



AMVETS National District 1

Constitution & Bylaws



Revised August 12, 2010

AMVETS FIRST NATIONAL DISTRICT 1

CONSTITUTION

We, the First National District of AMVETS, fully realizing 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 the District 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 a case of a tie.**
- (e) All of 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 District Commander as submitted by the District 1 State in rotation as per articles sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8. The Delegate's will approve the selection of District Commander as submitted by the District 1 state in rotation if all the Requirement of Article VII Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 have been met. If any of the requirements of Article VII Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 have not been met, the delegates may choose to 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 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 District 1 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 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 loses 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 be present at the National Convention that he is asking to be seated as District Commander. If Selected District 1 Commander can not be present at the National Convention where he or she 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 Commander 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 District 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 Commander, 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 the District Chaplain are each entitled to one (1) vote.

Section 4.

All Past District Commanders are each 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 District. 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 one 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 District Commander.

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 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 as 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 perform 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

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 District and/or the National Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE V

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.

We certify this to be a true copy of the Constitution and By-Laws ratified 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 12, 2010

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