



AMVETS NATIONAL  
FIRST DISTRICT

CONSTITUTION  
AND  
BY-LAWS

# AMVETS FIRST NATIONAL DISTRICT

## CONSTITUTION

We, the First National District of AMVETS, fully realize our responsibilities to our Country, State and District associate ourselves together for the following purposes.

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, to support, uphold and strengthen the principles and purposes stated in the constitution of AMVETS; to establish programs of regional importance and to coordinate the efforts of the constituent departments.

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME

The name of this association shall be the First National District of AMVETS (*American Veterans*) and it shall be referred to hereinafter as AMVETS.

### ARTICLE II

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide a means for the exchanging of information and ideas, i.e.; the exchange of minutes of S.E.C. meetings of the various departments that comprise the District. Provide for joint action by the Departments before the National Convention and the National Executive Committee of AMVETS or others deemed necessary on these issues where there is such general agreement among the departments as to warrant their acting jointly to achieve mutual goals.

## ARTICLE III

### ORGANIZATION

#### *Section 1.*

The First National District of AMVETS (American Veterans) shall be organized with a headquarters in the town and state of the National District Commander of this District, who shall be the District Commander.

#### *Section 2.*

The States that compose the First National District of AMVETS (American Veterans) shall be Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

## ARTICLE IV

### MEMBERSHIP

Any person who is a member in good standing of an AMVETS post in the Departments of New York, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and the States of New Hampshire and Vermont shall be a member of National District One and shall be entitled to attend meetings of the District.

## ARTICLE V

### MEETINGS

#### *Section 1.*

The annual meeting of this organization shall be held at the same time and place and in conjunction with the National Convention of AMVETS (American Veterans).

#### *Section 2.*

The annual meeting shall comprise the following:

- (a) Each AMVETS (American Veterans) Post within the District shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate.
- (b) Each Department within the District shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and the delegate shall be the Department Commander.
- (c) Each National Executive Committeeman within the District shall be a delegate and the alternate National Executive Committeeman shall be his alternate.
- (d) Past District Commanders, District Vice Commander, District Adjutant, District Finance Officer, District Judge Advocate, and District Provost Marshal shall be entitled to one vote each. The District Commander will vote only in case of a tie.
- (e) All of the said delegates must be registered at the National Convention.

Section 3.

Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. Alternates shall have all the rights and privileges of their delegate, except they shall vote only in their delegate's absence. A majority of the votes cast on any subject at any annual meeting shall carry any matter voted upon and shall be binding upon each Department within the District.

ARTICLE VI

DISTRICT OFFICERS

Section 1.

At the annual meeting, the delegates shall approve or disapprove the selection of the National District One Commander as submitted by the District 1 State in rotation as per article VII Sections 1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6,7&8. The delegates will approve the selection of the National District One Commander as submitted by the District 1 State in rotation if all the requirements of Article VII Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7& 8 have been met. If any of the requirements of VII Sections 1,2, 3, 4, 5, and 6,7&8 have not been met, the delegates may choose or disapprove the selection of

the District Commander as submitted by the District 1 State in rotation. He shall appoint an Adjutant and a Finance Officer, subject to the approval of the District Executive Committee. Only one of the said appointed officers may be from the same state as that of the District Commander. In addition, a Judge Advocate, a Provost Marshal, and a Chaplain will also be appointed. The District Commander may also approve up to 5 Deputy Provost Marshals. All appointments are subject to the approval of the National District One Executive Committee.

Section 2.

In case of the death, resignation, inability to serve, or absence of the District Commander, the Immediate Past Commander available shall serve in the place and stead of the District Commander and such person shall be designated as the Vice Commander of First National District until such time as he assumes the office of District Commander.

**ARTICLE VII**

**DISTRICT COMMANDER**

Section 1.

No one shall be elected to the Office of District Commander unless:

- (a) He is a member of an organized Department within the District.
- (b) He is a member of a Post within the First National District.
- (c) He has previously held an elective National or Department office for a full term.

Section 2.

The office of District Commander shall be filled by rotation among the several States within the District.

Section 3.

The State Department Commander or Adjutant shall certify to the District Commander, not later than the opening of the National Convention, that the person recommended for the Office of District  
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Commander was selected at the immediate past State Convention as the nominee of that particular state for that office and that said person has previously held an elective National or State office for a full term.

Section 4.

The order of rotation among the States shall be as follows: New York, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Jersey.

Section 5.

In the event, the state entitled to the office of District Commander presents no nominee for said office. The said state shall be deemed to have passed and lose its turn in the rotation.

Section 6.

In that event, the District Commander in office shall serve the passed state's term.

Section 7.

Any newly organized State Department within the District shall be placed at the bottom of the list, as it exists upon the date of the Charter for said new Department.

Section 8.

To be eligible to participate in the order of rotation for the Office of District Commander, each Department must:

- (a) have a delegate that has attended the previous and current National Convention. The selected District Commander that has been submitted by the Department in rotation must be present at the National Convention that he is asking to be seated as District Commander. If the selected National District 1 Commander and t cannot be present at the National Convention where they will be sworn in with the rest of the National Officers, then said selected District 1 Commander may be sworn in at a later date prior to assuming duties as District 1 Commander by any Past National District in good standing, any current National Officer or any Past National Officer that is in good standing.

- (b) be represented at least two (2) District meetings during each fiscal year (September 1 to August 31):
- (c) be current in the payment of District dues:
- (d) submit a Departmental Report at each District meeting by the representative in attendance, or, in the absence of such a representative, in writing, sufficiently in advance of the meeting.

Failure to accomplish any of the foregoing shall be cause for forfeiture of the right of rotation to the Office of District Commander until such time as all of the above requirements have been met, at which time any such Department will then be placed at the bottom of the rotation list.

## ARTICLE VIII

### ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS

#### Section 1.

The administrative powers between annual meetings shall be vested in the National District One Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the District Commander, all appointed District Officers, each Department Commander, or his duly authorized representative authorization in writing, signed by the Department Commander, each Department Adjutant (or his duly authorized representative) by authorization in writing, signed by the Department Adjutant, each National Executive Committeeman, or his alternate, from each Department within the District and the Past District Commanders.

#### Section 2.

Each Department in the District shall be entitled to the following votes, to wit:

One (1) vote by the Department Commander (or his representative).

One (1) vote by the Department Adjutant (or his representative).

One (1) vote by each National Executive Committeeman or his alternate.

Section 3.

The District Adjutant, the District Finance Officer, the District Judge Advocate, and the District Provost Marshal, and District One Chaplain are each entitled to one (1) vote.

Section 4.

All Past District Commanders are entitled to one (1) vote.

Section 5.

The District Commander shall vote only in the case of a tie.

ARTICLE IX

FINANCES

Section 1.

All District finances shall be under the control of the District Executive Committee. The District Finance Officer shall make a report on the District finances at each District Executive Committee meeting and at the annual meeting each year.

Section 2.

Revenue shall be derived from sources approved by the District Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at the annual meeting of the National District One. Proposed amendments must be submitted by a State Department in the District, or by the District Executive Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to



each State Department and to all members of the District Executive Committee by ordinary mail.  
This Constitution may, however, be amended at any annual meeting, without notice, by unanimous vote.

## ARTICLE XI

### DUES

Each Department shall pay to the District, for the conduction of Administrative affairs, the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) due each year by November 1st. If the dues are not paid on or before the due date, the Department in arrears shall not be eligible to vote in the District until the dues are paid.

### BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I

### DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Section 1.

Meetings of the District Executive Committee shall be held at least thirty (30) days prior to the dates fixed for the meetings of the National Executive Committee and at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening date of the National Convention. Special meetings may be held, upon reasonable notice, at the call of the District Commander. The District Commander shall call a meeting of the District Executive Committee upon written request of the Department Commanders from at least one-half of the Departments in the District.

#### Section 2.

Meetings shall be held at a time and place designated by the National District One Commander. Normal Meeting times shall be as follows:

Round-Table at 2 pm (Saturday Afternoon)  
District One Meeting at 9 am (Sunday Morning)

Notice of any changes made to meeting location, dates, or times shall be made available to all National District one officers, State Commanders, State Executive Directors, State Adjutants, and National Executive Committee Members of National District One at least 30 days prior to the change, when possible, but not less than 48 hours except in the case of an emergency situation or a situation that is out of the control of National District One.

The Annual Meeting that is held at the National Convention shall be excluded from these changes because National AMVETS sets the meeting locations, times, and dates for this meeting.

### Section 3.

A quorum of the District Executive Committee shall consist of at least one (1) representative from at least one-half of each of the organized State Departments in the District.

## ARTICLE II

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

#### Section 1.

District Commander. The District Commander shall be the executive head of the District, with full power to enforce the provisions of the District Constitution, the District By-Laws, and the will of the Annual District Meeting. He shall be the Chairman of the Annual District Meeting and the District Executive Committee. He shall appoint all necessary committees, subject to the approval of the District Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the Office.

#### Section 2

District Vice-Commander. The District Vice Commander shall act as a representative of the District Commander in all matters referred to him, and shall upon the District Commander's request preside over the District Meetings in the absence of the District Commander and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 3.

**District Finance Officer.** The District Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the District Organization. All checks disbursing funds of the District Organization shall be signed by the District Commander and the District Finance Officer. The Finance Officer shall make reports of the condition of the District Treasury when called upon by the District Commander and the District Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the Office.

Section 4.

**District Adjutant.** The District Adjutant shall keep a record of the minutes of the Annual District Meeting and the District Executive Committee meetings. He shall perform such administrative duties as set out by the District Commander. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the Office.

Section 5.

**District Judge Advocate.** The District Judge Advocate shall advise the District Officers and representative on all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the District Constitution and By-Laws, and shall perform such other duties that are usually incident to the Office.

Section 6

**District Provost Marshal.** The District Provost Marshal shall maintain order at all meetings and *shall* perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 7

**District Chaplain.** The District Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to the appropriate ceremonial rituals and performing such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 8

District Deputy Provost Marshals. The District Deputy Provost Marshals shall assist the District Provost Marshal in keeping order at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

ARTICLE III

DEFINITIONS

The word “he” ” or “his” wherever it shall appear in either the Constitution or By-Laws of the AMVETS (American Veterans) First National District shall be construed as referring to both sexes.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

**Section 1A:** All business meetings of the Organization shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised. Said rule shall govern this District in all matters in which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws and the special rules of the National District and/or the National Constitution and Bylaws.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

**Section 1B:** AMVETS National District One is authorized to use Virtual Meetings to hold meetings.

**Section 1C:** National District One will make every reasonable attempt to notify officers and voting members of National District One of such meetings. This means that AMVET officers and members must keep us informed of email and phone number changes.

**Section 1D:** Any District One officer may request a virtual meeting through and with the approval of the National District One Commander or the authorized representative of the National District One Commander.

**Section 1E: All District One Officers, District One Department Commanders, and District One Voting Members make every reasonable effort to attend all District One meetings in person when possible. The use of a Virtual Meeting to attend a meeting in lieu of attending in person should not be considered a regular alternative way of attending a meeting.**

## **ARTICLE V**

### **GRAMMATICAL CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL DISTRICT ONE BYLAWS**

Grammatical changes that do not affect or change the intended substance and meaning of the CBL may be made at any time with the review of the National District One Judge Advocate and approval by the National District One Commander and the voting National District One Members.

Any approved grammatical change made shall be noted at the end of the CBL and shall include the date of the change.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **AMENDMENTS**

**These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the District Executive Committee or at any Annual District Meeting by a majority vote of the delegates present.**

**The foregoing Constitution and By-Laws were adopted by the First National District Executive Committee in session at the AMVETS National Convention, Spokane, Washington on August 12, 2004.**

**Douglas N. Newell**  
**First National District**  
**Adjutant**

**Albert J. Duff**  
**First National District**  
**Commander**

**Date: 12 August 2004**

Amended 2006

Revised August 13, 2009

Revised August 13, 2010

Dana Dillon  
National District One  
Commander

Albert J. Duff  
National District One  
Adjutant

Douglas Newell  
National District One  
Finance Officer

Revised August 19, 2022

ARTICLE I Section 2 added

ARTICLE IV Section 1A title added

ARTICLE IV Sections 1B, 1C, 1D, and 1E added

ARTICLE V Changed to cover Grammatical Changes to the National District One Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI Amendments moved to Article VI

Approved By *Martin P. Ryan*

Title: National District One Judge Advocate

Date: 11-20-2022

Revised August 19, 2022

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