher House as a Community Service project. **MOTION CARRIED**

National Honors and Awards Chair PNP Leslie Wunderle (WA) moved, second by Linda Hoffman (MD) to bring the referral from the Board of Trustees to the floor. **MOTION CARRIED**

PNP Marvell Ruppel (WI) moved, second by Donna Smith (NY) to add to the Constitution under Board of Trustees – “The Board of Trustees will act as the long-range planners to ensure that our history is maintained, and the goals of our organization are adhered to. The Board will provide strategic action steps to promote the growth, financial support, and operation of AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary. **MOTION CARRIED**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by National Training Chair PNP Linda McGriff to change the following Bylaw: Article V Standing Committee, Section 1 h: delete the following” an Annual Training Seminar.” And change to “an Annual Training seminar may be offered.” This will now read: “The President shall appoint a Training Chairman. Other members will be used to provide training as needed by the Chairman. This Committee shall be responsible for conducting seminars and workshops at National Convention and the NEC meeting. An annual training seminar may be offered. Training will be provided upon request. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **CONSTITUTION:**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by PNP Evelyn McElvin to change the following Bylaw: Article XII: Discipline Section 2 and add a new C: “If an accused refuses to attend the grievance hearing, her request for an appeal should not be allowed.” And re-letter the remaining letters.

Article XII: Discipline, Section 3 under National Level 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. After the last sentence add: Violations of the canteen rules are disciplined by AMVETS. More serious infractions such as conduct unbecoming an auxiliary member are handled through the Auxiliary Discipline procedure.

This a recommendation of the AMVETS Judge Advocate to clarify a situation that arose in a Department. The passage will now read:

“The seriousness and possible legal ramifications of the above should at all times be considered. The constitutional rights and responsibilities of membership shall always be the first priority. Personality conflicts and problems are not an issue for infringing on the members constitutional

rights. Problems from the Post Clubroom are under the jurisdiction of AMVETS or licensing laws and shall be handled by AMVETS. Violations of the canteen rules are disciplined by AMVETS. More serious infractions such as conduct unbecoming an auxiliary member are handled through the Auxiliary Discipline procedure.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Manual**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by PNP Kathy Berning to change:

Page 22; 16<sup>th</sup> bullet under Basic Requirements of All Local Auxiliaries: change 1 to 2: "A Local Auxiliary may grant up to two (2) Honorary Memberships per year, which will be reviewed annually.

Page 49 under Child Welfare and also on page 50: Worchid program. Delete this program. There is not a place on the AMVETS website with information regarding this program although our Manual states AMVETS and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary assumes responsibility for these children. Any Auxiliary that continues to support this program would continue to do so under Child Welfare, it just won't be recognized as a national program.

Section 5 Awards: Update to reflect current PNP Donors.

Installation: National, Department and Local add when to bang gavel and the number of raps of the gavel to sit and stand.

Change the term of Council of NEC Chairman's term run from Spring NEC to Spring NEC.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **From the History & Scrapbook Committee**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by PNP Evelyn McElvin to change Department Historybook to Department Scrapbook with the following criteria:

Clarify the Department Scrapbook criteria as follows:

1. Table of Contents
2. Name of Department; President & PRO/Historian **and Year**
3. Officers' List (full name and position)
4. Pledge of Allegiance
  - a. Preamble (current version)
  - b. Code of Ethics
5. Bylaws (up-to-date and signed)
6. Year-End Service Reports signed by NEC (electronic signatures accepted)  
Each separately displayed with attachments, if needed

Clarify the Local Auxiliary Scrapbook Criteria as follows:

1. Table of Contents
2. Name of Department & Auxiliary Number
  - a. President's Name
  - b. PRO/Historian
  - c. Year
3. Charter Members
4. Officers' List (full name and position)
5. Pledge of Allegiance
  - a. Preamble (current version)
  - b. Code of Ethics

6. Bylaws (up-to-date and signed)
7. Year-End Local Service Report Forms signed by Local Auxiliary Chairman (electronic signatures accepted)  
Each separately displayed with attachments, if needed

**MOTION CARRIED**

**From the National Parliamentarian:**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by PNP Leslie Wunderle to change in the Manual:

Page 76-77 Under New Member Induction, on the line that states "The Obligation may be given by the President or Chaplain.", delete the word Chaplain so that only the President gives the obligation.

Page 78 under Department Installation add a paragraph to denote who can install the Department as taken from the Constitution. "The Department Officers shall be installed by a past Auxiliary Department President or past or current Auxiliary National Officer and shall assume their duties as provided in its Bylaws."

Page 77 under Local Auxiliary Installation add a paragraph to denote who can install the local auxiliary as taken from the Constitution. "The Local Officers shall be installed by a Past Local Auxiliary President or current or past Auxiliary Department Officer, prior to Department Convention.

**MOTION CARRIED**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by PNP Leslie Wunderle that as of May 1, 2024, increase the volunteer hour evaluation from \$20.00 to \$30.00. Increase the mileage allowed from \$0.50 to \$0.65 to be in compliance with the IRS standard mileage amount allowed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by PNP Charlene Kee to change the Manual and Convention Digest criteria for judging all Department level entries and the Department of the Year Award to as follows:

**Point System to Determine the Department Award Winners:**

- The largest percentage of total evaluation over total evaluation reported last year. Highest percentage receives gets 10 points.
- Total evaluation divided by total membership as of May 31<sup>st</sup>. Highest evaluation gets 10 points.
- The highest percentage of Auxiliaries reporting (the number of Auxiliaries reporting divided by the total number of all Auxiliaries). Highest percentage gets 10 points.
- Reporting synopsis as sent on Year End Forms sent to the National Officer.

**Point System to Determine the Department of the Year Award:**

- The largest percentage of total evaluation over total evaluation reported last year. Highest percentage gets 10 points.
- Total evaluation divided by total membership as of May 31<sup>st</sup>. Highest evaluation gets 10 points.
- The highest percentage of Auxiliaries reporting (the number of Auxiliaries reporting divided by the total number of all Auxiliaries). Highest percentage gets 10 points.
- Reporting synopsis as attached to the Department of the Year Application Form, as stated in the Convention Digest.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **From the Community Service Committee**

- National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by PNP Carol King that: donation of platelets be evaluated at \$300.00 (if not being paid)
- Under Official Uniform add white to read “Black or White closed heel shoes and black/white handbag to match shoe choice.”

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **From the Scholarship Committee**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by Donna Tolland (MD) to create a new scholarship: AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Trade Scholarship.

Guidelines and Eligibility: The AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Trade Scholarship has been established to assist those who are entering the trades. The applicant must be entering an accredited skill trade school.

The applicant must be an Auxiliary member or the son, daughter, stepchild, grandchild, or step-grandchild of a current member of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary who has been accepted into an accredited Trade School.

The remainder of the application will mirror the Career Start Application.

Up to two \$500 scholarships will be awarded.

**MOTION CARRIED**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by Debbie Beck (FL) that: On the College Support under eligibility add “or a current member” because a graduating senior maybe 18 at the time of completing the application.

Under the checklist add a box Completed Current Application.

Under the Career Start under the eligibility section remove the word “National” so it now reads “The applicant must be a current member of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and must have completed at least one semester/quarter of study at an accredited technical school, business, college, or university.

Update eligibility requirements in the convention digest to match the scholarship applications.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **From the Child Welfare Committee**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by Donna Tolland (MD) that in the Manual, on Page 105 add after receipts “as determined by the program.”

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **From the Americanism Committee**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by Donna Tolland (MD) to Allow mileage and a 10-hour evaluation to be claimed when attending the Freedoms Foundation Adult Conference.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **From the Membership Committee**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by PNP Kathy Berning (IA) (MD) that on the membership application under the Eligibility section add the date we were chartered September 14, 1940, when reprints are ordered.

**MOTION CARRIED**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by Shirley Sochia (NY) that on the membership application add to the line of name of AMVET relative, living, or deceased, to be able to circle either of those and to shrink the Post line, when reprints are ordered.

**MOTION CARRIED**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by Linda Hoffman (MD) to change the Honorary Member dues to \$15.00 starting 9/1/2023 and to always increase when the annual member dues increase.

**MOTION CARRIED**

National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis moved, second by PNP Kathy Berning (IA) No Renew to Life will be accepted during the moratorium 1/1/24 through 8/31/24. New life membership will be accepted year-round.

### **Saturday, August 26, 2023**

Motion by National Treasurer/PNP Barbara Guth (KY), second by Linda Hoffman (MD) to approve the 2023 - 2024 income for operations be \$544,350.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by National Treasurer/PNP Barbara Guth (KY), second by Donna Tolland (MD) that the 2023 – 2024 expenses for Headquarters operations be \$277,462.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by National Treasurer/PNP Barbara Guth (KY), second by PNP Carol King (IL) that the National President line item for 2023 – 2024 be \$44,000.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by National Treasurer/PNP Barbara Guth (KY), second by PNP Kathy Berning (IA) that the 2023 – 2024 National Officers line item be \$82,900.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by National Treasurer/PNP Barbara Guth (KY), second by Donna Tolland (MD) that the 2023 – 2024 Programs/Services line item be \$16,500.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by National Treasurer/PNP Barbara Guth (KY), second by PNP Evelyn McElvin (FL) that the 2023 – 2024 Publications line item be \$41,000.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by National Treasurer/PNP Barbara Guth (KY), second by National Hospital Officer Laurie Shea (IL) that the line item for Miscellaneous be \$800.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

National Parliamentarian Heidi Dineen-Serpis (MA), second by PNP Charlene Kee (FL) to accept the Election Rules.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by National President Karin Simmons (AK), second by National Honors and Awards Chairman/PNP Leslie Wunderle (AK) to adjourn.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Post-Convention NEC Saturday, August 26, 2023 Post-Convention NEC Meeting**

Motion by National Treasurer/PNP Barbara Guth (KY), second by National Parliamentarian/PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis (MA) to approve the 2024 National Convention income be \$25,800.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by National Treasurer/PNP Barbara Guth (KY), second by National Scholarship Officer Laura Bugaj (NY) to approve the 2024 National Convention expenses be \$25,800.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Barbara Montagne (AK) moved, second by Donna Smith (NY) to nominate/elect PNP Leslie Wunderle (AK) to a one (1) year term on the Finance Committee. Kathy Hays (KY) moved, second by PNP Patty Piening (FL) to nominate/elect PNP Kathy Berning (IA) to a one (1) year term on the Finance Committee. PNP Kathy Berning elected. **MOTION CARRIED**

National Treasurer PNP Barbara Guth (KY) moved, second by PNP Patty Piening (FL) that all Officers themes and programs by approved under one (1) motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

- National President’s Theme: “Foster Connections.”
- National President’s Project: National Foster Parent Association (NFPA)
- National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President’s Theme: “Unite Through Membership. Stay for the Journey”
- National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President’s Theme: “Impact the Future of a Child”
- National 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President’s Theme: “Anything is Pawsible”
- National Sergeant-at-Arms’ Theme: “Stand for Our Flag”
- National Scholarship Officer’s Theme: “Knowledge is Power and We Are Here to Empower You”
- National Hospital Officer’s Theme: “Stop the Stigma”
- National Americanism Officer’s Theme: “United We Stand. Divided We Fall”

**Appointments**

- 2024 Convention Chairman: Debby Dant (IL)
- Parliamentarian: PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis (MA)
- Junior AMVETS Coordinator: Denise Speigle (OH)
- Honors and Awards: PNP Leslie Wunderle (WA)
- History and Scrapbook: Paulette Joy (AK)
- Training Chairman: PNP Linda McGriff (TX)

Motion by National President Karin Simmons (AK), second by National Honors and Awards Chairman PNP Leslie Wunderle (AK) **MOTION CARRIED**

Carol King  
Minutes submitted by National Executive Director

November 20, 2023  
Date

Karin Simmons  
Approved by 2022 – 2023 National President

November 20, 2023  
Date

PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis  
Approved by National Parliamentarian

November 20, 2023  
Date