PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

October 16-17, 2019
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At 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2019, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Oxford.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I call this meeting of the National Executive Committee to order. Colors of our nation being in place, hand salute: One, two. I call on National Chaplain Edward L. Harris of Indiana for the invocation, followed by the POW/MIA remembrance ceremony.

Invocation
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Dear God, thank You for this day, and as this petitioner always pleas, thank You for allowing us to be a part of this day because this petitioner pauses for a moment. We lost one of our own. May he be received by You. And now, Dear God, we have here in our midst those who keep our organization, the organization that You would be proud of, for they, too, have said, "Yes, I will serve." Bless our sick, our infirmed, and our bereaved. Watch our troops now in many distant lands; bring them safely home to us also. All this we ask in Your name. Amen.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention requires the designation of a POW/MIA chair at all official meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of American POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving our nation. With the POW/MIA flag positioned to my left, let it serve as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort in securing the release of any American prisoners, the repatriation of the remains of those who have been killed in action, and a full accounting of those who are still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

Pledge of Allegiance
David Shore, North Carolina, National Sergeant-at-Arms

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I call on National Sergeant-at-Arms David Shore, from the Department of North Carolina, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SHORE: Please join me as we recite the Pledge of Allegiance to our nation's flag.

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I call on National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler of Virginia for the roll call.

Roll Call

National Commander
James W. Oxford, North Carolina
National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Bruce C. Feuerbach, Iowa
David L. King, Kentucky
Francis J. MacDonald, Jr., Massachusetts
Richard A. Heigert, Missouri
Robert D. Liebenow, Oregon

Past National Commanders
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)  Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts  Martin F. Conatser, Illinois (Excused)
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia  Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Robert S. Turner, Georgia  David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Dominic D. DeFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)  Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Bruce Thiesen, California  Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota  Fang A. Wong, New York
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)  James E. Koutz, Indiana
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine  Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia
Butch L. Miller, Virginia (Excused)  Michael D. Helm, Nebraska
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (Excused)  Harold D. Barnett, Georgia
Richard J. Santos, Maryland  Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon (Excused)
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania  Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas  Brett P. Reistad, Virginia (Excused)
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado

National Executive Committee Members

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Michigan  John W. Knox
Minnesota  William C. Barbknecht
Mississippi  Robert E. Gosa
Missouri  Kenneth J. Goth
Montana  David A. Driver
Nebraska  William D. Crosier, Jr. (Excused)  Frederick C. Craigie
Nevada  Ronald L. Michalski
New Hampshire  Kenneth B. Maynard, Jr.
New Jersey  Charles K. Robbins
New Mexico  Paul L. Espinoza
North Carolina  Jeff W. Joyner
North Dakota  Robert L. Krause
Ohio  Robert M. Klostermeier (Excused)  Stephen M. Masowick
Oklahoma  Timothy W. Smith
Oregon  Robert A. Millar
Pennsylvania  E. Michael Stelacio
Philippines  Lawrence E. Wade
Puerto Rico  Angel O. Narvaez-Negron
Rhode Island  David A. Williams
South Carolina  Michael D. Strauss
South Dakota  James Huls
Tennessee  David G. Alexander
Texas  C. W. Sparks, Jr.
Utah  Terry D. Schow
Vermont  Frederick E. Latour
Virginia  Michael F. Mitrione
Washington  Dale F. Davis
West Virginia  William W. Kile
Wisconsin  Robert L. Shappell
Wyoming  Terry E. Miller

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, that completes the roll call. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The next order of business is the acceptance of the meeting's agenda.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that the agenda for this meeting be accepted. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: A motion has been moved and seconded to approve the agenda of the meeting. Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried. We will now have the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting.

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, while the minutes of the pre-convention and post-convention NEC meetings have been placed on the desks of the NEC, I would say no one's had an opportunity to read those minutes. Therefore, I move that the reading and approval of the minutes be moved to the spring meetings. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: A motion has been made and seconded to move the reading and approval of the minutes to the spring meetings. All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.
Dispose of Letters or Communications

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Next item on the agenda is the disposal of letters and communication. Mr. Adjutant, do you have any letters or communication?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Yes, sir, one letter. We received a letter from the Department of Labor that our defined benefit plan, which was frozen in 2008, is being audited. Our finance director is dealing directly with the Department of Labor. They gave us a 15-day deadline. But due to the death of our chief financial officer as well as the board meeting, we have asked that that be extended. I have not heard that it was extended yet, but we will handle it. Everything is in order for the audit.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Anything further, Mr. Adjutant?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: No, sir.

...National Vice Commander King assumed the chair.

Opening Remarks

James W. Oxford, North Carolina, National Commander

Well, good morning, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and all guests. My theme this year is "A Foundation for the Future," and as we wind down our centennial, it's a good time to emphasize, the future's now. With Washington at a standstill due to partisan bickering among our elected leaders, we have to fight even harder to ensure that our military is fully funded, our borders are secure, and veterans receive the quality health-care benefits they've earned. Eliminating the widow's tax needs to be a priority. I bet most Americans have no clue that surviving spouses and children of these wartime heroes have to pay taxes on their death benefits. They sacrificed enough. It's unjust, and The American Legion will fight to correct this travesty. (Applause)

Our staff in Washington led by Lou Celli is working with Congress to stop poorly performing for-profit schools from scamming veterans by draining their GI bill benefits without offering a decent and useful education. Far too many scams are targeting veterans, and The American Legion is committed to protect the financial well-being of veterans.

Another travesty is the failure of Congress to pass the Pay Our Coast Guard Act. A government shutdown used to be rare, but we have had several over the past few years. Fortunately, VA and DoD branches don't have their pay impacted, but the Coast Guard certainly does and has. I am proud that The American Legion has provided some assistance, but we really should not have had to do that. The Coast Guard didn't shut down; they kept on working and risking their lives and keeping us safe. Congress needs to do a job and ensure that the men and women defending our shores and rescuing us during natural disasters never have their pay interrupted again. (Applause)

When I look at the unrest that has occurred on our southern border, I get concerned. The American Legion has always opposed illegal immigration and our resolutions on that topic are very clear. The American Legion supports strong borders. We also support legal immigration and have, in fact, offered assistance to those who are legally trying to become citizens. Just this summer, we welcomed 99 new naturalized citizens as they took their oath of office in a ceremony held in conjunction with our national convention. I'm proud of the many ways The American Legion has supported those trying to achieve the American dream.

My emphasis on a foundation for the future does not mean we should ignore our great history and stop celebrating our past. I'm proud that we've provided more than $9 million in assistance in NEF grants to posts and veterans impacted by natural disasters over the past few decades. I'm proud we've helped thousands of young people develop their skills through the best amateur baseball program in the country. I'm proud that this organization created the original Servicemen's Readjustment Act and played a significant roll in the passage of the Harry W. Colmery Forever GI Bill.

Preparing for the future should never mean we should forget who we are or where we came from. But I'm asking for your support on this issue. Our commemorative coin
program has been a boost for funding our outstanding programs, but it's only available for a limited time. After this year, the U.S. Mint will no longer have available inventory. Let's not forget what an honor this has been. Only two organizations or events achieve this honor per year, one that must be approved by Congress. The other event that's being commemorated is the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moonwalk. Neil Armstrong, by the way, was a Boys Stater. This should also give you an idea of the esteem and recognition that this country has bestowed upon The American Legion in honor of our centennial. We should maximize this great opportunity. So even though we only have a couple more months to offer the centennial coin as an effective and historic fundraiser, these months include the upcoming holiday season. Go to legion.org/coins and check out the great selection. I'm sure you know Legion Family members or friends that would truly appreciate these attractive and collectible gifts.

These coins are also a great conversation starter. When people ask you about the attractive keepsake that you display on your wall, desk, or other prominent locations, you can launch into what I call "B and B," branding and bragging. When you fully explain our pillars, programs, and advocacy, how could anyone not want to be part of The American Legion?

After January 1, my emphasis will switch from the coins to the Children's and Veterans Foundation. If we raise $25 million, it would make it self-sustaining. It may take a few years, or we can do it next year. But ultimately, what a great life-changing resource this could be for the future generations of veterans and families.

These goals are probably not possible for a small group to accomplish, but we have strength in numbers. There is also an estimated 4.2 million new veterans now eligible to join The American Legion who were not eligible last year. Thanks to the LEGION Act, our family can get dramatically larger. And we should all remember, we are still a wartime veterans organization. The LEGION Act simply recognizes the reality that the world has continued to be a dangerous place, all the way back to December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor.

Last year we recruited 63,000 new members to The American Legion. I think we can do better. With your help, we can make it 100,000. Let's make that our goal. Our retention rate was 86 percent. Now, that tells me most Legionnaires like the organization and want to remain a member. But I know we can do better. I'm hoping we can achieve a 90 percent retention rate.

I'd like to continue our Buddy Check program, with a special emphasis on making personal calls or contact and visits during the Veterans Day holiday. It's a great opportunity to invite them to your Veterans Day event or observances. Frankly, Buddy Checks are something we should be doing regularly anyway. Even if it's a member that's already paid up or someone who left our organization a long time ago, we need to check on our buddies. And it isn't about the dues; it's about the well-being of our brother and sister veterans. It isn't just one of our four founding pillars, but a promise we all take every time we recite the preamble to our constitution. When we pledge to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness, and that sounds like a Buddy Check to me. I don't like to break promises, and I know you don't either.

Let's quit saying "younger members." I want them all. Every member is important and we owe each other mutual respect. I want us to welcome new members, not just World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, Gulf War to current, but treat them all equally. Lots of folks talk about sandbox veterans. Those are the folks we need to welcome into our midst. Generations can all learn from each other, and we will continue to recognize the efforts of those who work to grow our organization. Any American Legion Family member who recruits three new members will receive my commemorative hat pin. That's Legionnaires, that's Sons, or Auxiliary members. And any post, district, county, division, or department commander and membership chair that exceeds 103 percent of their goal will also be recognized.

Eleven departments grew last year, and if you're one of the other 44, talk to the 11 and find out what they did, why they did it, and how they did it. I'm sure they'll be happy to share their success stories. I really do believe we've bottomed out from the passing of so
many World War II veterans. The greatest generation helped build this organization into what it is today, and we must continue to honor their legacy.

Many of you know past national commander from North Carolina Ray Smith, he used to say, "The membership slide is over." And God bless that during this time, we did experience membership growth. But it's never about the national commander or any individual; it's about us all. It's a team effort.

According to the membership report from October 11, our membership is up by more than 9,100 members compared to this same date last year. But it's still early; we must continue the momentum throughout the year. Winning's contagious, we all know that. When the team starts winning, the first goal is usually the playoffs. After that, the hope is the championship. Once we've experienced growth, and we have, we can change our perceptions. People want to be part of a winner. We had 3.3 million veterans in 1946. It will take time, but there's no reason we can't reach that level again soon.

There are many communication tools, a great toolbox that we have in the 21st century that simply didn't exist after World War II. But we must be visible in our communities and run a strong media relations program. The wonderful thing about Facebook, Twitter, other social media venues is, you can post material and announcements for free immediately. Build up a large following with these tools and be sure to include members of your local media. Send them friend requests and like their tweets. And you could invite them over to an open house for your department headquarters.

Lots of important issues are being considered in Congress right now, but Congress needs to know why they should listen to us. They know we offer expert advice, but who we also represent. That's why the Consolidated Post Report is so important. We need to let them know what we're doing in their states, our states, and our communities.

I realize some veterans may not agree with all of these positions, but they're free to draft and introduce their own resolutions to the contrary. But first, they have to be a member. Second, they should respect the democratic process regardless of what their position is on any given issue. If most Legionnaires agree with them, then their resolutions will probably be successful.

Finally, I'd like to reiterate what I said during my acceptance remarks at the national convention. We are all stakeholders in our American Legion. We are the future of this organization. We hold the future of this organization, and we and all our brothers and sister Legionnaires is its foundation. Let's count on each other as we build a foundation for the future to ensure The American Legion can have a second century, as our Founding Fathers would be proud.

Next, it's my honor to introduce the head of, well, I can't say "largest women's patriotic organization," but I can say "the world's largest veterans auxiliary organization comprised of women and men." From the Great State of Iowa, please welcome American Legion Auxiliary National President Nicole Clapp.

Greetings: National President, American Legion Auxiliary
Nicole Clapp, Iowa

Good morning. I would first like to pass on condolences to The American Legion and the Buskirk family from the entire American Legion Auxiliary organization. It had been a privilege to become acquainted with George, that great leader, throughout the years.

Personally, I'd like to say thank you to national leadership and six past national commanders and their spouses and guests for attending my homecoming in America's Heartland earlier this month. Thank you for taking your time out of your busy schedule to travel to Iowa.

World War I U.S. Army General John J. Pershing said, "Time will not diminish the glory of their deeds." The poppy fields of World War I are the reason we exist to be celebrating a century of service at this point in time.
Our centennial theme is "Celebrating a Century of Service," which blends the past and the future in such a way that I feel members and future members will want to gravitate towards our mission.

Please envision a poppy field at night, giving way to a sky of fireworks. As we look at fireworks, they're for special occasions, and I don't know of a better occasion to celebrate than a 100th anniversary of two tremendous organizations. My focus for the project is health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families. 100 years ago, we entrusted our lives into their hands. And what is more important, it is still our responsibility today, then, for us to entrust their lives now in our hands.

During the past two decades, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs reports that the number of veterans using prosthetics, sensory aids, and other type of equipment has increased more than 70 percent. So nationally, the American Legion Auxiliary, we are working with two organizations to address adaptive lifestyle needs. The first is All In Sport Consulting out of Denver, Colorado, which has outlined opportunities for our members to volunteer across the country at ongoing sports and physical activity programs. I have tried walking with a prosthetic leg and pedaling an adaptive bicycle in the last few weeks. I have learned a great deal from these experiences, and I'm here to tell you, it was not easy.

The second organization is the Independence Fund founded by Sara Verardo, a devoted military wife and caregiver of three who wrote a children's book, "Hero at Home," because their oldest daughter was going to preschool, and she was being made fun of because of how her daddy looked after losing a leg and having an arm completely rebuilt following 119 surgeries after returning from combat in Afghanistan. We are using this book to promote and understand the well-being that this family now endures on a daily basis. Our Girls Nation programs, our VA&R, as well as our junior activities, are focusing their efforts on understanding what life is like.

I had a fortunate opportunity to accompany VA&R Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella and VA Deputy Director of Public Policy George Mitchell on a System Worth Saving visit to Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center in September. I found the opportunity to be very educational and provided insights into areas that the Legion family can work together to assist our veterans in seeking care at that particular facility. It was expressed that my health-care experience as a burn care nurse and a hospital CEO is a valuable asset to the process. So I look forward to next week, accompanying System Worth Saving visits in Lexington, Kentucky.

I have to admit, your enthusiasm and support has been fantastic since installation. I am thoroughly enjoying the department visits, see firsthand the tremendous work our organizations accomplished together. Even our staff members are meeting regularly to develop strategies for joint marketing initiatives for the American Legion Family, which led Commander Bill and I to taping three more public service announcements just last week. So stay tuned, as he mentioned, for social media.

Additional staff meetings are being held to develop implementation strategies for the 15 identified opportunities. One initiative is to include the American Legion Auxiliary as part of the American Legion College curriculum, while at the same time the Legion membership staff will be attending our regional mission trainings to evaluate potential future family event opportunities. Discussion about potential development and fundraising opportunities also came about to become targeted strategies. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for December to review the progress.

I am proud to announce that we have hired an executive director at national headquarters. So Linda Boone, past national president, will stay on in the transition as we welcome Kelly Circle to our realm right after Veterans Day. Thank you, Linda Boone. I think you can't see her, she's behind the wall. Thank you, Past National President Linda, for your dedication to furthering our mission.

Today we are the true definition of family, and together we have to stop the membership slide. We know it is our responsibility and everyone's responsibility to recruit and retain members. With the passage of the LEGION Act, our membership floodgates are opening up. We have momentum, and incredible results are happening because of it. Our
Proceedings of Wednesday October 16, 2019

membership numbers are on target, and I smile every single time I receive a department notification sharing their excitement when they say, "We have our first male spouse member of the American Legion Auxiliary."

To date we have 157 male ALA members. I need to thank Mike Rohan and Chanin Nuntavong for leading the way by honoring their spouse's service to our country. These are definitely reasons to be celebrating. But we also need to take a hard look and reflect that there are 4,600 communities across the nation that have American Legion posts and no associated auxiliaries. We need your help to understand what we can do as a family in those communities.

Thank you to the American Legion Founding Fathers who had the foresight to create the American Legion Auxiliary. We will be celebrating our big birthday on November 10. And we think we look pretty good for our age, just like The American Legion. (Laughter)

Our 100th Anniversary Committee has been actively planning for our milestone for several years. We have been publishing monthly e-bulletins, and we have assigned liaisons to each department from our committee to monitor and promote celebrations across the country, be it in person, via video, or through social media. I encourage you to follow my travels on the American Legion Auxiliary National President Facebook page.

We will be relaunching a video we created a few years back entitled, "Decades of Making a Difference." The video features highlights of the ALA history, which has been updated with current eligibility requirements, and what it means for the mission, and who we serve.

In November, members and posts will open up their mailboxes to a commemorative issue of the American Legion Auxiliary magazine. Extra copies are also being distributed to your department. And we know Legionnaires read the Auxiliary magazine, so please make sure you check out our commemorative edition coming in November.

During five of our eight regional mission trainings, we will be enjoying our heritage with a trivia contest and a 100th birthday where Vice President Kathy Daudistel from Kentucky or myself will be attending each of those events. Those are just a few of our highlights planned before our big finale at the 100th National Convention for us in Louisville.

As a 45-year paid-up-for-life member, I pledge to you my ongoing support and dedication of our veterans, military, and their families. I hope to continue to inspire others, through my passion and knowledge, to successfully lead The American Legion Auxiliary membership of over 600,000 strong, by embracing Commander Bill's theme of building a foundation for the future while we are celebrating a century of service. I believe it is a very fitting blend of the appreciation for the past and the hope for the American Legion Family in the future. So Commander Bill, it is with great pride that I present to you a check for $10,000 for the American Legion Veteran and Children Foundation. (Applause)

Thank you, NEC. Have a great meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that your remarks and the remarks of President Nicole Clapp be received and filed. …Second. …National Commander Oxford resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second. All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried. At this time, I'd like to recognize the national commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Clint Bolt, from the Department of Virginia. (Applause)

Greetings: National Commander, Sons of The American Legion Clint Bolt, Virginia

Thank you, commander. Commander, NEC members, Auxiliary President Nicole, Auxiliary members, guests, good morning. I'm honored to be here with all this history here. But I'll share another piece of history. This introduction of the national commander for the
Sons of The American Legion has not happened here since 1973. So thank you for these few moments of your time.

I represent more than 371,000 members of the Sons of The American Legion. As President Nicole talked about how many posts don't have units, we got her beat. We got a whole lot more posts than that. More than half the posts in our organization do not have squadrons. I need you to go back and start looking into why that is.

Sons of The American Legion are a valuable resource to you. Year after year, I see more and more participation by the Sons of The American Legion on committees like Boys State, Oratorical. The amount of money we raise, well, you all know, you see the report, it's in the millions. We are a valuable resource and should be utilized even more. There's many ways that maybe you can even utilize things even at your post level.

The Veterans and Children Fund, Nicole just donated the $10,000 check. Well, I'm going to use that as a rallying point for the Sons across this country to not be outdone by the Auxiliary. (Laughter)

So we will do our part to help restore those funds that The American Legion spent this year, the more than million dollars that went to the Coast Guard. It's an honor to be here today and be surrounded by all this history. This day will truly be one of the most memorable days of my year. Thank you all very much.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the remarks of the national commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Mr. Bolt. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried. Clint, thank you for those remarks. Clint and I have talked, and his goal this year is half a million dollars for the Child Welfare Foundation and half a million members. So Clint, thank you very much for your dedication to our organization.

National Officer Eligibility

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Next order of business is the certification of national officer eligibility. National Judge Advocate, do you certify and have signed documentation that all national officers are eligible members of The American Legion?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: I so certify and I have signed the appropriate documentation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you.

Introduction of National Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Helping me and us this year in our effort to build a foundation for the future are our new national officers who I'm going to introduce. When I call your name, please rise and remain standing. Everybody, hold your applause until the last officer is recognized.

First, our national chaplain, Edward L. Harris, Jr., of the Department of Indiana; national historian, James A. Mariner of New Mexico; sergeant-at-arms, David S. Shore of North Carolina. Our national vice commanders: Bruce C. Feuerbach of Iowa; David L. King of Kentucky; Francis J. MacDonald, Jr. of Massachusetts; Richard A. Heigert of Missouri; and Robert D. Liebenow of Oregon. Let's give them all a hand and show them that you appreciate all they do. (Applause)

Thank you. The chair now recognizes National Historian James A. Mariner of New Mexico for his report.
Oral Report: National Historian
James A. Mariner, New Mexico

History is important. These years are special for our hundredth centennial celebration. Imagine or think about what our founding members would think of our U.S. Mint centennial commemorative coins, passing of the LEGION Act, and the years of planning meetings with workshops that went into our hundredth centennial celebration worldwide. Continuing to preserve and record our legacy through research and verification, we are laying a foundation for our future, vision for our past, present, and future, on into our second century.

Now to get to our American Legion National History Book Contest results. First, we want to acknowledge our newly elected National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion, NADHAL, President Robin Singleton of West Virginia. We want to thank Howard Trace, Ruth Rankin, and national library staff for their hard work and assistance with our National History Book Contest. Because without them, our contest would take many times longer than two days. And the results are:

For the One-Year Post Narrative History:
First Award, Carroll Post Number 143, Carrollton, Georgia.
Second Award, CSM Gary W. Crisp Post Number 289, Clarksville, Tennessee.
Third Award, Pony Express Post Number 359, St. Joseph, Missouri.

Certificates of Participation are awarded to Posts:
- Missing Man Post No. 667, Universal City, TX 78148
- Harold A. Todd, Jr. Wisconsin Motor Post No. 537, Milwaukee, WI 53227
- Adams, Hanna, Moore Memorial Post No. 156, Ellicott City, MD
- The American Legion Post No. 67, Ontario, OR
- Frank B. Bartlett Post No. 7, Buckhannon, WV
- American Legion Post No. 250, Middleburg, FL

For our One-Year Post Yearbook History where the books were so close, we had a tie:
First Award, Julius L. Shryer, American Legion Post 430, Durant, Iowa.
Second Award, Codington County Post Number 17, Watertown, South Dakota, tied with Second Award, Brunswick Post 9, Brunswick, Georgia.
Third Award, Frierson Nichols Post 8, Winter Haven, Florida.

Certificates of Participation are awarded to Posts:
- Park Post No. 23, Livingston, MT
- Bates-O’Brien-Howe-Wiegel-Roelli Post No. 214, Darlington, WI
- Warren F. Hoyle Post No. 82, Shelby, NC
- Martin Wallberg Post No. 3, Westfield, NJ
- Harry White Wilmer Post No. 82, La Plata, MD
- Harry Higgins Post No. 88, Ashland, OH
- Blackwell-Frazier Post No. 142, Hominy, OK
- Elm Mont Post No. 1033, Elmont, NY
- Canby Post No. 122, Canby, OR
- Women Veterans of Southwest Missouri Post No. 1214, Springfield, MO
- Milton Post No. 139, Milton, WV
- Horry County Post No. 111, Conway, SC
- H. U. Wood Post No. 245, Seguin, TX
- Scotts Hill Post No. 243, Regan, TN
- Alley-White Post No. 52, Mountain Home, AR
- Charles S. Hatch Post No. 79, Berwick, ME

For our One-Year Department Narrative History:
First Award, Department of North Carolina.
Second Award, Department of Indiana.

For our One-Year Department Yearbook History:
First Award, Department of Missouri.
Second Award, Department of Nebraska.
Third Award, Department of Georgia.
Certificates of Participation are awarded to Departments:
  Department of North Carolina
  Department of Colorado
  Department of Wisconsin
  Department of Ohio
  Department of West Virginia
  Department of New York

  The instructors, and judges for the contest were: Ken Lee, Deborah Davis, W. Frazier Brinley, Ruth Higgins, Robin Shingleton, Dan Watrous, Fae Casper, Nellie P. DeBaker, Bob Gilmore, Jackie Evonision, J. R. Stillwell, Jim Fratolillo, Charles Zelinsky, Harold D. Landis, George Boddie, and Lynne Rollins.

  In closing, at our NADHAL training, we had a number of new department historians. At our NADHAL meeting, we had an Auxiliary historian that observed as our American Legion Auxiliary prepares for their hundredth centennial celebration. As we go into our second century, encourage historians of our American Legion Family to help with each other at the post level, district level, and department level. Remember, history is important as we lay a foundation for our future and remembering our past and present, for our future visions. Thank you. (Applause)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the national historian, James Mariner. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Historian James Mariner. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried. We're going to shuffle the agenda a little bit. The chair recognizes chairman of the Resolutions Subcommittee, David O. Warnken of Kansas, for a report on resolutions

Oral Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions
David O. Warnken, Kansas, Chairman

Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session for the last two days. We have 20 resolutions that will be presented, coming from the commissions and committees who will make the report. Any resolution seeking National Executive Committee approval will follow the report of the commission. All resolutions which have been disposed by other action or held for further study will be reported on an addendum. Our thanks to the commissions for their efficient and accurate handling of the resolutions during this meeting. This has had a positive impact on the work of your subcommittee. Mr. Commander, at this time I ask that you prepare the National Executive Committee for memorializing resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please rise and uncover.

Memorial Resolutions
George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, George A. Buskirk, Jr. - National Treasurer - 1998 to 2019; National Child Welfare Foundation Assistant Treasurer - 1998 to 2019; National Finance Commission Ex-Officio Member - 1998 to 2019; National Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Member - 1998 to 2019; National Endowment Fund Corporation Assistant Treasurer - 2018 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore be it
RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this 16th Day of October in the year of our Lord 2019, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, George A. Buskirk, Jr., that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution be presented to his family.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I now ask that the committee be seated for eulogies to be presented by Jeff Stoffer and Gaither Keener.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Be seated. I’d like to recognize Media & Communications Director Jeff Stoffer.

**Eulogies for George A. Buskirk, Jr.**

DIRECTOR JEFF STOFFER: Thank you, Commander. There was this guy that the general always wanted me to consider very respectfully in my work. His name was Harvey Bucklebutt. Who is this Bucklebutt? This character I always had in mind, the general always brought him up. Those of us who knew him had heard that name before.

The guy I imagined the general was thinking of was an ordinary American who served his country and then his community through the American Legion Family. Harvey was at his best when no one else was watching. He loved his family. He had triumphs, tragedies, problems, and even a few little glories to make life worth living. Harvey honored our flag, he turned out to vote, he went to his post. He knew that great things could happen when you don’t care who gets the credit.

He was the sort of guy who might pledge some part of his modest estate to The American Legion, because he wanted what he believed in to live on even after his death, to help others some not yet born. Harvey was that kind of guy, and the general always wanted me to consider him and remember him and respect him. He was every one of us and any one of us.

It’s my honor to stand before you today, representing the staff members I know whose lives were touched by the general, and importantly, our families, in grief and gratitude. The general was one unique cap. Sometimes he was even a contradiction in terms, a capitalist and a Democrat. Who’d have thought? *(Laughter)*

A leader and follower, he could do both. He was a historian and a futurist. He was an officer and he was a grunt. Humble but confident. Serious with a sense of humor. And to me and my family, and to a lot of our families, he was a beloved friend who we could count on, and we did.

Of all the people that he could invite to play golf with him, and people of much higher pedigree than me, George would invite me once a year to this round of golf that we would do. Terrible as I am at golf, I always thought he had an ulterior motive, and that was to have someone else on the foursome who was just as bad as him. *(Laughter)*

We both had much room for improvement on our games. But I was his Harvey Bucklebutt, out to golf with banking executives and people like this, who needed to understand that there are those of us out there that don’t get out onto the links very often, often enough to be very good at the game, but pretty happy to give it our best whenever we get a chance. Because on any given day, we might make a shot worth hitting, worth celebrating.

So George and I were understandably separate on different teams. The general would usually play with Carl Mills from Fifth Third Bank, and me, I would get with the other guy who was always a good golfer but never as good as Carl Mills, I think that quite was by design. This golf outing was repeated annually for many years and, honestly, nothing was appreciated more by me than such an invitation. Me, a Harvey Bucklebutt, playing golf with the general and his friends on bright autumn day in Indiana. That was pretty cool.
You know, as my guns were rusting away in my Indiana closet, having long lost their uses in Montana, he invited my kids and me, me of all people, up to his property near Zionsville to shoot at a little target range that he had set up in a woods. George was delighted to see my little girl, not yet in high school, pick the cans off a fence post with a .22 revolver, one after another. She outshot all of us. That brought a big smile to the general's face.

The year Jimmie Foster was national commander of The American Legion, the general tagged along with us, with our group, to the D-Day anniversary ceremonies in Normandy, France. He wanted me to make sure that you understand that this on is own dime; he would want me to remind everyone. He brought his son Bradley with us, so we could honor the fallen of a war that had ended long before the general was born.

Nothing delighted me more than seeing this man, this dad, absorbing the magnitude of the Normandy sacrifice with his son. As we visited these hallowed grounds, George was openly thrilled to take it all in. He studied the hand-painted wings of C-47s, walked the storied beaches, saw firsthand Pegasus Bridge, and he met with the French whose gratitude for American sacrifice was and still is indelible, seven-plus decades since D-Day.

He loved meeting and talking with veterans who had survived D-Day battle long ago, and had come back to visit those who did not come home. I saw tears well up in his eyes, as often happens with us when we go to Normandy. When we walk past the graves of those thousands of young Americans who never came home, never got to become Harvey Bucklebutt.

When Holly Soria, our division's visual media manager, lost her mother last summer, who should come up at the service and talk to her son at length, facing immeasurable grief, the general. I hope that those from national and others from national who came to that service to support her and her family, understand how important their appearance was, because to me, I was there once. To me, that's what the American Legion Family is and does.

George, in fact, had to be coaxed away from that reception because he wasn't done talking to everyone and consoling everyone, letting them know that everything was going to be okay. He met with me personally at various times. Helped me solve problems that I thought were unsolvable, problems he didn't need to address. He always had solutions and they always worked.

He provided good and trusted counsel when my father died and I was left as executor of that estate. He stood by me in times of trouble, he stood by my family; didn't have to, but he did, because that's what you do when you're the general.

I'll never forget, all of us had missed the green or gone astray, hitting up over water on this Number 7, it was a 160-yard par 3, really kind of a challenging hole. The general, who had not played his best round of golf that day, stepped up and lobbed one up over the pond and it stuck on the green, just like a pro, a short putt away from the cup. He got up, tapped it in, and he celebrated like he just scored the game-winning touchdown in the Super Bowl. He was like a little kid. I believe he said that was the only birdie he ever shot. True story. (Laughter)

We all signed that ball and we shared in the joy of one of those little glories that make life worth living.

George had his quirks, and for those like me with plenty of quirks of my own, there was a kinship and understanding that none of us was better than the other, regardless of pedigree, and all of us can have moments worth celebrating if we just stick together.

Now he walks among the fallen heroes, whose earthly bodies lie in distant graves. He and all the Harvey Bucklebutts who went before him, all the officers and grunts and bankers and lawyers and politicians and friends in his circle are together now. And I hope they're teeing off somewhere in the Great Hereafter and the general is birdieing every hole confident, humble, knowing that some part of his legacy remains to inspire us here on Earth and help others, even those who have not yet been born.

I hope that when my time comes, George will have an invitation ready for me to join his foursome to we can set aside the problems and complications of this world and rejoice.
in the common ground we have walked, no matter where we came from and who we were, and all the little joys and glories that come with friendship in this great American Legion Family. Thank you. (*Applause*)

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Jeff. Chair recognizes Gaither Keener.

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: How do you define the measure of a man? A man's legacy can be defined by not only how he served his family, his friends, and his business affiliates, but how he treated those that he came in contact with.

Not only did George have a keen understanding of business and finances, he was genuine and gracious to all those he met, from a new Legion member to those who ascended the ranks of this grand organization. We will miss him deeply, not only for his grasp of economic realities, but his kindness, his warmth, and his long-term commitment.

The general was a great American patriot and a very close friend. A great lawyer and a person you could trust. He was truly an accomplished gentleman. The universal man of any man. His influence is well known. His lifetime of patriot service is hard to fathom.

We are all better off having known the general, learned from him, and enjoyed his company. One person told me, George Buskirk was the best friend a person can have, always there for everyone, and never sought gratitude from anyone. He did his good deeds quietly and did not seek recognition for anything or anyone.

There are many words to describe George: Statesman. George was a politician. However, he was also a statesman first. In most respects, a statesman is opposite of a politician. Politicians most of the time will say or do anything to be elected or gain power, yet a statesman is someone who does everything for the common good and for the people he serves. That was George. Yes, he was a yellow dog Democrat; born, raised and baptized a Democrat. (*Laughter*)

He made lifelong friends in the Democratic Party, including President Clinton. George and I had opportunity to get to know each other better at the Democratic Party convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. We were both delegates from our respective states. However socially progressive George was as a Democrat, he invested our and his money as a conservative Republican. Not a blue dog Democrat, a conservative Republican. And I'll always kid George that he was a closet Republican. (*Laughter*)

Historian. My friend George was a historian. He loved to tell the history of the state and the city he loved. There was not one trip that I came to Indiana the last 30-some years where George would not give me a history lesson on this area. The ditch. George and I had been in the Meridian area, the place he loved and where he went to school. We had eaten at his country club and we were driving back to the hotel. He showed me Butler University where he went, his father went, and his grandfather went. That's the Methodist school, and George was a Catholic; remember this.

So we was driving back, and we was driving back to the hotel. I looked to the right side of me. I asked George, "Why do you have this ditch beside the beautiful greenway?"

His comment, "Hell, boy, that's not a ditch. That's the Erie Canal." (*Laughter*)

I said, "What?"

And he said, "That's the Erie Canal." Then he went into the history of the canal and how Indiana finished its part, and he pointed as he was driving, "But Ohio didn't." (*Laughter*)

And Indiana used their part of the Erie Canal for intrastate, not interstate, intrastate commerce which grew Indianapolis, where Ohio didn't. (*Laughter*)

The Society of the Cincinnati, Ohio. The Society of the Cincinnati is a society with branches only in the United States and France, founded in 1783 by President Washington, to preserve the ideas and fellowship of the officers of the Continental Army who served in the Revolution. It is the oldest and most famous hereditary society in the world. Only men may join as you prove your lineage.

Okay, Brad. George's fifth great-grandfather, Brad's sixth great-grandfather, was an officer, as an ensign. You got to remember, there were ensigns in the Army at that time
during the Revolution. So George applied with his nonrefundable application fee of $500, along with his fifth great-grandfather's documentation. He was rejected. He called them. They told him that his grandfather was only an ensign in the state militia and not the Continental Line. So George asked for his money back. They said, "No. Read the small print. You're a lawyer." (Laughter)

When George told me that story, as he knew my fifth great-grandfather was a line sergeant in the Continental Line. Well, I'll tell you the story. I decided next time I came up, to tell George a story. I said, "George, I'm now a member of the Society of the Cincinnati." He looked at me, he said, "How? Your grandfather was a line sergeant."

I said, "Yes, he was. And he served three years in the line. However, after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, General Natty Greene did a field promotion of my grandfather to ensign."

He said, "How do you know that? You couldn't find that stuff." I said, "Remember, George, I read the memoirs of Natty Greene, my favorite general, and it's in there. And I sent that to the Society of the Cincinnati and they accepted it. But they sent my check. But I'm still a member, I want you to see everything."

He said, "Why did they send your money back?" I said, "Well, some guy named Buskirk paid his money so they used it for me." (Laughter)

Indiana. Some of you know I fly, sometimes I don't fly. It depends on how I feel and how long I'm going to be here and et cetera, et cetera. I've learned the back ways to come from North Carolina because I hate the interstate. I hate being on these long roads. So I've learned a way to come up the back way from Ohio and take State Road 9, then getting the National Road, U.S. 40. Now, with that said, the first time I came up that way, George told me the history of the nation's road. I started in with my history, I said, "Yeah, I remember that."

So the next time I came through, I said something to George. He said, "Now, you know that's not a safe road?" I said, "What do you mean? There's nice hotels."

"Oh, no. When it comes to East Washington Street, it's not safe." I looked at him I said, "George, I've been through that area. Hell, it looks a whole lot better than the place I grew up in. So what are you talking about?" I said, "George here's the issue. I've never seen so many stars and bars and flags in my life in North Carolina than I see flying in Knightstown, East Germantown, Centerville, Greenville. What is all these Confederate flags flying?"

He said, "Gaither, there is no place in Alabama further south than south of U.S. 40 in Indiana." (Laughter)

So I started going over my history and I knew exactly what he was talking about. Meetings. We all know the general had a hearing impairment, yes. The general wore hearing aids. Now, this is 20-something years of meetings. You asked George a question. Now, within our meetings, I'm on one end. When I wasn't the chair, I was sitting on that end, if I can. George was way down this end. You ask George a question, he answered. His answer is right, but it's not the right question you asked. (Laughter)

So Shawn or somebody would tell him the question and then he'd get the answer right. One of his famous things, and I won't go into this story, he always said, "I think that went well. Didn't it?" (Laughter)

George had been fighting the government, trying to get new hearing aids. Finally he said, "Hell with it." He just spent his own money and got new hearing aids. He got an amplifier, like a speaker. So we were at the convention. He put it on the table where Dan and I were, so that he could hear us. And it was wonderful. You asked him a question, he could respond to the question you asked. But sitting there, and I took my pen and I did this. (Tapping) And George said?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: "Is that you, God?"

CHAIRMAN KEENER: "Is that you, God, calling me?" (Laughter)

George was a treasure. I'll tell you a few more stories because I can't tell you them all. Credit card things. We was having an issue with First National Bank of Omaha and credit cards. I believe that's the time that Kevin Bartlett joined the Insurance Committee and was
going back and forth against them, and I was on the Finance Commission. George was taking the lead in a conversation with a lawyer representing the bank. George talked to the lawyer on the side and -- George became aggressive in his delivery as to the law and the documentation, as any lawyer would.

The lawyer on the other side for the bank said, "Ah, I don't like your attitude or your delivery."

And George, and I heard this statement I don't know how many damn times from George, "Oh, I'm sorry. I thought I was talking to a man. Sorry about that. Next time you're in Indiana, come by and see me and I'll give you a big hug and make you feel better." (Laughter)

George used that line several times. He would kick your ass in a polite way. I could talk about Buca di Beppo and those stories. Iozzo's, his favorite restaurant, where a few of us went to last night. I drank a Beefeater martini, and I don't know how he drank that stuff, but I did for him. I could talk about Blake, his favorite server; Tony, the owner of the three or four generations of Iozzo's. I could talk about Gracie, his dog. Perry Mason. He and I loved Perry Mason. I could talk about all kinds of things. But those are other stories.

Sickness. As you all know, the general was in the hospital. He didn't really want people to know he came close to death, and he won. The Lord took George home quickly so he would not have to go through what he went through before. I say this prayer and listen to the words. It's an Irish prayer that I love.

"May those who love us, love us. And those who don't love us, may God turn their hearts. And if he doesn't turn their hearts, may he turn their damn ankles so we know who they are by their limping." (Laughter)

George's ankles was never turned. God bless his soul. (Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Gaither. I'd like to recognize Brad Buskirk, General Buskirk's son. (Standing applause)

BRADLEY BUSKIRK: I'd like to recognize my sister, Ann, is in the back. (Applause)

My beautiful wife, Nadja, is here with us today too. It took 30 years to finally convince her to marry me. We went to grade school together. So they were able to be here with us today. (Applause)

I woke up about 3 a.m. this morning. I couldn't think of anything but Dad. The man was the leader he was. And I started jotting down all these things that I wanted to talk about. Not very many people have the privilege of being raised by a general, a father, a statesman, and all-around man who would give his shirt off his back to a stranger if they needed it. There are so many good things about my father, and he was one tough son of a bitch. (Laughter)

You know, I was joking with Nick Arnett in the back there, that I've been bumming around with for over a decade now, we served in Iraq together. I said, you know, "I wake up every morning waiting for that ass-kicking on the phone or that 'You need to get up here to the house to we can have a sit rep and a meeting.'"

Not two weeks ago I was at home and Dad called. I think he was bored. It was a Tuesday and he said, "I'll be expecting you at noon." I said, "Well, Dad, why do you need me to come all the way up there? Can we just do this over the phone?" "Did I not just say, 'Be here at noon'?" (Laughter)

"All right." So I called my wife that was at work and I said, "Can you pick up our daughter? I need to go and report in Zionsville." She said, "Why?" I said, "Because Dad said so." (Laughter)

I got up there and we're standing in the kitchen. You know Dad chain-smoked, constantly chain-smoking. We're going back and forth and I've just got this grin on my face. He's like, "Oh, just in one ear and out the other, isn't it? You're just laughing at me."

And I said, "No, Dad. Before I came up here I told Nadja that you just wanted me up here so that you could have me up here," and that's just the way he started laughing.

He was like, "Well, I'm a general and that's what I get." (Laughter)
"And let's do lunch." And we had lunch. You know, you never needed to travel anywhere or need a tour guide because Dad was very knowledgeable anywhere we went.

Commander Foster was kind enough and Jeff was kind enough to take us to Europe with them. Jeff talked about that a little bit ago. It was a real privilege and real honor. Dad and I had planned to go to Europe together for years, to track where my grandfather had gone in World War II.

You know, I don't think I'll ever be able to not have him in the back of my head telling me what I need to do. The fact that I got up here and I was thinking, you know, I can hear Dad saying, "God, you got up in front of the NEC and you didn't shave." (Laughter) You know, "What the hell is wrong with you?" But he was a great man and he loved the Legion.

When I was 16 years old, he woke me up, told me to put a suit and tie on, and I was headed to work. "Okay. Where am I going to work?"

"Put your suit and tie on," so I did. And we were here. And for the following three summers, I had the fortune of working for the Legion as a young man, learning, and becoming a part of this great organization that Dad loved so much.

I came back from Iraq in '09. Dad said, "Well, you didn't get your ass shot off. Good on you. What do you plan on doing with your life?"

"Frankly, I don't know." Then I was afforded the opportunity again to come back to the Legion as an employee, as a staff member, and be here. By then Dad had hung up the uniform, and I remember him saying that, "There will come a day that the Army will not be there for you. It's a matter of fact. They don't teach you how to retire. But the Legion will be there for you always."

He truly believed that. It was his love, it was his life, and I think he would be very proud of this and very honored, very touched.

So on behalf of my family and everybody else, thank you so much for allowing me to speak on our behalf. God bless you and thank you once again. In honor of the general, thank you again. So God bless. (Standing applause)

Phillip E. Davis, Kentucky

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Phillip E. Davis - Department Vice Commander - 2014 to 2015; Department Commander - 2016 to 2017; National Executive Committee Alternate Member – 2019; and

WHEREAS, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this 16th Day of October in the year of our Lord 2019, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Phillip E. Davis, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution be presented to his family.
Eulogy for Phillip E. Davis

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MOORE (KY): Phil, you got me. I know you're looking down and saying, "Well, we finally got you, unprepared and with no water."

God, I loved you. There are never any words to express what one of God's children has done and what he's meant or she has meant to others. Phil and I were in it together. I asked him, did he really want to come up here. Knew he was sick, he knew he was sick. As we loaded the car his wife said, "Please look after Phil."

I said, "Let me put his bags in the car."

She said, "No. I've carried them this far, I'm going to put them in for him."

He said, "I've got to go. I've got to support you, as the NEC, and our candidate for national commander, Randy. I've got to go."

And when he couldn't get up times out of bed and felt badly; we'd say, "Stay there."

You know, you heard some of the things that were read there of his accomplishments. You know there are many more things to life than accomplishments. It's what's here and the people around him and how they feel about him, the people that he had contact with. There are several people in my life, some know who they are, that I thank God every day that He blessed me with the contacts that I've had and those people coming into my life. One sits there, Phil Davis is another, others sit there, and there are many in this room, because for you all, my life has been more complete and better.

He didn't say anything about what a great family man Phil was. I can assure Phil today that Barb understands. I've been on the phone with her constantly. She called me, "Everything's okay," she said. That's what counts, the children are okay, those that love him are okay.

Phil Davis loved The American Legion, he loved his country, he loved his friends, he loved children. He spent much of his time helping young people that didn't have the opportunity to have someone to help them. He would go to ballgames, Little League games, to see kids play that didn't have anyone there to cheer for them. He did everything he could for his children and his grandchildren. But he did equally as much for those children who had no parents or grandparents.

Anytime the community needed anything to honor veterans, to benefit veterans, Phil Davis was there. He was the head of the Riders in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Anytime the Riders would go to honor a fallen veteran, Phil went, no matter how badly he felt, to be part of it. Commander of Post 82, Campbellsville, Kentucky, he pushed the Legion Family, the Auxiliary and the Sons.

We came up here, and his wish was to sit in the seat back there. As the NEC, I had the privilege to recommend that he place me on Internal Affairs, and we met and it was approved, and Charlie said, "You're no longer on Internal Affairs, Mr. Davis is," and he smiled at me and I could tell he was breaking in because his voice was broken and he could barely speak.

But you know, I could go on and on about him, the things he accomplished. He headed Internal Affairs in Kentucky and was a fair man. Things would come before him and he had to pass judgment on people, and he used the type of thing that I always used to say, you know, when you're in a position to pass judgment on people and you look down at the person you've got to pass judgment on. I remember an adage where a hunter has a doubled-barreled shotgun pointed at the rabbit and the handle is cocked. The rabbit looked up at him and said, "What would you do if I was the hunter and you were the rabbit and I was the man with a gun?" So that's how he was. I could go on and on about him, but I'll break up and I'll cry.

The thing that made me feel so good, even in this time, I saw many of you all have called, sent texts, and everything else, but I saw, and I've always known but it was truly, truly reinforced, what it is to be part of a wonderful Legion Family. The Department of Kentucky honored him and ensured that he was draped with a flag. We saluted him. We had prayer. Phil was taken away, as he went through the lobby in the Sheraton with the
Legion Family there, with their colors on, came to attention in two deep as he left. What a
great honor, what a great honor.

You know, I thank God every night that He allowed me to be more than this country,
the United States of America, the greatest nation that exists. I equally thank Him for the
friends I've met, and I thank Him all the time that I'm a part of this great Legion Family,
and I'm speaking for Phil Davis because he felt the same as I.

You know, when we come to rest, and I looked at Phil there when I found him, I said,
"You know, some day that's going to be me. Some day it's going to be all of us." And I
thought, God, I hope people can think as much of me as I thought of Phil and others thought
of Phil.

We can talk about all of the monuments in the world we want to. You can put a
monument, put all the accomplishments in the world we want to on them. The most
important thing on the monument is the hyphen. The hyphen is the most important thing
on a human being's life. It's what you do from the time you're born to what you do until
you die. You know, the most important thing is, our Creator knows. The individual that is
laying there knows. And those that they have come in contact know. You think about it,
that's what counts.

I can say this about my friend Phil Davis. Well done, my good and faithful friend.
You were a true patriot, a true Legionnaire, and a fantastic family man, and I thank God
every day that you were part of my life. God bless you and thank You, Lord, for placing
him in my life. (Standing applause)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I ask
that the NEC be seated.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please be seated.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Similar resolutions
will be presented to the families of the following: Wayne Stacey, Alabama; Douglas F.
George, Arkansas; Stephen D. Gray, Arkansas; Andrew F. Burkett, Florida; Edward J.
McGivern, Iowa; Clayton D. Thompson, Mississippi; Henry F. Gurney, New York; Ramon
A. Rivera-Rivera, Puerto Rico; Ernest Gerundio, Rhode Island; Clyde C. Ferguson,
Virginia; Robert C. Weyenberg, Wisconsin.

**THERE IS NO DEATH**

- There is no death! the stars go down
  To rise upon some other shore,
  *And bright in heaven's jeweled crown*
  They shine forevermore.

- There is no death! the forest leaves
  Convert to life the viewless air;
  *The rocks disorganize to feed*
  The hungry moss they bear.

- There is no death! the dust we tread
  Shall change, beneath the summer showers,
  To golden grain, or mellow fruit,
  Or rainbow-tinted flowers.

- And ever near us though unseen
  The dear immortal spirits tread,
  *For all the boundless universe*
  Is life —“there are no dead”

--John Luckey McCreery
Good morning, everyone. Commander, national vice commanders, past national commanders, NEC, I welcome you and I appreciate the opportunity to serve this great organization as your national judge advocate. Right now I'm going to apologize in advance for a little longer report caused by all the things that took place this year.

But from October 1 through September 30 of 2019, as the NJA, I managed a large number of legal proceedings and lawsuits throughout the country in which The American Legion has been served and/or contacted for legal purposes. All of these matters are being handled as required and in conjunction with co-counsel as needed. But overall, the best legal news for this organization and the United States was our court victory in the United States Supreme Court, the Bladensburg Memorial case. (Applause)

This Supreme Court case has led to numerous other results and findings where they cite The American Legion in their respective rulings, something to be proud of.

This year I rendered over 850 written and oral opinions on questions that had been submitted by all of you departments, national officers, staff, and individual members of our organizations. These opinions involved legal matters like contracts, probate, federal tax questions, torts, insurance, blah, blah, blah, lots of different things. And also don't forget about our National Constitution and Bylaws of The American Legion.

In each instance, when appropriate, a copy of the opinion rendered was furnished to each NEC, department commander, department adjutant, and department JA, so they would be acquainted with the opinion affecting their particular department.

Regarding my position as general counsel of the American Legion Auxiliary, a position I appreciate and love to do, there were lots of written opinions, contracts reviewed, lots of in-person meetings and telephone conversations, and lots of work on their behalf. And I thank them and wish them good luck this year, Madam President.

In accordance with established American Legion policy, I reviewed the manuscripts of every single article destined for future publication in The American Legion Magazine and The Dispatch and all other publications, for the purposes of expunging statements or materials questionable in character contained therein which might subject The American Legion to a libel lawsuit.

For the record, we received and read 2,202 different manuscripts, and we reported any changes or corrections to the publisher or the editor as necessary. We also watched 127 different videos posted on the website, looked at 512 veteran memorials. We had 85 different contracts, two license agreements, and three different podcasts that were looked at.

Regarding our trademark activity, the American Legion Riders trademark was extended until 2029, so was the American Legion Legacy Run trademark, The American Legion Rider Eagle trademark and the trademark emblem of The American Legion was extended in a number of countries until 2029. You see the trend here. We also applied for a trademark in a number of other countries, and we received notice just the other day that the European Union has also extended to 2029. Lastly, the World Series of The American Legion Baseball trademark has been submitted and that is working through the process.

As a member of the Retirement Committee, we attended all the meetings for that committee. We have filed all the necessary returns, reports, and documents for the calendar year with the IRS in conjunction with all The American Legion programs and plans.

I also worked on a variety of other matters for us and looked at over 100 different DD214s or other proof of honorable service. We published 25 different list protection
agreements, 33 cease and desists, 209 post tax letters, 44 indemnity agreements. Fifty resolutions were consulted on and we drafted about 23 of them with help.

Of particular note, which you might like to talk about, is the LEGION Act. Based upon our unrecognized armed hostilities resolution that was passed in October of 2018, was signed into law by President Trump on July 30, 2019, resulting in millions and millions of unacknowledged Legionnaires, potential Legionnaires, as wartime veterans.

One particular resolution was a massive undertaking has led to a complete updating of our National Constitution and Bylaws, copies that were provided to all of you on your desks. If you'd like additional copies, please see me at the break.

Now, I also attended the national convention, as you know, the Washington, D.C. Conference, fall and spring meetings, and I also spoke at the national convention at the Student Veterans of America conference. I visited, lectured, and talked at four different department conventions this summer: Kansas, Alabama, California, and Pennsylvania, and I wish to thank each of those departments for their hospitality and the way they conducted their conventions.

As your chief compliance officer, I was given the management responsibility for the Internal Affairs, membership, library, and insurance divisions, and we dealt with a number of divisional requests, while attending 15 different divisional meetings and 27 committee meetings.

On the area of the insurance risk management, it was determined that The American Legion insurance coverage needed a complete review to see if there could be an improvement in our insurance broker and save us a little bit of money. So we did a request for proposal. Six companies and our past broker submitted answers to the RFP. Finance Commission subcommittee reviewed them, decided who they were going to talk to, met with them for in-house interviews and determined their capabilities to serve as our national insurance broker. All companies were given the same amount of time to present and answer questions.

The subcommittee met after the interviews and discussed their possible choices. The outcome of this meeting and other meetings resulted in a vote at convention, and NFP Property and Casualty was determined to be the new insurance broker of record for The American Legion. And NFP is now working on making our insurance coverage more efficient at a lower cost.

Lastly, please, all of you sitting in these seats, take note of the conflict-of-interest forms that are sitting on your desk. Fill them out completely. Some of you already have, and I appreciate that. But these need to be legible as this is an IRS-requested form that our auditors make copies of for our yearly financial report.

In conclusion, commander, I wish to thank you and all national officers and you, the NEC, for this opportunity to serve this great organization as your national judge. Thank you, all. (Applause)

Report: National Judge Advocate
Kevin J. Bartlett, J.D., Michigan

Employee Salary Savings Plan – 401(k) Plan
We have changed our TPA and administrator of the plan which will result in decreasing the costs/fees, yet as we keep similar product offerings and results the plan is improved.

The American Legion Retirement Plan (for National & Departments)
There has been no change as this plan has been frozen since 2008.

International Headquarters Activities
The National Judge Advocate’s job includes being TAL’s Chief Compliance Officer. This additional title comes with the additional management responsibilities over the Internal Affairs division, Membership division, Library/Museum and Insurance/Risk
Management. Please find attached to this report the Library/Museum’s material discard list for your approval.

Under insurance/risk management the “request for proposal” (RFP) for a potential change in our insurance broker went out to the marketplace. Six companies and our current broker submitted their answer to our RFP. The Finance subcommittee reviewed these RFPs. Upon their recommendation three companies and our current broker were scheduled and met with for in-house interviews to determine their capabilities to serve as our National insurance broker. All companies were given the same amount of time to present and answer questions. The Finance subcommittee met after the interviews and discussed the possible choices. At the National Convention the subcommittee discussed their options and the National Finance Commission selected NFP Property and Casualty, Inc. as the new insurance broker of record for TAL beginning immediately.

All legal documents, contracts and TAL books/brochures are continually being reviewed and updated as needed. Of particular note: the LEGION Act (P.A. 116-35), based upon our Resolution 1 of 2018 was signed into law by President Trump on July 30, 2019 resulting in millions of additional veterans being recognized as war-time veterans. Additionally countless hours were spent updating TAL’s National Constitution & By-Laws with such updates approved at the 2019 National Convention. Lastly the corrective membership change to the American Legion Auxiliary has resulted in numerous membership opportunities for The American Legion Family.

NJA Duties

Since October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019 the following events have taken place through the office of National Judge Advocate: 2,202 media articles were read and reviewed prior to publishing; 512 U.S. Memorial website submissions were reviewed; 127 on-line videos were watched and reviewed; 87 contracts were read, reviewed and worked; issued 355 oral opinions and 480 written opinions; been consulted on 50 Resolutions; wrote 23 Resolutions; issued 158 Department/Post correspondence opinions; reviewed and issued 25 List Protection Agreements; received and given 45 litigation updates; researched and issued 33 TAL Emblem violation “Cease and Desist” letters; researched and issued 209 Post tax letters; issued 44 Legion Charities indemnity documents; reviewed 100 DD-214's; attended 15 TAL Divisional meetings; attended 27 Special Committee meetings; participated in 27 various trademark activities; assisted the Ladies Auxiliary on 5 contracts and 17 opinions; attended 6 Ladies Auxiliary meetings; performed 30.00 hours of Ladies Auxiliary work; attended 17 Retirement committee events; approved 507 Division requests; drafted 2 license agreements; reviewed 3 podcasts; attended 1 Citizens Flag Amendment meetings; assisted the Abvie Hep-C tour, traveled to WDC numerous times for TAL matters including meeting with various Members of Congress regarding the LEGION Act, attended, represented TAL and was a key note speaker at the Student Veterans of American National Conference, met with local PA counsel, was deposed in a Pennsylvania lawsuit; taught at a California American Legion College, traveled to New York for fundraising discussions, and made trips to the Department Conventions of Kansas, Alabama, California & Pennsylvania where I spoke and taught JA classes to nearly 2,000 people, attended the American Legion World Series, attended a Georgetown University Law School legal class, attended a Legal/MBA class and visited at least five posts – amongst numerous other duties as your National Judge Advocate.

Trademark Activities

This year we had a lot of trademark activity. Our “American Legion Riders” trademark was extended until 2/24/2029; “The American Legion Legacy Run” trademark was extended until 03/24/2029; the American Legion Rider “Eagle” trademark was extended until 07/28/29; the trademark emblem of The American Legion was extended in New Zealand until 10/05/29 and in Australia until 10/06/29; the American Legion Rider motorcycle design was reapplied for continuation in the USA; the trademarked American Legion emblem was applied to be continued in India, Mexico, Kuwait, the European
Union, Pakistan, the Republic of Panama and the Dominican Republic; and lastly The American Legion World Series baseball trademark has been transmitted to the US Patent Office for trademarking registration.

**Current Litigation**

From October 1 through September 30, 2019 as your National Judge Advocate I have managed a large number of legal proceedings and lawsuits throughout the country in which The American Legion has been served and/or contacted for legal purposes. All of these matters are being handled as required and in conjunction with our co-counsel as needed.

**RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN:** Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett. ...Second.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD:** It's been moved and seconded to receive the report of National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried. Chair recognizes National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler of Virginia for announcements.

**Announcements**

**NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER:** Thank you, commander. All new NEC members should stop by the photo area set up in the fourth floor men's lounge area for official portraits. Any existing NEC who wishes to update their official portrait may also stop by.

Buses will be available today to take people to National Treasurer George Buskirk's visitation after today's NEC meeting recesses for the day. The buses will leave from the front of the building, and will leave the funeral home at 4:30 to return to the Sheraton hotel by 5 p.m. For those who are staying at nearby hotels, they may walk to the Sheraton, which is centrally located. For those attending on their own. The viewing is at Leppert Mortuaries, in Nora, which is 740 East 86th Street.

The national commander's dinner honoring the NEC is tonight at the Sheraton City Centre Indianapolis. The reception will be held in the Circle Suites at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be served in the Meridian Ballroom at 6:15 p.m. The only NEC member who has not yet turned in a name of attendees is California. Would same please see Patty Jackson in the front office as soon as possible. The cutoff for seating is this morning. So if you have a yellow form completed, turn it in immediately. Tickets will be available for pickup after lunch. Mr. Commander, that completes the announcements.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD:** Thank you. I now call on Finance Commission Chairman Gaither M. Keener, Jr., of North Carolina, for the purposes of a report.

**Oral Report: Finance Commission**

Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

Commander and the members of the NEC, distinguished guests. The Finance Commission met on Monday and Tuesday, October 14 and 15; all commission members were present. Also present was Daniel S. Wheeler, national adjutant; James Baca, the marketing and communication’s executive director; Lou Celli, government and veterans affairs executive director; Shawn Long, finance director; Rodney Rolland, human resources director; along with David Warnken, Robert Krause, Robert Skinner, Thomas Florez, and Michael Mitrione, of our Finance NEC Liaison Committee. Several guests joined us out throughout the course of our two-day meeting.

Reports were received from the national adjutant, national judge advocate, the Convention Commission, the Marketing Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, the Media & Communications Commission, the Membership & Post Activities Committee,
and the executive, finance, human resource, and IT directors. We also received updates concerning the American Legion World Series.

We had a brief eulogy for our dear departed friend George Buskirk, and we were all thankful for the time we had with him.

Attached is a report that provides the payment breakdowns to or on behalf of each department. You'll notice this year is over $8 million.

The commission recommends that 2020 dues be allocated as follows: $3 to The American Legion Magazine and $15.50 to the general fund; no change as to last several years.

Finance Director Shawn Long shared the following two charts, illustrating the value derived from members' dues investment in The American Legion. The charts showed that the national headquarters is an efficiently run organization. When you get a chance you can look at them. If you have any questions later on, feel free to give me a call.

There is no American Legion national commission that is not worried or concerned about membership. I've told you before, national dues only pays 34 percent of our total budget. Recent figures indicate that we may be in the process of stopping the slide. In order to illustrate just how very important it is to stop the slide, I asked one of our statisticians to calculate three different scenarios for illumination for you to review.

The first scenario, "Baseline," shows what happens if we continue the trend that we've been experiencing through 2019. By 2022, we'll have a cash deficiency in our working capital of approximately $3 million, necessitating an immediate dues increase. That's nothing you haven't heard, not news to you, that's going on about eight years from Baltimore.

If we were to stop the slide this year and just to maintain, with no growth and no loss, we'll stay at 1.81 million members by 2024. We'll still have over a million dollars of working capital and no dues increase in sight for at least another five years, if not another year or two.

The third scenario depicts if we are able to maintain growth at just 15,000 members per year net. By 2024, we would have $1.5 million in working capital, and no dues increase in sight with the possibility of an additional 12 years from today. Now, you know membership's important. We all know that.

The commission approved $35,000 capital expenditure for telephone equipment in anticipation of a new phone system for all three headquarters buildings, and then they can contact each other. It also approved $21,225 in budget overruns for Emblem Sales operations since the 2019 National Convention.

The commission approved the recommendation that the certified public accountants Crowe LLP be employed to prepare The American Legion's 2019 fiscal-year audit and IRS 990.

Jimmy Luther was named agent of record for the health and life coverage of national headquarters employees. Beginning in 2020, The American Legion will offer national headquarters employees their choice between their current health insurance plan and a new health insurance plan which has a lower premium but a higher deductible and a health savings account. If you know anything about cafeteria plans and national health savings accounts, the younger people, that's what they want. Headcount of national headquarters staff is still at 257.

The Finance Commission approved the recommendation of the Marketing Commission with respect to utilization of $200,000 for The American Legion U.S. Mint coins for future use. The commission also allocated $250,000 to purchase American Legion centennial coins for use as a premium in PUFL solicitations, as we have been using for the last six months.

We are forecasting a net year-end operating surplus of what I told you at convention, $4,871,066. The 2020 budget request is based on a membership of 1,800,000. The request calls for revenues of $85,634,000, plus expenses of $83,102,000 for an operating surplus of $2,532,396. A list of resolutions recommended for your approval follows this report. Mr. Commander, that's my report.
The Finance Commission met Monday and Tuesday, October 14-15. All commission members were present. Also present were: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant; James Baca, Marketing & Communications Executive Director; Lou Celli, Government & Veterans Affairs Executive Director; Shawn Long, Finance Director; Rodney Rolland, Human Resources Director; and David Warnken, Robert Krause, Robert Skinner, Thomas Florez and Michael Mitrione of the Finance NEC Liaison Committee. Several guests joined us throughout the course of the meeting.

Reports were received from the National Adjutant; National Judge Advocate; the Convention, Marketing, Internal Affairs and Media & Communications Commissions; the Membership & Post Activities Committee; and the Executive, Finance, Human Resources and IT Directors. We also received an update concerning the American Legion World Series.

We had a brief eulogy for our dear departed friend, George Buskirk. We were all thankful for the time we had with him. Attached is a report that provides payment breakdowns to, or on behalf of, each department.

The commission recommends that 2020 dues be allocated as follows: $3 to The American Legion Magazine and $15.50 to the general fund.

Finance Director Shawn Long shared the following two charts, illustrating the value derived from a member’s dues investment in The American Legion. The charts showed that the national headquarters is an efficiently run organization.

There is no American Legion national commission that is not concerned about the membership situation. Recent figures indicate that we may be in the process of stopping

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<th>National Dues</th>
<th>2017 Actual</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Projection</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
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<td>DMS Income</td>
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the slide. In order to illustrate just how very important it is to stop the slide, I asked our statisticians to calculate three difference scenarios for your illumination.

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flat (no growth, no loss)</td>
<td>$1,538,703</td>
<td>(1,330,829)</td>
<td>(2,970,320)</td>
<td>(4,710,570)</td>
<td>(5,293,276)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15k annual growth of membership</td>
<td>$1,385,708</td>
<td>$2,285,054</td>
<td>1,655,681</td>
<td>1,868,936</td>
<td>1,125,898</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first scenario, “Baseline,” shows what happens if we continue the trend that we have been experiencing through 2019. By 2022, we will have a cash deficiency in our working capital of $3 million, necessitating an immediate dues increase.

If we were to stop the slide this year and just maintain, with no growth and no loss, and we stayed at 1.8 million members, by 2024 we would still have over $1 million of working capital and no dues increase in sight for at least another five years, if then.

The third scenario depicts if we were able to maintain growth of just 15,000 members per year net. By 2024 we would have $1.5 million in working capital and no dues increase in sight for the foreseeable future.

The commission approved a $35,000 capital expenditure for telephone equipment in anticipation of a new phone system for all three headquarters buildings. It also approved $21,225 in budget overruns for Emblem Sales operation since the 2019 national convention.

The commission approved a recommendation that certified public accountants Crowe LLP be employed to prepare The American Legion’s 2019 fiscal year audit.

Jimmy Luther was named agent-of-record for the health and life coverage of national headquarters employees. Beginning in 2020, The American Legion will offer national headquarters employees the choice between the current health insurance plan or a new health insurance plan, which will have a lower premium but a higher deductible and health saving account. Headcount of national headquarters staff is 257.

The Finance Commission approved the recommendation of the Marketing Commission with respect to utilization of the $200,000 for The American Legion US Mint coins for future use. The commission also approved $250,000 was allocated to purchase American Legion commemorative silver dollar coins for use as premium in PUFL solicitations.

We are forecasting a year-end net operating surplus of $4,871,066. The 2020 budget request is based on a membership of 1,800,000. The request calls for revenues of $85,634,237 and expenses of $83,101,841 for an operating surplus of $2,532,396.

A list of resolutions recommended for your approval follows this report.

**Resolutions**

The Finance Commission recommends the NEC approve and adopt the resolutions listed below. Copies of the resolutions accompany this report.

- **Resolution No. 1. “Amendment to the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion.”** Changes “Great War” to “all wars.”
- **Resolution No. 2. “National Oratorical Contest of The American Legion.”** Revises the elimination system and scholarship award structure for the national oratorical contest finals.
• **Resolution No. 3, “Extension of Agreement with Baseball Factory.”** Extends the current agreement for an additional five-year term.

• **Resolution No. 4, “American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award.”** Renames the “American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy” to “American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award” and makes provisions for the award and plaque.

• **Resolution No. 5, “National Convention Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Screening Committee.”** This committee will screen resolutions prior to the VA&R Convention Committee meeting at each national convention. This change was necessitated because the committee formerly consisted only of department service officers, who sometimes were unable to attend the national convention due to work or budgetary restrictions.

• **Resolution No. 6, “75th Anniversary of World War II.”** Resolves that departments and posts work with state and local governments as well as military units for 75th anniversary of WWII events. Media & Communications and Marketing Commissions will also work to recognize this anniversary.

• **Resolution No. 7, “The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation Authorization.”** The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, doing business as “The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation,” may directly solicit money for the additional $25 million financial campaign from all members of The American Legion, regardless of where such members may live until such time as the fundraising goal is achieved. This is an exception to the provisions of Resolution 7, October 2017. All sums of money raised after expenses are exclusively, and only, for The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation trust fund corpus. Said increased trust fund earnings will be used to exclusively, and only, support programs of the VA&R Commission including service officer training, and the Temporary Financial Assistance program, in perpetuity, without paying any of the programs’ supporting costs, as such costs will be covered by the general fund.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and adopt the report of the Finance Commission with the exception of seven resolutions. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion to adopt the Finance report with the exception of seven resolutions. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. So be it.

Resolution No. 1: Amendment To The Preamble Of The Constitution Of The American Legion

**Origin:** Resolution No. 44 (OH) 2019 National Convention

**Submitted by:** Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is very careful and cautious in the drafting of its organizational documents; and

WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion was amended once after World War I by replacing the words “association” and “War” to read as “associations” and “Wars” as a means of recognizing the World War II veterans; and

WHEREAS, The United States government in the LEGION Act (P.A. 116-35) officially acknowledged that the United States military has been involved in at least twelve additional military conflicts not previously recognized; and

WHEREAS, It is now proper to amend the preamble to recognize all of the millions of United States military veterans from these many other wars and conflicts since the great wars of World War I and World War II that are not being currently recognized within the preamble; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 44 from the 2019 National Convention was referred to the Subcommittee on Resolutions for further study and recommends this resolution be
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16–17, 2019, That the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion is amended to read:

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions. Therefore, I move that this Resolution Number 1 be adopted. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 1. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I ask for permission that Resolution Number 2 be read for approval after the lunch break. We go on to Number 3.

Resolution No. 3: Extension Of Agreement With Baseball Factory
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee on May 6-7, 2009, by Resolution No. 4, directed the national commander to execute an agreement between The American Legion and Baseball Factory which commenced June 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee on May 7-8, 2014, by Resolution No. 10, directed the national commander to execute another agreement between The American Legion and Baseball Factory which commenced June 2, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The national commanders did execute each said agreement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steve Sclafani is the CEO of Baseball Factory, established in 1994 to help baseball players improve their individual skills and promote their talents to professional scouts and college coaches; and

WHEREAS, Baseball Factory desires to continue their ten year business relationship with The American Legion, by providing clinics and showcase tournaments to assist American Legion Baseball players to further develop their skills; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is now seeking to extend the duration of the current agreement for an additional five-year term; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the Americanism Commission and, with concurrence from the Finance Commission, is recommended to the National Executive Committee for favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That the current agreement with the Baseball Factory executed June 2, 2014, be extended for an additional five-year term; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That as per the agreement The American Legion will continue to provide annual copies of American Legion Baseball team player rosters for use by the Baseball Factory in conducting mailings to team coaches and players (via their parents or legal guardians and when they have consented to receive communications)
to promote Baseball Factory clinics and tournaments for the duration of the extended agreement; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will continue to be authorized to accept $30,000 each year from the Baseball Factory for the duration of the extended agreement for the use of these rosters; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all funds received from this agreement with the Baseball Factory will continue to be deposited in the American Legion Baseball general operating account(s) to offset the costs of conducting the program and/or for providing scholarships to eligible participants of American Legion Baseball; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That after review and approval by the national judge advocate of said agreement extension, the national commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement extension and that the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to the same; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 4, “Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with The Baseball Factory,” May 6-7, 2009, and National Executive Committee Resolution No. 10, “Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with The Baseball Factory,” May 7-8, 2014, are hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of the Americanism Commission, the Finance Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee. Therefore, I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and second on the floor to adopt the resolution as stated. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Passed.

Resolution No. 4: American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission
WHEREAS, Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee May 2001, titled “American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy” was designated to establish traveling trophies awarded to the top performing individual and team in the Sporter and Precision categories competing in the annual (Civilian Marksmanship Program’s) National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship who were members of clubs and teams affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program; and

WHEREAS, Recognition of the National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship sponsored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program was discontinued in 2015 in favor of placing greater emphasis upon The American Legion’s own national air rifle championship tournament; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the Americanism Commission, and with the concurrence from the Internal Affairs Commission and the Finance Commission, is recommended to the National Executive Committee for favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That the current American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy be retired; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the award currently titled “American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy” be renamed to “American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award”; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That plaques be presented annually to the national tournament champions of the individual and team categories in Sporter and Precision disciplines of The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That inscriptions for each plaque shall read appropriate for the category and discipline being presented; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the description of the award, how and when to present the award, and any additional conditions will be determined and approved by the Americanism Commission of The American Legion; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That funds expended for annual purchase of plaques for the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award shall not exceed the amount approved by the Finance Commission within the Junior Shooting Sports Program operational budget each year; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee, May 2001, titled "American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of the Americanism Commission, the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, and approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Therefore, I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and second on the floor to adopt the resolution as stated. Any discussion?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER STRAUSS (SC): Discussion. I'm Michael Strauss, the NEC from South Carolina. On the second "resolve," is it intended for the renaming of it "The American Legion" or is that just a technical error? On there it says, "American Legion" on the second "resolve," second line. For branding purposes, do we want it to say "The American Legion" instead of "American Legion"?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Okay. It currently states, "That the award currently titled 'American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy' be renamed to the 'American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award.'" It is as stated.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER STRAUSS: The word "the" is off The American Legion. You said "the," but it's not written down as "the." On the second line where it says "American Legion," should it be "The American Legion"? Does that make sense?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: I'm sorry. I can't hear everything you're saying.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER STRAUSS: Okay. On the second line where it says "renamed," right after it says "to be renamed," I was asking is that a technical error for "the" to be left off "American Legion"?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: It is.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: They are following the name of the title of the trophy before with the same form. Before it didn't include "the"; it doesn't include "the" now.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER STRAUSS: Is that a technical error we want to change now?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: No.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: No, it's not a technical error.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Both of those are copyrighted names. We have a motion and a second to adopt the resolution. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Passed.

Resolution No. 5: National Convention Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Screening Committee

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 27, "National Convention Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Screening Committee," approved at the May 2006 meeting of the National
Executive Committee establishes a committee to review, classify, and consolidate resolutions and to eliminate duplications; and

WHEREAS, The experience gained over the past 60 years has clearly demonstrated the desirability of a screening committee to review and make recommendations for disposition of American Legion National Convention Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) resolutions; and

WHEREAS, For the purposes of selecting screening committee members, an effort will be made to select persons from diverse areas of the nation; and

WHEREAS, In order to prevent the cost of travel, lodging, meals and incidentals from being burdensome to the members selected; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 16-17, 2019, That the rules governing the National Convention Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Screening Committee (screening committee) be revised to read as follows:

That the national adjutant of The American Legion is authorized to call to the convention city, five persons, from department service officers and/or anyone with a current appointment to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, for four days to work with the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and consider all resolutions assigned to the Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation for the purpose of (a) classifying those resolutions; (b) consolidating them; or (c) eliminating duplications, as well as for the purpose of recommending to the Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation disposition of the resolutions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the screening committee will be selected under the following procedure: the annual Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Selection Committee established and chaired by the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission chairman shall submit to the national adjutant the names of persons to serve on the screening committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each member of the screening committee be authorized reimbursement of the cost of travel, lodging and staff per diem from the National Headquarters of The American Legion for their participation in the National Convention Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Screening Committee meeting and the Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation meeting; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 27, "National Convention Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Screening Committee," approved at the May 2006 meeting of the National Executive Committee is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, your Finance Commission, your Resolutions Subcommittee. Therefore, I move that Resolution Number 5 be adopted. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and second on the floor to adopt the resolution as stated. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Passed.

Resolution No. 6: 75th Anniversary of World War II
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Public Law 115-433, signed by the president on January 10, 2019, states the secretary of defense will conduct a series of events to commemorate The United States of America 75th anniversary of World War II, which will terminate on December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, During this period, the Department of Defense and each of the military services will conduct and participate in a series of commemorative events focusing on
honoring WWII veterans, educating the American public on the war and the participation of the military, the engagement of the home front, and significant contributions to the country generated from the World War II period; and

WHEREAS, It is a time to thank the World War II veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices on behalf of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The official ending of World War II was September 2, 1945 when General Douglas MacArthur accepted Japan’s surrender; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous events to be held across the country between now and December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been coordinated with the Media & Communications Commission and the Marketing Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That The American Legion departments and posts work with state and local governments as well as military units for any 75th anniversary of World War II event held in their community honoring World War II veterans and their families; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national Media & Communications Commission develop remembrance articles for distribution to departments/posts and consider dedicating a significant portion of the September 2020 The American Legion Magazine issue to the “Greatest Generation” for their contributions to the nation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national Marketing Commission develop a marketing plan to assist departments and posts in educating the American public on the significant accomplishments of this generation and The American Legion to the nation.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Resolution Number 6 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Therefore, I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and second on the floor to adopt the resolution as stated. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Passed.

Resolution No. 7: The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation Authorization

Origin: Marketing Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, During the 1924 National Convention, the National Executive Committee was authorized and directed to “take the necessary steps to create a trust to receive donations from members of The American Legion and other persons interested, such donations to be used to create a trust fund, the income of which shall be used solely in carrying on the national rehabilitation work of The American Legion.” Furthermore, it was recommended “that the executive committee prepare and distribute through such mediums as it deems proper, a prospectus of the proposed trust fund and invite all Legionnaires and other persons to contribute thereto”; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation on March 30, 1925 established The American Legion Endowment Fund; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 17–18, 2018, adopted Resolution No. 3 titled “The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation”; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation has an immediate, and ongoing, goal of increasing The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation corpus by Twenty-Five Million Dollars ($25,000,000.00); and

WHEREAS, Raising such a large sum of money will require the complete cooperation of the entire American Legion organization over multiple years; and
WHEREAS, The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation has been identified as the annual National Commander’s project for the next seven years or until the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation corpus reaches the campaign goal of Twenty-Five Million Dollars ($25,000,000.00), whichever occurs first and encourages department commanders to do likewise; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, and reviewed by the Marketing Commission and the Finance Commission which recommend its adoption; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That as an exception to the provisions of Resolution No. 7 of the Fall 2017 meeting of the National Executive Committee, The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation may directly solicit money for the additional Twenty-Five Million Dollar ($25,000,000.00) financial campaign doing business as “The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation” from all members of The American Legion, regardless of where such members may live until such time as the fundraising goal is achieved; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all sums of money raised after expenses are exclusively, and only, for The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation trust fund corpus; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That said increased trust fund earnings will be used to exclusively, and only support programs of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, including service officer training, and the Temporary Financial Assistance program of the Americanism Commission’s Children & Youth Committee of The American Legion in perpetuity without paying any of the programs’ supporting costs as such costs will be covered by the general fund.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of the Marketing Commission, The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Therefore, I move that Resolution Number 7 be adopted. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and second on the floor to adopt the resolution as stated. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Passed. ...National Vice Commander MacDonald assumed the Chair.

Appointment of National Treasurer

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Shawn T. Long, certified public accountant, has served as The American Legion's Director of Finance since October 2008, and has done an excellent job reorganizing the Finance Division. He is well respected by his staff, his colleagues and the members of the Finance Commission because of his character, work ethic, and professional expertise. In addition to his normal assignments, he has undertaken the supervision of the purchasing department, the information technology division including supervising the selection and implementation of our state-of-the-art computer system and up-to-date telephone network.

Mr. Long is a six-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran and a member of American Legion Post 252. Mr. Long earned his Bachelor of Science in accounting from Indiana State University in 1995; his Master of Business Administration from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, in 2007; his Master of Science - Finance from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, in 2009; and his CPA in 2000.

He worked closely with National Treasurer George A. Buskirk who highly commended Mr. Long for his expertise and leadership ability and considered him to be an excellent candidate for national treasurer, as does the Finance Commission chair, Gaither Keener, Esquire. Therefore, members of the National Executive Committee, I nominate
Shawn T. Long to be appointed to the high office of American Legion national treasurer, and I so move. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. We have a national treasurer. (Applause)

At this time, I’d like to ask Past National Commander Dick Comer to join me at the lectern, and also like to invite National Treasurer Shawn Long and his wife also to join us.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Members of the National Executive Committee, we certainly offer Shawn our very best and congratulations. He's going to do a great job. At this time, I will ask his wife, Sue, if she would present him with his cap. (Applause)

We will all be receiving checks from him, so now I'll present to him his official citation of his new salary. (Laughter and applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mr. Long, the floor is yours.

NATIONAL TREASURER LONG: Mr. Commander, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers and guests, I have no speech. I'm not prepared. I do want to say thank you. It is a great honor. George Buskirk was a dear friend of mine and a mentor, and I take this as a great honor to follow in his footsteps.

I commit to all of you that I will do my utmost to carry on that tradition and safeguard the financial position of The American Legion. I just want to say thank you. I made a grave error that I will pay for dearly. I want to thank my wife. (Laughter and applause)

...National Commander Oxford resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Shawn. Next order of business, the chair recognizes James M. "Mike" Rohan, Wisconsin, chairman of the Marketing Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Marketing Commission
James M. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman

Commander Oxford, Adjutant Wheeler, past national commanders, NEC, Madam President, ladies and gentlemen. You have my written report and we're getting close to lunch. I'm not going to read my report, I'm certain you can do that on your own. But I do want to highlight two very important things that we are working on your behalf.

One is our coin sales. Our coin sales have done wonderful. We are at $1,255 million raised from our coin sales because of you, your departments, and your members, and thank you for that. We can do better. We project, based upon the averages that we've had through the weeks since this started, that we will add an additional 4,122 clad coin sales, 6,830 more silver coin sales, and 913 more gold coin sales, which equates to an additional $148,865, for a projected revenue by year end, if we meet those projections, of $1,396,470, and that does not include the coin sales that we just had authorized by our Finance Commission.

I ask that you consider purchasing coins. You may be celebrating your 100th year, but at your department you're going to be celebrating 100 years for many years. You have posts that were formed in 1919, you have posts that were formed in 1920, in 1921, and so on. What better gift to those post officers that served during their 100th year, than an American Legion coin. And whether that is a clad coin, if that's what you can afford; a silver coin if that's what you can afford, or a gold coin, which I will transfer you to the department, if that's what you can afford. Please consider those. Consider those that are coming after you and the gift that you can give them by purchasing those coins.

As you know, after December 31st, all inventory left over will be melted and they will no longer be available. So you have between now and December 31st to talk at your department headquarters and authorize the purchase of additional coins for future years of 100 year celebrations.
The only other thing I want to talk to you about that's in my report is the resolution that you just passed for the VCF. In 1924, this organization took on a similar task of raising $5 million with just a little over 800,000 members, and they succeeded. With a little over 800,000 members, they raised $5 million which, in today's dollars, is about $30 million. We can do this, we owe this to our veterans and our children to do this.

I'm asking that each of you, as you get ready to bring in a new department commander, ask that department commander to take this on as his or her project for the next seven years, so that we can do this. We know we can, we've done it in the past. This is historic. You're going to be part of history, helping us raise $25 million for the future of our children and our veterans. We can do this.

So we will be engaging you. As your Marketing Commission, we will be engaging you over the next several months, through the next several years in helping you prepare for this, in helping you raise the funds that we need to raise to make this historic.

Mr. Commander, on behalf of the Marketing Commission, I want to thank our staff, Scott, Chuck, Dave, Brad, and Miesha for their outstanding work as they raise awareness and revenue for this American Legion. Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

The Marketing Commission continues to work diligently using all marketing tactics available to raise public awareness of The American Legion emblem, brand and our efforts on behalf of veteran issues. The intent of this report is to outline the newest marketing, strategic alliances and business development initiatives that the marketing commission and division are pursuing since the last report.

FUNDRAISING

National Fundraising (Non-member)

As already reported at National Convention in Indianapolis, year-to-date National Fundraising is tracking behind pace which is directly related to the first quarter special fundraising effort supporting the Veterans and Children Foundation, which focused on the government shutdown and how it affected the Coast Guard. The appeal raised about $316,000 in gross revenue from our non-member donors which in turn reduced proceeds from scheduled appeals at about the same time. Net proceeds from this non-member, V&C Foundation effort finished at about $226,000. To-date net proceeds from 2019 campaigns are behind pace by more than $120,000. We do expect this gap to continue to close as we approach the finish of the 2019 campaigns.

Note: These income and revenue figures are direct marketing results of the campaigns and not necessarily the year-end financial results and it does not include the Department revenue share distribution, except where specified.

National Fundraising – Department of New Mexico – Agreement

During the 4th quarter of 2018, The American Legion National Headquarters and the Department of New Mexico entered into an agreement where the national organization would incorporate the department into the national fundraising campaign cycle. This was in an effort to increase the department’s gross receipts, while continuing to reduce the cost of fundraising to the national organization. The department agreed to allow national to fundraise to its membership file as part of the national campaigns and the department received the net proceeds of the campaigns on the same schedule as the department revenue share. The advantage to national is a reduced cost to acquire donors and increased volumes, which also reduces cost for the donor campaigns.

This is a model that can easily be duplicated for any other department and has already been offered to South Dakota and Louisiana for their consideration.

At the conclusion of 2018, the Department of New Mexico’s member donors in the national program grew from 459 to 1,024 and net proceeds increased from $4,337 to $9,480. FY19 year-to-date results continue to show positive returns for New Mexico from
this agreement, showing a continued growth of their active donors along with the associated revenue.

Furthermore, we will be able to determine the effect of this joint effort on the department’s renewal rates at the conclusion of the 2020 membership cycle. The hypothesis is that, if similar to DMS member donors, members will renew at a higher rate than non-donor members and as the percentage of donors increases so too will the overall renewal rate.

**DMS Fundraising - Encumbered**

Net income from DMS encumbered members continues to climb in 2019. Year-to-date, net proceeds have exceeded $128,000. Activating these new members as member donors not only offsets some of the cost to acquire them as new members but also has a positive impact on their renewal rate. Member donors who began as DMS members are about 16% more likely to renew in the first year than their non-donor counterparts. The national organization only maintains these donors as long as they are a part of the encumbered group. Once the member/donor transfers to a local post or renews their membership two consecutive years, they are removed from the national campaigns and are available for local/department efforts.

**Vehicle Donation Program**

The marketing commission has made a recommendation to staff to transition the Vehicle Donation Program from Auto Recovery Services, Inc. (DBA Insurance Auto Auctions) to Charitable Auto Rides Services, Inc. (CARS). This new service provider is better aligned with The American Legion’s goals to continue growing revenue from this program. We are anticipating a full transition to the new provider by early 1st quarter 2020. There will be no significant impact to the end-use donor.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS)**

The 2020 DMS membership cycle is off to strong start with the initial mailings executed in July and August. To date, we have enlisted more than 35,000 new members toward our 115,000 budgeted goal. This is about 4.5% ahead of last year’s pace.

The second direct mail campaign which is the first campaign to include the newly revised war era eligibility created by the Legion Act legislation was mailed in early October. We are optimistic that response will increase due to the expanded eligibility but will not know the true impact until all responses are tabulated. The campaign includes mailing approximately 500,000 pieces to our best prospect lists and an additional 500,000 pieces to expired members.

Additional campaigns are scheduled January – April 2020 to finish out the 2020 membership year.

We are excited and encouraged about the growth we have seen in our digital marketing efforts. Year-to-date for FY 2019, we have already reactivated approximately 3,200 expired members, representing about 40% of our 8,000 goal. We continue to expand these efforts and will be testing into some prospecting techniques later this year.

**Direct Renewal**

Currently, renewals for the 2020 membership year are on pace with 2019. As of October 7, 2019, total renewals were approximately 4,400 behind the 2019 pace. However, DMS renewals are currently out performing both the 2018 and 2019 pace. At 16.2% renewed year-to-date, this increased response rate is likely the result of the new communications plan implemented with the DMS class of 2019. We anticipate this trend to continue throughout the entire renewal cycle.

2020 online renewals are ahead of the 2019 pace by nearly 30,000 members. Contributing to this growth is the concerted digital marketing efforts both through email and other digital channels such as remarketing, search engine optimization and digital targeting through paid ads and social media.

**Paid Up For Life (PUFL)**
We have exceeded our 2019 PUFL goal of 8,000 new members with our direct marketing efforts year to date. As of early October 2019, we have converted approximately 9,300 members into Paid Up For Life. This was done through monthly targeted email campaigns as well as a multi-channel campaign that included direct mail, email and other digital advertising. A second direct mail campaign was recently mailed that is testing the $100 discounted offer to a backend premium offer, which will be the US Mint’s American Legion Silver Dollar.

**U.S. Mint Commemorative Coin Update:**

The United States Mint presented designs for the 2019 American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin program last fall at National Convention. Surcharges are authorized to be paid to The American Legion to support the Legion’s programs for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and other purposes specified by the authorizing legislation.

Sales began with a strong start and promotional efforts through owned channels and paid media will continue through this December to prompt ongoing sales. As of October 6, accrued revenue from coin surcharges stood at $1.255M.

Analyzing coin sales through the first 29 weeks, we have determined the following:

- We estimate that we will sell a total of 5.36% of total mintage of 750,000 clad coins which equals 40,280 coins. We have currently sold 36,158 clad coins which means our estimate is that we will sell 4,122 more coins through December 2019. With the clad coin, we receive $5.00 from the US Mint which equals $20,610 more in revenue for the clad coin program.

- We estimate we will sell a total of 17.57% of total mintage of 400,000 silver coins which equals 70,280 coins. We have currently sold 63,450 silver coins which means our estimate is that we will sell 6830 more coins through normal channels through December 2019. The marketing division will be placing an additional order of 2,000 silver coins for the PUFL direct mail campaign. With the silver coin, we receive $10.00 from the US Mint which equals $88,300 more in revenue for the silver coin program.

- We estimate will sell a total of 26.96% of total mintage of 50,000 gold coins which equals 13,480 coins. We have currently sold 12,567 gold coins which means our estimate is that we will sell 913 more coins through December 2019. With the gold coin, we receive $35.00 from the US Mint which equals $31,955 more in revenue for the gold coin program.

We estimate revenue for The American Legion for all three coins to be, $1,396,470.00 at project completion.

**Broadcast PSA:**

Utilizing existing imagery and video content from The American Legion media library, a new broadcast PSA was created in 2018 that highlights the mission, programs and services of The American Legion. The PSA is available in 15- and 30-second lengths to encourage repeat airings and rotation by TV stations that download the spot, as the stations provide airtime at no charge to fill up unsold advertising space. The We Believe message is referenced in the voiceover throughout the spots and the Legion.org/WeBelieve URL is included at the end of each spot as a call to action for viewers.

The PSAs have been well received by regional and national outlets. As of September 30, the campaign has received 52,477 airings since inception and generated 512.4 million impressions with advertising value of $14.4 million. Though the PSAs have been successful, the number of monthly airings started to decline earlier this year. An additional new PSA, which is available in 60-, 30- and 15-second versions, was launched in late September to generate additional airtime, impressions and ad value.

**Outdoor Advertising**

Featuring attention getting images and a brief amount of text, billboards are a strong platform to further awareness about The American Legion. Outdoor media companies
often have unsold space and will donate billboard placements to nonprofit organizations to ensure the creative is being changed on a regular basis.

Following the creation of the We Believe broadcast PSA in 2018, four new billboard and bus shelter designs were developed. Each design highlights an aspect of The American Legion — patriotism, advocacy and support for veterans, and the centennial. The Legion.org/WeBelieve URL is included on each billboard as a call to action to drive traffic online to learn more about The American Legion and the landing page features articles and information specific to the benefits of membership.

Since The American Legion began utilizing donated advertising space, the organization has received 1,180 total placements in 27 states, including Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Some locations are more heavily trafficked than others, though when combined, the metrics are substantial. Since inception, the campaign has generated more than 915 million impressions and $6.5 million in advertising value. The results exceed original estimates and reflect the importance of developing creative and messaging that resonates with a broad audience.

Billboard numbers were flat in the third quarter of the year which can be attributed to the industry having a record breaking second quarter (domestic out of home advertising sales reached $2.7 billion). New creative is being designed to echo the message and tone of the new PSA. Additional placements are expected in early 2021 as a surge of available inventory is anticipated by year end to replace holiday campaigns.

**National Convention:**

Media outreach took place in the days and weeks leading up to National Convention. Outlets were invited to attend specific events taking place before and after convention, as well as encouraged to register for media credentialing for on-site reporting from the convention hall. With Indianapolis as the host city, and Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo as guest speakers, media coverage was broad and included local, out-of-state and national press. Broadcast impressions were in excess of $7.4 million and had an advertising value of $337,601. Print coverage was also impressive and yielded more than 1.6 million impressions and $362,266 in advertising value.

**Operation Comfort Warriors**

The Operation Comfort Warriors program temporarily transitioned from the Finance Division to the Marketing Division in early October 2019. Marketing Division staff are currently in the process of reviewing, investigating and processing eligible requests for grant presentation while routing those requests that are not eligible for OCW funding to the appropriate divisions or departments for further consideration. The Finance Commission will receive a full FY2019 report on the Operation Comfort Warriors program at the 2020 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

**Addendum A**

**Held for Further Study**

**Resolution No. 33 (MS) (2018 Natl. Conv.): Proposed Renaming of the Oratorical Contest National Finals**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I make a motion to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission with the exception of one addendum. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive the report with the exception of the addendum. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Carried.
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, attached to the report of the Marketing Commission is Addendum A. I move that the action of the Marketing Commission become the action of the NEC. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

I'd like to now call on the president of the Indiana Convention Corporation, Past National Commander James E. Koutz of Indiana, for a report on the 2019 National Convention.

**Oral Report: 2019 National Convention Corporation**

James E. Koutz, Indiana, President

Thank you very much, commander. Good morning, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and guests. How about that convention in Indianapolis? *(Applause)*

I think we had a great convention here in Indy. You go up and down the hallways in the hotel and up and down the hallways in this building, and people still come up to you and compliment you on the job that was well done by many, many people. I bet that's great, especially when they come up to me. Only a few things that I want to talk about this morning because we'll talk about the rest of the money part in May at the spring meetings.

But the badges and packets committee, I know that it was very great for us that they were all stuffed when we got them, we didn't have to stuff no packets. But the boxes were way too heavy, had 18 packets in a box, and couldn't hardly lift the boxes off, especially when they were stacked real high. So we recommend that they go down to at maybe least 12 in box.

The information booth went very well. There was a lot of people that came to the information booth and asked places to go, places to see. The memorial service I think was very well attended, and that's one of my favorites, to go to the memorial service, and I think it was a great memorial service and very well attended.

The parade. As most of you saw, we had four floats in this parade. This is probably the first time we've ever had floats in the national convention parade. I think it looked very good going down the streets of downtown Indianapolis. You could see people cheer on the floats, especially when the national commander got to ride on the floats, so that was great.

The post-parade party, we had a great crowd. The only thing I would recommend is that, if you have a post-parade party, that you have your entertainment inside the tent that is roped off because of alcoholic beverages. That was the only complaint that we really had on that, was because you couldn't hear the music and you couldn't take your cup of refreshments outside the fenced-in area. But it was very well attended.

Some things that I really didn't understand or didn't realize that people didn't know was about some of the attractions that we have in Indy. And you know all the memorials that we have. A lot of people didn't know we have a Medal of Honor wall down on the canal, until this convention in Indy. So maybe some of you don't know about that wall. If you don't, go down on the canal, you can walk the canal and see that, the USS Indianapolis Memorial and different things down there. Not all the memorials are out here on this mall, in this area. There's a lot down there on the canal. Like I said, we'll have the final report in the spring meetings in May, and then we hope to present a check to the national commander at that time.

I can't say enough about the staff over here, Bridget, Reggie, Andrea, Ellen, for all they've done, and Chairman Walton. Without them, you know that you cannot put on a national convention. So I want to say thank you to the staff for all they've done. *(Applause)*

So with that, thank you all very much for coming to Indianapolis. I hope you had a great time, we think you did. I know some of you did. I know our commander loved it very well. So with that, thank very much. And every day is Veterans Day. Thank you. *(Applause)*
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion to receive and file the report of the 2019 National Convention. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the 2019 National Convention Corporation. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

At this time, the chair recognizes Michael E. Walton of Illinois, chairman of the National Convention Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report of the Convention Commission
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman

Good morning, Commander Oxford, members of the NEC. Although my written report is in all of your packets, I wanted to touch on some of the highlights of our meeting.

Mr. David Priester, the chief judge of contests, gave an excellent report and updated the commission on the contests that were conducted at our national convention. He also provided an extensive briefing and a video on the judging process that the judges go through for all of our contests. We made some recommendations on how we could improve those, which we're going to try to do. A question-and-answer period was conducted with Mr. Priester, and he was reappointed as chief judge of contests. I'm proud to say he has accepted our reappointment, and we look forward to a continued professional involvement with him and the judges.

As you heard from Past National Commander Koutz, president of The American Legion Convention Corporation of Indianapolis, he gave a preliminary report to the commission, and his final report will be made at our spring 2020 meeting. We should get a nice check from them for national.

I hope that all of you were able to experience the opening ceremony, which was orchestrated by our own Convention Division's Reggie Mathis and Media & Communications Director Jeff Stoffer. Additionally, the creative redesign of the exhibit hall by Deputy Director Andrea Watson, we believe added to the overall positive experience and wonderful reception by all of our attendees in Indianapolis. And this was overseen by director Bridget who, as you all know, does an outstanding job for us. Also, you couldn't have asked for better weather for the outdoor parade. Overall, we believe the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis was a tremendous success.

The members of the commission each submitted a written and then verbal report regarding their assignments at the 101st National Convention, and our good friend Colonel Bill Moore, president of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Kentucky, gave an initial report regarding our up-and-coming 102nd National Convention in Louisville, which will be August 28 through September 3. We look forward to working with Colonel Bill and his entire team, to having another outstanding convention in Louisville.

In your packet you will find Addendum A, which includes one resolution we received and recorded from the Department of Pennsylvania, which was supporting a bid for the 2026 National Convention in Philadelphia. The other resolution was the band contest points system, which was rejected by the Convention Commission.

All the future convention dates and cities are in our written reported.

Commander Oxford and members of the NEC, that concludes my report. I want to thank you for allowing me to serve.

Report: Convention Commission
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman

Chairman Michael E. Walton, Illinois, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., Monday, October 14, 2019. Roll call was taken with all members either excused or present.

There were items which required action by the National Executive Committee discussed during the meeting:
Items Requiring NEC Action:
Addendum A:

Received and Recorded
Rejected
Resolution No. 43 – Band Contest Point System (2019 National Convention) - Rejected

Chief Judge David Priester spoke to the Convention Commission regarding the National Color Guard Contests, which was held on Friday evening, the first day of convention. The Color Guard contests were well attended by contestants and observers. Eleven color guards competed in four categories with 18 overall performances with Harrisburg Post 472 from Houston, Texas, being crowned again as National Champions. Additionally, five bands participated in the Competitive Concert Band Contest with Band of the Tonawandas being crowned National Champions. The Chief Judge provided videos of the judging process tabulations and recommendations on how to improve the Contests. Questions were then entertained by the Convention Commission.

The Convention Commission reappointed Mr. Priester (SAL – CO) as Chief Judge of Contests to serve through the 2020 Fall Meetings. Mr. Priester informed the Commission that he proudly accepts the reappointment to serve as the Chief Judge of Contests for The American Legion.

President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Indiana, Inc., PNC Jim Koutz, gave a preliminary report on the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Commander Koutz thanked the Convention Commission for their support and reported that, in his opinion, the 2019 National Convention was a huge success. He reported almost all invoices have been paid. At this time, two of the thirteen hotels have sent in their rebates.

Commander Koutz will provide a final report at the 2020 Spring Meetings. Chairman Walton thanked Commander Koutz and his 100 volunteers for conducting the 2019 National Convention.

Convention Commission members reported on their assignments during the 2019 National Convention. Reports indicated the local Convention Corporation conducted their duties in outstanding fashion and greatly contributed to the overall success of the National Convention. Chairman Walton and Commission members thanked PNC Jim Koutz and his entire Indiana team for their support to make the Indianapolis Convention a success. Chairman Walton also thanked the Convention Division staff on the entire convention.

Bill Moore, President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Kentucky, gave an initial report on the planning process for the 2020 102nd National Convention in Louisville, KY, August 28 – September 3, 2020. Planning for the 102nd National Convention of The American Legion is on schedule. The headquarters hotel for The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion will be the Galt House. Bill informed the Convention Commission that almost all contracts between the hotels and the assigned Departments of The American Legion have been completed. Chairman Walton, Convention Corporation personnel, the convention and meetings planning staff and our convention technical companies will conduct a site visit to Louisville in December.

We have three Departments of The American Legion that have submitted the proper resolution expressing their interest in bidding on the 2025 National Convention. The four cities being supported by the appropriate resolution are Tampa, Florida; Kansas City, Missouri; and St. Louis, Missouri and Salt Lake City, Utah. Site visits will be conducted after the first of the year.

We have one Department of The American Legion that has submitted the proper resolution expressing their interest in bidding on the 2026 National Convention Department
of Pennsylvania for the city of Philadelphia. Departments have until April 2020 to submit their Resolution of Support if interested in bidding on the 2026 National Convention.

Dates for future Conventions are the following:

- Louisville, Kentucky: August 28 – Sept. 3, 2020
- Phoenix, Arizona: August 27 – Sept. 2, 2021
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin: August 26 – Sept. 1, 2022
- New Orleans, Louisiana: August 23 – 29, 2024

**Addendum A**

**Received and Recorded**

**Resolution No. 27 (PA) (2019 Natl. Conv.): City of Philadelphia to host 2026 National Convention**

**Rejected**

**Resolution No. 43 (OH) (2019 Natl. Conv.): Band Contest Point System**

...At 11:24 a.m., the National Executive Committee of the American Legion stood in recess.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: With the colors of our nation in place, hand salute: One, two. This meeting of the National Executive Committee is reconvened. I'd like to call on the national adjutant for a few announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I made this announcement earlier but some of you were not in here. Buses will be available today to take people to George Buskirk's visitation after the recess of the day's NEC meeting. The buses will leave from here, in front of the building, and will leave the funeral home at 4:30 to return to the Sheraton hotel by 5 p.m. For those attending on their own, the viewing is at Leppert Mortuaries in Nora, which is just north Indianapolis, 740 East 86th Street. If you did not get that and you need it again, see me after we recess. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Now just another deviation from the agenda. I'd like to ask Past National Commander Jimmie Foster to please stand. Happy birthday, Jimmie. (Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Typically, we would ask Jimmie to lead "Happy Birthday," but we're going to forgo the song today. (Laughter)

At this time, the chair recognizes Americanism Commission Chairman Richard W. Anderson of Connecticut for the purpose of a report.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Commander. Before I begin my report, could you please join me at the podium, sir.

...National Vice Commander MacDonald assumed the Chair.

Presentation: 2019 American Legion Patriot Award

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: At this time, I'd like to call upon Finance Chairman Gaither to join me and Past National Commander Comer, and also Millie and Edward Holbrook. Millie and Ed. It is an honor to present at this time the 2019 American Legion Patriot Award to two very distinguished and deserving recipients. I now call for the reading of the citation.

ANNOUNCER: The Patriot Award, presented to Eddie and Millie Holbrook, for your dedication in promoting the values of The American Legion through the increased visibility and professional hosting of the American Legion World Series in Shelby, North Carolina. Your community's longstanding commitment to become the home of the premier event of the American Legion Baseball program was the result of Eddie's longtime service as a county commissioner, chairman, and co-chairman of the executive committee of Cleveland County American Legion World Series Baseball, Inc.

Hospitality, enthusiasm, and support shown by the residents of Cleveland County have exceeded our highest expectations. The Holbrooks have vigorously pursued contracts with sponsors and donors. You were instrumental in obtaining expanding coverage by the worldwide leader of sports entertainment, ESPN. Your support for our military heroes and the patriotic development of our youth demonstrate a passion that epitomizes the pillars upon which The American Legion was founded. The 2019 American Legion World Series was a resounding success and a memorable milestone in the centennial celebration in the nation's largest and most influential veterans organization. On behalf of the 3 million members of the American Legion Family, thank you for your patriotism and service to America. (Applause)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: What a great time, what a great moment for The American Legion, to honor two recipients of this great award. Eddie and Millie have not only opened their hearts and their homes to us, they have opened the entire Shelby and Cleveland County family to us.
If I could just reflect for a little bit as to how this transpired. Some ten years ago, I was part of a site committee research team that went down there, along with Past National Commander Dave, and the Baseball Committee and several others. As you're probably well aware, when you go into a new venue seeking what we were after, the American Legion World Series home site, you become a little reluctant and a little hesitant as to what to expect. We knew they were trying to sell us something. But let me tell you something: The hospitality shown to us when we walked off of that airplane and getting onto a bus and going into Shelby was exceptional.

I'll never forget what transpired that first day. We were invited to go to a luncheon in this auditorium setup. There was a whole line of volunteers, all ladies and people waiting to help us out. They were serving some lunch to us. I went in the line with the rest of the people, got a plate, and the lady generously put a hot dog on my plate. And next lady, she put some potato chips. I got to the third lady, she had coleslaw. She said, "Would you like some coleslaw, sir?" She had that beautiful accent from North Carolina, I just loved it. I thought, I'm going to take it even if I didn't want it.

But I said, "Certainly." So I had to turn my plate because there was only a small spot here. I turned my plate, and she took the coleslaw and went over that spot and dumped it on my hot dog. You know, you did that at Yankee Stadium or up at Fenway, they would have pushed it right back in your face but not in North Carolina. (Laughter)

I'll never forget that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Rich, that's the way North Carolina does things. (Laughter)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I learned quickly, believe me. John Hayes on the Baseball Committee was behind me. I heard him say, "Hold the slaw" when he got up there. (Laughter)

But from that hot dog to livermush or whatever they call it. Somebody tried to sneak that one on me too. He said, "How about some Shelby sirloin here with your drinks this morning?" "Shelby sirloin? What's that?"

"Well, why don't you have some." He brought this little square thing out, I couldn't identify it. Well, I'll tell you, I tried a bite of it and my arteries started clogging up immediately. That's going to be the end of that. (Laughter)

Of course, Jerry Hedrick made me eat grits when I got down there. I wanted to put syrup on them and everything else. He said, "No, that's not the way you're going to do it. If you're down here, you're going to do it our way." (Laughter)

So with all those things being said, here we are today. The first World Series in 2011, I remember how we turned a switch on, because the first pitch was thrown out by Past National Commander Jimmie Foster. And you know what? It only bounced off the ground three times. (Laughter)

Well, we got off on the wrong foot here, Jimmie. With that, here we are today, ten years later. That first World Series, I believe, if I'm incorrect, they sold around 4,500 tournament tickets for that whole series. They had a close number somewheres around there.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 37,000.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: 37,000. Today we're up to 127,000. In nine years, we're up to 127,000. (Applause)

They have a line to be a batboy or batgirl down there. You've got to wait four or five years. You've got to register your kid before he's even born. (Laughter)

Someone once told me, to be a leader, to make sure you look back once in a while and make sure they're following you. Every step that Millie and Eddie have taken in this great avenue and highway they brought us down, they look back on their volunteers constantly, constantly making sure that they still have their backs. I can't say a lot more about these two people for the outstanding hospitality, leadership, and above all, acceptance and love that they have given to our family, The American Legion, and to those associated with this program.
When you drive into Shelby and get off the airplane, you drive into Shelby and there's a sign, "Welcome to Shelby, Home of the American Legion World Series." Something transforms in you, something happens to you. I don't know what it is. I'm certain Jake and any other of us that go, and even our adjutant now, he's part of that whole deal. Never been to a World Series until he came to Shelby.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Never been to a baseball game. (Laughter)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I didn't want to say that. Something happens to you. I can't explain it, but something happens to you. Your outside world as we know it from day to day, and listening to the news media and social media, it completely goes away. But the moment you cross that line and go into Shelby, something happens to you. I wish all of you would come to Shelby some day to experience that, because these two people are responsible for changing the lives of well over 1,500 young men in our country. They've changed their lives, they've given them an opportunity of something they will never, ever forget.

When you go into Keeter Stadium and you watch a ballgame, your grandpa is there with the grandchildren, little kids ten, nine, eight years old, running around, nobody watching them, walking up to the ballplayers that are getting ready to get down and play the next game, getting autographs. It's just an experience that I can't express to you how grateful we are to have these two people.

With that being said, Eddie and Millie, I'd like to give you this, I found it in my closet. It's my memories of the first World Series that I compiled into a book for you. I look at the first page and it's Eddie and Jim Horn.

In closing, I do a lot of fishing and I'm very selective of who I go fishing with. I only regret that I never had the opportunity to go fishing with Jim and Eddie, because here's two gentlemen that I look upon as have made a great impact on my life and all those associated with them. So with that, Eddie, I give this to you. On a cold winter night, look at it, and I hope it brings you as many, many, many good memories as it brought to me. Thank you so much. (Applause)

At this time, I'd like to call upon Past National Commander Comer for some comments.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To Eddie and Millie, everything that Dick has said, I certainly can attest to all of that. It's been a great experience. I've been there from the very beginning, the very first World Series in Shelby.

When I think back on my first World Series that I attended in Rapid City, South Dakota in 1975, and we were there on the 50th anniversary, where American Legion Baseball started was South Dakota. When I think of the few people that were there compared to what's in Shelby, there were very few. But then when I attended Shelby even last year, the 127,000, it's just amazing.

So I really speak today on behalf of Jerry Hedrick. That was my buddy, and he was the original representative of The American Legion at Shelby. They have two representatives of The American Legion that serve on the board of directors of Shelby, and Gaither and I are the two. So we get to go there every year and enjoy the comfort and the hospitality of these two wonderful people. So to receive the Patriot Award, which is a very prestigious award, the only one that knew what was going on was Millie. We had to tell someone, so Millie got him here. (Laughter)

You can blame her. But she knew what was going on. We had to sneak Eddie in here for another reason, that we need his expertise on baseball. But to the both of them, we certainly extend our very best wishes. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Gaither, would you like to make some comments, sir?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: I talked all day. I'll say one thing. North Carolina got behind Shelby, the corporations got behind Shelby, and Shelby actually was Jim Horn and my good friend Eddie. They've done a stupendous job. That's all I have to say. (Applause)
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you. I'd like to call upon our commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Folks, I was fortunate enough to be department commander in North Carolina in 2010 when we, I say "we," I think I'm part of the team, Eddie brought his group of volunteers up here in this very room to make their pitch for the World Series, and they all had on orange. It looked like a sea of pumpkins out here. Eddie, I hope you remember that.

The excitement and enthusiasm that Eddie brings to the table is beyond what anybody can imagine. If you've never been to the World Series, I'm personally inviting you. Come down and see us this August. You will never regret it. Eddie, congratulations. (Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: That was the time of the one phone call and I made mine. But to bring the one site, that was important that we had the one site. We used to transfer baseball every year to a different site. But ESPN said, "You've got to have one site like Little League and others to come to anywhere," and it became Shelby. So ESPN now does just about every one of our games, and that's the important thing.

But responsible for the one site for American Legion Baseball, where it all started, was Past National Commander Paul Morin. (Applause)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you, Paul. At this time, I'd like to call on Millie and Eddie to come forward for acceptance of this tremendous award. Millie, is it okay if Eddie talks a little?

MILLIE HOLBROOK: Yeah, I'm going to let him talk. (Laughter)

EDDIE HOLBROOK: When we started this journey in 2010 and we had 100 folks to come up here with us to place our bid to become the home of the World Series, we knew we were going to give it our best shot. Where it has ended, as of today, I hope it ain't ended, it has surpassed our expectations, to be quite honest with you. Going from streaming to where we now have ESPN live on Saturday, this past year Friday night also, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, is almost beyond explainable.

Our dream was, number one, that we made you proud. Number two, that we made our community proud and it became a staple in our community. Our community has bought into it. When you have 5 to 800 volunteers in a county of over 98,000, it shows you what they're doing.

More importantly than some of these things was, having been a coach and been to various national events, I felt like I knew some little tricks that you needed to do to host commanders, to host American Legion personalities, to host special guests. And most of all, dignitaries from all across the country. And encourage our people to make sure that they met them and welcomed them and told them, "We can't say in words what you mean to us, for the service that you've given to this country." And in today's world, it should mean even more to each of us.

Lastly, just in speaking, we wanted those young men that came from all over the country wearing The American Legion seal to participate in the American Legion World Series, we wanted it to be a highlight of their life. I think, if you were to talk to the Idaho Falls coach today, as Mr. Cloud has, he would tell you what it meant to Idaho Falls players.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absolutely.

EDDIE HOLBROOK: Thank you. What does it mean to the little kids? My wife and I went to one of our places to eat on Sunday night. One of our congressional leader's chief of staff was there with his son, ten years old. He'd been on the waiting list two years to become a batboy. (Laughter)

Politically, you have to do some things, don't you? (Laughter)

Well, he made it this year. But to show you what this means to youngsters and what you provide for young people in the country today, Noah was sitting over there on the right and he had a hoodie on. So I went over to speak to him, and his dad said, "Noah, show Eddie what you're wearing."

The little kid stood up, take this message back to Idaho Falls, and he had an Idaho Falls hoodie, "World Series Champs," wearing that hoodie in Shelby, North Carolina,
proud as a peacock. So that's what you're doing, not only to the guys who are playing, but also to the little ten-year-olds as they're growing up.

I say this for my wife and I. This is a glorious journey for us. We've been the recipient of a lot of awards. We're the recipient because of the army and the team that we're part of. We just represent them. I know when we go back, we'll make sure that we convey that message to them, and they'll be proud. In coaching, you're no better than the team and the players and the people you surround yourself with. We are fortunate enough to have surrounded ourself with many great folks who aren't afraid to give their sweat, who aren't afraid to be down on the field when it's 95 degrees, and contributing in whatever way they can contribute to make this program.

So on behalf of Shelby and Cleveland County, we accept this award on behalf of all the people who give so much, and thank you from the depths of our heart. Appreciate it.

(Standing applause)

MILLIE HOLBROOK: Thank you. We love all of you, and you've become a new family to all of us. ...National Commander Oxford resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Shelby, North Carolina, the real field of dreams, for America's young patriots.

Oral Report: Americanism Commission
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, guests, the following is the report of the Americanism Commission. You have the complete report on your desk, therefore, I will not read the whole thing.

The Americanism Commission first wishes to extend its hearty congratulations to the Department of Idaho for picking up its first American Legion World Series Championship title with the hard won victory of Idaho Falls Number Post 56 this past August. The commission wishes also to congratulate the runner-up team of Fargo Post No. 2, the first North Dakota team to ever play for the national title. And, of course, the Americanism Commission wishes to recognize the City of Shelby, Cleveland County, host Post No. 82, and the hundreds of volunteers in Shelby who made this year's American Legion World Series another exciting and fantastic experience for players and spectators alike.

Congratulations are also extended to the Department of Tennessee for having the 2019 Sporter category National Junior Shooting Sports champion; and to the Department of Texas for laying claim to the 2019 Precision category National Junior Shooting Sports champion; and to the Department of Massachusetts on the election of the 2019 Boys Nation national president. Congratulations to one and all.

Coming before this body are a couple of resolutions for which the Americanism Commission is seeking approval. One is emanating from the Committee on Youth Education titled, "Updated Eligibility for Samsung American Legion Scholarships."

With enactment of the 2019 LEGION Act this past summer, two major war eras are now recognized, that of April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and from December 7, 1941, to a later time that will eventually be determined by the federal government. With this change, U.S. servicemembers who had served during previously undeclared periods of war are now recognized. This resolution establishes Samsung Scholarship eligibility for the descendents of those previously unrecognized war-era veterans.

The other resolution is titled, "100th Anniversary Remembrance of our Comrades in the 1919 Centralia Tragedy." It's also being presented to this body for approval.

For those who may not be familiar with the Centralia tragedy, in 1919, the International Workers of the World, IWW, also known as Wobblies, was an international union organization linked with Communism. They had a reputation as being radical, and were in the midst of a longstanding feud with authorities and business figures in the region of Centralia, Washington. On November 11, 1919, during a parade in Centralia that was celebrating the very first anniversary of Armistice Day, members of the local IWW chapter
shot and killed four Legionnaires, including the commander of American Legion Grant Hodge Post No. 17, and wounded three other Legionnaires.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of what became known as the "Centralia Tragedy." Because it's entirely fitting that the remembrance of those Legionnaires who lost their lives in that violent and bloody incident be marked prominently and forever in the permanent history of The American Legion, your Americanism Commission respectfully seeks approval of this resolution in each of their memories.

We gratefully appreciate what's going to happen with an oratorical resolution in a little while. The amount of time and dedication that these young people went in and invested in researching, developing and rehearsing and delivering their multiple orations at multiple levels of competition, is staggering. It is the heart and passion and commitment that these young people devote which makes the oratorical contest a premier youth program of The American Legion.

On behalf of the entire Americanism Commission, thank you so very much for your support. At this time, I think we will introduce our director, Jill Druskis, and her staff. Would you please stand and be recognized. (Applause)

Mr. Commander and members of this great body, I thank you for the opportunity to come before you today. Does anyone have any questions? Hearing none, that concludes my report.

Report: Americanism Commission
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

The Americanism Commission met at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday and Tuesday, October 14-15, 2019. The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m. each day and roll call taken. Following opening remarks and introduction of distinguished guests, the Digest of Proceedings from the 2019 Spring commission meeting and the report of the 2019 pre-national convention Americanism Commission meeting were received and filed.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH
The members of the Committee on Children & Youth Committee met on Monday, October 14, 2019, in the Michigan Room, 21st Floor of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. The meeting was chaired by Herbert Petit, Jr., (LA).

Vice President of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), Peggy Moon, provided the Children & Youth Committee with an update. Now in its 66th year, CWF has awarded $811,282 to 22 non-profit organizations for the 2020 calendar year. These grants were determined during the annual meeting of the board of directors, held at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Sunday, October 13, 2019.

The Committee discussed the 13th annual national Children & Youth Conference that was held September 21-22, 2019, at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis. Herbert Petit, Jr., (LA) chaired the conference with 64 Legion family members in attendance. This conference segment provided training on Temporary Financial Assistance processes and procedures and Consolidated Post Reporting (CPR); review of the Department Children & Youth Chairman’s Guide and Legion history regarding the Children & Youth Pillar; received reports regarding children & youth activities from national chairmen of the Legion family; and had robust discussion about Resolution No. 5 (CO) from 2019 National Convention titled “School Safety”. During the conference the department C&Y chairman from the Department of Colorado provided insight as to the resolution being about providing a presence, not providing security, and advising that the Department of Colorado is still in the midst of implementing this initiative – they have reached out for discussions with school officials, but have not yet actively implemented within any school(s). C&Y department chairmen discussed that Resolution No. 21 NEC October 2015 titled “Veterans In Community Schools” is a broad over-arching general “umbrella” resolution, since it calls for a “consistent and ongoing partnership between the membership of local posts and
their community school systems” and encourages a “breadth of potential involvement (in community schools)” in order to “be a consistent, relevant presence in community schools”. Department C&Y chairmen discussed that this School Safety resolution could be considered as falling under this broad general over-arching “umbrella” resolution. After discussion during the conference, an informal poll of the department C&Y chairman indicated about an even split between those who would wish to see the resolution approved and those who were undecided or wished to see it rejected.

At its committee meeting on Monday, 14 October, 2019, members of the Committee on Children & Youth undertook its own assessment of Resolution No. 5 (CO) from 2019 National Convention titled “School Safety” in order to develop a recommendation to the Americanism Commission for its consideration. They reviewed the resolution and discussed the feedback above from department C&Y department chairmen. The Committee on Children & Youth recommended to the Americanism Commission that Resolution No. 5 (CO) titled School Safety be rejected. The Committee expressed hesitation in recommending implementation of an initiative at the national level that has not yet been fully implemented or has demonstrated sustained success at a post, district or department level, whereby that post, district or department would then be able to serve as a source of insight and guidance for others seeking to implement the initiative.

The Children & Youth Committee also receive remarks and information from Jim Willis (OR), a member of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee (YC/L). Mr. Willis was happy to announce that the Departments of Washington and California will each be starting their own Youth Cadet Law Enforcement programs. The departments are looking to hold their first class the summer of 2020.

Willis then went on to say that Legionnaires need to find that “spark plug” person within their departments that will go out and find the support within the local law enforcement agencies so that each department can have a YC/L program. The hope is one day very soon we will be able to see a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement champion on stage at the National Convention along with all of the other youth champions.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Mark Avis (MA), Vice-Chairman of the American Legion Baseball (ALB) Committee reported that the ALB Committee met Sunday, September 29, 2019, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, in conjunction with the 59th annual American Legion Department Baseball Chairmen’s Conference.

The ALB Committee completed a review of the 2020 Baseball Rulebook, with the Americanism Commission approving recommended updates to Rule 1.R.3. Pitching Rule; Rule 2.B.4 Graduated Students; Rule 3&4 Player Recruiting; and Rule 6.E.Players Per Team; as well minor changes providing clarification of tie-breaker for three team tie coin flip, housing policy for teams and managers/head coaches, and updates to Forms #2, #76 and #77.

The ALB Committee reviewed and the Americanism Commission approved their recommended guidelines for the 2021-2022 regional tournament bid request application process and established a due date to national headquarters by February 1, 2020. The committee recommended that regional site inspections be conducted prior to review and recommendations of tournament bids received.

The ALB Department Chairmen’s Conference took place 27-29 September, 2019. Gary Stone (MO) chaired the conference with 69 attendees representing 46 departments. Congratulations were extended to the Department of Idaho for laying claim to its first ever American Legion World Series championship title when the team sponsored by American Legion Post No. 56 in Idaho Falls took the series in Shelby, North Carolina, in August 2019. Congratulations were further extended to the runner-up team of Fargo Post No. 2 - the first North Dakota team to ever play for a national title, and recognition was given to all of the teams winning their respective regional tournament.

During the chairmen’s conference Bob Crandall, Compliance & Risk Manager for American Legion NHQ, provided a presentation and discussion on the recent passage of
Senate Bill 534. This new law requires abuse awareness education and training for adult volunteers who are in contact with amateur athletes and required abuse reporting procedures. It was noted this new law impacts the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program as well. Crandall is leading the implementation for both youth programs.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
The 84th annual conference of American Legion Boys State directors was held September 27-29, 2019, as a conference session of the annual national combined Americanism Conference. Past National Commander and Boys Nation staff member Dale Barnett (GA) served as conference chairman. A total of 155 department Boys State directors, chairmen and program staff were in attendance representing 46 Legion departments.

The conference convened on Friday evening in joint session with American Legion Auxiliary Girls State directors. The joint session received a presentation from John Hendrick, Chief of Staff, Samsung Electronics North America. He provide an overview of the origin of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship and offered a Samsung incentive to the Boys State and Girls State program with the greatest increase in scholarship applicants next year in 2020.

Scott Wynn (IN), Youth Education Program Manager of the Americanism Division, next updated a joint session about the Samsung American Legion scholarship online application process and a discussion focused on recruiting, submission and communication challenges.

The joint session concluded with a panel presentation and Q&A on various methods in which Boys State and Girls State programs can work together, such as sharing technology, joint recruiting, bulk ordering, sharing participant feedback and inclusion.

Wynn introduced conference participants to “Slack”, an online team work space to share ideas, documents and communications throughout the year. Throughout the conference chairmen received presentations and participated in breakout sessions that included discussions about community involvement, brand awareness, participant recruiting, advantages of online registration, internship programs, leveraging media content, awareness and inclusivity of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Guest speakers who shared their expertise with the chairmen included local professionals Mrs. Kelly Meyer, Regional Admissions Representative, University of Evansville, and Dr. Gina Forrest, Multicultural Education Director, Indiana University. Mrs. Meyer’s former experience as a high school counselor working with Indiana Boys and Girls State programs, gave the directors a unique view from a school’s perspective. Additionally, her insight as a university recruiter provided valuable information on the five W’s of getting into high schools to promote their programs. Dr. Forrest’s presentations on multiculturalism, bias, perception, and the LGBTQIA+ community were professionally presented and created healthy conversation amongst the directors as to how they could apply this knowledge to their programs and inclusion.

Congratulations were extended to the Department of Massachusetts on the election of Lou Acevedo as the 2019 American Legion Boys Nation president.

Subsequent to the conference in September, all departments have now submitted their 2019 end-of-program report. The oral report to the Americanism Commission on 14 October, 2019, included updated Boys State participation numbers for 2019. During 2019 a total of 17,471 young men participated in the 50 American Legion Boys State programs, reflecting another overall decrease of 791 participants (4.3%) from the previous year. Since 2003 there has been an overall 30% decrease nationally in the number of young men participating in Boys State programs. Opportunity was also taken to highlight those departments whose Boys State programs showed the greatest percentage of improvement in 2019: NH (75%), KY (33%), RI (17%), MT (14%), VT (13%). In 2019 Texas Boys State had the greatest number participants at 1,120.
DEPARTMENT CHAPLAINS

The annual national department chaplain’s conference was held September 27-29, 2019, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. National Chaplain Edward Harris, Jr. (IN) led the conference segment.

Past National Chaplain Norris Keirn (IN) provided an excellent presentation on the fundamentals of being a good chaplain. The optional briefing is the start of an ongoing new chaplain’s training class that will help provide initial development to new chaplains.

Immediate Past National Chaplain Fr. Phillip Salois (MA) read into record his end-of-year report, highlighting the accomplishments of his tenure. Christa Sutton, MSW LCSW from the Department of Veterans Affairs provided a briefing on suicide prevention. The chaplains then broke out into two discussions groups to share the benefit of their individual experience and lessons learned.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION

The Committee on Youth Education (COYE) met on October 12-13, 2019, on the 21st floor of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. The committee was chaired by Michael Westergren (AR). The COYE selected and recommended the following students as recipients of 2019 Samsung American Legion Scholarships:

### 2019 SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL SCHOLARS - $10,000

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WESTERN REGION</th>
<th>MIDWEST REGION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sadie DeShon (AZ)</td>
<td>Henry Heiberger (SD)</td>
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<td>Mason Whitaker (AZ)</td>
<td>Caitlin Murphy (NE)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CENTRAL REGION</strong></td>
<td><strong>SOUTHEAST REGION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethan Roos (IN)</td>
<td>Cambri Driskell (GA)</td>
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<td>Nathan Wolf (WI)</td>
<td>Chandler Quaile (GA)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NORTHEAST REGION</strong></td>
<td><strong>CENTRAL REGION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vada Kirsch (NY)</td>
<td>Ethan Roos (IN)</td>
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<td>Andrew Kirdahy (MA)</td>
<td>Nathan Wolf (WI)</td>
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### 10 RUNNERS-UP - $5,000

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<tr>
<td>Brandon Chapko (CA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethan Sage (ID)</td>
<td>Samuel Fullbright (MT)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CENTRAL REGION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant DeBruin (OH)</td>
<td>Maximilian Safranek (TX)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alayna Westernberg (WI)</td>
<td>Michael Brown (TN)</td>
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<td><strong>NORTHEAST REGION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Hughes (MA)</td>
<td>Grant DeBruin (OH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Bradley (ME)</td>
<td>Alayna Westernberg (WI)</td>
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### REMAINING DEPARTMENT FINALISTS - $1,250

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<th>Midwestern Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abigail Taylor (AK)</td>
<td>Ira Wilder (NC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jakob Wade (AK)</td>
<td>Dakota Tahran (ND)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lindsay Culpepper (AL)</td>
<td>Macy Yahna (ND)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Lowman (AL)</td>
<td>Cooper Sheets (NE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Jarding (AR)</td>
<td>Chloe Tardif (NH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Zimmerman (AR)</td>
<td>Matthew Weiran (NH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Paulson (CA)</td>
<td>Kerrigan Donnelly (NJ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bradyn Tacha (CO)</td>
<td>Andrew Pasco (NJ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Wrona (CO)</td>
<td>Krystal Mailman (NM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abigail Pawlowicz (CT)</td>
<td>Nathanael Mertz (NM)</td>
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The COYE gave discussion and consideration to a new resolution titled *Updated Eligibility For Samsung American Legion Scholarships* and recommended to the Americanism Commission that this resolution be approved. The COYE discussed that Resolution No. 28 of the May 2019 NEC is the current governing resolution that details the rules and conditions for the Samsung scholarship. That resolution states the eligibility under which students may apply for a Samsung Scholarship must be a descendant of a war veteran in accordance with war periods as officially determined by the United States government, and the resolution then goes on to specifically list the seven war eras with which we were previously accustomed for many years. With enactment of the 2019 LEGION Act this summer, two major war eras are now recognized – that of April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; and from December 7, 1941 to a later time that will eventually be determined by the federal government. With this change, U.S. servicemembers who had served during previously undeclared periods of war are now recognized. This resolution amends Resolution No. 28 so as to establish Samsung scholarship eligibility for the descendants of those previously unrecognized war-era veterans. It is important to note that all other rules and conditions of Resolution No. 28 of the 2019 May NEC are of the unaffected and remain the same.

This past Spring marked the third cycle for application, selection, awarding and disbursement of enhanced Legacy scholarships as established by Resolution No. 1 of the NEC in Spring 2016 titled *American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement*. At the behest of the Americanism Commission, during these 2019 Fall meetings the COYE devoted significant review and assessment to the conditions, rules, guidelines and procedures for the Legacy Scholarship program so as ensure attaining maximum equity and efficiency for the eligibility, application, selection, award and disbursement
processes. Recommendations developed as a result of that in-depth review will be reported next Spring to the Americanism Commission for consideration for adoption, and subsequently reported to the NEC.

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

The 5th annual Junior Shooting Sports (JSSP) Chairmen’s Conference was held September 28-29, 2019, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Loren Sperry (WA) served as the Junior Shooting Sports Program Conference chairman. Thirteen departments were represented by either their Junior Shooting Sports chairperson or designee; there were 14 attendees present.

The JSSP chairmen gave discussion and consideration to a new resolution titled American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award and recommended to the Americanism Commission that this resolution be approved. The chairmen discussed that originally, traveling trophies had been established that were awarded the top performers competing in the annual National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship that is sponsored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program and who were members of clubs and teams affiliated with the American Legion shooting program. Rather than recognizing those Legion youth competing in another organization’s championship, this resolution seeks to give greater emphasis to recognizing those youth who compete in the Legion’s top national tournament.

JSSP chairmen completed a review of the 2019-2020 Official Match Program, with the Americanism Commission approving recommended updates that include improvements to affiliation forms, postal tournament registration dates and processes, second round qualification criteria, return competitors policy and chaperone travel policy. The chairmen also reviewed available program resources.

Discussion was given to recent passage of Senate Bill 534. This new law requires abuse awareness education and training for adult volunteers who are in contact with amateur athletes and required abuse reporting procedures. It was noted this new law also impacts the American Legion Baseball program. The Compliance & Risk Manager at National Headquarters is leading the implementation for both youth programs.

AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL

The 50th annual conference of American Legion Oratorical department chairmen was held September 28-29, 2019, as a conference session of the annual national combined Americanism Conference. David King (KY) served as conference chairman. This conference segment shared information and provided networking opportunities for 42 department oratorical chairmen and/or other representatives that attended representing 36 departments.

Last year at the 2018 national convention Resolution No. 82 (NY) titled Proposed Change to the Oratorical Contest National Finals was referred to the standing Commission on Americanism. In that resolution a proposal was made to double the number of competitors advancing from the first quarter-final round to the second semi-final round at the national oratorical contest. At the 2019 Spring meetings the Americanism Commission held the resolution for further study, asking that the oratorical department chairmen who were being called-in to the annual oratorical conference this past September develop a possible schedule that could accommodate the additional time it would take to advance double the number of oratorical contestants from the quarter-final to semi-final round. A draft schedule was discussed, developed and recommended to the Americanism Commission, who deemed that proposed schedule workable.

Oratorical chairmen reviewed the 2019 national oratorical finals contest in Indianapolis; shared best practices by listening to presentations, panel discussion and Q&A; and reviewed risk management principles. Oratorical chairmen also gave review to the American Legion Post Oratorical Chairman’s Guide for suggested updates/revisions; the majority of changes were to provide additional clarity and update forms, with a couple
more substantive changes involving chaperone travel policy and update to the Judges Talley sheet. The Americanism Commission agreed with the recommended changes.

SCOUTING

The annual national department scouting conference was held September 28-29, 2019, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Americanism Deputy Director Jeff Hendricks (IN) facilitated the conference segment, assisted by Keith Walton, Community Relations Liaison, Boy Scouts of America (BSA). There were 10 departments represented, with an additional four attending via teleconference.

Scouting chairmen discussed recruiting strategies, the Family Scouting program, best practices for increasing visibility of BSA within Legion departments, reviewed criteria of the Legion’s Frank Belgrano Scouting award, and ideas for engaging in the 2021 Boy Scout national jamboree. Scouting chairmen also reviewed the Legion’s Eagle Scout of the Year application for update/revision to keep it relevant to both the Legion and BSA. The Americanism Commission agreed with the recommended revisions.

The 10 department Scouting representatives attending the 2019 Scouting conference gave discussion to Resolution No. 49 (OR) from the 2019 national convention of The American Legion titled Changes To The American Legion Eagle Scout Of The Year. Those departments representing 1/5 of all total Legion departments expressed the recommendation to not adopt the resolution.

Subsequent to the Scouting chairmen’s conference, additional feedback regarding Resolution No. 49 was received by Americanism Commission from the Department of Colorado. A very articulate, detailed perspective was provided by the Colorado Department Scouting Committee Chairman, and in it was expressed that the resolution does not appear viable, and asked that the detailed feedback provided be shared with the Youth Activities Sub-Committee of The Americanism Commission for discussion. It was noted that the commission would not want to base a decision on this very important issue at face value and it’s incumbent upon us to carefully research and consider issues such as this that could have a huge impact upon the youth program of our organization having the longest affinity with Americanism. The Americanism Commission voted to hold Resolution No. 49 (OR) titled Changes To The American Legion Eagle Scout Of The Year for further study. The Youth Activities Subcommittee is scheduled to meet next Spring and the commission asked national staff to ensure the input from the Department of Colorado is provided to that subcommittee for their discussion.

RESOLUTIONS SUMMARY

At the meeting of the Americanism Commission at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 14-15 October, 2019, a total of eight resolutions were considered. The Americanism Commission discussed and agreed upon recommending the following action for consideration by the National Executive Committee:

Approve
- 100th Anniversary Remembrance Of Our Comrades In The 1919 Centralia Tragedy
- Updated Eligibility For Samsung American Legion Scholarships

Reject
Resolution No. 5 (CO) School Safety

Hold For Further Study
- Resolution No. 8 (CO) Compliance With Flag Code For Flying The Flag At Half-Staff
- Resolution No. 49 (OR) Changes To The American Legion Eagle Scout Of The Year
Concur With Resolutions through the Finance Commission

- American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award
- Resolution No. 82 (NY) National Oratorical Contest Of The American Legion
- Extension Of Agreement With Baseball Factory

Addendum A

Held For Further Study

Resolution No. 8 (OR) (2019 Natl. Conv.): Compliance With Flag Code For Flying
The Flag At Half-Staff

Resolution No. 49 (OR) (2019 Natl. Conv.): Changes To American Legion Eagle Scout Of The Year

Rejected

Resolution No. 5 (OR) (2019 Natl. Conv.): School Safety

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of two resolutions, and we have one addendum. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission. Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

Resolution No. 9: Updated Eligibility For Samsung American Legion Scholarships
Origin: Committee On Youth Education
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, In 1995 The American Legion was honored to receive a $5 million scholarship endowment from Samsung Group as a gesture of appreciation for the sacrifices of U.S. service men and women who helped maintain security of the Korean peninsula during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Those eligible to apply for the scholarships have been defined as students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as such by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 116-35 titled “Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act” was signed into law on July 30, 2019, thereby recognizing two major war eras – that of April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Enacting Public Law 116-45 declares that the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941, thereby recognizing U.S. servicemembers who served during previously undeclared periods of war; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, May 2019, titled “Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” be amended so as to remove reference to specific war era dates within the third resolved clause, item 4, and revised to instead read, “Those eligible to apply for a Samsung American Legion Scholarship shall be students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans of the following war periods:
- April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, or
- December 7, 1941 until a time as determined by the federal government”;
and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all other rules and conditions reflected in Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, May 2019, titled “Updated Rules and
Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” are unaffected and shall remain the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Resolution No. 9 has the approval of the Committee on Youth Education, your Americanism Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any nays? Carried.

Resolution No. 10: 100th Anniversary Remembrance Of Our Comrades In The 1919 Centralia Tragedy
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, In 1919 the International Workers of the World (IWW), also known as Wobblies, was an international union organization linked by many with communism, had a reputation as being radical, and was in the midst of a long-standing feud with authorities and business figures in the region of Centralia, Washington; and

WHEREAS, On November 11, 1919, during a parade in Centralia, Washington, that was celebrating the first anniversary of Armistice Day, members of the local IWW chapter did shoot and kill four Legionnaires, including the commander of American Legion Grant Hodge Post No. 17, and did wound three other Legionnaires; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 100th anniversary of what became known as the Centralia Tragedy; and

WHEREAS, It is entirely fitting that the memory of those Legionnaires having lost their lives in that violent and bloody incident be marked prominently and forever in the permanent history of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That The American Legion, in observance of the 100th anniversary of the tragedy that occurred during the 1919 Armistice Day parade in Centralia, Washington, does hereby give poignant remembrance of those Legionnaires who lives were so appallingly lost that day so that their memories do not fade.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Resolution No. 10 has the approval of the Americanism Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve this resolution. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed? Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Attached to this report is Addendum A. I move the action of the Americanism Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and second for Addendum A. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, without objection, I will now read Resolution No. 2. A little explanation to go along with that. The resolution that you received in your packet with all the resolutions in the stack, there's an error on that resolution, it's not the correct form. So I will now read the correct form of Resolution No. 2 for your consideration.

Resolution No. 2: National Oratorical Contest Of The American Legion
Origin: Resolution No. 82 (NY) National Convention 2018
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The oratorical program of The American Legion has been a youth activity of the Americanism Commission since 1938, providing high school students opportunity for developing deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the
United States, leadership qualities, communication skills, and preparation for accepting of the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 38 of the National Executive Committee, May 1995, established a three-year test period for a new contest structure of the oratorical national contest, whereby a system of elimination contest rounds were conducted at a single location which featured nine first round contests, three second round contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists; and

WHEREAS, It was deemed that the concept of holding the national oratorical contest of The American Legion at a single location offered opportunity for greater administrative control, fairness and uniformity, while reducing administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 39 of the National Executive Committee, May 1999, adopted the national oratorical contest structure as tested by Resolution No. 38 of the National Executive Committee, May 1995; and

WHEREAS, The national oratorical contest The American Legion has been successfully conducted under the aforementioned single site, three round elimination contest structure for 24 years; and

WHEREAS, The Americanism Commission is seeking to double the number of competitors advancing from the first round to the second round (from the current 9 to 18), while continuing to still advance the top three to compete in the third and final round; and

WHEREAS, The scholarship awards structure of the annual national oratorical contest of The American Legion has remained unchanged at $138,000 as follows for the past 22 years:

- Fifty-four department winners competing in first-round of national contest $1,500 each
- (Six) First-round winners eliminated in second round of national contest $1,500 each
- First place national contest winner $18,000
- Second place national contest winner $16,000
- Third place national contest winner $14,000; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the Americanism Commission, and with concurrence from the Finance Commission, is recommended to the National Executive Committee for favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That the structure of the national oratorical contest of The American Legion continue to be an elimination system featuring nine first-round quarter-final contests, three second-round semi-final contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists; and,

RESOLVED, That effective in 2020 the scholarship award structure for the annual national oratorical contest of The American Legion will be $188,000 as follows:

- Up to 53 department winners competing in the first-round quarter-final contest receive $2,000 each
- Up to 15 first-round winners advancing to the second-round semi-final contest who are subsequently eliminated receive $2,000 each
- First place national contest winner receives $20,000
- Second place national contest winner receives $17,000
- Third place national contest winner receives $15,000; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That effective in 2021 the scholarship award for the first place national oratorical contest winner will increase to $25,000; the second place national oratorical contest winner will increase to $22,500; and the third place national oratorical contest winner increase to $20,000, for a total of $203,500 in scholarships awarded for the annual national oratorical contest of The American Legion; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the national oratorical contest of The American Legion continue to be conducted annually at a single-site location; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander, after review and approval by the national judge advocate, is hereby authorized and directed to execute any appropriate contract(s) and/or agreement(s) necessary to support the national oratorical contest and the national adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 59 of the National Executive Committee, October 2012, titled “Oratorical Contest National Finals” and Resolution No. 39 of the National Executive Committee, May 1999, titled “Oratorical National Finals Site” are hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Resolution No. 2 has the approval of the Americanism Commission, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. …Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve this resolution. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. So be it.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: On behalf of Legionnaires across this great nation that are involved in promoting the national oratorical contests, I personally, on behalf of the commission and myself, thank you for your vote of confidence in the increase in scholarships. I hope that everybody increases their participation. Thank you very much.

Collection of Donations

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Chairman Anderson. At this time, I'll accept contributions for Operation Comfort Warriors, the Veterans and Children's Foundation, and all other American Legion charities except for the NEF, which will follow the Internal Affairs report. …National Vice Commander Liebenow assumed the Chair.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you, commander. The donations we have for Operation Comfort Warriors today, I'll read the list but first introduce our department commander standing here beside me, Mr. Allen Connelly, I'm sure you've met him. Of course, you know Bob, our NEC, and our alternate NEC.

Just last month we had a blues festival for Operation Comfort Warriors in Crawfordsville, Indiana. This is our second annual for having that. They raised that day, and that day only, $11,781. (Applause)

The other donations I have is Newburgh Post 44, $300; First Baptist Church of Rising Sun, Indiana, $100; James Tyler, $25; Mark Jones from Plainfield, Indiana, $100; Bryce Hullett and Tomee Sue Bunner, $50. I converted these people back to Operation Comfort Warriors now, Michael and Sandy Deacon from Ames, Iowa, they gave me a check for $100. Larry Lowry from Logansport, Indiana, $100. And just walking through a door a while ago, our department commander gave me an envelope and it had a check in there from Valparaiso American Legion Auxiliary Post 94 in memory of their president's father, in memory of Jack Gump, for $500. So total today, $13,056. (Applause)

...National Commander Oxford resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The chair now recognizes Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Robert E. Newman of Indiana for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman

Commander, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chairman. Members of the National Executive Committee, fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen, you have my report of our actions and deliberations before you. I draw your attention to the great
work the Sons of The American Legion have accomplished, and I commend every department for supporting this great program.

You all know what the American Legion Riders do for developing awareness within their home communities and for the Legacy Scholarship at the national level. I commend their report for your reading. Our Riders deserve our appreciation for what the 2,000 national chapters have accomplished back in their communities. We thank the departments and their many volunteers involved with supporting the annual Legacy Run to convention. We have started the planning for the 2020 ride to Louisville.

The commission received six resolutions to review and the commission wrote two, plus three referred from the convention. The action recommended on each is in our report. The resolution on gender neutral caps is recommended for rejection. After discussion with some senior women leaders of The American Legion, there are a couple of different opinions among female veterans. One opinion is on the side of tradition, and the other, of course, is to do the same as male members. In reviewing the officer's guide, there are a couple of inconsistencies on the wearing of the cap that need to be revised. The manual is being completely reviewed at this time, and corrections or clarifications will be made in the next edition.

The commission felt the compromised language on the gender wearing of the cap should be added as follows: Female Legionnaires from earlier war eras prior to 1989 were traditionally allowed to wear The American Legion cap at times to include the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, prayers, and meals. This practice may be continued. As the number of female veterans continue to increase, female Legionnaires may wear their caps in the same manner as their male counterparts.

The next subject I draw your attention to, the training newsletter on your desk. All of you are on the distribution list and should be receiving it. We have received several great comments on the content. We are looking for articles on training conducted in the post, districts, and departments. Anyone interested should contact Internal Affairs. Please get the word out to our members to sign up for this newsletter.

Later you will hear the membership report from Chairman Seehafer, but I just want to thank the national commander for raising the bar this year on membership goals, which include Direct Members Solicitation, the DMS, a goal of 100,000 for traditional new starts, and a 90 percent retention rate. I know it sounds high, but it is time that we set some stretch goals or we will continue the annual slide. Also we need to work on increasing the traditional new starts. The retention rate right now is running around 61 percent. The same goes for DMS new starts at around 50 percent. It has been said we bring them in the front door and they go out the back door. Our engagement practices need to improve.

The Buddy Check should be a routine leadership tool to check on each and every member. We need to find out what we can do for them and their families. Let them know of all the outstanding programs available to them through the Legion, inform and educate the new members, don't ask anything from them until they know and understand what we do. It is everyone's responsibility in this room to engage our members. I know you will hear more from Chairman Seehafer in his usual low-key manner. (Laughter)

Commander, I submit my report and our resolutions for the action of the National Executive Committee, with my deepest respect and appreciation for the support and encouragement we enjoy from this body.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman

Chairman Robert E. Newman (IN) called the Internal Affairs Commission to order at 9:00 a.m., October 14, and at 8:30 a.m., October 15, in 314A, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. We had fifteen members present and several guests.

The report consists of the following sections: Standing Committee Reports; Program and Staff Action Reports; and Actions on Assigned Resolutions.
As of October 14, 2019, the 2020 membership total is 1,006,643 – 12,808 members behind this same time for the traditional membership report of 2019. These membership results do not include newly acquired 2020 DMS members. The total DMS members acquired to date for 2020 is 36,023 which is 1,843 ahead of 2019 totals.

DMS is a valuable tool to the membership program. The overall intent has always been to transfer these members into a local post. This past January the Membership & Post Activities Committee made the recommendation to include already acquired DMS numbers into the membership goal for the departments. Due to this recommendation, the 2020 membership goal incorporated 75% of the 2019 encumbered DMS members along with the traditional post members as of July 1, 2019. To incentivize departments to work the 2019 encumbered DMS members list, every 2019 encumbered member that transfers and renews at the local post for 2020, the department will receive $5.00. At this time, it is premature to report on the progress of this incentive.

Traditional new starts and our renewal rate have been ahead of last year’s total at this time. Which falls in-line with Commander Oxford’s goals he has set for this year – 100,000 new members recruited and increase our renewal rate to 90% for the organization as a whole. As of October 14, 2019, our traditional recruiting is at 23,501. This is an increase of 5,928 over last year at this same time. Our renewal rate is currently at 56.01%. This is an increase of over 1.5%. As long as the trends hold steady, we are on our way for a successful year.

At the recent 55% Target Date, we had 37 departments exceed the target date which is eight departments less than the 2019 membership campaign. This is not a trend but is attributed to the 2020 increased goals. We had 34 departments who showed growth over last year at this time.

The online renewal program continues to perform well. The 2019 campaign resulted in 256,659 members renewing online which was a decrease of 4,968 over 2018. To date, 145,820 members have renewed online for 2020. This is an increase of 37,631 members over 2019 totals at this time.

Our direct post and department transmittal program via mylegion.org is working very well in its early stages. Every department except for three are operating in this program. This program is a great workload reduction as well as a more timely service to our members. It allows for earlier posting of renewal transactions to the national database which should result in reduction of duplicate renewal notices going to members who paid their dues to posts. In addition as more and more posts use the system earlier, dues arrival at National should increase.

A comment heard from smaller departments is they would like faster turnaround on their dues or credit reimbursement. It is a cash flow issue for them since dues are going direct to national and they have to wait for their per capita.

Constitution And By-Laws Committee
Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan , Illinois, Chairman

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana at 8:30 A.M. on October 14, 2019. Present were Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan (IL) and Kevin J. Bartlett (MI), National Judge Advocate. The Chairman noted there were no resolutions before the Committee. Chairman Gaughan discussed with the commission the changes in the National Constitution and By-laws.
American Legion Riders Advisory Committee  
Robert B. Sussan, Virginia, Chairman

This report consists of the following sections: Report on The American Legion Rider Program; The American Legion Legacy Run; Fundraising and The American Legion Scholarship Fund.

Report on The American Legion Riders Program

- The program continues to grow and encompasses all elements of The American Legion Family. It is arguably the most visible and obvious demonstration of The American Legion logo and four pillars throughout the nation promoting brand awareness and market penetration. Given this high visibility in the community, departments need to be reminded that the individual riders vest is a billboard for The American Legion and the respective department leadership should continually ensure that only “family friendly” and appropriate pins and patches are on the individual rider’s vest.

- This program truly embodies the natural helpfulness and charitable spirit and purpose of The American Legion as is witnessed by the current monetary value of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund that The American Legion Riders have so willingly embraced.

- Most department programs throughout the nation are thriving and growing in size and importance, both in membership and fund raising, exceptions are:
  - Some departments are experiencing challenges
    - When transitioning to a department level program with some elected and some appointed positions.
    - In developing department level guidance – some departments use Constitutions and Bylaws, some Rules and Procedures, and some Standard Operating Procedures.
    - Very few departments have not recognized the program at the Department level and have left it up to the individual post to administer.

- The departments transitioning from post to department level programs are working with committee members and myself to ascertain best practices and what has worked in other departments.

- Continuing and constant need for training in the Five Rules of a subsidiary organization/program throughout the departments as new rider leadership are appointed or elected. A focus on the correct use of the names, marks and logos of our organization as restated by the National Judge Advocate in Resolution 1 (Spring NEC, May 8-10, 2018).

The American Legion Legacy Run

- The ride this year started at the largest American Legion post in the world, Post 347 in Lady Lake, Florida and travelled through, the Departments of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and ended at Post 64 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The ride covered approximately 1300 miles in five days and stopped at many American Legion posts. All departments welcomed the riders graciously. The American Legion Post 347 were gracious hosts and put on a wonderful opening ceremony and dinner.

- The Chairman of the Committee on Youth Education, Mr. Michael Westergren (AR) was invited to participate in the ride. Mr. Westergren participated in the entire ride to witness firsthand the passion The American Legion Riders have for the Legacy Scholarship Fund and their dedication to the children of our fallen and disabled veterans.
The Media and Communications coverage of the ride to include constant social media commentary, website reporting, photography and drone coverage was exceptional. This year we also implemented a virtual Legacy Run where supporters could follow the ride via a live link which was updated every three seconds with our live position. Future plans are to use this to monetize this supporter base.

Two recipients of The Legacy Scholarship Fund were present at Post 64 (IN) for the ride’s arrival and addressed the riders. They were well received and it is particularly important that the Riders who dedicate so much of their time to raising funds for The Legacy Scholarship Fund actually get to see and hear from actual recipients and witness the “fruits of their labor”!

The automated registration process on www.legion.org worked very well and our IT folks are to be commended. The practice of pre-charging for gas and meals once again was not only well received but worked well. This year, given the ability to deliver the checks to the individual posts and establishments that provided meals afforded these establishments the opportunity to donate the monies back to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The pre-payment of gas by the riders comfortably satisfied the actual monies expended for gas at the various gas stops.

Once a final accounting of the actual expenses on the run can be captured, I am quite certain that the actual cost of the run will be in line with prior year’s Legacy Runs. The additional monies collected and not paid for gas or meal monies donated back to The American Legion will be used to offset expenses incurred for hotel accommodations and vehicle rentals.

Fund Raising and The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund

Many departments have adopted “in-state” Legacy Runs prior to the National Ride to raise funds for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Of particular note this year, the Departments of Illinois and California held their inaugural rides with a number of other departments continuing their rides.

Additional tools are being researched and have been requested such as:

- Flyers for the National and In-state Rides (a national flyer was produced this year)
- Additional ways to raise funds to include but not limited to:
  - Peer to peer fundraising
  - Crowd fundraising

American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee
Past National Commander David K. Rehbein, Iowa, Chairman

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee officially dissolved at the end of the 101st National Convention, but the committee met one more time, Oct. 13, to review its performance and to receive an after-action report prepared by staff. A copy of that illustrated report is in your packets.

The committee is satisfied that it has fulfilled the majority of expectations laid out in Resolution 31 of the Fall 2011 National Executive Committee meetings “to call to the attention of the American people the record of achievements that has been accomplished by The American Legion during the 100 years since its founding, to emphasize the impact the organization has had upon the American society, and the extent of its contributions to the national security and the welfare of military veterans, their families and their communities ... The American Legion wishes to set forth the objectives and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities during the years ahead and to illustrate the contribution made to the future of our country as intended by these programs and activities ...."
These achievements have been shared, by design, at every level of the organization. Local posts, districts and departments, as well as national headquarters, have lifted up the centennial in communities large and small, and on a national scale, through media tools, planning guides, special events, merchandise and more over the last seven years.

Strategic success has been achieved in the following areas:

- Local post and department engagement. Through a variety of steps, the committee has fulfilled its stated intent to empower posts, districts and departments to organize and conduct centennial activities throughout the 100th anniversary period, and they continue to do so, as the fourth quarter of 2019 opens. This has been achieved through an organizational model first designed by the Department of Missouri, event-planning guides, workshops, accessibility to media materials to include message points, an interactive web portal, informative visual materials for display, traveling exhibits and more. Every department in The American Legion assigned centennial activity to a chairperson or committee, and hundreds of posts followed suit, to make the Legion’s 100th anniversary a point of pride, celebration and public awareness from the smallest communities to Capitol Hill.

- The centennial traveling exhibits have been in high demand, and continue to be, sharing the Legion’s 100-year chronology in two displays, one a 160-foot four-panel set, the other a 10-footer for use in booths; the GI Bill story with one multi-media exhibit and artifacts with video kiosk, the other a smaller, lower-weight version for easier and more efficient shipment; another to illustrate the American Legion Baseball story; and some smaller displays that have had specific uses. The estimated number of visitors to these exhibits since June 2017 is in excess of 1 million.

- American Legion Emblem Sales merchandise promoting the centennial has sold well over the years, generating in excess of $825,000 in revenues.

- The 100th and 101st National Conventions were spectacular, particularly the connected opening performances to begin the general sessions. The Convention and Meetings Division brought in Troupe America for both of these entertaining openings, the first to trumpet the Legion’s legacy and other to spotlight vision. Music, choreography and dramatic performances were flawless in both openings, and the conventions also featured centennial film festivals, historical displays and much more.

- The committee has worked with the United States World War I Centennial Commission, which has Jack Monahan as the Legion’s representative, to advance its efforts to build a memorial in Washington to honor the war era that started The American Legion.

- The American Legion’s centennial committee has had oversight of the memorials database on legion.org, which now has more than 2,700 entries, and growing.

- The committee has worked to advance the message of Team 100 during immediate past National Commander Brett Reistad’s term and continuing with the development of ceremonial centennial charters, the first of which was presented in September in Maryland.

- The Centennial Ride along the American Legion Memorial Highway (US 281) went according to plan. Team Legacy began at the U.S.-Canada border and Team Vision took off from the U.S.-Mexico border, and rode motorcycles toward each other, each carrying half of a banner that was assembled in Great Bend, Kan., and was later presented onstage at the 101st National Convention. Riders visited more than 60 local posts and drew considerable media attention along the route.

- The “Century of Service” American Legion centennial bookazine, a follow-up to “Indivisible: The Story of Our Flag,” is now printed and ready to market nationwide, to complete a two-volume set of print publications to share The American Legion history.
• The committee has also worked in support of the U.S. Mint coin sets, the Rose Bowl Parade float and the Buddy Check program with the Marketing and Membership & Post Activities teams.

The American Legion centennial opportunity has helped elevate community awareness of the organization’s role in U.S. society, from the smallest posts to the world-changing effects of the GI Bill, in hope that the legacy story will inspire a vision for the second century and new stories yet to unfold.

**21ST CENTURY AD-HOC COMMITTEE**

REV. DANIEL J. SEEHAFER (WI), CHAIRMAN

**Re-establishing the 21st Century Ad-Hoc Committee**

This committee was appointed by National Commander Denise H. Rohan and approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion on October 11-12, 2017. The purpose of re-establishing the 21st Century Ad-Hoc Committee was to review the original 21st Century Report given to the National Executive Committee during the Fall Meetings of 1997 and to update its recommendations for current and future needs to move the organization forward. The report was given to the National Executive Committee on October 16, 2019. (Copy of the report was submitted separately to the National Executive Committee).

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

_Sons Of The American Legion Subcommittee_

George V. West, New Hampshire, Chairman

The Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee of the Internal Affairs Commission met at 1:30 P.M. on October 14, 2019.

Members present:

George V. West (NH)   Chairman  
Robert L. Morrill (NY) Vice Chairman  
Robert K. Burke (MA)  Member  
Michael K. Seaton (CA) Member  
Don Hayden (MN) Member  
Jim Breheio (MA) NEC Liaison to Internal Affairs  
Ken George (FR) National SAL Liaison  
Brian Compton (IN) Special Assistant  

Special Guests:  
Clint Bolt   Sons of The American Legion National Commander  
Mark Tansel   Sons of The American Legion Internal Affairs Chairman  
Autry James (CA) Guest  
Louis Brault (MA) Guest  

**Commander Bolt’s Report**

Commander Bolt briefed the sub-committee on his goals for the year and charities he intends to support. He stated his membership goal for the year 2020-21 is 400,000 members and to raise $500,000 to support the Child Welfare Foundation and the Children and Veterans Endowment Fund. This past weekend the SAL Fall NEC Meeting took place, and there were a total of 199 attendees, with 27 graduating the detachment commanders training. A motion with a second was made to accept the Commander's report, motion carried.

**Committee on Committees Report**

The Committee on Committees report was distributed to the sub-committee members to read, and highlights from the report were discussed. The committee interviewed six
candidates for the National Chaplain for the year 2020-21 (SAL NEC will approve at Spring 2020 meeting) and one candidate for the National Update Newsletter editor. The committee recommended Matt Parsons (CA) and the recommendation was approved. This appointment will be effective immediately.

**SAL Commanders Advisory Committee**

Commanders Advisory Committee report was distributed to the sub-committee members to read, and highlights from the report were discussed. The committee interviewed six candidates who showed interest in being the SAL National Commander. No order was established in the report. The committee also met with Leading Candidate Michael Fox (CA) and Second Leading Candidate Chris Carlton (IN) to reaffirm their commitment and discuss their duties and protocols as leading candidates. Finally, the committee met with SAL National Commander Bolt to discuss the status of his term and to reinforce the importance of communication between him and headquarters staff.

**Past National Commanders Panel Report**

Past National Commander Panel (PNCP) report was submitted to the sub-committee for review and discussion. Before the SAL Fall Meetings, Chairman Newman issued a memo to the PNCP Chairman Danny Smith, empowering the PNCP with oversight and implementation of the Strategic Plan accepted and released at the 2018 Fall Meeting. Chairman Smith met with PNCP, and they developed an aggressive approach and plan by assigning commission and committee liaisons that will address each of the points in the plan. They will work with their prospective chairman by creating a two-way flow of recommendations and implementations. At the Fall and Spring Meetings, Chairman Smith will provide a detailed report of the status and progress of the plan.

Past National SAL Commander Jeff Frain tendered his resignation from the PNCP. PNC James Hartman (MD) was approved as replacement.

**SAL Resolutions**

A motion and second were made to accept the SAL actions on all resolutions except Resolution 5 which was set aside for further discussion by the sub-committee. Motion carried. See *Addendum B of this Internal Affairs report*.

**Resolution 5 Discussion**

Chairman West asked Commander Bolt for more detailed information on resolution 5, which was a resolution to address SAL bylaw Article IV (eligibility). The bylaw was an attempt to modify and bring the eligibility clause more in line with the LEGION Act and to adhere to the IRS Tax Code Part 7 - Rulings and Agreement, Chapter 25 – Exempt Organizations Determinations Manual, Section 19 – 7.25.19.1 – 4 (9-1-2005) Veterans’ Organizations. The term “Stepson” has always been in the SAL bylaws dating back to 1971 when The American Legion accepted the bylaws. The resolution excluded “Stepson,” and the membership was unclear as to why it was removed. Furthermore, the leadership was not able to clearly explain what would happen to the current stepsons that are members of the SAL. The discussions became very emotional for some members because they were under the impression their membership in the SAL would terminate. Ultimately, the SAL membership did not approve the resolution. The sub-committee made a motion with a second. Asking Chairman Newman to refer the resolution back to the SAL National Judge Advocate to coordinate with The American Legion National Judge Advocate, and together create an acceptable term that would include the stepsons that are currently members of the SAL and comply with the LEGION Act and IRS Tax Codes. The motion was carried.

**National SAL Liaison Report**

The National SAL Liaison, addressed the sub-committee with the current projects that have been in work for the last six months. The SAL Commander and National Vice Commanders attended the first media training course at National Headquarters. The course was mirrored after The American Legion orientation, and media course provided to the Commander and National Vice Commanders. The leadership learned interviewing techniques and later applied them to giving compelling interviews.

More focus has been placed on moving more report tasking to an online format. The Geiger Operations Center has been providing the ability for SAL Adjutants to submit
online membership transmittals. Submitting online transmittals will save time, and members will show up on rosters faster than traditional means. This ability is being rolled out a few detachments at a time to manage the flow of information coming in. All detachments should have online transmittal capability by the end of January 2020. Other online capabilities that were enabled was the ability to submit detachment certification of officers, the commander's visitation requests, and the consolidated squadron report (CSR). Last year the return rate for the CSR was 21%. It is projected the CSR rate will increase with online submittals.

The convention had 1,039 registered attendees and for the first time, a room dedicated to junior SAL members where activities and events could take place. The junior members were invited on stage so they could be recognized as distinguished guests to the convention by Commander Gibbs. It was also at the National Convention the membership voted to increase their per capita to $5 effective June 2020. This will generate enough revenue to make the SAL a self-funded and self-sustaining program.

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AMERICAN LEGION TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE
ALTON R. FORD (MI), CHAIRMAN

The Training Sub-Committee met in the National Headquarters building at 1:30pm in the training conference room to review business pertaining to the Training Program, National American Legion College, and the National American Legion College Alumni Association.

Members present were:
Alton R. Ford (MI), Chairman
James R. Bojanowski (NY)
Patricia A. Harris (NC)
Dennis J. Soppe (IA)
Steven C. Sperl (AZ)
Carl W. Swisher (OH)
Lena Heredia-Perez (FL), IA Consultant

Staff Support: Michele Emery (IN-Aux), Alumni Program Development Coordinator
Ken George (FR), Member Engagement Coordinator
Kevin Mook (MD), Member Engagement Coordinator

National American Legion College (NALC)

Ken George provided an overview to the Internal Affairs Sub-Committee regarding the upcoming National America Legion College (NALC). The 2019 class will have 59 attendees from 31 departments. Training modules have been modified from year to year by using feedback received through student evaluations and information relative to current Legion needs. The curriculum is designed to encourage graduates to develop training and conduct colleges in their own departments. The NALC is not intended to help anyone ascend to a higher Legion position, but rather to foster learning and mentorship to create better Legionnaires.

The NALC application has been modified by the Legion College Selection Panel to ask departments to outline their plan for their NALC applicant. It will also require no less than three years of American Legion membership to be eligible to apply.

The focus for this year includes:
- New Leadership Scenarios and Mentorship
- New Leadership Module
- How to run successful meetings
- How to effectively write and pass resolutions
- Development of training YouTube videos
- How to implement a department level American Legion College
- Leadership style assessment (DISC) and development
- American Legion Q&A with National Commander
• Developing Strategic Plans
• Effective Member Initiatives & Engagement

Resolution 4: Expand Admittance Criteria to National American Legion College

Discussion of Resolution 4 considered how the LEGION Act might affect the selection process for NALC attendees. The NALC currently allows Vietnam Era veterans to submit an application. Since the original intention to foster and teach younger veterans hasn’t changed, a motion was made to reject, which passed unanimously. It is, therefore, the Training Sub-committee’s recommendation that Resolution 4 be rejected by this Internal Affairs Commission.

Training Program

Kevin Mook briefed the sub-committee on Training in a Box progress and demonstrated where to find Phase I on the Legion website. In the Dropbox files are PowerPoint presentations for Membership Development and Retention, Mentorship, Membership Recruitment, Mentorship, myLegion.org, Online Transmittal Process, Parliamentary Procedures, Post Adjutant, Post Commander, Post Leader Development, Resolutions, This Is The American Legion, and Other Topics of Interest. Each of these may be downloaded and adapted for individual posts and districts to use for their training.

Phase One—Training in a Box follows the 21st Century Report recommendations for National Headquaters to set basic standards for core training ideals and to provide storage and access to training materials at all levels.

National American Legion College Alumni Association (NALCAA)

Michele Emery presented the minutes and election results from the 2019 National American Legion College Alumni Association Business Meeting and Banquet held in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 24-25, 2019. Motion was made and passed to approve the minutes and the election of NALCAA officers.

The recommendation of the Subcommittee was approved by the Internal Affairs Commission.

PROGRAM REPORTS

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)

INTRODUCTION

The past year the Sons of The American Legion strengthened our commitment to The American Legion Family and achieved positive gains in all areas.

As of October 13, 2019, we have a total reported membership of 369,001 members for 2019. We are currently at 78,533 members for 2020, which is 21.3% of our goal of 369,001 for 2020. The membership goal is 400,000.

The Sons of The American Legion was the single largest contributor to The American Legion Child Welfare foundation in 2019 raising $427,315. At the National Executive Committee Fall meeting this past weekend over $14,890.43 was donated to the Foundation. This gives us a total to date of over $64,334.87, which is 12.9% of our goal. In addition to the CWF donations, the Sons of The American Legion also presented $4,905.00 for NEF, $670 for the Veterans and Children’s Endowment Fund and $250.00 to Children’s Organs Transplant Association.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

48TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

At the forty-eighth Annual National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana there were 927 registered delegates, 24 alternates and 88 guests representing 49 detachments. We received donations in Indianapolis totaling over $63,950 from the squadrons and detachments. The breakout is as follows:
- $29,785 for the Child Welfare Foundation
- $23,203 for the National Emergency Fund
- $4,905 for Operation Comfort Warriors
- $4,346 for the Legacy Fund
- $1,710 for the Endowment Fund

Our membership goal for 2020 is 400,000 members with a 95% renewal rate. To attain this goal our membership committee will echo the Commander’s theme for the year, “Serving Those Who Served… Full Speed Ahead.” Members who excel in recruiting will receive special recognition.

There were fourteen resolutions presented to the National Convention Committees for consideration. Three are recommended for approval, and nine were consolidated. Two were rejected. See Addendum B

**Highlights of the Fall National Executive Committee Meeting:** One hundred seventy-nine National Executive Committeemen, Alternates, Commission and Committee members attended the 2019 Fall National Executive Committee meeting representing 46 detachments. We also had twenty 20 guests, for a total of 199 attendees. The attendance was outstanding showing that our members are truly dedicated to the programs.

The Member Training and Development Committee presented the twenty-fourth Annual Detachment Commanders’ National Instructional Institute. There were 27 detachment commanders attended the Detachment Commanders Conference on Saturday, October 12th.

Seven resolutions were presented to the National Executive Committee for consideration. Two were received and filed, two were rejected, three were recommended for approval. All resolutions are attached. The resolutions presented and their disposition are as follows: See Addendum B

**Conclusion:** The Sons of The American Legion is continuing to strive to assist The American Legion in all aspects. Our dedication to the veterans and their families can only strengthen our bond within The American Legion Family. We will continue to insure more productive, in-depth programs so that the Sons of The American Legion will become a stronger asset to The American Legion.

The Sons of The American Legion will continue to work for the benefit of our veterans who helped make this country great and for the children who will help make this country even greater.

We continue to see increased participation within the commissions and committees of our National Executive Committee from which our further growth is ensured. The war on terrorism, which has put our troops in harm’s way, has only strengthened our resolve to ensure the success of the programs of The American Legion Family.

**NATIONAL STAFF UPDATES:**

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND**

Since its creation in 1989, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has awarded $9.2 million to American Legion family members and American Legion posts that suffered losses during national disasters.

As of October 7, 2019, we have distributed over $82,745 with 40 grants to members and posts in the departments of California, Florida, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.

These grants were provided for emergency expenses for members displaced by damage from homes as a result of natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornados, wildfires and floods. Posts that have had to curtail ongoing American Legion program were also eligible for grants.

**Summary:**

January through March 2019: 18 grants $ 48,600
April through July:    16 grants $ 15,245  
July through Sept 17:    6 grants $ 18,900  

Maximum grant amounts for individuals is $3,000, and the maximum allowable for posts is $10,000. The average individual grant awarded to date in 2019 is $1,636 and the average post grant is $4,566.

Our members and posts normally have 90 days after a declared disaster to submit NEF requests. This requirement may be temporarily extended on a case by case basis because of the potential magnitude of current and ongoing disaster recovery operations as a result of flooding in the Midwest and other weather emergencies. We anticipate that we will continue to receive a high number of grant applications as a result of the severe flooding for the remainder of 2019.

The NEF fund is currently fully funded and will be able to meet the needs of our members for the remainder of 2019.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS (CPR)

Each year, American Legion posts around the world donate millions of volunteer hours, raise millions of dollars for the benefit of their community and Legion programs, and positively influence millions of lives. 70 percent of the posts reported on Consolidated Post Reports this year. Year after year the reporting numbers have continued to remain between 65-70 percent.

The winners of 100% reporting were: Alabama, Delaware, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Utah. Those department commanders were recognized on stage in Indianapolis with a plaque presented by Past National Commander Brett P. Reistad.

Departments who received a certificate recognizing them for 75% or higher reporting were: Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Our National Commander testifies before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs and the information provided in this report is used to assist in the preparation of the testimony.

The 2020 reporting period runs from June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020. We have accelerated our CPR launch date for 2020 to be available online and on Mylegion.org no later than mid-November 2019, earlier than in previous years.

RESOLUTIONS

INTERNAL AFFAIRS ACTION ON ASSIGNED RESOLUTIONS

Approved and Forwarded to the Resolutions Subcommittee
Resolution No. 8  Authorize Issuance of Temporary Post Charter to a Foreign Post – England Post 0303, Department of France

Approved and forwarded to the Finance Commission
Resolution No. 1  Amendment To The Preamble Of The Constitution Of The American Legion
Resolution No. 6  75th Anniversary Of World War II

Other Resolutions:
Disposition of all other resolutions is addressed in Addendum A.

CONCLUSION
Thank you for your assistance and for giving us the opportunity to appear before you. Our commission is “Still Serving America.”
Addendum A

Held for Further Study

Register Resolution No. 2760 (MI)(2018 DEC): Korean “Unknown War” Memorial

Rejected

Resolution No. 4 (NE) (2019 Natl. Conv.): Expand Admittance Criteria to National American Legion College

Resolution No. 7 (CO) (2019 Natl. Conv.): Gender Neutral Caps

Resolution No. 23 (TX) (2019 Natl. Conv.): Emblem Regulations for American Legion Riders Vests

ADDENDUM B

Disposition of Action of Sons of The American Legion

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee October 12-13, 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOLUTION NUMBER</th>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 1 – Convention 2019</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Amendments to the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution</td>
<td>Rejected - changes were already made by NC2010-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 4 – Convention 2019</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>S.A.L. Awards and Medals</td>
<td>Rejected – due to a lack of details of the awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 14 – Convention 2019</td>
<td>Consolidated Resolution</td>
<td>Amendment to the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Article X, Section 2</td>
<td>Recommend Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution Number</td>
<td>State/Section</td>
<td>Subject Description</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 1 – Fall NEC 2019</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Endorsement of Michael C. Fox (CA) for National Commander</td>
<td>Received and filed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 2 – Fall NEC 2019</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>NEC Approval of National Commander’s Appointments at Post-National Convention Meeting</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 3 – Fall NEC 2019</td>
<td>Internal Affairs</td>
<td>Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Form Revision – Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Sections – Amendment to SAL Resolution 5 – Spring 2018</td>
<td>Recommend approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 4 – Fall NEC 2019</td>
<td>Internal Affairs</td>
<td>National Officer, NEC Representative and Chairman Certification of Membership Eligibility</td>
<td>Recommend approval as amended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 5 – Fall NEC 2019</td>
<td>Internal Affairs</td>
<td>Revision to Article IV (Eligibility)</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 6 – Fall NEC 2019</td>
<td>Internal Affairs</td>
<td>Revision to Article X, Section 2 (Finances)</td>
<td>Recommend approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 7 – Fall NEC 2019</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Endorsement of Jason Roberts (GA) for National Vice Commander</td>
<td>Received and filed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No. S.A.L. Resolution 6 – National Convention, 2019
Title: Support of House of Representatives Resolution H.R.5674 and Senate Resolution S.2372 Veterans Affairs M.I.S.S.I.O.N. (Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks) Act
Origin: Detachment of Illinois

WHEREAS, President Lincoln said, “to care for him who have bourne the battle;” and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs M.I.S.S.I.O.N. Act will greatly improve the VA’s ability to deliver health care; and

WHEREAS, eligibility for the VA’s Caregiver program is expanded to Veterans of all generations; and

WHEREAS, consolidation of the seven VA Community Care programs are consolidated into one streamlined program; and

WHEREAS, the M.I.S.S.I.O.N, Act provides $5.2 billion to the Veterans Choice program; and

WHEREAS, providers suspended or removed from VA practice DO NOT treat veterans in the Community; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5674 and the Senate passed S.2372; and

WHEREAS, the President signed the VA M.I.S.S.I.O.N. Act on June 6, 2018; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled on August 23-25, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana, that the Sons of The American Legion support H.R.5674 and S.2372.
No. S.A.L. Resolution 7 – National Convention, 2019
Title: Support of House of Representatives Resolution H.R.1259 and Senate Resolution S.1094 Veterans Affairs Accountability Act
Origin: Detachment of Illinois

WHEREAS, the number one pillar of the Sons of The American Legion is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and

WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance that the Sons of The American Legion support those that have served and are currently serving our Nation’s Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, countless promises have been made to those who have served and are currently serving our Nation’s Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, of those serving many promises had been made including great medical care; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs has been at times, lacking in the care of those who have served our country; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs arcane civil service rules have hampered the Department’s ability to remove, demote, or suspend any VA employee including Senior Executive Service employees for performance or misconduct; and

WHEREAS, keeping employees accountable, these bills will improve and keep intact the whistleblower protections; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R.1259 – the Veterans Affairs Accountability First Act of 2017 on March 16, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate passed S.1094 – the Veterans Affairs and Whistleblowers Protection Act of 2017; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled on August 23-25, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana, that the Sons of The American Legion support H.R.1259 and S.1094.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 14 – National Convention, 2019
Title: Amendment to the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Article X, Section 2 Consolidated Resolution
Origin:

WHEREAS, since the inception of the organization in 1932, the principal mission of the Sons of The American Legion has been to support the needs, programs and legacy of the parent organization, “The American Legion;” and

WHEREAS, over the past many years, as the Sons of The American Legion has grown in both membership and scope of service supported, the structure and administrative requirements have increased; and

WHEREAS, providing continued financial support is necessary to ensure the mission, through the service and support which the organization provides, is able to be sustained; and

WHEREAS, the national organization has not implemented a per capita dues increase in nearly 35 years; and

WHEREAS, to benefit the continued health and growth of the organization, it is dependent upon the ability to properly fund the programs and administrative costs, therefore an increase is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Article X, Section 2, now reads, “The amount of such annual National dues shall be $2.00 per member and shall be payable October 20 of each year and for the succeeding year;” now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled on August 23-25, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana, amend the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Article X, Section 2 to read, “The amount of such annual National dues shall be $5.00 per member and shall be payable October 20 of each year and for the succeeding year;” and be it further
RESOLVED, That the increase take effect on June 1, 2020, with the distribution of the 2021 National Membership cards, and applied to all membership transmittals received after that date.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 3 - Fall, 2019
Title: Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Form Revision – Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Sections – Amendment to SAL Resolution 5 – Spring 2018
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion adopted guidelines/rules by Resolution No. 5 during the Spring, 2018 N.E.C. meeting regarding the selection process of annual National award recipients; and
WHEREAS, The guidelines/rules only take into account hours of service and costs associated with the various programs; and
WHEREAS, The current Sons of The American Legion Consolidated Squadron Report Form Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation sections contain information blocks that do not relate to the new section criteria guidelines, making this information unnecessary and redundant; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 12-13, 2019, That the Sons of The American Legion amend S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring, 2018 and add a Veterans Employment and Education section to the Consolidated Squadron Report, and also include a copy of said Consolidated Squadron Report form to said resolution; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That all associated Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation information and Veterans Employment and Education information contained on the Sons of The American Legion Consolidated Squadron Report Form be amended to reflect all adopted changes; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That changes be expedited so as to be included in the 2019-2020 year Consolidated Squadron Report Form; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, Therefore, Resolution No. 5 passed at the Spring, 2018 N.E.C. meeting is rescinded.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 4 - Fall, 2019
Title: National Officer, NEC Representative and Chairman Certification of Membership Eligibility
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans with specific requirements and guidelines for membership eligibility; and
WHEREAS, The process of Certification of Membership Eligibility has long been an established practice of The American Legion, established initially through resolution 591 of the 1931 National Convention and updated by NEC resolution 5 in May 2018; and
WHEREAS, The need for a similar process for the Sons of The American Legion, to ensure and establish validation of membership eligibility, is critical and necessary for the integrity of the organization, and will align it with a standing practice of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 12-13, 2019, That it is required that before the induction into office, every National Officer, National Executive Committee, Alternate National Executive Committee, and National Chairman of the Sons of The American Legion provide satisfactory evidence of eligibility for membership in the Sons of The American Legion as follows:
Eligibility for Sons of The American Legion membership of National Officers, National Executive Committeemen, Alternate National Executive Committeemen, Commission and Committee Chairmen, after initial review by the National Judge Advocate, will be certified by the National Adjutant and reported to the Post-Convention NEC Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion; and

Eligibility for Sons of The American Legion membership of detachment officers will be certified by the detachment adjutant, with notification to the respective department adjutant and National Adjutant of the Sons of The American Legion within 30 days of election, but no later than September 30 of each year, using the detachment officer report document provided by National Headquarters; and

Acceptable eligibility verification will include copies of descendant’s Veteran’s current American Legion membership card, DD-214 or to include other acceptable forms (if deceased) and must comply with the period of times established for American Legion membership; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any member with aspirations of future national leadership in the Sons of The American Legion may, at any time, submit one’s proof of eligibility for Sons of The American Legion membership to the office of the National Judge Advocate; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all submissions be electronically transmitted to the National Judge Advocate, with copy to the National Sons of The American Legion Liaison, and that the aforementioned requirements take effect with the 2020-2021 administrative year and occurs annually thereafter.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 6 - Fall, 2019
Title: Revision to Article X, Section 2 (Finances)
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion, and as such is required to comply and pattern its conduct and operations consistent with those of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 2 of the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws is currently not expressed in the same manner as that of The American Legion’s Article X, Section 2; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 12-13, 2019, That Article X, Section 2 (Finances) of the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws be revised to read:

“The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by each National Convention for the ensuing year;” and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this revision be implemented effective immediately, by all levels of the organization and within all documents of the organization, with final approval being enacted by the 2020 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of one resolution, we have Addendum A and also Addendum B to be considered. Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to accept the report with the exceptions. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.
Resolution No. 8: Authorize Issuance Of Temporary Charter To A Foreign Post
Origin: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Application for the issuance of a charter to a post outside of the United State has been received, properly endorsed by officers of the department which will accept responsibility for supervision, and all in conformity with Resolution No. 42, adopted by the National Executive Committee at its meeting of April 29-30, May 1, 1959; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That the national adjutant is authorized to issue a temporary charter to the following post to be affiliated with the named department.

1. Molesworth Post 0303, located in Molesworth, England and affiliated with the Department of France.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Resolution No. 8 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second on this resolution. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Attached to this report is Addendum A. I move the action of the Internal Affairs Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Also attached to this report is Addendum B. I move the action of the Internal Affairs Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: At this time, I request permission for Past National Commander Rehbein to make a report on the 100th Anniversary Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The chair recognizes Past National Commander Dave Rehbein.

Oral Report: 100th Anniversary Observance Committee
David K. Rehbein, Iowa, Chairman

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you, commander. Commander Oxford, members of the National Executive Committee and friends. The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee officially dissolved at the close of the 101st National Convention. We conducted one final meeting on Sunday, October 13. That was essentially an after-action report for a final review of the strategic plan that was originally drafted in 2013.

The committee and I hope that you agree that the essential purpose of the committee has been fulfilled. You received a copy of that after-action report. We wanted to create a permanent record, because too many things get lost as time passes. Some unfinished business remains and we are confident the staff will keep working to complete that. Like all plans, this one was bound to change from time to time, but we believe the key expectations have been met.

The committee began its journey under the leadership of Past National Commander/Past National Adjutant Spanogle, with a goal to empower local posts and local departments to commemorate our first 100 years. Media tools were prepared and delivered, workshops were conducted, traveling exhibits toured the country.

New national web platforms created opportunities for posts to document and photograph their monuments and memorials, and to tell their local post stories through
shareable digital media. Many items were created to celebrate that centennial: Centennial coins, coin sets, Fathead wall clings, limited-edition lithographs, T-shirts, posters, polo shirts, liquor decanters, decals, car magnets, mugs, hats, flags. We're proud to report to you that all of those items at this point have resulted in sales of nearly $873,000. (Applause)

I say "at this point" because sales are still ongoing. I don't know that we will make a million dollars, but it has been a very, very significant amount of income to come to this organization.

Local events have ranged from department-sized galas to local parades and open houses to entire towns that themed their Fourth of July celebrations around The American Legion centennial. Our anniversary, memorials and monuments to immortalize the centennial have been created and installed. Missouri City, Texas, there's one in particular I'd like you to keep track of. If you're ever down there, go see their American Legion Centennial Memorial that was placed there.

We had a centennial ride in early August that I think really encapsulated what we wanted the centennial to be. Highway 281 is the American Legion Memorial Highway. It runs from the Canadian border in North Dakota to the Mexico border in Texas. In 1960 when was designated that highway, two car caravans of Legionnaires drove that highway, one starting in Texas at the border, one starting in Canada at the border, and met in Great Bend, Kansas. We did that again this summer, only with our Legion Riders. National Vice Commanders Jim Wallace and Steve Sweet each led one of the teams, and we met and stood in the same place in Great Bend, Kansas, that that those Legionnaires did in 1960.

That post was placed where it is in 1959. So those two car caravans met there, and our two teams of Legion Riders met there. But it was really the departments that put that ride together. It was our idea, but it was their execution. And I think those six departments, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, really need to be proud of what they accomplished with that Centennial Ride, because they brought The American Legion national organization into towns and posts where it very seldom appears. And local media came out, and resolutions and proclamations were issued. It was a great five days in the history of The American Legion.

You saw the two banners that were carried, one Team Legacy, the other Team Vision, that were joined in Great Bend and then presented to Commander Reistad at the podium at the national convention.

To tell and to share our story of Legacy & Vision, the Media & Communications Division has produced a "Century of Service." You all have a copy of this on your desk also. This is a modern version, a modern way of telling the history of the 100 years of The American Legion. We have academic books from the past; that didn't seem to be the way to go for this. This illustrated history holds your attention much better than a page full of text. Lindenmeyr, the people that supply our paper, essentially donated the paper and printing for this. The price for this is $9.95.

We talk about educating newer members, younger Legionnaires. This is what to put in their hands to educate them on who we are and where we've been and what we do. I hope you will do that. I hope you will promote it in your departments. I hope you will take home not just the copy you got today, but several more copies that you can distribute in your department, in your post.

There's another documentary that is one of those things that is still being finished. You've seen the parts of "'To Strengthen a Nation." Jeric and Lorna, as they've traveled the country, discovering the "why" of The American Legion. The latest one is baseball. Jeric and Lorna are in Millbank, South Dakota, where American Legion Baseball started, talking to the Legionnaires there about what it means to be the birthplace of American Legion Baseball. There are several more episodes of that documentary to be finished. We lost the services of a couple of our really good videographers this summer to other employment. They have now been replaced, and those episodes will be finished, will be available to you. That is another part of educating our new Legionnaires, because you can show them those vignettes, because they're only five to ten minutes long.
So much of what we did was guided by the departments, and I mentioned those six, but there are others. One of the members of our committee, Lowry Finley-Jackson, adjutant from Missouri, organized that celebration last spring, after the spring NEC meetings, in St. Louis to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the St. Louis Caucus. That was a great event. You saw and you heard the letters from the commander and the adjutant on the 50th anniversary that were read at convention. You heard the letters from Commander Reistad and our current adjutant that will go back into a time capsule for the 150th.

Because of Missouri, because of Lowry Finley-Jackson, that soldier's memorial got refurbished and is now back to the standard that it was. Because of Missouri and Lowry Finley-Jackson, the Eternal Flame now burns again in St. Louis on the American Legion Memorial, where it had burned for many years, but repairs were needed. Repairs have been completed. So thank them when you see them.

The Department of New York, for an event at the Baseball Hall of Fame, Lee Smith came in. He was at that time a future inductee. He is now a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. He talked about what American Legion Baseball did for him, how it changed his life, how he really wasn't a baseball player until he got involved with The American Legion team. So New York, taking the initiative to do something like that, and so many of our departments, so many of our districts, our posts back home, took the initiative and did something.

On the last consolidated post report, we have counted up now over 3,000 posts that held a centennial event. Maybe it was an open house, maybe it was a dinner, maybe it was a weekend at their local festival. But that's 3,167 posts that held a centennial event. That's a significant portion of our number of posts.

As I said, we have some things to finish up. We're still working on centennial coin sales. We want to thank the Marketing Commission for taking that project on and making it happen. I think a lot of our people are going to be proud to have those centennial coins down the road. Don't let December 31 come and go without them having one.

We specifically want to thank American Legion Charities. You've seen the GI Bill exhibit, you've seen the chronology, you've seen the smaller GI Bill exhibit and there's a baseball exhibit. Without American Legion Charities, we would not have had the funds for those to travel the country, and they still travel. The GI Bill exhibit is out there right now in Collierville, Tennessee. I hope it will stay on the road. The committee hopes it will continue to travel, because that tells the story of what this organization did to make that GI Bill exist and be improved and continue to make this country better.

I'm hoping we'll have another one one day. I'm hoping we'll have another exhibit like that, to tell the story of Agent Orange and that fight, and how we, how we created what has benefited so many of our Vietnam vets and has benefited so many of the people that were affected by radiation, and how we're still working on burn pits. So I'm hoping there will be another exhibit like that some day.

Tournament of Roses Parade. We don't have enough money to buy front-page coverage on the LA Times, but that float made front-page coverage on the LA Times. And so that's a memory that we will continue to carry.

Conventions. You've seen the openings. That moment when that actor portraying Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., was met by his grandson, Teddy Roosevelt IV, as TR IV climbed those steps onto the stage at national convention in Minneapolis, you could feel that in the crowd. I could feel that. That's the benefit, that's the extent, that's the creativity, the talent of our national convention staff. They created those two openings. I wish we could do something like that every year. I don't know if we will have the blessing for that to happen. But I want to say thank you to them.

I want to say thank you to Howard Trace and the library staff for all that they have done to help us remember some of the history that's been up there in the library but tends to be forgotten as time passes.

So Mr. Commander, it's been my honor and privilege to serve as chairman. To have our vice chairman, NECman from Kansas, Dave Warnken, be with us, thank you, sir. To
benefit from the initial leadership of our first chairman, Mr. Bob Spanogle. Bob, thank you very much for the foundation that you laid that this committee was able to build on to celebrate the centennial.

There’s a group of people here in this room with us this afternoon, I’m going to have to take a moment of personal privilege, because this would not have been possible without the staff that we have, the creative people, the talented people, the dedicated folks, the hard-working, many thousands of hours that were put into this. Not just by people that worked directly on the centennial, but by other folks that stepped in and picked up the responsibilities they had to leave behind so that they could work on the centennial.

We’ve invited all those staff to be with us here today, and I’m hoping many of them are here. Those of you that worked on the centennial, would you please stand and accept our thanks and the thanks of this National Executive Committee. (Applause)

Every time we had a problem, one of them had a solution. Every time we had a project, one of them was able to see that that project came to a successful conclusion. We couldn’t have done it without you, folks.

Mr. Commander, it has been my privilege, it has been my pleasure to serve under your leadership and the leadership of a number of national commanders on this committee. Being able to do so has reinspired me about The American Legion. Remembering so much of our legacy, remembering so much of what our predecessors have been able to achieve, gives me fresh hope that we can continue to achieve the same level of projects and accomplishments, and we can continue to do the same amount of good for this country that they did.

So Mr. Commander, that concludes my report. This will be the final report of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity. (Applause)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion to receive and file the final report of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It’s been moved and seconded to receive and file the final report of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee. Any discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

Dave, before you step down, I’d like to commend you and your committee for the great work that you have done in observing our centennial. Your committee is now disbanded, but you should take pride in the fact of your performance, knowing that it was truly a mission accomplished. (Applause)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: Once again, thank you, Commander Rehbein. Commander, at this time, I ask permission for Chairman Seehafer to make his final report on the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes Chairman Seehafer

Oral Report: 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee
Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Chairman

Good afternoon. National Commander Oxford, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers, and guests, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to address you on the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee. You do have a copy of my written report in front of you.

You know, family, the purpose of this committee's report is to propose recommendations aimed towards bettering our beloved organization. These recommendations are intended to assist our leadership in developing and implementing new or refined strategies in order to improve recruiting, engaging, retaining, and training, in a multigenerational veterans service organization. The 13 members of this diverse committee have identified several key elements The American Legion should examine in greater depth as we strive to be our nation's most innovative and forward-thinking veterans service organization. You know when this journey began, the committee recognized the
tall task at hand. So it was decided to break the group up into categories and focus on these three areas: Legacy and vision, membership, and training.

With legacy and vision, we had five recommendations. First and foremost, we need to reaffirm the original 21st Century report adopted back in October of 1997. We can all agree that this original report set us on a path for success. However, our committee believed it was not fully embraced as well as implemented. That's why it's our recommendation to appoint a body to ensure the report is implemented at all levels of the organization.

Our committee also saw a need to develop mentorship programs at all levels, so that the knowledge of the experienced leaders would be utilized as well as then embracing the talents of our newest members.

Our fourth point under "Legacy and Vision" dealt with mission and vision statements. These statements need to be reviewed, and you know what, in some cases, actually created. That is to ensure we stay relevant and are and always have a defined purpose.

Finally, our Marketing and Media & Communications Commissions are vital in identifying and addressing our legacy and vision needs, especially as they have the necessary tools to capture, then, the needs, the wants, and the desires of today's veterans as well as developing strategies for membership and fundraising.

The second area of focus is membership. While on page nine of our report lists the seven individual items, I want to bring to your attention the importance of communication with, then, our current, past, and potential new members. For example, this committee and the Membership & Post Activities Committee both believe we need to have a wider distribution of the membership impact report.

While this committee that I also serve on, M&PA, made a recommendation to send that impact report out to all department leadership, you know, only a handful of newly elected department commanders have seen it? Or then again, even knew anything about it? After all, family, we have the tools and the resources for recruitment, for retention, and engagement. But they are not being utilized. Therefore, it starts with timely and effective communication. This was, then, a common thread that was noticed throughout our discussion from the very, very beginning. Does it take them five weeks to initially welcome someone into this great organization? Does it? Should it take three months to receive a membership card? Something that sets us apart? We have to be, then, timely in our delivery when welcoming someone into our family.

Furthermore, communication needs to be an ongoing process, whether by utilizing Buddy Checks at our post, to check on our membership, or conducting retention surveys, to find out the needs and the wants of our members, or even building relationships with military transition centers. We have to be proactive and effectively communicate with these past, present, and potential members.

Our last area of focus, then, is training. This committee believes we need to provide effective training at all levels of the organization if we are going to continue to build a foundation for the future. Do you like that, Commander?

And family, this has to start as soon as someone joins The American Legion. You know, this really hits home because, just this week, we talked to a Legionnaire who joined the organization through the DMS program and never heard from us except to renew his dues. Thank God he did each time, but this was for four years. So not once was he contacted, not once was he informed about learning opportunities within this organization through, for example, our basic training course. And to top it off, the first meeting he attended, he was elected as, you guessed it?

You bet, the post commander. (Laughter)

After talking to him, he is going out to take the basic training course and conduct training at his post.

That's why we need to welcome members with an offer, then, to take this course, this basic training. We have to promote post development at district events, and departments need to establish Legion colleges that meet minimum criteria. If we are going to be successful, it starts also with training.
Now, these are the recommendations. But ultimately, the success of this report will depend on buy-in and execution from leadership at all levels, and you're part of that. That's why it's important to have a strategy to implement this plan, and let me quote President Theodore Roosevelt. "Dreams are a dime a dozen. It's their execution that counts."

Just like I mentioned earlier, the original 21st Century report, chaired by PNC Ludwig, was a great report, and he's here, an awesome report. But it seems to be that it was placed on the shelf. PNC Rohan chaired, then, the committee to develop, then, the strategic plan for membership growth. And once again, it seems to be that it was placed on the shelf. We cannot let this happen a third time. We cannot.

Commander, I would like to personally thank you and, of course, our past commanders and all leadership for your continued support while we journeyed to this point over the past few years. It is our sincere prayer that these ideas and words would not remain on paper, but truly become alive within our leadership, not only before me, but among us, as well as our future generation of members. This, family, concludes my report. (Applause)

Report: 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee
Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Chairman

Members of the committee are:
- Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer (WI), Chairman
- Joshua T. Clement (MT), Vice Chairman
- Vickie D. Smith-Dykes (GA)
- Mark D. Kearsing (NY)
- John W. Crosby (IN)
- Matthew D. Jabaut (ME)
- Lowry Finley-Jackson (MO)
- Robbie Walker (IL)
- Sandra E. Kee (MA)
- Derric A. Grimes (NC)
- Guillermo Guillen (VA)
- Desiree Guerra (CO)
- Michael P. Davis (MA)

Ex-Officio Members
- PNC David Rehbein (IA), 100th Anniversary Observance Committee
- Robert Newman (IN), Internal Affairs Commission Chairman

National Staff members who have assisted are:
- Jack Querfeld (IL)
- Jeff Stoffer
- Matthew Herndon (IN)
- Nick Arnett (IN)
- Doug Chace (IN)
- Kevin Mook (MD)
- Ron Neff (IN)
- Michele Steinmetz (CA)

Re-establishing the 21st Century Ad-Hoc Committee
This committee was appointed by National Commander Denise H. Rohan and approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion on October 11-12, 2017. The purpose of re-establishing the 21st Century Ad-Hoc Committee was to review the original 21st Century Report given to the National Executive Committee during the Fall Meetings of 1997 and to update its recommendations for current and future needs to move the organization forward.
Reaffirmation of the Original 21st Century Report
The original 21st Century Report, as approved by the National Executive Committee in 1997, is just as relevant today as it was when it was originally written, if not more so.

Importance of Implementation
Although this Committee believes the original report was well-written and outlined a path for future success, the overall report was not properly implemented at all levels of the organization. This Committee believes that the recommendations here are not only urgent but possibly existential to our great organization. To ensure that this report is implemented at all levels of the organization, however, there needs to be a “Champion” going forward to advocate for the recommendations in this document while ensuring that it remains in the forefront and is relevant for years to come.

Legacy and Vision
Throughout our history, The American Legion has focused its vision on strengthening America. While initially focusing caring for the countless veterans who recently won the “war to end all wars,” over the last century, our vision has transformed into a legacy of service to our respective communities, states, and Nation. All the while, we have never compromised our stance that veterans and their families deserve the best care and benefits they have earned through their service and sacrifice. For the next century, The American Legion must never forget our shared legacy of the last one hundred years, but also our collective vision – both of ourselves and how the public perceives us – must continue to harness and embrace the multigenerational culture we are experiencing today and into the future.

We have a common thread that most organizations cannot replicate: our undivided service to this Nation, our leaders, and those with whom we have served as well as their families--- our Veteran Experience. Therefore, our focus needs to keep building for those who are to come. We have a common bond as veterans because we grew-up in a culture where the mantras “battle buddies” and “no one is left behind” are taken seriously. There are few other organizations where members have shared such a common experience and that understands the bond of service that is created. We are an organization made up of multiple generations, which requires the need to understand and develop strategies in order to blend all of our members into a mission-purposed organization. Our new members learn from the experienced, and likewise, the experienced members must learn from the new members. Our mission is to embrace and cultivate all members to develop a winning team at every level of our organization. Each generation has unique expectations, experiences, generational history, lifestyles, values, and demographics all of which influence every behavior. Leaders who understand this and can (and willing to) harness the abilities of such individuals will continue to move an organization towards greatness – a greatness that we have experienced throughout our first hundred years. We have left our mark, but there is work to be done.

This Committee unequivocally endorsed the “A veteran is a veteran, is a veteran” ethos. Our leaders at every level need to instill mentorship programs to fully develop every member, especially those new to our great organization. Each member, young or old, male or female, black or white bring a unique experience to the table that influences the future of this organization. We must embrace this reality, or risk being replaced by an entity that will. Our challenge then is to identify opportunities that may exist to engender trust and participation by all veterans (as well as our supporting communities) to recognize the value they can add to our next hundred years.

The cornerstone of our organization is the post – our greatest institution. Through the post, we are connected to communities across this great Nation. Our posts are known in the community by their programs — Boys State, American Legion Baseball, Oratorical, Junior Shooting, Flag Education, Veterans Assistance, Job Fairs and the list goes on. Over the last 22 years our posts have fallen from 16,000 to just under 13,000. This means less children are afforded the opportunity to take advantage of Legion programs and, therefore,
less opportunity exists for members to get involved in leadership roles and development of these programs (and new ones not yet conceived). This is not for the lack of eligible members or fewer communities. It has been our failure to nurture and grow these vital institutions that connect with the community. Regrettably, too many are at best shells of their former identities or at worst, have garnered a negative reputation within the communities within which they reside.

Wherever we go, we hear this story too often. Posts are chartered at a given moment in time, by a motivated group of brothers and sisters, all of whom share a vision of doing our veterans service. And with it there is vibrancy associated with being a part of the grand vision of community and veteran support. The mission is shared, and the people are drawn to these very virtues. No one executes this virtues like The American Legion. There are school connections, baseball games, picnics, dinners, poker runs and benefit fundraisers.

Our cornerstone programs are prominent in the community. There are familiar faces, shared memories, and common bonds. Bit by bit, however, members tend to settle in, get comfortable, then perhaps complacent if not rigid. “But this is the way we’ve always done it.” Money is raised for things, but members nonetheless fail to grow in their understanding of our overall mission. Over time, as the neighborhood begins to change (as neighborhoods always do) some voices become louder, more insistent. Fear begins to ripple through the familiar motions. Where are the members? Why doesn’t anyone come to our meetings anymore? Bit by bit, the numbers start to shrink, and the remaining members are faced with a choice: change or cancel the charter. Many choose the latter. Some will make some nods to the idea of considering change but will never step-out of the comfort zone to effectuate the changes that are necessary. The rate of Post cancellations is a variable determined primarily by the willingness and/or ability of the last remaining members to keep the lights on. They are some that lose focus on their mission, or simply succumb to the burdens inherently created when volunteers are stretched too thin. But, remarkably, somewhat miraculously, there are some that choose change so that their idea of community and veterans service is once again revived in their “new” community, so that they may feel, once again, that common bond we have experienced in our service to our country. This rebirth then becomes a legacy to continue our selfless service. When, or if, this happens—there is a beautiful, albeit difficult, lifegiving change—it can only be attributed to one thing: the members understood that it was not “their” Post but, rather, one structured to serve the unique and ever-changing needs of the community, state and Nation all the while serving our veterans and their families. They became refocused on our shared legacy and vision.

This scenario reinforces the need for vision and mission statements and leadership training at all levels of the organization, but most importantly at every post level so that we can maintain what connects us to our local communities and their needs—continuous revitalization and continuous support that only The American Legion can provide.

This Committee neither had the time nor expertise to completely study, analyze and recommend marketing strategies for these generational differences beyond the common thread of being a veteran. While we have been truly fortunate to have had lengthy discussions on mission statements, taglines, and modernized logos, we really reached no substantive conclusions or recommendations. We struggled with the same questions that many organizations are attempting to answer today in this multigenerational society we are living in. But we do know that other organizations are beating us in this game – regardless of what they are truly able to offer to our veterans. In order to develop strategies for both marketing and communications, further study in these areas must be pursued by our Marketing and Media & Communications Commissions.

From Legacy and Vision discussions, there are five recommendations:

• Reaffirm the original 21st Century report adopted in October 1997.
Appoint a body, or “Champion,” to ensure that this report is implemented and not just set aside and referred to occasionally. We sincerely believe that it must be ingrained in our leadership at all levels.

Develop mentorship programs from our posts all the way to the National organization to pass on the knowledge of our experienced leaders and to embrace the talents of our newer members.

Concise and consistent Mission and Vision statements at all levels to be reviewed periodically for relevance.

Further studies by Marketing and Media & Communications Commissions in order to capture the needs, wants, and desires of our multigenerational organization in order to develop strategies for membership and fundraising.

**Membership and Member Engagement**

This Committee focused our discussion on how best to reach our members and how do we engage them in our programs. Essentially, we have identified two major methods of reaching and recruiting our members. First, and the most common: traditional recruiting by face-to-face contact at the local level or at a venue where veterans attend, such as trade or association shows.

Second, reaching-out to prospective members by Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) either through direct mail or email. The Committee discussed various means by which a veteran learns about The American Legion, and learned that the most successful endeavor is the personal referral or face-to-face contact. While we have other means of marketing The American Legion, such as advertisement, if this is used, the message needs to be branded with a consistent message. We believe that there may be an opportunity to use cost-effective ways of advertising, such as public service announcements and commercial billboards. For example, we should develop sample messages to place on billboards where a post or department is able to obtain space at a reasonable cost. Marketing should also develop Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to be used at the local level, which are tailored to the local community. However, the Committee was not in favor of a “Super Bowl” hyped commercial, but generally preferred simple, more consistent messages that could be used and targeted at a local level.

The Committee also spent considerable time on how to better engage our members once recruited. We must recognize that the job is not completed once an individual is recruited. Attention must then turn to retaining the members we have. Recruiting and retention, we believe, must go hand-in-hand. The recruiter should be charged with the follow-up of new members by ensuring they are engaged and integrated into the organization. At this point, robust mentorship must take over towards developing the new member. In this area, the Committee made several observations:

- **Dissemination of Membership Impact Report / Dispatch.** These communication tools do not reach all members (neither new DMS/traditional members nor current membership). Several questions were raised: How do Legionnaires get this information? Can members sign-up to receive this? Online updates are known to drive members to these items. Therefore, information must be current, as these items are great tools for recruiting and retaining members. Bottom line: we must reach and every member somehow.

- **Targeted Surveys.** Recently, the Reconnect Committee in North Carolina conducted a survey of its memberships; its results help shed some light of the membership engagement issue. A question posed to the Department’s past three years of “drop-out” members asked, "As a previous member of The American Legion, how many times did you attend local posts meetings?" Most critically, the survey demonstrated that a “recruitment” does not necessarily translate to truly engaged and vested member: - 77% of the targeted sample (10,000 dropouts), had visited a Post 0-3 times before deciding not to renew. With the DMS at the headquarters level, this really shows the importance of
directly reaching-out to these members, rather than waiting for them to reach-out to a Post. The Marketing Commission, therefore, should develop a survey at the National level to help answer the question: “Why aren’t our members renewing?” An 86% retention rate is unacceptable. Likewise, a first-year retention rate of DMS members of around 50% is also unacceptable.

- **Joining Online.** We need to ensure that we have an easy way for prospective members to join online and also have the ability to choose a local Post. How can we vet eligible veterans when they join? Many members seem to believe that when they join online or through DMS, they are already a member of a local Post. We must somehow streamline this process. Additionally, how can we incorporate the Legion App to be more user-friendly for members wanting to join?

- **Member Retention.** Retention starts the moment a new member joins the Organization. New members, whether joining through DMS or traditionally at the local Post, should receive a welcome letter/postcard within 15 days thanking them for joining, informing them briefly on what The American Legion does, and offering the Basic Training link to learn more about the Organization.

- **Member Buddy Check.** We must have a culture and process of contacting our members and checking on them. To do so, we need to have resources on-hand when contacting members to be ready to assist their needs, or at least know where to find help. For example, service officer contact information, TFA and NEF applications, and useful websites that can assist with other needs. Posts should send an email prior to calling to let members know when they can expect to be contacted. However, we must also have the infrastructure in place to respond to and return emails and phone calls. The Committee suggests that:
  - Post’s implement a Buddy Check Committee;
  - Buddy Checks are executed during American Legion Birthday and/or Veterans Day;
  - The operational focus be on reaching every member, post, etc.; and
  - A reportable item on the annual Consolidated Post Report be established for this purpose.

- **Military Transition Centers.** Transition Assistance Programs (TAP) provide information to service members who are either separating or retiring from the military and entering into civilian life. This is a unique opportunity to educate transitioning service members on what The American Legion is, what we do, and how we can assist them with their transition. It is imperative that we have representation to assist these servicemembers with any of our programs that may make this transition easier. We should look at placing informational resources on a periodic basis at these transition centers. While this might be a resourcing challenge, the benefits may likely pay-off (especially in recognition that many recent servicemembers do not fully appreciate the value of the organization or its membership). To make this possible, information brochures must be available for the transitioning personnel, which includes website information and personal contact email/phone numbers.

- **Basic Training Course.** The Committee believes that this course is very important in integrating the member into the organization. Therefore, we should strive to get information about this course to every new member within the first 15 days. The more they know about our organization and its history, the greater the opportunity for us to retain the member.

- **Community Engagement Opportunities.** We must better demonstrate and communicate our value to our respective communities, states, and Nation. Sponsorship opportunities may include, but are not limited to:
  - Veteran Service Day
  - Sports Day (sports team/event)
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- Family Play Day
- Academia Engagement (e.g. Post hosting debates, contests, etc.)
- **Attend Conferences/Conventions of other Organizations** (e.g. VFW, AMVETS, USA, etc.)
  - Marketing Commission prepare a strategic plan;
  - Participate as a guest speaker/presenter;
  - Establish presence with e service/membership display booth.

All of this comes down to awareness and educating members as well as potential members. We cannot have retention if we were not successful with recruiting and vice versa. The National Organization emails a PUFL campaign with the National Commander’s endorsement on it; it should also email the Impact Report. The American Legion often refers to itself as a “grass roots” organization, and while local posts remain a fundamental element our success, survival is a National concern. This report cannot be the responsibility of the posts to distribute – this requires a forceful and diligent National intervention.

The chart below illustrates our eligible veteran population. Notably, this is not another chart to show who is eligible, but is instead used here to demonstrate two things: (1) the age difference in our veterans, and (2) how we need to consider engaging them in light of their respective needs while recognizing the upscale of conflict and service organization eligibility over the last three decades.

- A Korean War Vet drafted in 1950 at age 18 is 87 at the time this was written.
- A Vietnam War Vet drafted in 1961 at age 18 is 76 at the time this was written.
- A Lebanon/Grenada service member serving in 1982 at age 18 is 55 at the time this was written.
- A Panama service member serving in 1989 at age 18 is 48 at the time this was written.
- A Desert Shield service member serving in 1990 at age 18 is 47 at the time this was written.

First, the age gap. On the chart is the Korean War veteran through the Panama Conflict Veteran at age 18 and the age they are today (as of August 2019). There is a 39-year age difference between the two- almost two generations. Focusing on Desert Shield to present day, a 29-year difference exists. If we focus on the age of the veteran and where they are in life, we can assuredly recognize that different needs exist. An 87-year-old veteran is not worrying about kids in school, funding college tuition for kids graduating from high school, promotions at work in order to save and sustain their family’s lifestyle, or myriad other concerns a 48-year-old veteran from Desert Shield may be experiencing. Likewise, today’s service members entering the military, for the most part, do not have the same concerns that the typical 48-year-old veteran from Desert Shield is concerned about (and certainly not that of an 87-year-old veteran). While we nonetheless share a common bond, when we market for members or try to get our members involved, we need to consider how we address their concerns as well as market to them while recognizing that their values may not be synonymous.

Transitioning to eligibility, there have been many contingencies since 1950 outside of major combat operations that have involved a small number of soldiers, Marines, sailors,
and airmen below 5,000 troops. However, since 1989 with the buildup of combat power in the Saudi Arabian desert, we have experienced a larger number of named combat operations and contingencies/peace keeping/enforcement deployments that have often forced all services to keep their service members on a rotational cycle in order to support these requirements. This upscale in operational requirements is illustrated in the six lines of the above chart. Due to this, many eligible members have seemingly naturally flocked to the VFW and DAV for membership. The question that Marketing needs to address, now that President Trump has signed the Legion Act making all service members eligible, is how not to solely focus on marketing to the newly eligible members, but how do we market to veterans who are also eligible in other VSOs.

**Training**

Just as the original 21st Century Report believed training was important to the success of the organization, so does this Committee. The white paper developed by the Internal Affairs Commission in 2017, outlines a vision of a training development system for individual members, posts, districts and departments. Training must be recognized as an important element to the success of The American Legion. It is essential to have a direct focus on training at all levels to continually improve the effectiveness of the organization as well as ensuring that all members are good stewards of our Legacy and Vision.

The ultimate goal is to ENGAGE, EDUCATE, and EMPOWER American Legion Family members. It is our duty to provide a conduit for American Legion Family members to obtain the institutional knowledge that they need to grow within the respective Legion family organizations and to engage and promote Legion programs.

In the end, we have concluded that if we do not train and mentor future generations of Legion family members, then there will be no Legion family. It is an investment in our future that we must make – we can’t afford not to.

To this end, the Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. All levels of the Legion family must be committed to education:
   - **National – Set basic standards**
     - Establish core training ideals for all levels of the organization, including:
       - What every Legion family member should know;
       - What a model post looks like; and
       - What a department Legion college should include, etc.
   - **Establish best known practices, including:**
     - How/when training should be conducted;
     - Who should participate in what training; and
     - Training progression model.
   - **Enforce three vehicles of delivering training:**
     - On-line courses expanded beyond the American Legion Basic Training course.
     - Web based/webinar In-person (including maintaining a library of training materials (Training-in-a-box, presentations, how-to videos, etc.).
  - **Provide storage & access to training materials and courses to training cadre at all levels.**
  - **Continue mission of National American Legion College.**
  - **Maintain and update Basic Training, including making this available to all Legion family members.**
  - **Continuous leadership focus on training year after year.**

- Departments must take ownership of training and mentoring. Every department should have:
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- An active training committee.
- A mentoring program.
- A Legion college that consists of the following subjects (at a minimum)
  - Leadership
  - Conducting a meeting properly
  - Resolution writing
  - Train-the-Trainer
- A training cadre.
- District Commander training is critical.

- Districts are responsible for getting the right training out to the Posts
  - Include training in all district events.
  - An active training cadre.
  - Bring training to the post level.
  - Post officers training critical.

- Posts need to actively support training opportunities for their Legion family
  - All members should take the American Legion Basic Training course.
  - Send post leadership to district and department training events.
  - Bring back what is learned to the post level and implement it.

- Individuals should progress along four levels of training:
  - Basic - Organizational general knowledge (everyone)
    - Basic Training
    - Introduction to American Legion programs
  - Advanced - Informative (post/district officers)
    - Operations/Posts
    - Resolution writing
    - Who we are/what we do
    - Introduction to mentorship
    - Trainer through basic level
  - Senior - Implementation (district & department officers)
    - “Fluency” in The American Legion
    - Trainer through advanced level
    - District/department training leaders
    - Community engagement training
    - Mentorship/mentor - empower lower levels
  - Professional - Execution
    - Trainer/train-the-trainer for all levels
    - Mentorship/mentors-empower all levels
    - Legislative
    - Public Relations

2. All levels of The American Legion must be committed to mentoring
   - Every level of the organization should be responsible to nurture and mentor the future leaders of the organization.
   - All districts/departments/posts should have a mentorship program.
   - Trial by fire does **NOT** work, Legion Family members should be nurtured and coached.

3. Continuous leadership focus on training year after year at ALL levels
   - Develop evaluation program.
   - Ensure training initiatives are funded.
   - Accountability.
   - Recognize if we do not invest in our future – Who will?

4. Pathway to the future:
Establish Training Committee with the intent to develop train the trainer instruction and instructional material—this needs to be a priority resourcing item at all levels.

Promote post development training at district events.

Establish department Legion colleges that meet minimum criteria.

Create and maintain multiple paths to deliver training at all levels.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Legacy & Vision:
2. Appoint a body to ensure the report is implemented; it must be ingrained in leadership at all levels.
3. Develop mentorship programs from the post to National levels to pass on the knowledge of our experienced leaders and embrace the talents of our newer members.
4. Mission and Vision statements at all levels to be reviewed periodically for relevance.
5. Further studies by Marketing and Media & Communications Commissions in order to capture the needs, wants and desires of a multigenerational organization to develop strategies for membership and fundraising.

Membership:
- Timely and effective communication through a new member welcome packet that includes a link to the American Legion Basic Training course.
- Conduct retention surveys to ensure we are meeting the needs of our members.
- Wider dissemination of the Membership Impact Report and the Dispatch.
- Continue the Buddy Check program.
- Reach-out to Military Transition Centers to provide literature and assistance for transitioning servicemembers.
- Create PSAs focused on membership messages for posts and departments.
- Continue to build connections with other veteran service organizations and attend their conventions.

Training:
1. Establish training committee with the intent to develop train-the-trainer instruction and instructional material—this needs to be a priority resourcing item at all levels.
2. Promote post development training at district events.
3. Establish department Legion colleges that meet minimum criteria.
4. Create and maintain multiple paths to deliver training at all levels.

CONCLUSION:

The purpose of this Committee’s report is to propose recommendations aimed towards bettering our organization. These recommendations are intended to assist The American Legion’s leadership in developing and implementing new or refined strategies in order to improve recruitment, engagement, retention, and training in a multi-generational service organization. The members of this diverse Committee have identified several key elements listed above that The American Legion should examine in greater depth as we strive to be our Nation’s most innovative and forward-thinking veteran service organization.

Our continued survival depends on several critical points to remember:
- We cannot lose focus on what brought us into the game--- know our mission.
- We must understand the wants, needs, and desires of our membership base.
- We must engage our members through effective and timely communication.
- We serve a diversified veterans demographics, but a veteran is a veteran.
- We must collectively maintain a committed, dedicated, and trained leadership.
• We must strive for each and every Post to be the pillar of their respective community in service to each and every veteran and their family.

As a Committee, we challenge our leadership to take these key elements and develop strategies to empower our individual members and our leaders at all levels so that The American Legion can continue to change and move to new heights in the years to come. Every member of this Committee is proud to be a member of the strongest and the largest veteran service organization in the country. We make our recommendations not to criticize, but to be fairly considered and acted upon as soon as practical. We are in this fight together.

We sincerely thank the leadership for allowing us to gather together and discuss the future of our great organization. It has been a privilege. At times, you may have collectively wondered why you allowed this to happen. But through your trust, you have allowed us to express our ideas as well as our unique perspectives and experiences within the organization. We hope that the ideas that we have generated will be beneficial to the leadership but also for our future generation of members: For Those to Come. Our objective was to further the proud and prestigious legacy just like the one our forefathers gave to us. Thank you for this opportunity.

Addendum to the 21st Century Relook Ad Hoc Committee Report to the Fall 2019 National Executive Committee.

(Note: The National Adjutant asked the staff to provide updated information as it pertains to the recommendations in the report. This is the updated Media and Communications Division input.)

Status Report, Media & Communications Division
Support of 21st Century Committee initiatives
Jeff Stoffer, Director

Introduction

The following status report addresses areas of the Fall 2019 21st Century Task Force report to the National Executive Committee. I have personally attended two of the task force meetings and was unable to attend one other but have worked to engage task force members to improve our media program to best meet the committee’s stated objectives and interests.

Generally, the division has made some strides in this effort, notably the market research and development of a new digital media product designed to best meet the interests of this generation. The division has also prioritized the profiling of American Legion posts and members with strong post-9/11 veteran involvement, community engagement and diversity strategies. Some successful steps in this effort have included the monthly Membership Impact Reports, which can and will be enhanced under the 2020 Media & Communications Division strategic plan and media attention to young Legionnaires in active roles in their communities so that veterans of this generation will see themselves in Legion print, digital and social media. Another prominent development was the production of the Team 100 video and print promotions during the centennial, which fed a growing portfolio of public service announcements for digital and social video delivery. A challenge and massive opportunity for improvement is in the better organization, promotion and distribution of these messages, which will be a top priority for the division in 2020.

Specific to the report, status/progress updates are presented below, according to the following line-item recommendations from the committee:

- Legacy and Vision
- Membership and Member Engagement
- Make JOIN easier to use on the mobile app
- Buddy Checks
- Community Engagement
- Attend Conventions of Other Organizations
- Wider Dissemination of Membership Impact Reports

**Legacy and Vision**

Further studies by Marketing and Media & Communications Commissions in order to capture the needs, wants and desires of a multi-generational organization to develop strategies for membership and fundraising.

**Actions taken:** Three focus group sessions with a 21st Century Media & Communications Task Force (August 2018, May 2019, August 2019); quantitative survey (500+ responses from post-9/11 veterans on their media habits; produced multiple stories, profiles an videos to understand, capture and express the desires and interests of the post-9/11 Legionnaires, through such features as I Am The American Legion and a number of post-success stories, as well as Spirit of Service Award winner profiles; appearances and presentations at Student Veterans of America national conferences (2018, 2019) to interact with more than 1,600 student veterans and more than 2,300 student veterans, in respective years, to get their perceptions of the Legion; development and modeling of Family Fun Day events in North Carolina and California, a direct response to post-9/11 market desire; recruited and cast two post-9/11 veterans to host “To Strengthen a Nation,” a video series to tell the American Legion story through their eyes and observations; and development of Tango Alpha Lima, a new digital media product with podcast element, now in review by post-9/11 veterans for product refinement before rollout.

**Membership and Member Engagement**

**Actions taken:** A portfolio of membership-engagement digital media has been developed for uses in web and social platforms by Media & Communications Division and “We Believe” PSA from the Marketing Division have been promoted, distributed and shared accordingly. These products can be found at:

http://psa.legion.org/

The LegionTV landing page of legion.org contains a variety of promotional videos geared to the post-9/11 community:

https://www.legion.org/legiontv

And, a collection of American Legion PSAs and promotions, can be found at this link:

https://vimeo.com/americanlegion/albums/sort:date/format:detail

American Legion YouTube promotional videos are posted at this channel:

https://www.youtube.com/user/americanlegionHQ/playlists

The Media & Communications Division has made a top priority of consolidating video content onto one platform for convenient access and understanding by posts and those who can share them locally and socially. The top need in this area is coherent arrangement, promotion and distribution.

**Make JOIN easier on the American Legion app**

JOIN is the top-center click on the American Legion mobile app, which takes the user directly to the join platform under administration of the Geiger Operations Center.

**Buddy Checks**

**Actions taken:** In the first Buddy Check initiative (March 2019) the Media & Communications Division developed and produced promotional materials in print and digital media, including assistance with Buddy Check call scripts, and reported on local posts that conducted the checks. Generally speaking, the posts that conducted Buddy Checks reported good results, and those that conducted no Buddy Checks, reported no results. New media promotions are now being developed to advance the November Buddy Check campaign, with follow-up coverage to ensue.
Community Engagement

**Actions taken:** On the Family Play Day front, the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee made the same recommendation, and the Media & Communications Division worked with Membership/Internal Affairs to craft a resolution to encourage such events. Two of those events were modeled in the summer of 2019, and the next step is to create a how-to guide based on those posts’ observations and after-action reports.

Post flyer sample: https://www.legion.org/publications/246795/legion-family-play-day-flyer

National Adjutant’s Message: https://www.legion.org/dispatch/246638/legion-posts-host-legion-family-play-day

Coverage of Post 116 modeling: https://www.legion.org/membership/246464/play-day-brings-north-carolina-community-together

Coverage of Post 365 modeling: https://www.legion.org/membership/246261/family-fun-and-camaraderie-fulfill-legion-post%E2%80%99s-vision

**Attend Conventions of Other Organizations**

**Actions taken:** The American Legion Media & Communications Division/100th Anniversary Observance Committee has had featured roles in the 10th and 11th Student Veterans of America National Conferences. At the 10th conference in San Antonio, the centennial GI Bill exhibit was displayed and had great reaction, before more than 1,600 student veterans. At the 11th national conference in Orlando, the smaller GI Bill exhibit and the 10-foot Legion chronology were displayed before about 2,300 student veterans.


**Wider Dissemination of Membership Impact Reports**

**Actions taken:** Media & Communications developed the monthly Membership Impact Report in December 2018 for web, social and Dispatch publication. Starting in the October issue, that report was modified for timeliness and designed for one-page treatment in The American Legion Magazine. To present membership impact material in more pages per month is on the division’s strategic planning agenda for Nov. 18 to coincide with a redesign to make more efficient use of scarce page count and 50-50 ad-to-editorial ratio.

https://www.legion.org/membership/impact

**Conclusion**

The American Legion Media & Communications Division strives to fulfill the media needs of all organizational initiatives. Opportunities for improvement are numerous, so it is a matter of prioritization in order to fulfill those initiatives given current staff resources, or bandwidth. This is the primary purpose of the division’s Nov. 18 strategic planning session, which will produce a new mission statement, key objectives and reasonable timelines for completion and performance measurement. Among the tactical opportunities ahead are the Memorandum of Agreement with Stars & Stripes to content-share and swap advertising space to put the Legion message in front of forward-deployed military personnel. As with all tactics, this needs a strategic roof over it, and we will work to construct that. Another tactic, one driven by market research and a strategic plan to better
reach the younger veteran, is the Tango Alpha Lima mobile site/app that is now in market
review with rollout expected in November, based on recommended changes from the
desired audience.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion to adopt and implement the final report of the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee. ....Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I have a motion and a second to adopt and implement the report of the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee. Any further discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

Chairman Seehafer, I also want to commend you on and your committee and your predecessors for the great work that you have done over the last few decades. It's hard to believe that the 21st Century is nearly 20 percent over. It's time to disband the committee, but once again, I want to say job well done. (Applause)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: How many amens do you think he gets in his church on Sundays? (Laughter)
That concludes the Internal Affairs report, Mr. Commander.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Robert. Before we move into the M&PA report, I will be accepting contributions for the National Emergency Fund at the podium. ...National Vice Commander MacDonald assumed the Chair.

Contributions to the National Emergency Fund

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WADE (PI): Lawrence Wade from the Department of Philippines. I have a check here for $500. (Applause)
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Amen, halleluiah.
...National Commander Oxford resumed the Chair.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: At this time, the chair again recognizes Reverend Daniel Seehafer, Wisconsin, chairman of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Chairman

I'm back. National Commander Oxford, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers, and guests, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to address you again this afternoon this time, now, on Membership & Post Activities. You have a copy of my written report in front of you. You will find updated information on the 55 percent target date, DMS, membership renewals and online renewals included in this report.

Also, family, as we do enter our second century of service, we are reminded of National Commander Oxford's theme, "A Foundation for the Future." And the foundation The American Legion Four Pillars are built upon, in my opinion, is membership. And so, family, we have started this year off right, that is in the right direction. During last week's 55 percent target date, 37 departments met this challenge. This is an increase of five departments over the 50 percent target date. What's more encouraging, though, is that we had 34 departments who showed growth over their 2019 membership totals. And as an organization, we were ahead of last year's totals by 5,009 members.

Now, with that being said, we still have a lot of work to do. So how do we go about encouraging a culture of growth within our organization? Commander Oxford has set three goals to help keep us focused on growth throughout this membership year.

In The American Legion's strategic plan for membership growth, it states that retention must be the first priority to increase our membership. His first goal is to increase our renewal rate to 90 percent. The this is a 4 percent increase over last year's renewal rate. Keep this in mind. Retention, then, starts the minute someone joins.
Therefore, we have to engage our members. Yes, we have to educate, train, and empower them, but we also have to mentor them in order to be successful Legionnaires. In fact, this is our sacred responsibility, something that I touched upon last year and even this past spring. You see, by actively engaging these members, just for a few quick examples, like encouraging them to take the basic training course or mentoring them on items that they cannot learn in some sort of manual, we will not only educate, train, and empower them for success, but we will also show them that we do care. And then retention is no longer a goal, but, rather, a given.

Now, we cannot grow membership alone through retention. So the second goal is to recruit at least 100,000 new members. Last year we brought in 63,871 members through traditional methods. Up until 2006, we were recruiting over, that is over 100,000 new members on a regular basis, so it can be done. As of today, we have brought in 23,937 new members. This is an increase of 6,190 over last year.

With the passage of the LEGION Act, we have added another 4.2 million eligible veterans, that is members who can join The American Legion. This also removed the barrier of asking someone to join and worrying about whether or not they are eligible because of when they served. So it's encouraging to see. Since July 30, we have signed up 3,685 new members under the LEGION Act who otherwise would not have been eligible to join. So again, what a privilege we say, what an honor it is, as well as, yes, a sacred responsibility to engage all veterans and ask them to join, no matter their race, religion, creed, male, female, young, more distinguished. Right?

We need to welcome them into our ranks, into our beloved family. And we just heard what it means about family, with testimony, haven't we, saying those earthly good-byes. They have a legacy, and we will never forget.

Thirdly, our commander wants all of our departments to submit 100 percent of their consolidated post reports by the July 1st deadline. We talk about being the best-kept secret and that we need to toot our own horn more. Right? Well, by increasing our response rate on this consolidated report, post report, we can accomplish this task. Our national commander then can go before Congress and report on 100 percent of post activities rather than the 70 percent we received this year.

With these goals before us, I want us to also review a few important items, before I close, that must not be put on the shelf or some sort of checklist, "Did it, done, we're done" kind of thing.

Remember at the spring meetings, Resolution No. 18 was passed to conduct Buddy Checks at least two times a year. As Veterans Day fast approaches, we need to be prepared, that is prepare for our Buddy Checks and ensure that we have rosters ready to go and proper points of contact when someone needs assistance. Remember this is not a membership drive or some sort of attempt to solicit donations or participate in other programs. It's solely a health and welfare check on our members, whether current or expired. That is to see how they are doing and to let them know that we truly do care.

Additionally, "reconnect" was a Department of Defense initiative for our country to conduct outreach with the military. As we always do, The American Legion took this to heart and developed a program to provide support to the military and their families. I bring this up as a reminder, because the strategic plan encourages all levels of the organization to develop a working relationship with senior military leaders, to offer an opportunity to join The American Legion to all eligible members of the active military, National Guard, and Reserve components. Plus, as I stated in my report for the 21st Century Committee, we need to actively engage the military transition centers. As these servicemembers transition back into civilian life, we can be there to support them right from the beginning, addressing their needs, but also letting them know who we truly are. Because after all, who in the world, who in the world wouldn't really want to be a member of the largest and most effective veterans organization in this world? (Applause)

And with this, just remember, it really starts with your sacred responsibility. Commander, thank you once again for allowing me this time to, then, address this distinguished group. This also concludes my report. (Applause)
As of October 13, 2019, the 2020 membership total is 1,006,936 – 12,517 members behind this same time for the traditional membership report of 2019. These membership results do not include newly acquired 2020 DMS members. The total DMS members acquired to date for 2020 is 36,023 which is 1,843 ahead of 2019 totals.

DMS is a valuable tool to the membership program. The overall intent has always been to transfer these members into a local post. This past January the Membership & Post Activities Committee made the recommendation to include already acquired DMS numbers into the membership goal for the departments. Due to this recommendation, the 2020 membership goal incorporated 75% of the 2019 encumbered DMS members along with the traditional post members as of July 1, 2019. To incentivize departments to work the 2019 encumbered DMS members list, every 2019 encumbered member that transfers and renews at the local post for 2020, the department will receive $5.00. At this time, 6,364 members have transferred and renewed into a local post.

Traditional new starts and our renewal rate have been ahead of last year’s total at this time. Which falls in-line with Commander Oxford’s goals he has set for this year – 100,000 new members recruited and increase our renewal rate to 90% for the organization as a whole. As of October 14, 2019, our traditional recruiting is at 23,551. This is an increase of 5,978 over last year at this same time. Our renewal rate is currently at 56%. This is an increase of over 1.5%. As long as the trends hold steady, we are on our way for a successful year.

During the recent 55% Target Date, 37 departments exceeded the target date. This is an increase of five departments from the 50% Target Date.

The online renewal program continues to perform well. The 2019 campaign resulted in 256,659 members renewing online which was a decrease of 4,968 over 2018. To date, 145,820 members have renewed online for 2020. Which is an increase of 37,631 members over 2019 totals at this time.

Our direct post and department transmittal program via mylegion.org is working very well in its early stages. Every department except for three are operating in this program. This program is a great workload reduction as well as a more timely service to our members. It allows for earlier posting of renewal transactions to the national database which should result in reduction of duplicate renewal notices going to members who paid their dues to posts. In addition as more and more posts use the system earlier dues arrival at National should increase.

A comment heard from smaller departments is they would like faster turnaround on their dues or credit reimbursement. It is a cash flow issue for them since dues are going direct to national and they have to wait for their per capita.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and second to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. Any further discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: Mr. Commander, if I could just make a couple of points, because I was on that original 21st Century board. I want to thank the chairman over there for bringing that up. Second of all, I do work in my department at least once a year on new post revitalization. You mentioned a number of members we've signed up, and that's great, I'm glad we're ahead. But to mention 2006 or even 1996 or 1946. We've gone in the last 30 years from 16,000 posts to, I think, a little over 11. I'm going off my brain, it's deteriorating as I talk.

Anyway, my point here is, it's a number of posts. And in that 21st Century report, we had a thing in there about revitalization and new posts. You can hardly expect traditional
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membership to increase the number of new members with less posts than you had 30 years ago. Now, there's about three departments who do an extraordinary job, I'm not bragging about Michigan, but I'm talking about Al Ford, who's on the Internal Affairs. He heard that 21st Century report, the original one. He got in the car going back to Michigan with then-Department Adjutant Pat Lafferty, and he said, "We're going to start a revitalization, a new post center, in the state of Michigan, using past commanders." Really, in a sense, if you're a past like I am, you don't have anything to do anyway. So my point here is, we really need to emphasize that again.

The other point I'd like to make is, I am a civilian aide to the secretary of the Army, I don't get paid for that. You think of the National Guard and the Army Reserve in your community who have been called up in Iraq and Afghanistan and Syria and everyplace else. All of those young men and women are eligible for The American Legion. They're in that National Guard armory right off of highway whatever in your community. I'm not asking you to take a membership application over to that National Guard or Army, but I'm asking you to go over there and talk to one of the service officers about filing their claims. Okay? Even the initial claim if they don't have anything wrong with them.

It's service first, membership second. So I appreciate your remarks. I just want to give a little thing on the original committee. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion? All in favor of receiving and filing the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, please say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

The chair recognizes Ralph Bozella, Colorado, chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

Thank you, Commander. You know, hearing Reverend Seehafer speak reminds me that the work we do, particularly in my area of responsibility, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, is, in fact, a mission. And how much that we accept that mission spiritually and intellectually and physically with ourselves is incumbent upon us. So thank you for the inspiration, reverend.

Good afternoon, commander, National Executive Committee and guests. The VA&R Executive Committee met by Zoom technology on September 23, 2019, to discuss the resolutions that the commission has before you at this meeting. Our report is filed and I would like to highlight just a few items.

Applications for the VA Physician of the Year Award and the VA Health-Care Provider of the Year Award were received from the Departments of Minnesota, Montana, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania by the July 31 deadline. It's my honor to report that Nurse Mary Ballard, from Oklahoma City VA Medical Center, was named Health-Care Provider of the Year. Congratulations, Department of Oklahoma. (Applause)

It's also my honor to announce that Dr. Megan Press, from Minneapolis VA Medical Center, was named VA Physician of the Year. Congratulations to the Department of Minnesota. (Applause)

These awards will be presented at our National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in March of 2019, and these providers will not only receive an award but have an opportunity to meet privately with VA Secretary Wilkie, which is a tremendous opportunity for health-care providers to have that meeting to discuss what they know about their health care and their ideas. We've had those four departments this year submit applications. We want to thank them for doing so, and I challenge you all to do so for 2020.

Also we had eight departments who submitted applications for the William F. Lenker Service Trophy. That was more than we've had in the past, and I challenge you all to do that again for 2020. Get your applications in, and you'll get a memo from our office by email in the spring of 2020 asking you to do that.
One more reminder, that we have the VA Citations for Meritorious Service, an opportunity for you to recognize outstanding VA&R work in your departments. And also we have a VA&R Certificate of Appreciation for VA retiring or resigning staff, so you can show your appreciation to them, allowing The American Legion to take a leadership role in working with VA.

Health-care policy. I'm really happy to report, and it's in your report, that VAVS regularly scheduled and occasionally scheduled volunteers have increased and, thus, our hours have increased by 1,000 hours in the first three quarters of this year. The significance there is, we've been reporting that it's been a downtrend for years, and this is the first time that we've trended upward in a while. So that's a very important sign, that we have more volunteers in The American Legion and, of course, more hours, which is saving the VA over $14 million in manpower hours.

VA is promoting a whole health program, and a very strong component of that is the Complementary and Alternative Medicine, CAM, we call it. Since 2013 and the System Worth Saving program, we have been encouraging VA to use more complementary alternative medicines in their mental health approach. In those days, it was more of an underground approach by VA, and now it's becoming part of their mainstream. So we're happy to see that.

We are still monitoring VA's MISSION Act, Care in the Community, to see concern about the amount of resources that are leaving VA, going into the community, and that is, in fact, hurting, impeding VA health care, their ability to do so due to the fact their resources are leaving.

A controversial thing in the past few months, VA announced that they are taking their patients' health-care records without the patients' permission and sharing that with the Care in the Community doctors. Well, yeah, because those Care in the Community docs need to know what your health care is if you're going to go to that doctor. So we do support that; that is the default. However, if a patient does not want their health care shared with that doctor, they can sign a form and opt out of it.

We are now working on the 2020 System Worth Saving program schedule, and that's in your report, what we're considering. We're finishing the 2019 program now with site visits to Lexington, Kentucky; Salisbury, North Carolina; and Montgomery, Alabama, to end this year.

This morning we heard from ALA President Nicole Clapp. President Clapp was part of our site visit to the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center. I was personally on that with President Clapp. I want to tell you, her expertise as a former hospital CEO and a burn nurse, her expertise in those rooms, talking to hospital directors is truly outstanding. We're pleased to have you, President Clapp. You're welcome to spend more time with us.

Claims update. VA has announced a plan to mail targeted outreach letters to Blue Water Navy veterans and their dependents who were previously turned down. Of course, since the law passed, that's opened up. They are going to get letters about the changes in the law and encouraging them to apply. The American Legion, our service officers have been taking those claims this year, waiting for January 1 to open up so that they can adjudicate these claims finally.

A concern of ours has been, how many of these veterans right now suffer from Agent Orange-related illnesses? And I talked to the secretary about this personally before he went on stage at our convention, and he mentioned something called "Humanitarian Access," but nobody can explain how you access Humanitarian Access. I talked to some other hospital directors, and they're using something called "tentative eligibility," meaning that if they filed a claim for that, they are tentatively eligible for the benefits of that claim, the health-care benefits of that claim. And so, that's what we're using. We are working on a email to our DSO's to let them know, take these claims. And also, if a Blue Water Navy veteran of Vietnam has these symptoms of any of those presumptive illnesses, get them signed up at their local VA hospital.

You know, awarding of benefits is more than just compensation, but it is VA health care. And then it opens the door to a lot of other benefits, such as low fees, no fees on
mortgages, job application advantages, long-term care, and state benefits. There's a host of things. So that's why we do our ROAR program when we visit our regional offices, to ensure that the claims, The American Legion claims, are being processed correctly with the least amount of error. So your ROAR schedule for 2020 is also in your packet.

Under the National Cemetery administration, Arlington has published its rules for burial eligibility, and you can read what that's about.

Commander, VA&R never rests. My appreciation is extended to the people from all these departments that serve on our commission, our committees, and our council, that are called upon to help us in your departments with Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

I also want to recognize Staff Director, Chanin Nuntavong from our Washington office, and his new staff, for the outstanding work they do. We have a lot of new staff members in this past year due to resignations in the Washington area. I think Chanin is doing an excellent job of getting new staff trained as to what we're about. Commander, your VA&R Commission and staff stands ready to assist your foundation for the future in any way for the future that we can. I can think of no higher calling.

Before I conclude my report, sir, I'm going to ask that we ask our TBI/PTSD Committee chairman, Past National Commander Ron Conley to, come up here, sir, and to give us an executive summary on our 2019 veterans mental health survey with an emphasis on suicide prevention. Because as you all know, veterans suicide prevention, I should say, is a top priority for The American Legion, and our TBI/PTSD Committee has done a really good job of making that a priority. Commander Conley has some outstanding information to share with you. Thank you, sir, and I will conclude.

Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Executive Committee held a conference call on Monday, September 23, 2019, and a quorum was met. Previously, the Commission met in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 6, 2019, during the spring National Executive Committee. Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella (CO) presided. Participants included George E. Cushing (AZ), K. Robert Lewis (CT), Patrick R. Rourk (NY), and Anthony R. DiFrancesco (PA). Ronald F. Conley (PA) was invited to participate as a guest. VA&R staff included Chanin Nuntavong, VA&R Director, Greg Nembhard, Deputy Director for Claims Services, Gerardo Avila, Deputy Director for Military Boards and Memorial Benefits, and Melvin Brown, Health Policy Coordinator. The committee discussed the proposed resolutions.

There were five (5) resolutions from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission submitted to the Resolution Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee for consideration. Two (2) resolutions were referred for consideration by the 2019 National Convention. Three (3) resolution were presented by the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

Three (3) were forwarded to the National Executive Committee for adoption:
(Origin: Resolution 38, Florida; 2019 National Convention)
Abolish Premium Penalty for Delayed Enrollment for Medicare Part B for Veterans Eligible for Medical Benefits from The Department of Veterans Affairs

(Origin: VA&R)
Revised National Convention Veteran Affairs And Rehabilitation Resolutions Screening Committee

(Origin: VA&R)
Rescinding Non-Legislative Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Two (2) were rejected:

(Origin: Resolution 60, VA&R; 2019 National Convention)

**Housing Allowance for Department of Veterans Affairs Employees Living in High Cost-of-living Areas**

(Origin: Resolution Register # 2767; NY; 2019 Department Convention)

**Reconciliation Of Traumatic Memories Protocol For Treatment Of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**

**HEALTH POLICY UPDATE**

The Health Administration Committee last met on August 24, 2019, during the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The committee heard from Dr. Kevin Galpin, Executive Director, Telehealth Services, Department of Veteran Affairs, and Christian Dimercurio, Field Implementation Team (FIT) Lead, Region 3, Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Galpin discussed the expansion and power of telehealth within VA medical centers to provide healthcare services to veterans across the United States. He briefly touched on Project Atlas Initiative, which was presented in an earlier session for the larger VA&R Commission, but he also spoke about the digital divide. Telehealth can be a powerful tool to provide healthcare services to veterans, but the digital divide needs to be addressed first and foremost. Dr. Galpin explained that the VA has an effort to understand the current digital capacity of veterans in rural areas to connect with telehealth and then working with larger commercial partners like Microsoft, Verizon, and T-Mobile to improve telehealth services to veterans. Mr. DiMercurio was a very upbeat inspirational presentation about the VHA Whole Health Initiative. He addressed the committee, and the other attendees, with a power concept that “YOU” the individual is the most important element of your healthcare. He explained that if “YOU” as the individual are not doing, living, or feeling well, then you can’t be well or truly provide for the others around you or in your life. He explained that Whole Health is a VHA system wide initiative to address health through the alternative treatments like acupuncture, Tai-Chi, yoga, and meditation.

**Legion Volunteering**

The American Legion’s Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program continues its advocacy on behalf of veterans using Veterans Health Administration medical facilities. As of the end of the 3rd quarter (inclusive from October 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), there were 4,166 regularly scheduled and 10,644 occasional volunteers who served veterans in VA medical centers, outpatient clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses and State Veterans Homes across the nation.

The regularly scheduled volunteers contributed 518,429.5 hours and occasional volunteers contributed 45,382.25 hours for a total of 562,428.25 hours volunteered by members of The American Legion. These combined service contributed result in savings to the Department of Veterans Affairs of more than $14.327 million. This year The American Legion saw an increase of nearly 1,000 more hours volunteered from the same time period in 2018 due to more occasional volunteers and an increase of savings to the VA of over $441,020 from 2018s totals. This fact reinforces the idea that the commitment of The American Legion’s volunteers remains strong.

The VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC) Executive Committee (EC) fall meeting is scheduled for October 17-18, 2019, at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Headquarters in Washington, DC.

**TBI/PTSD Committee**

The TBI & PTSD Programs Coordinator has worked on The American Legion 2019 Mental Health Survey. The number of respondents for the 2019 Mental Health Survey outpaced the number of respondents to all other American Legion Mental Health Surveys – 13,648.
The TBI/PTSD Committee last met on August 23, 2019, during the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The committee heard from Dr. Frank Bourke, CEO of the Research and Recognition Project; Michael Hartford, Chief of Staff for the Marcus Institute for Brain Health (MIBH); and Travis Field, Lead Suicide Prevention Coordinator, and Christa Sutton, a Supervisory Social Worker within Psychiatry and Mental Health Services, Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, IN. Dr. Bourke has developed and published an historic breakthrough in the treatment of PTSD called the Reconciliation of Traumatic Memories. Mr. Hartford said that MIBH has treated 129 Veterans and family members from 24 different states in 2018. And that they plan to have 10 facilities located at academic institutes across the United States over the next five years. Mr. Field provided a broad overview of suicide data for the State of Indiana, and Mrs. Sutton discussed the suicide training offered through the VA’s S.A.V.E. program. S.A.V.E. is a free 1-2 hour training program provided by VA suicide prevention coordinators to veterans and those who serve veterans.

2019 Mental Health Survey - Executive Summary

The American Legion launched an online mental health survey in support of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) public health approach to reducing veteran suicide. It is part of the American Legion’s continuing research and efforts on mental health issues impacting our nation’s veterans. The survey was created by the American Legion’s TBI/PTSD Committee and was designed to collect data that will help The American Legion bring local resources related to TBI, PTSD, and Suicide Prevention to veterans and their families.

The survey collected information from veterans and their caregivers, and was conducted from May 16 to September 8, 2019. The information collected by the survey on current suicide prevention training efforts, in addition to various forms of treatment for TBI and PTSD, will help The American Legion evaluate its current suicide prevention efforts, areas of potential improvement, and aid in the development of a consolidated list of available resources. These resources will be categorized by location and vetted to ensure the treatments are evidence based and beneficial for veterans.

Methodology

The 2019 Mental Health Survey consisted of 22 questions: both multiple choice and open-ended. The survey was designed to be relatively short in order to maximize the number of survey completions. The target audience was veterans and caregivers, of which 13,648 responded.

FINDINGS

Suicide Prevention Readiness

The data collected indicated 82.47% of survey participants never received any form of suicide prevention training, and 67.39% of survey participants were somewhat likely, likely, or very likely to take suicide prevention training if offered. Survey participants identified training as a critical area and are ready to participate if the opportunity was given.

Mental Health Resources

Only 10.29% of participants were “very confident,” they could connect a veteran in crisis to the appropriate resources. No veteran should be lost to suicide because an individual who identified them as “at-risk” was unaware of available resources (veterans crisis line, local VA suicide prevention coordinator, local mental health resources, etc.).

The survey identified that 84.23% of respondents never sought mental health care from Vet Centers. Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers and are part of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

More than a third of respondents (39.73%) were unsure of the veteran’s eligibility for VA mental health services.
Caregivers
Survey questions were designed to collect data from both veterans and their caregivers. Unfortunately, the caregiver response rate was not as high as anticipated. Only 2.20% of completed surveys were from the caregivers of veterans. 1.25% were from those who are both a veteran and a caregiver of a veteran.

Gender
The findings of this survey were gender skewed and male dominate. Of the respondents, 5.25% were females and .027% chose not to answer.

Women Veterans
The Health Policy staff is updating the “Guide for Women Veterans”. The guide will provide information on transitioning, women veteran health issues, behavior health, VA health services, resources, and The American Legion Women Veterans programs. The guide is meant to be a way to empower women veterans to self-identify as veterans, seek and use the benefits they earned while learning more about the American Legion.

Tammy Barlet, our Health Policy Coordinator who’s portfolio includes women veterans, attended several events on behalf of The American Legion including: The Center for Women Veterans at the Department of VA Monthly Partners Meeting (September–women veteran suicide and October–Military Sexual Trauma); GE Healthcare, along with Congresswomen Wasserman, held an event to discuss the importance of breast health in servicewomen and women veterans; House Veteran Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Health held a hearing to consider several bills about women veterans; Representative Brownley, along with other legislators, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and several veteran service organizations, met for a roundtable to discuss policy and procedures around MST; and Paralyzed Veterans of America’s inaugural two-day “WE Served” retreat focusing on the holistic well-being of women veterans with disabilities.

Proposed System Worth Saving Site Visits for 2020
The American Legion through its System Worth Saving (SWS) program plans to visit several VA medical facilities, between January and December 2019, to review the quality of healthcare, access, outpatient wait time, and other key healthcare outcomes. Site selections will be based on complied information and rankings based on complexity and severity of challenges with access, wait time, suicide rates and other factors. Below is a list of tentative locations:

- Black Hills Treatment VA Hospital – Hot Springs, SD (Last visit 2010)
- Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center – Cleveland, OH (Last visit 2012)
- Providence VA Medical Center – Providence, RI (Last visit 2012)
- James J. Peters VA Medical Center – Bronx, NY (Last visit 2014)
- Togus VA Medical Center, Augusta, ME – Togus ME (Last visit 2005)
- Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center – Albuquerque NM (Last visit 2005)
- Lake City VA Medical Center – Lake City, FL (Last visit 2011)
- Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center – Clarksburg, WV (No previous visits)
- Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center – Milwaukee, WI (Last visit 2011)
- Kansas City VA Medical Center – Kansas City, MO (Last visit 2014)
- Central Texas Veterans Health Care System – Temple, TX (Last visit 2012)
- Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center – Phoenix, AZ (Last visit 2017)
- Alexandria VA Medical Center – Pineville, LA (Last visit 2010)
- Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center – Augusta, GA (No previous visits)
- VA North Texas Health Care System – Dallas, TX (Last visit 2014)
- William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center – Columbia, SC (Last visit 2012)
- Memphis VA Medical Center – Memphis, TN (Last visit 2018)
CLAIMS SERVICES UPDATE

The Benefits Administration Committee last met on August 24, 2019, during the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The committee heard from Dr. Paul Lawrence, Undersecretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, and Cheryl Mason, Chairman of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA). They provided an update to the Appeals Modernization Act and Blue Water Navy.

On September 9-11, 2019, the Claims Services Coordinator conducted a Regional Office Action Review (ROAR) of the VA Regional Benefits Office (RO) in Providence, RI. The American Legion, with the aid of Bergmann & Moore attorneys, reviewed 50 random cases that were decided at the Providence RO. National staff was afforded an opportunity to interview 10 employees who were selected by the RO director to learn more about the efforts of the RO, their successes, challenges, and how TAL can continue to advocate for a stronger VA in support of our Veterans.

The BVA held its quarterly VSO meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2019. Chairman Mason provided an update on the planned tele-hearing rollout, which they had successfully conducted 40 of the 50 scheduled pilot tele-hearings with VSO participation. The BVA reported that the number of Legacy appeals inventory is down 7000 cases since February 2019, thanks to the efforts of VSOs to reduce the backlog. Of the 7000 cases, TAL is responsible for a reduction of over 3000 just in the past year.

On September 30, 2019, The VA announced a plan to mail targeted outreach letters to Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans and survivors whose claims were previously denied without a current claim pending, but who may now be eligible for VA benefits based on the law. These Veterans and survivors will be informed about the changes in the law and how to submit a claim. The recipients will also be instructed where to go for additional information.

Proposed VA Regional Office Review (ROAR) Site Visits for 2020

Claims Services staff plans to visit 10 VA Regional Offices, between January and December 2020, to review the claims processes and quality of service to veterans. Below is a list of tentative locations.

- Oakland, CA Regional Benefit Office
- Albuquerque, NM Regional Benefit Office
- Waco, TX Regional Benefit Office
- Charleston, SC Regional Benefit Office
- Chicago, IL Regional Benefit Office
- St. Paul, MN Regional Benefit Office
- Fargo, ND Regional Benefit Office
- Seattle, WA Regional Benefit Office
- St. Louis, MO Regional Benefit Office
- Detroit, MI Regional Benefit Office
MILITARY BOARDS AND MEMORIAL BENEFITS UPDATE

The National Cemetery Committee last met on August 24, 2019, during the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The committee heard from Steve Ecker, National Cemetery Scheduling Office Division Chief, and Jerry Sowers, National Cemetery Scheduling Office Eligibility Division Chief. They highlighted the scheduling office’s ongoing initiatives to improve customer service and provide timely assistance at the time of need, when a veteran passes. They highly encourage all veterans to apply for pre-need burial eligibility determination to ease the process for their next of kin. Mr. Randy Reeves, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs address the VA&R Commission during the main session and discussed the recent partnership with Carry the Load, a nonprofit organization that provides active ways to connect Americans to the sacrifices made daily by the U.S. military, Veterans, first responders and their families. Participants will march or ride bicycles in an 11,500-mile national relay along three routes — East Coast, West Coast and Midwest — handing off an American flag every few miles. He also asked for The American Legions support in new legislation to assist with the Veterans Legacy Program and a new initiative to allow VA to pay for the training of state veteran’s cemetery employees on how to properly maintain the grounds and render final honors for veterans.

Arlington National Cemetery

The Fiscal year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Secretary of the Army to establish revised eligibility criteria to keep the cemetery functioning as an active burial ground “well into the future” – defined as 150 years. Without the change in eligibility criteria ANC will reach maximum capacity by mid century.

On September 25, 2019, the Acting Secretary of the Army announced proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for burial at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). Now that the new criteria has been proposed the next step if for the Department of Army to publish a draft rule in the Federal Register for public comment. Once all public comment has been adjudicated, the new final rule will be published. The process is expected to take at a minimum of nine (9) months. The new criteria for inurnment are as follows:

Below ground
- Killed in Action including repatriated remains of service members
- Award recipients of the Silver Star and above who also served in combat
- Recipients of the Purple Heart
- Combat-related service deaths while conducting uniquely military activities
- Former Prisoners of War
- Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States
- Veterans with combat service who also served out of uniform as government official and made significant contributions to the nation’s security at the highest levels of public service

Above ground
- World War II-era veterans including legislated active duty designees
- Retirees from the armed forces who are eligible to receive retired pay but are not otherwise eligible for interment
- Veterans who have served a minimum of two (2) years on active duty and who have served in combat
- Veterans without combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation’s security at the highest level of public service

Testimony
On September 19, 2019, Gerardo Avila, Deputy Director for Military Boards and Memorial Benefits, testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on “Preventing harm to veterans: Examining VA’s
overpayments and debt collection practices.” The American Legions testimony focused on the improvements made since we last testified before the committee. Improvements include the reduction in dependency claims and minimizing the overpayments created due to simultaneous receipt of drill pay and disability benefits. The American Legion urged VA to fix the lack of integration between the various information management systems. The lack of interoperability results in issues ranging from incorrect addresses to not being able to answer how the debt originated.

Addendum A

Held for Further Study
Register Resolution No. 2768 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Oppose Restrictions and Discontinuation of Medications to Certain Disabled and Chronically Ill Veterans
Register Resolution No. 2769 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Veterans Administration Drug Pricing Initiatives
Register Resolution No. 2771 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Support of Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB) Research
Register Resolution No. 2773 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): H.R. 578 and S. 127, Mare Island Cemetery
Register Resolution No. 2774 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Expansion of Veterans Affairs Services
Register Resolution No. 2775 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Personalized Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)

Rejected
Resolution No. 60 (VA&R Committee) (2019 Natl. Conv.): Housing Allowance for Department of Veterans Affairs Employees Living in High Cost-Of-Living Areas
Register Resolution No. 2767 (NY) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Support the Reconciliation of Traumatic Memories Protocol as a Treatment for Veterans Suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission with the exception of two resolutions and one addendum. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report short of the resolutions. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. I’d like to now recognize Past National Commander Ron Conley, chairman of the TBI/PTSD Committee, for a report on the suicide prevention biennial mental health survey.

Oral Report: TBI/PTSD Committee 2019 Mental Health Survey
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania, Chairman

Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee. As it was mentioned earlier, The American Legion took the lead and tried to resolve the Agent Orange crisis with the Vietnam veterans. We have another crisis in our country today, and that's suicides by our veterans.

In an effort to increase collaboration with partners and communities nationwide, the TBI/PTSD Committee has developed The American Legion 2019 Mental Health Survey. This survey was designed to collect data that will help The American Legion bring local resources related to TBI/PTSD and suicide prevention to veterans and their families.

The survey was released on May 16, 2019, during Mental Health Awareness Month, and the collected data will help The American Legion determine its current suicide prevention readiness and areas of potential improvement. Information also will be collected on treatment programs for TBI and PTSD, both inside and outside of the VA. Gathering
information on various forms of treatment experienced by participants will aid in the consolidation of available resources for our veterans. These resources will eventually be categorized by location and vetted to ensure that treatments are evidence-based and beneficial for all members of the military community.

The American Legion is dedicated to helping all veterans suffering from thoughts of suicide, regardless of where they live or find themselves mentally, emotional, or spiritually. Our policy and resolutions on these important issues have the power to make substantial change. Our organization will fight the way forward together as we search for a solution to this national crisis.

I'm now going to give you some of the results of our 2019 Mental Health Survey highlights. This year's survey set a record for the number of participant responses. We received 13,648 responses. Overall, there was a 594 percent increase to the average number of participant responses and 904 increase from the most recent survey conducted in 2017.

The overwhelming majority, 96.66 percent of responses to the survey, were veterans. 83.73 percent were 60 years of age or older. 94.48 percent were male. Only 12.27 percent of the survey participants were post-9/11 veterans. 66.58 percent served in Vietnam. The top five states with the most responses included Florida, California, Texas, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The survey revealed that 31.89 percent of the participants personally knew a veteran who was a friend, family member, or other close acquaintance who attempted suicide. This is nearly one out of every three responders. 82.47 percent of participants have never received any formal training on suicide prevention. 39.73 percent of the respondents were not sure if the veteran was eligible for mental health services. 76.46 percent of respondents have never sought mental health care from a VA medical center. That's pretty drastic; 74 percent of those who responded to our survey never went to a VA Hospital.

84.48 percent of respondents have never sought mental health care outside of the VA facility. 48.90 percent felt confident the suicide prevention training they had taken provided them with the appropriate resources to prevent suicide. 46.68 percent of respondents were not likely to seek mental health services from the VA for any future mental health needs. Again, that's pretty drastic. Almost half of the respondents said they're not going to seek any help from the VA for any mental health problems they might have.

One of the things that we're trying to deal with in our committee is dealing with how the VA and the military treat veterans that are being treated for mental health and what kind of drugs they're given. As most of you know, when you go on TV and you see the ads for various medical pills or whatever they're pushing, they tell you to be careful because it might cause suicide tendencies. We have made the VA and the military aware that some of the medications that they are promoting have caused some veterans to think of suicide.

The other thing that's really drastic, and you take a look around this room, the majority of the suicides are of people 50 years of age and older. That's probably everybody in this room, and that is really shocking. The least respondents are the 9/11, where they're not responding to care for any mental health condition they might have.

So we have a job on our hands, and The American Legion has taken a leading role in trying to deal with this suicide. It's a crisis, it's an absolute crisis, and we have a responsibility as a veterans organization to care for those veterans that have thoughts, that have mental health problems, that have conditions that might lead them to commit suicide. Commander, that concludes my report. I thank you very much.
done a yeoman's work on this from his office. I also want to recognize, as a consultant to our committee, Dr. Jeanne Stellman, Columbia University, for her outstanding expertise in leading us and guiding us through the research aspect of this.

Commander Conley's last comments of how important this is. I'll take a moment of privilege here and just say, I spent an hour on the telephone yesterday with a mother of a 50-year-old veteran who committed suicide, and I know it. This affects all of us, this touches every one of us. This is of the highest importance for all the right reasons.

And I appreciate what Ron said up here about how important this is to us, The American Legion leadership, in what we do to step out, to ensure that we have to find a way to work with VA to stem this tide, this epidemic of veteran suicide. It's a community problem, and I'm asking you to start working with VA in your local posts. Invite them. They have a program called VA S.A.V.E. They will come to your posts and they will lead suicide awareness prevention programs.

Let's be clear. It's not us, they're not trying to turn us into counselors. None of us want to be in the middle of that, none of us want that role. But how to recognize that it's happening, and what we do when we do recognize that it's happening. Thank you, sir. That concludes my report. (Applause)

Resolution No. 11: Abolish Premium Penalty For Delayed Enrollment In Medicare Part B For Veterans Eligible For Medical Benefits From The Department Of Veterans Affairs

Origin: Resolution No. 38 (FL) 2019 National Convention
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Many veterans receive satisfactory health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and therefore have no need to incur the expense of monthly premiums for Medicare Part B and/or private health insurance; and

WHEREAS, There may come a time in the future that such veterans have a need for the services provided by Medicare Part B, whether as a result of distance from VA providers, change in eligibility for VA services, or otherwise; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to federal law (Title 42 United States Code, section 1395r(b)), as a general rule those who are eligible for Medicare Part B may delay enrollment beyond age 65, but are subject to an unlimited premium penalty often ten percent (10%) per year for each year they forego Part B enrollment; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the Social Security Administration, Department of Health & Human Services has rules in place under which there are exceptions to the general rule imposing a late-enrollment penalty: one of which (Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations section 408.24(a)(9)) is that, for each year an individual "was covered under a Group Health Plan by reason of the current employment status of the individual or the individual's spouse while eligible for Part B, the penalty is waived"; and

WHEREAS, Because VA medical benefits are not provided "by reason of the current employment status" of veterans, VA benefits do not qualify as a "Group Health Plan" such as will allow veterans to avoid paying the ten percent (10%) annual penalty; and

WHEREAS, The laudable purpose for CMS penalizing those eligible for Medicare Part B who do not immediately enroll—but with an exception for those with access to employer, based group health plans, is to deal with the adverse fiscal impact of providing Medicare services to those elderly individuals whose health has deteriorated during years without health benefits; and

WHEREAS, With the support of The American Legion and other veterans groups, the VA provides a level of prevention and treatment services to eligible veterans which must be presumed to be at least comparable to those provided by commercial group health plans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That The American Legion promote appropriate legislation or administrative rulemaking
action to abolish the ten percent (10%) annual premium penalty for all veterans delaying enrollment in Medicare Part B while eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs medical benefits.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has been approved by your Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve Resolution No. 11. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed? Carried.

Resolution No. 12: Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission has conducted a review of National Executive Committee and National Convention resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That the following resolutions be rescinded for one of the following reasons: being obsolete, accomplishment of purpose, being superseded by later resolutions, being in conflict with later resolutions, being duplicated by later resolutions, having no further value because of later changes in program, or other reasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Title (Brief)</th>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tr>
<td>267</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Group Equipment for Agricultural Training</td>
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<td>170</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Temporary Total Status For All Cases While Hospitalizing</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>National Graves Registration Plan</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation Area Conferences of Auxiliary and Legion to be Held at the Same Time</td>
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<td>1951</td>
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<td>Instruction on Hospitals and Patients Welfare Be Included In Extension Care</td>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Community Participation In The Readjustment And Rehabilitation Of Veterans</td>
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<td>Program of Recognition and Citation for Department Service Officers</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Governors’ National Cemetery Committees</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Operation Post Home</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Urge the Veterans Administration to Provide</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>Development of Proposals for Submission to the Agent Orange Class Assistance Program</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Title (Brief)</td>
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<td>1991</td>
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<td>Urge The American Legion to Encourage the Department Of Veterans Affairs to Establish a Uniform Policy for All Rating Boards to Accept Objective Findings from Clinical Psychologists for Rating Neuropsychiatric Claims, Especially for Psychomotor Seizures</td>
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<td>Empower Accredited Service Representatives to Certify DD-214 Forms</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Authorize Representation Before Court of Veterans Appeals</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Assignment of Philippine Veterans’ Records</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>The American Legion Service Program</td>
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<td>1998</td>
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<td>The American Legion Policy on VA Physicians and Medical Specialists Staffing Guidelines</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) 2016-2017</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>Agreement with Bergmann &amp; Moore, LLC - 2018</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Establish New Eligibility Criteria for Burial and Interment At Arlington National Cemetery</td>
<td>Obsolete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has been approved by your VA&R Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file Resolution No. 12. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Attached to this report is Addendum A, and I move that the action of the national Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission becomes the action of the NEC. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion to adopt Addendum A being the action of the NEC. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried. The chair recognizes Walter W. Ivie of Texas, chair of the Media & Communications Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Media & Communications Commission
Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman

Thank you, commander, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, Legionnaires, staff members, and other guests. You have my written report which has all the details concerning revenues, website growth, and other key data. During my time today I want to talk about membership and how the Media & Communications Division is responding to the unique opportunities before us.

I want to start out by quoting Eric Bartlett, the first Cold War veteran to become a member following the signing of the LEGION Act. He waited more than 30 years for his
service to be properly recognized as occurring during a war era. Eric said, "I feel very honored that I now qualify for The American Legion. I look forward to helping them grow because all the work they have done for our veterans, but more important, helping them, because what The American Legion does for those who now serve their country."

There are about 4.2 million deserving veterans like Eric who now qualify for membership in The American Legion. By recruiting these veterans in large numbers, we not only strengthen our local posts and serve our community's veterans, but we can also boost our magazine circulation once again above the 2 million number. That's an important number for advertisers looking to be in our magazine. To foster this effort, we have worked with the Membership Division to update our digital and print membership tools to reflect the changes.

Progress is being made on our new digital product, Tango Alpha Lima. The website and podcasts are still being worked on, and we are in the process of having external groups of young veterans evaluate them. We'll use findings from those focus groups to refine and launch Tango Alpha Lima to make stronger connections with younger veterans.

Now we have updated resources available for posts to engage in our critical membership initiatives. Soon after we return to our communities, it will be time for another Buddy Check. This is an opportunity for posts to reengage with their members or expired members. Simply reaching out with a phone call to ask the veteran how he or she is doing can go a long way. A toolkit for Buddy Checks is available at www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck.

Another recent success is Legion Family Play Days, which folks can adapt to their communities and available resources. The Media & Communications team has developed a media kit to promote those community events, that posts can download, customize, and use. Again, visit www.legion.org/publications.

These are just two of many examples of available resources that posts are free to use to engage their communities, support American Legion programs, and of course, grow our membership. The commission and staff will continue to work together to research, develop, and launch strategic initiatives like these that will engage members and draw in new ones as The American Legion begins its second century of community service, patriotism, and advocacy for our veterans.

Before I conclude my report, I want to say a couple of things. We have asked you in the past to take back to your departments, utilize your membership and your leadership in the departments, ask your post members to sign up for the American Legion Online Update, our newsletter which is now approaching a million subscribers. Our commander's message is also about 800,000 subscribers.

If they will look at the Online Update, which is a weekly email, and of course, they can move on if they don't have time that week, but if they look at that email, they're going to find some content that they can use and are interested in. And they'll wind up at legion.org and they'll see some of the great content we have on our website.

It becomes obvious, as we were looking the other day, that there is an abundance of good quality content that's been developed by the Media & Communications division, which will probably give the current active members information they need to know what the Legion is doing today. Once they have that information, we hope that they will then share that with other young veterans that they know about, and bring them to legion.org. We think as they see all this content, see all of the good stuff, see the stories about young veterans, older veterans, et cetera, they'll realize that The American Legion is an organization that they need to join.

I did want to add one other thing. Commander Rehbein mentioned that the paper company that supports our magazine had donated the paper for the bookazine, "A Century of Service." The other thing I wanted to point out is the company that prints our magazine donated the printing of the bookazine. And so the cost to The American Legion for this product, I was told, is about 69 cents. At $10 per bookazine, we have an opportunity to add significant revenue to The American Legion.
The bookazine is, I'm told, one of the best, most engaging histories of The American Legion that we've done to date, with all the illustrations, et cetera. It's highly recommended. So hopefully we'll sell a lot of them. Hopefully we'll get a lot of our members to buy them and help out The American Legion.

Mr. Commander, on behalf of the American Legion Media & Communications Commission, I thank you for your support of our media programs, and that concludes my report.

Report: Media & Communications Commission
Walter Ivie, Texas, Chairman

The American Legion Media & Communications Division is currently over budget in advertising sales and over budget in total expenses.

Overall, the division is over budget by $375,775, through the end of August. On the bright side, magazine advertising is seeing a bit of a resurgence. To date, magazine advertising is $232,254 above goal. Additionally, advertising in the Online Update e-newsletters in August pushed us to $3,286 above goal for the year in that category. Overall, advertising is ahead of the goal by more than $150,000 to date.

Still, digital advertising sales have slowed throughout 2019. Through the month of August, digital advertising is down $52,156 from budget.

On the paper side, right now we are $354,000 over budget. The price of the paper we use for magazine body stock will decrease our cost per issue by about $10,000. Additionally, the new contract with Lindenmeyr Central calls for lower paper costs and gives us a $50,000 credit for paper purchased since March.

On the printing side, we are roughly $70,000 over budget. That will be wiped away due to the negotiated reductions in manufacturing ($63,751 annually), ink ($47,206 annually) and freight rate ($51,492). That amounts to a total savings of more than $162,000 each year.

We stand $288,319 over budget on our postage costs. That is due to being 40 pages over budget, mostly from 37.2 pages devoted to marketing, through the November issue. Right now the magazine is 50-50 on editorial-advertising breakdown, the tightest ratio in history.

While the membership decline has impacted the revenue from advertising, reader engagement is higher than it has ever been. Notably, The American Legion’s website, social media and e-newsletter metrics continue to grow and illustrate strong engagement with our audience. Take, for example, these metrics from August:

- There were more than 47,000 engagements from a single tweet during Vice President Mike Pence’s address at the national convention.
- The total number of livestream video views of the national convention surpassed 13,000. (For context, we used to get fewer than 100 views before switching to Facebook.)
- There were nearly 46,000 views of American Legion Facebook videos on YouTube during August.
- More than 546,000 people visited legion.org during the month, far exceeding the approximately 308,000 visitors in August 2015 before the site redesign.

Best of all, American Legion Magazine continues to be the best-read magazine out of roughly 180 U.S. titles surveyed in an audit by independent auditor GfK MRI Doublebase.

While we remain optimistic that the LEGION Act will help reverse the membership decline, Media and Communication staff members are moving forward with bold new ideas to reimagine the national organization’s media program.

Notably, we have created media toolkits as resources for posts that are coordinating the twice-annual Buddy Checks (the weeks around Veterans Day and Legion Birthday) as well as Legion Family Play Days. Posts can customize Legion Family Play Day materials with their specific information such as event date, location and more.

Among the highlights being researched and sampled by external groups of veterans is a new, digital-only product aimed at those in the Gulf War era. Since the product is digital-
only it will not require finances to print or mail it. The editorial content will be aimed at the younger audience, and will allow our advertising sales vendor to target new advertisers that want to reach this key demographic. This will not detract from the well-respected and well-read American Legion Magazine. Instead, it will be a separate product to engage the 21st century American Legion member.

At the same time, staff is evaluating travel costs, free-lance assignments and other expenses with a critical eye to be fiscally responsible. Other initiatives are under consideration, each with the goal of engaging members of all war eras, creating new revenue streams and minimizing costs.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission.

...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. At this time, the chair recognizes Randall A. Fisher of Kentucky, chairman of the Legislative Commission, for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Randall A. Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Commander Oxford, NEC, past national commanders, staff at the head table, and guests, good afternoon. Each of you have a copy of the commission's written report. Attached to that report is Addendum I, and those are listing resolutions of legislative intent that were approved at the 101st National Convention and this NEC.

My fellow Legionnaires, it's been another proud year for The American Legion successes. You'll recall that the 115th Congress, The American Legion and the VSO community was incredibly successful in getting a lot of important legislation passed. Among our victories in Congress were the Forever GI Bill named for our past national commander, Harry W. Colmery, making sure the GI Bill is a tangible benefit for our servicemembers whenever they need it.

Number two is the VA MISSION Act, it's important legislation. It should make great strides in initiatives that we have supported: Consolidating community care programs in the VA, keeping the cost of community care in line with the cost of VA health care, create standards for timely payments to community care providers, and allows the VA to modernize assets and infrastructure. Additionally, we helped pass the VA Accountability Act, giving the VA the ability to remove poor performers failing to provide quality care to our veterans. We passed The American Legion commemorative coin that preserves our historic 100th anniversary in posterity for the ages.

In the current 116th Congress, the influence of The American Legion was felt on Capitol Hill when lawmakers approved the LEGION Act. This legislation means more than 1,600 service members who were killed or wounded in previously undeclared war eras now truly get the recognition they deserve. It also opens up membership to 4.2 million veterans.

Also known as "The American Legion-supported legislation," won the long fight for the Blue Water Navy veterans who received their VA disability benefits for illnesses linked to exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. The law was signed by President Trump in June. It will extended disability benefits covering medical conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure to those who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam.

On July 31, the Senate passed a resolution by unanimous consent designating August 23 through 29 as American Legion Week, to coincide with our 101st National Convention.

For the remainder of the Congress, you will not see much on the Senate side beyond the hopeful passing of a budget bill to carry us beyond the current continuing resolution through November 21. We need a fully funded government in order to avoid another government shutdown like we had earlier this year. You should also expect the passing of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which includes many of the
Legion's legislative priorities contained within its revision. Also, Senator Isakson is going to retire, and it looks like Senator Moran of Kansas will be the next chairman.

On the House side, expect continuous focus on improving the care and quality of life for women veterans, continued focus on suicide prevention, and mental health education and awareness. Much more related to the Armed Services and Foreign Affairs committees as we continue vigorous monitoring and oversight of the aforementioned major omnibus bills from the 115th to the 116th Congress.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge all the kindness you guys submitted the Department of Kentucky for Phil Davis. Phil was very sick, like Bill was talking about. He wanted to make the trip, he wanted to support me, he wanted to support Bill, he wanted to put his name on that desk. So we did that this morning. You know, he got elected in June; this was a new office for him. He'd never been up here except as a commander, he had been a past department commander. It just meant a lot for him to be here. But we sure appreciate all the kindness everyone has exhibited to the Department of Kentucky and to Phil's family.

Commander Oxford and members of the NEC, on behalf of the Legislative Commission, I want to thank you for your outstanding leadership in entrusting me with the leadership of this commission.

I would like to introduce you to our new director, Melissa Bryant. This is the third director we've had so far, she's been here less than a month. (Applause)

She is associated with the Legion. She's worked on the other side of the fence, on the liaison with The American Legion and the Legislative Commission. So she's very up to date on the Legion's purposes and policies and is going to do a good job.

It's been my privilege to serve The American Legion as your Legislative chairman. This completes my report, commander.

Report: Legislative Commission
Randall A. Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

This report provides a summary of the commission and congressional actions since the 101st Convention in the summer of 2019 on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. The report is arranged by program areas.

Recent Congressional Developments

Since our national convention, Congress has been consumed by constant turmoil and is currently at odds with the Administration on several fronts which impact the legislative agenda and trickles down to our work in The American Legion. We are currently under a continuing resolution until November 21st, which must be either extended through the new calendar year or the budget bill must be passed in full in order to avoid another government shutdown like the one experienced at the beginning of this year. To mitigate another disruption of pay for our uniformed sisters and brothers in the U.S. Coast Guard, The American Legion supports the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, which provides appropriations for the pay, allowances, and benefits of specified Coast Guard personnel and contractors if (1) there is a lapse in appropriations for the Coast Guard, and (2) legislation has been enacted that provides interim or full-year appropriations for the Department of Defense (DoD). Notably, the impeachment inquiry against the President and the current situation in Syria which triggered bipartisan Congressional backlash against the Administration for the withdrawal of troops in country are also impacting the legislative calendar, with just under a month of legislative days left in the 1st session of the 116th Congress.

AMERICANISM

As an update on pending legislation, in February 2019 Representative Steve Womack (AR) introduced a House Joint Resolution (HJ Res), as a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. The legislation has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. The measure now boasts 31 cosponsors (up from 12 in the last legislative report). A Senate companion measure was introduced on June 14, 2019 (Flag Day) as a Senate Joint
Resolution (SJ Res), and currently has 13 cosponsors (up from 3 in the last legislative report). The American Legion will continue to seek passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag because it is the right thing to do. Let “We the People” decide.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Phil Davis, our alternate NEC passed away Monday night here in Indianapolis. He was elected alternate NEC in August at our 101st national convention. His illness had progressed until he was very weak, but he wanted to support William O. Moore and Randall Fisher here in Indianapolis. He wanted to attend his first NEC meeting and sign his name in the desk. We will do this for him. He was very active in the Legion, PDC, internal affairs, and various committees. He was a very dedicated and active Legionnaire, proud husband father and grandfather. He loved his family and the Legion profoundly.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Since August 2019, the National Security Division has submitted one letter of support for H.R. 107: the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program.

Earlier this year, we held very a successful joint reception on March 26th, 2019 with the Japanese Embassy, and in March of 2020 the Legislative Division in partnership with National Security and the Japanese Embassy two more events on Capitol Hill to forge a continued partnership between the Japanese government and The American Legion. The events will include a panel discussion on the strengths and challenges of military families during Washington Conference, as well as an evening reception on the Hill during the annual Cherry Blossom Festival.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

On September 19th, Gerardo Avila, deputy Director of Military Boards and Memorial Benefits testified before the House Subcommittee on Oversight and investigations, a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on the topic of, “Preventing Harm to Veterans: Examining VA’s Overpayments and Debt Collection Practices.” The American Legion has worked extensively on matters concerning VA debt management and has had a dedicated representative at the VA’s Debt Management Center (DMC) in the Saint Paul, MN Regional Office advocating for veterans for over 40 years. Debt collection within VA and Treasury Departments are complicated and nuanced. The American Legion sees room for improvement, and we have highlighted some of those suggestions in this testimony. Overall, The American Legion believes that VA does an adequate job in protecting veterans from added exposure when they are identified as having been overpaid and works to ensure that veterans are aware of their rights, resources, and consequences should they neglect to address these issues right away.

On September 25th, The American Legion submitted a Statement for the Record on the topic, “Toxic Exposure: Examining the Presumptive Disability Decision-Making Process” to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, lending our voices to a historic hearing where both VA and DoD representatives were present to testify before the Committee for the first time on this critical topic. Our statement illustrated how long The American Legion been at the forefront of advocacy for veterans who have been exposed to environmental hazards such as Agent Orange, Gulf War-related hazards, ionizing radiation, the various chemicals and agents used during Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD), and contaminated groundwater at Camp Lejeune. The American Legion continues to urge the study of all environmental hazards and their long-term effects they have on our servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Finally, as a short update from the national convention, the Legion-supported legislation won the long fight for Blue Water Navy veterans to receive VA disability benefits for illnesses linked to exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. The law, signed by President Trump in June, will extend disability benefits covering medical
conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure to those who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam.

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION**

Since August 2019, the Veterans Employment and Education Division has submitted one letter of support for legislation, Sect. 507F of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a critical provision calling for technological expansion of DoD’s Transition Assistance Program (TAP) in the NDAA.

The new Congress has also shifted towards addressing predatory lenders, closing the 90/10 loophole, and ensuring for-profit private universities are not targeting servicemembers and veterans for their GI Bill benefits. The Legislative and Veterans Employment and Education divisions are working closely with allied organizations like Veterans Education Success in order to push for improvements to the aforementioned measure which fall under the semi-annual Higher Education Act (HEA). A version of the HEA was recently introduced by Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Sen. Lamar Alexander (TN), which did not include closing the 90/10 loophole. However, closing the 90/10 loophole must be included in any HEA efforts, a priority shared in a letter earlier this year signed by The American Legion and 36 organizations. Ignoring such a long-standing and widely supported request to close the 90/10 loophole and bring parity to student protections for military-connected students hurts service members, veterans, and their families. Not closing the 90/10 loophole is a deal-breaker for military and veteran serving organizations, and the Legion affirmed our position in a letter from the National Commander to Senators in September.

While we appreciate Chairman Alexander communicating a willingness to continue conversations surrounding HEA, we hope he will indeed work across the aisle to develop a bipartisan, comprehensive HEA that puts the needs and interests of students at the center of policy. We have made continued efforts to meet with Chairman Alexander and his staff to work collaboratively on this process and hope those requests are accepted soon.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission’s Report to the National Executive Committee.

**ADDENDUM I**

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE FALL MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 16-17, 2019**

**NATIONAL SECURITY**

Res. No. 20 Oppose Deportation Of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans

Res. No. 18 Funding of the Department of Defense STARBASE Program

**VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION**

Res. No. 11 Abolish Premium Penalty For Delayed Enrollment In Medicare Part B For Veterans Eligible For Medical Benefits From The Department Of Veterans Affairs

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION**

Res. No. 13 Reauthorize and Fund the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Patriot Express Loan

Res. No. 15 Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing the 90-10 Loophole
THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 101ST NATIONAL CONVENTION IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA AUGUST 27-29, 2019

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 57 Coin Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of The End of World War II

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 16 Coast Guard Pay Discrimination
Res. No. 40 Gold Star Children Access To Base Exchange, Commissaries And MWR Facilities
Res. No. 41 Protection of the POW/MIA Flag

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Res. No. 11 Environmental Exposures at Fort McClellan
Res. No. 17 Department Of VA Provide Dental Care For Veterans With A Complicating Medical Condition
Res. No. 18 Payment For Emergency Transportation To Department Of VA Medical Facility
Res. No. 32 Veterans Burial/Plot Allowance Payment
Res. No. 52 Antidepressant Harms Analysis
Res. No. 58 Department of VA Accreditation of Individual Claims Agents
Res. No. 59 Establish Green Alert System Interagency Group or Committee for Veterans In Crisis

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 54 GI Bill Eligibility for Medically Discharged National Guard Servicemembers
Res. No. 55 Mandatory Use Of The Veterans First Contracting Programs

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE SPRING MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 8-9, 2019

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 9 Support for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Res. No. 10 Allow Updates to the Burn Pit Registry with Information on Additional Veterans as Needed
Res. No. 11 Oppose Charging Compensable Service–Connected veterans Co-Payments
Res. No. 12 Establish new Eligibility Criteria for burial and Internment at Arlington National Cemetery

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 13 Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE FALL MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 17-18, 2018

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 1 Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Recognition
Res. No. 2 Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Membership Date Change

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 12 Survivor Benefit Plan
Res. No. 15 Expedited Citizenship through Military Service
Res. No. 16 Recognition for Afghan and Iraqi Combat Translators

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION
Res. No. 21 Support Reasonable Set-Aside of Federal Procurements and Contracts
Res. No. 22 Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Student Loan Repayments
Res. No. 23 Close the GI Bill Flight School Loophole
Res. No. 24 Support Funding and Changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program
Res. No. 26 Eliminate GI Bill Transferability Maximum Year Caps

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 100TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA AUGUST 28-30, 2018

AMERICANISM
Res. No. 111 English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language
Res. No. 112 Funding for Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs
Res. No. 113 Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization
Res. No. 114 Support for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Res. No. 26 Award Congressional Gold Medal to the Crew of the USS Indianapolis
Res. No. 50 Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage
Res. No. 86 Award Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133rd Signal Service Company
Res. No. 108 Support for Legislation to Introduce Atomic Veterans Service Medal
Res. No. 109 Support for Review of Minority Awards of Medal Honor WWI
Res. No. 110 Support for Congressional Gold Medal for Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators of WWI

NATIONAL SECURITY
Res. No. 5 Publicize and Promote the Armed Services Retirement Homes
Res. No. 34 Support for Department of Defense Stabilization activities
Res. No. 35 National Defense Budget
Res. No. 37 Taiwan Defense Arms Sales
Res. No. 38 Taiwan Straights Dialogue
Res. No. 98 Continuation of Military Death Benefits During Government Shutdown
Res. No. 117 Japan Arms Sales
Res. No. 118 Sustaining United States Commitments in the Indo-Pacific

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
Res. No. 11 Agent Orange and kidney Disease
Res. No. 18 Amend Set Dates of Agent Orange Illness
Res. No. 48 Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses
Res. No. 49 Exempt Certain Income from VA Pension Rate Determination
Res. No. 53 Means Test for married Veterans
Res. No. 58  Compensation for Veterans Requiring Hearing Aids for Service Connected Hearing Loss
Res. No. 59  Automatic Waiver for Over-Payment of $300 or Less
Res. No. 64  Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Care for Rating of 50% or More
Res. No. 73  Allow Beneficiaries to Retain $900 of their Benefits while in Medicaid-Covered Nursing Homes
Res. No. 74  Amend the Eligibility Requirements and Extend the Eligibility Time Period for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
Res. No. 75  Increase Maximum Coverage under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
Res. No. 79  Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award
Res. No. 85  Designate Prisoner of War, Purple heart and Medal of Honor Recipients as Priority Group I Veterans
Res. No. 93  Agent Orange
Res. No. 115  Outdoor and Adaptive Sports Programs for Veterans

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION
Res. No. 100  Accountability of the Department of Defense’s Transition Assistance Program (TAP)
Res. No. 101  Support for Continuation of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
Res. No. 102  Expansion of the Department of Defense’s Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to include Ancillary Programs and Services
Res. No. 103  Support and Expand Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program
Res. No. 104  GI Bill Fairness for Activated National Guard Servicemembers
Res. No. 105  Support and Expand Warrior Transition Advancement Course (WARTAC)

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED IN THE SPRING MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 9-10, 2018

NATIONAL SECURITY
Res. No. 16  Beneficiary Travel Philippines
Res. No. 18  Furnish Hospital Care and Medical Services to Veterans and Family Members who were Stationed at Military Installations at which the Veterans and Dependents were Exposed to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
Res. No. 19  Burn Pits and Environmental Exposures

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION
Res. No. 11  Support Veteran and Reserve Servicemember Financial Protections
Res. No. 12  Accountability and Enhancements of Transition Assistance Program; Outcomes and Delivery for Today’s Digital Transitioning Servicemembers
Res. No. 14  Oppose the Cessation of The Department of Defense Hiring Heroes Program
THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE FALL MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 11-12, 2017

INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Res. No.  9  Transfer Custodianship of Pershing Hall Building and Artifacts to the American Battle Monuments Commission
Res. No. 11  National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for Honorably Discharged Veterans

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION
Res. No. 12  Department of Veterans Affairs Drug Pricing Policy

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION
Res. No. 19  Expanding Employment Services to Non-Service Connected Disabled Veterans
Res. No. 20  Support of An Acting Operator for Deployed Servicemember’s Small Business

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 99TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN RENO, NEVADA AUGUST 22-24, 2017

INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Res. No. 88  National Veterans Memorial and Museum

NATIONAL SECURITY
Res. No. 17  Counter Transnational Organized Crime
Res. No. 19  Homeland Security and the Opioid Epidemic
Res. No. 20  National Cybersecurity Strategy
Res. No. 22  POW/MIA Policies

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
Res. No. 3  WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility
Res. No. 8  Expand the Presumptive Period for Veterans Who served in South Korea
Res. No. 13  Improve VA Communication with Service Officers
Res. No. 14  Extend Allotted Time for Claims Review by Service Officers
Res. No. 16  Department of Veterans Affairs Automobile Allowance Program
Res. No. 41  Radiation-Exposed Veterans
Res. No. 47  Research into Hearing Loss Due to Loud or Constant Noise Exposure in the Military
Res. No. 74  Air Carrier Access
Res. No. 75  Department of Veterans Affairs Rural Health Care Program
Res. No. 76  Veterans Emergency Room or Urgent Care Facility Relief

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION
Res. No. 26  Support Effort of the Small Business Administration’s Office of Veterans Business Development and Veterans Business Outreach Centers
Res. No. 78  Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole
Res. No. 81  Military Spouse Employment
Res. No. 82  Preserve Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Protections
Res. No. 83  Protect Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Fair Consumer Arbitration
Res. No. 84  Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
Res. No.  85 Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservists Returning from Deployment

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED IN THE SPRING MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 8-9, 2017

INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Res. No.  16 National Global War On Terrorism Memorial

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION
Res. No.  23 Department of Veterans Affairs Provide Mental Health Services for Veterans with other than Honorable and General Discharges
Res. No.  25 Department of Veterans Affairs Maintained Medical and Dental School
Res. No.  27 Amend Title 38, United States Code, To Clarify The Treatment of A Veteran as Adjudicated Mentally Incompetent for Certain Purposes
Res. No.  29 Department of Veterans Affairs Establish An Opioid Treatment Program to include An Opioid Detox Unit at every VA Medical Center

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION
Res. No.  21 Support State and National Funding for Troops to Teachers Program


AMERICANISM
Res. No.  19 Flag Code Amendment

INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Res. No.  9 Award Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II
Res. No.  11 Support and Defend Veteran and Military Memorials

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION
Res. No.  22 Surviving Families Benefits
Res No.  23 Add Agent Orange Component to Code of Federal Regulations 4.16
Res. No.  24 Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION
Res. No.  20 Oppose Efforts to Downgrade Low-Level Wage Positions within the Department of Veterans Affairs

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 98TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI, OH AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

AMERICANISM
Res. No.  278 Financially Assist Families Faced by Catastrophic Illness of Their Children
Res. No.  279 Support Funding Comprehensive Health Care for Children & Youth
Res. No.  281 Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation
Res. No. 282 Oppose any Attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing Penalties for the Production, Sale and Distribution of Pornographic or Obscene Materials to Minors

Res. No. 283 Establish “National Family Week”

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**NATIONAL SECURITY**

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RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion to receive and file the Legislative Commission report with the exception of Addendum I. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission with the exception. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, attached to this report is Addendum I. I move that the actions of the Legislative Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Addendum I. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

Past National Commander Bob Turner, would you stand up, please? Happy birthday, Bob. (Applause)

Please rise and join me in saluting the colors of our country by the numbers: One, two. We'll recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning, October 17.

...At 3:04 p.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2019, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, October 17, 2019.
...At 8:30 a.m., the National Executive Committee reconvened, National Commander Oxford presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I call this meeting of the National Executive Committee to order. Please join me in the salute to the colors of our country by the numbers: One, two. I now call on National Chaplain Edward L. Harris of Indiana for the invocation. Please uncover.

Invocation
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Dear God, thank You for this day. And God, thank You for the privilege of us being a part of this day, for already, we have transferred one of our comrades to Post Everlasting. And dear God, we want to give thanks to the drivers who have patiently and steadfastly brought us to and from this place for these meetings. Thank You, God.

And once again, our troops who are now in distant lands, lands where death is possible to be had in every shadow, go with them; for many of us sitting in this room here now have experienced the same thing. Let them know in some way that we pray for them also. Bless our sick, our infirmed, and our bereaved. All this in Your name. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please remain uncovered. I call on National Sergeant-at-Arms David Shore of North Carolina, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country.

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SHORE: Please join me as we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Recover, seats. I now call on the national adjutant, Daniel Wheeler of Virginia, for a roll call.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander
James W. Oxford, North Carolina

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Bruce C. Feuerbach, Iowa
David L. King, Kentucky
Francis J. MacDonald, Jr., Massachusetts
Richard A. Heigert, Missouri
Robert D. Liebenow, Oregon
Past National Commanders

Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)  Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts  Martin F. Conatser, Illinois (Excused)
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia (Excused)  Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Robert S. Turner, Georgia  David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Dominic D. DeFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)  Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Bruce Thiesen, California  Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota (Excused)  Fang A. Wong, New York
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)  James E. Koutz, Indiana
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine (Excused)  Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia
Butch L. Miller, Virginia  Michael D. Helm, Nebraska
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (Excused)  Harold D. Barnett, Georgia
Richard J. Santos, Maryland  Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon (Excused)
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania  Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas  Brett P. Reistad, Virginia (Excused)
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado

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Philippines    Lawrence E. Wade
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Rhode Island   David A. Williams
South Carolina Michael D. Strauss
South Dakota   James Huls
Tennessee      David G. Alexander
Texas          C. W. Sparks, Jr.
Utah           Terry D. Schow
Vermont        Frederick E. Latour
Virginia       Michael F. Mitrione
Washington     Dale F. Davis
West Virginia  William W. Kile
Wisconsin       Robert L. Shappell
Wyoming        Terry E. Miller

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, that completes the roll call.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: At this time, the chair recognizes James Fratolillo for the Employment & Education Commission report.

**Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission**

James C. Fratolillo, Massachusetts

Thank you, commander. Commander Oxford, NEC members, Legionnaires all. I first want to bring the greetings of our chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, James Troiola. The day before he was to come out here, somehow, as he was sitting down, he got his leg caught between the chair and something else. He went to lift and twist. Well, he twisted before he lifted and tore up his knee a little bit. We talked to him yesterday. He's doing fine, although it's painful. He expects a speedy recovery and he'll be resuming his duties very shortly.

I was asked by Director Joe Sharpe to fill in. I am the chairman of the Employment & Veterans Preference Committee, and I'm pleased to do so. My job is to give you a brief overview of the commission and some of our activities.

We're all different, but we're all equal in many ways. We all need three basic things: health and health care; safe, affordable housing; and economic self-sufficiency. For those veterans transferring into the community, they're no different. The VE&E activities, along with the collaboration of our other commissions, certainly understand this, as you all do, and address these issues.

One of the things we've been working on for many years in employment is licensing and credentialing. We've had three summits, and the last one was here at the Indiana convention. We had a lot of panel discussion on the licensing and credentialing.

Past National Commander Denise Rohan was at that summit and gave a personal story of a person that she knows that was a medic. Upon returning to civilian life, she wanted to continue in her profession. Having saved lives in combat and gone through vigorous training within the military, she had to start all over again with the 18-, 19-year-olds and learn the basics, and that's just not right.

Also at that summit we had a keynote speaker, Jamie Merisotis. He's the CEO of the Lumina Foundation. We're pleased to say that the Lumina Foundation has given the Legion $325,000 to advance the studies and to identify the barriers of these issues. A report will be coming out in September of next year.
Along with the many job fairs that we've had, we also have a focus on small business, we have a small business task force. One of the resolutions we have in your packet will be presented today, is restoring and renewing the Patriot Loan program. This was a loan program specifically for veterans. It started in 2007, it went for six years, it was very successful. It's administered by the SBA, but it's not a guaranteed loan. It's an actual loan. Money is given with either little or no fees. That program was discontinued by the administration. We've had conference calls with the administration that our director set up, asking why it was discontinued, and there is no valid reason. It was just that, "We wanted to discontinue it." So one of the resolutions we have is to restore that Patriot Loan program.

Along with employment is the small business entrepreneurship. One of the resolutions we have in your packet will be presented today, is restoring and renewing the Patriot Loan program. This was a loan program specifically for veterans. It started in 2007, it went for six years, it was very successful. It's administered by the SBA, but it's not a guaranteed loan. It's an actual loan. Money is given with either little or no fees. That program was discontinued by the administration. We've had conference calls with the administration that our director set up, asking why it was discontinued, and there is no valid reason. It was just that, "We wanted to discontinue it." So one of the resolutions we have is to restore that Patriot Loan program.

Along with employment is education. Many times you need the education to get that job, that employment. We all know who wrote the GI Bill, and we all should know that the Post 9/11, the 9/11 GI Bill, as well as the Forever GI Bill, are strongly sponsored, and if not responsible, is The American Legion. The GI Bill is terrific, but unfortunately, there's some predators out there. Some of the for-profit colleges, training facilities and what have you, have seen a loophole in the way that they have to do business.

All for-profit colleges need to have this thing called a 90/10 requirement, which means 90 percent of the funds they receive can come from the government, but 10 percent has to come from private sector. That actually assures the quality of that program, and it's not just totally federally funded.

Well, for whatever reasons, the VA dollars and the DoD dollars that are given to these colleges under the GI Bill are not counted as federal dollars. They're counted as private funds. So what many of these colleges are doing, they're actively recruiting, promising the world to our veterans, so they can get those dollars in that will be counted as private dollars so they can continue on. It's not to say all for-profit facilities, universities, and so forth are wrong, and many of them are doing a great job. But there are some out there that are just exploiting our veterans. The resolution that we've submitted is to address that.

Homelessness is part of those three things I said we all need. VE&E will be partnering with the Department of Labor to develop and host the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Outreach Task Force. Also the Legion will expand efforts to eliminate veteran homelessness by supporting and conducting outreach to its incarcerated veterans back into society. Our commission does have a liaison for the homelessness. We know that, in addition to what the commission does, a lot of the departments are doing stellar work. A shout-out to Pennsylvania for their homelessness program, a shout-out to New Jersey for their employment program, and I'm sure I could give shoutouts to many other departments.

We all need your help in order for the commission to achieve their mission. We're fully aware that would be impossible to carry out our mandates without the active involvement of the posts, districts, and departments, and we sincerely appreciate the continued support and participation of Chairman Vincent James Troiola. Also thanks to the national commander, the national adjutant, the National Executive Committee and staff, and the staff of both the Washington and Indianapolis offices, for their outstanding support and cooperation. Personally, I'd like to just say: Rekindle the spirit, renew the commitment, and continue the mission. Thank you. (Applause)
The staff member present was Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr. (DC), Director for the National Veterans Employment & Education Division, James Fratolillo, Chairman, Employment & Veterans’ Preference Committee, Dennis Tipsword, Vice Chairman, Veterans Employment & Education Commission and Eric Measles, Chairman, Veterans Education, Other Benefits and Homelessness Committee.

MATTERS RECEIVED, CONSIDERED AND ACTED UPON BY THE COMMISSION:

RESOLUTIONS

Your Subcommittee considered four (4) resolutions. Three (3) resolutions were referred from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, one (1) referred from the department of Puerto Rico, and subsequently forwarded it to the National Executive Committee for adoption.

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Title: Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes By Closing 90-10 Loophole

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Title: Reauthorize and Fund the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Patriot Express Loan

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2766 (PR) DEC
Title: Tracking Of Veteran Unemployment In All U.S. Territories

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Title: Develop Training For Employers Who Utilize Veterans’ Preference In Their Hiring Practices

Four (4) resolutions were presented to the subcommittee by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. Four (4) resolutions were approved.

The Commission then discussed the following issues:

LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION

The American Legion has a long history of advocacy on behalf of increased civilian credentialing opportunities for servicemembers and veterans, based on our longstanding conviction that this promotes the professionalization of the military force and enhances the prospects for veterans to make a seamless transition from the military to the civilian workforce.

This advocacy continued over the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, where the Veterans Employment & Education Division organized The American Legion’s National Credentialing Summit. The summit attended by over 100 policymakers, industry, and academia leaders, and featured over a dozen sessions on different aspects of credentialing.

The summit had a dozen panels consisting of the following topics:

- Credentialing in the Military 101
- Assessing the Quality of Credentials
- Assessing Demand for Credentials and Tracking Outcomes
- Facilitating Credentialing of Military Spouses
- Labor Union Military Initiatives
- Aeronautics Best Practices
- Allied Healthcare Innovations
- MilGears – Empowering Credentialing of Service Members and Veterans
Proceedings of Thursday October 17, 2019

- Recognizing Military-Based Learning Towards Stackable Pathways
- State Licensing of Military and Veterans
- State of the Skillbridge Initiative
- Navigating How to Map Military Experience to Civilian Job Roles with Commercial Certifications
- Veteran Employment Resources for Employers

This year marked the third credentialing summit hosted by The American Legion, after one in 2012 and 2015. The event helps experts from the private and nonprofit sectors, the military, and federal agencies to share best practices for credentialing and enhancing civilian career prospects for veterans, servicemembers, and military spouses.

The summit’s opening keynote speaker, Lumina Foundation CEO Jamie Merisotis, said the differences between civilian credentials and military skills are a barrier. “About 200,000 veterans enter the civilian workforce each year, and statistics show that only one in four have the credentials needed for the best jobs. Others are forced to retrain, requalify, or in the worst-case scenario, start over because the civilian system does not understand the military system. We don’t speak a common language when it comes to skills,” Merisotis said.

During Thursday’s opening keynote, Past National Commander Denise Rohan spoke about her initial experience as chairman of the Legion’s Veterans Employment and Education Commission, where she initially surprised to learn that civilian credentialing was not properly valuing military training. Then she met a veteran from the Green Bay area, a former Army combat medic who decided to go to nursing school to become a trauma nurse.

“And as she went through the program, the community college she decided to start at did not recognize her service at all,” Rohan said. “So here’s a woman who probably could have written a book about being a combat medic, and all the people she had helped save; she got into college and got no credit for what she had done. And she told me what had been the final straw for her was when they were teaching folks how to do IV’s, how to start an IV. And she, through her training, she started an IV, and her professor or teacher said, ‘you can’t start an IV that way. If you’re in a trauma situation, you could never start an IV like that.’ She said, ‘I’ve been in a trauma situation. I’ve been on the battlefield, and I’ve started IVs.’ ‘Well, that’s not the way that we do it in the civilian world.’”

The problem has remained the same: servicemembers gain valuable on-the-job training and certificates during their service that align with civilian job qualifications, but experience difficulty translating them into civilian state licenses and certifications. The Summit also served as an apt setting to announce an exciting new development: The American Legion has officially accepted a yearlong grant from the Lumina Foundation for $325,000 to fund the Military Credentialing Advancement Study (MCAS). MCAS will be informed by the best practices researched and cataloged through The American Legion’s continued credentialing roundtables. The official study will be unveiled on September 14, 2020.

**SMALL BUSINESS**

The American Legion views small businesses as the backbone of the American economy. It is the mobilizing force behind America’s past economic growth and has given the United States a competitive advantage in the global economy. Small business development will continue to be a significant factor in our nation’s economic and national security well-being as we move further into the 21st Century. Reports show that small businesses have generated 65 percent of net new jobs over the past 25 years and 67 percent following the 2009 recession. Furthermore, there are nearly 28 million small businesses in the U.S., and 99.7 percent of all firms are small businesses. Listed below are several facts regarding veteran business owners according to the Small Business Administration (SBA):

- Veterans are 45 percent more likely to be self-employed
According to the U.S. census, about 2.4 million, or 1 out of 10 of all U.S. small businesses are veteran-owned
Veteran-owned small businesses generate over $1.2 trillion in receipts

The American Legion recognizes the benefits of American entrepreneurship, not only for the overall American economy but also for the transitioning servicemember seeking to develop their own business and becoming local job-creators. The American Legion knows that giving veterans the resources they need to start businesses will assist in stimulating the nation’s economic recovery. Veterans, when compared to their civilian counterparts, are more successful at creating a lasting small business. Encouraging and supporting veterans is the first step to recovering from a near 40-year low in entrepreneurship in the United States.

Many veterans channel the skills and leadership ability they develop in the military to starting a business. Having served in the military, there are a fair amount of resources one can take advantage of when establishing a business. Listed below are a few of these resources:

- Small Business Administration (SBA) Veterans Advantage Loan Program
- SBA Operation Boots to Business Training Program
- Women Veterans Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE)
- Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV)
- The Bunker – Startup Incubator

Furthermore, the federal government is the nation’s largest purchaser of goods and services, and many federal agencies contract with Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs). The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized under the Veterans First Program to enter into contracts first with SDVOSBs and then with Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs), but Congress has made findings that VA has entered into contracts under the Veterans First Contracting Program with companies that were not legitimate SDVOSBs or VOSBs. The American Legion supports the following objectives:

- Verification improvements for veterans' business within the VA. In the interim, we still expect, VA to adopt a more streamlined and efficient standard for verification, but with continued vigilance in investigating fraudulent veteran-owned businesses.

- A universal system of tracking VA contracting strategy and processes to ensure the use of standardized contracting procedures. Currently, VA procurement officials award contracts using inconsistent local policies and disorganized templates, leading to inaccurate contracting data and too inefficient and costly procurement results. Under this practice, the VA has misspent billions of dollars due to its negligence and disregard for procurement rules. This is why it is essential to pass legislation improving and modernizing VA’s procurement process.

- Legislative and/or administrative proposals that support reasonable set-aside of federal procurements and contracts for businesses owned and operated by veterans. We believe that though the 3 percent SDVOSB contracting goal should be increased to 5 percent.

- Legislative and/or administrative proposals that extend a contracting program similar to Veterans First Program at VA over to the Department of Defense.

Lastly, The American Legion continues to work closely with business leaders and government authorities to help veteran-owned small businesses and increase the role of veteran-owned businesses in communities around the nation. Veterans are natural entrepreneurs. They are disciplined, goal-oriented self-starters. Accustomed to accountability, they know the value of being decisive and flexible. Leveraging the talents of veterans will promote self-employment and will help stimulate the economy. Veterans know the value of veteran employees better than anyone else, and veteran-owned small businesses are one among the best employers of veterans.
THE AMERICAN LEGION SMALL BUSINESS TASK FORCE

The American Legion Small Business Task Force sponsored several events this year to assist veterans, disabled veterans, Reservists and active-duty military members in obtaining employment, to include starting and growing their businesses.

- February 27 Washington Conference MSPV Policy Roundtable
- August 27 National Convention AbilityOne Policy Roundtable

During The American Legion’s 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a Veterans Small Business Policy Roundtable. The meeting was attended by The American Legion’s Small Business Taskforce members, various veteran service organizations, military service organizations, the former Surgeon General of the US Army, and representatives from the US Small Business Administration.

The Policy Roundtable opened with a briefing from Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator of the Small Business Administration’s Office of Veteran Small Business Development (OVBD), who updated the attendees on SBA’s veterans programs and initiatives. The OVBD will be expecting an uptick in Boots to Business educational programming utilization since NDAA19 mandated that one capstone courses become mandatory for transitioning servicemembers. The most significant organizational change comes from the anticipated increase in the number of Veteran Business Outreach Centers to meet the demand for increased Boots to Business program utilization.

General Gale Pollock, Army Deputy Surgeon General, Stephan Sachs from PDS Inc., and Charles Fowler from GPS Global Inc., briefed the attendees on the landscape of AbilityOne programming and preference at the Department of Veterans Affairs as it currently stands. While both the Legion and the AbilityOne companies are committed to coexistence as preferred contracting groups within VA procurement strategies, AbilityOne prefers their reinstatement as top priority over SDVOSBs, as it were before the advent of Public Law 109-461 which created the Vets First Contracting Program at VA. Together with several veteran service organizations and military service organizations, the group decided that the best response to the attacks on the institution of the Vets First Contracting Program is to generate a joint letter from the VSOs to the Secretary of the VA and Congress affirming our support for the rule set forth in PL 109-461 and case law from Supreme Court decision in Kingdomware LLC. v. United States.

Kevin Hollinger, Legislative Director for Reserve Organizations of America (ROA), has been working with Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard’s staff to draft a bill that will allow the Post 9/11 GI Bill to be used for startup capital by veteran entrepreneurs. The American Legion has been working on a similar legislative proposal called the VET ACT. Congresswoman Gabbard’s bill is similar in concept to what the Legion has worked on in the past in implementation. The American Legion is not tied to any specific piece of legislation on this matter; rather, the Legion resolution backs the concept of using including entrepreneur benefits in the GI Bill. Congresswoman Gabbard’s bill will be introduced soon and is gaining momentum behind the scene, and our resolution will allow the Legion to back the general concept of Congresswoman Gabbard’s bill.

Lastly, VA recently announced the Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency DMLSS integration, as a stop-gap measure to extend the runway for modernizing the medical-surgical supply chain under the large Medical Surgical Prime Vendor 2.0 (MSPV). This is causing much consternation within the veteran small business community because the announcement coincided with the cancellation of small business contract solicitations under MSPV 2.0. Although DLA has assured VA and Congress that integration with DMLSS will comply with all VA procurement laws, the incentive to follow through does not exist, and veteran small businesses will suffer, and VA’s ability to effectively and legally modernize their medical supply chain will falter. The onus is currently on the VA
and DLA to come out with a statement of policy and implementable plan to adhere to VA’s procurement laws.

**VETERAN HOMELESSNESS**

VA and HUD reported roughly 37,878 homeless veterans on a single night in January 2018 (2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress). VA has taken decisive action toward its goal of ending homelessness among our nation’s veterans. To achieve this goal, VA has developed a plan to assist every homeless veteran willing to accept services retain or acquire: a safe housing; needed treatment services; opportunities to retain or return to employment; and benefits assistance. Also, VA has implemented a prevention initiative - the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF), which is VA’s primary prevention program designed to help veterans and their families rapidly exit homelessness, or avoid entering homelessness. The January 2019 Point-In-Time count update will be published later this year and updated in the 2020 Washington Conference report.

The American Legion continues to place particular priority on the issue of veteran homelessness. With veterans making up approximately 11 percent of our nation’s total adult homeless population, there is plenty of reason to give the cause special attention. Along with various community partners, The American Legion remains committed to seeing VA’s goal of ending veteran homelessness come to fruition. Our goal is to ensure that every community across America has programs and services in place to get homeless veterans in the housing (along with necessary healthcare/treatment) while connecting those at-risk veterans with the local services and resources they need. Over the past twelve months, we have increased our outreach efforts in the homelessness and housing space through the execution of our strategic plan:

- Joined the Coalition for the Homelessness Male Service Providers Working Group and participated in the VA Medical Health Advisory Councils Homeless Veterans Roundtables.
- Provided policy advice and position statements on draft legislation and policy changes covering veteran homelessness, housing, education, employment, incarceration, and benefits eligibility.
- Completed the Prince William County Virginia’s Detention Center Volunteer Training Program in support of future service with incarcerated veterans in the detention center.
- We have initiated efforts to collaborate with the VBA to revise the American Legion’s On-Call Homeless Veteran and VA Home Loan Brochure.
- We have established a Homeless Veterans Task Force resulting in the appointment of a Legion member as the state-level representative for homeless veteran advocacy efforts.
- Attended the VBA’s VA Home Loan Conference and secured an invitation to participate and facilitate a VSO panel on veterans housing at the 2020 conference.
- Partnered with Habitat for Humanity International in the development of an interactive map that will highlight the locations of the Habitat projects and adjacent Legion Posts.
- Increased our Specially Adapted Housing Grant outreach and information sharing efforts to inform our Legion stakeholders better.

Also, the VE&E Division continues to aggressively advocate for rental assistance and support services provided through HUD-VASH. HUD-VASH is a critical resource for local communities, particularly the rural and urban efforts to end homelessness among our nation’s veterans. The HUD-VASH program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for veterans experiencing homelessness provided by HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. At the local level, the HUD-VASH
program operates as a collaborative effort between VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) and local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs). The VAMC identifies veterans who are eligible for the program and refers them to the PHA to receive a HUD-VASH voucher. The PHA provides the rental subsidy, and the VAMC offers case management and clinical services. Since 2008, more than 100,000 vouchers have been awarded.

On August 26, 2019, HVAF of Indiana welcomed the Legion by providing an organizational briefing and tour of their homeless veterans’ facilities. During the homeless veteran site visit, the commission members met veterans and the organization’s leadership team.

HVAF was first incorporated as a Far From Home Chapter in June 1993. In 1995, the organization completed its first housing project, establishing a residence for five homeless veterans. The project became the first transitional housing unit for homeless veterans in Indianapolis. In 1998, the organization adopted the name Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation, Inc. (HVAF). In April 2000, HVAF developed its Veteran Services Center, extending supportive services to homeless veterans and their families. The center provides food, clothing, furniture, household items, and personal hygiene supplies. In 2005, the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation became HVAF of Indiana, Inc. HVAF operates 13 distinct transitional housing properties including substance abuse and addiction counseling services. In September 2011, HVAF opened another apartment complex that houses 51 veterans, bringing HVAF’s total bed capacity to over 200. Since 2011, HVAF’s efforts in Indiana have helped reduced veteran homelessness by 25 percent.

Due to our work with homeless veterans and their families, The American Legion understands that homeless veterans need a sustained, coordinated effort that provides secure housing and nutritious meals; essential physical healthcare, substance abuse aftercare and mental health counseling; as well as personal development and empowerment. Veterans also need job assessment, training, and placement assistance. The American Legion believes all programs to assist homeless veterans must focus on helping veterans reach their highest level of self-management.

In the upcoming months, the VE&E Division will partner with the Department of Labor to develop and host a Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program Outreach Task-Force. Also, the Legion will expand efforts to eliminate veteran homelessness by supporting and conducting outreach to incarcerated veterans transitioning back into society.

Furthermore, the VE&E Division will closely monitor and support the Habitat for Humanity’s Veterans Build interactive map initiative. This new platform will provide a user-friendly map that will track and identify those habitats for Humanity projects that are in close vicinity to our Posts.

**EMPLOYMENT**

The current rate of unemployment in the United States is 3.5 percent. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is 4.5 percent. The total number of unemployed veterans from the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is approximately 140,000, with a total of 324,000 unemployed veterans from all eras. The American Legion has been hosting and participating in Job Fairs since 2007. The primary purpose of participation in these Job Fairs is to educate veterans of their benefits, provide veterans outlets for employment, and promote The American Legion.

The American Legion participates in approximately 100 Job Fairs a year through our national partnerships. A Hiring Our Heroes Hiring Event was held on Thursday, August 22, during the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. This event was sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, along with The American Legion Department of Indiana. 20 employers and a total of approximately 97 preregistered jobseekers were expected to attend this event. Based on the exit surveys, 100 resumes were exchanged, 25 interviews were conducted on-site, and there were two tentative job offers made.

In addition, The American Legion has collaborated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (USCC), Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor, Veterans’
Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS), Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), various State Workforce Agencies and various corporate sponsors, in hosting numerous veteran-specific Job Fairs across the nation. The ‘Hiring our Heroes’ Initiative seeks to lower the unemployment rate amongst our nation’s veterans by bringing Job Fairs to many of the nation’s underserved communities.

In less than five years, Hiring Our Heroes -- a joint initiative of The American Legion and USCC -- has helped more than 31,000 veterans, servicemembers, and military spouses nationwide find jobs. USCC has hosted over 100 hiring events at Legion Posts and partnered with the Legion on more than 250 others. These events have resulted in 15 percent of all veterans being employed. The American Legion is scheduled to participate in 15 more Career Fairs by the end of the year. Currently, The American Legion is strategizing with USCC staff to identify where the best states and cities are for these events. The location of these events occurring in 2020 will be based upon individual state unemployment rates and places where there are substantial veteran populations.

Several Department Highlights:

**Department of Illinois** – held 1 Job Fair affiliated with the DOL

**Department of New Jersey** – held 2 Job Fairs

**Department of New Mexico** – held 1 Job Fair affiliated with the Department of New Mexico

**Department of Puerto Rico** – held 1 Job Fair with headquarters assistance

**Department of Texas** – held 1 Job Fair affiliated with DOL, 1 during the state convention, 1 with Fort Hood (MEGA Career Fair)

Furthermore, the unemployment rate for veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time since September 2001 -- a group referred to as Gulf War-era II veterans -- declined to 3.8 percent in 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The jobless rate for all veterans was little changed at 3.5 percent in 2018. In August 2018, 41 percent of Gulf War-era II veterans had a service-connected disability, compared with 25 percent of all veterans.

*Highlights from the 2018 data:*

- The unemployment rate for female veterans declined to 3.0 percent in 2018, and the rate for male veterans (3.5 percent) changed little over the year. The unemployment rate for male veterans was not statistically different from the rate for female veterans.
- Among the 326,000 unemployed veterans in 2018, 54 percent were age 25 to 54, 40 percent were age 55 and over, and 6 percent were age 18 to 24.
- Veterans with a service-connected disability had an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent in August 2018, higher than the rate for veterans with no disability (3.5 percent).
- About 1 in 3 employed veterans with a service-connected disability worked in the public sector in August 2018, compared with about 1 in 5 veterans with no disability.
- In 2018, the unemployment rate of veterans varied across the country, ranging from 1.4 percent in Iowa to 6.5 percent in the District of Columbia.

Additionally, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division has grown its relationship with JobZone. JobZone is a Career Fair organization that caters to active-duty, veterans, National Guard and Reservists. All of the Career Fairs are held on military installations or just outside these installations. JobZone operates within the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

**EDUCATION**

With the passage of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act – the “Forever GI Bill” – providing the most significant improvement in veterans education in a decade, The American Legion has shifted focus to ensuring that student-veterans and their families receive the highest quality education when using their GI Bill benefits. The
cornerstone of this effort is strong advocacy for Resolution No. 78: Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole.

Under current law, for-profit colleges may receive no more than 90 percent of their revenues from federal aid. In spite of this intent, VA and DOD education programs are statutorily counted on the 10 percent side, allowing schools to report GI Bill and DOD Tuition Assistance as private dollars, resulting in aggressive recruitment of veterans and servicemembers. While this loophole has affected the Post-9/11 GI Bill for over ten years, The American Legion adopted its first official position on the subject in 2017 and has worked tirelessly to make the case for protecting veterans education benefits.

These efforts have been noticed by policy and philanthropic foundations. In July of 2019, The American Legion accepted a $500,000 two-year grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to build capacity for its veterans higher education advocacy. With this additional funding, The American Legion will better engage in nuanced public education of policymakers; host more conferences of veterans organizations and media on higher education; write more letters to policymakers, and better ensure that military and veteran interests are represented in civilian higher education discussions.

Five milestones to effectively measure this support will be met by Fall 2020:
1. At least five advocacy letters or public comments to federal policymakers regarding the need to strengthen higher education quality and institutional accountability, on topics such as:
   - Borrower Defense
   - Gainful Employment
   - 90/10 loophole
   - Institutional accountability measures
   - Public service loan forgiveness
   - Quality of colleges approved for GI Bill
2. One report on Post-9/11 GI Bill quality and accountability.
3. At least two op-ed articles regarding veterans higher education policy.
4. At least two stakeholder forums to convene veterans and military service organizations regarding the need for improved higher education quality and institutional accountability. Participants would include roughly 15 to 20 core veterans and military service organizations relevant higher education policy experts.
5. Engagement of Legion Department leadership on developing state higher education trends.

CONCLUSION

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission is fully aware that it would be impossible to carry out its mandates without the active involvement of Posts, Districts, Counties, Departments, and individual Legionnaires. We sincerely appreciate their continued support and participation. Chairman Vincent Troiola also thanks the National Commander, the National Adjutant, the National Executive Committee, and the staff of both the Washington and Indianapolis offices for the outstanding support and cooperation they have provided during the past year.

Addendum A

Hold for Further Study

Register Resolution No. 2772 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Post 9/11 Transfer of Educational Benefits

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of four resolutions and one addendum. ...Second.
Proceedings of Thursday October 17, 2019

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and second to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. All in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay. Carried

Resolution No. 13: Tracking Of Veteran Unemployment In All U.S. Territories
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2766 (PR) DEC
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
WHEREAS, Territory data is older and less detailed than data on the states; and
WHEREAS, The size of the territories varies greatly; and
WHEREAS, The largest territory, Puerto Rico, has as many veterans as some states, while American Samoa, the smallest, is the size of a small county; and
WHEREAS, Data availability varies, and more items are available for the more extensive territories; and
WHEREAS, Consequently, the format of the territories profile differs from the state profiles; and
WHEREAS, Most of the jobs in the U.S. territories are in small establishments; and
WHEREAS, American Samoa has about 7,700 employees and fewer than 500 establishments; and
WHEREAS, Currently, the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics does not keep track of U.S. territories unemployment rate for both the population as a whole and their veteran population; and
WHEREAS, U.S. territories are left with the responsibility of tracking their unemployment rate, through several different methods which may include local census bureau or regional surveys, and would depend on the veteran to self-identify; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That The American Legion encourages legislation that would mandate the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics to track not only the unemployment rate of the population of all U.S. territories as a whole, but also the veteran community.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution No. 13 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ....Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 13. All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

Resolution No. 14: Reauthorize and Fund the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Patriot Express Loan
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
WHEREAS, Assistance to veterans who have honorably served our country is a veterans benefit that dates back to the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944; and
WHEREAS, Benefits to veterans have always included assistance in creating and operating veteran-owned small businesses; and
WHEREAS, In accordance with the Financing Their Future: Veteran Entrepreneurs and Capital Access Report issued by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, there are 2.5 million veteran-owned businesses in the U.S. economy, contributing to more than $1.1 trillion in total business sales; and
WHEREAS, Veterans face greater difficulty to accessing capital relative to nonveterans; and
WHEREAS, Veterans saw lower loan approval rates than non-veterans; and
WHEREAS, During military service, many veterans may not accrue necessary or adequate capital or collateral requirements necessary to privately finance their small business, especially if it is home based; and
WHEREAS, A core mission of the SBA is to assist eligible small business entrepreneurs with gaining access to the financial resources needed to either start or expand their small business through either a guaranty or direct loan, or both; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion encourages efforts of the SBA to improve access to capital for veterans, active-duty servicemembers eligible for the military’s Transition Assistance Program, reserve and Guard members, and their spouses; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, the SBA introduced the Patriot Express Loan as a pilot product for veterans and other eligibility military members to gain faster access to capital needed to start or expand their business; and

WHEREAS, The Patriot Express Loan provided up to $500,000 in funding, and lower interest rates, and could be used for most business-related purposes; and

WHEREAS, The SBA discontinued the Patriot Express Loan pilot product at the end of 2013; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion encourages legislation that would reauthorize and fund the SBA’s Patriot Express Loans (or a similar timely, cost effective and targeted loan programs for veterans); and

WHEREAS, The Patriot Express Loan would offer larger amounts of financing, lower interest rates, a loan guaranty up to 90 percent and no guaranty fees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That The American Legion encourages legislation that would reauthorize and fund the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Patriot Express Loan.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution No. 14 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 14. All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

Resolution No. 15: Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes By Closing 90-10 Loophole
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion wants to ensure that student-veterans and their family members using the Post-9/11 GI Bill and military student programs achieve educational success and a positive transition to the civilian workforce; and

WHEREAS, Under current law, for-profit colleges may receive no more than 90 percent of their revenues from federal aid in order to ensure colleges are not funded solely by federal taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Under current law, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) funds and Department of Defense (DoD) funds are counted as private dollars on the 10 percent side, allowing schools to count GI Bill and Department of Defense tuition assistance as private dollars on the 10 percent side, resulting in aggressive recruitment of veterans and servicemembers; and

WHEREAS, Veterans and military students are targeted for deceptive and aggressive recruiting – as documented by many major news outlets, including an Emmy-nominated PBS NewsHour expose, as well as U.S. Senate reports and two undercover U.S. Government Accountability Office investigations – because of a loophole in federal education law through which the GI Bill and DoD student program funds are able to be counted as “private funds” to offset a cap the schools face on federal funds; and

WHEREAS, In December 2016, the Department of Education issued a report that 191 colleges receive more than 90 percent of their revenue from federal student aid, GI Bill education benefits, and DoD education programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That The American Legion encourages legislation and federal agency action to ensure
better quality and student outcomes for institutions approved for use of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits by adding Department of Defense and VA funds to the Title IV revenue sources 90/10 calculation as defined by section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution No. 15 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 15. All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

Resolution No. 16: Develop Training for Employers who Utilize Veterans’ Preference in their Hiring Practices
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Many military-friendly companies are developing strategies for hiring vets including early engagement with transitioning servicemembers; and

WHEREAS, The development of a Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) certified training course for human resource practitioners will increase the competency of human resource practitioners resulting in better assessment and application of veteran talent and skills gained through military service; and

WHEREAS, A recent report from the SHRM Foundation concluded that the most pressing need in the human resource community is to educate employers on the cultural and occupational competency of veterans transitioning out of the military and into the civilian workforce; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That The American Legion encourages the development of best practices in administrative measures and resources that, educate and train human resource professionals and hiring managers on the value of hiring veterans, military spouses, as well as, facilitate the translation of military to civilian work experience.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution No. 16 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 16. All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Attached to the report is Addendum A. I move that the actions of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Addendum A. All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Passed.

At this time, the chair recognizes E.C. Toppin of North Carolina, chairman of the National Security Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: National Security Commission
E.C. Toppin, North Carolina, Chairman

National Commander Oxford, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, fellow Legionnaires, you have a copy of the National Security Commission's written report before you, which includes a detailed account of the commission's activities since the national convention and an overview of what is ahead.

In the report you will find an analysis of the current threat environment. This analysis is in line with Department of Defense national defense strategy which addresses our pivot to the return of great power of competition. You will also notice that the activities of the
commission are aligned with the national defense strategies' three lines of effort: rebuilding military regimens as we build a more lethal force; strengthening alliances and attracting new partners; and reform the Department of Defense for greater performance and affordability.

As we coordinate the national commander's engagements throughout the Indo-Pacific theater later this year, we will continue to support the Department of Defense Indo-Pacific strategy of preparedness, partnership, and providing a networked region. Mutually beneficial alliances and partnerships are crucial to our national security, providing that durable strategic advantage that no competitor or rival can match. America has a role to play in strengthening these alliances.

No nation cares for its veterans and supports its servicemembers better than we do. During meetings with foreign powers' governmental officials we have been asked to share how to bolster support for servicemembers, families, and share our best practices to assist with treating common post-combat ailments, such as PTSD and reintegration after military service and female servicemembers.

We are also mindful of the threat posed by nonstate actors who also threaten the security of our nation with increasingly sophisticated capabilities, also known as violent extreme organizations. These organizations remain a persistent condition driven by ideology and unstable political and economic structures, despite the defeat of ISIS' physical caliphate. To address this, we support a fully funded international affairs budget. The destabilized areas of the world require diplomatic programs to enforce American values and achieve U.S. strategic objectives, and The American Legion must be part of the conversation. Looking ahead, we must continue to advocate for a strong national defense and fully funded department with an approved and timely budget.

In conclusion, I would like to take a moment to thank The American Legion for the trust and belief placed in me as your National Security chairman. I have been humbled by the opportunity. I have grown in my understanding that a strong national defense is more critical today than before.

As spoken by Alexander Hamilton, "The world has its eye upon America. The noble struggle we have made in the cause of liberty has occasioned a kind of revolution in human sentiment. The influence of our example has penetrated the gloomy regions of dictatorships."

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Oxford and distinguished members of the National Executive Committee for their continued support. We look forward to your continued support and involvement in advocating for a strong national defense.

Report: National Security Commission
E.C. Toppin, North Carolina, Chairman

You have received a copy of the report of the meeting of the National Commission during the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana which took place on August 27th-29th. The National Security Commission and its seven committees along with the council continue to review developments in the national security and foreign relations arenas. The 101st National Convention adopted 3 resolutions which, when added to the more than 80 existing resolutions, comprise the Commission's policy and legislative agendas for the year ahead.

On Tuesday, October 1st and Wednesday, October 8th extensive conference call meetings took place with of the members of the National Security Commission and staff. On the calls for the commission were E.C. Toppin (MD), Commission Chairman; E. C. Toppin (NC), George W. Wehrli (FL), Chairman, Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee; and Douglas C. Haggan, (IN), Unconventional Forces & Intelligence Committee. Staff on the call was Freddy Gessner, Deputy Director and Thomas Good, National Security Policy Advisor.
Reviewed were six (2) resolutions which were referred to the standing Commission from the National Convention and 2 from Department Executive Committees. Three resolutions were recommended to be approved: Funding of the Department of Defense STARBASE Program; Oppose Deportation of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans; and To Oppose the Exclusion of Transgender American from the Military. The recommended actions for the one resolution that was not recommended for approval is noted on Addendum A.

The Commission Chairmen were also provided an update with highlights of National Security Division’s activities since National Convention. Noteworthy items include coordinating for the National Commander several desk briefings with specialists at the Pentagon in preparation for the upcoming Indo-Pacific engagements. The Division has hosted and visited the Japanese embassy on several occasions to coordinate a Congressional reception this Spring. The Division has also met with officials from the Australian Government and the American Australian Association to include the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister Scott Morrison in preparation for the National Commander’s upcoming engagement.

National Security Strategy:
1. Protect the homeland, the American people, and the American way of life
2. Promote American prosperity
3. Preserve peace through strength
4. Advance American influence

National Defense Strategy:
1. Rebuilding military readiness as we build a more lethal Joint Force
2. Strengthening alliances as we attract new partners
3. Reforming the Department's business practices for greater performance and affordability

The following are brief updates on several critical areas for your review:

**CURRENT THREAT ENVIRONMENT**

It is increasingly clear that China and Russia want to shape a world consistent with their authoritarian model—gaining veto authority over other nations’ economic, diplomatic, and security decisions. China is leveraging military modernization, influence operations, and predatory economics to coerce neighboring countries to reorder the Indo-Pacific region to their advantage. As China continues its economic and military ascendance, asserting power through an all-of-nation long-term strategy, it will continue to pursue a military modernization program that seeks Indo-Pacific regional hegemony in the near-term and displacement of the United States to achieve global preeminence in the future. The most far-reaching objective of this defense strategy is to set the military relationship between our two countries on a path of transparency and non-aggression.

**China:**

China’s rising military capabilities and increased assertiveness in the East China Sea pose a challenge to the Japanese Ryukyu Islands and by extension the United States, which maintains a strategic military presence on the largest island of Okinawa. Along with the islands of Taiwan and the Philippines, the Ryukyu Islands represents a geographic chokepoint for China’s naval and civilian activities. As a strategic impediment to China’s power projection, the island chain has been a major focal point of Beijing’s recent military modernization and expansion.

The PRC’s rising military capabilities coincide with increasing Chinese aggression beyond the country’s borders. China has unilaterally attempted-successfully to this point to change the status quo in the South China Sea. It has constructed artificial islands on reef to assert territorial and military claims and argued, contrary to international law and custom, that the entire sea falls under its exclusive economic zone. The United States has conducted freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea, and the Permanent
Court of Arbitration at the Hague has ruled against China’s territorial claims. Nevertheless, the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) has nearly completed construction of military facilities on the artificial islands and stationed PLA forces to include nuclear-capable bombers. It has even quietly installed defensive anti-ship cruise missiles, surface-to-air missiles, and electromagnetic communications-jamming systems on the reefs.

**Russia: The Post-INF Treaty Crisis**

Russia seeks veto authority over nations on its periphery in terms of their governmental, economic, and diplomatic decisions, to shatter the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and change European and Middle East security and economic structures to its favor. The use of emerging technologies to discredit and subvert democratic processes in Georgia, Crimea, and eastern Ukraine is concern enough, but when coupled with its expanding and modernizing nuclear arsenal the challenge is clear.

The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, negotiated and signed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, was one of the most far-reaching and successful nuclear arms reduction agreements in history. The treaty led to the verifiable elimination of 2,692 U.S. and Soviet missiles based in Europe. It helped bring an end to the Cold War nuclear arms race and paved the way for agreements to slash bloated strategic nuclear arsenals and withdraw thousands of tactical nuclear weapons from forward-deployed areas.

The pact served as an important check on some of the most destabilizing types of nuclear weapons that the United States and Russia could deploy. INF-class missiles, whether nuclear-armed or conventionally armed, are destabilizing because they can strike targets deep inside Russia and in Western Europe with little or no warning. Their short time-to-target capability increases the risk of miscalculation in a crisis.

Despite its success, the treaty has faced problems. A dispute over Russian compliance has festered since 2014, when the United States first alleged a Russian treaty violation, and has worsened since 2017 when Russia began deploying a ground-launched cruise missile, the 9M729, capable of traveling in the treaty’s prohibited 500-5,500 kilometer range.

The Trump administration developed a response strategy in 2017 designed to put pressure on Russia to address the U.S. charges, but in October 2018, President Trump abruptly shifted tactics and announced the United States would leave the agreement. On Feb. 2, 2019, the Trump administration formally announced that the United States would immediately suspend implementation of the INF Treaty and would withdraw in six months if Russia did not return to compliance by eliminating its 9M729 missile.

U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that the Russians possess four battalions of 9M729 missiles (including one test battalion). The missiles are “nuclear-capable,” according to the Director of National Intelligence, but they are probably conventionally armed.

Without the INF Treaty, the potential for a new intermediate-range missile arms race in Europe and beyond becomes increasingly real. Furthermore, in the treaty’s absence, the only legally binding, verifiable limits on the world’s two largest nuclear arsenals come from the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), which is due to expire in February 2021 unless Presidents Trump and Putin agree to extend it by up to five years.

On Aug. 18, less than two weeks after the official collapse of the INF Treaty, the United States tested a ground-launched variant of the Tomahawk sea-launched cruise missile that would have been prohibited by the treaty. The test was a clear signal that the United States can and will pursue such systems in the absence of the INF Treaty.

In a statement, the Defense Department said the “test missile exited its ground mobile launcher and accurately impacted its target after more than 500 kilometers of flight. Data collected and lessons learned from this test will inform the Department of Defense's development of future intermediate-range capabilities.”

The launcher used in the test is the same one, though in a different configuration, that is currently fielded in Romania and is soon to be deployed in Poland as part of NATO’s
Aegis Ashore missile defense system. The INF Treaty banned the possession or testing of all nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

Putin stated that in light of the test and comments from U.S. officials calling for the deployment of new intermediate-range missiles, “I instruct the Defense Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and other competent agencies to analyze the level of threat posed to our country by the above actions of the United States, and take exhaustive measures for a reciprocal response.”

China also expressed its concerns about the U.S. test. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Aug. 20, “We advise the U.S. side to abandon outdated notions of Cold War thinking and zero-sum games, and exercise restraint in developing arms.”

At the request of Russia and China, the United Nations Security Council met Aug. 22 to discuss the collapse of the treaty and the U.S. missile test.

Russia’s First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyanskiy said that “because of the U.S.’s geopolitical ambitions, we are all one step from an arms race that cannot be controlled or regulated in any way.”

Acting U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jonathan Cohen responded by saying, “We are here today because the Russian Federation preferred a world in which the United States continued to fulfill its INF Treaty obligations, while the Russian Federation did not.”

The Trump administration’s push for new intermediate-range missiles has been controversial in Congress. The House version of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would prohibit the Pentagon from spending money to develop new missiles until it meets several conditions. The Senate version does not have a similar provision, and the two versions are currently being reconciled.

In addition to the test of a ground-launched cruise missile, the Defense Department is also planning to test later this year an intermediate-range ballistic missile with a range of about 3,000 to 4,000 kilometers.

Jon Huntsman Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Russia, announced his resignation effective Oct. 3.

North Korea: Style vs. Substance

North Korea is destabilizing regions through their pursuit of nuclear weapons or sponsorship of terrorism. North Korea seeks to guarantee regime survival and increased leverage by seeking a mixture of nuclear, biological, chemical, conventional, and unconventional weapons and a growing ballistic missile capability to gain coercive influence over South Korea, Japan, and the United States.

Earlier this year, President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meet in Hanoi, Vietnam for their second summit. The talks end without a signed agreement; however, Trump and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated that the two sides had made progress but that North Korea had called for sanctions to be lifted “in their entirety” in exchange for partial denuclearization which the United States rejected. North Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Ri Yong Ho later deliver a statement at a press conference stating that North Korea had requested the partial removal of sanctions in exchange for a permanent halt of nuclear and ballistic missile testing and the full and verifiable dismantlement of the facilities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex.

Later in March, South Korea and the United States decided to terminate the annual Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military drills. A UN Panel of Experts reports that North Korea continues to evade sanctions. President Trump then tweeted that he ordered the removal of additional large-scale sanctions on North Korea.

In an April meeting between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and President Trump in Washington, D.C. Trump reiterates his preference for a “big deal” with North Korea to “get rid of the nuclear weapons” in comments to press, but kept the door open for
“various small deals that could happen.” Trump also says that he would support joint economic projects between the two Koreas at the right time, but that now is not that time and that sanctions would “remain in place” until denuclearization is complete. Also during April, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet in Vladivostock, Russia and agree to forge closer ties.

Shortly after in May, North Korea tested a salvo of rockets and a short-range ballistic missile that has not been tested before and test fired two short-range ballistic missiles, including the new missile tested in May. President Trump said he did not consider North Korea's missile tests a "breach of trust" by Kim Jong Un or a violation of UN Security Council resolutions. The United States announces that it seized a North Korean vessel, the Wise Honest, for sanctions evasion. The vessel was detained in 2018. North Korea describes the seizure as a "complete denial" of the Singapore summit statement.

Iran: On the Brink. U.S. Unilateral in Approach

Iran is competing with its neighbors, asserting an arc of influence and instability while vying for regional hegemony, using state-sponsored terrorist activities, a growing network of proxies, and its missile program to achieve its objectives. Recent events within the Straits Of Hormuz and Saudi Arabia oil refinery attack show a new emboldened approach to sanctions. Earlier this year, Iran attempted to launch a satellite using its Simorgh launch vehicle, but the satellite failed to enter orbit. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo characterizes the launch as “continued defiance of the international community and UN Security Council Resolution 2231,” although the launch did not violate the resolution. The annual Worldwide Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community assessed that "Iran is not currently undertaking the key nuclear weapons-development activities we judge necessary to produce a nuclear device." It added that "Iran’s continued implementation of the JCPOA has extended the amount of time Iran would need to produce enough fissile material for a nuclear weapon from a few months to about one year."

IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano reiterated that Iran was implementing its nuclear-related obligations under the JCPOA and stated that attempts to "micro-manage or put pressure on the agency in nuclear verification" are "counter-productive and extremely harmful" in remarks to the IAEA staff. Although Amano didn’t name who was putting pressure on the agency, he was likely referencing Israeli and U.S. efforts to persuade the IAEA to investigate what they deem a "secret atomic warehouse" in Iran, which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described in his September UN General Assembly speech.

Germany, France and the United Kingdom established a "special purpose vehicle" to facilitate transactions for non-sanctioned trade with Iran, called the "Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges" (INSTEX). The United States and Poland host a ministerial summit on the Middle East in Warsaw where U.S. Vice President Mike Pence explicitly calls on “our European partners to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal.” Several European foreign ministers boycott the summit.

In March, The International Atomic Energy Agency reported that Iran was implementing its nuclear-related commitments. The IAEA's quarterly report finds that Iran's stockpile of heavy water is 124.8 metric tons, below the 130-ton limit and that Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched to 3.67 percent uranium-235 is 163.8 kilograms, below the 300-kilogram limit. Iran announced that it registered its counterpart to the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX).

The U.S. Treasury Department designated 31 Iranian entities and individuals for past involvement in Iran’s nuclear weapons program under an executive order targeting the proliferators of weapons of mass destruction and then designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the United States will not issue any additional sanctions waivers for states to continue importing Iranian oil on May 2. The United States also announced that it would extend waivers to allow certain nuclear
cooperation projects in Iran to proceed, but end others. The United States extended waivers for the Arak reactor conversion, the Fordow facility conversion, the Bushehr nuclear reactor and the Tehran research reactor for 90 days, but ended waivers for the transfer of enriched uranium out of Iran, the transfer and storage of heavy water outside of Iran and the construction of additional reactor units at Bushehr.

In May, U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton announced that the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force are being deployed to the U.S. Central Command region to "send a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force." Some news outlets reported that officials in the intelligence community claim Bolton is exaggerating the threat posed by Iran.

Shortly after, Iran announced that it will no longer be bound by stockpiles limitations on enriched uranium and heavy water reserves in the JCPOA and could restart construction on its unfinished heavy water reactor at Arak and resume higher level enrichment in the future if the other parties to the agreement do not deliver on sanctions relief. The United States then announced new sanctions targeting Iran's industrial metal exports.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and the French, German and UK foreign ministers urged Iran to continue to meet its commitments under the JCPOA and reject "any ultimatums" in a joint statement. The leaders also urge countries not party to the JCPOA "to refrain from taking any actions that impede the remaining parties' ability to fully perform their commitments."

Iran announced it will quadruple uranium enrichment output at Natanz and says it would surpass the 300 kilogram limit on uranium gas enriched to 3.67 percent set by the deal.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Tehran and delivered a message from U.S. President Donald Trump to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Khamenei says Trump is "not deserving to exchange messages with" and says he will not send a response. Khamenei says that there is no sense in negotiating with the United States after Trump has "thrown away everything that was agreed upon."

The United States accused Iran of attacking two tankers in the Gulf of Oman. Iran denied that it was behind the attack. Iran announced it will breach the 300 kilogram limit on uranium gas enriched to 3.67 percent within 10 days. Iran then shot down a U.S. surveillance drone, claiming the drone was in Iranian airspace. The United States said the drone was in international airspace. Shortly after, the United States sanctioned the Supreme Leader of Iran and his office.

Violent Extreme Organization:
We will be forever vigilant and keep the fight from the Homeland, We must use the whole of Government and society to dissuade, prevent terrorist organizations and ideology against the Unites States Homeland and out citizens, allies and partners overseas

REBUILDING MILITARY READINESS AS WE BUILD A MORE LETHAL FORCE

DEFENSE BUDGETING
Congress did not complete the actions appropriate before the end of the fiscal year on 30 September 2019. The house passes a Continuing Resolution (CR) on September 2019 that funds the Government through 21 November 2019, which the Senate passed on 26 Sept and President Trump signed on 27 September 2019.

FY20 NDAA - When passed, the FY20 NDAA will mark the fifty-ninth consecutive year the Congress has enacted sweeping legislation in support of a strong, comprehensive national defense. The NDAA is the primary vehicle to execute Congress’s important constitutional obligation to “provide for the common defense.” To do so, the NDAA must take care of our greatest asset: Our service members.
The Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee’s proposal focuses on improving the lives of our men and women in uniform, authorizing a 3.1 percent pay increase and implementing reforms to improve the quality of military housing.

Beyond the budget numbers exists a need to increase the accountability of how defense resources are allocated and spent. Over the last year, the principle has been simple – funding allocated for defense programs should be spent on defense programs. Building and modernizing military capabilities and overall military readiness has been jeopardized by the threat or willful diversion of fiscal support from authorized and appropriated military construction projects, critical training and maintenance functions, and overseas contingency operations.

The topline budget differences between the bills and the Presidential Budget Request (PBR) are as follows:

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<th>FY19 PBR</th>
<th>FY19 HASC NDAA</th>
<th>FY19 SASC NDAA</th>
<th>FY19 HAC-D Defense Appropriations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base budget</td>
<td>$750 billion</td>
<td>$655.9 billion</td>
<td>$655.7 billion</td>
<td>$622.1 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)</td>
<td>$165 billion</td>
<td>$69 billion</td>
<td>$75.9 billion</td>
<td>$68.1 billion</td>
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The defense appropriations bill has more than $622 billion in base defense spending and nearly $68 billion in overseas contingency funds, which is well below the White House request and in line with spending targets outlined in the annual defense authorization bill approved earlier this summer.

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- The administration’s FY 2020 budget proposal continues defense spending increases to align U.S. military forces with a national defense strategy (NDS) focused on great power competition. This strategy prioritizes capability over capacity.
- Thus, the FY 2020 budget prioritizes modernization to compete with China and Russia and maintains the higher readiness levels achieved in the FY 2017-FY 2019 budgets. It expands force structure only a little. Even defense buildups have limits and require trade-offs.
- However, day-to-day operations for ongoing conflicts, crisis response, and allied engagement continue to put high demands on forces.
- These unrelenting operational demands require force structure and drive the services to a high-low mix: high for great power conflict, low (or less high) for day-to-day deployments and regional conflicts.
- Although widely supported, the NDS has been criticized by some for being underfunded and by others for being too aggressive, while the proposed FY 2020 budget has been criticized for not making sufficient changes to align with the NDS.
- The future presents two major risks for sustaining force plans: (1) a lack of real growth in future budgets; and (2) softening public support.
- The measure funds a 3.1 percent pay raise for troops starting next January.

STRENGTHENING ALLIANCES AS WE ATTRACT NEW PARTNERS

INDO-PACIFIC ENGAGEMENTS
Following initial briefings from INDO-PACOM in Hawaii, the National Commander will travel to Taiwan to reaffirm our Nation’s continued partnership with Taiwan. Since the Taiwan Relations Act, enacted by the United States Congress in April 1979, authorized
continued “commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan” in the wake of the U.S. decision to establish diplomatic ties with the People’s Republic of China.

By authorizing the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and other provisions, the TRA created a framework for relations between the U.S. and Taiwan which has enabled their partnership and friendship to thrive in the absence of diplomatic relations.

This year the National Commander will travel to Australia and will engage with U.S. and Australian senior government Ministers and business leaders. The relationship between Australia and the United States is unique in its breadth, depth and length, and is characterized by genuine cultural affinity and a spirit of collaboration. The American Legion will strive to be a responsible partner for the next one hundred years of Mateship.

The two countries’ contemporary relationship encompasses many shared fields of endeavor; including defense and security cooperation, extensive trade and investment links creating jobs for Australians and Americans, cultural exchanges, sporting rivalry, education participation, research and development, and tourism.

There is no doubt that the mateship between Australia and the United States will further develop and strengthen over the next hundred years.

EUCOM ENGAGEMENTS

From May through June of 2020 the National Commander will visit the European theater and will reengage with current partners and new. Germany hosts a large U.S. military presence as well as Landstuhl Military Hospital, both will be revisited.

Poland and the United States are joined by a strategic partnership based on commonly professed values, traditional ties of friendship and respect for mutual interests. The strengthening of the alliance with the United States and the increase of American forces in Poland is one of the top priorities of the Secretary of Defense and will host the 3rd largest military exercise in Europe since the Cold War. The National Commander has been invited to engage the troops and military leaders around the time of the exercise.

Italy hosts U.S. military installations which support the missions of EUCOM, AFRICOM and CENTCOM . It provides a platform for readiness and power projection throughout the AOR. The National Commander will engage with U.S. forces in Italy to gain a better understanding of their mission as well as engage with commanders to inform them of how The American Legion supports their mission.

CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION

The National Security Division has held several meetings with officials from the Embassy of Japan in preparation for two events including a panel that will take place during Washington Conference, focusing on military families. Japan hosts more deployed U.S. servicemembers than any other country, more than 19,000 plus families.

Additionally, the National Security Division is working with the Legislative Division and the Embassy of Japan to host a Congressional reception, in early 2020. The reception will provide a forum for Japanese and Congressional officials to discuss how they can better assist deployed U.S. servicemembers and learn best practices to share with their own government.

POW/MIA UPDATE

Full funding of DPAA is something we continue to be concerned about. The effects of continuing resolutions and threats of government shutdowns are crippling to DPAA efforts. Without guaranteed funding recovery teams are threatened with having to end their mission and return stateside short of mission dates. Mission planning is impacted as well. The difficult mountains of Vietnam can only be excavated during the warm months and without guaranteed funding opportunities may be missed.
The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Bill Oxford, our NEC Liaison and the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee for their continuing support for Commission efforts to take care of troops and "provide for the common defense"

### Unaccounted for From Past Conflicts

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Addendum A

**Held for Further Study**

Register Resolution No. 2770 (CA) (2019 DEC): Oppose the Exclusion of Transgender Americans from the Military

Rejected

Resolution No. 10 (MT) (2019 Natl. Conv.): Role of The American Legion in Electromagnetic Pulse Defense

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission with the exception of two resolutions, one addendum. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission. All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

[HELD FOR STUDY]Resolution No. 17: Oppose Deportation of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans

Origin: Resolution No. 20 (TX) 2019 National Convention

Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion whole-heartedly supports the recruitment of our all-volunteer force and supports the recruitment of qualified men and women that have legal status in our country; and

WHEREAS, Non-citizen immigrants in the United States that have legal status living in the United States are eligible for military recruitment if they meet the necessary qualifications; and

WHEREAS, Numerous non-citizen immigrants from many different countries of origin have served proudly in the United States military and received many military honors in our wars to include the Medal of Honor, and some have paid the ultimate sacrifice giving their life in service of our country; and

WHEREAS, Numerous non-citizen immigrants have either separated or retired and received honorable discharges to become United States citizens, while other have not yet completed their citizenship process; and

WHEREAS, Some of these military veteran immigrant patriots, after their honorable service, who have not completed the citizenship process, but have committed non-violent crimes, are under the threat of deportation, or have been deported; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion proudly supports all our military veterans who have served honorably under the motto that leaves no fellow veteran behind; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That The American Legion urges Congress to support legislation allowing a military veteran immigrant patriot who either separated or retired and was discharged under general
honorable conditions or above, not be deported for any non-violent crime, or if they were deported for a non-violent crime, that they be allowed to return to the United States.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution Number 17 has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 17. Is there any discussion? Jake Greeling, Department of Arkansas.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALTERNATE MEMBER GREELING (AR): I'm Jake Greeling from the Department of Arkansas. My problem with this resolution is that it says, "any nonviolent crime." Well, Legionnaires, I'm telling you, most of the crimes on the book are nonviolent, to include drug trafficking, drug smuggling. I just don't think we should be giving a free pass when we word this, "any nonviolent crime." That's my statement.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion? I'm going to ask the judge to speak on this resolution.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: In regards to this, where it says, "nonviolent crime," are you making a motion that you would like it to say "nonviolent crime or non-drug-related," which is non-drug-related, or are you saying that you want anything?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALTERNATE MEMBER GREELING: What I'm saying is, that when you say "any nonviolent crime," that's probably most of the laws on the book with the exception of those committed with weapons. It just seems that that's a pass for any crime with the exception of those committed with a firearm or aggression. I understand what the resolution is for. But the way it's worded, I think it leaves it open to a lot of suspect.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion? I'm going to ask the judge to speak on this resolution.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: Mr. Commander, it seems to me that I'm just a jailhouse lawyer who hung around with lawyers. I'm looking for a little discretion. Maybe the judge advocate could help us here. Why don't we make that "felony?" If you're charged with a felony, then you would be deported.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Can we get an amendment from the floor to that effect?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: Mine's not for amendment, it's comment. So if you're going to do an amendment, go ahead and then I'll comment. It's up to you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: No, you were up first.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: The intent is, the crime that they're being charged with is being here illegally. What we're trying to say is we don't want them deported for being here illegally if they're a veteran of the U.S. military. Now, it can be worded better and, in fact, I would think we need to have the wording to where we say they can't be deported for being here illegally if they're a U.S. veteran. Because when we do the other thing, I have a problem if they committed other crimes. Get them the hell out of here. So I think we need to clean up our language there and I would like it to say something about if their only crime is being here illegally.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes NEC from Utah.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SCHOW (UT): Commander, I would amend the motion to read "conviction of any felony crime." As a result, misdemeanors would not be a reason for deportation. That's my motion.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, we have a motion on the floor, so I can't make another motion at this time; correct?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: That's correct.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: I suggest that this resolution be sent back to the commission for further study. (Applause)
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion on the floor for the amendment. We have a motion but we do not have a second on the amendment.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SCHOW: Commander, I would withdraw my motion and supplement it with send it back for further consideration.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The NEC from Utah withdrew his motion for the amendment. Now, David.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that Resolution No. 17 be sent back to the commission for further study. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second. Discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Mr. Commander, I would like to support the Resolutions Subcommittee's chairman's suggestion/motion. This is a complex area. When we start to deal with veterans and criminal behavior, so much of the time it's caused, it's dependent on what happened to them in the military. I'm afraid that what we were originally suggesting here is a little bit too simplistic a solution. I think we need to look at this in more depth. Because they're noncitizens, that puts them at extra risk, but it doesn't reduce the effect of the possible PTSD or TBI that they may be suffering. We need to make sure that they don't wind up being deported because of something that happened to them in the military.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: NEC from Arizona.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BEISCHEL (AZ): Thank you, Commander Rehbein, and I want to expand on that just a little bit. We've got an awful lot of veterans that have served this company, that have been deported to Mexico and are living in warehouses and on the streets, that we're doing standdowns for. And they may be charged with something very, very simple, but it is because of PTSD. And the reason that they're deported is because when they were in the military, they didn't have the opportunity or the knowledge to become citizens. So when they were released, they might have been self-medicating, whatever. But if they got into any kind of trouble, they're deported and they're sitting down there waiting to get back into the States. I feel like if they served their country, they should have that opportunity and a little bit of lenience. So please keep that in mind when they refer it back to committee. Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: Commander, I think it needs to go back for further study. But I make a recommendation when they do that, I agree with Past Commander Rehbein. But if they had a dishonorable discharge, that has to be taken into consideration. If they get a general discharge, not a dishonorable discharge, there's no good way for you to get that discharge upgraded. I think the discharge also has to play into what we're going to do.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Past National Commander Ron Conley.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: Commander, I think it needs to go back for further study. But I make a recommendation when they do that, I agree with Past Commander Rehbein. But if they had a dishonorable discharge, that has to be taken into consideration. If they get a general discharge, not a dishonorable discharge, there's no good way for you to get that discharge upgraded. I think the discharge also has to play into what we're going to do.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: All right. We have a motion and a second to send the resolution back to the committee. All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. It's sent back.

Resolution No. 18: Funding of the Department of Defense STARBASE Program
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2765 (MI) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a proud tradition of supporting our nation’s youth; and

WHEREAS, The organization was founded on the principle in 1919, when Children & Youth was declared one of the Legion’s Four Pillars; and

WHEREAS, The national Americanism Commission’s Children & Youth Committee is the center of the Legion’s youth-support efforts; and

WHEREAS, The national Children & Youth Committee meets annually to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to assure care and protection for the children of veterans, improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home, prevent social and physical
ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services of and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth, and maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs; and

WHEREAS, STARBASE is a Department of Defense (DoD) funded educational enrichment program designed for fifth grade students, with 66 academies in 33 states and territories co-located on military installations in FY 2018; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the program is to create excitement and interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects and encourage students to prepare for careers which require those skills; and

WHEREAS, The program provides opportunities for students to explore real world scenarios using computer aided design (CAD), robotics, the engineering design process (EDP), mathematics and chemistry, while stressing the “soft subjects” of teamwork, communication, and goal setting; and

WHEREAS, STARBASE 2.0 is conducted in middle schools that have students who previously attended STARBASE as fifth graders, to maintain student interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and practice teamwork and problem solving skills, with 78 programs in 22 states; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in FY 1993, over 1.2 million students have participated in the STARBASE program, with 93,133 participating in FY 2018 alone; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has funded the STARBASE Program, beginning in FY 1993, as part of the DoD budget; and

WHEREAS, Annual funding of this program has not always been included in presidential budgets, being left up to the legislative portion of the budget process, to the detriment and uncertainty of local STARBASE Academies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That The American Legion supports consistent and adequate funding of the DoD STARBASE Program within the Department of Defense budget.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 18 has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 18. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Attached to the report is Addendum A. I move the actions of the National Security Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Addendum A. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Adopted. Do we have unfinished business, additional resolutions, motions, or petitions to receive?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Yes, sir, Commander. I have two resolutions that I’d like to present at this time.

Resolution No. 19: Liaison Committees
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee at its meeting held November 18-20, 1948, liaison committees appointed from the personnel of the National Executive Committee were created to serve with the various standing commissions in order to establish the closest relationship between such commissions and the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Said procedure has proved its value, and it is believed that such liaison can be effectively continued by the appointment, without duplication, of such members from the National Executive Committee to serve as a liaison with each of said commissions; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That the national commander each year appoint, without duplication, members from the National Executive Committee to serve as a liaison with each standing commission listed in Article I, Section 6 of the National By-Laws; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That such appointments shall be made annually at the post-convention meeting of the National Executive Committee, and the appointees shall serve until adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing, provided that in the event of the termination of membership on the National Executive Committee of any member so appointed, such appointment shall automatically terminate, and the vacancy shall be filled by the national commander then in office, from membership of the National Executive Committee; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 1, October 16-17, 2013, titled, "Liaison Committees" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Therefore, I move for its adoption. ...Second

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 19. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Passed.

Resolution No. 20: Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions
WHEREAS, The Subcommittee on Resolutions has conducted a review of National Convention and National Executive Committee resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That the following resolutions be rescinded for the reasons stated herein.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<td>624</td>
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<td>626</td>
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<td>629</td>
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<td>670</td>
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<td>49</td>
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<td>114</td>
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<td>135</td>
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<td>536</td>
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<td>530</td>
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<td>186</td>
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<td>376</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>NO MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZATION AIMING TO OVERTHROW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BE ELIGIBLE FOR LEGION MEMBERSHIP</td>
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<td>RECOMMEND AMENDMENT TO THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>THEODORE ROOSEVELT, IV, BE APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE HONORARY COMMITTEE</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>EVENT IN ST. LOUIS TO COMMEMORATE 1919 CAUCUS</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION SLOGAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL BY-LAWS, ARTICLE I, SECTIONS 5 AND 6</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>AMEND ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1 OF NATIONAL BY-LAWS</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>POST AND DEPARTMENT 100TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE COMMITTEES</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>MARKETING COMMISSION</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>ELIGIBILITY FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY</td>
<td>Obsolete</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>COMMENDATION OF LAS VEGAS VETERANS MEMORIAL</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Action</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>CREATION OF THE MARKETING COMMISSION</td>
<td>Obsolete</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>APPOINTMENTS TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY HONORARY COMMITTEE</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>APPOINTMENT OF SUSAN EISENHOWER TO THE AMERICAN LEGION 100TH ANNIVERSARY HONORARY COMMITTEE</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT OF “100 CITIES/100 MONUMENTS” GRANT PROGRAM OF PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY AND NATIONAL WORLD WAR I COMMISSION</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>RE-ESTABLISH THE 21ST CENTURY AD HOC COMMITTEE</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION RESERVE FUND</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>AMERICAN LEGION TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE FLOAT</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>COMMISSION PAINTING TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION</td>
<td>Accomplished</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL POSTAGE STAMP</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, this resolution has the approval of your Subcommittee on Resolutions. Therefore, I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 20. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Passed.

Do we have any interim appointments?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify that the list of interim appointments is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. Commander, I move that the list of interim appointments be approved without being read. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion to approve the list of interim appointments to be approved without being read. Any discussion? All in favor, aye. Any opposed, nay. Passed.
Wayne Mulligan (Florida), Americanism Council, Member
(Replaces Andrew Burkett – deceased)

Paul E. Romanelli (Massachusetts), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member
(Replaces Michael E. Cassidy – deceased)

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The chair recognizes Charles D. Aucoin of Louisiana, chairman of the Subcommittee on Committees, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Subcommittee on Committees
Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana, Chairman

Thank you, Commander Oxford, national officers, my colleagues in the National Executive Committee, and guests. The future of The American Legion lies in your hands, for you have the responsibility of recommending the most qualified members of your department to serve on our various commissions, committees, and councils.

We stress, especially, the qualifications of a particular member to serve in the capacity that you are going to recommend. It's also imperative that those individuals that you appoint understand and are committed to the aims and purposes of The American Legion. Also, it is important that when members from your respective departments who are listed to serve become deceased, that you notify the national adjutant's office so that proper action can be taken and the proper people notified.

This committee has received over 1,200 recommendations over the past few days, so you can understand the importance of submitting them by the deadline, to give the national commandant's executive assistant proper time to prepare your folders for this committee's review. I thank you for your support in this matter.

I would stress the importance of filling out the appointment forms in their entirety. Make sure that you have the qualifications of these people that you are recommending for appointment listed so that, if they are appointed, the commission and committee chairmen can have an idea of what their background is and how much knowledge that they have in these positions. Please do not submit handwritten appointment forms. Use the template that is sent to you each spring. If you have any questions about appointments, please refer to the new NEC orientation brochure.

Commander Oxford, you thank you for the privilege of serving as the chairman of the subcommittee and for the qualified people that you have assigned to serve with us. I'm pleased to present the following from the Subcommittee on Committee members who have assisted me this week, and would they please rise and be recognized: Our vice chairman, D. Joseph Jackson from Connecticut; James Huls from South Dakota. Terry D. Schow from Utah; and Michael Mitrione from Virginia. They've done a yeoman's job this week. I'd also like to mention that Mary Erdman, member of the subcommittee, from Arkansas, was unable to attend the meeting due to family illness. Her husband was needing her to be home. Family First, that's what I told her. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for all your work.

Commander, your committee met at the national headquarters on Sunday, October 13, 2019, and remained in session all day Monday and Tuesday. We had interviews with 55 departments and received their recommendations. On behalf of all the members of the subcommittee, I want to commend the National Executive Committee persons, department commanders, department adjutants for their courteous presentations and their recommendations. Upon completion of the interviews, this report was prepared in rough draft and submitted to the national commander's office for his final approval. The report in its final form is now being put on your desk.
Proceedings of Thursday October 17, 2019

We commend the staff for its excellent work in the preparation of this report, especially the national commander's assistant, Ms. Debbie Andrews, for her patience and dedication throughout our deliberations. I also commend the members of my subcommittee for their hard work. Thank you, Commander Oxford, and all of those who helped in the selection of these appointments. This concludes my report.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and adopt the report of the Subcommittee on Committees. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and adopt the report of the Subcommittee on Committees. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of cancellations of posts and squadron charters is a true and correct list and everything has been done to try to revitalize these posts and squadrons?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Do we have a question from Texas on this?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SPARKS (TX): Yes, sir, we do. C.W. Sparks, NECman from Texas. The report indicates that Post Number 103, Sour Lake, and SAL 103 at Sour Lake are being canceled. The Department of Texas executive committee voted to merge those posts with another post, and I have that post number, Mr. Adjutant. The Department of Texas executive committee voted to merge Post 103 and SAL Squadron 103 to Lumberton's Post 72.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: You're still closing the Post 103?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SPARKS: Yes. But we normally put that they're merging in these reports, they don't just cancel them. Isn't that true?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We can make that correction.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SPARKS: Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, my motion would be to approve that list with that correction. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve the list of cancellations with that one exception, of posts and squadrons, without being read. Any further discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

**Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters**

On August 26, 2019, at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of fifty-three (53) Posts. The research done on each Post prior to any recommendation made as an attempt to see whether these Posts could be revitalized is based on the following criteria:

*Community Size*

*Veteran Population*

Forty-two (42) Posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2019 Fall National Executive Committee meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

*See Merging Post Information Below*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Post No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>ALASKA</td>
<td>0075</td>
<td>Sterling</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Zip Code</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>City</td>
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<tr>
<td>CALIFORNIA</td>
<td>0144</td>
<td>Gerald Thomas</td>
<td>Corcoran</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0198</td>
<td>Samuel Patterson, Sr.</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0632</td>
<td>Sharpe General Depot</td>
<td>Lathrop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0686</td>
<td>Oak View</td>
<td>Oak View</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLORIDA</td>
<td>0399</td>
<td>SOC (Seal) Aaron Vaughn</td>
<td>Palm City</td>
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<td>ILLINOIS</td>
<td>0484</td>
<td>George Norris</td>
<td>New Windsor</td>
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<td>KENTUCKY</td>
<td>0310</td>
<td>Poe-Barnett</td>
<td>Dawson Springs</td>
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<td>MICHIGAN</td>
<td>0037</td>
<td>Ionía</td>
<td>Ionia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0099</td>
<td>Taymouth Twp American Legion</td>
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<td>St. Lawrence</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
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<td>Clifford W. Jackson</td>
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<td>Leelanau County</td>
<td>Maple City</td>
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<td>NEW JERSEY</td>
<td>0036</td>
<td>Albert Ettlin</td>
<td>East Newark</td>
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<td>0056</td>
<td>Sergeant James W. Clough</td>
<td>Lindenwold</td>
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<td>0071</td>
<td>Fairview, Inc.</td>
<td>Camden</td>
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<td>PUERTO RICO</td>
<td>0008</td>
<td>Jose Fernandez Pineiro (to merge with Celestino Estrella Post 0070)</td>
<td>Juncos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0011</td>
<td>Barceloneta</td>
<td>Barceloneta</td>
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<td>0012</td>
<td>Bartolo Tirado-Rosario (to merge with Carlos J. Lozada Post 0002)</td>
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<td>0022</td>
<td>Ignacio Fernandez San Miguel (to merge with PFC. Fernando Luis Garcia Post 0042)</td>
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<td>Naranjito</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0033</td>
<td>Pedro Martino (to merge with Luis Pacheco Lespier Post 0125)</td>
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<td>0034</td>
<td>Isidro Caldera</td>
<td>Ordovis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0037</td>
<td>Rius Rivera (to merge with Guayama Post 0004)</td>
<td>Salinas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0038</td>
<td>SSG Ramon Hernandez Gonzalez</td>
<td>Barranquitas</td>
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<td>0039</td>
<td>Octavio Enriquez-Ciordia (to merge with Pedro Nater Martinez Post 0014)</td>
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<td>0043</td>
<td>Ernesto Gautier</td>
<td>Patillas</td>
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<td>Luis A. Taboa (to merge with Pedro Nater Martinez Post 0014)</td>
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<td>Sergio Sanchez</td>
<td>Aguada</td>
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<td>0076</td>
<td>Cidra (to merge with Jose Antonio Garcia Post 0019)</td>
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<td>0078</td>
<td>Manuel Selles (to merge with Guadalupe Gallart Post 0046)</td>
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<td>0101</td>
<td>CPL Juan R. Perez-Padin Memorial</td>
<td>Quebradillas</td>
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<td>0107</td>
<td>Francis Marion Skinner (to merge with Rodrigo Font Post 0051)</td>
<td>Lares</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0113</td>
<td>Nieves Carrillo (to merge with Francisco Rivera Post 0081)</td>
<td>San Juan</td>
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On August 26, 2019, at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of twenty-four (24) Squadrons.

Five (5) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2019 Fall National Executive Committee meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

*See Merging Squadron Information Below

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON CHARTERS PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR CANCELLATION OCTOBER 17, 2019**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, may I again address the national adjutant in records to confirmation of dates of future meetings?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, are these dates of future meetings that require approval of the National Executive Committee?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: They have all been previously approved.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: I'll make a motion that those future dates be printed in the digest. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve the dates of future meetings without being read since they're published in the digest. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.
Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings

2020 SPRING MEETINGS
Commissions and Committees
National Executive Committee

2020 FALL MEETINGS
Commissions and Committees
Commanders and Adjutants Conference
National Executive Committee

2021 SPRING MEETINGS
Commissions and Committees
National Executive Committee

2021 FALL MEETINGS
Commissions and Committees
Commanders and Adjutants Conference
National Executive Committee

2022 SPRING MEETINGS
Commissions and Committees
National Executive Committee

2022 FALL MEETINGS
Commissions and Committees
Commanders and Adjutants Conference
National Executive Committee

2023 SPRING MEETINGS
Commissions and Committees
National Executive Committee

2023 FALL MEETINGS
Commissions and Committees
Commanders and Adjutants Conference
National Executive Committee

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, may I again address the adjutant?
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: You may.
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of significant gifts to the library and museum is a true and correct list?
NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Thank you, sir. I move the list be approved and recorded in the digest without being read. ...Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve the list of significant gifts to the library and museum to be recorded in the digest without being read. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library and Museum

Donated by Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial Post 316 (FL): Two framed pictures of the USS *American Legion* (APA-17).


Donated by Susan Tobler: American Legion money clip.

Donated by Martin L. “Marty” Grady Sr.: 75th Anniversary Banner from the 1993 National Convention.

Donated by Kevin M. Phillips: Ceramic tray with an image of The American Legion National Headquarters.

Donated by Past National Commander Brett P. Reistad: “Maintain Law & Order;” “Hire Vets” and “America is #1 Thanks to Our Veterans” bumper stickers.

Donated by Past National Historian Robert B. Craig: “Honoring Hoosier Heroes: Indiana War Memorials” promotional DVD.


Donated by the Department of North Carolina: Various national publications.


Donated by the Department of France: Two photos from 1927 Pilgrimage; Correspondence related to 1927 Pilgrimage; 1927 car horn; “Threat of Communism” pamphlet; 1942 National Convention souvenir.

Donated by Hans Stockenberger: China Post 1, Department of France, Centennial Coin.

Donated by Past National Commander Denise H. Rohan: Department of Wisconsin Centennial Challenge Coin.

Donated by Allen D. McCrady: 1937 American Legion Foreign Pilgrimage medal with ribbon; 1937 American Legion Official Certification of Identification.

Donated by Joseph J. Stockner: Newspaper supplement of the history of American Legion Post 28, Perrysburg, Ohio and Post 533, Rossford Ohio.

Donated by Debra J. Swanson: Documents relating to the 1927 Pilgrimage to France.


Miscellaneous Business and Technical Motions

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, at this time, I would like to make a technical motion and move that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting and make any necessary corrections without changing the intent of the National Executive Committee meeting, and to proceed to edit and distribute those minutes. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second for the adjutant to be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting and make any necessary corrections without changing intent, and to proceed to distribute these minutes. Any further discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Carried.

...National Vice Commander Fererbach assumed the Chair.
Closing Remarks
James W. Oxford, North Carolina, National Commander

Wow, good morning. Ladies and gentlemen, we've accomplished a lot this week, and there's been many important moments. We've said good-bye to our national treasurer. We also welcomed a new national treasurer, Shawn, a man of experience and temperament that I believe will help and serve our organization well.

We need to be proud of the fact that we've taken strong positions on immigration, education, Medicare, veterans preference, and many other topics. We need to remind the public of the great debt we owe our World War II veterans as we observe the 75th anniversary of that pivotal moment in history.

We made some changes. We tweaked the preamble, not because it was flawed, but because we want to reflect the sacrifices made by veterans of all wars.

As we look to the future, we need to remember the future's bright. Please emphasize and remember our Buddy Check. That needs to be a point of emphasis that you need to carry back to your departments. Help us make that Buddy Check special.

We need to support our commemorative coin program. Great Christmas gifts with the holidays just around the corner.

Most of us have a far piece to travel, and I'm going to close. But thank you for a great meeting, and thank you for supporting and becoming part of the foundation for the future of this organization. Thank you. (Standing applause)

...National Commander Oxford resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I now call on Chairman David O. Warnken of Kansas for a final report of the Resolutions Subcommittee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, before I do that, I make a motion to receive and file your report. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive the commander's final report. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Passed.

Oral Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions
David O. Warnken, Kansas, Chairman

Commander, for my final report of this meeting. Your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session since October 14. We've considered all resolutions that have come before the committee, and considered and acted upon 20 resolutions.

I would like to stress the importance to the members of the National Executive Committee in keeping their departments informed of the actions taken by the National Executive Committee. The resolutions passed these last two days will be available within a few days on the Digital Archive at archive.legion.org.

I would like to take this time to thank the members of our committee who have done an outstanding job and who have attended every session and participated in the discussion of our resolutions. We've got an exceptionally good committee, and we always have had, but we've got some new people doing a great job as well. Please stand and remain standing. My special thanks go to Vice Chairman Bill Kile; Dennis Boland from Florida; Thomas Florez of Colorado; Lloyd Woods of Maine; Robert Skinner of Idaho; and William Barbkncht of Minnesota. Gentlemen, I thank you very much. (Applause)

Appreciation is also extended to Howard Trace and his staff who served our committee. I also want to thank the Document Center, directors of chairmen of commissions and committees for this work. Exceptionally good job to the directors and chairmen. In order to bring the reports and resolutions to you, during our deliberations we have met with a number of chairmen and staff who have been very helpful to us in explaining questions we had about resolutions.
Mr. Commander, it's a pleasure to serve as chairman of your Subcommittee on Resolutions. We would like to thank the National Executive Committee in reporting of the various resolutions. You have been most cooperative. Mr. Commander, I move that this report be received and filed. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion to receive and file the final report of the Resolutions Subcommittee. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Any opposed, nay. Passed. Please stand and uncover. I call on National Chaplain Edward L. Harris for the benediction.

**Benediction**

*Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain*

Dear God, once again we beseech You to give Your arm of protection to all of the comrades present here, as they travel to the four corners of our nation and elsewhere at the close of this session. Keep them safe so that their performance of our organization will be that that is pleasing in Your sight and beneficial to our organization. This, too, we ask in Your name. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please cover. With the colors of our country in place, hand salute: One, two. I now declare this meeting of the NEC adjourned. Thank you.

...At 9:30 a.m., Thursday, October 17, 2019, the National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.
### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICOM</td>
<td>United States Africa Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALA</td>
<td>American Legion Auxiliary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMVETS</td>
<td>American Veterans</td>
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<td>ANC</td>
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<td>area of responsibility</td>
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<td>C&amp;Y</td>
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<td>CAM</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
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<td>PFC</td>
<td>private first class</td>
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<td>sergeant</td>
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<td>SHRM</td>
<td>Society for Human Resource Management</td>
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<td>SOC</td>
<td>Special Operations Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPC</td>
<td>specialist</td>
</tr>
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<td>Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation</td>
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VHA ............................................................. Veterans Health Administration
VOSB ........................................................... Veteran-Owned Small Business
VSO .............................................................. Veterans Service Organization

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