AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

SEC-OCTOBER 27, 2018

ROLL CALL: Don Cox (Interim President), Kurt Knechtle (1st Vice), Tom Serianni (Treasurer), Melvin Lane (JA), Ed Flack (Sgt. @ Arms), Erik Schmitz (Chaplain), Wendy Lane (Communications Officer), Mary McCarthy (Secretary) and Guest Tom McNamara, 1st Vice, AMVETS National

Motion to approve the minutes from the June Convention made by Ed Flack and 2nd by Melvin Lane. Motion carried.

Tom shared that he has paid bills but will give more detail during his report.

**Report:**

**1st Vice-Kurt Knechtle**

There are 24 Chapters with 597 Riders and supporters. Kurt will have more detailed reports in the future as he has just taken over this position.

**2nd Vice-Kurt Knechtle**

There are 24 chapters and 21 of them have reported. Kurt is working to find out why the other 3 have not reported.

Last Year Dept. of Florida reported $1,643,980. This year we are behind by $628, 571.

Top 5 reporting chapters are 44, 113, 312, 26 and 2.

Those not reporting are 19, 34 and 42.

Kurt still has Canes but has not received any forms lately. He has canes and applications with him today and can easily get more to any chapter that needs them.

**JA-Melvin Lane**

Welcome. He is excited that we will be opening up better communications with the chapters. He stated that only 7 chapters have SOP’s which are required. Get them in. He will be reaching out to the chapters who don’t have them.

**Communications officer-Wendy Lane**

Wendy’s report is in the book. She has created an e-mail account so everyone can easily connect with the board. If your e-mail changes please notify her. All forms, bi-laws, SOP’s and the constitution are on the website along with the manual. Take the time to print them and use them to gather information and training.

**Chaplain-Erik Schmitz**

Send any requests for prayer to his e-mail or the Dept. E-mail. Good or Bad. Share your blessings.

**Sargent @ Arms-Ed Flack**

Ed shared that vests need to be compliant. Police your chapters or contact him to assist if you have a rider who chooses to be resistant.

Cruise raffle tickets are out now. Each chapter will be issued 25 tickets to sell but please contact him when you need more. He suggested that if you can’t sell them then your chapter may buy them to complete your sale.

**Treasurer-Tom Serianni**

Invoices were paid for Mary, Kurt and Richard for National convention ($218 each)

$187 for our Bond

$232 or Heather At SEC and Convention in June

Basket $100

Convention books $79.74

Walgreens for Certificate holders (Walgreens)$17.55

Rosen Hotel for June rooms $284.94& $232.40

Go Daddy $20.17 & $107.88

Post office for PO Bo $41.00

Ed Flack Room @ National. $441.30

**Bank Balance** $5441.12

**Quick Books Balance** $5179.18 (Reflects paid out checks not cleared)

Motion by Don Cox to accept all reports as presented and 2nd by Melvin Lane. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Department of Florida is in a Trusteeship. Don will be the interim President. National will determine, based on information they receive from Don, when/if the Department will be released from trusteeship. Don will report all changes to the National. Communications officer and the Secretary will be very busy. Everyone needs to know what is going on, ALWAYS.

Once a month conference calls will be mandatory. Every other month will be the Board then the following month will be the Presidents of the chapters. If you can’t be on the call you need to notify Don for all board members and if you are a President you MUST have an alternate officer on that call. Calls will be on Sundays at 8pm. A schedule will be posted on our website. These calls are to share your concerns and ask for assistance on any issues you need help resolving.

Your officers need you to sell raffle tickets to assure that they will be able to attend meetings as your representatives. Mid year Rallies as well as National conventions cost money for travel, rooms and expenses. The only way the officers can attend is if our treasury can support that.

Ohio doesn’t pay dues, but they raise so much money that their treasury can support their officers attending these events.

**Tom McNamara-National 1st Vice**

Currently there is a realignment of positions. Kurt will move to 1st Vice effective Immediately. There is an opening for 2nd Vice that will be filled. Candidates who are interested should come forward to be interviewed. Wendy will be sending out a document from Tom showing timelines for various required documents. Not meeting deadlines will get your chapter suspended. Wendy will send out the deadlines to all Chapter Presidents and 1st Vice. All issues must be resolved by Convention to keep your chapter in good standing.

Tom stated that Kurt has handled his role as 2nd Vice in a very professional manner.

Discussions at National to take Trusteeship of Dept. of Florida was not done without a lot of discussion and consideration. National talked about how to help but a unanimous decision was made by the board. Also, the current board officers will remain in office.

**Questions from the floor:**

Marsha Perry (44) asked if 2nd Vice will be appointed. YES

Bob Oliveri stated that he would like to be considered for the office of 2nd Vice.

Ron Hoban states that he needs minutes on paper and Finance reports on paper. Tom told him that going forward those reports will be in the program again. He also said that finance reports will be e-mailed to all chapters. Minutes will also be posted on the Riders website.

Jim Marris (7467) would like to be considered for 2nd Vice.

Tom asked that the candidates who want to be considered should stay behind after the meeting.

Tom asked that all of the attendees give this board a chance to succeed. Standards will be set then met. When we plan rides or events, they need to be submitted to Wendy to put on our website. All fundraisers need to be supported and advertised.

Tom reminded all that the phone calls will be mandatory.

Bottle raffle netted $172 and was won by Erik Schmitz.

A Rider (unidentified from Chapter 44) asked if the schedule for calls needed to be more aggressive. Tom stated that he felt this program and schedule was very fluid and that we needed to get the Presidents on board to determine the answer to that question. At this time that is our plan but can be changed if required.

Tom said that the Dept. of Florida is bigger than all states and we need to get our Riders to attend the SEC’s.

Our first call will be to assess our condition. Ted Cooper (81) asked if he can be on all calls. Tom shared that E-Board calls sometimes share confidential information that does not need to be shared with all chapters, therefore, for now, the calls with the e-board will be closed to board members only. Tom also stated that Department Officers have 24 hours to return phone calls from Chapter Officers or members.

Ed Flack shared that part of the reason we are where we are today is that conference calls were not happening nor were they attended.

A suggestion was made to have a role call at the beginning and the end of the call should happen, however, the national Secretary has the ability to see both who logs on and who logs off and when.

James Doll from 113 feels that once we get all presidents on these calls, that information needs to be shared in a timely manner with all members.

Board Members will be visiting chapters. A suggestion to make those visit unannounced was made, however, Don shared that he feels some advance notice is good.

**Good and Welfare**

None

Meeting was adjourned.