



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Charitable Law Section
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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT is made by and between Amvets Post No. 1985 (“AMVETS #1985”), located at 700 S. Maple Street, Lancaster, Ohio 43130 and the Attorney General of Ohio (“Attorney General”), for the purpose of resolving issues regarding Amvets #1985’s charitable bingo operations. Together, the Attorney General and AMVETS #1985 are referred to hereinafter as “the parties.”

1. The Attorney General is responsible for the administration and enforcement of Ohio Revised Code Section 2915 (“ORC 2915 *et seq.*”), and the Ohio Administrative Code rules adopted thereunder, which regulate the conduct of charitable bingo in the State of Ohio.
2. The Attorney General is responsible for the enforcement of Ohio Revised Code Section 1716 (“ORC 1716 *et seq.*”), and the Ohio Administrative Code rules adopted thereunder, which requires, among other things, that every charitable organization, unless exempt, who intends to solicit contributions in this state by any means or have contributions solicited in this state on its behalf by any person or entity, prior to engaging in any solicitation, shall file a registration statement and other documentation with the Attorney General.
3. The Attorney General is responsible for the enforcement of Ohio Revised Code Section 109 (“ORC 109.23-33”), and the Ohio Administrative Code rules adopted thereunder, and, in particular, ORC 109.24, which reads, “[t]he Attorney General shall institute and prosecute a proper action to enforce the performance of any charitable trust and to restrain the abuse of it”.
4. The Attorney General has authority to refuse to grant a bingo license to an organization, may revoke or suspend the organization’s license, or may place limits, restrictions, or probationary conditions on the organization's license for a limited or indefinite period.
5. AMVETS #1985 is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt organization with the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”). AMVETS #1985 is registered with the Attorney General as required under ORC Sections 1716 and 109.
6. During all relevant times AMVETS #1985 held a Type III paper and electronic instant bingo license # 0449-27. Since January 1, 2026, AMVETS #1985 has not had a license or permit to conduct bingo.

7. The Attorney General conducted annual financial inspections of AMVETS #1985 for the bingo fiscal years 2024-2025.
8. During the bingo fiscal year 2024 AMVETS #1985 had charitable distribution arrearages in the amount of \$28,155.31 and deposit shortages in the amount of \$63,166.
9. During the bingo fiscal year 2025 AMVETS #1985 had charitable distribution arrearages in the amount of \$75,223.61 and deposit shortages in the amount of \$291,471.
10. In 2025 AMVETS #1985 had unallowable expenses and account transfers totaling \$22,688.26.
11. AMVETS #1985 failed to file complete and timely quarterly reports for 2025.
12. From January 1, 2026, to January 12, 2026, AMVETS #1985 conducted Type III bingo without a license.
13. AMVETS #1985 has filed police reports and Attorney General complaints alleging theft from four previous post members.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises herein expressed, and with intent to be legally bound, the parties agree as follows:

- A. AMVETS #1985 shall pay a total of **\$103,378.92** to their contracted charities over a period of 24 months. The initial payments will commence on May 1, 2026 with a final payment due April 1, 2028. Please refer to “**Attachment A**” for a complete payment schedule.

AMVETS #1985 must write in the “memo” line of the check if it should be credited towards 2024-2025 distribution arrearages. If this notation is not made and the funds are applied to satisfy the current annual distributions, it could result in a violation of this agreement.

A copy of this executed agreement will be sent to:

Amvets Ohio Charities
960 Checkrein Ave
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Lancaster Soap Box Derby Inc.
321 Mt. Zion Rd. NW
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Earth Angels Foundation Inc.
2582 Heidelberg Dr.
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

- B. AMVETS #1985 shall pay a **\$2,500** Civil Penalty Amount. The Civil Penalty will be due in full on May 1, 2026.
- C. AMVETS #1985 agrees that the **\$2,500** Civil Penalty amount shall be paid from the Post's General Operating Account by check, cashier's check, money order, or wire transfer (for wire transfer please contact CharitableFundsAccounting@OhioAGO.gov), payable to "**Treasurer of the State of Ohio**" as Custodian for the Ohio Attorney General and mailed to:

Ohio Attorney General
Charitable Law Section
30 East Broad Street, 25th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
RE: Amvets Post No. 1985

Civil Penalty amounts shall be deposited in accordance with R.C. 109.112 into the AGO Court Order and Settlement Fund for transfer, upon the Attorney General's request, to the Charitable Law Fund established under R.C. 109.32;

- D. If AMVETS #1985 fails to comply with the payment requirements above, the Attorney General shall certify the unpaid balance of the payment to the Ohio Attorney General's Collections Enforcement Section ("Collections") for collection. In the event of certification, AMVETS #1985 agrees to pay additional collection costs assessed by Collections in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 131.02(A) equal to the amounts charged pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 109.08 and 109.081 for the cost of certification and the use of Special Counsel for the collection of the debt. Interest shall also be charged upon certification in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 131.02(D). Nothing in this paragraph should be construed to limit the Attorney General's discretion to pursue any other available remedy;
- E. AMVETS #1985 agrees that while it is paying off the distribution shortages noted in paragraph A, it will continue to make all current bingo fiscal year charitable distributions required under Ohio law pursuant to their current charitable contract(s);
- F. AMVETS #1985 agrees to timely submit quarterly reports by uploading all requested information to the Charitable Account Management Portal located at: <https://charitableportal.ohioago.gov>. The filing deadlines for the Quarterly Reports are posted on the Attorney General's website located at: <https://charitable.ohioago.gov/Charitable-Bingo/Electronic-Instant-Bingo>.
- G. AMVETS #1985 agrees that all individuals listed on the "People" section of the 2026 bingo application shall complete the Attorney General's Bingo School and Charitable University by September 1, 2026. This mandate includes all Bingo Records Custodians, Bingo Volunteers, and Instant Bingo Game Operators. To attend Bingo School, you must first register at: <https://charitable.ohioago.gov/Charitable-Bingo/Register-for-Bingo-Training>. Charitable University is a webinar offered at: <https://charitable.ohioago.gov/Charitable-University>;

- H. AMVETS #1985 agrees that if it fails to comply with requirements in Paragraph A through F above, it will surrender its Charitable Bingo License and/or Charitable Bingo Temporary License to the Attorney General as well as request, in writing, the withdrawal of any Charitable Bingo License Applications it has pending or refrain from initiating an application for the next two license years;
- I. AMVETS #1985 agrees to comply with all state and federal laws relating to charitable gaming, and to fully cooperate with all state and federal authorities conducting investigations of AMVETS #1985's charitable gaming operations;
- J. AMVETS #1985 agrees to comply with the requirements of ORC 2915 *et seq.*, and any Ohio Administrative Code rules adopted thereunder;
- K. AMVETS #1985 agrees to comply with the requirements of ORC 1716 *et seq.* (the Ohio Charitable Organizations Act), and any Ohio Administrative Code rules adopted thereunder;
- L. AMVETS #1985 agrees to comply with the requirements of ORC 109.23-109.33 (the Charitable Trust Act), and any Ohio Administrative Code rules adopted thereunder;
- M. Within five (5) business days following the execution of this Settlement Agreement, the Attorney General agrees to issue to AMVETS #1985 a 2026 Type III paper and electronic instant bingo license. By executing this agreement, AMVETS #1985 affirms that it has complied with all statutory requirements necessary for the Attorney General's Office to issue the requested bingo license;
- N. AMVETS #1985 agrees that any evidence of a violation of this SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT shall be *prima facie* evidence of AMVETS #1985's violation of the applicable laws related to charitable gaming, ORC 2915 *et seq.*, ORC 1716 *et seq.*, ORC 109.23-109.33, or any Ohio Administrative Code rules adopted thereunder, in any subsequent action or proceeding brought by the Attorney General;
- O. This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT is binding upon the parties, any and all successors, assigns, subsidiaries, agents, employees, or representatives of the parties or any other affiliates. Any breach of this SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT by AMVETS #1985 will discharge the Attorney General from any obligations under the terms of this SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, but will not discharge AMVETS #1985 from any obligation it has under this SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT;
- P. By signing this SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, the Attorney General is not waiving any rights he has to conduct further investigations of AMVETS #1985 and to initiate an action against AMVETS #1985 for further violations of ORC 2915 *et seq.*, ORC 1716 *et seq.*, ORC 109.23-33, or any Ohio Administrative Code rules adopted thereunder;
- Q. This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT may be modified in writing by the parties. Modifications are at the sole discretion of the Attorney General;

- R. The parties have read and understand this SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT and have entered into the same knowingly, voluntarily, and with the opportunity to gain advice of counsel;
- S. This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT supersedes any and all prior agreements between the Parties; and
- T. This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT is entered into by both parties and may be executed in counterparts, email or facsimiles, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument. It shall be considered binding and effective upon the date of the last signature of all requisite parties and individuals.

The parties to this SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT have either executed it or caused it to be executed by their duly authorized representatives as evidenced by the signatures below:

Amvets Post No. 1985

Paul Parsons 2-20-26
 Signature Date

By: PAUL PARSONS (Print Name)
TRUSTEE (Organizational Title)

James Ryan Foraker 02-20-26
 Signature Date

By: James Ryan Foraker (Print Name)
Finance Officer (Organizational Title)

Kurt O. Gearhiser 2/24/2026
 Signature Date

Kurt O. Gearhiser (#0021245)
 Gearhiser Law Firm
 Attorney for Amvets #1985
 4484 Trailane Drive
 Hilliard, OH 43026

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL DAVE YOST

By: 
Daniel W. Fausey
Section Chief, Charitable Law Section

02/24/26

Date

Attachment A

Monthly Distribution Payment Schedule:

****All payments are to be made by check from the Amvets #1985 General Operating Account****

May 1, 2026 through March 1, 2028:

Ohio Amvets Charities-----\$2819.00/mo.

Lancaster Soap Box Derby-----\$735.00/mo.

Earth Angels Foundation Inc.-----\$735.00/mo.

Final Monthly Payment April 1, 2028:

Ohio Amvets Charities-----\$2829.44/mo.

Lancaster Soap Box Derby-----\$951.24/mo.

Earth Angels Foundation Inc.-----\$951.24/mo.