

SONS OF AMVETS
Department of Florida
Standing Rules 2013 – 2014



As approved at Convention June 8th, 2013

1. Sons of AMVETS Department of Florida Commander shall have a discretionary fund of \$2,000.00 to be used as he deems necessary, to conduct Department business.
(Voucher required for reimbursement).
2. Department dues shall be \$11.00 per member; National dues currently stand at \$11.00, thus making the total due from Squadrons per member to Department \$22.00. Department shall convey to national \$11.00 per member
3. Department officers and AMVETS coordination shall be paid a per diem of \$35.00 to help offset expenses incurred while attending SEC or Department Convention for three (3) days or more for the purpose of attending pre-convention and other meetings, setting up the hospitality room or working at the Commander's call.
(Voucher required for reimbursement)
4. The department finance officer shall establish that a minimum of \$3500.00 is available in the department checking account that is not earmarked for any other purpose (e.g. Scooter Fund, etc.) before booking any accommodations.
5. The SOA Department of Florida shall cover lodging for department officers as follows:
(Voucher required for reimbursement):
 - a. Department Commander: Three (3) nights stay at SEC and Department Convention. Four (4) nights stay at spring NEC and National Convention
 - b. Department Finance Officer: Three (3) nights stay for SEC and Department Convention, allowing him to attend pre-convention and post-convention meetings.
 - c. Department 1st Vice Commander: Two (2) nights stay for SEC and Department Convention, allowing him to setup and perform his registration tasks. Two (2) nights stay for National Convention.
 - d. Elected Department officers and immediate past commander: One (1) night stay at SEC and Department Convention, two (2) nights stay for National Convention.
 - e. Department appointed officers: One (1) night stay at SEC and Department and National Conventions.
 - f. Department 3rd Vice Commander or designated hospitality room chairman: Three (3) nights stay for Department Convention and any other appointed hospitality room Department of National.
 - g. Past Department Commanders other than IPC and any PDC holding a Department office: The Department shall cover up to five (5) in descending order of their years of service, one (1) night stay at SEC's, Department and National Convention.

6. The SOA Department of Florida shall cover the cost of airfare or mileage for the Commander and NEC man or his alternate for the purpose of attending NEC meetings and national Convention as follows:
(Voucher required for all reimbursements)
 - a. Mileage shall be paid at 45 cents per mile.
(Mileage allowance shall not exceed \$525.00)
 - b. Airfare shall be paid at the cost of a standard economy airfare.
(Airfare shall not exceed \$525.00 without approval of the Department Commander).
 - c. The Department Commander shall receive a \$35.00 per diem per day, up to four (4) maximum, while attending NEC meetings or National Convention.
 - d. The Department Commander, NEC man or any Department delegate attending the spring NEC and walking Capitol Hill soliciting and attending appointments with the Florida Legislature shall be purchased a ticket by the Department enabling them to attend the Silver Helmet Banquet as representatives of the SOA Department of Florida.
7. The SOA Department of Florida shall pay per day per Department officer, Commander's Aide or AMVETS Coordinator, one (1) night lodging and a per diem of \$35.00 plus mileage of 45 cents per mile, when traveling at the Commander's call on Department business.
 - a. All Department officers (both elected and appointed) traveling to and attending an executive board meeting shall have one (1) night lodging paid for by Department if traveling more than 50 miles one way.
(Mileage will be paid if trip is 50 miles or more round trip.)
 - b. The Department officer responsible for towing the Department utility trailer to and from SOA Department meetings and events shall receive 5 cents per mile in addition to his regular mileage allowance.
 - c. The SOA Department of Florida business travel mileage reimbursement shall be 45 cents per mile as long as gas prices remain under \$4.00 per gallon. If gas prices exceed \$4.00 per gallon the reimbursement shall increase to 50 cents per mile.
8. Requests for Department purchased scooters for Veterans shall be reviewed by the executive board for approval.
9. All vouchers shall be submitted no later than 30 days of date of expenditure to the Department finance officer for reimbursement.
10. The Son of the Year selection committee shall be comprised of the Department Commander as Chairman, and all PDC's as are available. The Son of the Year shall receive a SOA Life Membership, if already a life member he shall receive a SOA ring, if he has both he may then nominate a member of the SOA Department of Florida for a Life Membership.
11. The SOA Department of Florida Executive Board shall meet prior to each SEC and Department Convention, far enough in advance so as to facilitate the general membership mailing 30 days prior to said meetings.
12. The SOA Department of Florida will provide for a NEC man or Alternate NEC man appointed by the Commander with the approval of the Department Executive Board.

13. The SOA Department of Florida will provide for Commander's Aides as required to cover the Department Squadrons. Commander's Aides shall be appointed by the Commander with the approval of the Department Executive Board. Their terms of reference are contained in Appendix A of these Standing Rules.

14. The department will provide a department embroidered cover for any first time elected or appointed officer and for any first time appointed Commander's Aide. Any officer or aide who is subsequently elected or appointed to a different office will be personally responsible for a new or re-embroidered cover.

15. Anyone applying to become a Son of AMVET who is listed on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement database or any other similar official State or Federal database, as a Sexual Offender, Sexual Predator, Sexual Deviant or found guilty of molestation of any human being. Shall be deemed ineligible to join the Sons of AMVETS.
If a member is found to have a judgment against him of this nature, he shall be dropped from the Membership of the Sons of AMVETS Squadron to which he belongs and the Sons Department of Florida Immediately, without a hearing. The expelled member shall be deemed to be trespassing if found on any AMVETS property and the proper Law Enforcement Agency informed.

Ken Barber
Commander
SOA Department of Florida

Appendix "A"

SOA Department of Florida Standing Rules 2013 – 2014

1. Commanders Aides, as are needed, will be appointed by the sitting Department Commander with approval of the executive board.
2. Commanders Aides will serve a term of one (1) year and shall be reappointed as deemed necessary.
3. They shall wear a Department cover embroidered with Commanders Aid on the right hand side, thus allowing them to represent the Commander; however they shall not be considered Department Officers.
4. Their terms of reference shall be as follows:
 - a. The Commanders Aide to be appointed must have served a minimum of two (2) years as an elected officer within a squadron, preferably that of commander.
 - b. At the commanders call he shall travel to visit squadrons in his designated geographical area, having administrative or disciplinary problems.
 - c. He shall report , in writing (preferably e-mail), directly to the Department Commander and Executive Board who will, after deliberation, further direct him.
 - d. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES will he render judgment or proffer advice on any matter without guidance from the department judge advocate, department commander and executive board members.
 - e. When traveling at the Commanders Call he shall receive travel, per diem and lodging at the rate laid down in the standing rule seven (7) using the same voucher procedure as department officers.
5. When not traveling at the Commanders Call he shall,
 - a. At least once every trimester, make contact with or visit all squadrons within his local (a meeting with all squadron commanders would be adequate); reporting any problems or concerns to the commander and executive board immediately.
 - b. He shall also present, to the department adjutant for inclusion in the SEC's and Convention booklets, a written report and if present make such report on the department floor
 - c. On completion of his term of office he may wear his Commanders Aide cover, with relevant dates of office, as his highest cover.
 - d. The Commanders Aide shall, at all times, conduct himself in an honorable manner befitting that of a Department Officer or Executive Board member, in line with all the Sons ideals, purposes and values.

Ken Barber
Commander
SOA Department of Florida