



2018 National Convention Head Delegate Report

Orlando, FL

Business Sessions August 8 – 11, 2017

Session 1: Wednesday, August 8

- Today's session opened with convention chairman PNP Charlene Key (FL) holding a moment of silence in recognition of National Snappiest Sue Dick (NC).
- National President Marvell Ruppel gave her welcome remarks
- Convention was called to order by President Marvell Ruppel (WI)
- Opening prayer was led by National Chaplain Peggy Liss (MI)
- National Sgt-at-Arms Cindy Rice (OH) posted the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Introduction of all National Officers
- Introduction of all Past National Presidents
- Readings of the Preamble by National 1st VP Dee Baggett (FL), Code of Ethics by National 2nd VP Joan Sirek (WI), Aims and Purposes by National 3rd VP Karin Simmons (AK), and Definition of Americanism by National Americanism Officer Maureen Jackson (MI) followed.
- There was then an impromptu presentation by the Wisconsin delegation of "On Wisconsin"
- Roll call of current National Officers was taken by National Executive Director Carol King (MD)
- Correspondence was read by National Executive Director Carol King (MD)
- President Ruppel stepped out for a bit. National First Vice Barbara Valley chaired.
- The First Credentials Report was distributed
- Convention rules were read and a motion was made by National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson (TN) to adopt the convention rules. Second by PNP Linda Taylor (WI)
- National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson (TN) moved to accept the Convention Agenda. Dee Baggett 2nd the motion. It was carried.
- Reading and adoption of the 2017 NEC minutes
- PNP Betty Lawson (TN) requested a moment of person privilege. She wanted to recognize those who served as National Officers during her year as National President.
- Reports and recommendations of the National Officers and/or Committee Chairwomen
 - ❖ National Second Vice Dee Baggett (FL) spoke about the Girl Scout awards. Their Gold is equal to the Eagle Scout level. She will be mailing out information to all Department 2nd Vices to follow through on.
There has been a lot of trouble with John Tracy Clinic and getting any brochures or a time for a visit. Any certificates from them are NOT available at this convention. Contact calls are frequently not returned.
Do we want to continue sending our dollars here?
We have received NO support from John Tracy Clinic.
 - ❖ National First Vice Barbara Valley (OH) – Membership numbers are down from last year by 827.
New Auxiliaries chartered were Auxiliary #64 Lewiston, KY
Auxiliary #9 Brunswick, PA
Georgia and Ohio had 2 charters that were turned in.
Total National Membership numbers for 2018 are 36,203



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She had a question about what “Rejoin” means. That means those people who renew a membership AFTER the deadline (ie. Feb 3), then the MUST re-establish their eligibility.

- ❖ National 3rd Vice Joan Sirek (WI) talked about her official tour to Paws With A Cause tour in Wayland, MI during October. She was able to cuddle with puppies during the tour.
- ❖ National President Marvell Ruppel returned
- ❖ National President Marvell Ruppel (WI) – Thank you to National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson for so much help during her year, calls, texts, etc.. Also many thanks to National Executive Director PNP Carol King.
Holly ? and delegates sang “God Bless the USA”
President Ruppel’s project this year was “Never Forget”, and her focus was to help replace antiquated lighting at Freedom’s Foundation at Valley Forge, PA. There is no other program in the United States whose primary mission is to “educate about American rights and responsibilities, honor acts of civic virtue and challenge all to reject apathy and get involved”.
- ❖ National Treasurer Barbara Guth (KY)– National Assets total \$992,412.18. National Liabilities/Equity total the same (balance). Total National donations to all National projects totals \$200,239.34. Total monies budgeted for 2018 National convention \$25,395. Actual Convention income totals \$8,066. Actual expenses total \$10,376.43, a loss of \$2,310.43.
- ❖ National Americanism officer Maureen Jackson (MI) – She spoke on Americanism and related information about Freedoms Foundation. Through the selling of lighthouse pins and donations National was able to raise \$30,625.50 for the Freedoms Foundation lamp posts, at \$1,000 per lamp post.
There will be a Hospitality Room with Freedoms Foundation on Thursday night from 6:00 – 10:00.
- ❖ National Scholarship officer Karin Simmons (AK) – There were fewer volunteers during the last year but there was an increase in evaluations. Total donations to the Scholarship fund were \$10,630.
- ❖ The applications will be updated next year. This is done about every 2 years.

- National Sons Commander Harold Collins came on the floor. He talked about his project “Act of Heros” located in Shepardsville, KY to end veterans’ suicide. There are 22 veterans’ suicides each day, so every day Commander Collins does 22 push-ups.
He presented President Ruppel an etched mirror.

- ❖ National Sergeant-At-Arms Cindy Rice (OH) – Thanked her pages and volunteers.
If you need something you’re advised to hold the PAGE sign up so it can be seen. Pages are wearing green sashes.
Reminders to wear you badges, put phones on vibrate, limit table discussion, watch what you wear on the floor. Thursday is T-Shirt day. She’s busy busy.!



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- The Peoples Republic of China/Tiawanse delegation came onto the convention floor.
- The National Saddest Tom Payton and current National Snappiest Martha Knott (MD) came onto the floor to a rousing welcome of BOO'S and table banging!!
They were pleased to announce that they were able to grant several nursing scholarships. There was also a \$100 donation to PAWS in the name of deceased Snappiest Sue Dick (NC).
The newly elected Saddest for 2018-2019 is Sandy Voorheis (OH).
 - ❖ National Chaplain Peggy Liss (MI) – Peggy explained the reason for ALL the officers' bare feet! They were showing sympathy to her because of a spider bite on her foot that had flared up.
She advised everyone to submit Deceased Notices as soon as you receive them! Some of them have been held up for months. The National Executive Board ruled that cards would be sent out if noticed is received within two (2) months of the death. After two (2) months, but no more than four (4) months a Thinking of You card will be sent.
There is a list of all deceased members that were received during this year.
 - ❖ National VAVS Representative Marie Rorrio (CT) – The National Service Foundation has set aside \$5,985 for the Parke Youth Scholarship. They have also set aside a certain amount for grants to VA's and VS's for projects.
 - ❖ National Hospital officer Amy Stopyra (PA) – Thank you's to Marie Rorrio (CT) and PNP Patty Piening (FL) and others for a year's worth of help.
St. Jude's donations totaled \$43,684.21.
 - ❖ Council of NEC's Chairman Heidi Dineen-Serpis (MA) – 38 people were in attendance at the Pre-Convention NEC meeting.
The new Chairwoman is PNP Leslie Wunderle (WA)
There are no resolutions or recommendations.
 - ❖ National Training Chairman PNP Betty Lawson (TN) – Training is a hot topic. Some things cannot be changed, but we are making efforts to manage and schedule meeting for better flow.
Leadership Training will once again be held in January (2019) in Pigeon Forge, TN. This year's theme will be "How many Shades of Respect". Cost of the seminar is \$185 which includes a shared room. Further information can be located on the National Website.
 - ❖ National Executive Director PNP Carol King (MD) - National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary is now on Facebook! Membership cards are being printed and will be mailed out when we return from convention.
990's continue to be a problem. It is your responsibility to provide Headquarters your acceptance letter/Form 990 from the IRS.
Deadlines are set in the Constitution and Bylaws and Manual. They are there for a reason. If you can't meet yours we can't meet ours. If an emergency comes up please contact us!



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- Announcements
- Benediction by National Chaplain Peggy Liss (MI)
- Convention recessed until Thursday morning
- Lunch
- Joint Opening Ceremony scheduled – Jackie Smith, NFL hall of fame tight end (St. Louis Cardinals and Dallas Cowboys) sang
The speaker was Robert Wilkie the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- The evening activities were Florida Night in the Caribbean Ballroom.

Session 2: Thursday, August 9

- Session 2 was called to order by National President Marvell Ruppel (WI)
- Invocation was given by National Chaplain Peggy Liss (MI)
- Pledge of Allegiance – National Sergeant-At-Arms Cindy Rice
- Roll Call was taken by National Executive Director PNP Carol King
- National 3rd Vice Joan Sirek (WI) – forgot to state “Wisconsin is very proud of Madam President”
- Printed copy of Credentials Report #2 was passed out
- Pat Kessler (MO) on the POW/MIA board for the Jefferson Barry site stated that they do school programs, community outreach, DNA collection for veteran repatriation, museum
- Madam President Ruppel (WI) left the floor
- Reports and Recommendations of NEC women and Unchartered States
Reports began with Wisconsin (p. 113 in the convention book) and continued to the end.
NEC women gave any recommendations, thanked President Ruppel, and introduced their new Department Presidents and those running for National Offices:
 - ❖ Joan Sirek (WI) – National 2nd Vice
 - ❖ Karin Simmons (AK) – National 3rd Vice
 - ❖ Peggy Liss (MI) – National Scholarship Officer
 - ❖ Maureen Jackson (MI) – National Americanism Officer
 - ❖ Faye Richardson-Green (MI) – National 3rd Vice
 - ❖ Denise Rodzen (ME) – National Americanism Officer
 - ❖ Mary Lanphere (NY) – National Chaplain
 - ❖ Alice Delzer (ND) – National Chaplain
 - ❖ Barbara Valley (OH) – National President
 - ❖ Cindy Rice (OH) – National Sergeant-At-Arms
 - ❖ Amy Stopyra (PA) – National Hospital Officer
 - ❖ Kristie Frye (TN) – National Hospital Officer



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- National Convention Chairman Charlene Key (FL) thanked all first time attenders to this years National Convention
- National 1st Vice Barbara Valley gave her recommendations to National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson
- National President Ruppel (WI) returned to the floor
- National Scrapbook Chairman Charmaine Wagner asked for pictures that anyone has and gave her email address: gwagner01@frontier.com
- NEC woman Pat Michalski (MI) asked everyone to look in their rooms. The hotel had lost her briefcase which contained all the information she needed and banquet tickets
- Second and final reading of all Resolutions
- National Treasurer Barbara Guth had the budget passed out.
Presentation of the proposed 2018-2019 budget. Requested that people look at it and it will be voted on tomorrow.
- PNP Heidi Dinen-Serpis (MA) presented a recommendation (located on p.92 of the convention book) for Social media guidelines.
(ND) requested to add to the last paragraph that “the page should be shared with the National Organization”. PNP Serpis moved, Faye Wiggins (TX) 2nd. This was adopted.
- National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson stated that ALL resolutions that are submitted have to go through the By-Law committee.
- Candice Clemens (NY) presented a recommendation to change Page 5 Article IV under Membership and Dues. Changing the eligibility for membership to those “of any lineage”. Proposed so great-granddaughters (or further back) would be able to join. There was much discussion on this. This was not adopted.

Break – Lunch (Junior AMVETS luncheon)

- National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson presented a referral for discussion; ** the inclusion to evaluations of Pull tabs. 10 min. phone cards would be added and they wish to use these as an Americanism project and sent to vets. They would be used for veterans only. The evaluation for each 10 min. card would be \$1, no miles and no hours. Moved by PNP Betty Lawson; 2nd ??, Motion carried. This was adopted.

Attached are ALL further By-Law proposals

- VAVS Chairman Marie Rorrio resigned as VAVS rep.
- Announcements by National President Marvell Ruppel (WI)
- Benediction by National Chaplain Peggy Liss (MI)
- Convention recessed until Friday morning
- Honors and Awards session resumes after lunch and continues most of the afternoon.



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Session 3: Friday, August 10

- Session 3 was called to order by National President Marvell Ruppel (WI)
- Invocation was given by National Chaplain Peggy Liss (MI)
- Pledge of Allegiance – National Sergeant-At-Arms Cindy Rice
- Roll Call was taken by National Executive Director PNP Carol King
- Printed copy of Credentials Report #2 was passed out
- National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson – reading of Election rules #5 and #6
Presentation of a recommendation to increase life memberships to \$250 and place \$10 annually on honorary members, to be effective January 2019. Information will be passed out.
- National Scholarship Officer Karin Simmons reported on the Scholarship winners.
There were 2 National winners of \$750 each from Michigan (Molly and Elizabeth) I could not get all the names as they were read too fast. No information was passed out.
- AMVETS 51st National White Clover Princess Abby Gilberna came onto the floor
- National Americanism officer Maureen Jackson held a drawing for a trip to Freedoms Foundation; Winners were Deb Gass (#91 IN), and Ann ?? (WI)
- Reports and Recommendations of Committee Chairman
 - ❖ Convention Chairman – PNP Charlene Key
 - ❖ Honors and Awards – PNP Linda McGriff
 - ❖ History and Scrapbook – Cathy Tratz
 - ❖ Board of Trustees – PNP Sylvia Rowland
- Nomination of National Officers

	Nominated By	Seconded By
First Vice President		
Dee Baggett (FL)	PNP Charlene Key (FL)	PNP Heidi Dinen-Serpis (MA)
Second Vice President		
Joan Sirek (WI)	Darlene Hempel (WI)	PNP Linda Taylor (WI)
Third Vice President		
Faye Richardson-Green (MI)	Pat Michalski (MI)	PNP Charlene Key (FL)
Karin Simmons (AK)	PNP Leslie Wunderle (AK)	PNP Heidi Dinen-Serpis (MA)
Americanism Officer		
Maureen Jackson (MI)	Pat Michalski (MI)	PNP Patti Piening (FI)
Denise Radzen (ME)	PNP Heidi Dinen-Serpis (MA)	PNP Leslie Wunderle (AK)
Scholarship Officer		
Peggy Liss (MI)	Pat Michalski (MI)	PNP Leslie Wunderle (AK)



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Hospital Officer		
Amy Stopyra (PA)	PNP Dee Riley	PNP Leslie Wunderle (AK)
Kristie Frye (TN)	??? (TN)	Jennifer ????? (TN)
Chaplain		
Mary Lampheer (NY)	NEC Laura Bugh (NY)	PNP Patti Piening (FL)
Alice Delzer	Sandra Kruze (ND)	PNP Linda Taylor (WI)
Sergeant-at-Arms		
Cindy Rice (OH)	NEC Lynn McCauley (OH)	PNP Patti Piening (FL)
President		
Barbara Valley (OH)	NEC Lynn McCauley (OH)	PNP Sylvia Rowland (NC)

- PNP Barbara Guth – 2nd and Final reading of the Proposed budget – These papers are attached, I will not add them here.
- National Junior President Courtney Collins was escorted to the floor along with all the Juniors. They were able to raise \$8,000 for her project, which was St. Jude's. Tennessee chartered a new unit. Nationwide they have 418 members.
- AMVETS 1st Vice presented a check to Madame President for \$100, from his post. AMVETS 2nd Vice Jan Brown also presented a gift
- Presentation of the Focus Program by Regional Service Director Denise Bugaj on "Planning Your Legacy". Regarding Day to day care, benefits, needing a Dr. statement, what you do; meds, food, etc...
For information you can email her at denise.bugaj@va.gov or call 716-857-3351 (w), or 240-678-9091 (cell) 27/7. "Don't take no for an answer!" – Apply Apply Apply
- John Tracy Clinic representative ??? Kent presented a movie and brief talk. Donations were \$26,644.50
- St. Jude's representative Ashley Ramsdale came to the floor. They have 36 offices nationwide. Donations were \$43,359.21
- National Scholarship officer Karin Simmons (AK) reported she received 47 applications. Of these 33 were disqualified for a variety of reasons; missing the correct number of recommendations, old applications, not eligible for the specific scholarship they applied for. She is working on a "How to complete the form" sheet.
- National VAVS Representative Marie Riorro spoke on the James H. Park Scholarship, for student volunteers at Veterans Hospitals. 150 hospitals can each send in 1 student to apply for the scholarship. The Chief of Volunteer services is the person responsible to apply.



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PAWS representative Deb Davis came to the floor. She brought Kevin Stone, an Army veteran and PAWS client. Donations were \$65,231.63. Deb announced that PAWS will be initiating a PAWS Founders Award beginning in 2019 and presented annually. This award will go to the

Auxiliary who raises the most money for PAWS. PAWS has a 30 total from the Auxiliary of just over \$1,000,000

- Freedoms Foundation Jason and David came onto the floor. They gave a brief presentation of Freedoms Foundation and the programs there. Donations were \$55,521.50
- National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson presented the Final version of all the By-Laws to be voted on. It was decided to vote on them a page at a time. Though a couple needed to be broken down in order to pass. As stated earlier. All By-Law information is attached, I will not add it here.
- “Meet the Candidate”
- Released for lunch
- General Reception and National Commanders and Presidents Banquet

Session 4: Saturday , August 11

- Session 4 was called to order 1 hour early by National President Marvell Ruppel (WI) so a General Caucus could be held
- Invocation was given by National Chaplain Peggy Liss (MI)
- Pledge of Allegiance – National Sergeant-At-Arms Cindy Rice
- Roll Call was taken by National Executive Director PNP Carol King
- PNP Linda Taylor (WI) moved that only those people in contested offices participate in the caucus. NEC Betty Wiggins (TX) seconded. This passed.
- All candidates were moved out into the hall. Each candidate for a contested office was brought in individually to give a brief presentation and answer any questions that were presented.
- Break
- National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson – reading of Election rules
- Final Credentials were presented
- Elections for 2018-2019 officers were held.



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➤ Michigan delegation had all 15 delegates present and on the floor to vote!!!

➤ Newly Elected National Officers 2018-2019

	Nominated By	Seconded By
First Vice President		
Dee Baggett (FL)	PNP Charlene Key (FL)	PNP Heidi Dinen-Serpis (MA)
Second Vice President		
Joan Sirek (WI)	Darlene Hempel (WI)	PNP Linda Taylor (WI)
Third Vice President		
Karin Simmons (AK)	PNP Leslie Wunderle (AK)	PNP Heidi Dinen-Serpis (MA)
Americanism Officer		
Denise Radzen (ME)	PNP Heidi Dinen-Serpis (MA)	PNP Leslie Wunderle (AK)
Scholarship Officer		
Peggy Liss (MI)	Pat Michalski (MI)	PNP Leslie Wunderle (AK)
Hospital Officer		
Kristie Frye (TN)	??? (TN)	Jennifer ????? (TN)
Chaplain		
Mary Lampheer (NY)	NEC Laura Bugh (NY)	PNP Patti Piening (FL)
Sergeant-at-Arms		
Cindy Rice (OH)	NEC Lynn McCauley (OH)	PNP Patti Piening (FL)
President		
Barbara Valley (OH)	NEC Lynn McCauley (OH)	PNP Sylvia Rowland (NC)

➤ By-Laws were presented by National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson (TN)

As stated, this is an attachment.

➤ AMVET Riders 1st Vice came onto the floor. The Riders have new members in ND, OH, NY, OH, WI, KY.

➤ National Treasurer Barbara Guth presented the budget and it was discussed and voted on. These papers are attached for your information.

➤ Member of the Year – Rose Whitte (ND)

➤ Local of the Year – Auxiliary 1992 (NY)

➤ Department of the Year – New York



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- Humanitarian Award – Washington State
- Vest Contest – there were 5 entries. Winner of \$105 is Sandy Kruz (ND)
- Winner of the basket is Dawn Todd (PA)
- Winner of Jack Daniels basket – Amy Stopyra (PA)
- Winner of the leather jacket – Char Wagner (WI)

- Winner of the 50/50 – Alice Delzer \$1400
- New Business???
- Announcements??

Installation by AMVETS is at 2:30 pm

There were presentation of gifts to President Marvell

Closing remarks by President Marvell

Singing of God Bless America by the entire convention floor led by newly elected chaplain Mary Lanpher

National Parliamentarian PNP Betty Lawson moved to adjourn, entire group seconded

Benediction given by National Chaplain Peggy Liss