

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 8-9, 2003**

Resolution No. 28: Reaffirmation Of Support And Authorization For Appropriation To Assist The Boy Scouts Of America

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion, at its very first national convention in 1919, did adopt a resolution supporting the Boy Scouts of America that stated: “The American Legion heartily commends the principles and achievements of the Boy Scouts and recommends that each post assist the Scout troop in its community in whatever manner practicable”; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion’s support for the Boy Scouts has never waived because we believe that scouting helps strengthen character, develops good citizenship, and enhances both mental and physical fitness among its participants; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognizes that scouting, with its practical application of the Scout Oath and Law, has always and currently continues to reflect the values held by nearly all Americans; and

WHEREAS, By its sponsorship of Boy Scout Troops throughout the United States and its reaffirmation of support for the BSA in Resolution 334 (September 2000), The American Legion reiterated that we do stand by the Boy Scouts in their efforts “to maintain and practice traditional family values with regard to membership and leadership standards”; and

WHEREAS, Those same traditional family values with regard to membership and leadership standards have been under attack by homosexuals, agnostics, atheists and others for more than 25 years, resulting in at least 38 legal cases being brought against the Boy Scouts in which it was claimed that BSA practices illegal discrimination on religious and sexual preference grounds; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States has upheld the constitutional right of the Boy Scouts of America to prevent openly homosexual men from serving as Scoutmasters, and has further stated that the government cannot compel the BSA to accept such leaders when that acceptance would be at odds with their moral code; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court decision affirmed the right of the Boy Scouts and thousands of other groups and organizations, such as The American Legion, to set their own standards and membership policies because an indispensable part of being free is the right of individuals to hold moral positions and to associate with others who share those positions; and

WHEREAS, Despite the Supreme Court having ruled in favor of the Boy Scouts’ freedom to associate with those sharing their moral views and to not associate with those who do not share their moral views, the Boy Scouts have been subjected to a relentless series of attacks by gay-rights organizations, atheist organizations, and politicians and members of the news media who do not respect the right of the BSA to exist; and

WHEREAS, These perverse attacks on an institution revered for nearly a century by virtually all Americans have resulted in some businesses and philanthropic organizations ceasing contributions to the BSA; moreover, pressure brought by homosexual groups nationwide has resulted in some city and county governments and school districts banning Scouts from assembling and associating on public property while, at the same time, allowing homosexual groups, atheist groups, and numerous other groups espousing various creeds to so assemble; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes the unrelenting assault against the Boy Scouts is not a unique occurrence but a part of an orchestrated effort to denigrate, damage and systematically destroy traditional American values, as embodied in the Boy Scouts of America, The American Legion, the Flag of the United States, the Pledge of Allegiance, and numerous other embodiments of Americanism; and

WHEREAS, Any attack on the legally held beliefs and right to freely associate with others who hold similar beliefs is an attack on each of us either now or tomorrow, The American Legion—a voluntary association of war veterans who have served their country in an effort to preserve basic freedoms—does recognize its duty to come to the aid of the Boy Scouts of America in order to protect our mutually shared liberties; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the approval of the National Americanism Commission, which has recommended its adoption to the National Finance Commission and the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the approval of the National Finance Commission, which recommends its adoption to the National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2003, That The American Legion does gladly accept the privilege and responsibility of defending traditional American values and freedoms by reaffirming its support for the Boy Scouts of America, and by pledging to assist the Boy Scouts of America in filing an amicus brief or briefs, as may be necessary, appropriate, legal, and approved by the National Commander so that the concerted assault on traditional American values and morality, beliefs and standards will ultimately fail; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee does authorize The American Legion to file amicus briefs in the case of *Boy Scouts of America v Nancy Wyman*, when same is appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, both on the question of *certiorari* and on the merits, and in such other cases as may be appropriate as determined by the National Commander; and, be it further

RESOLVED, The American Legion does hereby appropriate the initial sum of \$25,000 to fund this effort; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, is authorized and directed to execute all appropriate documents concerning this action submitted to him by the National Judge Advocate, and the National Adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.