PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana
and
Virtual

October 14-15, 2020
November 17, 2020
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...At 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 14, 2020, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Oxford.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Good morning. It is the appointed hour. I call this meeting of the National Executive Committee meeting to order. Please stand, join me in a salute to the colors of our nation: One, two. Please uncover. I call on National Chaplain Edward L. Harris of Indiana for the invocation and the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble.

Invocation
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Dear God, thank You for this day, and as I always pray, thank you for allowing us to be a part of this day. We're able to sit and attend these highly informational sessions in our place of safety from the possibility of exposure to COVID-19, through a method that many of our Legionnaires are finding are truly marvelous. We are able to be in a highly relaxed situation and yet receive the information that will be highly beneficial to our divisions, districts, counties, and posts. Thank You, dear God. Amen.

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

Those who have served and those currently serving in the uniformed services of the United States are ever mindful that the sweetness of enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We're compelled to never forget that, while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured and may still be enduring the agonies of pain, deprivation, and imprisonment. We call your attention to the small table which occupies a place of dignity and honor. It is set for one, symbolizing the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks. They are referred to as POWs and MIAs. We call them "comrades." They are unable to be with their loved ones and families, so we join together to pay humble tribute to them, and to bear witness to their continued absence.

The table is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his or her suppressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The single rose in the vase signifies the blood that they may have shed and sacrificed to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep faith while awaiting their return. The red ribbon on the vase represents an unyielding determination for a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us.

A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait. The glass is inverted. They cannot toast with us at this time. The chair is empty. They are not here.

The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation. The American flag reminds us that many of them may never return, and they have paid the supreme sacrifice to ensure our freedom.
Let us pray to the Supreme Commander that all of our comrades will soon be back within our ranks. Let us remember and never forget their sacrifice, and may God forever watch over them and protect them and their families.

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please be seated. At this time, I call on the national adjutant, Daniel S. Wheeler of Virginia, for the 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
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Robert S. Turner, Georgia (Excused) David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Dominic D. DeFrancesco, Pennsylvania 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 Michael D. Helm, Nebraska
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho Harold D. Barnett, Georgia
Richard J. Santos, Maryland Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas Brett P. Reistad, Virginia
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado

National Executive Committee Members

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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Committee Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Willis Frazier</td>
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<td>Alaska</td>
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<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Judith S. Beischel</td>
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<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>D. Joseph Jackson</td>
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Delaware  Robert L. Michael
D.C.      George E. Roundtree (Excused)  Carlton T. Durham
Florida   Dennis R. Boland
France    James M. Settle
Georgia   Charles F. Wessinger
Hawaii    David R. Carlson
Idaho     Robert L. Skinner
Illinois  Tom Marciciak
Indiana   Jerry L. Jordon
Iowa      Jerry D. Sebben
Kansas    Dan K. Wiley
Kentucky  William O. Moore, Jr.
Louisiana Charles D. Aucoin
Maine     Lloyd H. Woods
Maryland  Patricia A. McCoy
Massachusetts James E. Brehio
Mexico    Michael D. Wood
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.
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
Oklahoma  Timothy W. Smith
Oregon    Robert A. Millar
Pennsylvania E. Michael Stelacio
Philippines Lawrence E. Wade
Puerto Rico Angel O. Narvaez
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   Douglas Uhrig

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, you have a quorum.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Wheeler. The next order of business is the acceptance of the meeting’s agenda.
Acceptance of Meeting Agenda

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: A motion has been made and seconded to approve today's agenda. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries by unanimous consent. Next I call on the national judge advocate, Kevin J. Bartlett of Michigan, for an explanation of the rules.

Acceptance of the Rules

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: Thank you, commander. The rules of this meeting were discussed in the practice session and previously sent out to all members of the National Executive Committee. Any and all questions were subsequently addressed. As a reminder today, I would like to tell everyone to remain on mute until National Commander Oxford calls on you, and don't forget to use the raised hand button if you would like to have the floor. Upon entering the meeting, please restate your name, your department, and your position. That is all. Thank you, commander.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I make a motion that the rules of the meeting be accepted. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second that the rules of the meeting be accepted. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries. We will now have the reading of the minutes from our previous meetings, to include the 2019 Pre-Convention, the 2019 Post-Convention, and the 2019 Fall Meetings.

Reading of Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move the minutes be approved without being read since they have been printed and distributed in digest form. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: A motion and a second has been made to approve the minutes without being read since they have been printed in digest form. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries. Next item on the agenda is the disposal of letters or communications.

Disposal of Letters or Communications

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mr. Adjutant, do we have any letters or communications?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, there are no letters or communications to dispose of.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes Bill Barbknecht of Minnesota, a member of the Subcommittee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 1: Revisions of the Rules of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion

Origin: Subcommittee on Resolution

Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion is very careful and cautious in the drafting of its "Rules of the National Executive Committee" ("Rules"); and

WHEREAS, A complete and thorough review of the Rules is in order; and

WHEREAS, Since this last review numerous changes have taken place within The American Legion, including but not limited to, amending the National Constitution and Nation By-Laws of The American Legion, the election of Past National Commander...
Denise Rohan, and the election of numerous female national vice commanders and other national officers and the occurrence of the nationwide pandemic known as COVID-19 which subsequently caused the cancellation of untold number of American Legion meetings and events; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That the National Executive Committee revises the "Rules of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion" ("Rules") to read as attached hereto; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That these revised Rules supersedes and amends any national resolution to the contrary.

RULES OF THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of
The American Legion

Originally adopted by the
National Executive Committee
November 21-22, 1940

Revised October 14 – 15, 2020
Rules of the
National Executive Committee
Adopted November 21-22, 1940

Amended as follows:

May 1-2, 1941
December 13-15, 1945
November 18-20, 1948
May 4-6, 1949
November 17-19, 1950
November 18-20, 1951
May 4-5, 1960
May 1-2, 1963
October 9-10, 1974
May 3-4, 1976
October 12-13, 1988
May 7-8, 2008
October 12-13, 2011
May 9-10, 2012
October 14 – 15, 2020

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RULES OF THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following "R rules of the National Executive Committee" ("Rules") are based upon
the report of the Special Code of Procedure Subcommittee of the National Executive
Committee, as adopted at the November 21-22, 1940, meeting, to take effect ten days from
the date of such adoption, and amended at the May 1-2, 1941; December 13-15, 1945; November 18-20, 1948; May 4-6, 1949; November 17-19, 1950; November 18-20, 1951; May 4-5, 1960; May 1-2, 1963; October 9-10, 1974; May 3-4, 1976; October 12-13, 1988; May 7-8, 2008; October 12-13, 2011; and May 9-10, 2012 and October 14-15, 2020 meetings of the American Legion National Executive Committee.

Daniel S. Wheeler
National Adjutant

Rule 1
Self-Governing

*Previous*
The National Executive Committee of The American Legion, as provided by the National Constitution of The American Legion, shall be a self-governing committee and transact business in accordance with the rules hereinafter set forth, subject only to the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion and mandates of the National Conventions.

*Updated*
The National Executive Committee of The American Legion ("Committee"), as provided in the National Constitution and National By-Laws of The American Legion ("C&BLs"), shall be a self-governing committee and transact business in accordance with the rules hereinafter set forth, subject only to the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion and mandates of the National Conventions of The American Legion ("Convention") and Committee meetings.

*New*
The National Executive Committee of The American Legion ("Committee"), as defined in the National Constitution and National By-Laws of The American Legion ("C&BLs"), shall be a self-governing committee and transact business in accordance with the rules hereinafter set forth, subject only to the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion and resolutions of the National Conventions of The American Legion ("Convention") and Committee meetings.

Rule 2
Officers

*Previous*
The National Commander shall be the Chairman of the National Executive Committee, and the National Adjutant shall serve as Secretary. Any temporary vacancies, in such offices of Chairman and Secretary, shall be filled by action of the Committee, for the respective meeting in which the vacancy occurs.
*Updated*
The national commander shall be the Chairman of the National Executive Committee, and the national adjutant shall serve as Secretary. Any temporary vacancies, in such offices of Chairman and Secretary, shall be filled by action of the Committee, for the respective meeting in which the vacancy occurs.

*New*
The national commander shall be the Chair of the Committee, and the national adjutant shall serve as Secretary. Any temporary vacancies, in such offices of Chair and Secretary shall be filled by action of the Committee for the respective meeting in which the vacancy occurs.

**Rule 3**
**Duties and Powers Powers and Rights**

*Previous*
The National Executive Committee is specifically empowered to exercise the following powers and rights, and may delegate to any subcommittee composed of members of the National Executive Committee authority to investigate and report back to the Committee on any of the following powers and rights:

a. To make decisions on all matters, executive or administrative: Provided, however, That the said action so taken shall not be contrary to, nor in derogation of, actions of the National Convention, except as provided by the resolution adopted at the Cleveland National Convention in 1936, as follows:

"Resolved, That any policy adopted by the National Organization of The American Legion by convention action shall be a mandate during the year of its adoption and thereafter shall continue as the national policy of the National Organization unless changed by subsequent Convention action or by action of the National Executive Committee," except that mandates pertaining to legislative action by the Congress of the United States shall be effective only to the date of final adjournment of the Congress during which such resolutions were adopted by a National Convention or the National Executive Committee, except that resolutions passed at the National Convention or the National Executive Committee meeting preceding the convening of a new Congress shall be effective until the adjournment of such new Congress.

b. To determine the number of members of all National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee created by the National Commander not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion or the National Executive Committee and to ratify the appointments made by the National Commander. Such National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee shall receive full instructions from the National Executive Committee by resolution specifying their purpose, scope, function and authority, and each National Commission Board or Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee which has met since the last meeting of the National Executive Committee and at least three weeks prior to the next ensuing meeting of the National Executive Committee shall prepare preliminary reports for distribution by the National Adjutant to members of the National Executive Committee preceding any meeting, regular or special.

c. Upon any report made to the National Executive Committee by any National Commission, National Committee, Boards or Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee and containing any recommendation as to the future conduct, or as to the future policy of matters within their scope, the receiving, accepting or approval of such report shall not mean the adoption of such recommendations and each specific recommendation
as to future conduct, or as to future policy, shall be embodied in a separate resolution for the consideration and action of the National Executive Committee.

d. To make decisions when necessary, relative to expenditures for which appropriations have been made by the National Executive Committee and to make emergency appropriations necessary to implement action by the National Executive Committee.

e. To make appropriations from funds not otherwise appropriated of such additional amounts as may be recognized as emergency requirements.

f. To explore matters requiring the attention of the National Executive Committee and offer recommendations thereon to the National Executive Committee.

g. To advise the officers, or National Commissions, with regard to problems arising in the performance of their duties or functions.

h. In general, to perform between National Conventions any and all actions necessary and consistent with the exercise of administrative power by the National Executive Committee.

*Updated*

The National Executive Committee is specifically empowered to exercise the following powers and rights, and may delegate to any national commander's appointed subcommittee that is composed of members of the National Executive Committee the authority to investigate and report back to the Committee on any of the following powers and rights:

a. To make decisions on all matters, executive or administrative; provided, however, that the said action so taken shall not be contrary to, nor in derogation of, actions of the National Convention, except as provided by the resolution adopted at the Cleveland National Convention in 1936, as follows:

"Resolved, That any policy adopted by the National Organization of The American Legion by convention action shall be a mandate during the year of its adoption and thereafter shall continue as the national policy of the National Organization unless changed by subsequent Convention action or by action of the National Executive Committee," except that mandates pertaining to legislative action by the Congress of the United States shall be effective only to the date of final adjournment of the Congress during which such resolutions were adopted by a National Convention or the National Executive Committee, except that resolutions passed at the National Convention or the National Executive Committee meeting preceding the convening of a new Congress shall be effective until the adjournment of such new Congress.

b. To determine the number of members of all National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee created by the National Commander not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion or the National Executive Committee and to ratify the appointments made by the National Commander. Such National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee shall receive full instructions from the National Executive Committee by resolution specifying their purpose, scope, function and authority, and each National Commission, National Committee, Board or Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee which has met since the last meeting of the National Executive Committee and at least three weeks prior to the next ensuing meeting of the National Executive Committee shall prepare preliminary reports for distribution by the National Adjutant to members of the National Executive Committee preceding any meeting, regular or special.

c. Upon any report made to the National Executive Committee by any National Commission, National Committee, Boards or Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee and containing any recommendation as to the future conduct, or as to the future policy of matters within their scope, the receiving, accepting or approval of such report shall not mean the adoption of such recommendations and each specific recommendation
as to future conduct, or as to future policy, shall be embodied in a separate resolution for
the consideration and action of the National Executive Committee and/or Convention.

D. To make the financial decisions when necessary, relative to expenditures for which
appropriations have been made by the National Executive Committee and to make
emergency appropriations necessary to implement action by the National Executive
Committee.

E. To make appropriations from funds not otherwise appropriated of such additional
amounts as may be recognized as emergency requirements.

F. To explore matters requiring the attention of the National Executive Committee and
offer recommendations thereon to the National Executive Committee.

G. To advise the national officers, or National Commissions, with regard to problems
arising in the performance of their respective duties or functions.

H. In general, to perform between National Conventions, any and all, actions necessary
and consistent with the exercise of administrative power by the National Executive
Committee.

*New*
The Committee is specifically empowered to exercise the following powers and rights and
may delegate to any national commander's appointed subcommittee that is composed of
members of the Committee the authority to investigate and report back to the Committee
on any of the following powers and rights:

A. To make decisions on all matters, executive or administrative provided, however, that
said action taken shall not be contrary to, nor in derogation of, actions of the Convention,
except as provided by the resolution adopted at the Cleveland National Convention in 1936,
as follows:

"Resolved, That any policy adopted by the National Organization of
The American Legion by convention action shall be a mandate during
the year of its adoption and thereafter shall continue as the national
policy of the National Organization unless changed by subsequent
Convention action or by action of the National Executive Committee," except that mandates pertaining to legislative action by the Congress
of the United States shall be effective only to the date of final
adjournment of the Congress during which such resolutions were
adopted by a National Convention or the National Executive
Committee, except that resolutions passed at the National Convention
or the National Executive Committee meeting preceding the convening
of a new Congress shall be effective until the adjournment of such new
Congress.

B. To determine the number of members of all National Commissions, National
Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the Committee created by the national
commander not in conflict with the C&BLs or the Committee and to ratify the
appointments made by the national commander. Such National Commissions, National
Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the Committee shall receive full instructions
from the Committee by resolution specifying their purpose, scope, function and authority,
and each National Commission, National Committee, Board or Subcommittee of the
Committee which has met since the last meeting of the Committee and at least three weeks
prior to the next ensuing meeting of the Committee shall prepare preliminary reports for
distribution by the national adjutant to members of the Committee preceding any meeting,
regular or special.

C. Upon any report made to the Committee by any National Commission, National
Committee, Boards or Subcommittee of the Committee and containing any
recommendation as to the future conduct, or as to the future policy of matters within their
scope, the receiving, accepting or approval of such report shall not mean the adoption of
such recommendations and each specific recommendation as to future conduct, or as to
future policy, shall be embodied in a resolution for the consideration and action of the Committee and/or Convention.

D. To make the financial decisions when necessary, relative to expenditures for which appropriations have been made by the Committee and to make emergency appropriations necessary to implement action by the Committee.

E. To make appropriations from funds not otherwise appropriated of such additional amounts as may be recognized as emergency requirements.

F. To explore matters requiring the attention of the Committee and offer recommendations thereon to the Committee.

G. To advise the national officers, or National Commissions, with regard to problems arising in the performance of their respective duties or functions.

H. In general, to perform between Conventions, any, and all, actions necessary and consistent with the exercise of administrative power by the Committee.

Rule 4
Powers of the Committee Over Its Members

*Previous*

a. If a quorum is not present, the National Commander may order a call of the National Executive Committee and send for the absentee.

b. In the case a less number than a quorum of the National Executive Committee shall convene, those present are hereby authorized to send the Sergeant-at-Arms, or any other person or persons by them authorized, for any and all absent members present within the city where the meeting is being held. And this rule shall apply, as well to the first meeting of the National Executive Committee at the legal time of the meeting, as to each day of the session, after the hour has arrived, to which the National Executive Committee stood adjourned.

*Updated*

A. If a quorum, as defined in the C&BLs, is not present, the National Commander may order a call-in of the National Executive Committee and send for the absentee Committee Members.

B. In the case a less number than a quorum of the National Executive Committee shall convene, those present are hereby authorized to send the Sergeant-at-Arms, or any other person or persons by them authorized, for any and all absent Committee Members present within the city where the meeting is being held. And this rule shall apply, as well to the first meeting of the National Executive Committee at the legal time of the meeting, as to each day of the session, and until after the hour has arrived, to which the National Executive Committee stood adjourned.

*New*

A. If a quorum, as defined in the C&BLs, is not present, the national commander may order a call-in of the Committee and send for the absentee Committee Members.

B. In the case a less number than a quorum of the Committee shall convene, those present are hereby authorized to send the Sergeant-at-Arms, or any other person or persons by them authorized, for any and all absent Committee Members present within the city where the meeting is being held. This rule shall apply to the meeting of the Committee at the legal time of the meeting, as to each day of the session and until after the hour has arrived to which the Committee stood adjourned.
Rule 5
Decorum

*Previous*

a. No member of the National Executive Committee, or other person except the Secretary and his assistants, shall visit or remain by the Secretary's table while the yeas and nays are being called or counted.

b. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave of the National Executive Committee; nor more than once until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

c. While the Commander is reporting or putting a question, none shall entertain private discourse, read, stand up, walk into, out of, or across the National Executive Committee room.

d. No question shall be debated until it has been propounded by the Chair, and then the mover shall have the right to explain his views, in preference to any other member.

e. While the Commander is putting the question, any member who has not spoken before to the matter may speak to the question before the negative is put.

f. During any debate, any National Executive Committeeman, though he has spoken to the matter, may arise and speak to the orders of the National Executive Committee if they be transgressed, in case the Commander does not; but if the Commander stands up at any time, he is first to be heard.

g. Whenever the National Executive Committeemen and the Alternate National Executive Committeemen from any Department shall be absent from any meeting or session of the National Executive Committee, the courtesy of the floor may be granted to an accredited representative of the Department not represented; provided, however, that the right to vote shall not be transferred or delegated.

h. Whenever a division of vote is to be determined on any question before the National Executive Committee, the Presiding Officer may determine division by:

1. Viva Voce vote, with right of recourse to a "teller vote" or "roll call vote" as hereinafter provided.

2. A teller vote whereby the yeas and nays may be counted by a rising vote with recourse to a roll call vote as hereinafter provided.

3. A roll call vote may be directed by the Presiding Officer to determine a division of vote on any question. A roll call vote shall be taken upon the request of three members.

4. On any Viva Voce vote or teller vote, any member of the National Executive Committee shall have his vote recorded upon his request.

*Updated*

a. No member of the National Executive Committee, or other person except the Secretary and his assistants, shall visit or remain by the Secretary's table while the yeas and nays are being called or counted.

b. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave of the National Executive Committee; nor more than once until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

c. While the Commander is reporting or putting forth the question, none shall entertain private discourse, read, stand up, walk into, out of, or across the National Executive Committee room.

d. No question shall be debated until it has been propounded by the Chair, and then the proponent's mover shall have the right to explain his views, in preference to any other member.

e. While the Commander is putting forth the question, any member who has not spoken before to the matter may speak to the question before the negative is put forth.

f. During any debate, any National Executive Committeeman, though he has spoken to the matter, may arise and speak to the orders of the National Executive Committee if they be transgressed, in case the Commander does not;
but if the national commander stands up at any time, the national commander is first to be heard.

g. Whenever the National Executive Committee and the Alternate National Executive Committee from any department shall be absent from any meeting or session of the National Executive Committee, the courtesy of the floor may be granted to an accredited representative of the department not represented; provided, however, that the right to vote shall not be transferred or delegated.

h. Whenever a division of vote is to be determined on any question before the National Executive Committee, the Presiding Officer may determine division by:
1. Viva Voce vote, with right of recourse to a "teller vote" or "roll call vote" as hereinafter provided; or
2. A teller vote, whereby the yeas and nays may be counted by a rising vote with recourse to a roll call vote as hereinafter provided; or
3. A roll call vote may be directed by the Presiding Officer to determine a division of vote on any question. A roll call vote shall be taken upon the request of three Committee members.
4. On any Viva Voce vote or teller vote, any member of the National Executive Committee shall have his vote recorded upon his request.
5. If the Meeting is held under Rule 13 the electronic method so used by the internet meeting service may also be used.

I. If there is no division of vote on a question and/or objection to a motion before the Committee, the Presiding Officer may pass the matter by unanimous consent.

*New*

A. No member of the Committee, or other person except the Secretary and the assistant(s), shall visit or remain by the Secretary's table while the yeas and nays are being called or counted.

B. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave of the Committee; nor speak more than once until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

C. While the national commander is reporting or putting forth the question, no one shall entertain private discourse, read, stand up, walk into, out of, or across the Committee room.

D. No question shall be debated until it has been repeated by the Chair, and then the proponent's mover shall have the right to explain one's views, in preference to any other member.

E. While the national commander is putting forth the question, any member who has not spoken before to the matter may speak to the question before the negative is put forth.

F. During any debate, any Committee Member, though having has spoken to the matter, may arise and speak to the orders of the Committee if they be transgressed, in case the national commander does not; but if the national commander stands up at any time, the national commander is first to be heard.

G. Whenever the Committee Member and the Alternate Committee Member from any department shall be absent from any meeting or session of the Committee, the courtesy of the floor may be granted to an accredited representative of the department not represented; provided, however, that the right to vote shall not be transferred or delegated.

H. Whenever a division of vote is to be determined on any question before the Committee, the Presiding Officer may determine division by:
1. Viva Voce vote, with right of recourse to a "teller vote" or "roll call vote" as hereinafter provided; or
2. A teller vote, whereby the yeas and nays may be counted by a rising vote with recourse to a roll call vote as hereinafter provided; or
3. A roll call vote may be directed by the Presiding Officer to determine a division of vote on any question. A roll call vote shall be taken upon the request of three Committee members.
4. On any Viva Voce vote or teller vote, any member of the Committee shall have their vote recorded upon one’s request.
5. If the Meeting is held under Rule 13 the electronic method so used by the internet meeting service may also be used.
I. If there is no division of vote on a question and/or objection to a motion before the Committee, the Presiding Officer may pass the matter by unanimous consent.

Rule 6
Committee of the Whole

*Previous*
a. When the National Executive Committee shall resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole, the Commander shall leave the chair and appoint a chairman to preside over the Committee of the Whole.
b. The Committee of the Whole shall consider and report on such subjects as may be committed to it by the National Executive Committee. The rules of the National Executive Committee shall be observed in the Committee of the Whole so far as they are applicable, except the rule limiting the time of speaking, concerning the previous question, and taking the yeas and nays. The proceedings in the Committee of the Whole shall not be recorded on the minutes of the National Executive Committee, except so far as they are reported to the National Executive Committee by the chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

*Updated*
a. A. When the National Executive Committee shall resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole, the national Commander shall leave the chair and appoint a Chairman to preside over the Committee of the Whole.
b. B. The Committee of the Whole shall consider and report on such subjects as may be committed to it by the National Executive Committee. The rules of the National Executive Committee shall be observed in the Committee of the Whole so far as they are applicable, except the rule limiting the time of speaking, concerning the previous question, and taking the yeas and nays. The proceedings in the Committee of the Whole shall not be recorded on in the minutes of the National Executive Committee, except so far as they are reported to the National Executive Committee by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

*New*
A. When the Committee shall enter into the Committee of the Whole, the national commander shall leave the Chair and appoint a Chair to preside over the Committee of the Whole.
B. The Committee of the Whole shall consider and report on such subjects as may be committed to it by the Committee. The rules of the Committee shall be observed in the Committee of the Whole so far as they are applicable, except the rule limiting the time of speaking, concerning the previous question and taking the yeas and nays. The proceedings in the Committee of the Whole shall not be recorded in the minutes of the Committee, excepting so far as they are reported to the Committee by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

Rule 7
Order of Business

*Previous*
The order of business of the National Executive Committee shall be:
1. Salute to Colors
2. The Invocation
3. POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Preamble
6. Roll Call
7. Read the minutes of the former meeting
8. Dispose of letters or communications
9. Receive reports from National Officers of The American Legion
10. Receive reports from National Commissions, National Committees, Boards and Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee
11. Receive resolutions, motions and petitions
12. Act upon unfinished business of the preceding day and resolutions lying over from the previous day
13. Appointments of members of standing or special Commissions, Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee
14. Miscellaneous business
15. Benediction
16. Salute to Colors.

*Updated*
The order of business of the National Executive Committee shall be:
1. Salute to Colors
2. The Invocation
3. POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Preamble
6. Roll Call
7. **Adopt the meeting's agenda**
8. Read the minutes of the former meeting
9. Dispose of letters or communications
10. Receive reports from National Officers of The American Legion
11. Receive reports from National Commissions, National Committees, Boards and Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee
12. Receive resolutions, motions and petitions
13. Act upon unfinished business of the preceding day and resolutions lying over from the previous day
14. Appointments of members of standing or special Commissions, Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee
15. Miscellaneous business
16. Benediction
17. Salute to Colors.

*New*
The order of business of the Committee shall be:
1. Salute to Colors
2. The Invocation
3. POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Preamble
6. Roll Call
7. **Adopt the meeting's agenda**
8. Read the minutes of the former meeting
9. Dispose of letters or communications
10. Receive reports from National Officers of The American Legion
11. Receive reports from National Commissions, National Committees, Boards and Subcommittees of the Committee
12. Receive resolutions, motions and petitions
13. Salute to Colors.
13. Act upon unfinished business of the preceding day and resolutions lying over from the previous day
14. Appointments of members of standing or special Commissions, Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the Committee
15. Miscellaneous business
16. Benediction
17. Salute to Colors.

**Rule 8-a**
**Fiscal Policy**

*Previous*
All matters of business affecting the fiscal policy of The American Legion, or financial matters outside the scope of mandates of the National Convention, including the making, cancellation, abrogation or modification of any contract to which the National Organization is a party, shall be considered under a first and second reading, with not less than four hours intervening. The second reading of the said matter so presented shall be held not less than four hours after the first reading of the matter under submission, and it shall be required that the subject matter, i.e., the motion or resolution or report be printed, typewritten or mimeographed, and a copy thereof placed on the desk of each National Executive Committeeman attending said meeting, at the time of the first reading, for the purpose of consideration of such motion, resolution, or report between the first and second reading. Final action shall be taken only upon the second reading thereof; Provided, however, That matters and resolutions approved by and contained in the report of the National Finance Commission with favorable recommendation for immediate action may be considered at the time of the report of said National Finance Commission.

*Updated*
All business matters affecting the fiscal policy of The American Legion, or financial matters outside the scope of mandates of the National Convention, including the making, cancellation, abrogation or modification of any contract to which the National Organization is a party, shall be considered under a first and second reading, with not less than four hours intervening. The second reading of the said matter so presented shall be held not less than four hours after the first reading of the said matter under submission, and it shall be required that the subject matter, i.e., the motion or resolution or report be printed, typewritten or mimeographed, and a copy thereof placed on the desk of each National Executive Committeeman Committee Member attending said meeting, at the time of the first reading, for the purpose of consideration of such motion, resolution, or report between the first and second reading. If the Meeting is held under Rule 13 the necessary documents per this Rule shall be provided to all Committee Members by e-mail. Final action shall be taken only upon the second reading thereof; Provided, however, That matters and resolutions approved by and contained in the report of the National Finance Commission with favorable recommendation for immediate action may be considered at the time of the report of said National Finance Commission.

*New*
All business matters affecting the fiscal policy of The American Legion, or financial matters outside the scope of mandates of the National Convention, including the making, cancellation, abrogation or modification of any contract to which the National Organization is a party, shall be considered under a first and second reading, with not less than four hours intervening. The second reading of said matter so presented shall be held not less than four hours after the first reading of said matter under submission, and it shall be required that the subject matter, i.e., the motion or resolution or report be printed and a copy thereof placed on the desk of each Committee Member attending said meeting, at the time of the first reading, for the purpose of consideration of such motion, resolution, or report between
the first and second reading. If the Meeting is held under Rule 13 the necessary documents per this Rule shall be provided to all Committee Members by e-mail. Final action shall be taken only upon the second reading thereof; provided, however, that matters and resolutions approved by and contained in the report of the National Finance Commission with favorable recommendation for immediate action may be considered at the time of the report of said National Finance Commission.

Rule 8-b
Legislative Program

*Previous*
Any resolution adopted by the National Convention or the National Executive Committee, which seeks action by the Congress of the United States, or is a legislative policy statement of The American Legion, shall upon its adoption immediately become part of The American Legion's Legislative Program, and shall remain in full force and effect only during the life of the Congress to which it relates. The National Legislative Commission shall compile such resolutions and make the current compilation part of its report to the National Executive Committee for the sole purpose of establishing an orderly historical record of resolutions stating legislative policy and/or requiring legislative action.

NOTE: All prior versions of Rule 8-b of the Rules of the National Executive Committee are, hereby, superseded and rescinded.

*Updated*
Any resolution adopted by the National Convention of The American Legion, or the National Executive Committee, which seeks intending congressional action by the United States Congress of the United States, or is a legislative policy statement of The American Legion, shall upon its adoption immediately become part of The American Legion's Legislative Program, and shall remain in full force and effect only during the life of the United States Congress to which it relates. The National Legislative Commission shall compile such resolutions and make the current compilation part of its report to the National Executive Committee for the sole purpose of establishing an orderly historical record of resolutions stating legislative policy and/or requiring legislative action.

NOTE: All prior versions of Rule 8-b of the Rules of the National Executive Committee are, hereby, superseded and rescinded.

*New*
Any resolution adopted by the National Convention of The American Legion, or the Committee, intending congressional action by the United States Congress shall upon its adoption immediately become part of The American Legion's Legislative Program and shall remain in full force and effect only during the life of the United States Congress to which it relates. The National Legislative Commission shall compile such resolutions and make the current compilation part of its report to the Committee for the sole purpose of establishing an orderly historical record of resolutions requiring legislative action.

Rule 9
Procedure

*Previous*
a. Letters and communications addressed to the National Executive Committee or to the National Commander, the National Adjutant or any other National Officer and by them referred to the National Executive Committee shall be read (or published to the members, if such be of import by the National Adjutant. Such letters or communications shall be disposed of in one of the following ways:
1. By a motion to accept. Such a motion shall have the effect of approving the subject matter and should include specific instructions for further disposition, i.e., by directions of the National Commander, National Adjutant or other proper officer; by reference to an appropriate Commission or Committee or other proper instruction.

2. By a motion to receive and file. Such a motion shall denote neither approval nor disapproval of the subject matter and shall require no action on the part of National Officers or others beyond a formal reply should such be required.

3. By a motion to reject or decline. Such a motion shall mean disapproval and should include specific instructions for further disposition as contemplated in paragraph 1 above.

b. Reports of officers shall be acted upon directly by the National Executive Committee, except that by direction of the National Executive Committee a report of any officer may be referred to a Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee for study and report thereon: Provided, however, That such reference shall not continue beyond the meeting of the National Executive Committee to which such officer's report is first submitted.

Reports of officers shall not be altered or amended by the National Executive Committee nor may any such report be rejected. In the event that the National Executive Committee shall not agree with the report or any statement herein contained, then, and in such event, if the presiding officer or the Executive Committee so determines, a separate memorandum shall be prepared setting forth the objections, which such memorandum, if approved by the National Executive Committee, shall be filed with the report. Any such memorandum, when submitted, shall be subject to amendment.

Reports of officers shall be disposed by motions as follows:
1. To approve the report. Such action shall constitute approval of the statements made in the report.
2. To disapprove the report. Such motion shall have the effect of disapproving any or all statements of the report, but such motion shall prevail only in the event that a memorandum setting forth the objections to such report shall have been adopted.
3. To receive and file the report. Such action shall constitute only a routine disposition of the report. A negative vote on motions 1 and 2 shall automatically cause the report to be received and filed.

c. Reports of National Commissions shall include a report of the National Committees assigned to them, except that for good reasons by direction of the National Commander a National Committee may report direct to the National Executive Committee.

Reports of National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee shall be received and shall then be subject to disposition on the following motions:
1. To approve the report. Such action shall constitute approval of the statements made in the report subject to the procedure outlined in Rule 3-c of the rules of this committee.
2. To receive and file the report. Such action shall constitute only a routine disposition of the report.
3. To re-commit the report. Such action shall return the report to the Commission or the Committee of origin for further study and report and may be accompanied by specific instructions.
4. To commit the report to a special Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee. Such action shall contemplate specific study and such Subcommittee shall return the report with recommendations.
5. To commit to the Committee of the Whole. Upon adoption of such a motion, the National Executive Committee shall resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and may thereafter alter or amend the report in whole or in part. The results of such action, however, shall again be submitted to the National Executive Committee for final disposition.

A negative vote on motion 1 shall automatically cause the report to be received and filed.

d. Any member of the National Executive Committee shall be privileged to present a resolution in his own right in any of the following ways:
1. Under a proper order of business, in which case of the subject matter thereof shall be germane.
2. Under miscellaneous business.
3. Upon unanimous consent of the Committee at any session of the National Executive Committee, at an appropriate interval in the order of business.

e. All National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee shall be required to present in resolution form all recommendations as to their future conduct or future policy as to matters within their scope and functions upon which it is desired or required that the National Executive Committee take action as contemplated in Rule 3, paragraph c. Such resolutions shall be filed with the Subcommittee on Resolutions prior to the first session of any meeting of the National Executive Committee at which action thereon is contemplated.

The Subcommittee on Resolutions shall report such resolutions to the National Executive Committee with appropriate recommendations immediately following the disposition of the report of the National Commission or Committee concerned.

f. Matters emanating from Posts, Departments or other sources and from the American Legion Auxiliary shall be defined and classified as:

1. LEGION-SPONSORED MATTERS
   a. Resolutions of properly constituted American Legion organizations, to wit: Posts and intermediate bodies (which have been approved by their Department Convention or Department Executive Committee), Department Executive Committee, Department Convention, National Convention or resolutions submitted by any National Commission or Committee.
   b. Resolutions emanating from the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary or any other official component thereof.
   c. Official communications of the National Officers of The American Legion.

2. OFFICIAL MATTERS

Official Matters are those which originate with American Legion officers or officials such as Commanders or other officers of Posts, intermediate bodies, Departments or the President of the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary.

3. GENERAL MATTERS

General matters are those which originate with individual members of The American Legion, individual citizens or as a result of communications for organizations or their officials not affiliated with The American Legion or from agencies of Government. Such matters shall be disposed of as follows: Whenever matters or communications are received at the National Headquarters of The American Legion, the National Adjutant shall analyze the subject matter and take action in one or more of the following ways:
   a. Determine, in accordance with his good judgment, whether or not such matter or communication is basically administrative in nature, and if so, refer the matter to the appropriate Administrator, Director, or Executive for disposition.
   b. If in the judgment of the National Adjutant the subject matter be of primary concern to or related to a program or function of one of the National Commissions, he shall refer the same to the appropriate Commission for action or for consideration by the Commission looking toward presentation to the National Executive Committee.
   c. Matters which do not fall within the above classifications, or which in the opinion of the National Commander or the National Adjutant, involve questions of organizational policy of sufficient importance to be considered directly by the National Executive Committee shall be referred to the Subcommittee on Resolutions of the National Executive Committee for disposition.
   d. The National Executive Committee, with the exception of the latitude in paragraph c above, will directly consider only matters which bear the prior approval of a Department Convention or Department Executive Committee, or referred to it by the National Convention, or which may be recommended to it by the National Commander, or be presented to it through the governing body of the American Legion Auxiliary. All other matters, as hereinbefore defined, which do not have the sponsorship specified in this paragraph, shall be heard and disposed of as provided for in Section 2d above.
paragraph may become eligible for consideration by the National Executive Committee only in the event that they have been recommended for approval to the National Executive Committee by a National Commission of The American Legion.

e. The National Adjutant shall keep and maintain a register of all matters officially received from a Department (i.e., from any Department Convention, Department Executive Committee) or sponsored by a National Executive Committeeman, referred to Commissions, and shall report these referrals to the National Executive Committee in written form at the regular meetings of the National Executive Committee which occur within 45 days after the adjournment of the National Convention (unless such time is extended by the National Commander for sufficient reasons to him appearing upon the approval of the National Executive Committee) and in May of each year in order that National Executive Committeemen from the respective Departments shall be informed of the referrals previously made concerning matters which originate within their respective Departments. This register will be continuous from meeting to meeting and continue to list a subject once placed thereon until it is reported as disposed of.

f. National Commissions when submitting their reports to the National Executive Committee shall include therein a record of the disposition of all matters previously referred to them and shall designate each by its register number if in that category. Resolutions referred to Commissions and upon which such Commissions shall have acted in an administrative or in such other manner or shall satisfy the purport of the resolution need only be reported to National Executive Committee as to disposition. Resolutions referred to Commissions for study and report and referred by such Commissions to the National Executive Committee for final action shall be filed with the Subcommittee on Resolutions as contemplated in paragraph e above, with recommendation as to their disposition.

*Updated*

a. Letters and communications addressed to the National Executive Committee or to the National Commander, the National Adjutant or any other National Officer and by them referred to the National Executive Committee shall be read (or published to the members, if such be of import as determined by the national commander) by the National Adjutant. Such letters and/or communications shall be disposed of in one of the following ways motions:

1. By a "motion to accept." Such an acceptance motion shall have the effect of approving the subject matter and should may include specific instructions for further disposition, i.e., by directions of the National Commander, National Adjutant or other proper officer; by reference to an appropriate Commission or Committee or any other proper instruction.

2. By a "motion to receive and file." Such a receive and file motion shall denote neither approval nor disapproval of the subject matter and shall require no action on the part of National Officers or others beyond a formal reply should such be required as determined by the national commander.

3. By a "motion to reject or decline." Such a rejection motion shall mean disapproval and should include specific instructions for further disposition as contemplated set forth in paragraph Rule 9, Section A, subsection 1 above.

b. Reports of national officers shall be acted upon directly by the National Executive Committee, except that by direction of the National Executive Committee a report of any national officer may be referred to a Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee for study and report thereon; provided, however, that such reference referral shall not continue beyond the meeting of the National Executive Committee to which such national officer's report is first submitted. Reports of national officers shall not be altered or amended by the National Executive Committee nor may any such report be rejected. In the event that the National Executive Committee shall not agree with the report or any statement herein contained, then, and in such event, if the presiding officer or the Executive Committee so determines, a separate memorandum shall be prepared as determined by the national commander setting
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forth the objections, which such memorandum, if approved by the National Executive Committee, shall be filed with the report. Any such memorandum, when submitted, shall be subject to amendment.

Reports of officers shall be disposed by one of the following motions as follows:

1. "To approve" the report. Such action shall constitute approval of the statements made in the report.

2. "To disapprove" the report. Such motion action shall have the effect of disapproving any or all statements of the report, but such motion action shall prevail only in the event that a memorandum setting forth the objections to such report shall have been adopted.

3. "To receive and file" the report. Such action shall constitute only a routine disposition of the report. A negative vote on motions 1 and 2 of Rule 9, Section B shall automatically cause the report to be received and filed.

c. C. Reports of National Commissions shall include a report of the National Committees assigned to them, except that for good reasons, by direction of the National Commander, a National Committee may report directly to the National Executive Committee. Reports of National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee shall be received and shall then be subject to disposition on the following motions disposed by one of the following motions:

1. "To approve" the report. Such action motion shall constitute approval of the statements made in the report subject to the procedure outlined in Rule 3-c-C of the rules of this committee Committee.

2. "To receive and file" the report. Such action motion shall constitute only a routine disposition of the report.

3. "To re-commit" the report. Such action motion shall return the report to the Commission or the Committee of origin for further study and report and may be accompanied by specific instructions.

4. "To commit the report to a special Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee." Such action motion shall contemplate specific study and such Subcommittee shall return the report to the Committee with recommendations.

5. "To commit to the Committee of the Whole." Upon adoption of such a motion, the National Executive Committee shall resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and may thereafter alter or amend the report in whole or in part. The results of such action, however, shall again be submitted to the National Executive Committee for final disposition. A negative vote on motion 1 of Rule 9, Section C shall automatically cause the report to be received and filed.

d. D. Any member of the National Executive Committee shall be privileged to present a resolution in his or her own right in any of the following ways:

1. Under a proper order of business, in which case the subject matter thereof shall be germane.

2. Under miscellaneous business.

3. Upon unanimous consent of the Committee at any session of the National Executive Committee, at an appropriate interval in the order of business.


e. E. All National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee shall be required to present in resolution form all recommendations as to their future conduct or future policy as to matters within their scope and functions upon which it is desired or required that the National Executive Committee take action as contemplated in Rule 3, paragraph e, Section C. Such resolutions shall be filed with the Subcommittee on Resolutions prior to the first session of any meeting of the National Executive Committee at which action thereon is contemplated.

The Subcommittee on Resolutions shall report such resolutions to the National Executive Committee with appropriate recommendations immediately following the disposition of the report of the National Commission or Committee concerned.

f. F. Matters emanating from Posts, Departments or other sources and from the American Legion Auxiliary or from other sources shall be defined and classified as:
1. LEGION-SPONSORED MATTERS "American Legion" sponsored matters
   a. A. American Legion sponsored matters would be resolutions from properly established American Legion organizations, to wit: Posts and intermediate bodies (which have been approved by their D department C convention or D department E executive C committee), Department Executive Committee, Department Convention, National Convention or resolutions submitted by any National Commission or Committee.
   b. B. Resolutions emanating from the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary or any other official component thereof.
   c. Official communications of the National Officers of The American Legion.

2. OFFICIAL MATTERS "Official" matters
   Official M matters are those items which originate with American Legion officers or officials such as Commanders or other officers of Posts, intermediate bodies, Departments or the President of the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary.

3. GENERAL MATTERS "General" matters
   General matters are those items which originate with individual members of The American Legion, individual citizens or as a result of communications for from organizations or their officials not affiliated with The American Legion or from agencies of Government.

G. Such matters, as listed above in Rule 9, Section F, Sub-sections 1 – 3, shall be disposed of as follows:
Whenever such matters or communications are received at the National Headquarters of The American Legion, the N national A adjutant shall analyze the subject matter and take action in one or more of the following ways:
   a. A. Determine, in accordance with his one's good judgment, whether or not such matter or communication is basically administrative in nature, and if so, refer the matter to the appropriate Administrator Division or Director, or Executive for disposition.
   b. B. If in the judgment of the N n ational A adjutant the subject matter be of primary concern to or related to a program or function of one of the National Commissions, he such matter shall be referred the same to the appropriate National Commission for action or for consideration by the appropriate National Commission looking toward presentation to the National Executive Committee.
   c. C. Matters which do not fall within the above classifications, or which in the opinion of the N national C commander or the N national A adjutant, involve questions of organizational policy of sufficient importance to be considered directly by the National Executive Committee shall be referred to the Subcommittee on Resolutions of the National Executive Committee for disposition.
   d. H. The National Executive Committee, with the exception of the latitude given in paragraph e above Rule 9, Section H, Subsection C., will directly consider only matters which bear the prior approval of a Department Convention or Department Executive Committee, or referred to it by the National Convention, or which may be recommended to it by the N national C commander, or be presented to it through the governing body of the American Legion Auxiliary. All other matters, as hereinbefore defined, which do not have the sponsorship specified in this specific paragraph may become eligible for consideration by the National Executive Committee only in the event that they have been recommended for approval to the National Executive Committee by a National Commission of The American Legion.
   e. The National Adjutant shall keep and maintain a register of all matters officially received from a Department (i.e., from any Department Convention, Department Executive Committee) or sponsored by a National Executive Committee, referred to Commissions, and shall report these referrals to the National Executive Committee in written form at the regular meetings of the National Executive Committee which occur within 45 days after the adjournment of the National Convention (unless such time is extended by the National Commander for sufficient reasons to him appearing upon the approval of the National Executive Committee) and in May of each year in order that National Executive Committee men from the respective Departments shall be informed of...
the referrals previously made concerning matters which originate within their respective Departments. This register will be continuous from meeting to meeting and continue to list a subject once placed thereon until it is reported as disposed of.

f. National Commissions when submitting their reports to the National Executive Committee shall include therein a record of the disposition of all matters previously referred to them during that year and shall designate each by its register number if in that category. Resolutions referred to National Commissions and upon which such National Commissions shall have acted in an administrative or in such other manner or shall satisfy the purport of the resolution need only be reported to National Executive Committee as to disposition. Resolutions referred to Commissions for study and report and referred by such Commissions to the National Executive Committee for final action shall be filed with the Subcommittee on Resolutions as contemplated in paragraph e above, Rule 9, Section K with recommendation as to their disposition.

J. The national adjutant shall keep and maintain a register of all matters officially (i) received from a Department (for example: items from any Department Convention or Department Executive Committee); (ii) sponsored by a Committee Member; or (iii) referred to National Commissions. The national adjutant shall report these referrals to the Committee in written form at the regular meetings of the Committee which occur after the adjournment of the National Convention and in May of each year in order that Committee Members shall be informed of the referrals previously made. This register will be continuous from meeting to meeting and continue to list matters once placed thereon until it is reported as disposed of.

*New*

A. Letters and communications addressed to the Committee or to the national commander, the national adjutant or any other national officer and by them referred to the Committee shall be read (or published as determined by the national commander) by the national adjutant. Such letters and/or communications shall be disposed of in one of the following motions:

1. By a "motion to accept." Such acceptance motion shall have the effect of approving the subject matter and may include specific instructions for further disposition, i.e., by directions of the national commander, national adjutant or other proper officer by reference to an appropriate Commission or Committee or any other proper instruction.

2. By a "motion to receive and file." Such receive and file motion shall denote neither approval nor disapproval of the subject matter and shall require no action on the part of National Officers or others beyond a formal reply should such be required as determined by the national commander.

3. By a "motion to reject or decline." Such rejection motion shall mean disapproval and should include specific instructions for further disposition as set forth in Rule 9, Section A, subsection 1.

B. Reports of national officers shall be acted upon directly by the Committee, except that by direction of the Committee a report of any national officer may be referred to a Subcommittee of the Committee for study and report thereon; provided, however, that such referral shall not continue beyond the meeting of the Committee to which such national officer's report is first submitted.

Reports of national officers shall not be altered or amended by the Committee, nor may any such report be rejected. In the event that the Committee shall not agree with the report or any statement therein contained, then, and in such event, if the presiding officer or the Committee so determines, a separate memorandum shall be prepared as determined by the national commander setting forth the objections, which such memorandum, if approved by the Committee, shall be filed with the report. Any such memorandum, when submitted, shall be subject to amendment.

Reports of officers shall be disposed by one of the following motions:

1. "To approve" the report. Such action shall constitute approval of the statements made in the report.
Proceedings of Wednesday, October 14, 2020

2. "To disapprove" the report. Such action shall have the effect of disapproving any or all statements of the report, but such action shall prevail only in the event that a memorandum setting forth the objections to such report shall have been adopted.

3. "To receive and file" the report. Such action shall constitute only a routine disposition of the report. A negative vote on motions 1 and 2 of Rule 9, Section B shall automatically cause the report to be received and filed.

C. Reports of National Commissions shall include a report of the National Committees assigned to them, except that for good reasons, by direction of the national commander, a National Committee may report directly to the Committee. Reports of National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the Committee shall be received and shall then be disposed by one of the following motions:

1. "To approve" the report. Such motion shall constitute approval of the statements made in the report subject to the procedure outlined in Rule 3-c C of the Committee.

2. "To receive and file" the report. Such motion shall constitute a routine disposition of the report.

3. "To re-commit" the report. Such motion shall return the report to the Commission or the Committee of origin for further study and report and may be accompanied by specific instructions.

4. "To commit the report to a special Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee." Such motion shall contemplate specific study and such Subcommittee shall return the report to the Committee with recommendations.

5. "To commit to the Committee of the Whole." Upon adoption of such a motion, the Committee shall resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and may thereafter alter or amend the report in whole or in part. The results of such action, however, shall again be submitted to the Committee for final disposition.

A negative vote on motion 1 of Rule 9, Section C shall automatically cause the report to be received and filed.

D. Any member of the Committee shall be privileged to present a resolution in his or her own right in any of the following ways:

1. Under a proper order of business, in which case of the subject matter thereof shall be germane.

2. Under miscellaneous business.

3. Upon unanimous consent of the Committee at any session of the Committee at an appropriate interval in the order of business.


E. All National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the Committee shall be required to present in resolution form all recommendations as to their future conduct or future policy as to matters within their scope and functions upon which it is desired or required that the Committee take action as contemplated in Rule 3, Section C. Such resolutions shall be filed with the Subcommittee on Resolutions prior to the first session of any meeting of the Committee at which action thereon is contemplated. The Subcommittee on Resolutions shall report such resolutions to the Committee with appropriate recommendations immediately following the disposition of the report of the National Commission or Committee concerned.

F. Matters emanating from Posts, Departments, the American Legion Auxiliary or from other sources shall be defined and classified as:

1. "American Legion" sponsored matters
   A. American Legion sponsored matters would be resolutions from properly constituted American Legion organizations: Posts and intermediate bodies (which have been approved by their department convention or department executive committee), Department Executive Committee, Department Convention, National Convention or resolutions submitted by any National Commission or Committee.
   B. Resolutions emanating from the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary or any other official component thereof.

2. "Official" matters
Official matters are those items which originate from American Legion officers or officials such as Commanders or other officers of Posts, intermediate bodies, Departments or the President of the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary.

3. “General” matters

General matters are those items which originate from individual members of The American Legion, individual citizens or as a result of communications from organizations or their officials not affiliated with The American Legion or from agencies of Government.

G. Such matters, as listed above in Rule 9, Section F, Sub-sections 1 – 3, shall be disposed of as follows:

Whenever such matters are received at the National Headquarters of The American Legion, the national adjutant shall analyze the subject matter and take action in one or more of the following ways:

A. Determine, in accordance with one’s good judgment, whether or not such matter or communication is basically administrative in nature, and if so, refer the matter to the appropriate Division or Director for disposition.

B. If in the judgment of the national adjutant the subject matter be of primary concern to or related to a program or function of one of the National Commissions, such matter shall be referred to the appropriate National Commission for action or for consideration by the appropriate National Commission.

C. Matters which do not fall within the above classifications, or which in the opinion of the national commander or the national adjutant, involve questions of organizational policy of sufficient importance to be considered directly by the Committee shall be referred to the Subcommittee on Resolutions of the Committee for disposition.

H. The Committee, with the exception of the latitude given in Rule 9, Section H, Subsection C, will directly consider only matters which bear the prior approval of a Department Convention or Department Executive Committee, or referred to it by the National Convention, or which may be recommended to it by the national commander, or be presented to it through the governing body of the American Legion Auxiliary. All other matters, as hereinbefore defined, which do not have the sponsorship specified in this specific paragraph may become eligible for consideration by the Committee only in the event that they have been recommended for approval to the Committee by a National Commission of The American Legion.

I. National Commissions when submitting their reports to the Committee shall include therein a record of the disposition of all matters previously referred to them during that year and shall designate each by its register number if in that category. Resolutions referred to National Commissions and upon which such National Commissions shall have acted in an administrative or in such other manner or shall satisfy the purport of the resolution need only be reported to Committee as to disposition. Resolutions referred to Commissions for study and report and referred by such Commissions to the Committee for final action shall be filed with the Subcommittee on Resolutions as contemplated in Rule 9, Section K with recommendation as to their disposition.

J. The national adjutant shall keep and maintain a register of all matters officially (i) received from a department (for example: items from any Department Convention or Department Executive Committee); (ii) sponsored by a Committee Member; or (iii) referred to National Commissions. The national adjutant shall report these referrals to the Committee in written form at the regular meetings of the Committee which occur after the adjournment of the National Convention and in May of each year in order that Committee Members shall be informed of the referrals previously made. This register will be continuous from meeting to meeting and continue to list matters once placed thereon until it is reported as disposed.
Rule 10
Form of Resolutions

*Previous*
a. Resolutions which shall be offered as the direct action of the National Executive Committee shall be prepared in appropriate form containing such informative preamble in the form of "Whereas" followed by statements of fact and shall conclude with a Resolving clause or clauses which shall specifically set forth what statement or declaration is to receive action of the National Executive Committee. Such Resolving clause or clauses shall contain the following leading language:

"RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular (or special) meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana (or other place), on (date or dates), That, etc.-and be it further
"RESOLVED, That, etc."

b. Resolutions of Posts, intermediate bodies or other officially constituted subordinate organization which shall have received favorable action by their respective Department Conventions or Executive Committee and which shall have an appropriate endorsement thereof in resolution form shall be acted upon by the National Executive Committee in the form of a final Resolving clause in the following leading language:
"And be it finally Resolved, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular (or special) meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana (or other place), on (date or dates), That, etc."

c. Resolutions of Department Conventions or Department Executive Committees shall be similarly acted upon by the National Executive Committee in the form of a final Resolving clause as contemplated in paragraph b above.

*Updated*
a. A. Resolutions, which shall be offered as the direct action of the National Executive Committee, shall be prepared in appropriate form containing such informative preamble in the form of "Whereas" followed by statements of fact and shall conclude with a Resolving clause or clauses which shall specifically set forth what statement or declaration is to receive action of the National Executive Committee. Such Resolving clause or clauses shall contain the following leading language:

"RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular (or special) meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana (or other place), on (date or dates), That, etc. and be it further
"RESOLVED, That, etc."

b. B. Resolutions of Posts, intermediate bodies or other officially constituted subordinate organization which shall have received favorable action by their respective Department Conventions or Department Executive Committee and which shall have an appropriate endorsement thereof in proper resolution form shall be acted upon by the National Executive Committee in the form of a final Resolving clause in the following leading language:
"And be it finally Resolved, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular (or special) meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana (or other place), on (date or dates), That, etc."

c. C. Resolutions of Department Conventions or Department Executive Committees shall be similarly acted upon by the National Executive Committee in the form of a final Resolving clause as contemplated in paragraph b above Rule 10, Section B.

*New*
A. Resolutions, which shall be offered as the direct action of the Committee, shall be prepared in appropriate form containing such informative preamble in the form of "Whereas" followed by statements of fact and shall conclude with a Resolving clause, or clauses, which shall specifically set forth what statement or declaration is to receive action
of the Committee. Such resolving clause, or clauses, may contain the following leading language:

"RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular (or special) meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana (or other place), on (date or dates), That, etc. and be it further

"RESOLVED, That, etc."

B. Resolutions of posts, intermediate bodies or other officially constituted subordinate organization which shall have received favorable action by their respective Department Conventions or Department Executive Committee and which shall have an appropriate endorsement thereof in proper resolution form may be acted upon by the Committee in the form of a final resolving clause in the following leading language:

"And be it finally Resolved, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular (or special) meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana (or other place), on (date or dates), That, etc."

C. Resolutions of Department Conventions or Department Executive Committees shall be similarly acted upon by the Committee in the form of a final resolving clause as contemplated in Rule 10, Section B.

Rule 11
Subcommittee on Resolutions

*Previous*

The Subcommittee on Resolutions of the National Executive Committee shall meet at least two days prior to any regular meeting of the National Executive Committee held in May and October of each year or any adjournment thereof.

The Subcommittee shall prepare a digest and such supplements thereto as may be necessary of all resolutions considered by it and for presentation to this Committee, together with the recommendation of the Subcommittee.

The digest of resolutions and supplements thereto shall be placed on the desk of each Committeeman at the opening of the various sessions.

The Subcommittee shall have the cooperation of all officers, employees and members of Committees and Commissions to obtain such information, facts and advice as it may deem necessary to carry out its responsibilities and duties.

The Subcommittee shall have authority to alter, amend, redraft or substitute for any resolution submitted to it for presentation to the National Executive Committee; Provided, however, That the Subcommittee shall report the original resolution and its reason for any change.

*Updated*

The Subcommittee on Resolutions ("Subcommittee") of the National Executive Committee shall meet at least two days prior to any regular meeting of the National Executive Committee held in May and October of each year or any adjournment thereof.

The Subcommittee shall prepare a digest and such supplements thereto as may be necessary of all resolutions considered by it and for presentation to this Committee, together with the recommendation of the Subcommittee.

The digest of resolutions and supplements thereto shall be placed on the desk of each Committeeman Committee Member at the opening of the various sessions.

The Subcommittee shall have the cooperation of all officers, employees and members of National Commissions and Committees and Commissions to obtain such information, facts and advice as it may deem necessary to carry out its responsibilities and duties.

The Subcommittee shall have the authority to alter, amend, redraft or substitute for any resolution submitted to it prior to the resolution's for presentation to the National Executive Committee; Provided, however, that the Subcommittee shall concurrently report the
original resolution to the Committee and it's the Subcommittee's reason for any change made.

*New*
The Subcommittee on Resolutions ("Subcommittee") of the Committee shall meet at least two days prior to any regular meeting of the Committee held in May and October of each year or any adjournment thereof.
The Subcommittee shall prepare a digest and such supplements thereto as may be necessary of all resolutions considered by it and for presentation to the Committee, together with the recommendation of the Subcommittee.
Copies of resolutions and supplements thereto shall be placed on the desk of each Committee Member at the opening of the various meetings.
The Subcommittee shall have the cooperation of all officers, employees and members of National Commissions and Committees to obtain such information, facts and advice as it may deem necessary to carry out the Subcommittee's responsibilities and duties.
The Subcommittee has the authority to alter, amend, redraft or substitute for any resolution submitted to it prior to the resolution's for presentation to the Committee; provided, however, that the Subcommittee shall concurrently report the original resolution to the Committee and the Subcommittee's reason for any change made.

Rule 12
Transaction of Business by Mail, E-mail or by Telephone

*Previous*
The National Executive Committee, without meeting together, may transact business by mail or by e-mail or by telephone on a matter of extreme urgency not involving the establishment of any new policy and on which action cannot be delayed to the next regular meeting, by voting upon proposed resolutions mailed or e-mailed or telephoned to them by the National Adjutant, with the approval of the National Commander. Thirty days shall be allowed for the return, by mail or e-mail or telephone, of the votes thereon to the National Adjutant. The voting shall be considered closed at the end of the thirty days: Provided, That three-fourths of the members of the National Executive Committee have returned their votes by that time, or it shall be considered closed at any time prior thereto if and when all the members shall have returned their votes: Provided, further, That in the event one-third of the committee in writing, objects to the ballot by mail or by e-mail or by telephone, the matter shall not be decided and will be considered as the first order of business at the next regular or special meeting: Provided, further, That votes by e-mail shall be confirmed by mail by the National Adjutant to the NECman voting and: Provided, further, That thereafter the National Adjutant shall notify the committee of the action taken.

*Updated*
The National Executive Committee, without physically meeting together, may transact official business by mail or by e-mail or by telephone, video conference or by any other such means available on any matter of extreme urgency as determined by the National Commander not involving the establishment of any new policy and on which action cannot be delayed to the next regular meeting, by voting upon proposed resolutions mailed or e-mailed or telephoned, video conferenced or provided by any other such means available to them by the National Adjutant, with the approval of the National Commander. Thirty fifteen days shall be allowed for the return, by mail or e-mail or telephone, video conference or any other such means available of the votes thereon to the National Adjutant. The voting shall be considered closed at the end of the thirty fifteen days: Provided, That three-fourths of the members of the National Executive Committee have returned their votes by that time, or it shall be considered closed at any time prior thereto if and when all the Committee Members shall have returned their votes: Provided, further, That in the event one-third of the Committee in writing objects to the ballot
by the voting method utilized mail or by e-mail or by telephone, the matter shall not be decided proceed and will be considered as the first order of business at the next regular or special meeting of the Committee. Provided, further, That votes by e-mail shall be confirmed by mail by the National Adjutant to the NECman voting and: Provided, further, That thereafter The results of the action taken shall be provided to all Committee Members by the National Adjutant shall notify the committee of the action taken.

*New*
The Committee, without physically meeting together, may transact official business by mail, e-mail, telephone, video conference or by any other such means available on any matter of urgency as determined by the national commander by voting upon proposed resolutions mailed, e-mailed, telephoned, video conferenced or provided by any other such means available to them by the national adjutant, with the approval of the national commander.

Fifteen days shall be allowed for the return, by mail, e-mail, telephone, video conference or any other such means available of the votes thereon to the national adjutant. The voting shall be considered closed at the end of the fifteen days provided, that three-fourths of the members of the Committee have returned their votes by that time, or it shall be considered closed at any time prior thereto if and when all the Committee Members shall have returned their votes; provided, further, that in the event one-third of the Committee in writing objects to the ballot by the voting method utilized, the matter shall not proceed and will be considered as the first order of business at the next regular or special meeting of the Committee. The results of the action taken shall be provided to all Committee Members by the national adjutant.

*NEW*

**Rule 13**

**Meeting by use of the Internet or Video Conferencing**

A. The Secretary shall send by e-mail notice to every Committee Member at least eight (8) days prior to any internet or video conference meeting ("Meeting"): (i) the Meeting(s) day and time; (ii) the Meeting(s) connection URL and code(s); and, (iii) as an alternative and backup to the audio/video connection included within the e-mail notice, a phone number and access code(s) the Committee Member may need to participate in the Meeting by telephone. The Secretary shall also include a link to the Rules with this e-mail notice.

B. The Secretary shall schedule the Meeting sign-on service availability for all Committee Members beginning at least 30 minutes before the Meeting scheduled start time.

C. Upon signing into the meeting all Committee Members shall identify themselves and shall consistently maintain internet and/or audio access throughout the Meeting.

D. The Meeting quorum number is determined based upon the National By-Law requirements. Thereafter, the continued presence of a quorum attendance is determined by the online list of Committee Members, unless a Committee Member demands a quorum count by an audible roll call. Such a demand may only be made following any vote for which the announced totals add to less than a required quorum.

E. Each Committee Member is responsible for his or her audio and internet connections as no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a Committee Member's individual connection prevented participation in the Meeting.
F. The Chair may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a Committee Member's connection to the Meeting. The Chair's decision to do so shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the Meeting minutes.

G. To seek recognition by the Chair, a Committee Member shall raise his or her hand, or utilize the method within the internet meeting service being used.

H. A Committee Member intending to make a motion, or request, shall raise his or her hand, or utilize the method with the internet meeting service being used, and shall thereafter wait a reasonable time for the Chair's instructions before attempting to interrupt the speaker by voice.

I. A Committee Member intending to make a motion or offer an amendment not previously provided to all Committee Members, shall, before or after being recognized, post the motion, or amendment, in writing to the online area designated by the Secretary for this purpose, along with the Committee Member's name. The use of the online area designed for this purpose by the Secretary shall be restricted to posting the text of intended motions or amendments.

J. The Secretary shall designate an online area exclusively for the display of an immediately pending motion/question and other relevant pending question(s) (such as the main motion when an amendment is immediately pending); and, to the extent possible, the Secretary, or an appointed assistant, shall cause such question(s) to be displayed therein until disposed of by the Committee.

K. Committee Member votes shall be taken by the voting feature of the internet meeting service, unless a different method is ordered by the Chair. When ordered other permissible methods of voting are by electronic roll call or by audible roll call. The Chair's announcement of the voting result may include the number of members voting on each side of the question. All Meeting business brought forth may also be conducted by unanimous consent.

L. The Secretary, or his or her assistant(s), will display a video of the Chair throughout the Meeting and may also display the video, and/or photo, of the Committee Member, or individual, currently speaking.

M. If a Committee Member needs any sort of technical assistance he or she must request such assistance from the Secretary at least 96 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time.

**Rule 13**

**Suspension of Rule**

*Previous*
No standing rule or order of the National Executive Committee shall be suspended without one hour's notice being given of the motion therefor, and no rule shall be suspended except by a vote of two-thirds of all members present.

*Updated*

**Rule 14**

**Suspension of Rule**
No standing rule or order of the National Executive Committee shall be suspended without one hour's notice being given of the motion therefor, and no rule shall be suspended except by a positive vote of two-thirds of all Committee members present.
**New**

Rule 14  
**Suspension of Rule**  
No standing rule or order of the Committee shall be suspended without one hour's notice being given of the motion therefor and no rule shall be suspended except by a positive vote of two-thirds of all Committee members present.

Rule 14  
**Robert's Rules of Order to Govern**

*Previous*  
Except as otherwise herein specifically provided, Robert's Rule of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern.

*Updated*  
**Rule 14 15**  
**Robert's Rules of Order to Govern**  
Except as otherwise herein specifically provided, Robert's Rule of Order, Newly Revised, current edition, shall govern unless otherwise determined.

*New*  
**Rule 15**  
**Robert's Rules of Order to Govern**  
Except as otherwise herein specifically provided, Robert's Rule of Order, current edition, shall govern unless otherwise determined.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BARBKNECHT: Without objection, I will forgo the reading of the revised rules. Resolution No. 1 has approval of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. **Second.**

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The Resolution No. 1 has been moved and seconded to adopt. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent. Chair recognizes National Judge Advocate Kevin J. Bartlett of Michigan for his report.

**Oral Report: National Judge Advocate**  
**Kevin J. Bartlett, Michigan**

Thank you. Commander, national vice commanders, past national commanders, National Executive Committee members, I welcome you and appreciate the opportunity to serve our great organization as national judge advocate.

From October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, as your national judge advocate, I have managed a large number of 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.

Attorney Mark Seavey has joined the legal division this year. During the 20 years he has been with the American Legion staff, only interrupted by his military duties in the Army Infantry Division in Afghanistan, he previously worked in the Media & Communications Division and Legislative Division. We welcome him.

For the reporting year, I have rendered over 1,300 written and oral opinions on questions which have been submitted by the departments, posts, national officers, staff, and individual members of this organization.

In accordance with established American Legion policy, I have reviewed the manuscripts of every single article destined for future publication in the American Legion Magazine, the Dispatch, and all other American Legion publications, for the purposes of expunging statements or materials questionable in character which might subject the American Legion to a libel lawsuit. For the reported date, over 2,300 manuscripts were
reviewed, along with over 130 videos and 600 veteran memorials and 25 podcasts, numerous contracts and numerous licensing agreements.

But the area that received a lot of attention this year was in our trademark protection and the Internet infringement business. All trademarks were reviewed, and the appropriate ones were renewed, and copyrights were also filed as needed. We actively pursued all known trademark infringers and actively removed nearly 6,000 producing trademark violators off the Internet.

We filed all the necessary IRS returns and reports as needed, and all DD-214s were reviewed. Numerous cease and desist letters, post tax letters, tax indemnity letters were also sent out.

Regarding my position as general counsel for The American Legion Auxiliary, there were numerous written opinions, contracts, meetings and hours of work spent helping them out.

Lastly, you all received a conflict of interest form that was provided in the packet that was emailed and sent to you. I ask you to please fill that out and have that sent to our office as soon as possible because we need that for the audit.

Commander, I wish to thank you and all the national officers and the NEC for this opportunity to serve our great organization as national judge. Thank you.

Report: National Judge Advocate
Kevin J. Bartlett, Michigan

From October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 as National Judge Advocate I have managed a large number of 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.

Attorney Mark Seavey joined the legal division this year. During the 20 years he has been on The American Legion staff, only interrupted by his military duties in an Army infantry division in Afghanistan, he previously worked in the Media and Communications Division and Legislative Division.

For the reporting year I have rendered over 1,300 written and oral opinions on questions which have been submitted by Departments, Posts, National Officers, staff and individual members of our organization.

In accordance with established American Legion policy, I reviewed the manuscripts of every single article destined for future publication in The American Legion Magazine, The Dispatch and all other AL publications for the purpose of expunging statements or materials questionable in character which might subject The American Legion to a libel suit. For the reported date over 2,300 manuscripts were reviewed along with reviewing 130 videos and over 600 veteran's memorials. We also reviewed 91 contracts, numerous license agreements and 25 podcasts.

The area which received a lot of attention this year was in our trademark protection and internet infringement business. All American Legion-owned trademarks were reviewed, and the appropriate ones were renewed. Copyrights were filed as needed. We actively pursued all known trademark infringers and actively removed nearly 6,000 producing trademark violators off of the internet.

The American Legion filed all necessary IRS returns, reports and documents for the calendar year in connection with all of The American Legion programs and plans.

All submitted DD-214’s were reviewed and numerous list protection agreements, cease & desist letters, post tax letters and tax indemnity letters were sent out. We were consulted on countless resolutions, while co-drafting new ones as requested.

I traveled a number of times to our Washington DC office to assist the staff there on matters pertaining to their division. I spoke and attended a number of events around the country for The American Legion. Concurrently I conducted nearly 1,000 Buddy Checks and visited at least 9 different posts and 1 district meeting.
Regarding my position as General Counsel for The American Legion Auxiliary there were nearly 100 written opinions rendered, a number of contracts reviewed and numerous oral opinions given during the 20+ meetings attended, countless telephone consultations and 80+ hours of work this year for the ALA.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Is there a motion to receive and file?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER STELACIO (PA): Pennsylvania makes a motion. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the national judge advocate, Kevin J. Bartlett. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent. Chair recognizes National Historian James A. Mariner of New Mexico for his report.

**Oral Report: National Historian**

**James A. Mariner, New Mexico**

National Commander Oxford, national officers, National Executive Committee, alternate National Executive Committee, American Legion Family members and guests. There have been a lot of changes for our Americans, United States Armed Forces, and our veterans with the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic since our last NEC meeting in October 2019, where the results were given for our 2019 National History Book Contest. Our American Legion members continue to work with our communities, states, and nation worldwide.

American Legion programs and events were being canceled or postponed due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic. This reminds us of the flu worldwide pandemic when The American Legion was being formed in 1919, is what our World War I airmen, sailors, soldiers, and Marines were experiencing coming home from France, but they did not have the technology that we have today. Today, many lifestyle changes have taken place, including teleworking from home, keeping safe with masks, shields, and social distancing, giving all of us an abrupt change to the electronic age.

Our National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion, NADHAL, has two committees working on electronic history books and electronic judging in this new time of change. Currently, we still use the traditional hard copy that we have used for many years, where we will continue preserving and recording in the traditional form for any future national disasters or worldwide pandemics until we can test and work out any problems with electronic history books and judging.

We are postponing our 2020 National History Book Contest and education-training of our new department historians until the Spring 2021 NEC meeting that will be using the 2020 Officer's Guide for judging of the contests.

Currently working on an electronic meeting with NADHAL this October or November 2020, because our "History is Important" for our past, present, and for our future. Just as we did after World War I, we continue to carry on our Four Pillars of national security, veterans, children and youth, and Americanism, while we are building "A Foundation for the Future."

National Commander Oxford, this concludes my report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, James. Do we have a motion to receive and file?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MCCOY (MD): Patricia McCoy, Maryland, so moved. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the national historian, James A. Mariner. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent. Now for my opening remarks.
Good morning, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and all of our guests. This is an unprecedented time in American Legion history. When I addressed this great body last October, nobody, least of all me, could have imagined that in October of 2020, I would still be addressing you as your national commander.

My term as commander could be divided into two periods, B.C. and A.C.: before COVID-19 and after COVID-19. This extension certainly was not something I sought. But as we all know, the coronavirus has caused us to all improvise, adapt, and overcome.

We are all disappointed that we couldn't meet in Louisville. We're all disappointed we couldn't meet last spring, and that all of our national youth programs had to be canceled this year. But The American Legion's never been about self. This isn't about us. Families that lost loved ones are beyond disappointed. The same with small businesses that have closed as a result of the pandemic. Disappointment is an understatement to those who have lost jobs. So as we continue to serve, now, perhaps more than ever, we are needed, you are needed, I need you, The American Legion needs you, and your communities need you as well.

I'd like to read you a brief message. "Someone in your life needs to hear that they matter. That they are loved. That they have a future. Be the one to tell them."

These were some of the final orders of Army veteran Ronnie McNutt who livestreamed his suicide on social media. Did you catch his final plea? "Be the one to tell them."

Folks, we're not professional counselors, but we are people who care. We're veterans, and approximately 20 of our brothers- and sisters-in-arms take their own lives each day in America.

Do you think our Enhanced Buddy Check could make a difference? All Ronnie McNutt was asking was for somebody to reach out, love them. Tell them that they matter. Tell them that you appreciate how they defended us, this country, in Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, or wherever they may have served. Then tell them that you are available to help and be their friend and advocate. Always keep the crisis hotline number handy and follow-up to ensure that the veteran gets the help that he or she needs. Let them know that they do matter to The American Legion.

We are pleased to announce that Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa has drafted legislation to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a Buddy Check week. While the Buddy Check concept was originated by us, we are all concerned with the well-being of all of America's veterans. This bill will require the VA to provide educational opportunities for veterans to learn how to conduct wellness checks, and it will increase the resources available to the veterans crisis line during the designated week. That's how we can help.

The suicide rate was a crisis among veterans before the COVID-19 pandemic. The shutdowns, economic consequences, and isolation have added gasoline to this fire. Another fire seems to be the heated political vitriol that has dominated this election season. Some of our members have expressed frustration with us because we didn't chime in on the top story of every news cycle.

Let me read to you the articles of our constitution, Article II, Section 2. It states, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles in the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking office or preferment."

Sadly, even when you discuss public policy, no matter how issue-oriented the intent, it is viewed by too many who are ready to pounce, exploit, or misinterpret according to partisan agendas. Our neutrality when it comes to elections is not only mandated by our constitution, but it actually serves us well in a practical sense. It's the reason why The American Legion works well with Democrats, Republicans, and independents in Congress. The fact is, nearly every successful veterans bill of consequence has had bipartisan support. Our nonpartisanship also helps us maintain a productive relationship with the White House regardless of which party is in the Oval Office.
At the same time, we want veterans to vote. Veterans have fought for and, in many cases, died for this constitutional right. We don't tell veterans who to vote for. We just ask them to be informed about the issues that are important to them, and cast their vote accordingly.

And this is another area where our Enhanced Buddy Checks can make a difference. Maybe a veteran is struggling to understand the local rules or the registration process. Maybe another veteran needs a ride to the voting precinct. Maybe someone would like to vote early or cast an absentee ballot. Those of us who are able, could probably help out. But it's up to us to ask and offer that assistance.

Now getting back to B.C., before COVID-19. I believe we could have made our membership goal last year if not for COVID-19. We had momentum and we were within striking distance when we met at the Washington Conference, which was very successful. Then, as the conference was winding down, the world changed dramatically.

The NBA shut down, travel screeched to a halt, and we learned a new term, "social distancing." From the beginning of this crisis, we recommended that Legionnaires follow the guidance of their local authorities. But it was not easy for a close-knit family such as ours to suddenly become distant.

Feeding the hungry, supporting the health-care workers, and donating personal protective equipment to those in need became priority number one for many of our American Legion posts. Departments and posts held blood drives, virtual meetings, Enhanced Buddy Checks. Last month, the Department of Texas conducted an online or virtual job fair for veterans and their spouses. We improvised, we adapted, we overcame.

We can do the same for membership. You are the leaders of your department. Membership is still our lifeblood. Without members, there is no American Legion. I recently reminded all the department commanders that most of them only get to serve one year. This is their shot, their opportunity, and their legacy.

What will your legacy be? When Legionnaires in, I don't know, the year 2050 look back on the coronavirus pandemic of 2020, what will they say about the National Executive Committee of this period? Will your actions be mentioned in future American Legion history books and magazines? Will the NEC of 2020 be mentioned on an American Legion timeline as being pivotal in a new era of growth? When the crew of Apollo 13 was seriously endangered, the successful response by the engineers was called "NASA's finest hour."

This pandemic has seriously tried America's flexibility. If we don't have a large army of veterans or Legionnaires to operate food drives, donate face masks, and conduct Buddy Checks, who will do these things? Who will provide emergency relief when a hurricane, tornado, or a wildfire devastates a community? Let us not forget the millions of people who have been impacted by the wildfires out west and the hurricanes that severely damaged parts of Louisiana and states in the southeast. In addition to our national programs, there are many posts and departments that offer their own support.

2020 is a year that many would like to forget. But I truly believe it could be our finest hour. We are meeting differently, we are serving differently, but we are still serving, still standing.

We have to do a better job of communicating with the public. Only about half of our posts submitted a Consolidated Post Report. This is totally unacceptable. We use this data in so many ways, whether it's in a report to Congress, interviews with national media outlets, or reminding advertisers why they should associate with The American Legion brand. The CPR was our opportunity to say, "Yes, The American Legion accomplished great things in 2020. While society was shut down, The American Legion did not. We came to the rescue of many veterans, military members, and their families, and the youth of America!"

Even if your post had no activities to report, please send in the CPR. It is very easy to do. If a post has not been active, the CPR can let us know that perhaps a revitalization is needed or required. Regardless, information is a good thing. There is no reason why we cannot have 100 percent participation in submitting CPRs. Please share this important
request with all of your district, division, and post commanders. I mentioned this to department commander and adjutants, but you can mention it too. It's that important.

Considering our current environment, we do an adequate job of attracting new members. It's renewals that cause us to fall short of our goals. We need to do more than simply welcome the new members to our organization. We need to call them regularly. We need to Buddy Check them. We need to listen to their concerns and provide support whenever we can.

If a new member's only communication from us is an annual dues notice, he or she won't be a member for long. We need to be responsive, efficient when a member joins or renews. Please remind your post adjutants and post commanders to check their mailboxes often. We have been receiving a number of calls from people who have renewed weeks ago but were upset that their checks haven't been cashed. It's a matter of communication with your members and those who wish to be members.

Since the founding of The American Legion, America has benefited from having the most efficient and professional military in the world. We need to show the same efficiency and professionalism as the nation's leading veterans service organization.

We need to be an active and visible reminder that it isn't the price of admission that makes The American Legion great; it's the price we all paid to be eligible. An organization is only as good as its people, and the people of The American Legion already have a track record of honorable service to this country.

Even when we're apart, we can do great things. Our "100 Miles for Hope" is an opportunity to have fun, exercise, and donate to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. The campaign ends on Veterans Day, but it isn't too late to participate. I usually knock out three miles during each of my sessions three days a week. Our professional joggers and runners can probably do more. If you need a little inspiration, I'd like to read to you a posting that we put on our Legiontown website on August 21. It was submitted by Charlie Parker of Murrieta, California.

"I am new to The American Legion," Charlie wrote. "I attended my first meeting at Post 852 last night. I'm attaching a photo of me just as I finished my 25th mile. I have 75 miles to go and 83 days in which to do it. It will be a challenge because both my wife and I have multiple doctor appointments during that period. I am a wheelchair user and my wife had a stroke three years ago. I am her primary caregiver. I wonder, am I the only hundred mile swimmer?"

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the type of dedicated servants we have in our American Legion. With the exception of Amazon, Zoom, and Grubhub, few sectors have experienced growth this year. Let us be the exception. Let our legacy for 2020 be our finest hour.

Thank you, and let's have a great meeting. (Applause)
We all know the COVID pandemic, along with protests, some which have turned to riots, have interrupted our lives this past year, but not our resolve. National Commander Bill, SAL Commander Clint, and I would not be serving as the only two-year leadership team of our organizations if our collective resolve were not in play. Our duty is to serve and lead our members into this new century of service, no matter what the new normal entails. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your national president for a second year.

All of the ALA national officers, national chairmen, and all but a couple national committee members are remaining in their roles through National Convention 2021. The vast majority of departments have followed suit as well.

Our members are able to demonstrate their duty and resolve by making thousands of face masks, preparing and delivering meals, hosting blood drives, having virtual holiday programs and poppy day promotions, scrubbing graffiti from historic monuments, waving during drive-by birthday day parades, and so much more. The American Legion Family is made up of common people who are dedicated to a mission of service. President Lincoln also shared, "Common-looking people are the best in the world; that is the reason the Lord made so many of them."

I fast-forward that statement to mean today, The American Legion Family, three million strong. Last year with the passage of the LEGION Act, along with spousal eligibility and now potential members from the Space Force, our collective membership opportunities continue to expand.

As a family, we have embraced technology to keep our members engaged by continuing to record public service announcements together. I want to thank Commander Bill and Clint for participating in the ALA virtual poppy day program. I enjoy being a participant in the commander's "100 Miles for Hope" campaign, having walked over 200 miles so far.

I accompanied VA&R Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella, Legionnaires and staff, on System Worth Saving visits last year. I look forward to participating again in the future if my health-care skill sets can again be an asset to the cause.

Our centennial theme, "Celebrating a Century of Service," remains in place. You may recall it showcases a poppy field at night giving way to the sky of fireworks. The poppy fields of World War I are the reason we exist, to be celebrating our service a century later.

Fireworks are for special occasions, and our 100th anniversary is one such occasion to celebrate. Thank you again to the Legion founding fathers who had the foresight to create the American Legion Auxiliary. We have realized many departments, as well as us nationally, did not get a chance to celebrate our 100th anniversary milestone. So how many people and businesses do you know that get to celebrate their 100th birthday for two whole years straight? So we will continue celebrating all the way to Phoenix.

My special project continues to focus on the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families. During the past two decades, the Department of Veterans Affairs reports that the number of veterans using prosthetics, sensory aids, and other adaptive devices has increased 70 percent. Our work with two organizations to respond to adaptive lifestyle needs continues.

I have walked with a prosthetic leg in Colorado, kayaked with soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center, sunk a six-foot putt from a modified golf cart in Washington, and skied down a mountain strapped to an adaptive sled in New York. I have learned a great deal from each experience, and I am here to tell you, none of it was easy. I definitely have a new appreciation for the challenges our returning heroes are facing.

As a 46-year paid-up-for-life member, I pledge, through my passion and dedication, to lead our ALA membership by embracing Commander Bill's theme, "A Foundation for the Future," while celebrating a century of service. I believe it is a very fitting blend of the appreciation for the past and the hope for the future of The American Legion family.

I ask that you please take care of yourselves and each other. Be safe. And I look forward to seeing you during my travels. Thank you very much, commander. It was a pleasure to be a part of your meeting today. Thank you. (Applause)
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Madam President. And thank you, Nicole, for taking part in our Hundred Miles for Hope.

**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: You already know them, but I am going to once again introduce our national officers, who are entering their second year of service in their current capacities.

First of all, 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; Next, 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. We appreciate all that you do. Thank you.

At this time, the chair recognizes National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler of Virginia for announcements.

**Announcements**

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Subsequent to the last meeting of the National Executive Committee, the NEC voted on and approved six resolutions. The results of those votes are as follows.

Resolution No. 1: Addendum to The American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament sites for 2020. The result of that vote was unanimously in favor.

**Resolution No. 1 (Mail): Addendum To American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites For 2020**

Origin: American Legion Baseball Committee
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 30 of the National Executive Committee, May 2018, established the sites and dates for the 2019 and 2020 American Legion Baseball Regional Tournaments; and

WHEREAS, At the conclusion of the 2019 Southeast Regional tournament, The American Legion Department of Florida and Tampa Post 248 notified National Headquarters, they would not be able to host the tournament in 2020; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Alabama and its Baseball Youth Committee has graciously accepted to host the 2020 Southeast Regional tournament; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Baseball Committee has reviewed the Department of Alabama's tournament bid proposal and recommends its approval to the Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, by email vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That the Region 3 site for the 2020 Southeast Regional tournament of The American Legion Baseball program be awarded to Montgomery, Alabama.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Resolution No. 2: Cancellation of the May 2020 meeting of the NEC. The result of that vote was unanimously in favor.
Resolution No. 2 (Mail): Cancellation of the May 2020 Meeting of the National Executive Committee  
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions  
Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions  
WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 2 of the National By-Laws calls for a meeting each May of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion to conduct business; and  
WHEREAS, The United States of America, and the world in general, are currently experiencing a pandemic associated with the spread of Coronavirus (COVID–19) therefore causing communities, cities, states and federal government to enact unprecedented emergency actions in order to contain and combat the impact and risks of spreading the COVID–19; and  
WHEREAS, Upon the recommendations of the president of the United States, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) the actions taken include, but are not limited to, restriction of mass gathering sizes, restriction on unnecessary travel, closure of restaurants and other public gathering spaces, implementation of "social distancing" guidelines and overall emphasis on personal hygiene and virus/germ abatement actions; and  
WHEREAS, The governor of the State of Indiana declared a public health emergency as a result of COVID–19 requiring numerous actions to follow including that all mass gatherings adhere to the CDC guidance for large events – which the CDC has currently set at no groups larger than 10 people; and  
WHEREAS, A gathering of the members of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion for the May 2020 meeting would be in conflict with the actions being imposed by our local and federal authorities, and therefore place our members at an unnecessary medical risk; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, by email vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That the May 2020 meeting of the National Executive Committee, scheduled for May 6–7, 2020, in Indianapolis, Indiana, is hereby cancelled; and, be it finally  
RESOLVED, That any and all business, including resolutions, normally addressed at the May meetings by the National Executive Committee, may be brought forth, considered and voted on as an emergency action at the pre-convention National Executive Committee meeting scheduled prior to the start of 2020 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Resolution No. 3 (Mail): Cancellation of 2020 American Legion Convention in Louisville, Kentucky and Awarding of 2026 National Convention  
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions  
Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions  
WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2 of the National Constitution of The American Legion calls for a National Convention to conduct business at a location and time as determined by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion; and  
WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2 of the National Constitution of The American Legion allows for the National Executive Committee of The American Legion to change such location and time for sufficient reasons to it appearing; and  
WHEREAS, The United States of America and the world in general are currently experiencing a pandemic associated with the spread of Coronavirus (COVID–19) therefore causing communities, cities, states and the federal government to enact unprecedented
emergency actions in order to contain and combat the impact and risks of spreading the COVID–19; and

WHEREAS, Upon the recommendations of the United States president, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) the emergency actions taken include, but are not limited to, restriction of mass gathering sizes, restrictions on unnecessary travel, closure of restaurants and other public gathering spaces, implementation of "social distancing" guidelines and an overall emphasis on personal hygiene and virus/germ abatement actions; and

WHEREAS, Numerous departments of The American Legion are contemplating the cancellation or postponement of their own Department Conventions, the primary purpose of which is to conduct the business of the department and elect officers and elect/appoint delegates to the national convention; and

WHEREAS, The governor of the State of Kentucky declared in Executive Order #2020-257 on March 25, 2020 that the State of Kentucky is in a public health emergency as a result of the COVID–19 requiring numerous actions to follow including that all people maintain safe social distancing, stay at home whenever possible and that hotels are used only for lodging as needed; and

WHEREAS, A gathering of the members of The American Legion at the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky would be in conflict with the imposed restrictions set by local and federal authorities and therefore place our members at an unnecessary health, safety and medical risk; and

WHEREAS, The Advisory Committee to the National Commander has thoroughly discussed the situation, weighed all options, and determined that the course of action herein recommended is the correct and prudent course for The American Legion at this time; and

WHEREAS, The chairman of the national Convention Commission and the chairman of the national Finance Commission recommend approval of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, The community of Louisville, Kentucky, understands and agrees with this course of action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, by electronic mail vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That due to the uncertainty of the duration of the disease known as Coronavirus (COVID-19), the numerous government regulations being enforced to contain it and concern for the safety of all members of the American Legion Family, the American Legion National Executive Committee (NEC) agrees that present circumstances constitute sufficient reasons to cancel the 2020 American Legion National Convention; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due to these serious and sufficient reasons, the following American Legion events in Louisville, Kentucky, are cancelled: (1) the Pre-Convention National Executive Committee meeting scheduled for August 31, 2020; (2) The American Legion's 2020 National Convention scheduled for August 28–September 3, 2020; (3) the Post-Convention National Executive Committee meeting scheduled for September 3, 2020; and (4) all regular-scheduled national commission and committee meetings that would have been held in Louisville; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all nationally elected and appointed officers continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next National Convention scheduled in Phoenix, Arizona, from August 27 through September 2, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all national commission and/or committee chairpersons and the current commission and committee members continue serving in their current positions until they resign or are either reassigned or reappointed at the 2021 Fall Meetings scheduled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12–15, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee recommends that departments retain their current member of the NEC if they so desire until the post-Convention meeting of the NEC at the Phoenix, Arizona, National Convention on September 2, 2021; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That any resolutions needing to come before the American Legion National Executive Committee, including the re-adoption of our legislative agenda, with the exception of those legislative initiatives that the national Legislative Commission deems to have been fulfilled or are no longer relevant, may be brought forth to the National Executive Committee and subsequently considered and voted on by video meetings, electronic mail or any other allowed means prior to the 2020 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the per capita dues for the American Legion National Organization remain at $18.50 for 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due to numerous health and safety reasons and needs of our members, the American Legion National Executive Committee strongly urges that the national Sons of The American Legion, the national American Legion Auxiliary and all American Legion departments follow a similar course of action, to-wit: (1) cancel their 2020 conventions and elections; and (2) maintain the status quo of their officers until next year; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That due to the community of Louisville, Kentucky, accommodating the American Legion 2020 National Convention's cancellation decision in such a prompt manner without penalty or other financial cost to The American Legion, the American Legion National Executive Committee is hereby awarding the 2026 National Convention to the community of Louisville, Kentucky, via the American Legion Department of Kentucky Convention Corporation.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Resolution No. 4: Establishment of a Marketing Commission executive committee. The result of that vote was unanimously in favor.

Resolution No. 4 (Mail): Establishment of a Marketing Commission Executive Committee
Origin: Marketing Commission
Submitted By: Marketing Commission

WHEREAS, The marketing of The American Legion is the responsibility of all commissions, committees and members; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that all commissions and committees be apprised of The American Legion's marketing efforts and have the opportunity to participate in the plans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's image, brand, reputation, integrity and identification have always been impeccable and above reproach; and

WHEREAS, The Marketing Commission is responsible for marketing all aspects of The American Legion to our members, the public, the United States Armed Forces and other government agencies; and

WHEREAS, To accomplish the Marketing Commission's mission requires the assistance of all commissions, committees, American Legion members and especially the Finance Commission, the Media & Communication Commission, the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, the Emblem Committee and the Membership & Post Activities Committee to build awareness and support for The American Legion's mission and programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion by electronic mail vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That The American Legion establish a "Marketing Commission Executive Committee" (MCEC) comprising the Marketing Commission chairman, the Finance Commission chairman, the Media & Communication Commission chairman, the Veterans Employment & Education Commission chairman, the Emblem Committee chairman, the Membership & Post Activities Committee chairman and at least one national commander's representative; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee, acting on the recommendation of the national commander, shall make one-year appointments to the MCEC; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the MCEC may be called into session either in person or electronically as needed during a time when the Marketing Commission is not scheduled to meet; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the MCEC is an advisory committee to the national commander and the National Executive Committee and has no authority beyond that granted by resolution to execute, or initiate, programs or expend money for the same; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the MCEC subsequently makes recommended courses of action to the American Legion commissions and committees consistent with The American Legion's image, brand and reputation with said recommendations being considered and approved by the National Executive Committee in the normal manner; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this MCEC be added to the next published edition of The American Legion's Outline of Authorization.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: 5: Vision, mission, values, and motto of The American Legion. The result of that vote was 59 in favor and one opposed.

Resolution No. 5 (Mail): Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of The American Legion
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion was chartered by the United States of America on September 16, 1919, with the initial primary organizational purposes enumerated in 36 USC §21702; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion founders expanded these initial purposes into the American Legion's Preamble which communicates to the organization the principles of The American Legion and the purpose of the Constitution of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Current modern business practices have evolved since The American Legion originated and it is leadership's goal to stay abreast of such evolutions; and

WHEREAS, One such business practice is an organization's use of a vision statement, a mission statement, value principles and a motto; and

WHEREAS, A vision statement is a short succinct public statement of an organization's future and long-term directional goals; and

WHEREAS, A mission statement is a short succinct public statement of how an organization intends to fulfill its vision; and

WHEREAS, Value principles guide the organization's business decisions and actions; and

WHEREAS, A motto is a reiterated phrase that encapsulates the vision and mission of an organization; and

WHEREAS, The vision and mission statements, along with the value principles and motto, help define the purpose of an organization, align the organization's resources toward a successful future, provide clear and effective decision guidance; form part of a business's strategic planning tool and publicly communicate the message; and

WHEREAS, In order that The American Legion has clear guidance to act in these turbulent times; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion by electronic mail vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That The American Legion adopt the following vision statement:
"The American Legion strengthens America by improving the lives of our veterans, the military and their families."; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion adopt the following mission statement:
"The American Legion strengthens our communities, states and nation with programs and services for our veterans, the military and their families."; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion adopt the following value principles:

• **A VETERAN IS A VETERAN** – which means The American Legion embraces all current and former members of the military and endeavors to help them transition into their communities.

• **SELFLESS SERVICE** – which means The American Legion celebrates all who contribute to something larger than themselves and inspires others to serve and strengthen America.

• **AMERICAN VALUES AND PATRIOTISM** – which means The American Legion advocates for upholding and defending the United States Constitution, equal justice and opportunity for everyone and discrimination against no one, youth education, responsible citizenship and honoring military service by observing and participating in patriotic and memorial events.

• **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** – which means The American Legion meets the unique needs of local communities.

• **ADVANCING THE VISION** – which means The American Legion educates, mentors and leads new generations of Americans.

• **HONORING THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US** – which means The American Legion pays perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new generations.; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion adopt the following motto: "Veterans Strengthening America."

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Resolution No. 6: 2020 Fall meeting of the National Executive Committee. The result of that vote was 59 in favor and one opposed.

Resolution No. 6 (Mail): 2020 Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 2 of the National Bylaws of The American Legion calls for a meeting of the National Executive Committee within fifty-five days of the adjournment of the National Convention to conduct business; and

WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 2 of the National Bylaws of The American Legion allows for the national commander of The American Legion to call for any special meetings upon reasonable notice; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America, and the world in general, are currently experiencing a pandemic associated with the spread of Coronavirus (COVID–19) therefore causing communities, cities, states and the federal government to enact unprecedented emergency actions in order to contain and combat the impact and risks of spreading the COVID–19; and

WHEREAS, A gathering of the members of the National Executive Committee at the fall meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana may be in conflict with the imposed restrictions set by local and federal authorities and therefore place our members at an unnecessary health, safety and medical risk; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion by electronic mail and/or telephone vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That the uncertainty of the numerous government regulations and insuring the health and safety of our members and the public surrounding the widespread disease known as Coronavirus (COVID–19) are serious and sufficient reasons so as not to hold in-person meetings in October 2020; and, be if finally

RESOLVED, That the fall 2020 National Executive Committee meetings will be by, or through, the use of any means of communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting and that all
members participating in the method of meeting are considered to be present in person at the meeting.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, that concludes my announcements.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you. At this point, the chair recognizes chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, William W. Kile of West Virginia, for a report on resolutions.

**Oral Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions**
**William W. Kile, West Virginia, Chairman**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been meeting regularly. We have 38 resolutions that will be presented, coming from the commissions and committees who will make reports. Any resolutions seeking National Executive Committee approval will follow the report of the commission. All resolutions that have been disposed of through other action or held for further study will be reported as an addendum.

Our thanks to the commissions for their efficient and accurate handling of the resolutions of this meeting. This has had a positive impact on the work of your subcommittee. Commander, I ask that you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please rise and uncover.

**Memorial Resolutions**
**Alvan T. Fuller, Massachusetts**

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Alvan T. Fuller - Department Vice Commander - 1976 to 1978; 1980 to 1982; Department Commander - 1982 to 1983; National Membership & Post Activities Committee National Commander's Representative - 1983 to 1984; National Distinguished Guests Committee Vice Chairman - 1983 to 1984; National Americanism Council Vice Chairman - 1985 to 1990; National Emblem Committee Member - 1995 to 2003; National Emblem Committee Vice Chairman - 2003 to 2005; National Emblem Committee Chairman - 2005 to 2017; National Security Council Member - 2017 to 2020; 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 14th day of October in the year of our Lord 2020, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Alvan T. Fuller, 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.

Similar memorial resolutions will be presented to families of: John Aldecoa, Arizona; Kenneth L. Powell, Sr., Florida; Timothy J. Tierney, Florida; Harry G. Mantzouranis, France; Cleve Rice, Idaho; Clayborn M. Lofton, Illinois; Dr. Gordon B. Browning, Maryland; William F. Milligan, Maryland; Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland; Duane E. "Bud" Redepenning, Minnesota; Donald R. Schroedl, Minnesota; David L. Morrow, Mississippi; James F. Mareschal, Sr., Missouri; Dan Musgrove, Missouri; Hugh C. "Tony" Cumming, Montana; Raymond J. Nydegger, Montana; David G. Konz, Nebraska; Larry Mach, Nebraska; Ron Gutzman, Nevada; Stephan B. Lopes, New Jersey; Anthony Lori, New Jersey; Louis A. "Tony" Santillanes, Sr., New Mexico; Vernon A. Useldinger, North Dakota; Edward J. Voisard, Ohio; Mark E. Barker, Oklahoma; Warren "Dee" Wilson,
Oklahoma; Harley W. Ray, Oregon; Mark W. Queen, Pennsylvania; Frederick W. Wagner, Pennsylvania; William Feliciano-Ruiz, Puerto Rico; Billy W. Bell, South Carolina; Harry L. Brown, South Carolina; Willis J. Dent, South Carolina; Robert L. Hughes, Jr., South Carolina; Norman Wheeler Patterson, South Carolina; Leroy Williams, South Carolina; Kerwin "Pee Wee" Douthit, South Dakota; Donavon R. Mason, South Dakota; Deane E. Weekley, South Dakota; George Harper, Jr., Tennessee; Donald D. Hildebrand, Tennessee; Jim Holley, Texas; William E. Christoffersen, Utah; James G. Brouillette, Vermont; Leonard C. Normandeau, Vermont; Cornelius T. O'Neill, Virginia; Arthur P. Oger, West Virginia; Donald Southworth, Wisconsin; Robert F. Thomas, Wisconsin.

There's a bridge that lies between
The earthly world we know so well
And a peaceful, perfect dwelling place
Of which the scripture tell...
There our loved ones live forever
And what comfort it will mean
To know our thoughts and prayers have built
The bridge that lies between.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please be seated. I now call on our 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

National Commander Oxford, members of the NEC and guests. As did all commissions, Finance met virtually on Friday, October 2; Monday, October 5; and Tuesday, October 6. All commission members and NEC liaison members were present, as well as senior staff. We were honored to have our national commander, Bill Oxford, attend our meeting on Monday and Tuesday, as he had a prior commitment on Friday.

Representatives of our primary insurance carrier, NFP Property & Casualty, briefed the commission and spoke to the importance of The American Legion being named as an additional insured on department and post liability insurance policies, and there is a resolution to that effect. We also received a brief report from K&K Insurance on baseball coverage, which they predicted would have about a 15 percent increase this year for all baseball teams.

The Internal Affairs Commission reported that the National Emergency Fund is healthy and has a market value of more than $7.5 million. The Finance Commission recommended approval of a resolution which will award up to $1,000 to each post that suffered with the pandemic. A list of qualifications is set forth in the resolution. The $5 million requested will come from the NEF.

On April 3, the commission approved the organization's participation in Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program. An application was completed for Fifth Third Bank which was approved, and a note was executed in the amount of $3,824,000. The terms of the loan set forth a two-year maturity with a 1 percent fixed rate. There is a provision of the loan that could result in the loan being forgiven. The application seeking loan forgiveness is in process but has not yet been submitted. Provisions for use of the loan were followed to the letter of the law.

On April 28, the commission approved several actions related to The American Legion World Series. Each year the organization makes a $50,000 restricted grant to the Cleveland County American Legion World Series Committee to support marketing efforts. The commission modified the 2020 $50,000 grant to eliminate the restriction making it available to support the operations of the Cleveland County American Legion World Series Committee. An additional grant of $140,000 was issued to Cleveland County American
Legion World Series to also be used for the 2020 operations during the pandemic. This grant was payable in five installments of $28,000.

On July 23, the commission met virtually via Zoom to discuss Resolution No. 5 Mail 2020, entitled, "Vision, Mission, Values, and Motto of The American Legion." This resolution was subsequently approved by the NEC.

Since then, we have received a several excellent comments concerning our vision and mission, which were discussed this week. As a result, your Finance Commission recommends approval of a resolution which will more finely enhance those two statements to be as follows: Vision - "The American Legion: Veterans strengthening America."

Mission - "To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

The national treasurer reported that we just received $1.4 million from the U.S. Mint from royalty for sales on commemorative coins.

The Marketing chairman briefed the Finance Commission on progress to date in marketing, and how they plan to raise $25 million for the Veterans & Children Foundation. Complete details of that are written in my report.

It was also reported that DMS fundraising is doing well and we have over 350,000 active donors. As a result of fundraising in 2020, $1,650,000 is being distributed to departments as per the national resolution based on the fact that national has acquired some Legionnaires in its list buy, and 100 percent of the net contributions from those Legionnaires is returned to the departments.

Past National Commander Jim Koutz reported that the Indiana National Convention Corporation netted $105,548, and national's 50 percent share of that money is $52,774.

Last year at this time, you approved a 2020 budget that projected a surplus of $2.5 million. Due the cancellation of programs and meetings and approval of the PPP grant, and more economic status, we projected a 2020 surplus of $10.4 million.

Your commission recommended approval of the 2021 budget, which is based on membership of 1,750,000. It projects revenues of $89,536,899. [Editor's Note: This figure is corrected from the originally reported amount of $89,563,899] and expenses of $85,807,097, for an operating surplus of $3,729,802. We are budgeting for 2021 as if we expect all conditions to be normal.

A list of resolutions recommended for your approval follows this report. And you have a complete copy of my fully written nine-page report in your documentation.

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

Resolution titled, "Mission Blue Post Assistance Program." Creates a program whereby $1,000 grant will be provided to applying and qualified American Legion posts. Please see the resolution for criteria associated with program.

Resolution titled, "Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) Program Update." Consolidates previous direct membership solicitation resolutions to set how the program shall operate.

Resolution titled, "Insurance Requirements." Mandates that The American Legion be named as an additional insured on department and post liability insurance policies.

Resolution titled, "Vision and Mission of The American Legion." Clarifies our vision and mission statement.

Resolution titled, "2023 National Convention Contract." Grants authorization for the national commander to execute the 2023 national convention contract.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is my report. Thank you.

Report: Finance Commission
Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Finance Commission met virtually via Zoom on Friday, October 2; Monday, October 5 and Tuesday, October 6. All commission members were present. Also present were National Commander Bill Oxford, National Adjutant Dan
Wheeler, National Treasurer Shawn Long, National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett, Executive Directors James Baca, Dean Kessel and Chanin Nuntavong, and Human Resources Director Rodney Rolland. Members of the NEC Liaison Committee present were Michael Mitrione (VA, Chairman), Robert Krause (ND), Robert Skinner (ID), Thomas Florez (CO) and Dan Wiley (KS). Several guests joined us throughout the course of the meeting.

Reports were received from the National Adjutant; National Treasurer; National Judge Advocate; the Convention, Marketing, Internal Affairs and Media & Communications Commissions; the Membership & Post Activities Committee; and the Executive, Human Resources and IT Directors. We also received a status report from The American Legion World Series committee as well as reports from the 2019 Convention Corporation, the financial institutions where our funds are held, and our insurance brokers.

Attached is a report that provides payment breakdowns to, or on behalf of, each department.

Fifth Third Bank and Hoosier Trust, who manage our fund investments, both indicated that while the pandemic has had a negative impact on many markets, The American Legion's policy on investments served us well and our portfolios were not adversely affected.

Representatives of NFP Property & Casualty, The American Legion's insurance brokers, reported to the commission that they've made many presentations to different American Legion groups over the past year. NFP spoke to the importance of The American Legion being named as an "additional insured" on department and post liability insurance policies, and there is a resolution to that effect. We also received a brief report from K&K on baseball insurance.

The Covid-19 pandemic adversely affected all levels of the Legion. From April through this month, all of national's programs that involved personal contact were cancelled. One of national's long-term employees succumbed to Covid-19, as did her son. An Emblem employee contracted the virus and thankfully recovered, but the incident did cause the closure of all Emblem in-person office and warehouse activities, including order fulfillment, for several weeks.

Just prior to the pandemic, your national staff switched to Vonage and Office 365, the expense of which was approved by you last October. The timing of this switch could not have been better, because it enabled the majority of your staff to operate remotely and continue the timely customer service you have come to expect.

The Internal Affairs Commission indicated that the National Emergency Fund remains healthy with a market value of more than $7.5 million as of August 1, 2020. Posts across the nation suffered due to mandated closures and public health ordinances which limited their ability to derive support from their members and the community at large. Therefore, your Internal Affairs and Finance Commissions recommend approval of a resolution instituting Mission Blue Post Assistance Program. The resolution, attached to this report, sets out the restrictions and qualification requirements. The National Emergency Fund, established to provide grants to American Legion posts in times of disaster and emergency, will provide $1,000 grants to applying and qualified posts impacted by the government's public health protection restrictions in response to COVID-19. No more than $5 million shall be expended from the NEF for this program. However, donations from elsewhere specifically designated to fulfill the intent of the program may be applied to it without limitation.

Membership & Post Activities Committee Chairman Jay Bowen of Colorado reported that departments will receive $5 for every 2020 encumbered member who transfers and renews at the local post for 2021. This is to incentivize departments to work the 2020 encumbered DMS members list.

The M&PA Committee, Internal Affairs Commission and your Finance Commission recommend approval of the attached resolution to consolidate previous direct membership solicitation resolutions to explain how the program shall operate. Other activities by your Finance Commission at this meeting include:
• approved $225,899 in 2021 capital expenditures for IT equipment
• approved $79,601 in 2021 Furniture & Fixtures requests
• approved the employment of certified public accountants Crowe LLP to prepare The American Legion's 2020 fiscal year audit
• recommended that 2021 dues be allocated as follows: $3 to The American Legion Magazine and $15.50 to the general fund
• named Jimmy Luther as agent-of-record for The American Legion employee health and life insurance
• approved renewal of line of credit with Fifth Third Bank. This is a $2,000,000 line with a $3,000,000 option for a total available line of credit of $5,000,000
• approved write-off of $33,487.18 in uncollectible accounts, shrinkage and obsolete manuscripts and inventory.

Authorized headcount of national headquarters staff is 257.

At its March 2020 Washington Conference meeting, the commission:
• Approved a budget overrun of $325,000 for developing a "concept piece" membership renewal application that would incentivize individuals to engage in recruiting and renewal. This is still in the works.
• Approved $336,875 in budget overruns since the commission met in October 2019. $324,000 of that amount was for additional fulfillment costs due to the success of the DMS program. A little over a third of this is being made up with additional revenue this year; the remainder will be recovered in our payback model.
• The 2020 membership budget was approved as follows: DMS - $6,720,000; Direct renewal - $1,255,000; Commander's awards - $150,000. Total: $8,125,000.

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic mandated nationwide social distancing and so forced the cessation of many activities, your national headquarters and Finance Commission continued to operate. TFA, NEF and OCW grants continued to be paid. I was continuously in touch either by phone, email or Zoom with Finance Commission members. Between the 2020 Washington Conference and our meeting this week, your Finance Commission took the following actions.
• On April 3, the commission approved the organization's participation in the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program. An application was completed through Fifth Third Bank which was approved and a note was executed in the amount $3,824,000. The terms of the loan set forth a two-year maturity with a 1% fixed rate. There is a provision of the loan that could result in the loan being forgiven. The application seeking loan forgiveness is in process but has not yet been submitted. Provisions for use of the loan were followed to the letter.
• On April 28, the commission approved several actions related to the American Legion World Series. Each year the organization makes a $50,000 restricted grant to Cleveland County ALWS Committee to support marketing efforts. The commission modified the 2020 $50,000 grant to eliminate the restriction making it available to support the operations of the Cleveland County ALWS Committee. An additional grant of $140,000 was issued to Cleveland County ALWS to also be used for 2020 operations during the pandemic. This grant was payable in five installments of $28,000. More on the use of this money later in my report.
• On July 23, the commission met virtually via Zoom to discuss Resolution #5 Mail 2020, "Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of The American Legion." This resolution was subsequently approved by the NEC.

Since then we have received several excellent comments concerning our vision and mission which were discussed this week. As a result, your Finance Commission recommends approval of a resolution which more finely enhances those two statements to be as follows:
Proceedings of Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Vision – "The American Legion: Veterans Strengthening America"
Mission - "To enhance the well being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Plans to roll out use of these new statements from top to bottom throughout the Legion are currently being developed.

IT continues to work on our new membership/CRM system and plans to go live with various pieces from late November through the third quarter of 2021. Details concerning these switches will be shared with users closer to the implementation dates.

We just received $1.4 million from the US Mint for our royalty on the sale of commemorative coins.

Marketing Commission Chairman Mike Rohan and Executive Director Dean Kessel presented to the Finance Commission. The Marketing Commission expects to clear $4,129,325 in revenue from its fundraising efforts in both direct mail and corporate relationships. They recently concluded an agreement with United Health which netted The American Legion $1,300,000 per year for three years. They have a number of prospects for additional relationships.

Another focus of the Marketing Commission for the next seven years is raising $25 million net to enhance the corpus of the Veterans & Children Foundation. Chairman Rohan presented an overview of the plan to achieve that goal. One aspect of the plan was the creation of the 1919 Society which provides recognition to individuals, businesses and organizations that donate $1,000 or more. At its Washington DC meeting earlier this year, the Finance Commission approved a $30,000 expenditure for a 1919 Society display of donors to be placed on the third floor of national headquarters. The chairman outlined the various mementos that would be presented to donors and noted that one key feature of the fundraising effort is that 1919 Society members will enter as a group at future national commander's convention banquets. Those who achieve the milestone of donating $10,000 or more will have their 1919 Society regalia presented at the national commander's convention banquet during the year they achieve that milestone. Thus far four people have pledged $10,000 to the 1919 Society and there are probably many more who will do so.

The Marketing Commission also requested $877,000 in the 2021 budget for the purpose of fundraising and other initiatives for the VCF. It is projected that the $877,000 would be budget-neutral and the net raised above reimbursement to The American Legion would be presented directly to the Veterans & Children Foundation for placement in its corpus. The Finance Commission was very enthusiastic about the plans, applauded the progress being made by the Marketing Commission, and moved to receive and file the Marketing Commission's report.

Deputy Director Chuck Krupa reported that DMS fundraising is doing well, we have over 350,000 active donors and in 2021 they are expecting to receive $13,986,000 in contributions. It was also reported that during 2020, $1,654,234 was redistributed to the departments as per resolution based on the fact that national had acquired some Legionnaires in its list buy.

Past National Commander and President of the Indiana National Convention Corporation Jim Koutz gave his final report on the 2019 national convention. He indicated the 2019 national convention was a great a success. The Indiana National Convention Corporation netted $105,548.70. National's 50 percent share of this money is $52,774.35.

American Legion World Series Chairman Eddie Holbrook reported. The World Series was cancelled on April 7. In order that the World Series office could continue to operate, American Legion Charities made several grants which enabled the World Series office to remain open. Since play was suspended during the 2020 season, ALWS staff was able to support a much needed, massive improvement project on Veterans Field.

The Convention and Finance Commissions recommend your approval of the attached resolution which mandates the signing of a contract to finalize the awarding of the 2023 national convention to Charlotte, North Carolina.
Last year at this time, you approved a 2020 budget that projected a surplus of $2.5 million. Due to the cancellation of programs and meetings and approval of the PPP grant, we project a 2020 surplus of $10.4 million plus.

Your commission recommends approval of the 2021 budget, which is based on membership of 1,750,000. It projects revenues of $89,536,899, [Editor's Note: This figure iscorrected from the originally reported amount of $89,563,899] and expenses of $85,807,097, for an operating surplus of $3,729,802. We are budgeting for 2021 as if we expect all conditions to be normal.

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.

- "Mission Blue Post Assistance Program." Creates program whereby $1,000 grants will be provided to applying and qualified American legion posts. Please see resolution for various criteria associated with the program.
- "Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) Program Update." Consolidates previous direct membership solicitation resolutions to set how the program shall operate.
- "Insurance Requirements." Mandates that The American Legion be named as an "additional insured" on department and post liability insurance policies.
- "Vision and Mission of The American Legion." Clarifies our vision and mission statements.
- "2023 National Convention Contract." Grants authorization for the national commander to execute the 2023 national convention contract.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and approve the report of the Finance Commission with the exception of five resolutions. There is no addendum. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and approve the report of the Finance Commission. Any discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Commander, this is Past Commander Butch Miller, if you would, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Recognize Butch Miller, past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: I have no question on the report. The only thing I would like to mention is the fact that when we as an organization speak about blue cappers, we're talking about individuals. I think the resolution having to do with the grant program, while I absolutely, positively endorse and applaud the idea, I think the title might originally and possibly cause some confusion in that blue cappers looking at that, by the title only, might assume that those grants are for individuals and not posts. I'm not sure if there's anything that can be done about that, but I just thought I would bring that point up, since it did happen in the Department of Indiana when they gave the information to another Legionnaire to read. And that's my observation. Thank you very much, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Butch, do you have a recommendation for that title?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: You know, I was afraid you were going to ask that question, and the answer is no. I actually think the title is rather catchy. But again, I think initially, there might be some confusion. The only suggestion I would have is that, I'm sure it's mentioned in the forms that people will fill out, and it's mentioned in the application. If there's any way that, when this information is dispersed through the magazine or the Dispatch or whatever, that it is done so with a lead that says, "For posts
and not for individuals." To answer your question directly, no, I don't have a suggested title.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Butch, would "Post-COVID-19 Support" work?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: I'm sure that there's probably any number of titles that would work, and that might stem some of the confusion. I would like to know from other people if they think there will be any confusion caused by this. That was the initial reaction that I got, as I said, when I gave it to a Legionnaire here in Indiana to read. My concern may not be warranted. I'm not sure. So I'll leave it up to the judgment of the committee and the leadership of the national office to determine that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Butch. Any other comments or discussion? Objections? Motion to approve the Finance report, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 34: Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) Program Update

Origin: Membership & Post Activities Committee

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) program has recruited more than 4,000,000 qualified members since its inception in 1981; and

WHEREAS, The DMS program continues to operate successfully, benefiting The American Legion at all levels, and it is therefore desirous that the program continues; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that the national organization recover the cost of the DMS program, since the national organization funds all acquisition costs of the DMS member; and

WHEREAS, Over the year's rules on handling DMS has changed several times and it is essential that an updated resolution with all approved procedures be published clarifying the program and handling of DMS members; and

WHEREAS, A local/traditional post is defined as one in the local community with an approved constitution and by-laws, approved charter, not administrative in nature and has a current slate of officers; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 16 (NEC, May 4-5, 2016), Subject: "Membership Credit be Given to Departments for Transferring First and Second Year Direct Mail Solicitation Members Into Local Posts" gave membership goal credit to the departments for engaging and transferring DMS members to local/traditional posts and this is incorporated in this updated resolution; and

WHEREAS, Under the current DMS program rules, the national organization retains all of the dues collected from such members when they initially join, and for two renewal cycles afterwards unless they transfer to a local/traditional post other than the department headquarters post, district/county headquarters post or any other administrative holding post; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, departments were allowed to see the contact information on encumbered members in myLegion.org in order to engage and transfer the members to a local/ traditional posts per Resolution No. 1, (NEC, May 10-11, 2017), Subject: "Make Contact Information for Newly Acquired DMS Members Immediately" and this provision is included in this updated resolution; and

WHEREAS, It is a known fact that member engagement increases the opportunity for the member to renew and all levels should establish a communication plan to enforce with the member the value of their membership; and

WHEREAS, Those DMS members who are in the department's headquarters post and have not renewed for their second renewal or transferred to a local/traditional post as defined above will be coded encumbered on the national membership data base; and

WHEREAS, Despite the best efforts of posts and departments to transfer DMS-acquired members to traditional posts expeditiously, it is inevitable that a certain percentage of DMS-acquired members will remain in department headquarters posts after two renewal cycles for the duration of their membership; and
WHEREAS, The departments and posts should share in the revenue generated by those DMS-acquired members who either will not or have not been transferred to a traditional post and remain after the two renewal cycles in the said department's headquarters; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that any excess revenues be made available to departments once the total acquisition cost of DMS has been recovered; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion's Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) program shall operate as follows:

1. The national organization bears the full acquisition cost of DMS solicitations;

2. The national organization will place newly acquired DMS members into each department's headquarters post, coded as encumbered so that they can be readily identified by the national organization as that year's DMS-acquired members;

3. The national organization retains all of the dues collected from such members when they initially join, and for two renewal cycles afterwards unless they transfer to a local/traditional post other than the department headquarters post, district/county headquarters post or any other created administrative holding post;

4. Departments can access contact information for newly acquired DMS members through myLegion.org with the intent to engage and transfer to a local/traditional post if a member so desires;

5. Pursuant to Article V Section 3 of The American Legion National Constitution, the coded DMS members acquired in each membership year shall count toward the respective department's delegate strength 30 days out from the National Convention and shall be coded in such a way that the appropriate department receives credit for the member;

6. Departments will receive immediate credit toward its national membership goals for DMS members who have paid dues for the upcoming year and transfers into a local/traditional post on or after July 1 of each membership year;

7. During each membership year, the national organization shall contact the encumbered DMS members to engage, educate and enthuse them about their value of membership in The American Legion, and present them the opportunity to transfer, with their consent, to a local/traditional post;

8. Those not transferred to a local/traditional post shall remain encumbered for two renewal cycles in the department's headquarters post during which time the national organization shall attempt to renew said member at a dues rate higher than any "DMS Introductory Offer" cited in the initial DMS mailing, and any revenues derived therein shall be retained by the national organization as per capita dues, and any excess amount shall also be retained to offset the cost of the entire DMS program;

9. After the national organization has renewed any DMS-acquired member for the second time, that member will be turned over to the department, unencumbered, and the department shall retain all future membership revenues collected from that member except for the per capita dues owed to the national organization;

10. The contact information on any coded DMS member who does not renew in any membership cycle (expired member) shall be made available to the respective department, and should the department reacquire said member, whether in a local/traditional post or the department's headquarters post, the department shall retain all dues revenue except that which may be owed to the local/traditional post or the per capita owed to the national organization; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DMS members acquired for membership years 2021 and forward shall be retained as encumbered members by the national organization for no longer than two renewal cycles at which time they shall be turned over to their respective departments, unencumbered; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any DMS-acquired member who has been transferred to a local/traditional post at any time during any renewal cycle shall thereafter be turned
over to the respective departments, unencumbered, as soon as a legal transfer has been effected from the headquarters post; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 14, (NEC, Oct. 13-14, 2010), Subject: "Affirmative Consent for Transfer" remains in full force and effect; and, be it further RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 25, (NEC, Oct. 12-13, 2011, Subject: "Realignment of DMS Program") and Resolution No. 16 (NEC, May 4-5, 2016, Subject: "Membership Credit be Given to Departments for Transferring First and Second Year Direct Mail Solicitation Members Into Local Posts") and Resolution No. 1, (NEC, May 10-11, 2017, Subject: "Make Contact Information for Newly Acquired DMS Members Immediately") be, and are hereby, rescinded; and, be it finally RESOLVED, That all departments are strongly urged and encouraged to make a good faith effort to engage, renew or transfer as many DMS-acquired members as possible from their department headquarters posts as it is in the best interests of the entire American Legion to do so.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution No. 34 has the approval of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and second to adopt Resolution three-four, 34. Any discussion?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER JORDON (IN): NEC, Department of Indiana, Jerry Jordon.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize Jerry Jordon.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER JORDON: Commander, I understand the posts will be identified if any DMS members transfer to the local post in a timely manner, that they might verify eligibility?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize Chairman Newman for a response.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: Yer sir, Mr. Commander, as far as I'm aware of.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: So Jerry, I the guess the answer to your question is "yes."

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER JORDON: Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE (VA): Mr. Commander, Mike Mitrione of Virginia.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize Mike Mitrione from Virginia.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: Item Number 3, do I correctly understand that as, we all get a DMS member this year, they transfer to a local post next month, they then get this year's dues, and if so, is that after the national has withdrawn its 18.50 per capita?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chairman Newman.

CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: I think, Mr. Commander that Jack Querfeld is sitting in the audience, if we can recognize Jack Querfeld.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize Jack Querfeld at this time.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR QUERFELD: The answer to the question is, if the member transfers, the current dues stay with national, but you get the dues the next year and so forth and so on after that, except for the national per capita.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mike, does that answer your question?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: It looked like, when I read it, it retains all the dues collected except if they transfer. So it sounded like, when I read it, that the national doesn't keep any of that dues, even the first year.
DIRECTOR QUERFELD: National keeps the dues the first year of a transfer. Then the subsequent years, it goes to the posts.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: Okay. I'll just comment, that's not clear when you read Number 3.

DIRECTOR QUERFELD: As it reads, it says, "The national organization retains all the dues collected from members when they initially join, and for two renewal cycles afterwards unless they transfer to the local or traditional post other than department headquarters post, district/county headquarters, or any other created administrative holding post."

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: Thank you. My comment exactly.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mike, does that clear up your question?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: I understand it. I just didn't agree with his interpretation, but I will pass by that. Thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Mike. I'd like to recognize Paul Espinoza from New Mexico.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ESPINOZA (NM): This goes on with the NEC from Virginia as well. But it also coincides with Number 10, "Resolved" on Number 10, where it states the same thing, almost like Number 3, where it says "Renewal by any membership cycle shall be made available to the respective department, and should the department require said member, whether in a local/traditional post or department's headquarters post," et cetera. So 3 and 10, I guess if Jack could please clarify that as well. I just thought it coincided with Number 10, like the NEC from Virginia stated. I just wanted a clarification on that as well.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Paul, was there a question?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ESPINOZA: For 10 and 3, are they the same?

DIRECTOR QUERFELD: Let me clarify a little bit what I've said earlier. That member has already paid his dues to the national headquarters. You subsequently transfer that member to a post. Those dues stay with national. For the next years after that, all of your dues then are just like any other member that you have. The only dues that come to national are the national per capita. So that member is just transferred, he's already paid the dues, no dues money is transferred with the transfer. Does that clarify it a little bit more?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Paul, does that answer your question or clear up your concern?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ESPINOZA: Yes, commander, it does. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you. At this point I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Paul Morin.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: Move the resolution as presented, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and second. Any other objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution 34.

Resolution No. 35: Insurance Requirements
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion's charter is codified in 36 USC 21701 et seq and under this statutory code, The American Legion may: (a) establish and maintain offices to conduct its activities, (b) sue and be sued, (c) establish state, territorial and post organizations, and (d) have the exclusive right to use, manufacture and control the adopted organization emblems; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, its state, territorial and post organizations have the exclusive rights to use the name "The American Legion" or "American Legion" (collectively "Name"); and
WHEREAS, The names, emblems, trademarks and copyrights of The American Legion comprise The American Legion intellectual property (collectively "Tradenames"); and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's Tradenames consists of assets requiring legal and financial protections through insurance coverage, and

WHEREAS, It is recommended that The American Legion's state, territorial and post organizations have their own protective insurance coverage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That because The American Legion owns, controls, protects and defends The American Legion's Tradenames, this resolution is necessary to dictate protective standards over the Tradenames; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion, via insurance policies, protect itself, and its Tradenames, from liability and subsequently strongly urges all American Legion departments, department-chartered intermediate bodies and posts do the same; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due to the need to protect The American Legion's Tradenames from liability it shall be required forthwith that when any American Legion department, department-chartered intermediate body, post or organization use The American Legion's Name or Tradenames and an insurance policy is obtained, the group utilizing this insurance policy shall specifically in the insurance policy hold The American Legion harmless and named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion's national adjutant, or designee, has complete authority to independently investigate, confirm and report that any, and all, insurance policy(ies) purchased by an American Legion department, department-chartered intermediate body, post or organization shall specify that The American Legion is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policies; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion's National Executive Committee strongly urges that all American Legion departments follow similar courses of protective action, to wit: (1) require all of the department's own intermediate chartered bodies and posts that obtain insurance policies hold their respective American Legion departments harmless and also named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policy(ies) and (2) that the department adjutant, or said designee, have the complete authority to independently investigate, confirm and report that any insurance policy(ies) purchased by the department's intermediate body or post shall hold its respective department also harmless and named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policies.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution No. 35 has the approval of the Finance Committee and your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and second to adopt Resolution three-five, 35. Any discussion?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE (VA): Mr. Commander, Mike Mitrione, Virginia.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The chair recognizes Mike Mitrione.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: I hesitate to bring this up but, however, specifically commented on by Chairman Keener when he made this presentation, he specifically identified liability insurance. This resolution does not specifically call out only liability insurance but all insurance. So it would seem to me, if somebody has flood insurance in the Outer Banks, now the national organization needs to be insured for flood insurance. Am I incorrect in this?
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to call on the national judge advocate for that answer.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: Thank you, commander. That is correct. What it states is that, for any insurable interest that any post and department partakes in, that they would name the national organization and their respective department as an additional insured.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear that.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: Okay. So what this resolution does say, sir, that if a department or a post has an insurable interest in any form or in anything that they do, that that post and department would name the national organization as an additional insured. Concurrently, the post would also name their respective department.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion? The chair would like to recognize David Carlson, NEC from Hawaii.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON (HI): NEC from Hawaii, David Carlson. What does these insurances cost, just the basic one?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: You are asking, I assume, what it would cost to add an organization as an additional insured; is that correct?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON: Yes, for liability insurance.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: This is a standard business practice that's been going on. In the majority of the insurance companies that we've dealt with and talked with, there is not an additional charge for this.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON: What if we don't have any properties or anything, we have no insurance?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: Then you don't have to worry about it if you don't have insurance.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON: Oh, okay.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion on Resolution 35? Any objections? Resolution No. 35 passes, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 36: Mission Blue Post Assistance Program
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission
(As amended)

WHEREAS, The United States of America is facing a public health crisis unseen since 1918 called the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, State and local public health protection ordinances place a limit on American Legion posts ability to derive support from its members and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, The financial damage created as a result of those public health protection ordinances will be felt for many years; and

WHEREAS, A post is the backbone of The American Legion and the financial stability of a post is necessary to complete the missions of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion desires to be of assistance to posts impacted by public health ordinances related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Emergency Fund was established to provide grants to American Legion posts in times of disaster and emergency; and

WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Commission and Finance Commission has recommended approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That the national commander is hereby authorized to establish a grant program titled "Mission Blue Post Assistance Program" which will provide $1,000 grants to applying and qualified
American Legion posts impacted by the government's public health protection restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander shall direct the Internal Affairs Commission through its Internal Affairs Division to screen, certify and cause grants to be distributed to qualifying posts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an American Legion post will be eligible for a Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant after verification by the American Legion department adjutant that the post meets the criteria and requirements, which are listed here:

1. A post must have a consolidated post report on file.
2. A post must have filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
3. A post must have filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the department.
4. A post must have actively participated in one or more American Legion program(s) within the last 18 months.
5. A post must have a financial need.
6. A post must provide a certificate of insurance naming The American Legion dba American Legion National Headquarters as an additional insured.
7. A post must provide documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the funds from a Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant shall be used exclusively for the following:

1. Current and past due mortgage principal and interest,
2. Current and past due real estate rents,
3. Current and past due insurance premiums, and
4. Current and past due utilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an American Legion post receiving a Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant will be required to submit a true and accurate report outlining how the funds were used; and the report shall be signed by the post finance officer and certified by the post commander or post adjutant; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That payment for a Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant shall be made available by funding in The American Legion National Emergency Fund; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That no more than $5,000,000 ($5 million dollars) shall be expended from The American Legion National Emergency Fund for the Mission Blue Post Assistance Program, except that donations from elsewhere specifically designated to fulfill the intent of the program may be applied to same without limitation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion may solicit donations for the Mission Blue Post Assistance Program from any sources as may be available provided that any and all monies raised shall be used to augment the $5,000,000 commitment from The American Legion National Emergency Fund; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Finance Commission is authorized to make any changes to the program as it sees fit to carry out the intent of this resolution provided that the National Executive Committee is provided notification of changes made at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution No. 36 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance 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 three-six. Is there any discussion? I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Paul Morin.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: Commander, I move to amend the title to "Mission Blue Post Assistance Program."

"Mission Blue Post Assistance Program," this should be the new title on my amendment.
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Past National Commander Butch Miller, if you would, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Butch Miller.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: I would like to second that amendment proposed by Past National Commander Morin.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to amend the resolution, the title of the resolution. Any further discussion? Any objections? I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Dave Rehbein.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: I only have one question, commander. We have some posts out here that are hurting pretty badly. My question is, how long will it take to get application forms put together that we can distribute to the posts so that they can begin to draw on this, if the NEC approves it?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Dave, that's a discussion on the main motion. Let's approve the amendment, and then we'll get to that. Okay? We have a motion and second to amend the Resolution 36. Any objections? The new title will be "Mission Blue Post Assistance Program."

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Commander, Butch Miller, past national commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Commander Butch.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: I'd like to also ask that in that portion of the resolution where it states that the post shall report signed by the post officers, I think it would be wise if a time period was specified there. As of right now, the resolution has no time period for that report to be submitted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Butch, this is out of order at this time. We were talking about the amendment. We'll get to that main resolution in just a moment.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further objections? Motion to amend the resolution, the title "Mission Blue Post Assistance Program" carries unanimously. Now we move to the main resolution.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Past Commander Miller.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: National Commander Butch.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Yes, sir. In that portion of the resolution that states that the post receiving a Mission Blue grant will be required to submit a report, there is no stipulation on time period specified as to how long the post has to submit that report. I think it would be important to specify some time period within which the post is required to submit that report. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Recommendation on that time period?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Within six months.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We can make that happen, commander. We have a motion and second to adopt Resolution 36 with the amendment. Is there any further discussion? I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Fang Wong.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: I'd like everybody to take a look at Number 6 where it says, "A post must provide a certificate of insurance naming The American Legion National Headquarters as an additional insured."

As you know, we just passed the insurance requirement, Resolution No. 35. Would it be kind of unreasonable to expect that the posts that need help at this point to be able to change the policy and also submit the application for this Mission Blue program?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: National judge advocate?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: So National Commander Fang Wong, what this is in there for is because, if the other resolution did not pass, this had to be in there for this program. This is just ensuring that the insurance will be taken care of and covering, and using the program the way it's supposed to be.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: So if they don't have it on the insurance policy right now, they cannot apply for this grant?
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: They can apply for the grant. They would just have to get a copy of their certificate of insurance showing that the national headquarters is listed prior to receiving the money. So you can go through the steps, fill out the form, send it in, but the money is not going to be released unless they do have the national headquarters as an additional insured.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Okay. So there's a possibility that the granting of the funds will be delayed until such time, then?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: I've dealt with a lot of insurance individuals through the companies that I've worked with, and we've never had a problem. You call them up, they should be able to do that immediately and send that over to you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Okay.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion on Resolution 36? I'd like to recognize Lloyd Woods, NEC from Maine.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Mr. Commander, what is the exact title of the program?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mission Blue Post Assistant Program.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Okay. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Mr. Commander, if I may, I would like to reinstate my question. How long is this going to take to be implemented? How soon will a post be able to apply for this program?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Commander, the applications are ready. So if someone needs to download it, it should be rather imminent. They'll be posted online.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Thank you. That's the answer that I had hoped to hear.

Resolution No. 37: 2023 National Convention Contract
Origin: Convention Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission has reviewed the status of the proposed National American Legion Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 25 – August 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Subject to receiving a properly executed contract from the American Legion National Convention Corporation of North Carolina, Inc., the Convention Commission believes that all conditions for a contract covering the American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 25 – August 31, 2023, have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission hereby recommends to the National Executive Committee that it enter into the appropriate contract with the American Legion National Convention Corporation of North Carolina, Inc.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That the national commander, after receipt of an executed contract from the American Legion National Convention Corporation of North Carolina, Inc., and the review and approval of same from the national judge advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract and the national adjutant, be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution No. 37 has the approval of the Convention Commission, the Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.
Resolution No. 38: Vision and Mission of The American Legion
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion passed Resolution No. 5 in email format during the summer of 2020; and
WHEREAS, It has been determined that a more succinct and concise vision and mission statement is increasingly relevant; and
WHEREAS, It remains that a vision statement is a short succinct public statement of an organization's future and long-term directional goals; and
WHEREAS, It remains that a mission statement is a short succinct public statement of how an organization intends to fulfill its vision; and
WHEREAS, The vision and mission statements, along with the value principles and motto, help define the purpose of an organization, align the organization's resources toward a successful future, provide clear and effective decision guidance; form part of a business's strategic planning tool and publicly communicate the message; and
WHEREAS, In order that The American Legion has clear guidance to act in these turbulent times; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion modify the following vision statement: "The American Legion: Veterans Strengthening America"; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion modify the following mission statement: "To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution No. 38 has the approval of the Finance Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and a second to adopt Resolution three-eight, 38. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent. At this point, the chair recognizes James M. "Mike" Rohan of Wisconsin, chairman of the Marketing Commission, for the purpose of a report.

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

Commander Oxford, past national commanders, national officers, National Executive Committee, and guests. You have my written report and I am certain you can digest its content without me reading it to you. However, I do want to highlight a few things for you today.

Mr. Scott Miller, director of Marketing, left the organization in February, and an immediate search was conducted to find a replacement. During the Washington Conference in March, we found the right person to lead our marketing efforts. His name is Dean Kessel, and he joined our team in April of 2020.

Dean comes to The American Legion with more than 25 years of experience in marketing, management, entrepreneurship, and sponsorship development. Dean's experience includes multiple years as director of Sprint's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series; multiple years at Lowe's Companies, leading and directing its sports marketing efforts; and five years as vice president and general manager for ESPN. Dean is a welcome addition to The American Legion as he serves as the executive director of marketing.
From a national messaging perspective, we will continue to utilize the recently approved American Legion vision and mission statements as the lens and filter with which we evaluate the need for public comment. The American Legion voice is significant and carries a lot of influence. As such, we need to be measured and intentional when and where we elect to use it. Marketing will utilize the "Veterans Strengthening America" branding in all of our outward- and inward-facing messaging including press releases, advertising, PSAs, et cetera.

Marketing can realistically be boiled down to two things: What are we selling? And who are we selling it to? To achieve growth, we must answer the purpose question: Why does someone join The American Legion? And why does someone donate to The American Legion? If veterans or donors do not understand our purpose and our unique value proposition, they will not join or buy our product or mission. The marketing mission is to grow membership, grow revenue, and create compelling and engaging content. That's it, that's the list.

As you know, Resolution No. 7 was adopted by the National Executive Committee at our Fall 2019 meetings to establish a $25 million campaign to be used to exclusively and only for programs of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission included service officer training, and the Temporary Financial Assistance Program of the Americanism Commission's Children & Youth Committee in perpetuity without paying any of the program's supporting costs, as such costs will be covered by a general fund.

We have developed a comprehensive blueprint and a detailed timeline for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. This blueprint was presented to the Finance Commission in March and adopted by the VCF Board of Directors in August. The budget was presented to the Finance Commission on October 2, 2020.

Mr. Henry Howard of our Media & Communications Division came up with the idea of "100 Miles of Hope" to raise awareness for the Veterans & Children Foundation campaign. This highly successful campaign is marketed to our members by the national commander, social media, our website, emblem sales, and other media. The campaign has more than 4,000 participants so far, has raised more than $120,000 for the VCF.

The 1919 Society was created in October 2019 and presented to the Finance Commission in March at the Washington Conference, and to the Veterans & Children Foundation Board of Directors in August, for review and comments. The VCF Board of Directors adopted the 1919 Society to recognize the significant donors, and as a method of raising funds for all American Legion charities and programs. The major components of the 1919 Society are the Giving Wall in the executive wing; all bronze, silver, gold, and platinum medals; a bronze urn; and a 1919 Society pin.

The Finance Commission gave approval to engage IMPLAN Corporation, the leading authority on economic impact studies, to develop a reusable template to translate the work and spending of The American Legion into real, reportable economic impact.

We are currently working to recalibrate the CPR report through a broad internal project to quantify and measure the value of fulfilling the American Legion's mission through programs offered, services provided, and overall impact through a variety of social activity and economic metrics. Ultimately building the tools where we will have the capacity to track quantifiable value and demonstrate The American Legion's return on investment, which is the standard in nonprofit management. This will ultimately allow the organization to quantify and define consistently, who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Part of the recalibration is to focus on those levels of the organization that do not report into the CPR data. For example, currently, we do not ask our county, district, division, department, or national officers to file a CPR report. Additionally, we do not ask about the business of The American Legion, like labor costs, spending, billings, et cetera. There are millions of dollars in economic impact left unrepted each year simply because we do not ask. We expect to have a preliminary report in the first quarter of 2021 and a full report by National Convention 2021. Mr. Commander, that concludes my report, and I am available for any questions or comments.
Mr. Scott Miller, Director of Marketing, left the organization in February and an immediate search was conducted to find a replacement. During the Washington Conference in March 2020 we found the right person to lead our Marketing efforts. His name is Dean Kessel and he joined our team in April 2020. Dean comes to The American Legion with more than 25 years of experience in marketing, management, entrepreneurship, and sponsorship development. Dean experience includes multiple years as director of Sprint's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series™, multiple years at Lowe's Companies leading and directing it's sports marketing efforts, and five years as vice president and general manager for ESPN, Dean is a welcome addition to The American Legion. Dean is serving as the Chief Marketing Officer (Executive Director) of Marketing.

Earlier this year this body approved Resolution #4 titled Establishment of a Marketing Commission Executive Committee. This resolution takes leaders from 6 different commissions and committees and others and brings them together in an marketing commission executive committee to give advice to the national commander the national executive committee and our staff on issues concerning our brand our image and our reputation. They bring their knowledge from their respective commissions and committees together in one group to recommend a course of action in a time when this Commission is not in session.

**MARKETING DIVISION STAFFING**

In an effort to create a clear, concise and consistent voice across the entire American Legion organization, we have placed the following Divisions under the Marketing Organization

- **The Marketing Organization:**
  - Marketing – The Brand & Purpose
  - Membership & Internal Affairs -- how we serve our membership
  - Media / Communications -- Content
  - Media Relations - DC – Working w/National Press to push TAL Voice
  - Direct Mail/Digital Marketing / Fundraising
  - Agency Relationships

Direct Reports to the Executive Director of Marketing (Dean Kessel) are as follows:

- Jeff Stoffer  Director of Media & Communications -- Indy
- Chuck Krupa  Deputy Director of Marketing / DMS -- Indy
- Jack Querfeld  Director of Membership & Internal Affairs -- Indy
- Paul Harris  Director of Media Relations -- DC

The Marketing Organization:
- Marketing – The Brand & Purpose
- Membership & Internal Affairs -- how we serve our membership
- Media / Communications -- Content
- Media Relations - DC – Working w/National Press to push TAL Voice
NATIONAL MESSAGE

From a National Messaging Perspective, we will continue to utilize the recently approved TAL Vision and Mission statements as the lens and filter with which we evaluate the need for public comment. The American Legion voice is significant and carries a lot of influence. As such, we need to be measured and intentional when and where we elect to use it.

Vision: *The American Legion strengthens America by improving the lives of our military, veterans and their families.*

Mission: *The American Legion strengthens our communities, states and nation with programs and services for the military, veterans, their families and America.*

Tagline: Veterans Strengthening America

Marketing will utilize the Veterans Strengthening America Branding in all our applicable outward & inward facing messaging including: Press Releases, Advertising; PSAs, etc.

MARKETING STRATEGY/MISSION

Marketing can realistically be boiled down to two (2) things:

1. **What** are we selling?
2. **Who** are we selling it to?

- In order to achieve growth, we must answer the **Purpose** question?
  1. Why does someone join the American Legion?
  2. Why does someone donate to the American Legion?
- If veterans/donors don't understand our purpose and our **unique** value proposition they won't join (buy) our product/mission
- Marketing talks about "Now and Next"
  1. Membership now and the future of Membership
  2. Fundraising now and the future of Fundraising
- Marketing drives innovation
- Marketing is the experience and how a veteran engages with our brand
- Marketing makes decisions based on data and insights
- Marketing measures everything – Return on Investment (ROI)

MARKETING MISSION:

1. Grow Membership
2. Grow Revenues
3. Create Compelling & Engaging Content
4. That's it, that's the list

DIRECT MARKETING - MEMBERSHIP

Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS)

The 2021 DMS membership cycle has started strong. Through the July and August Campaigns we have enlisted 39,500 new members toward our 123,000 budgeted goal. This is about 16% ahead of last year's pace. The second direct mail campaign will mail in early October. This campaign includes mailing approximately 300,000 pieces to our best prospect lists and an additional 500,000 pieces to expired members. Additional campaigns are scheduled January – April 2021 to finish out the 2021 membership year.
We continue to see additional growth in our digital marketing efforts. Online joins are ahead of last year's pace by about 3%.

**Direct Renewal**

At the time of this report, renewals are running ahead of the 2020 pace by about 13,500 members. DMS first year renewals are performing also performing well ahead of last year's pace. To date, more than 19% of the 2020 DMS member have already renewed. In comparison to the class of 2019 where only 12% had renewed during this same period last year.

2021 online renewals are ahead of the 2020 pace by nearly 15,000 members. Our 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 are the primary contributing factors to this growth.

**Paid Up For Life (PUFL)**

Year-to-date we have converted about 7,000 members to PUFL. We expect to exceed the 8,000 goal prior to the end of 2020. We have additional monthly digital campaigns on the schedule as well as one direct mail campaign which is scheduled to mail in late October.

**DIRECT MARKETING - FUNDRAISING**

**National Fundraising (Non-member)**

National fundraising is on pace to finish 2020 with estimated net income exceeding $3,097,000, which is about $478,000 ahead of budget. Industry experts advised to stay the course with our direct marketing fundraising efforts through the pandemic, which is proving to be sound advice. Year-to-date, our donor acquisition campaigns are performing significantly ahead of pace. During August we acquired about 32,900 new donors alone not at a net cost but at a net surplus of about $2.90 per new donor. This is the first time in American Legion donor acquisition history that we've performed at a surplus level. Year-to-date, the cost to acquire is $8.13 per new donor, which is about $4.00 better than budget. Donor campaigns are also performing as expected.

**DMS Fundraising- Encumbered**

Net income from DMS encumbered members continues to climb this year. Year-to-date, net proceeds have exceeded $114,000. 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. National 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 efforts.

**Vehicle Donation Program**

The vehicle donation program took a significant hit due to the pandemic. Vehicle donations during the first 5 months of 2020 only amounted to about $8,000 and since that time more than $33,000 has been realized. We are expecting to meet or exceed last year's revenue pace of about $87,000.

**OTHER FUNDRAISING**

1. **Program Sponsorships** – Your marketing and agency partners have done some research into corporate sponsorships of programs like ours and found that we are just not big enough at the national level. We have developed a one sheeter to explain each of our national programs and have a complete list of all US Corporations by their state. We will continue to pursue sponsorships but expect them to be "one off" and not long-term funding opportunities. There are, however, new opportunities for government grants that were not previously available to nonprofits. **Legislation** – **There is a rule change to the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance for nonprofits applying for Government grants. This change allows us to apply for money from the federal government that we were not previously eligible for.**
a. We are working with Hillsdale College on an opportunity to move Oratorical and Shooting Sports in exchange for cost offsets.

2. **Sweepstakes/Raffles** – Other Veteran Service Organization have found value in running sweepstakes/raffles in conjunction with large corporations to support their programs and foundations. For example, Ford has teamed up with the DAV in a campaign called "Ford, PROUD TO HONOR". This is a sweepstakes with a Ford F150 as the grand prize and is promoted by country music star Luke Combs and Retired Colonel Vanessa Benson a Ford Military Ambassador. Conversations and research were done to develop a high-end raffle package that would be promoted through the Omaze platform. Efforts continue to develop a package in conjunction with the Indy 500.

**VETERANS & CHILDREN FOUNDATION**

Mr. Henry Howard of our Media and Communications Division came up with the idea of "100 Miles of Hope" walk/run to raise awareness for the Veterans & Children Foundations "Foundation of Hope" campaign. This highly successful campaign is marketed to our members by the National Commander, social media, our web site, Emblem Sales, and other media. The campaign has more than 4000 participants so far and raised in excess of $120,000.00 gross dollars for VCF.

We have developed a comprehensive "Blueprint" and a detailed timeline for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. This blueprint was presented to the Finance Commission in March 2020 and adopted by the VCF Board of directors in August 2020. The budget is waiting your approval to move forward and reach the $25 million-dollar seven-year goal.

**1919 Society**

The 1919 Society was created in October 2019 and presented to the Finance Commission in March 2020 at the Washington Conference and to the Veterans & Children Foundation Board Directors in August 2020 for review and comments. The VCF Board of Directors adopted the 1919 Society to recognize significant donors and as a method of raising funds for all American Legion Charities and programs.

The major components of the 1919 Society are:

- Giving Wall in the executive wing
- Medals (4 levels),
- Bronze URN
- 1919 Society pin
- Announced entry into the National Commanders dinner at convention
- Large donors ($10,000.00 or higher) receive a medal presentation during the National Commanders dinner or reception.

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation currently has two awards they are using for donations from the SAL, first is the Harry Colmery Legacy Award (SAL award for highest amount of donations) and second is the James Drain, Founders Award (SAL award for highest per capita). The Child Welfare Foundation also has various awards for recognizing their donors.

Currently we have two donors who have made a commitment at the $10,000.00 level.

**Emblem Sales** – As part of our 1919 Society and other Veterans & Children Foundation fundraising efforts we will have a need for retail items to sell for a profit benefiting the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. Emblem sales has received bids on the retail and awards that have been adopted by the VCF Board of Directors and are awaiting budget approval from this Commission.

**American Legion Riders** – A preliminary meeting between the Marketing Chairman and Marketing Staff and the American Legion Riders Chairman was held to discuss expanding their fundraising efforts into something that fits under the VCF Resolution #7, like PTSD or Veterans Suicide. This proposal does not close out the Legacy Scholarship fundraising effort, it just allows the Riders to raise funds for more than one program at a time. They
could split the money they raise each year in whatever percentage they agree on and the next year adjust them again depending upon the needs of the Riders. Additional discussions are needed to see if the ALR members are supportive of this effort.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

The Finance Commission gave approval to engage IMPLAN Corporation, the leading authority on Economic Impact Studies to develop a reusable template to translate the work and spending of The American Legion into real reportable economic impact.

We are currently working to recalibrate the CPR report through a broad internal project to quantify and measure the value of fulfilling The American Legion's mission through programs offered, services provided and overall impact through a variety of social, activity and economic metrics. Ultimately building the tools where we will have the capacity to track quantifiable value and demonstrate The American Legion's Return on Investment (ROI); which is the de facto standard in nonprofit management. This will ultimately allow the organization to quantify and define consistently – who we are, what we do and why we matter.

Part of the recalibration is to focus on those levels of the organization that do not report into the CPR data. For example, currently we do not ask our County, District, Division, Department or National Commanders to file CPR's. Additionally, we do not ask about the business of The American Legion (labor costs, spending, etc.) There are millions of dollars in economic impact left unreported each year simply because we do not ask. We expect to have a preliminary report in the first quarter of 2021 and a full report by National Convention 2021.

**CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT**

In addition to securing sponsors and financial support for the Veterans Inaugural Ball, corporate development and outreach has continued during the pandemic. Commitments and deliverables specific to the Discount Provider program are also being tracked and monitored. The 1st Degree team is assisting with contract renewals for all Discount Providers. In addition, work was done to negotiate a renewal with GreatCall and a list of vendors of The American Legion has been developed for potential new corporate alliances.

Of note is the launch of a brand-new relationship with United Healthcare starting October 1, 2020 delivering $1.3 million dollars annually in revenue to the organization. USAA relationship remains strong driving $4 million dollars annually in revenue to the organization.

**Tool Kit for Directors & Staff**

When we contact corporations to ask for money for our programs or events, those corporations are very clear on what they get in exchange for their donation. We do not have a formalized plan for what is expected of recipients from our donations. We are working on a "Tool Kit" for Directors and Staff to outline these new requirements.

**ADVERTISING**

**BROADCAST PSA'S**

Year to date, the We Believe and We Were There PSAs have delivered 221 million impressions and $5.3 million dollars in advertising value. The PSAs continued to perform well at the beginning of the year. However, there was a sharp drop in May and airings have continued to decline month over month indicating the need for a creative refresh. For this reason, following the development of the new brand framework, in June an updated PSA strategy was created that is focused on communicating the mission of The American Legion to an external audience and provides a roadmap for the development of new creative. The series is based on the Four Pillars and will be focused on Americanism: Making Communities Stronger; Veterans Affairs: Serving Our Nation's Heroes; National Security: Voice for Veterans; Children & Youth: Shaping Leaders of Tomorrow.

The first PSA was produced during the summer using existing video content from The American Legion media library and includes footage of Legionnaires in action during
COVID-19. It is available in 15-, 30- and 60-second lengths to encourage repeat airplay and maximum rotation by TV stations that download the spots. In addition, the broadcast PSA will be available to radio stations in 10-, 15-, 30- and 60-second lengths.

Our broadcast PSA's have aired 64,623 times on network channels like Fox Sports, Court TV, Fox Business News and Fox News Channel giving us a Cheapest to Deliver (CTD) Ad value of $17,276,233.00. We are in every Designated Market Area (DMA) (46 states plus DC) except DE, NH, NJ, VT.

**BILLBOARDS**

In March, existing We Believe billboard designs were placed in Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, and Wyoming. A new creative treatment was designed in May with COVID-19 related messaging. As of August, it has been placed in six states: Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, and South Dakota. When combined, year to date totals are $281,100 in advertising value and more than 45.4 million impressions.

**VEHICLE WRAPS**

Members of the Marketing Commission recommended the Marketing Staff work with our legal department on vehicle wraps. They recognized that there are many departments who annually wrap the vehicles of the commander and adjutant with various messages that are inconsistent with the Mission, Vision, Values, and motto of The American Legion. It was recommended by the Commission to develop an approved wrap (in various forms) and share them with the departments.

**VETERANS INAUGURAL BALL – SALUTE TO HEROES**

Planning for the January 2021 Inauguration Day event has been ongoing throughout the year. New corporate sponsor packages and sales materials were designed, outreach and communication with companies has been ongoing, and signed agreements and payments received are being tracked. New tiered investment levels were created for organizations participating on the Veterans Inaugural Committee and signed agreements and payments received are being tracked. Work to identify and secure talent for the event has also been completed. Budget development was presented, the website page was updated, and ticketing infrastructure researched and presented. Planning has continued in spite of COVID-19.

As of August 2020, $602,000 has been committed to the ball. $390,000 by the following corporate sponsors: American Airlines, Moore, Oak Grove Technologies, Philips, Tri-West Healthcare Alliance, United Healthcare and USAA. An additional $212,000 has been committed to the event by the following veteran organizations: AMVETS, DAV, The Independence Fund, Jewish War Veterans, Marine Corps League, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Red Cross, Student Veterans of America, and Team Rubicon. Payments for nearly all corporate sponsors and veteran organizations has already been received.

Conversations with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society have been ongoing to plan for potential issues related to COVID-19. Discussions are currently taking place with potential broadcast networks as a backup plan to an in-person event.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Buddy Check**

This initiative originally came out of Marketing and Media & Communication. It is not a membership call; it is a welfare check. It has a potential for expansion into Suicide prevention. In last year's National American Legion College class, we had a student who, with his daughters help design a video that explains the Buddy Check program in a fun and engaging way. The video is on the web site and available for posts to use in preparing for making the calls.
Active Duty Military

The Marketing Commission started working on finding a solution for recruiting our Active Duty military in May 2019. There are 1,378,637 active duty members of the armed forces as of January 2020.

The purpose is to solve the issue of posts not wanting to recruit active duty service members because of membership quotas. In workgroups the commission members discussed the issues, looked for solutions and talked about constitutional changes. We have submitted a draft resolution to address these issues and expect to present that resolution at the Spring 2021 meetings.

21ST CENTURY COMMITTEE MANDATES

The committee's purpose was to review the original 1997 21st Century Report and update for current and future needs to move the organization forward. Some of their recommendations to the National Executive Committee were:

- Further studies by Marketing and Media to capture the needs, wants and desires of a multigenerational organization.
- Mission and Vision statements
- Focus on Buddy Check
- All marketing needs a consistent message.
- Marketing Commission should develop a survey
- Marketing Commission prepare a strategic plan

PROJECT ATLAS

The program pilot will move forward with four new telemedicine pod post sites, specific cities to be determined; VA, Arizona, Kansas, Ohio, and West Virginia. Post 176, located in Springfield, TAL's first telemedicine site will open, Tuesday, September 22nd. 1st Degree will be providing project assistance and onsite activation support across all locations.

LUMINA CREDENTIALING STUDY

Work has been completed on a communications plan identifying internal and external media outlets that may cover a story about the Lumina Credentialing Study. Additional efforts will continue through the fall and into February 2021.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

In March, a COVID-19 Response Communications Plan was developed with tactics and recommendations for providing information to internal and external audiences. The Buddy Check Toolkit was updated and redesigned and a COVID-19 Response Toolkit was created that included safety tips, resources, social media posts and a press release for use by departments and posts. To help raise awareness about the Buddy Check program with external audiences, celebrity outreach took place and a Talent Toolkit was created to provide celebrities with information about Buddy Checks and a sample script. The lead singer from Rascal Flatts, Gary LeVox shared his support of the Buddy Check program across most social media platforms. In addition, media training was provided to the national commander that was specific to being interviewed on digital platforms and a list of talking points was developed.

BRAND FRAMEWORK AND MESSAGING STRATEGY

In May, a new brand framework and messaging strategy was presented. It included an integrated marketing plan to provide an at-a-glance view and schedule of plans for public relations, marketing, membership, and fundraising (digital and direct mail). New logo concepts with taglines were created to help an external audience instantly connect with the mission of The American Legion. Upon review, Veterans Strengthening America was selected as the preferred option.
ORATORICAL CONTEST TOOLKITS

Two toolkits were written for use by departments and posts that were focused on the two potentially different experiences a student might encounter. As not all school districts have returned to having students in physical classrooms, one version of the toolkit is for a contest in person, the other was created with an online contest in mind. It was understood an online contest may not be an option, but the decision was made to proceed to have an online version ready if need be.

VETERAN VOTES COUNT

To complement the Get Out The Vote program, a national awareness campaign was proposed to position The American Legion as the catalyst encouraging veterans to vote during the 2020 elections. Recommended tactics included a satellite media tour with a 40 million minimum audience guarantee, a paid radio advertising strategy focused on membership growth markets, a national press release, local and national media pitching and a paid digital strategy. Tactics also included an updated toolkit with a sample press release, social media posts, talking points and a list of resources for use by departments and posts.

MESSAGING

In recent weeks and months, The American Legion has been called upon for comment on many complex topics. Topics included racial discrimination, monument destruction, the confederate flag, flag burning, Legion facility renaming, taking a knee during the National Anthem. Messaging maps were developed, and training was conducted with the national commander to help aid and guide him through difficult questions that might be asked during media calls.

EARNED MEDIA PITCHING

Efforts continue to research and curate a national news story for placement that highlight the uniqueness of The American Legion and how the organization strengthens America in local communities. Strategic meetings were held with staff to discuss TAL hurricane efforts associated with Hurricanes Kyle and Laura.

BOYS STATE MOVIE

A menu of opportunities for cross promotion was developed and presented to TAL and the producers. The team continues to look towards telling a behind the scenes story about the Legionnaires that make the program happen on an annual basis.

Addendum A

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission with the exception of one addendum. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission with the exception of one addendum. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, attached to the report is Addendum A. I move the actions of the Marketing Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded that the action of the Marketing Commission, Addendum A, become the action of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent. I'd like to recognize James Brehio, NECman from Massachusetts.
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BREHIO (MA): Mr. Commander, I'd like the chair to recognize alternate NEC from Massachusetts, Mike Davis, for the purpose of a presentation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The chair would like to recognize alternate NEC from Massachusetts, Mike Davis.

ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER DAVIS (MA): Thank you, commander. The Department of Massachusetts would like to donate $10,000 to the Veterans & Children Foundation 1919 Society Giving Wall, in honor and memory of our past national commanders, those three being Daniel Doherty, 1937 to 1938; John P. "Jake" Comer, 1987 to 1988; and Paul A. Morin, 2006 to 2007. And we would like to challenge all other departments to match this donation. Thank you, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: That's quite a challenge there, Mike. But thank you very much. That's a generous donation to our foundation.

Fellow Legionnaires, we are embarked on a mission to raise $25 million to assist our veterans through Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, and to ensure that their children have the necessities of life during times of economic crisis. This is a huge undertaking.

Therefore, I would like to form the Veterans & Children Foundation Steering Committee to guide us in this endeavor. This committee will report to the NEC through our Marketing Commission. It will request any budget required through the Marketing Commission to the Finance Commission. I therefore move for its approval and I nominate the following appointees: Past National Commander Denise Rohan as chair. Members: From Massachusetts, Lisa McPhee; from Virginia; Tommy Lee from Virginia; Paul Sanford from Kansas; and Wesley Schermann from California. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion? Any objections? Motion carried, unanimous consent. I'd like to now call on the president of the Indiana Convention Corporation, Past National Commander Jim Koutz of Indiana, for a report on the 2019 National Convention.

James E. Koutz, Indiana, President

Thank you, commander. Members of the NEC and guests, the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana was a huge success, we believe.

The Color Guard Contest and Band Contest were both well attended. The hall was totally full for the Memorial Service and enjoyed by all.

The National Convention Parade was delightful, and the post-parade party was well attended, with Indiana welcoming home all Vietnam veterans with a 50th Vietnam veterans lapel pin. Over 2,500 pins were handed out. Veterans from all over the area came to receive their pins. Entertainment was a local band that everyone seemed to enjoy as they danced the evening away.

The opening of the convention on Tuesday was one of the best. The National Commander's Banquet was a packed house. Transportation seemed to run smoothly.

The Indiana Convention Corporation netted $105,548.70, which will be split with national, thus happy to report national received $52,774.35.

All in all, the culmination of the centennial celebration year, I believe the 101st National Convention was one our members will always remember.

A special thanks to all Indiana volunteers who made this weeklong event a huge success. Thanks to the national Convention Commission for all their hard work, and the national staff led by Bridget Robinson, Andrea Watson, Ellen Miller, and Reggie Mathis.

Mr. Commander, this concludes my report. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, 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 Convention Corporation. Any discussion? Any objections?
Motion carried, unanimous consent. 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: Convention Commission**  
**Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman**

Good day, Commander Oxford, and members of the NEC. Although the written report is in your packet, I would like to touch on some highlights of our meeting.

We conducted four site visits to cities seeking to host the 106th National Convention in 2025. Those cities were Kansas City, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Tampa Bay, Florida. All cities presented virtually to the Convention Commission on Monday, October 5, 2020. It was the recommendation of the Convention Commission that the 2025 106th National Convention of The American Legion be awarded to Tampa Bay, Florida, for the dates of August 22 through 28, 2025.

Mr. David Priester, chief judge of contests, was reappointed as chief judge of contests and has accepted his appointment. We look forward to a continued professional involvement with Mr. Priester and his contest judges.


Department Commander Kenneth Queen, interim president of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona, gave an initial report regarding our upcoming 102nd National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 through September 2, 2021. We are all looking forward to another outstanding convention in Phoenix.

One resolution was received by the commission, the resolution to approve the 2023 contract between the national organization of The American Legion and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of North Carolina, Inc. This was approved by the Convention Commission.

In your package you will find Addendum A, which includes one resolution we received and recorded from the Department of Ohio, supporting a bid for the 2027 national convention for Columbus. All future convention dates and cities are in our written report.

Commander Oxford and members of the NEC, that concludes my report. 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 9:00 a.m., Monday, October 5, 2020. Roll call was taken with all members either excused or present.

2019 Fall Meeting Minutes were approved, which was the last time the Commission met. There were items which required action by the National Executive Committee discussed during the meeting:

- Items Requiring NEC Action:
  - Resolution No. - 2023 National Convention Contract – Approval of the recommendation by the Convention Commission that the contract between the National Organization of The American Legion and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of North Carolina, Inc., for the dates of August 25 – August 31, 2023, be signed by the National Commander and the President of the Convention Corporation.
  - Addendum A: Resolution No. 2783 – Submitted by the Department of Ohio supporting a bid for the 2027 National Convention from the city of Columbus, Ohio - Received and Recorded

The Convention Commission reappointed Mr. Priester (SAL – CO) as Chief Judge of Contests to serve through the 2021 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. The Convention Commission also reviewed and approved the updated Uniformed Group's rules.

The Site Visit Team conducted visits to four cities seeking they be awarded the 106th National Convention of The American Legion in 2025: Tampa Bay, Florida; Kansas City, Missouri; St Louis, Missouri; and Salt Lake City, Utah. The city of Tampa Bay, Florida is recommended to receive the tentative award of the 2025 National Convention for the dates of August 22 – August 28, 2025. (Addendum B)

PNC Jim Koutz, President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Indiana, Inc., gave the final report to the Convention Commission for the 101st National Convention of The American Legion. Commander Koutz reported the 2019 Convention Corporation generated a net profit of $105,548.70. He will present a final report to the National Executive Committee which generated The American Legion $52,774.35.

Department Commander Kenneth Queen, Interim President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona, gave an initial report on the planning process for the 2021 102nd National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 – September 2, 2021. Planning for the 102nd National Convention of The American Legion is on schedule. The Sheraton Phoenix Downtown will serve as the main Headquarters Hotel with two overflow hotels at the Arizona Grand and Courtyard/Residence Inn; Sons of The American Legion will be the Sheraton and American Legion Auxiliary will be the Hyatt. Commander Queen informed the Convention Commission that all contracts between the hotels and the assigned Departments of The American Legion are almost completed. Chairman Walton, Convention Corporation personnel, the convention and meetings planning staff and our convention technical companies will hopefully be able to conduct a site visit to Phoenix in December.

We have one Department of The American Legion that has submitted the proper resolution expressing their interest in bidding on the 2027 National Convention. With the 2026 National Convention being awarded via Resolution No. 3 to Louisville, Kentucky, any Department that had previously submitted a Resolution of Support for 2026 and interested in bidding on 2027, will need to resubmit a Resolution of Support then for 2027. Departments have until April 2021 to submit their Resolution of Support if interested in bidding on the 2027 National Convention.

Dates for future Conventions are the following:
- Phoenix, Arizona: Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 2021
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Aug. 26 – Sept. 1, 2022
- New Orleans, Louisiana: August 23 – 29, 2024
- TBD (Fall NEC 2020): August 22 – 28, 2025
- Louisville, Kentucky: August 28 – Sept 3, 2026

Addendum A

Received and Recorded
Register Resolution No. 2783 (OH) (2020 DEC): City of Columbus Offers to Host the 2027 National Convention

Addendum B

The Convention Commission recommends the following dates for the events/meetings from our report, which was presented to the body for disposition.

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<tr>
<th>Commission Meeting Date</th>
<th>Event/Meeting</th>
<th>Conference Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 5, 2020</td>
<td>2025 National Convention-</td>
<td>August 22-28, 2025</td>
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<td>Tampa, Bay, FL</td>
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RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission with the exception of two addenda. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive the report of the national Convention Commission with the exception of two addenda. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, attached to the report of the Convention Commission are Addendum A and B. I move the actions of the Convention Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded that the actions of the Convention Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent. At this time, the chair recognizes Americanism Commission Chairman Richard W. Anderson of Connecticut for the purpose of a report.

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

Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, I am privileged to address you on behalf of your entire Americanism Commission. Copies of the commission's detailed written report has been provided for your review, so I will only brief you on a few matters.

One item in the report of particular interest I wish to highlight is proposed enhancement to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship which the Americanism Commission seeks to incorporate.

For the past six months the Committee on Youth Education has been doing a deep-dive analysis of Legacy Scholarship awards. At the time the last enhancement to the Legacy Scholarship was implemented in 2017, it was agreed there should be three to four award cycles, then conduct an assessment to identify if any trends for concern exist, and give consideration as to whether incorporation of another possible enhancement or adjustment should be considered. As a result of that extensive assessment and discussion, your Americanism Commission seeks to incorporate the following changes as another enhancement to the Legacy Scholarship.

First, adopt a maximum tuition ceiling. Adopting a maximum tuition ceiling is a means for equalizing tuition disparity when calculating financial gap need. When financial need is currently calculated for each applicant, there is no consideration given to the tuition disparity between a student going to private university, such as Harvard, and one going to a public state university, for example Indiana State University. Tuition at a private institution is generally far greater than that of a public institution, and as such, typically creates a greater financial need for the student going to the private institution. By virtue of their gap being larger, students going to private universities tend to rise to the top of the list for scholarship fulfillment, while those going to the public schools tend to be ranked lower down the list because their financial need is lesser. By the time award fulfillment of the greater-gap students is fulfilled, which is generally those who are going to private schools, there is little directed toward those students going to public institutions. The Americanism Commission seeks for the Legion to implement use of the same Post-9/11 GI Bill maximum tuition rates, regardless of actual tuition costs. The GI Bill maximum tuition rate is $25,162 for the August 2020 through July 2021 academic year.

Second, cap the maximum Legacy scholarship award amount at $10,000 for children of disabled veterans. To do so provides a greater opportunity to assist a larger number of youth. Top priority will still be given to children of the fallen. All children of the fallen will continue to receive first consideration and their maximum award amount will continue at $20,000. Since 2017 there have been 3 or 4 children of the fallen awarded a Legacy Scholarship each year, thereby leaving the greatest number of scholarship awardees as the...
children of disabled veterans. Capping the maximum award amount at $10,000 for children of the disabled will aid a far greater number of applicants.

It is felt there is no need for a brand new, or amended, resolution to implement the proposed enhancement to the Legacy Scholarship because of the authority that Resolution No. 1 approved by this body in May 2016 currently gives the Americanism Commission to: "Determine, establish in writing, and review annually thereafter, all other conditions, rules, guidelines and procedures for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship program so as to attain maximum equity and efficiency for the eligibility, application, selection, award and disbursement processes." And the proposed enhancement to the Legacy Scholarship will not change any of the other conditions of the current resolution.

It is still a scholarship for children of fallen and disabled veterans, with children of the fallen still having first priority. An assigned VA disability rating of 50% will not change. The scholarship remains needs-based. The distribution of allotted funds will still be prioritized for those eligible applicants demonstrating the greatest financial need. None of the scholarship awards will exceed the established $20,000 maximum cap, and the distribution formula for determining the annual award amount will not change. If implemented, this enhancement will be captured in writing in the Policies & Procedures Manual for Administration of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship which the Committee on Youth Education maintains for the commission.

With our national youth programs having been canceled this summer, time was available to undertake a review of the criteria, processes, and governing resolutions pertaining to all of the Legion's national youth scholarships, and compare those to industry standards. The national treasurer, chairmen of the Finance and Americanism Commissions, executive director, and staff found the collation of information and extensive research valuable for validating current practices and polishing a few areas for greater refinement going forward.

Coming before this body are also a few resolutions for which the Americanism Commission is seeking approval. One of particular importance is Risk Management Mandates for National Level Youth Programs. If you recall, in November 2011, representatives for the Legion's insurance agent of record and the provider of liability insurance for the baseball program advised that implementation of criminal history screening and development of risk management policies were necessary for the Legion to continue liability insurance coverage at reasonable costs and prudent levels.

Fast forward to today. Federal law has evolved to mandating risk management measures for all amateur youth sports programs. In the case of the Legion, this impacts not only baseball, but Junior Shooting Sports as well. The aftermath of numerous high-profile events throughout the nation involving the sexual molestation of youth by trusted authority figures prominently illustrates the wisdom for having such risk management principles, and not just for our youth sports programs, but for all of our youth programs. The risk management resolution you will be considering seeks to do just that, require criminal history background checks and sexual abuse awareness training for adults working directly with youth in all of our national-level youth programs beginning in 2021.

The American Legion has the utmost trust and confidence in its staff and volunteers, and rightfully so. Out of the 11,463 total screenings conducted by the Legion in 2019, a combination of both national and department levels, there were only 53 screenings which did not meet the risk management criteria. This is a passing rate of 99.54%. That is a passing rate well above industry standard. And as impressive as that is, the need for implementing risk management measures is unfortunately still a stark manifestation of today's social reality. Any organization entrusted with the safety and welfare of youth must first and foremost, put the safety of its youth as its top priority by taking measures aimed at sustaining participant and program safety, and additionally mitigate the organization's overall risk and liability.

Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, subject to any questions, this concludes my report.
The Americanism Commission met in a virtual meeting on Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (EDT). Following the formal opening, roll call was taken, and a quorum declared. Chairman Anderson then gave his opening remarks of welcome and reviewed procedural matters.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

The members of the Committee on Children & Youth Committee met in a virtual meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. 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 awarded $740,889 to nineteen non-profit organizations for the 2021 calendar year. Selection of these grants were determined during the annual meeting of the board of directors held virtually on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

The Committee on Children & Youth next took up the task of reviewing the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) policy attached to Resolution No. 8 approved at the October 2017 meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) titled "Restructure of the Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy." Review of the TFA policy will allow the committee opportunity to seek greater clarity and scope in areas lacking clear intent, update any language within the document that is not gender neutral, and help department chairmen and their local investigators when assessing a potential TFA case. During the September 2020 virtual meeting of the committee, it reviewed and discussed the "Maintenance" section of the policy which details what basic needs are covered by the grant program: shelter, food, clothing, household supplies, educational expenses, insurance, fuel, incidentals, and other needs as specified. The committee intends to continue its systematic review of the remainder of the policy and will then present its recommendations to the Americanism Commission and NEC in the future.

The Committee on Children and Youth reviewed and recommended retention of resolutions directly impacting our nation's children and youth continue as detailed in Attachment 1.

The committee next received an update on the TFA program year-to-date. Incoming applications this year have been less than expected. The committee surmises that the need has been lower than anticipated due to the stimulus package issued by the U.S. government early in the summer and the enhanced unemployment benefits the government provided throughout the summer in response to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic upon businesses. Many families are also saving on childcare costs due to more parents being home, either telecommuting or unemployed, with their children when schools were closed in favor of student online-learning due to the pandemic. It is felt the need for TFA may again rise later in the year when government benefits subside and if the effects of the pandemic continue to linger on.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Gary Stone (MO), Chairman of the American Legion Baseball (ALB) Committee reported that the ALB Committee met in a virtual meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. The ALB Committee reviewed the 2020 season and recap of the caucus webinars that were conducted in mid-August with department chairman in preparation of the Combined Americanism Conference. Also, those departments that were able to have a Legion baseball season because COVID-19 conditions within that state so permitted were acknowledged.

The four caucus webinar events conducted mid-August were attended by all fifty department baseball chairmen and ALB Committee members. There were four topics discussed during the four caucuses: the new Major League Baseball (MLB) three-batter
minimum rule; a waiver to allow a 2001 birth year player who lost their final year of eligibility in the ALB program because of cancelation of the season due to the COVID-19 pandemic to participate in 2021; what coronavirus COVID-19 impact may have on the 2021 season and potential impact that current state high school athletic schedules may have upon next season; and areas of expansion or suggestions that may lead to growth potential at department and national levels.

Based on the consensus of the department chairman attending the caucus webinars, the Baseball Committee recommends to the Americanism Commission that ALB not adopt the new Major League Baseball MLB three-batter minimum rule that requires relief pitchers to face at least three hitters or pitch to the end of the half-inning before a pitching change can be made. MLB adopted this rule as a pace of play rule, which MLB plays 9-inning games and has a large bullpen of pitchers. Department baseball chairmen expressed that pace of play is not an issue with ALB since previously having gone to seven-inning games. Additionally, if ALB were to adopt a three-batter minimum like the MLB, the Legion's current national pitch-count rule established for the physical health and safety of youth pitchers would then be impacted.

During the caucus webinars the topic was discussed of allowing 2001 birth year players receive a waiver to be able to participate in the 2021 ALB season. Those players missed out on their final year of program eligibility due to the cancellation of the 2020 season by many departments and at the national level in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic and wish to seek an opportunity to play in 2021. According to national eligibility rules, these players would be too old to participate as they will all turn 20-years-old in 2021. The consensus of the baseball chairman was not to allow a 2001 birth year player to return for 2021, as it could create potential risk and safety issue for younger players playing against a 20-year-old man. It is the recommendation of the Baseball Committee not to allow a waiver to a 2001 birth year players' final year of eligibility for the 2021 ALB season.

The Baseball Committee recommends the resolution titled "Risk Management Mandates for National Youth Programs" be approved. This will update the current risk management resolution mandating background screening and adopts new Federal law (Public Law 115-126) titled "Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017" which requires the development of policies and procedures to prevent the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of minors participating in youth sports programs. As part of the baseball registration process, department chairman will now be required to acknowledge successful completion of abuse awareness training in addition to background screening prior to the certification of team applications beginning in 2021.

The Committee recommends the resolution titled "American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites and Dates for 2021-2023" be approved.

Due to cancellation of the 2020 national tournaments, ALB national awards were not awarded in 2020, including The American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year award. This award is annually presented to an active rostered MLB player who is a Legion baseball alumnus. The Baseball Committee recommends that Jacob DeGrom of the New York Mets be awarded the 2021 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year award. DeGrom played Legion baseball for the 2006 department champions, Deland American Legion Post No. 6 located in Florida.

The Baseball Committee also conducted review of the cancelation of the 2020 national American Legion Baseball tournaments and the impact current conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic may potentially have upon the upcoming 2021 season in Legion departments. It was reiterated that department ALB seasons cannot be cancelled by the National Organization – in accordance with the Legion's Congressional Charter, Legion departments are responsible for their own programs. Current conditions and uncertainty of the virus have impacted numerous state high school athletic calendars, moving winter and spring sports to later in the school year, which will affect if/when some department ALB seasons may begin in 2021. A few of the departments are finding that they are being impacted due to changes in their high school association's athletic schedule moving high school baseball season to May and ending in July next year. Based on their high school
association's decision, these departments may need to conduct a spring season in lieu of the typical summer season. Collaboration and flexibility between state high school athletic associations and departments will be essential to conducting a successful 2021 season and success will translate into what departments and department chairmen can and will be able to do. Based on discussions and the uncertainty of the virus in 2021, the Baseball Committee recommends using the organization's conference call/virtual meeting technology to conduct quarterly conference calls so that department baseball chairmen who so choose may come together to collectively monitor any impact the pandemic may potentially have on the 2021 ALB season at the department and national levels, and brainstorm together. The first voluntary conference call for department baseball chairmen will happen in mid-November.

The Committee also conducted discussions regarding the Legion junior baseball program. It was reported in 2002 the junior program of American Legion Baseball had 38 departments involved in the junior program with over 1,800 teams. Currently, 42 departments sanction a junior program, however, with only 1,294 teams. Based on actual registration numbers from 2018 and 2019, the program only introduced 2,400 players ages 13 & 14 each season, compared to the 6,800 19-year-old players in the senior program each season. The Baseball Committee is developing a report of findings to propose strategies and recommendations for expanding the national junior program at 2021 spring meetings.

**COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION**

Michael Westergren (AR), chairman of the Committee on Youth Education (COYE), reported that the committee met virtually on May 9, 2020 and again on September 15, 2020. At its spring meeting the COYE recommended the following 35 applicants as recipients of a 2020 American Legion Legacy Scholarship, totaling $667,931. These applicants demonstrated both eligibility and financial need. The breakdown of 2020 applications and scholarships awards follows:

- A total of 1,384 applications were opened and started
- Of those 1,384 there were 586 having submitted a complete application
- Of those 586 there were 307 demonstrating verifiable eligibility and financial need (4 children of the fallen / 303 children of disabled veterans)
- Of those 307 a total of 35 were awarded an American Legion Legacy scholarship as follows
- 272 applications totaling $3,259,949 remained unfulfilled due to The American Legion meeting its financial award cap for the year.

**Children of a fallen servicemember – 2020 Legacy Scholarship awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Fallen</td>
<td>Dennis Abiola Jallah, III</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>Fallen</td>
<td>Mylia Haruka Briggs</td>
<td>$18,369.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Fallen</td>
<td>Amber Rodriguez</td>
<td>$13,926.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Fallen</td>
<td>Sean S. Perry</td>
<td>$5,634.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children of a disabled veteran – 2020 Legacy Scholarship awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>Camila Alejandra Negron Garcia</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>KY</td>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>Colton Stinger</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>Trinity Rivas</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At its spring meetings the COYE also discussed another proposed enhancement to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, which is addressed in detail later in this report under "New Business."

At its 2020 virtual fall meeting, the COYE discussed that the Legacy Scholarship requires those requesting their scholarship award funds to be based upon their documented actual needs, not to exceed the initial award amount. That actual need is calculated by taking all the required expenses, subtracting the family contribution as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), as well as all other educational funding sources. The remaining financial gap is then what the Legacy Scholarship will pay out per semester, up to the award amount. At its fall meeting the COYE gave discussion to providing greater clarity as to what constitutes allowable educational expenses under the Legacy Scholarship, as it was observed that there is a variety of different expenses and fees.
from school to school. After much deliberation the COYE identified several educational fees and expenses it recommends serve as allowable educational expenses for Legacy Scholarship financial calculations. Those recommendations will be presented to the Americanism Commission next spring when the annual review of the Policies & Procedures for Administration of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship takes place.

At its fall meeting the Committee on Youth Education considered the resolution titled "Amendment to Resolution No. 28 - "Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" and recommended approval.

**YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

Larry Price (SD), chairman of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee (YCLE), reported that on September 15, 2020 the YCLE met via a virtual meeting platform. Chairman Price provided an update to committee regarding the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE) program, and each committee member in attendance provided an update regarding the status of the program within their respective state. Chairman Price expressed the importance to keep the program moving forward, recognizing the impact that the global COVID-19 pandemic has had upon communities, states, and the nation. Chairman Price was pleased to announce that The American Legion Departments of California and Washington are still enthused about establishing a YCLE program, even with the setback from the pandemic. Chairman Price also advised that the Department of Texas is expressing an interest in starting a program and plans to pass a resolution for implementation of a new program in 2022. Committee member Jim Willis (OR) reported that he has established a promising connection at the FBI Academy for future conversations about a possible national capstone program. Chairman Price requested that each committee member contact a neighboring state without a YCLE program and invite them to visit their program. It is his desire that this initiative will grow the total of department YCLE programs by the end of 2021.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Last May the Americanism Commission conducted an email vote on the following two motions:

- Motion 1: It was moved that all 2020 American Legion Baseball national tournaments be canceled, inclusive of all eight 2020 regional tournaments and the 2020 American Legion World Series.
- Motion 2: It was moved that the awarding of Samsung American Legion Scholarships for 2020 be completely suspended.

The following is the final tally of that e-voting, now to be included and documented as part of the official written report of the Americanism Commission:

- Motion 1: received 27 votes to approve, and none to reject
- Motion 2: received 26 votes to approve, and one to reject

A majority is considered 50% + 1, therefore, 18 votes were needed for the Americanism Commission to carry the motion, and that majority was achieved for each motion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Review of national youth scholarships. With national youth programs having been canceled this past summer due to health and safety concerns related to the global COVID-19 pandemic, time was available to review the criteria, processes and governing resolutions pertaining all of the Legion's national youth scholarships and compare them to industry standards. The National Treasurer, chairman of the Finance and Americanism Commission, executive director and Americanism staff found collation of information and extensive research valuable for validating current practices and for polishing a few areas of greater refinement going forward. Among the refinements agreed upon include use of weighted GPA, removing use SAT/ACT scores and class ranking among scoring
methodologies, and use of calibration methodology along with scoring rubrics for essay questions.

Enhancement to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship. Chairman Michael Westergren addressed the commission regarding a proposal the COYE is recommending for another enhancement to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship. Chairman Westergren reported that at the time the last enhancement to the Legacy Scholarship was implemented in 2017, it was agreed there should be three to four award cycles, then conduct an in-depth assessment to identify if any trends for concern exist, and give consideration as to whether incorporation of another possible enhancement or adjustment should be considered. As a result of that extensive assessment and discussion, the COYE recommends incorporation of the following changes as another enhancement to the Legacy Scholarship.

First, adopt a maximum tuition ceiling. Adopting a maximum tuition ceiling is a means for equalizing tuition disparity when calculating financial gap need. When financial need is currently calculated for each applicant, there is no consideration given to the tuition disparity between a student going to private university, such as Harvard, and one going to a public state university, for example Indiana State University. Tuition at a private institution is generally far greater than that of a public institution, and as such, typically creates a greater financial need for the student going to the private institution. By virtue of their gap being larger, students going to private universities tend to rise to the top of the list for scholarship fulfillment, while those going to the public schools tend to be ranked lower down the list because their financial need is lesser. By the time award fulfillment of the greater-gap students is fulfilled, which is generally those who are going to private schools, there is little directed toward those students going to public institutions. The COYE recommends implementation of the use of the same Post-9/11 GI Bill maximum tuition rates for each year as a maximum tuition ceiling for the Legacy Scholarship – meaning, tuition rates submitted on an application that are higher than the Post-9/11 GI Bill maximum rate would be capped at that amount for a Legacy Scholarship application, and no greater, while tuition rates submitted on a Legacy Scholarship application that are lower than the Post-9/11 GI Bill maximum rate are acceptable and would remain unchanged. The GI Bill maximum tuition rate is $25,162 for the August 2020 through July 2021 academic year.

Second, cap the maximum Legacy scholarship award amount at $10,000 for children of a disabled veteran. To do so provides a greater opportunity to assist a larger number of youths. Top priority will still be given to children of the fallen – all children of the fallen will continue to receive first consideration and their maximum award amount will continue at $20,000. Since 2017 there have been three or four children of the fallen awarded a Legacy scholarship each year, thereby leaving the greatest number of scholarship awardees as the children of disabled veterans. Capping the maximum award amount at $10,000 for children of the disabled will aid a far greater number of applicants.

The COYE feels there is no need for a brand new, or amended, resolution to implement the proposed enhancement to the Legacy Scholarship because of the authority that Resolution Number 1 approved by the National Executive Committee (NEC) in May 2016, gives the Americanism Commission to: "determine, establish in writing, and review annually thereafter, all other conditions, rules, guidelines and procedures for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship program so as to attain maximum equity and efficiency for the eligibility, application, selection, award and disbursement processes." And the proposed enhancement to the Legacy Scholarship will not change any of the other conditions of that current resolution:

- it is still a scholarship for children of fallen and disabled veterans, with children of the fallen still having first priority;
- the assigned VA disability rating of 50% will not change;
- the scholarship remains needs-based;
- the distribution of allotted funds will still be prioritized for those eligible applicants demonstrating the greatest financial need;
• none of the scholarship awards will exceed the established $20,000 maximum cap; and
• the distribution formula for determining the annual award amount will not change.

Chairman Westergren advises that if the proposed enhancement detailed above is implemented, the enhancement will be captured in writing in the Policies & Procedures Manual for Administration of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, which the COYE maintains for the Americanism Commission.

The Americanism Commission voted to approve the COYE’s recommendation for implementation of another enhancement to the Legacy Scholarship by adopting a tuition ceiling in accordance with that of the Post-9/11 GI Bill and implementing an award cap of $10,000 for children of disabled veterans, and report its intention to the National Executive Committee.

2020 Americanism Awards. Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson concluded the virtual meeting by announcing the winning departments of Americanism awards for 2020. As we know, the 2020 National Convention of The American Legion was canceled due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 global pandemic and national convention is typically where the Americanism awardees are selected, announced, and presented. Although there was no National Convention this year, the Americanism Commission still wishes for each of its awards to continue and virtual committees were appointed by Chairman Anderson. Those committees conducted virtual deliberations and made award selections as follows:

For the Ralph T. O’Neil Education Trophy, which is awarded annually to that department, in the United States, showing the greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards, the 2020 winner is The American Legion Department of Connecticut.

The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy is awarded annually to the department having rendered the most outstanding support during the period August 1 to July 31 to the program of the Boy Scouts of America. The 2020 winner is The American Legion Department of Utah.

And last, the Daniel J. O’Connor Americanism Trophy is awarded annually to that department attaining the greatest number of percentage points which are derived from the activities reported on the CPR and which submits the best narrative statement supporting the claim of points shown. The 2020 winner is The American Legion Department of Virginia.

RESOLUTIONS SUMMARY

At the virtual meeting of the Americanism Commission on October 3, 2020 a total of nine resolutions and a "Report of Americanism Resolutions Recommended for Retention" (Attachment 1) were considered. The Americanism Commission discussed and agreed upon recommending the following action for consideration by the National Executive Committee:

Approve

• (New) American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites and Dates for 2021-2023
• (New) Amendment to Resolution No. 28 - "Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program"
• (New) American Legion Boys Nation Eligibility
• (New) American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Eligibility
• (New) Risk Management Mandates for National Youth Programs
• Report of Americanism Resolutions Recommended for Retention (Attachment 1)
Reject
- Regis. No. 2787 (CO), 2021 Eligibility for Boys State and Boys Nation

Hold for Further Study
- Regis. No. 2779 (AR), Remove Assigned Topics from Oratorical Contest
- Res. No. 49 (OR), Changes to The American Legion Eagle Scout of The Year

Handle Administratively
- Res. No. 8 (CO), Compliance with Flag Code for Flying the Flag at Half-Staff

ATTACHMENT 1

Report of Americanism Resolutions Recommended for Retention
The following Americanism resolutions previously approved by a National Convention or the National Executive Committee are recommended for retention by the Americanism Commission in order to remain part of legislative program of The American Legion through the 117th Congress of the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Res. No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Convention Committee/ Subcommittee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>NEC (Oct)</td>
<td>Flag Code Amendment</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits</td>
<td>AMER/AMER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>303</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Flag of the United States</td>
<td>AMER/AMER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language</td>
<td>AMER/AMER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following Americanism resolutions previously approved by a National Convention or the National Executive Committee are recommended to continue as policy of The American Legion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Res. No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Convention Committee/ Subcommittee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>279</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Support Funding Comprehensive Health Care for Children &amp; Youth</td>
<td>AMER/C&amp;Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>281</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation</td>
<td>AMER/C&amp;Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>282</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Oppose Any Attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing Penalties for The Production, Sale and Distribution of Pornographic or Obscene Materials to Minors</td>
<td>AMER/C&amp;Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>285</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>National School Lunch Program</td>
<td>AMER/C&amp;Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>286</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Prevent Child Maltreatment</td>
<td>AMER/C&amp;Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>287</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Programs and Organizations That Promote Child Safety</td>
<td>AMER/C&amp;Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>288</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>Reducing or Preventing Teenage Pregnancy</td>
<td>AMER/C&amp;Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Addendum A

Rejected
Register Resolution No. 2787 (CO) (2020 DEC): 2021 Eligibility for Boys State and Boys Nation

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

Held for Further Study
Resolution No. 49 (OR) (2019 Natl. Conv.): Changes to the American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year
Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) (2020 DEC): Remove Assigned Topics From Oratorical Contest

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of five resolutions and one addendum. ....Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of five resolutions, one addendum. Any discussion? Objections? None being heard, motion carried, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 28: American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites and Dates for 2021-2023
Origin: American Legion Baseball Committee
Submitted by: Americanism Commission
WHEREAS, Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee, May 2009, established that beginning with the 2011-2012 seasons, regional tournaments of the American Legion Baseball program may be sited in one location for one (1) year or for two
WHEREAS, Resolution No. 30 of the National Executive Committee, May 2018, established the sites and dates for regional tournaments of the American Legion Baseball program for 2019 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Americanism Commission to recommend the sites and dates for the regional tournaments of American Legion Baseball; and

WHEREAS, Due to the uncertainty of the duration of the disease known as COVID-19, the numerous government regulations being enforced to contain it and concern for the safety of all members of the American Legion Family, the Americanism Commission agreed that the circumstances constituted sufficient reasons to cancel the 2020 national tournaments, including regionals and World Series; and

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Americanism Commission that the sites awarded regional tournaments of the American Legion Baseball program for 2020 remain the national tournament sites for 2021; and

WHEREAS, It is customary that the sites for regional tournaments be selected in advance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That the dates for 2021 regional tournaments of the American Legion Baseball program shall remain August 3-8, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That sites for the 2021 regional tournaments of the American Legion Baseball program be awarded as follows:

Region 1 – Shrewsbury, Massachusetts  Region 2 – Asheboro, North Carolina
Region 3 – Montgomery, Alabama  Region 4 – Hastings, Nebraska
Region 5 – Elmhurst, Illinois  Region 6 – Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Region 7 – Gillette, Wyoming  Region 8 – Fairfield, California; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That sites for the 2022 and 2023 regional tournaments of the American Legion Baseball program be awarded as follows:

Region 1 – Shrewsbury, Massachusetts  Region 2 – Morgantown, West Virginia
Region 3 – Asheboro, North Carolina  Region 4 – Montgomery, Alabama
Region 5 – Midland, Michigan  Region 6 – Rapid City, South Dakota
Region 7 – Gillette, Wyoming (2022 only)  Region 8 – Fairfield, California; and, be it further

RESOLVED, In the event that a site having been awarded an American Legion Baseball regional tournament finds it is unable or it is impractical to hold a regional tournament, the National Adjutant, in consultation with the National Commander and National Judge Advocate, shall be authorized to select and approve an alternate tournament site; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 30 of the National Executive Committee, May 2018, titled "American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites and Dates for 2019 and 2020"; Resolution No. 27 of the National Executive Committee, May 2019, titled "Addendum To American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites for 2020"; and Resolution No. 1 of the National Executive Committee, Email 2020, titled "Addendum To American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites For 2020" are hereby rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution No. 28 has the approval of The American Legion Baseball Committee, the Americanism Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and second to adopt Resolution No. 28. Any discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Commander, if I may ask a question for clarification, please?
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Dave Rehbein.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: In the resolution, I see that in 2021, Montgomery, Alabama, will host Region 3, but in 2022, Montgomery, Alabama, will host Region 4. Have the region boundaries, department groupings been changed?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Rich Anderson, would you like to address that?

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: No, there has been no change. It's just the way the schedule has come out because of conflicts getting departments involved in the process of hosting regional tournaments. That's exactly how it reads here, and that's how the Americanism Commission presents it to you, sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Well, Alabama is moving from Region 3 to Region 4?

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: For the final year, yes, that's correct. It does not affect anything else, just a regional tournament.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Commander Rehbein, does that answer your question?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Yes, it does. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and a second to adopt Resolution two-eight, 28. Any further discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 29: Amendment to Resolution No. 28 - "Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program"

Origin: Committee on Youth Education
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The December 2011 change to the federal charter implemented by the U.S. Congress established that The American Legion National Organization may not control or otherwise influence the specific activities and conduct of state or local chapters, thereby giving American Legion departments the ultimate authority for establishing criteria for eligibility, selection, participation and operation of their own American Legion Boys State program; and

WHEREAS, Being two distinct corporate entities, The American Legion possesses no authority over American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs therefore possess independent authority to determine the eligibility and selection criteria for students they wish to participate in their respective programs; and

WHEREAS, Samsung American Legion Scholarships are only available to participants of American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Committee on Youth Education to recommend rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded, with subsequent concurrence by the Americanism Commission of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Youth Education seeks to clearly establish eligibility to apply for a Samsung American Legion Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, The Americanism and Finance Commissions each have provided their concurrence to this resolution and recommend it to the National Executive Committee for its favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That sub-paragraph number 1 of the third Resolved clause of Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, May 2019, titled "Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" is amended to:
"1. The pool of 'Samsung American Legion State Finalists' will be comprised of one student from each American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program who are between their junior and senior years of high school and one student from The American Legion Department of Hawaii who is a young man between his junior and senior years of high school, until such time an American Legion Hawaii Boys State program may be established"

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution No. 29 has the approval of your Committee on Youth Education, the Americanism Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and a second to adopt Resolution two-nine, 29. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carried, unanimous consent, Resolution 29.

Resolution No. 30: American Legion Boys Nation Eligibility
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Americanism Commission
WHEREAS, American Legion Boys State and American Legion Boys Nation have each provided a unique and highly successful youth program for high school boys that focuses on participation and practical experience in a model government at state and federal levels, respectively; and
WHEREAS, American Legion Boys Nation is a youth program administered by The American Legion National Organization, therefore the national organization possesses the authority to establish eligibility for participation in the Boys Nation program; and
WHEREAS, The Americanism Commission of the national organization seeks to clearly establish eligibility criteria for participation in the American Legion Boys Nation program; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14 -15, 2020, That each American Legion Boys State program may send two delegates of their and/or their department's choosing to attend American Legion Boys Nation that same year of selection; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That delegates attending American Legion Boys Nation must:
• be between their junior and senior years of high school
• have one or two semesters of high school remaining; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That departments and/or American Legion Boys State programs evaluating delegates to attend American Legion Boys Nation are strongly urged to select those who during their Boys State experience displayed exceptional qualities of maturity, initiative, leadership, enthusiasm, good interpersonal skills and a genuine desire to learn.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution No. 30 has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and a second to adopt Resolution three-zero, 30. Any discussion? Any objections? Resolution No. 30 carries, unanimous consent.
WHEREAS, The American Legion voiced its support of the Boy Scouts of America at its first national convention in 1919, making it the first recognized national youth activity of The American Legion; and  
WHEREAS, The American Legion encourages its members to support and become involved in Scouting as a primary part of their service to God and country, their community, their state and their nation; and  
WHEREAS, 1994 National Convention Resolution No. 165, September 6-8, 1994, established the name of the "Eagle Scout of the Year Award"; and  
WHEREAS, Resolution No. 30 of the National Executive Committee, October 13-14, 2004, established eligibility requirements for the Eagle Scout of the Year Award; and  
WHEREAS, The American Legion annually selects an Eagle Scout of the Year and three runners-up; and  
WHEREAS, The winner of the competition receives a $10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up each are awarded $2,500 scholarships; and  
WHEREAS, The Varsity Scout program was discontinued by Boy Scouts of America effective on January 1, 2018; and  
WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts program changed their name to Scouts BSA by the Boy Scouts of America effective on February 1, 2019; and  
WHEREAS, Effective on February 1, 2019, the Boy Scouts of America expanded its membership to include young ladies, thereby making them eligible to earn the rank of Eagle Scout; and  
WHEREAS, Current eligibility requirements state that "the nominee must be a registered active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary Unit, or Sons of the American Legion Squadron OR be a registered active member of a duly chartered Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the son or grandson of a Legioneer or American Legion Auxiliary member AND (1) Received the Eagle Scout award; (2) Be an active member of his religious institution and have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem; (3) Demonstrate practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting and community; and (4) Reached his fifteenth birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection"; and  
WHEREAS, During its 2019 fall meeting the Americanism Commission approved the revisions that were developed and recommended by department Scouting chairmen for the American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year application in order to keep it relevant to both The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That effective immediately eligibility requirements for the American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year be amended to read:  
"Must be either a registered active member of a Boy Scouts of America unit that is chartered to an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit or Sons of the American Legion squadron OR be a registered active member of any chartered Boy Scouts of America unit and have a parent or grandparent possessing up-to-date membership in The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion Auxiliary, and in the case of a recently deceased member, their membership for the year immediately prior to the current year may be used; AND each of the following: (1) Received the Eagle Scout award; (2) Received a Scouts BSA or Venturer Religious Emblem; (3) Demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting, and community; (4) Reached their 15th birthday and enrolled in high school at the time of selection; (5) Applied through The American Legion department of the state in which their Scout unit is chartered."; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 30 of the National Executive Committee, October 2004, titled "American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution No. 31 has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: As chairman of the Resolutions Subcommittee, I move that Resolution 31 be amended so that the part of the first "Resolved" clause that reads, "Received a Boy Scouts of America religious emblem, regardless of which youth grade level it earned (Cubs, Webelos, Scout, Venturer, or Older Scout)" be amended to read, "Received the Scout's BSA or Venture religious emblem," and I so move. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to amend Resolution 31. Is there any discussion? I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: No, I agree with the resolution, as long as they take out that line, and they have done that. So we're all set.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Paul Morin.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: I'm all set, commander, with the amendment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Dan Ludwig. Commander Ludwig?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LUDWIG: In Number 4, it says "Reached their 15th birthday and enrolled in high school." Does this exclude homeschooling?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chairman Anderson, can you address that issue?

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I'm going to call upon Director Druskis, with your permission, commander.

AMERICANISM DIRECTOR DRUSKIS: I am, commander. Good afternoon everyone. It's a pleasure to see everyone. Thank you, Chairman Anderson. To answer your question, Commander Ludwig, no. That is inclusive of public school, private school, or homescool, which is why the generic term "high school" is used, to indicate level of education.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Commander Ludwig, does that answer your question?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LUDWIG: It does, yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Is there any further discussion on the amendment? I'd like to recognize David Driver, NEC member from Montana.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER DRIVER (MT): Commander, David Driver, NEC from Montana. One further thing. The Scouts program has changed their name to Scouts BSA. I think we need to change in the resolution from "Boy Scouts of America" to "Scouts BSA," so that any female scout members can be included in this.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: David, thank you for the question. We can make that technical adjustment without changing the intent of the resolution.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER DRIVER: Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion on the amendment? Any objections? Amendment passes with unanimous consent. Now we need a motion to approve the resolution as amended.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: I make that motion. ...Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve Resolution 31 as amended. Any discussion? Any objections? Resolution 31 passes with unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 32: Risk Management Mandates for National Youth Programs
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Americanism Commission
(As amended)

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 4 of the National Executive Committee, May 2012, titled "Background Screening Of Staff For National Youth Programs" initially mandated background check screening of staff of American Legion national youth programs in order to uphold the integrity and safety of youth and to mitigate the risk and liability to an organization; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 16 of the National Executive Committee, October 2012, titled "Mandatory Background Check Screening for Coaches, Managers and Volunteer Staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball Teams" initially established policy and procedures for mandatory background screening for coaches, managers and volunteers of junior and senior American Legion Baseball teams; and

WHEREAS, Federal law (Public Law 115-126) titled "Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017" has been enacted requiring amateur youth sports organizations affiliated with a national governing body or non-affiliated organizations to develop policies and procedures to prevent the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Baseball is affiliated with the national governing body of USA Baseball; and

WHEREAS, USA Shooting is a National Governing Body member of the U.S. Center for SafeSport; and

WHEREAS, USA Shooting is the organization upon which The American Legion patterns its American Legion Junior Shooting program; and

WHEREAS, Because the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Tournament is administered by the national organization, the national organization therefore possesses the authority to impose mandates for the protection of minor children participating in that national tournament; and

WHEREAS, The aftermath of numerous cases of child sexual molestation across the nation has demonstrated the importance for diligent protection of vulnerable populations, such as children and youth; and

WHEREAS, It is paramount The American Legion meet its legal, moral and ethical responsibility to parents and guardians by protecting their children from abuse and harm when participating in any and all youth programs under the Legion brand; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion, under the advice and guidance of the compliance and risk manager of the national organization and the national judge advocate, shall have policies and procedures established beginning in 2021 which mandates sexual abuse awareness training and criminal history background check screening for:

- American Legion Baseball program staff (coaches, managers and volunteers 18 years of age or older) who have regular contact with players who are minors
- Coaches, managers and volunteers 18 years of age or older who have regular contact with minors who are in clubs affiliated with an American Legion post and who are participating in the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Tournament
- Those selected to staff national tournaments of American Legion Baseball, the American Legion Boys Nation program, the American Legion National
Oratorical Contest, the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Shoulder-to-Shoulder National Championship, and National Boy Scouts of America Jamborees, or who are adults and have regular contact with program participants who are minors; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national adjutant, after legal review and approval of the national judge advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract(s) as may be necessary to support the execution of criminal history background check screening and/or sexual abuse awareness training; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments of The American Legion are strongly urged and encouraged to establish procedures and policies for sexual abuse awareness training and criminal history background check screening similar to those of the national organization for those adults who are selected to support youth programs conducted within their departments; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 4 of the National Executive Committee, May 2012, titled "Background Screening Of Staff For National Youth Programs" and Resolution No. 16 of the National Executive Committee, October 2012, titled "Mandatory Background Check Screening for Coaches, Managers and Volunteer Staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball Teams" are hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution No. 32 has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve Resolution 32. Is there any discussion?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI (NV): Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize NEC member from Nevada, Ron Michalski.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI: Mr. Commander, this is Ron Michalski from Nevada. Thank you, sir. The first bullet point that says, "American Legion Baseball program staff, coaches, managers, and volunteers, and adults 18 years or older who have regular contact," does that include players? I think we should really eliminate the words after "volunteers" that says "and adults." If we just had a comma after "volunteers," and leave "and adults" out, I think you would not get in trouble. I don't know, what do you think about that? I don't know.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Ron, is that a motion to make an amendment?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI: Yes, because I think if we have players that are 18 and 19 years old, just like any other junior sports or that haven't been involved with junior sports or anything like that. But maybe we should eliminate that word "and adults over 18 years" and just say "volunteers 18 or older," because I think we can get ourselves in trouble. I don't know. Yes, I would like to make that amendment, if that's the case.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'm going to come back to you in just a minute. Think about your recommendation, your exact wording, and I'll get back to you. At this time, let me recognize Paul Morin, past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: Mr. Commander, I'd ask the judge advocate for his opinion on that proposed amendment.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: I'm still trying to figure out, past national commander, what the amendment that he's talking about, because he wasn't really specific. I couldn't tell where he was saying to remove what words.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI: This is Ron Michalski. In the first bullet point, after the word "volunteers" eliminate "and adults 18 and
older," just for "volunteers 18 years of age and older." That would eliminate putting it out in conjunction with players who are 18 years and older.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: So you are suggesting your amendment would say, where it would read "coaches, managers, volunteers 18 years of age or older who have regular," so on and so forth?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI: Correct.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: Then I assume you also would like to say, in the next bullet point where it says, "Coaches, managers, volunteers, and adults 18 years or older," you would like to get rid of the words "and adults" there as well?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: I'm assuming now, further down in the Junior Shooting Sports where it says, "who are 18 years or older," you'd like that one amended as well?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: How about to the second-to-last "Resolved" clause where it says, "for 18 years or older," just use the word "adults"?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: Past National Commander Morin, I think it's a good amendment that he's suggesting.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: Thank you, Kevin.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Ron, does that answer your question?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI: Yes, it does, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Does that satisfy your recommendation?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI: Yes, it does.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion for an amendment to Resolution three-two. ....Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Is there any discussion? Kevin, would you read the changes?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: So the changes would be starting in the first "Resolved" clause with the bullet point. It would say now, "American Legion Baseball program staff, coaches, managers, volunteers 18 years of age or older who have regular contact with players who are minors."

Second bullet point, "Coaches, managers, volunteers 18 years of age or older who have regular contact," blah, blah, blah, the rest.

Then we go down to the next bullet point where it says, in the line, "and national Boy Scouts of North America Jamborees who are adults and have regular contact with program participants who are minors."

The second-to-last "Resolved" clause, it would go to the point where it says, "check screening similar to those of national organizations for those adults who are selected to support youth programs." Is that a correct reading, Mr. NEC from Nevada?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI: Yes, it is, sir.

Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion on the amendment? Any objections to the amendment? Hearing none, motion to the amendment on Resolution 32 carries, unanimous consent. Now we'll have a motion to accept Resolution 32 as amended. Do we have a motion to accept Resolution 32, three-two as amended?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: I move that we accept Resolution 32 as amended. ....Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you. We have a motion and a second to approve Resolution 32 as amended. Is there any further discussion? I'd like to recognize Mary Erdman, NEC from Arkansas.
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN (AR): Just in the third bullet, just the name change from "Boy Scouts of America" to "Scouts BSA," like we did in the other resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Technical change, Mary. We can make that happen.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN: Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion on Resolution three-two as amended? Any objection?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LATOUR (VT): This is Fred Latour, NEC from Vermont. Mr. Commander, can we go back to Resolution 31?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Resolution 31 has already been passed. The amendment to Resolution 32 is the discussion. Any other objections to Resolution three-two as amended? Hearing none, Resolution 32 passes, unanimous consent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, attached to the report of the Americanism Commission is Addendum A. I move the actions of the Americanism Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded that the actions of the Americanism Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion passes, unanimous consent. At this time, the chair recognizes Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Robert E. Newman of Indiana for the purposes 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 and the Legion Riders have accomplished, and I commend every department for supporting these two great programs.

The commission reviewed 18 resolutions, and we forwarded the list of all the ones we deemed essential, and four were held for further study. Action recommended on each is in our report.

With the natural disasters hitting our nation this year, we are prepared to assist with the National Emergency Fund. There is an excellent PowerPoint on what the NEF is and how to fill out the grant application. This should be in every leader's toolbox and can be found on the national website at legion.org/emergency.

Because of the pandemic, we were unable to hold the National Membership Training Workshop in person, but we held virtual, and it was a success. We held eight modules, and all of those are also available for view on the national website on legion.org/training/membership.

We averaged 250 sessions plus several posts conducted group sessions and their login only counted as one. A very great way to present training so more blue cap Legionnaires can hear. Because of the success, we are starting a "Training Tuesday" which will be held every month beginning October 27 with Buddy Check in a new 90-minute membership process.

Later we will hear the membership report and more from Chairman Bowen, but I just want to thank the national commander for raising the bar this year on membership goals, which include direct membership solicitation, DMS, a goal of 100,000 for traditional new starts, and 90 percent retention rate. I know it sounds high, but it's time that we set some stretch goals so we turn the membership curve up. Retention is very important in achieving our goals. 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 new key leadership tool to do a health and welfare 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 for anything from them until they know and understand what we do. It is everyone's responsibility in this room to engage our members.

Commander, I submit my report and my 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 virtually at 7:00 p.m., September 24. We had 46 members and guest present.

The second session convened virtually at 2:00 p.m., September 29 with 47 members and guest present.

The report consists of the following sections: Standing Committee Reports; Subcommittee Reports; Staff Action Reports; and Actions on Assigned Resolutions.

I. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
JOHN W. BOWEN (CO), CHAIRMAN

As of September 27, 2020, the 2021 membership total is 940,245 – 7,193 members behind this same time for the traditional membership report of 2020. These membership results do not include newly acquired 2021 DMS members. The total DMS members acquired to date for 2021 is 39,457 which is 5,372 ahead of 2020 totals.

DMS is a valuable tool to the membership program. The overall intent has always been to transfer these members into a local post. As an incentive to the posts, the Membership & Post Activities Committee made a recommendation to include encumbered DMS numbers into the membership goal for the departments starting for the 2020 membership year. This is the second year incorporating DMS members into the goal. The 2021 membership goal incorporated 60% of the 2020 encumbered DMS members along with the traditional post members as of July 1, 2020. The 2021 budget was based on a membership goal of 1,750,000. Our DMS membership goal is 123,000 and the traditional goal is 1,679,116 for a total of 1,802,116 for the entire organization. This is 52,116 over the 2021 budgeted number.

To incentivize departments to work the 2020 encumbered DMS members list, every 2020 encumbered member that transfers and renews at the local post for 2021, the department will receive $5.00. In 2020, the departments transferred and renewed 17,455 encumbered 2019 DMS members and renewed them at the local post for 2020. This resulted in the departments receiving $87,275 for this incentive. Although it is still too early to predict what may occur, we expect similar results in 2021.

Our renewal rate has 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 to increase our renewal rate to 90% for the organization. Due to the pandemic stay-at-home orders, our traditional recruiting has fallen behind last year at this time. As of September 27, 2020, our traditional recruiting is at 10,292. This is a decrease of 7,725 behind last year at this same time. Our renewal rate is currently at 53.8%. This is an increase of over 2.1%. As long as this trend holds steady, we are on our way for a successful year.

During the recent 50% Target Date, 41 departments exceeded the target date – this is nine departments more than the 2020 membership campaign. The 55% target is the next target date, on October 15, 2020 - 32 departments have already met this goal.
The online renewal program continues to perform very well. The 2020 campaign resulted in 289,216 members renewing online which was an increase of 32,557 over 2019. To date, 148,309 members have renewed online for 2021.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARK R. CLARK (MO), CHAIRMAN

I am proud to report that our committee is working together as one team to enhance the ALR program and to maintain the positive momentum we have built as a program under The American Legion.

As you know the 2020 Legacy Scholarship Run was cancelled due to COVID-19 but that did not stop our fundraising efforts for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Working closely with our HQ staff we established a tiered donation campaign to encourage continued investment in the Legacy Scholarship Fund by our members and the general public who support this very important scholarship program. So far, we have raised over $40,000 of our $100,000 goal. We have extended our donation window to December 31st to allow for fundraising as COVID restrictions are being lifted across the country.

Our committee also encouraged post and department ALR programs to continue to raise funds at the local level while complying with local health and safety guidelines. To support this effort, I had the opportunity as chairman to shoot a couple of public service announcements related to the Legacy Scholarship Fund and the cancelled legacy run that were aired on The American Legion National Website as well as on the various social media platforms. This has been met with enthusiasm and several departments have held very successful in-state Legacy Runs.

The departments that have held successful in-state legacy runs will be presenting checks to the National Commander either on October 2nd, during the North Carolina Legacy Run, or at National HQ on October 13th. To facilitate this, we have organized a Pony Express Run to deliver the checks to the National Commander on these dates. I will be present with the National Commander on both dates as I am riding in the North Carolina Legacy Run and plan to be present in Indianapolis as well.

Planning for both the 2021 & 2022 National Legacy Runs is well underway and the committee is fully engaged in helping with the planning and execution of these plans. We anticipate outstanding participation in both of these runs as our Riders across the nation are ready to ride.

Lastly, our committee worked collaboratively with our HQ staff and department ALR directors/chairman across the nation to author the most comprehensive resolution ever produced regarding the ALR program. We believe that once the commission has a chance to review it, they will agree now is the time to solidify the guidelines and expectations of the ALR as a national program into one easy to follow document that will help departments and posts manage their ALR programs.

II. INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SUBCOMMITTEE
GEORGE V. WEST (NH), CHAIRMAN

The Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee of the Internal Affairs Commission met virtually at 7:00 P.M. on September 27, 2020.

Members present:
George V. West (NH)   Chairman
Paul W. Gardner (IL)  Member
Herbert W. O’Dell (TX)  Member
Robert K. Burke (MA)   Member
Michael K. Seaton (CA)   Member
Commander Bolt's Report

Our Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee met virtually on Saturday, September 26th with 200 in attendance. Commander Bolt briefed the sub-committee stating the past year has been challenging with the current conditions and restrictions of COVID-19 around the country. Even under the current circumstances, the Sons continue to be relevant to The American Legion and their communities with buddy checks and natural disaster relief by bringing food and supplies to hard-hit areas. The commander commended the headquarters staff and Markey's for creating the ability to conduct a National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting virtually from the NEC room at National Headquarters. He stated the meeting was well executed and exceeded his expectations. The rehearsal time spent the day before though cumbersome, really paid off. Additional recognition was given to his commission and committee chairman/members and the national adjutant and his team for taking the time to convene their meetings virtually in a timely manner with professionalism and expedition before the NEC meeting.

Commander Bolt made a final remark regarding the virtual meeting. He expressed his disappointment that the meeting did not allow the ability to accept donation checks. The presentation and acceptance of donations to Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and other American Legion charities at the NEC meeting brings a sense of pride and, in some cases bragging rights among detachments. Donations not being presented at this NEC meeting will have a significant impact on charities in 2020 but also in 2021.

Committee on Committees Report

The committee on committees convened to address four open positions. The 2020 Convention Chairman resigned as the transition to a new city will take place next year in Phoenix, AZ. The committee recommended Chuck Treat (AZ) as the 2021 National Convention Chairman. The committee recommended three appointments to the Veterans Education and Employment Commission; James Coates (NY), who was already on the commission, was promoted to vice chairman to replace Marvin Nay (MA.) Fred Vaccarella (VA) and William Sheehan (MA) were recommended to fill the remaining VE&E commission positions. Commander Bolt called for a motion to approve the appointments; the NEC made the motion and voted to affirm the appointments by unanimous consent.

Meeting Cancelations and Rescheduling

Due to the recent pandemic and concerns for the health and safety of our members, the 2020 Spring National Executive Meeting and National Convention were canceled. Resolutions 8 and 11, respectively, were drafted and adopted by the NEC, which also followed suit with The American Legion National Executive Committee relating to their Spring NEC Meeting and national convention. Resolution 14 was drafted and adopted by the NEC to change the Fall NEC Meeting from a physical call-in to Indianapolis to a virtual online meeting, following the same guidelines as The American Legion.

2020 Fall NEC Resolutions

The sub-committee reviewed the resolutions from the 2020 National Sons of The American Legion Fall NEC Meeting. Each was read, discussed, and approved through unanimous consent.
Resolution 1 - Endorsement of Ernest E. Laberge (MA) for National Vice Commander
SAL Action: Received and filed
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 2 - National Executive Committeemen Training
SAL Action: Referred to Member Training and Development Committee through Internal Affairs
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 3 – Endorsement of Matthew Griffis (AZ) for National Vice Commander
SAL Action: Received and filed
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 4 – Endorsement of Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH) for National Vice Commander
SAL Action: Received and filed
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 5 – Endorsement of Ronald E. Roberts (MS) for National Vice Commander
SAL Action: Received and filed
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 6 - Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee
SAL Action: Referred back to the Detachment of Mississippi
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 7 - Endorsement of Terry Harris (KS) for National Vice Commander
SAL Action: Received and filed
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 8 - Create the Marvin P. Nay Award for Outstanding Contributions to National Veterans Employment and Education Commission
SAL Action: Adopted
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 9 - Endorsement of Michael L. Kirschner (CO) for National Vice Commander
SAL Action: Received and filed
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 10 - Membership Goal Setting
SAL Action: Referred to Membership Committee through the Internal Affairs Commission
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 11 - Call-In Approval for All Members of the National Legislative Commission
SAL Action: Rejected
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 12 - Call-In Approval for the Sons of The American Legion National Chaplain
SAL Action: Referred back to the Legislative Commission, pending the outcome and evaluation of meeting formats, frequency, and relevance, being either virtual or actual.
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 13 - Revision to Article IV (Eligibility)
SAL Action: Adopted
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed
Resolution 14 – 2020 Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee
SAL Action: Adopted
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 15 - Revision of Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion
SAL Action: Adopted
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 16 - Revision of Article X of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion
SAL Action: Adopted
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

Resolution 17 - Membership Goal Incentive
SAL Action: Referred to Membership Committee by the Internal Affairs Commission
Adopted
Sub-Committee Recommendation: Affirmed

National SAL Liaison Report
The National SAL liaison briefed the sub-committee on the virtual NEC meeting that convened on September 26, 2020, at 11 A.M. EDT. The meeting was well received and well attended with approximately 200 attendees from the National Executive Committee, Past National Commanders, and general members; 44 of 55 detachments were represented at the meeting. The National SAL Commander, Adjutant, and Judge Advocate lead the meeting from the NEC room at national headquarters. The NEC conducted business as usual as if in a face to face meeting at the Sheraton. Resolutions and reports from all commissions & committees were sent to the NEC eight days before the NEC meeting. Since the NEC received their packets early, it allowed ample time for the NEC to review their packet and prepare questions for the respective chairman. The NEC approved their 2021 budget and marked the first time the SAL organization will be self-funded with no supplemental funds from The American Legion and have a surplus at the end of the year.

Over the next seven months, the SAL program will be evaluated as it relates to The American Legion and its commission and committees. An "Outline of Authorization" will be created where it will define the SAL commission and committee's purpose, roles and responsibility, and structure. The concept is to navigate the SAL commission and committees to work closely with their American Legion counterparts by identifying programs and causes where the SAL can supplement and fill in the gaps where The American Legion may not have the time or resources to cover. i.e., the SAL Veterans Employment and Education Commission. Rather than work on the same programs as The American Legion, the SAL VE&E Commission may have an opportunity to champion dependent employment & education programs and benefits.

The SAL National Judge Advocate and liaison will work closely together to review and update the Sons National Constitution and Bylaws, Rules of the NEC, and Uniform Code Procedure for the Organization for the National Convention. These documents should be reviewed every few years, keeping them fresh and up to date. However, some of these documents have not been examined in more than ten years. The updates will also tie in with the Outline of Authorization being created.

Measures have already taken place by working with the Commanders Advisory Committee, Past National Commanders Panel, and the Committee on Committees to create a comprehensive path for developing strong leaders in the SAL. A flow chart was created that maps out how commission and committee positions are filled and what entities review these appointments before affirmation by the NEC and SAL Sub-committee. The committees are also working together by developing a path for national commander
candidates. The path is designed to evaluate identified candidates as they navigate through the chairs of key committees and become well-rounded leaders by expanding their knowledge base and hone critical skills as they pursue the path to national commander.

Sub-committee member Robert Burke (MA) asked what was final the verdict on step-sons being eligible in the Sons of The American Legion. This was a topic from Resolution 5 of the 2019 SAL Fall NEC Meeting. Resolution 5 was rejected by the SAL NEC and referred for further study and evaluation by the Sub-Committee. Upon consulting with The American Legion National Judge Advocate, it was determined that IRS Tax Code Part 7 Chapter 25, Section 19 – 7.25.19.1 – 4 does not explicitly address step-sons as it does in the IRS code that regulates veterans service organization auxiliaries (American Legion Auxiliary). The tax code states that lineage can only go back two generations, and step-children are not eligible. Whereas the IRS code that addresses veteran service organizations (listed above) does not make those assertions. The judge advocate ruled that since the IRS code does not address those topics specifically, step-sons and any generation that goes back to all American Legion eligibility periods are acceptable. In this fall meeting, Resolution 13 was re-written to reflect step-sons, and multiple lineages will continue to be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. Resolution 13 was adopted by the SAL NEC and affirmed by the IA SAL Sub-Committee.

The year 2020 has brought on challenges that are unprecedented and unchartered territory. For the first time in 23 years, membership decreased by 12,000, and had this year not been so unusual. I have no doubt the SAL would have exceeded their membership again, showing steady growth. The membership chairman pledged to not decrease the goal for 2021 but to hold steady and surpass 2020's goal and keep the path moving in a positive direction.

The Internal Affairs Commission received and filed the report and approved the recommendations of the Subcommittee on the seventeen resolutions.

**AMERICAN LEGION TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE**

**ALTON R. FORD (MI), CHAIRMAN**

The Training Sub-Committee of the Internal Affairs Commission met via Zoom at 7pm on September 22, 2020 to review business pertaining to the training program, National American Legion College, and Alumni programs.

Members present were:

- Sandra Kee, Acting Chairman
- Steven C. Sperl (AZ), Member
- Lena Heredia-Perez (FL), IA Consultant
- Guillermo Guillen (VA), IA Consultant

Staff Support: Michele Emery (IN-Aux), Member Engagement & Training Coordinator

- Ken George (FR), Member Engagement Coordinator & SAL Liaison
- Kevin Mook (MD), Member Engagement Coordinator
- Jack Querfeld (IL), Internal Affairs & Membership Director
- Matt Herndon (IN), Internal Affairs & Membership Deputy Director

**Training Program**

Michele Emery briefed the sub-committee on Training in a Box progress and demonstrated where to find modules on the Legion website. Each of these may be downloaded and adapted for individual posts and districts to use for their training. Materials are continually being developed and made available as overlined in the original Training White Paper.

Online trainings have made a large and necessary leap forward due to social distancing requirements. National Headquarters staff conducted a virtual version of the National Membership Training Workshop to great success. Many lessons were learned and will be utilized to continue adapting the training cadre to accommodate online instruction for our members.
A new offering called Training Tuesdays starts on the last Tuesday of each month beginning on October 27, 2020. The first 90-minute session will cover Buddy Check and a preview of membership processing using the new Personify software set to roll out by the end of 2020.

**National American Legion College (NALC)**

Ken George provided an update on the postponement of the 2020 NALC to March of 2021. The application deadline was moved to October 1, 2020. As of September 22, the applications were lower than normal with 45 applications received from 25 departments. Two NALC classes are planned in 2021. The first in March with the second taking place in December, barring any other quarantine setbacks.

The NALC eligibility criteria was changed this year to eliminate the requirement of departments to have a post-Vietnam war era candidate before others would be accepted. This change has enabled some departments to put forth applicants they would not otherwise be considered.

**Alumni Programs**

Michele Emery reported on the activities of the National American Legion College Alumni Association (NALCAA), who raised $5,295 via their Facebook group for the Veterans & Children Foundation. The Class of 2019 was the top fundraiser and was honored with a banner at the top of the Facebook group page and will enjoy "front of the line" privileges during the next NALCAA banquet at national convention.

The Samsung American Legion Alumni Association (SALAA) welcomed the 2019 Samsung American Legion Scholars as they were honored during the 2020 Washington Conference. The scholars were excited to meet American Legion and Samsung leadership as they participated in "Storming the Hill" and enjoyed tours of national monuments and the Samsung Solutions Center.

This subcommittee keeps Chairman Alton Ford (MI) in our thoughts and offers prayers as he struggles with health issues.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Kee (MA), Acting Chairman

The report of the Subcommittee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

**Review of the 2020 NEF Excellence Submissions:**

The commission reviewed the following two submissions for the NEF Excellence Award:

1. Carlos J. Lozada Post 2, Department of Puerto Rico
2. Larchmont Post 347, Department of New York

Both submissions were approved by the commission to receive a certificate plaque.

**III. NATIONAL STAFF UPDATES:**

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND**

Since its creation in 1989, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has provided over $9.2M in emergency grants to American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members as well as American Legion posts impacted by natural disasters.

January 1 – December 31, 2019 we granted $88,445 to 37 members and seven posts in emergency assistance. Since January 1, 2020 we have granted $106,833 in emergency assistance to 37 members and nine posts. During the same time period our members, posts, and departments have donated just over $140,000 in return. The NEF remains healthy with over $7.5M available (the market value as of August 1, 2020).

The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is currently very active and now more likely to produce an above-average number of hurricanes and tropical storms, according to an updated outlook released last month by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. Couple that...
with the fires in the Western Region, the NEF activity is expected to rise in the coming months.

We have been in constant contact with the leadership of all departments reminding them of the availability of the NEF.

There is a PowerPoint presentation on the NEF application and procedures at www.legion.org/emergency, which is an excellent document for leadership to use to get the word out on NEF.

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.

71 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: Idaho, Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Oregon. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 National Convention, these awards were mailed to the departments for presentation.

Departments who received a certificate recognizing them for 75% or higher reporting were: California, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, 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 2021 reporting period runs from June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021. We have accelerated our CPR launch date for 2021 to be available online and on Mylegion.org no later than October 1, 2020 again this year.

OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS (OCW)

From January 1, 2020 through September 29, 2020, Operation Comfort Warriors approved 22 grant requests totaling over $225,000 for veterans and organizations serving veterans' needs in 15 different states. From iPads and televisions for VA and Wounded Warrior Battalions, comfort items for the Fisher House and USO, to mobility devices for individuals and charitable Veteran-focused organizations, OCW provides those "non-essential" items not typically found as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

Every dollar contributed to the fund is used to:

- Demonstrate to wounded warriors that those who have come before them will continue to stand by them in their service to our great nation.
- Support individuals and programs that help wounded warriors wherever they are and in whatever stages of recovery they are in.

Provide items and events that empower wounded warriors and their families to face their difficulties and come out stronger on the other side.

RESOLUTIONS

INTERNAL AFFAIRS ACTION ON ASSIGNED RESOLUTIONS

Approved and Forwarded to the Resolutions Subcommittee

Resolution No. A Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charters to Foreign Posts (Puerto Rico, France and Hawaii)
Resolution No. B The American Legion Patriot Award
Resolution No. C The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award
Resolution No. D  Updated Program Guidelines for the American Legion Riders National Program
Resolution No. F  Support for Review of Minority Awards of Medal of Honor WWI and Subsequent Wars/Conflicts
Resolution No. G  Commendation for Harvey P. Pratt, Designer of the National Native American Veterans Memorial
Resolution No. I  National Global War on Terrorism Memorial

*Approved and forwarded to the Finance Commission*

Resolution No. E  Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) Program Update
Resolution No. H  Mission Blue C.A.P. (COVID Assistance Program)

*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.”

Attachments:  Addendum A – Report to Subcommittee on Resolutions
Addendum B – List of Sons of The American Legion Resolutions

**ADDENDUM A**

Received and Recorded
Register Resolution No. 2776 (AR) (2019 DEC): Endorsement of Mary Erdman for National Vice Commander
Register Resolution No. 2777 (NC) (2019 DEC): Endorsement of Patricia A. Harris for National Vice Commander
Register Resolution No. 2781 (OK) (2020 DEC): Endorsement of Timothy W. Smith for National Commander
Register Resolution No. 2782 (TX) (2020 DEC): Endorsement of Juan R. Torres for National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion
Register Resolution No. 2786 (ME) (2020 DEC): Endorsement of Matthew D. Jabaut For the Office of National Commander

Held for Further Study
Register Resolution No. 2760 (MI) (2018 Dept. Conv.): Korean "Unknown War" Memorial
Register Resolution No. 2784 (OH) (2020 DEC): Add Veterans Treatment Court Questions to the Consolidated Post Report
Register Resolution No. 2785 (OH) (2020 DEC): Add Four Chaplains Exhibit at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum
Register Resolution No. 2789 (CA) (2020 DEC.): Digitally Created Yearbook Category for the National History Contest

**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 virtually at the National Executive Committee Meeting on September 26, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOLUTION NUMBER</th>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED ACTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res. No. 1</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Endorsement of Ernest E. Laberge (MA) for National Vice Commander</td>
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<td>SAL Res. No. 2</td>
<td>Internal Affairs Commission</td>
<td>National Executive Committeemen Training</td>
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<td>SAL Res. No. 4</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Endorsement of Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH) for National Vice Commander</td>
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<td>SAL Res. No. 5</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Endorsement of Ronald E. Roberts (MS) for National Vice Commander</td>
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<td>SAL Res. No. 6</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee</td>
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<td>Kansas</td>
<td>Endorsement of Terry Harris (KS) for National Vice Commander</td>
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<td>Fall NEC, 2020</td>
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<td>SAL Res. No. 8</td>
<td>Veterans Employment and Education Commission</td>
<td>Create the Marvin P. Nay Award for Outstanding Contributions to National Veterans Employment and Education Commission</td>
<td>Recommend approval</td>
</tr>
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<td>SAL Res. No. 9</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Endorsement of Michael L. Kirschner (CO) for National Vice Commander</td>
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<td>Internal Affairs Commission</td>
<td>Membership Goal Setting</td>
<td>Referred to the Membership Committee through Internal Affairs Commission</td>
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<td>National Legislative Commission</td>
<td>Call-In Approval for All Members of the National Legislative Commission</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
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<td>SAL Res. No. 12</td>
<td>National Legislative Commission</td>
<td>Call-In Approval for the Sons of The American Legion National Chaplain</td>
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<td>Internal Affairs Commission</td>
<td>Revision to Article IV (Eligibility)</td>
<td>Recommend approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res. No. 14</td>
<td>Subcommittee on Resolutions</td>
<td>2020 Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee</td>
<td>Recommend approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res. No. 15</td>
<td>Internal Affairs Commission</td>
<td>Revision of Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion</td>
<td>Recommend approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res. No. 16</td>
<td>Finance Commission</td>
<td>Revision of Article X of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion</td>
<td>Recommend approval</td>
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<td>SAL Res. No. 17</td>
<td>Internal Affairs Commission</td>
<td>Membership Goal Incentive</td>
<td>Referred to the Membership Committee by the Internal Affairs Commission</td>
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**No.:** S.A.L. Resolution 8 - Fall, 2020  
**Title:** Create the Marvin P. Nay Award for Outstanding Contributions to National Veterans Employment and Education  
**Origin:** Veterans Employment and Education Commission  
WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a volunteer program of The American Legion; and  
WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the Sons of The American Legion to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and  
WHEREAS, The Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Commission is dedicated to supporting The American Legion by assisting The American Legion in ensuring that America's veterans have the opportunity to provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families; and  
WHEREAS, The actions of such individuals who assist in such vital endeavors should be recognized at the National level; and  
WHEREAS, Marvin P. Nay (MA) served as Vice Chairman of the VE&E Commission for two years prior to his death, during which time he was a veterans' advocate specializing in homelessness and stand downs; and  
WHEREAS, Written permission has been received from Marvin P. Nay's family for the use of his name; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26, 2020, That the National Executive Committee hereby recommends the creation of the "Marvin P. Nay Award" to recognize outstanding contributions to veterans employment and education; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the members of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission shall select a winner from all qualified applicants; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the criteria for this award, a nomination form, and instructions for submitting nominations accompany this resolution as supporting documentation; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the award shall be an engraved plaque purchased from American Legion Emblem Sales at a cost not to exceed $200.00, including mailing if necessary; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That the Marvin P. Nay Award commence during the 2021 membership year, to be first presented at the 2021 National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion.

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 13 - Fall, 2020
Title: Revision to Article IV (Eligibility)
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, In 1932 the Sons of The American Legion was established as a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of American Legion Members and deceased American Legion-eligible Veterans with specific eligibility requirements to become a member; and
WHEREAS, The American Legion's eligibility dates/time frames have recently been augmented by Congress's passage, and subsequent Presidential signature to sign it into law, of "The LEGION Act;" and
WHEREAS, Eligibility for membership in the Sons of The American Legion is defined by the eligibility requirements 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 virtually on September 26, 2020, That Article IV, Section 1 of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion be revised as follows:
"ARTICLE IV. ELIGIBILITY
Section I. All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods the period of April 6, 1917, through November 7, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941 to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.#; and, be it finally
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 2021 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 14 - Fall, 2020
Title: 2020 Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1 of the National Bylaws of the Sons of The American Legion. The National Executive Committee shall meet at least twice each year. It shall meet immediately preceding the National Convention to establish the agenda for that National Convention, and immediately following the National Convention to approve the National Commander's appointments; and
WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 2 of the National Bylaws of the Sons of The American Legion allows the National Executive Committee, without meeting together, may transact business by mail, email, fax or telephone on a matter of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed to the next regular meeting; and
WHEREAS, The United States of America, and the world in general, are currently experiencing a pandemic associated with the spread of Coronavirus (COVID–19) therefore causing communities, cities, states and the federal government to enact unprecedented emergency actions in order to contain and combat the impact and risks of spreading the COVID–19; and

WHEREAS, A gathering of the members of the National Executive Committee at the fall meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana may be in conflict with the imposed restrictions set by local and federal authorities and therefore place our members at an unnecessary health, safety and medical risk; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion by electronic mail and/or telephone vote pursuant to Article VII, Section 2 of the National bylaws and Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That the uncertainty of the numerous government regulations and insuring the health and safety of our members and the public surrounding the widespread disease known as Coronavirus (COVID-19) are serious and sufficient reasons so as not to hold in-person meetings in October 2020; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the fall 2020 National Executive Committee meetings will be by, or through, the use of any means of communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting and that all members participating in the method of meeting are considered to be present in person at the meeting.

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 15 - Fall, 2020
Title: Revision of Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, In 1932 the Sons of The American Legion was established as a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of American Legion Members and deceased American Legion-eligible Veterans with specific eligibility requirements to become a member; and

WHEREAS, In May 1972, a Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was adopted by The American Legion National Executive Committee to provide a framework for a national organization; 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 currently being recognized within the Preamble; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion at the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana passed Resolution 44 which changed "The Great Wars" in the Preamble to "All Wars" officially recognizing all military veterans from all other wars and conflicts that were previously not recognized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26, 2020, That the Preamble to the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion be revised as follows:

The Sons of The American Legion
National Executive Committee

"PREAMBLE
Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars all wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" 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 true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers 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 friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country."; and, be it finally

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 2021 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 16 - Fall, 2020
Title: Revision of Article X of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion
Origin: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, In 1932 the Sons of The American Legion was established as a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of American Legion Members and deceased American Legion-eligible Veterans with specific eligibility requirements to become a member; and
WHEREAS, In May 1972, a Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was adopted by The American Legion National Executive Committee to provide a framework for a national organization; and
WHEREAS, Article X, Section 2 of the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws states, "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"; and
WHEREAS, With the recent change to the National per capita in Article X, Section 2, each time the per capita changes this article would have to be amended to match the per capita change; and
WHEREAS, The removal of Section 2 from Article X would remove the requirement to amend this section when a per capita change is approved by the members at the National Convention, and removing Section 2 from Article X would be more in line with the parent organization's National Constitution and By-Laws 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 virtually on September 26, 2020, That Article X, Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion be removed and replaced as follows:

"ARTICLE X. FINANCES

Section 1. The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

Section 2. 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."
Section 3.2. The annual dues amount is determined by the Squadron and Detachment, respectively, which will include the National per capita and will be transmitted within thirty (30) days either electronically direct to the National Organization or via the Detachment of the respective Department of The American Legion to the National Organization not later than October 20th of each year for the succeeding calendar year and shall be held and accounted for separately from other funds of such Department.

Section 3. The amount of annual Detachment dues shall be determined by the Detachment organization of the Sons of The American Legion under such procedures as The American Legion Department having jurisdiction over the Detachment provides; such funds shall be transmitted to the officer charged with the custody of Department funds and shall be held and accounted for separately from other funds of such Department.

Section 4. The amount of such annual Squadron dues shall be determined by the Squadron.

Section 5. The annual National dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted through the Department Headquarters of The American Legion in which the Squadron is geographically located and then to the National Treasurer of The American Legion; and, be it finally

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 2021 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission, with the exception of seven resolutions and two addenda. ....Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of seven resolutions and two addenda. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 15: Authorize Issuance Of Temporary Charters To Foreign Posts (Puerto Rico, France and Hawaii)
Origin: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Application for the issuance of temporary charters to posts outside of the continental United States are received and were properly endorsed by officers of the departments which will accept responsibility for supervision, and all are 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 virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That the national adjutant is authorized to issue a temporary charter to the following posts to be affiliated with the named departments:
1. Expeditionary Post DR01, located in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic and affiliated with the Department of Puerto Rico.
2. Sgt. Thomas Oliver Ahlberg Memorial Post TH02, located in Pattaya, Thailand and affiliated with the Department of France.
3. Returning Warriors Post 0022, located in Majuro, RMI (Marshall Islands) and affiliated with the Department of Hawaii.
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution No. 15 has the approval of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and second to adopt Resolution one-five, 15. Any discussion? Any objections? Resolution 15, motion carries, unanimous.

Resolution No. 16: National Global War on Terrorism Memorial
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion adopted Resolution No. 16, National Executive Committee, May 10-11, 2017, Subject: National Global War on Terrorism Memorial which supported waiver of the 10-year requirement after ending the war to start the process to start construction; and
WHEREAS, The waiver was approved and now the process has started with design and site selection; and
WHEREAS, The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation is asking for The American Legion's support for the site selection for a prominent place in the National Capital Region; and
WHEREAS, Resolution No.16 (NEC, May 2017) will not be rescinded at this time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion goes on record with Congress in support of the construction of a memorial dedicated to the Global War on Terrorism in a prominent location in the National Capital Region without financial obligation by The American Legion; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That national American Legion media channels be utilized to advance awareness to our membership on the progress of the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution No. 16 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 to adopt Resolution one-six, 16. Any discussion? Any objections? Resolution 16, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 17: Support for Review of Minority Awards of Medal Of Honor WWI and Subsequent Wars/Conflicts
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, At the outbreak of hostilities in Europe in what would become known as World War I, the United States initially pursued a policy of non-intervention; and
WHEREAS, German U-boats sank the RMS Lusitania on 7 May, 1915, causing President Woodrow Wilson to demand an end to unrestricted submarine warfare, to which Germany complied; and
WHEREAS, In 1917, Germany resumed a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, and with the subsequent sinking of seven U.S. merchant ships by submarine the United States declared war on Germany; and
WHEREAS, The United States drafted 2.8 million men and by summer 1918 was sending 10,000 fresh soldiers to France every day; and
WHEREAS, General John J. Pershing allowed African-American combat regiments to be used in French divisions; and
WHEREAS, The 369th Infantry Regiment "Harlem Hellfighters" fought as part of the French 16th Division, and earned a unit Croix de Guerre for their actions at Chateau-Thierry, Belleau Wood, and Sechault; and

WHEREAS, While 121 men were awarded the Medal of Honor for actions during WWI, not one African-American soldier was awarded the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Only after review were two African-Americans, Freddie Stowers and Henry Johnson, awarded the Medal of Honor, but not until 73 years and 85 years after their combat actions in 1918; and

WHEREAS, Few other non-white soldiers, sailors, or Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor during WWI; and

WHEREAS, While the United States military conducted a review of Medal of Honor minority awards from WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War and all subsequent wars but no such systematic review was ever made of minority award of the Medal of Honor during WWI; and

WHEREAS, The United States will remain forever indebted to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and other minorities displayed during a time of great national need; and

WHEREAS, The commitment and sacrifice of these veterans demonstrated a highly uncommon and commendable sense of personal bravery, devotion to comrades, duty, patriotism and honor in the finest traditions of the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, The United States WWI Centennial Commission supports efforts to authorize a systematic review of valor medals awarded to minority servicemembers of WWI or other wars and conflicts, who may have been denied the higher medals due to racial bias; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has a proud tradition of recognizing all classes of veterans who served with uncommon valor; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 109, (Convention, August 28, 29, 30, 2018), Subject: "Support For Review Of Minority Awards Of Medal Of Honor WWI" was passed at the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion fully supports legislation to lift statutes of limitations and other obstacles that may impede proper investigation and appropriate actions for minority veterans of all wars and conflicts whose military records and official descriptions of combat actions fully support consideration for award of the Medal of Honor and any other military medal; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 109, (2018 National Convention), Subject: "Support For Review Of Minority Awards Of Medal Of Honor WWI" is hereby suspended and rescinded with this updated resolution.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution No. 17 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 to adopt Resolution 17, one-seven. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution 17, motion carried, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 18: The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission
(As amended)

WHEREAS, One of the basic purposes of The American Legion is "to promote peace and good will on earth"; and

WHEREAS, The development of international friendship and good will is a desirable objective of all Americans; and
WHEREAS, For many years there has existed an ever-growing spirit of confraternity between veterans' organizations of Canada and The American Legion on both sides of our shared border; and

WHEREAS, The manifestation of this great bond of comradeship between veterans organizations of two great nations exemplifies the capabilities of freedom-loving peoples to perpetuate international friendship; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognition of the role of veteran-citizens of a war-time ally and neighbor in the furtherance of this spirit of international good will and comradeship can be an important contribution in conveying to the entire world the strength of the friendship of the United States of America and Canada; and

WHEREAS, In May 1969, the National Executive Committee established The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award by Resolution No. 7, "Establish The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award"; and

WHEREAS, This resolution is merely updating who processes the award at national headquarters and broadens the category for who the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada is recommending to those individuals involved with veterans affairs in Canada; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That the "The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award" is awarded under the following specifications:
1. The award shall be in the form of an appropriately designed citation and medal.
2. It shall be awarded to specific individuals involved in veterans' affairs as recommended by the "Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada."
3. It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans' affairs and in the development and perpetuation of the spirit of international goodwill and comradeship between United States and Canada and between their veterans' organization and The American Legion.
4. The Internal Affairs Commission is responsible for the administration of this award; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 7 (NEC, May 1969), "Establish The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award" is hereby rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution No. 18 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I recommend that the resolution be amended to read, "Resolved, that 'The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award' is awarded under the following specifications:
"The award shall be in the form of an appropriately designed citation and medal.
"It shall be awarded to specific individuals involved in Veterans Affairs as recommended by the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans of Canada.
"It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of Veterans Affairs and in the development and perpetuation of the spirit of international goodwill and comradeship between the United States and Canada and between both veterans organizations and The American Legion.
"The Internal Affairs Commission is responsible for the administration of this award; and, be it finally
"Resolved, that Resolution Number 7 (NEC May 1969) 'Establish The American Legion Canada Friendship Award' is hereby rescinded."
As amended, I move for the adoption of Resolution No. 18. ...Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to amend Resolution 18 as read. Is there any discussion on the amendment?
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: Mr. Commander, Past National Commander John Brieden.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes Past National Commander Brieden.
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: Is there a reason that we're saying that we recognize ANAVIC rather than ANAVIC and the Royal Canadian Legion, that both participate in our national conventions?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Commander Brieden, I'd like to ask Past National Commander Dan Ludwig to address that question. Commander Ludwig?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LUDWIG: The only recipients of this award have been members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans in Canada. So this essentially continues the practice that's been in place since its inception.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Commander Brieden, does that answer your question?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: Yes, sir, it answers it. I happen to be a member of both, and so it just seems odd to eliminate one. But if this is just renewing something that's ongoing, I understand.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I think that's the case. Is there any other discussion about the amendment? Any objections to the amendment to Resolution 18, one-eight? Amendment carries, unanimous consent. Now addressing Resolution one-eight as amended. Do I have a motion to accept?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KLOSTERMEIER (OH): Robert Klostermeier, Ohio. Motion to accept. …Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to accept Resolution 18 as amended. Any further discussion? Any objections? Resolution one-eight carries, unanimous consent, as amended.

Resolution No. 19: Updated Program Guidelines for the American Legion Riders (ALR) National Program

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, American Legion Riders (ALR) was established in 1993 as a post level activity at Garden City American Legion Post 396, Department of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 35: "American Legion Riders as a National Program," NEC, October 17-18, 2007 and Resolution No. 32: "Amendment to Resolution No. 35," NEC, May 4-5, 2011 were guiding documents for the formation of post and department ALR programs under the support of the hosting posts and departments, and those guidances are combined in this resolution; and

WHEREAS, Today there are more than 2,100 ALR chapters at the post and department levels whose membership consists of members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary who share a common interest in motorcycle ownership and pleasure riding for veterans' causes; and

WHEREAS, The ALR has expanded to more than 150,000 members, 2,100 local chapters in all 50 domestic departments and in two foreign departments; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the ALR is to use their common interest and association to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as well as the promotion of motorcycle safety and awareness; and

WHEREAS, Since 2014, ALR has raised approximately 1 million dollars annually for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund while raising The American Legions brand awareness and penetration in their communities and promoting the American Legion Family; and

WHEREAS, Membership growth in The American Legion has increased in many posts that have supported ALR and in some cases, these members now serve in leadership positions within The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Many posts and departments of The American Legion have acknowledged ALR as a local program and are tasked with establishing guidelines for their ALR program to follow; and

WHEREAS, ALR supports those serving in uniform today through participation in such activities as the Patriot Guard, which was founded by the Department of Kansas ALR
to provide escorts for our fallen heroes returning from war and taking care of the needs of the families left behind; and

WHEREAS, All ALR members shall strive to maintain the image of The American Legion, always upholding The American Legion name, and brand, which symbolizes the integrity and principles of this great organization; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of The American Legion through the ALR Advisory Committee to review and amend, from time to time, such guidelines to provide more effective direction to The American Legion Riders programs in order to protect the trademarked emblems and copyrights of The American Legion (hereinafter "Emblems");

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That all American Legion Riders (ALR) groups be a program supported by a post or department of The American Legion and shall uphold the declared principles of The American Legion as well as conform to and abide by the lawful regulations and decisions of the department, post or other duly constituted department governing body; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That because The American Legion owns, controls, protects and defends The American Legion's Emblems, the following guidelines are required to dictate protective standards over the Emblems:

1. All members of the American Legion Riders shall be current members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary.

2. Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law.

3. ALR programs may allow for continued membership for those members who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury, or other reasons outside the member's control.

4. All ALR members shall maintain the image of The American Legion and, protect the trademarked names and emblems, which symbolizes the integrity and principles of The American Legion organization.

5. The American Legion Riders officers shall be called chairman, vice chairman, director, and/or assistant director. Commander and vice commander are not appropriate because the American Legion Riders is a program of a post or department. In order to retain the identity of the ALR as an association of motorcycle enthusiasts and not as a motorcycle club or biker club, the titles of "president, vice president and past president/vice-president" shall no longer be permitted. A transition period of one year from the date of this resolution's passage will be provided for departments/posts to update governing documents and to transition to these approved ALR leadership titles.

6. The only recognized American Legion Riders emblem and logo authorized are those sold through The American Legion Emblem Sales. No use of rockers touching the ALR patch are allowed because touching the ALR patch violates the trademark laws protecting the ALR patch.

7. ALR vests should display the integrity, principles, and values of The American Legion and the ALR by avoiding patches or pins with explicit or offensive language or images. All patches and pins of any groups displayed on the ALR vest shall share like values of The American Legion with regard to improving the lives of veterans, the military, the community and families, and these groups must be supportive of the principles of justice, freedom, democracy, and equality for all.
8. To maintain the image of The American Legion and its programs, ALR members while wearing any American Legion Riders apparel shall not display exposed weapons.

9. The American Legion Riders must represent the virtues, values, ethics, and morals of The American Legion in support of freedom, democracy, and the safety of our citizens. Affiliations of ALR programs with other groups and organizations that subscribe to the principles of and oppose our form of government by promoting anti-Americanism, anti-establishment, or pro-criminal culture shall not be permitted.

10. All ALR members shall obey the motorcycle laws of their state. This includes the proper motorcycle license endorsement in accordance with the rider's home state.

11. The sponsoring organization (post and department) will review liability insurance coverage to ensure that adequate coverage is available to cover the organization to include coverage for any specific special riding events; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion Riders programs shall abide by The American Legion National Constitution and National By-laws, as well as the established post and department directives; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion National Headquarters and the respective departments shall maintain general oversight of the American Legion Riders program in regards to proper use of the Emblems of The American Legion, The American Legion Riders, and The American Legion Legacy Run, and compliance with The American Legion National Constitution and National By-Laws; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 35 (NEC, Oct 2007), Subject: "American Legion Riders as a National Program" and Resolution No. 32 (NEC, May 2011), Subject: "Amend Resolution 35 (NEC, Oct 2007), Subject: American Legion Riders as a National Program" are hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution No. 19 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and second to adopt Resolution one-nine, 19. Is there any discussion?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MAYNARD (NH): Commander, Ken Maynard, New Hampshire.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize the NEC from New Hampshire.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MAYNARD: Yes, sir. On Section 8 where it says, "Riders apparel shall not display exposed weapons." The state of New Hampshire is an open-carry state. We really have no control over what any person does as far as firearms or anything else. I don't know that we could control that, but I don't have an answer how to change that article, Article 8.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: If I could, I'd like to ask Mark Clark to address that question.

RIDERS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Maynard, national officers, national vice commanders, past national commanders, and distinguished members of the National Executive Committee. I'd like to take a few minutes just to address that question.

As an American Legion Rider, when we put on our vest, there's a patch on our back that is a contract between us and The American Legion. That emblem is what guides our behavior. We would not be out of place to ask that American Legion Riders, even in open-carry states, I happen to be in an open-carry state myself in the state of Missouri, we would
not be out of place to ask them, in protection of our image of the American public, to carry
their weapons concealed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Does that answer your question?
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MAYNARD: Yes, sir, it does.
Thank you.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize Paul Espinoza, the
NEC from New Mexico.
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ESPINOZA (NM): Number 5
on that resolution, where it states in the middle of Number 5, "In order to retain the identity
of the American Legion Riders an association of motorcycle enthusiasts and not as a
motorcycle club or biker club, the title of 'president, vice president, and past president/vice
president' shall no longer be permitted. A transition period of one year from the date of this
resolution's passage will be provided for departments/posts to update governing documents
and to transition to these approved American Legion Riders titles." Stating now, to clarify
more of that, what's going to be the name of it, if it does pass?
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mark, you want to address that?
CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, sir, I would be happy to address that. The American
Legion Riders, part of the reason why we think that this resolution is timely is the two
documents that were governing us, the most recent was 2011. We're nearly twice the size
today we were in 2011. So one reason we're trying to do this is to provide some uniformity
across the nation and throughout our program.
So the two approved titles would be director or assistant director, or chairman or vice
chairman, because those titles separate us from the leadership titles of our other parent
organizations. We feel like the American Legion Riders are large enough at that point, we
should have some standardized application in both name and conduct, and we think that
these two titles will set us aside, set us apart, while recognizing us as a program under The
American Legion without borrowing titles from our parent organization.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Paul, that issue is also addressed in line
Number 5, in the first line of Number 5.
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ESPINOZA: Yes, sir, thank
you very much. Thanks, commander.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize Tim Smith, NEC from
Oklahoma.
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH (OK): I think my
questions were answered, but I'll emphasize the one-year transition period of the
leadership. Please pay attention to that and be patient over this next year of slowly getting
people on board, because I know Legion Riders are pretty passionate about their vest and
their titles. That's all I've got, sir. Thank you.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you. Any further discussion? Thank
you, Mark. Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution 19 carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 20: Commendation for Harvey P. Pratt, Designer of the National
Native American Veterans Memorial

Origin: Media & Communications Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian selected the
design of Clinton, Okla., American Legion Post 401 Commander Harvey P. Pratt to be
installed Nov. 11, 2020, in Washington, D.C., as the permanent National Native American
Veterans Memorial; and
WHEREAS, Vietnam War Marine Corps combat veteran Pratt followed his military
discharge with an internationally renowned career in law enforcement, primarily in
forensic art and sculpture that led to successful identifications of missing persons and
convictions of violent crime suspects; and
WHEREAS, Commander Pratt's "Warriors' Circle of Honor" design captures the
spirit, courage and legacy of Native American service in the U.S. Armed Forces; and
WHEREAS, The veteran artist’s career and leadership as a Cheyenne Peace Chief, forensic detective in the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and Post 401 leader reflect the highest values of The American Legion, in service to community, state and nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion commends the National Native American Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and salutes its designer, American Legion Post 401 Commander Harvey P. Pratt.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution No. 20 has the approval of the Media & Communications Commission, 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 to adopt Resolution two-zero, Number 20. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution 20 carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 21: The American Legion Patriot Award
Origin: Media & Communications Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission
WHEREAS, The American Legion Patriot Award was authorized by Resolution No. 177, 2007 National Convention; and
WHEREAS, The American Legion Patriot Award recognizes outstanding citizens who demonstrate a profound and exceptional commitment to military personnel and their families; and
WHEREAS, The American Legion values each of the four pillars upon which our great organization of men and women stands; and
WHEREAS, National Executive Committee Resolution No. 10, October 12-13, 2011, authorized the provisions under which The American Legion Patriot Award would be given; and
WHEREAS, Some deserving nominees for The American Legion Patriot Award are unable to attend the National Convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion Patriot Award shall be presented to a person or entity that advances any of the four pillars of The American Legion as determined and approved by the national commander; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the award shall consist of a black plaque with The American Legion gold emblem, a gold eagle and a copy block on the black glass printed in gold offset containing the name of the recipient and award text; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That how and when to present the award and any additional conditions will be determined and approved by the national commander; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That funds expended for annual purchase of plaques for The American Legion Patriot Award not exceed the amount approved by the Finance Commission within the Media & Communications operational budget each year; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 177, 2007 National Convention, titled "The American Legion Patriot Award" and Resolution No. 10, of the National Executive Committee, October 2011, titled "The American Legion Patriot Award" are hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution No. 21 has the approval of the Media & Communications Commission, 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 to adopt Resolution 21, two-one. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution 21 carries, unanimous consent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, attached to the report of the Internal Affairs Commission are Addendum A and B. I move that the actions of the Internal Affairs Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded that the action of the Internal Affairs Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent. At this time, the chair recognizes John W. "Jay" Bowen of Colorado, chairman of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
John W. Bowen, Colorado, Chairman

National Commander Oxford, members of the National Executive committee, national officers, and guests, Legionnaires all. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you on matters related to membership and post activities. You have a copy of my written report. You will find updated information on the 50 percent target date, the upcoming 55 percent target date, DMS, membership renewals, as well as online renewals.

National Commander Oxford's theme is "A Foundation for the Future," and that foundation the American Legion's Four Pillars are built upon is membership. With that being said, membership is one of the most challenging aspects we continually deal with as leaders. Contrary to popular belief, working membership is not always easy. But a successful membership program is critical if we are to continue supporting our Four Pillars, especially helping our veterans and their families. It requires us to be proactive, roll up our sleeves, and put in the effort.

Commander Oxford is continuing the same three goals as last year to help keep us focused on growth throughout the 2021 membership year: 90 percent retention, 100,000 new members recruited, and 100 percent CPR turn-in. We have started this year off in the right direction. During last year's 55 percent target date, 37 departments met this challenge. As of October 6, we have 41 departments who have met or exceeded this target date. The target date report will be run and sent out on October 16. What is more encouraging, though, is we currently have 27 departments who show growth over their 2020 membership totals. And as an organization, we are ahead of last year's totals by 19,262 members.

Commander Oxford's first goal is to increase our renewal rate as an organization to 90 percent. For 2020 our renewal rate is at 86.96 percent, so we're about 3 percent short of that goal. For 2021, we're currently at 56.2 percent which is 2.7 percent higher than 2020 at the same time. Retention must be the first priority to increase our membership, and we must keep this in mind. Retention starts the minute someone joins.

So what does this mean? It means we have to engage our members by conducting Buddy Checks. Not just when it's time to pay dues but, just like Chairman Newman said, it should be a routine leadership tool to check on our members' health and welfare. We can make phone calls, send out letters and emails. And we should all be taking advantage of technology and set up virtual visits through with Zoom, or a similar medium, to ensure members are not left behind.

As a reminder, during the 2019 Spring meetings, Resolution 18 was passed to conduct Buddy Checks at least two times a year. As Veterans Day fast approaches, we need to prepare for our Buddy Checks and ensure we have our rosters ready to go, and proper points of contact when we call and discover somebody needs assistance.

What are some other things we can do to improve our retention rate? Well, as previously stated, we have to engage members as soon as they join. We have to educate them and encourage them to take the Basic Training course. We have to invite them to post and district training events, and we have to mentor them to be successful Legionnaires.
As many of you know, in early August we conducted a virtual membership workshop. According to feedback we received, this was a tremendous success, and it allowed many Legionnaires who would not have been able to participate due to time away from home and cost and work, a chance to receive the training and information firsthand. With other training opportunities and meetings virtually, there is no excuse for us not to be able to offer training at all levels of the organization and at any given time.

With that in mind, we will be introducing a Tuesday training session beginning this month. We will offer this one-night training on the last Tuesday of each month, and the subjects will be based on feedback we receive from our membership and what they feel is needed most. Our first session is 27 October at seven o’clock Eastern. We will discuss changes and updates to online membership processing and Buddy Check.

By actively engaging these members, we will not only put them in a position to succeed; we will also show them we are about their personal growth in The American Legion. When we do this, retention is no longer a goal; it’s a given. When we meet the 90 percent renewal target, we will still be short of our overall membership goal, so we cannot grow membership alone through retention.

Commander Oxford’s second goal is to recruit at least 100,000 new members. We have to be able to engage veterans and ask them to join, and the passage of the LEGION Act last year removed the barrier of asking someone to join and worry about whether they are eligible based on when they served. This all sounds easy to do, but many Legionnaires are not comfortable recruiting new members or talking to existing members about their dues or connecting with today’s military. That is where training comes into place. We have to use any and all channels to teach Legionnaires on some of the basic items we may take for granted. We want them to feel at ease and know how to sell The American Legion.

Traditional recruiting was on pace to have an outstanding year for 2020. Then the stay-at-home orders went into effect because of the pandemic. We have to find innovative ways to engage our veterans. Social media can be used to show off what our posts are doing, and engage veterans who are not members yet. It is important for us to utilize this tool to get the word out about the great things The American Legion does for veterans and their communities. It is an honor and a privilege to be an American Legion member. It is our responsibility to engage all veterans and can ask them to join no matter their race, religion, creed, or gender. We need to welcome them into our rank.

The last goal is for all departments to submit 100 percent of their Consolidated Post Reports by the July 1 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 the Consolidated Post Report, we can with accomplish this task. Commander Oxford can then go before Congress and report on 100 percent of post activities, rather than the 71 percent we received this year.

With these goals before us, I want to remind everyone about reaching out to the military, whether it is a recruiting station, National Guard armory, or a large military installation. The American Legion has always taken to heart to provide support to the military and their families. I bring this up as a reminder to encourage all levels of this organization to develop a relationship with senior military leaders, to offer an opportunity to join The American Legion to all eligible members of the active-duty military, National Guard and reserve components. We need to actively engage the military transition centers. As these servicemembers transition back into civilian life, we can be there to support them, addressing their needs, but also letting them know who we are, and offer them an opportunity to be a member of the largest and most effective veterans service organization in the world. Ultimately, whatever we do, our engagement efforts have to continue to adapt and overcome during these crazy times. In the end, we will be better for it.

Commander, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve this past year as chairman of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. I’ve learned much over the past year and have enjoyed working with an amazing group of volunteers and professional staff members in Internal Affairs and Membership & Post Activities. I can tell you without hesitation that all commission, committee, and staff members care about The American
Legion and the veterans we serve. I am firmly convinced that by working together at the post, district, county, department, and national levels, we can meet or exceed all of your goals for 2021.

In closing, there is no question we are living in unprecedented times, but we are not that special. Every generation before us had an unprecedented event occur that defined that generation. Our rich history tells the stories of how we worked together to overcome and respond to those events. So what will history record about our response? Will it be that we stayed home with doors locked and waiting for the crisis to go away? Or will it reflect that, as American veterans, we stepped up to be part of the solution rather than being part of the problem? I submit to you, it needs to say The American Legion was there for veterans in the community then, we are there now, and we will be there always. Then, now, always. Thank you again for allowing me the time to address this distinguished group. Commander, this concludes my report.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
John W. Bowen, Colorado, Chairman

As of September 30, 2020, the 2021 membership total is 959,514 – 5,785 members ahead of this same time for the traditional membership report of 2020. These membership results do not include newly acquired 2021 DMS members. The total DMS members acquired to date for 2021 is 40,042 which is 5,625 ahead of 2020 totals. Our 2021 overall membership (which includes DMS) is off to a good start at 1,019,035 which is 23,868 ahead of 2020 at the same time last year.

DMS is a valuable tool to the membership program. The overall intent has always been to transfer these members into a local post. As an incentive to the posts, the Membership & Post Activities Committee made a recommendation to include encumbered DMS numbers into the membership goal for the departments starting for the 2020 membership year. This is the second year incorporating DMS members into the goal. The 2021 membership goal incorporated 60% of the 2020 encumbered DMS members along with the traditional post members as of July 1, 2020. The 2021 budget was based on a membership goal of 1,750,000. Our DMS membership goal is 123,000 and the traditional goal is 1,679,116 for a total of 1,802,116 for the entire organization. This is 52,116 over the 2021 budgeted number.

To incentivize departments to work the 2020 encumbered DMS members list, every 2020 encumbered member that transfers and renews at the local post for 2021, the department will receive $5.00. In 2020, the departments transferred and renewed 17,455 encumbered 2019 DMS members and renewed them at the local post for 2020. This resulted in the departments receiving $87,275 for this incentive. Although it is still too early to predict what may occur, we expect similar results in 2021.

Our renewal rate has 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 to increase our renewal rate to 90% for the organization. Due to the pandemic stay-at-home orders, our traditional recruiting has fallen behind last year at this time. As of September 30, 2020, our traditional recruiting is at 10,804. This is a decrease of 7,623 behind last year at this same time. Our renewal rate is currently at 55%. This is an increase of over 2.9%. As long as this trend holds steady, we are on our way for a successful year.

During the recent 50% Target Date, 41 departments exceeded the target date – this is nine departments more than the 2020 membership campaign. The 55% target is the next target date, on October 15, 2020 – and as of September 30, 2020, 38 departments have already met this goal.

The online renewal program continues to perform very well. The 2020 campaign resulted in 289,216 members renewing online which was an increase of 32,557 over 2019. To date, 148,309 members have renewed online for 2021.
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: 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 discussion? I'd like to recognize NEC from Arizona, Judy Beischel.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BEISCHEL (AZ): Good morning, commander. It's still morning out here. Just one question on that last report. Where do we get the information? Is that a Zoom meeting? And where do we get the link to join that?

MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Judy, are you talking about for the Tuesday training sessions?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BEISCHEL: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BOWEN: That information was blasted out to all department adjutants earlier this week, so you should have that. But I can send that information to you anyway.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BEISCHEL: Well, if Angel's got it, I'll just double-check with him. Thank you, Jay.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion? Any objections? Motion to accept report carries, unanimous consent. Chair recognizes Ralph P. Bozella of Colorado, chairman of the national Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, for the purposes of their report.

Oral Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

Good afternoon Commander, national officers, NEC, and distinguished guests. Commander, my compliments to you and the American Legion national leadership and staff for the work you have done to produce a virtual national meeting of this magnitude. Since the onset of the novel coronavirus and COVID-19, we have all had to adjust our normal operating procedures. This is something we learned through our time in the military.

In the year 2020, the ability to adapt and overcome has become the new norm in our current way of life. Regardless of the situation, our VA&R Commission and division knows that veterans continue to have issues with health care, mental health needs claims, and memorial benefits. Our attitude that VA&R never rests continues, as we work for American's veterans and our families. I have filed a written report with 15 resolutions, recommending ten for adoption, with addendum, for your consideration.

I also need to update you on some of the actions of the VA&R Commission and division, since our last meeting in Washington, D.C. back in March of 2020. I stood before you and I have expressed concern about VA&R division staff turnover. Today I'm pleased to report, our staff is almost complete, key leadership is in place, and our VA&R staff is doing a great job. I need to recognize the excellent work of Chanin Nuntavong, the executive director for government affairs, for his accomplishing this task during the coronavirus era.

New VA&R director Mario Marquez is on board and up to speed with VA&R policies, operations, and programs. Mario's a 31-year retired United States Marine, having earned the rank of sergeant major. He is online with us today, and I'm very pleased for his work thus far. Katie Purswell was brought on board in April as our deputy director for health policy. She is well versed in VHA policies and has made strong connections, and has already been involved in congressional testimony. Katie is doing a great job. Marty Callahan was promoted to deputy director for claim services. After spending a number of years preparing American Legion claims for review at the Board of Veteran Appeals. Marty is a tremendous asset. Melvin Brown was also promoted to veterans program manager. He is providing staff support for our National Cemetery Committee, the American Legion VAVS program, and he coordinates VA&R meetings and resolutions.
Our committee chairmen, Phil Youngblood, for the Health Administration Committee; Dick Neville for the National Cemetery Committee; and Bill Smith for the Veterans Benefit Committee, are active and doing good work, communicating veteran needs and issues in their respective areas of responsibility.

From August 31 to September 4, the VA&R Commission and committees met with technical assistance from staff. We hosted three afternoons of Zoom meetings as we processed the VA&R resolutions, making recommendations for your action today.

Past National Commander Ron Conley serves as chairman of our TBI/PTSD Committee. With the focus on veteran suicide prevention and assistance from staff member Joshua Hastings, the committee held a Zoom summit event with guest speakers on the White House PREVENTS roadmap initiative, and also a report on gun safety from the CEO of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. You will see a resolution today on the TBI/PTSD Committee name change.

Other summer VA&R events included my testimony to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee on VA's response to COVID, a joint national tele-town hall, with VBA undersecretary Dr. Paul Lawrence, and participation in two congressional press conferences regarding three new Agent Orange presumptives and the effects of environmental toxins to military servicemembers. I ask that you please consult your written report so that you are up to date with all VA&R programs and activities.

I also need to tell you that the System Worth Saving site visits to VA medical facilities and the ROAR site visits to the VA regional offices were canceled due to COVID-19 issues. However, the System Worth Saving program will continue, as we are discussing how to work with the Veterans Health Administration and VA medical centers, by surveying and then gathering that data for analysis and reporting.

We are also concerned about the apparent drop-off of health-care services in rural areas due to VA's response to COVID. We need to ensure that the mandates of the MISSION Act are in effect for all veterans, and that VA is doing all it can to adequately care for our nation's veterans, regardless of where they may live.

I also need to announce that the Department of Colorado was named the winner of the annual William F. Lenker National Service Trophy.

Commander, it is true, VA&R never rests. We are ever present and always working as committed volunteers and staff members, to ensure our nation's veterans are getting all the benefits they have rightfully earned through their time in military service. Thank you so much for this opportunity to serve in this capacity. Commander, this ends my report.

Advance Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

I. NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE

The 97th Annual Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Conference was held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. from March 8-10, 2020.

II. MEETING OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission met in the Jefferson Room, Concourse Level, on March 9, 2020. Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella, CO, presided. Reports received and matters considered during this meeting are as follows:

A. VA Voluntary Services Volunteer of the Year Award

National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford presented Robert G. Scruggs, NC, with the VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) Worker of the Year Award during the VA&R
Proceedings of Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Commission meeting. Legionnaire Scruggs is a 52-year Paid-Up for Life member of the Hubert M. Smith Post 77 in Hendersonville, NC. He has over 27,000 volunteer hours at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC.

B. Remarks from Guest Speakers

Dr. Paul R. Lawrence, VA's under secretary for benefits, shared details on the department's Solid Start program with commission members. Through the program, VA will contact veterans three times during the first year of their transition, with initial contact coming within the first 90 days of separation from military service. Follow-up phone calls will be made within six months and again toward the end of the year. Dr. Lawrence also provided good news for veterans getting a housing allowance under the latest version of the GI Bill (Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act). Because of technology issues, VBA ran into difficulties in paying student veterans their proper housing allowances. The problem has been fixed, Lawrence said, and student veterans are now being paid their correct amounts.

Randy C. Reeves, VA's Executive in Charge of the Veterans Health Administration, updated the commission on a new program in the department's National Cemetery Administration (NCA). The Veterans Legacy Program commemorates our nation's veterans through the discovery and sharing of their unique stories. Through the program, students and teachers from kindergarten through college use historical resources found within the NCA-administered cemeteries. A digital component has been created through the Veterans Legacy Memorial website (www.VA.Gov.Remember). This online memorial for veterans provides a profile page for each of the 3.7 million veterans interred in NCA cemeteries.

Cheryl Mason, chairman of VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA), briefed the committee on the newly introduced virtual and geo-matching claims appeal hearings. Virtual hearings allow veterans and their accredited representatives to participate over their smartphones and other devices in appeal hearings with veterans law judges in D.C. Geo-matching allows BVA to hold hearings for veterans in states that are closest to where they live.

Dr. Richard Stone, VA's executive-in-charge of health, updated the commission on what his agency is doing to prevent veterans with COVID-19 showing up in a VA facility and had advice for users of VA facilities. He told the commission that VA began prescreening individuals using any of its facilities in order to reduce risk. Dr. Stone said VA has kept a cache of emergency supplies throughout the nation that are supported by VA's 30-days of supplies for routine activities. He included that among VA's missions is to be the safety net for the American healthcare system, should it be overwhelmed.

Bill Brassard, senior director of communications for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, discussed a collaboration among his organization, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, DoD and VA to stem veteran suicides. Firearms retailers and shooting ranges are provided with toolkits that include in-store signage that educates veteran gun owners about warning signs and risk factors of suicide, and the importance of securely storing firearms to help prevent access in times of distress. A pilot program is currently being tested in six states and the District of Columbia.

Dr. Matt Miller, VA's acting director for suicide prevention, discussed the three fronts of VA's efforts to prevent suicide: 1) a community-based coalition focused on suicide risks, down to the county and city levels; 2) a veteran-to-veteran coalition in which veterans are tending to their buddies; and 3) state governors' challenges to raise awareness and communication. Dr. Miller said the time between the decision to die by suicide and the act of suicide usually ranges between 5 and 60 minutes. Efforts are focusing on limiting access to lethal means of self-harm, especially firearms. In 2017, some type of firearm was used in 70.5 percent of male veteran suicides.
C. Resolutions

During the afternoon business session, Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella, CO, led a discussion on the following resolutions in order to prepare for the Spring National Executive Committee meeting.

Title: Oppose Restrictions and Discontinuation of Medications to Certain Disabled and Chronically Ill Veterans
Origin: Resolution No. 201901 – Department of California Convention
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Hold for further study.

Title: Veterans Administration Drug Pricing Initiatives
Origin: Resolution No. 201902 – Department of California Convention
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Hold for further study.

Title: Support of Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB) Research
Origin: Resolution No. 201907 – Department of California Convention
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2020 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: H.R.578 and S.127, Mare Island Cemetery
Origin: Resolution No. 201909 – Department of California Convention
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Hold for further study.

Title: Expansion of Veterans Affairs Services
Origin: Resolution No. 201910 – Department of California Convention
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Send back to the department for revision.

Title: Personalized Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)
Origin: Resolution No. 201911 – Department of California Convention
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Hold for further study.

Title: Engraving Military Insignia on Government-furnished Headstones
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2020 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: Department of Veterans Affairs Revise the Definition of "Vietnam Era"
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2020 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: Minority Veterans
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2020 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

III. MEETING OF THE TBI/PTSD COMMITTEE

On March 8, 2020, the TBI/PTSD Committee met in the Gunston West Room, Terrace Level. Past National Commander and TBI/PTSD Committee Chairman Ronald Conley, PA, was unable to attend; Committee Vice Chairman Ralph Bozella, CO, conducted the meeting.

Guest speakers for this meeting included Dr. Sean Mulvaney, a surgeon who served with several U.S. Army special operations units; Dr. Anne Naclerio and Dr. Tshaka
Cunningham from TruGenomix; and Drew Trojanowski, past special assistant to the president on veterans issues.

Dr. Mulvaney, currently with Regenerative Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Annapolis, Md., has had great success using Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB) to treat individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). A study by Dr. Mulvaney and others on the procedure's successful use was published in JAMA Psychiatry in 2019. Dr. Mulvaney is working with members of Congress on passage of the Treatment and Relief through Emerging and Accessible Therapy (TREAT) for PTSD Act, which would require VA to provide SGB therapy to veterans diagnosed with PTSD.

Drs. Naclerio and Cunningham are chief medical officer and chief scientific officer, respectively, for TruGenomix, an emerging precision genomic biotechnology. TruGenomix offers a scientifically-proven and more effective way to identify those who are affected by PTSD. TruGenomix's behavioral health platform includes the first-to-market, patented PTSD genomic biomarker blood test, coupled with a mental health risk assessment tool. This blood test was based on ten years of research, culminating in a patent for gene expression profiles that identify a person's predisposition to PTSD. Dr. Cunningham reported that TruGenomix has started to engage VA about a study that would involve 3,000 veterans, who would be given the test and then tracked over a two-year period. He then asked The American Legion to advocate on behalf of TruGenomix "to get this (test) out into use, into clinicians' hands to start letting them assess it."

Drew Trojanowski served in U.S. Army special operations and is currently the assistant vice president of strategic initiatives at Arizona State University. He briefed the committee on the upcoming release of the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS). PREVENTS calls for the establishment of the Veteran Wellness, Empowerment, and Suicide Prevention Task Force, co-chaired by the VA secretary and the assistant to the president for domestic policy. The mission of this task force is to develop and submit to the president a "roadmap" that will include proposals for community integration and collaboration, development of metrics to quantify progression, and a description of policy changes and resources that may be required. Trojanowski mentioned that finding a "vaccine for suicide" means identifying and intervening early. He noted that 70 percent of veteran suicides are committed by individuals who have never set foot inside a VA facility.

IV. MEETING OF THE HEALTH ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

On March 9, 2020, the Health Administration Committee met in the Piscataway Room, Lobby Level. Committee Chairman Phil Youngblood, GA, conducted the meeting.

The guest speaker was Dr. Mark Mellott, Ph.D., senior director of strategic communications and engagement for Cerner Government Services. Dr. Mellott provided a 10-year roadmap with IOC (initial operating capability), and the "go live" dates for the successful implementation of Cerner's Electronic Health Record (EHR) starting with VISN 19. The rollout of this EHR allows compatibility between the VA and DoD's medical health system called Genesis.

V. MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

On March 9, 2020, the National Cemetery Committee met in the Shaw Room, First Floor Level. Committee Chairman Richard Neville, NC, conducted the meeting.

The guest speaker was Les' Melnyck, chief of public affairs and outreach for VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA). Melnyck reported that the U.S. Army is in the process transferring 11 of its 21 cemeteries to the NCA, which is in the process of opening another 10 national cemeteries this year. Other NCA initiatives include providing Presidential Memorial Certificates to families on the day of interment at VA's five largest national cemeteries; and providing alternative burial options, including a natural or environmentally sensitive burial section (i.e. "green burials") in national cemeteries.
VI. MEETING OF THE VETERANS BENEFITS COMMITTEE

On March 9, 2020, the Veterans Benefits Committee met in the Jefferson Room, Concourse Level. Committee Chairman William J. Smith, PA, conducted the meeting.

Guest speakers were Judge Robert N. Davis, Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and Glenn Bergmann, managing partner of Bergmann & Moore, LLC.

VII. PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION VA PHYSICIAN AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

On March 10, 2020, the awards for VA Physician and Healthcare provider of the Year were presented by Secretary Robert W. Wilkie and VA&R Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella, CO, during Commander's Call in International Ballrooms East and Center, Concourse Level.

Dr. Megan Press of the Minneapolis VA Health Care System received the VA Physician of the Year Award. She is a psychiatric care clinician and a leader in the system's health integration team for outpatient primary care.

Mary Ballard, RN, received the VA Healthcare Provider of the Year Award. She is the registered nurse manager for the Oklahoma VA Medical Center's home-based primary care team.

VIII. SYSTEM WORTH SAVING (SWS) AND REGIONAL OFFICE ACTION REVIEW (ROAR)

Past National Commander (PNC) Ronald Conley, PA, initiated the SWS Program in 2003. The American Legion resolved to support the SWS program through Resolution 206, which authorized visits to designated Veterans Administration Medical Centers.

The American Legion passed Resolution 105, "Reiteration of the SWS Program," during its 2015 National Convention that established SWS as a permanent program managed by the VA&R Commission.

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the VA&R Executive Committee convened a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams on April 9 and voted unanimously to cancel all SWS/ROAR site visits in 2020.

The following SWS site visits were canceled: Central Texas Veterans Health Care System in Temple, TX (Mar. 30-Apr. 1), Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, NM (Apr. 6-8), Cheyenne VA Medical Center in Cheyenne, WY (May 11-13), Kansas City VA Medical Center, Kansas City, MO (Jun. 1-3), Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center, Indianapolis, IN (Jun. 22-24), Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Chicago, IL (Jul. 20-22), Puget Sound VA Health Care System, Seattle WA (Aug. 10-12), Mountain Home VA Health Care System, Johnson City, TN (Aug. 10-12), Providence VA Medical Center, Providence, RI (Sep. 21-23), James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx, NY (Oct. 26-28) Boston VA Health Care System, Boston, MA (Oct. 26-28), Lake City VA Medical Center, Lake City, FL (Nov. 16-18), and Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, Augusta, GA (Dec. 7-9).

The following ROAR site visits were canceled: Houston Regional Office, Houston, TX (Mar. 23-25), Albuquerque Regional Office, Albuquerque, NM (Apr. 6-8), Cheyenne Regional Office, Cheyenne, WY (May 11-13), St. Louis Regional Office, St. Louis, MO (Jun. 1-3), Indianapolis Regional Office, Indianapolis, IN (Jun. 22-24), Chicago Regional Office, Chicago, IL (Jul. 20-22), Seattle Regional Office, Seattle, WA (Jul. 27-29), and Boston Regional Office, Boston, MA (Oct. 26-28).
IX. DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS SCHOOL

The first session of the 2020 Department Service Officers School was held March 11-13 in the Columbia 11/12, Terrace Level. 90 department, state, and county veterans service officers (VSOs) from around the country, as well as Germany and Puerto Rico, were in attendance.

Lawyers from Bergmann & Moore, LLC (B&M), conducted the training and assessment over a three-day period. The course was an interactive session aimed at teaching advocates how to argue claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regional office level.

The National Association of Department Service Officers (NADSO) held their meeting in the Morgan Room at the Washington D.C. Hilton on March 10.

The training session began with a welcome by Glenn Bergmann, managing partner of B&M and Deputy Director of Veterans Benefits Greg Nembhard, VA. Members of NADSO led the two classes in rendering honors to the U.S. Flag, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and invoking a prayer before introducing the instructors.

The theme for this training session was "Winning New Claims at Your Regional Office." Topics for discussion included: DSO ethics, fundamentals of service connection, fundamentals of increased ratings, individual unemployability, duty to assist, locating records, using VBMS, evaluating evidence, secondary service connection, Blue Water Veterans, musculoskeletal conditions, mental health conditions, Gulf War conditions, survivor compensation benefits, special monthly compensation, compensation and pension exams, recent court decisions, and appealing claims to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Despite concerns surrounding the COVID-19, the class proceeded as scheduled, taking into account the precautionary measures set in place by The American Legion, Hilton Hotel and the National Institutes of Health. However, the two guest speakers from VBA were forced to cancel due to the spread of COVID-19.

The second session of DSO School was scheduled for August 5-7, 2020, in Indianapolis, IN, but was canceled by the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Chanin Nuntavong, CA, based on the concerns of COVID-19 and NEC Resolution 3, "Cancellation of 2020 National Convention." Staff will be working with B&M to create a virtual/on-line training program during this period.

Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission met at the 60th Annual Washington Conference, Washington Hilton, Jefferson Room, Concourse Level, on March 9, 2020. The following officials addressed the Commission: Dr. Paul R. Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Randy C. Reeves, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Lawrence B. Connell, Chief of Staff, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Cheryl Mason, Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs; Bill Brassard, Senior Director, Communications, National Shooting Sports Foundation; Dr. Richard Stone, Executive-In-Charge, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs and Dr. Matt Miller, Acting Director for Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs.

The VA&R Commission also met virtually via Zoom on September 4, 2020, to discuss the proposed resolutions for presentation to the National Executive Committee's fall meeting.
Resolutions

Fifteen (15) resolutions from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission were submitted to the Resolution Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee for consideration.

Ten (10) were forwarded for adoption:

(Origin: Resolution Register # 2771; CA; 2019 Department Convention)
Stellate Ganglion Block Research for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

(Origin: Resolution Register # 2773; CA; 2019 Department Convention)
Mare Island Naval Cemetery

(Origin: Resolution Register # 2775; CA; 2019 Department Convention)
Support Department of Veterans Affairs Research of Personalized Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)

(Origin: Resolution Register # 2788; NY; 2020 Department Executive Committee)
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)
Appropriate Procedures for Compensation and Pension Exams

(Origin: VA&R)
Engraving Military Insignia on Government-Furnished Headstones

(Origin: VA&R)
Minority Veterans

(Origin: VA&R)
Restore Disability Benefits Questionnaires to Department of Veterans Affairs Website

(Origin: VA&R)
Revise Definition of Vietnam Era

(Origin: Resolution No. 9 (NC) 2017 National Convention)
Support Walkway in Arlington National Cemetery on Chaplains Hill

One (1) was received and recorded:

(Origin: Resolution Register # 2769; CA; 2019 Department Convention)
Department of Veterans Affairs Drug Pricing Initiatives

Three (3) were held for further study:

(Origin: Resolution Register # 2768; CA; 2019 Department Convention)
Oppose Restrictions and Discontinuation of Medications to Certain Disabled And Chronically Ill Veterans

(Origin: Resolution Register # 2774; CA; 2019 Department Convention)
Expanding and Better Utilizing Services for Veterans
Updates to Chaplains Hill Monuments at Arlington National Cemetery

One (1) was rejected:

Child Care at Vet Centers

The following resolutions are to be carried forward and continue as American Legion policy:

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>CONVENTION (MI)</td>
<td>IMPROVEMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>CONVENTION (MI)</td>
<td>EXEMPT VA BENEFITS AND SERVICES FROM PAY-GO PROVISION</td>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>CONVENTION (MI)</td>
<td>RESEARCH TO DEVELOP A BLOOD TEST TO DETECT COLORECTAL CANCER</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>CONVENTION (MI)</td>
<td>OPPOSE ANY REDUCTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS' BUDGET DUE TO SEQUESTRATION</td>
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<td>57</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>CONVENTION (UT)</td>
<td>PREVENT EXPLOITATION OF VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS APPLYING FOR BENEFITS, TO INCLUDE AID AND ATTENDANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>CONVENTION (UT)</td>
<td>STOPPING NON-ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVES FROM CHARGING FEES TO PROVIDE APPELATE SERVICE TO VETERANS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>CONVENTION (MD)</td>
<td>ALL VETERANS RECEIVE &quot;WARTIME&quot; BENEFITS FOR ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE BETWEEN FEBRUARY 28, 1961 AND AUGUST 5, 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>CONVENTION (IL)</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>SPRING (VA&amp;R)</td>
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Legislative Activities


On October 30, 2019, The American Legion submitted a Statement for Record to the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Preparing for Blue Water Navy Claims - VA Status Update on Implementation. The statement refers to previous actions by the Legion in which we had supported Vietnam veterans' access to health care from Agent Orange exposure up to 12 nautical miles from affected areas. The SFR focused on the internal and external issues the VA is facing with number of veterans that qualify and being able to access medical records, identify those in compliance, and beginning to service these veterans' needs.

On November 20, 2019, The American Legion testified to the House Veterans Affairs Committee on H.R. 3495: Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act. The main point of this bill is whether VA should provide financial assistance directly to providers of non-clinical social services or should these funds be funneled through "hub organizations," which coordinate services between community-based resources. The American Legion supports providing funds to both hub organizations and providers of non-clinical social services if they are subject to a rigorous vetting process based on clear metrics and evaluation criteria. The American Legion believes that a diversity of quality organizations providing non-clinical social services would be useful in combatting veteran suicide.

On January 29, 2020, The American Legion testified to the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Caring for Veterans in Crisis: Ensuring a Comprehensive Health System Approach. This statement was drafted in support of the bill identifying the comprehensive approach, staffing issues, and access to care. The SFR reviews our own practices including our TBI/PTSD Committee initiatives, the mental health survey conducted in 2019, and the introduction of the ATLAS program this year at Post 176, Springfield VA.

On February 5, 2020, The American Legion testified to the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Examining How the Department of Veterans Affairs Supports Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma (MST). This hearing was to address the issues with MST and to give recommendations to the committee. They are as follows; The American Legion believes all veterans deserve to have their claims developed and rated by knowledgeable, competent, and bias-free VSRs and RVSRs. Veterans deserve to have access to healthcare providers for mental and physical health as a result of their MST experience. Therefore, The American Legion recommends the following steps to alleviate this issue:

1. Reevaluate and change policy, if necessary, to set a specified amount of excluded time that can be allotted for the development of MST claims.
2. Enforce the existing zero-tolerance policy concerning attitude of the rater with regard to MST claims. Any rater violating this policy should face appropriate disciplinary action.
3. Enforce that document raters who repeatedly fail to consider markers in their rating decision of MST claims be retrained. If they continue with the same behavior, they should face appropriate disciplinary action.

4. Provide resources and remind employees of existing resources they can use for self-care when triggered or experiencing compassion fatigue due to handling MST cases.

5. Re-educate VBA employees about immediate healthcare resources at VA facilities and Vet Centers so veterans may begin the path to healing.

6. Re-evaluate the duties and responsibilities of MST coordinators and consider a possible increase of the percentage of full-time equivalent.

The American Legion recommends Congress ensure the VA has all the necessary resources to remain committed to providing veterans access to help they need to recover from MST and end sexual harassment within VHA facilities.

On February 11, 2020, The American Legion testified to House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Achieving Health Equity for America's Minority Veterans. This hearing was a conversation about minority health and gathering of information from VSOs on minority healthcare needs. The American Legion covered a range of topics from challenges with the accuracy of medical records, problems with outreach and trust among minority veterans, care for diseases found more prevalently in minority veterans, and knowledge gaps. This hearing was held in order to draft more targeted legislation to be drafted for our minority veteran population.

On July 21, 2020, The American Legion, testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on twenty (20) separate pieces of legislation which included health policy, benefits, and claims bills. The American Legion took the following actions for the following draft bills; H.R. 6039 - To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the city of Vallejo, California, for the transfer of Mare Island Naval Cemetery in Vallejo, California, and for other purposes, Support; H.R. 6082 - Forgotten Vietnam Veterans Act, Support; H.R. 4908 - Native American Parity in Access to Care Today Act, No Position; H.R. 2791 - Department of Veterans Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee Act of 2019, Support; H.R. 4526 - Brian Tally VA Employment Transparency Act, No Position; H.R. 3582 - To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the scope of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, and for other purposes, No Position; H.R. 96 - To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service, and for other purposes, Support; H.R. 428 - Access to Contraception Expansion for Veterans Act, No Position; H.R. 3010 - Honoring All Veterans Act, No Position; H.R. 7163 - To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reduce the backlog of requests for information made to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes, Support; H.R. 7111 – Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020, Support; H.R. 2435 - Accelerating Veterans Recovery Outdoors Act, Support; H.R. 7287 - To clarify the licensure requirements for contractor medical professionals to perform medical disability examinations for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Support; H.R. 3228 - VA Mission Telehealth Clarification Act, Support; H.R. 6141 - Protecting Moms Who Served Act, Support; Discussion Draft - Veterans Benefits Fairness and Transparency Act, No Position; Discussion Draft - USERRA Protections for State Active Duty, Support; H.R. 7445 - To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for home loans from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, Support; Discussion Draft - Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act of 2020, No Position; Discussion Draft - Justice for Servicemembers Act, Support.

On September 9, 2020, The American Legion, testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on S. 785, The Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019. The American Legion, like many other VSOs, has a deep concern on the rate of suicide among servicemembers and veterans. We believe that a
decrease in suicide amidst servicemembers and veterans is achievable by implementing the legislation discussed in this bill. This bill encompassed seven sections which included; Improvement of Transition of Individuals to Services for Department of Veterans Affairs, Suicide Prevention, Programs, Studies, and Guidelines on Mental Health, Oversight on Mental Health Care and Related Services, Improvement of Mental Health Medical Workforce, Improvement of Care and Services for Women Veterans, and Other Matters. The American Legion supported this bill in its entirety.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Health-Care Provider and Physician of the Year

National Executive Committee 2017, Resolution No. 7, Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Provider of the Year, and Resolution No. 8, Department of Veterans Affairs Physician of the Year, established awards presented by The American Legion. These awards recognize the contributions that VA health-care providers and physicians have made to the veterans they serve.

At the 2020 Washington Conference, Registered Nurse Mary Ballard of the Oklahoma City VA Healthcare System and Dr. Megan Press of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center received these awards, respectively, for 2019.

Lenker Award

National Executive Committee 2006, Resolution No. 2, Revised Rules Governing The Award Of The William F. Lenker National Service Trophy, established the current rules governing the National Service Trophy. This award is to be presented annually to a department of The American Legion that excelled in the welfare and rehabilitation work for war veterans and their dependents. The Department of Colorado received the award for 2020.

VA Voluntary Service Award

National Executive Committee 2015, Resolution No. 21, Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Award, established the award presented by the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. This award is presented to the outstanding volunteer hospital worker from the department of the National Commander at the Washington Conference. At the 2020 Washington Conference, Mr. Robert Scruggs, from the Department of North Carolina, received the award for 2019.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Health Administration Committee met at the 60th Annual Washington Conference on March 9, 2020. Dr. Mark Mellott, Senior Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement for Cerner Corporation addressed the Committee.

The Health Administration also met virtually via Zoom on September 2, 2020, to discuss the proposed resolutions for presentation to the VA&R Commission on September 4, 2020.

Caregiver Support Program (CSP)

The American Legion participated in VSO partnership meetings to provide the VA feedback on its final ruling pertaining to the phased expansion rollout of its Caregiver Support Program (CSP) authorized by the VA MISSION Act of 2018. As pre-911 family caregivers are now granted access into the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), the pertinent feedback provided ensures that a fair and standardized evaluation and appeals process is set in place when family caregivers are initially denied. The American Legion participated in monthly Caregiver Support Program Expansion update meetings which build knowledge for subject matter expert written responses to draft legislation in direct support of strengthening or initiating VA caregiver programs.
Additionally, The American Legion participated in many VA-sponsored caregiver wellness and self-care workshops to learn firsthand how the VA not only provides comprehensive support to family caregivers, but also get caregivers more inclusively involved with the veteran's own treatment team and treatment planning. The American Legion also monitored the VA launch of the Caregiver Community Connection (C3) initiative which is a VA joint venture with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) to provide a peer support network and a web-based workshop series to empower and engage caregivers of veterans of all eras nationwide.

Blue Water Vietnam Veteran Navy Act of 2019

The American Legion has followed VA's rollout of The Blue Water Vietnam Veteran Navy Act of 2019, allowing claims for benefits based on at least one of the 14 presumptive conditions associated with herbicides such as Agent Orange. Here, The American Legion has been diligently working with other VSOs in calling for the expanding coverage for veterans exposed to Agent Orange through continued support of legislative initiatives. Most recently, The American Legion supported new legislation to increase the number of presumptive conditions to include bladder cancer, hyperthyroidism and Parkinson-like symptoms.

Project ATLAS

Project ATLAS provides a solution for veteran healthcare access, particularly for those who live in rural areas, by offering convenient locations for veterans to access VA health care in their communities. Veterans will find comfortable, private spaces equipped with internet access and technology to enable them to participate in video health appointments with VA. The American Legion opened its first site in Springfield, VA Post 176 on September 22. This is our first of five projected pilot locations. The American Legion has proactively participated in partnership update meetings with VA and Philips concerning Project ATLAS, which brings its "Anywhere to Anywhere" VA Health Care initiative.

System Worth Saving (SWS)

Annually, commission members and division staff conduct a series of site visits to VA medical facilities and regional offices. While on site, they meet with veterans, their families, and VA administrators and employees to discuss successes, challenges, and limitations. Each site visit culminates with a report that informs the members of The American Legion, and provides additional insight to the President of the United States, members of Congress, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

VA&R Commission members and Division staff conducted three SWS site visits to VA facilities since October 2019:

- October 22-24 - Lexington VA Medical Center, Lexington, KY
- November 4-6 - Salisbury VA Medical Center, Salisbury, NC
- December 2-4 - Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, Montgomery, AL

At the beginning of 2020, due to COVID-19 pandemic, slated 2020 SWS site visits were cancelled. The American Legion has been diligently monitoring VA's response to current pandemic issues. As many VHA health care services and deliveries were cancelled or migrated to telehealth, VA&R testified on the need for a robust telehealth program to properly meet the surge in demand for telehealth and to continue to support the health care needs of veterans. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, future System Worth Saving visits are continuing to be discussed by staff and this commission in order to determine the best way forward.
On June, 3, 2020, VA&R Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella testified, virtually, before the U.S. Pandemic Response Accountability Committee regarding changes in VA healthcare operations and services due to COVID-19 and VA's CARES Act funding.

VA Voluntary Services

The American Legion's Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program continues its advocacy on behalf of America's veterans using Veterans Health Administration medical facilities. As of the end of the 3rd quarter (inclusive from October 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), there were 3,551 regularly scheduled and 6,862 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 311,359 hours and occasional volunteers contributed 27,262 hours for a total of 338,621 hours volunteered by members of The American Legion. These combined volunteered hours result in savings to the Department of Veterans Affairs of more than $8.6 million. These numbers are significantly decreased from the same time period a year ago, primarily due to COVID-19. Nonetheless, the commitment of The American Legion's volunteers remains strong.

The VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC) Executive Committee (EC) fall meeting was held September 22, 2020, virtually, via Cisco WebEx.

NATIONAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The National Cemetery Committee met twice during 2020. The first meeting took place in conjunction with the 60th Annual Washington Conference on March 9. The second meeting took place virtually on September 2.

The first annual meeting was held at the Washington Hilton, Shaw Room, First Floor Level, on March 9, 2020. The following official addressed the Committee: Mr. Les' Melnyk, Chief of Public Affairs and Outreach, National Cemetery Administration.

Mr. Melnyk provided the committee with an update on the National Cemetery Administration's programs and activities. The NCA is adding 10 new national cemeteries in 2020, for a total of 152 nationwide. The Department of Defense is also transferring 11 of its cemeteries to the VA.

He also briefed the committee on NCA's Veterans Legacy Program, which provides an online dimension for honoring the memories of deceased veterans. Recently passed legislation provides grants to fund education tools related to the VLP.

The second annual meeting was held virtually on September 2, 2020. The meeting was conducted by the committee's chairman, Mr. Richard Neville, Department of North Carolina.

Arlington National Cemetery

The publication of a draft rule on revised eligibility for burial at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as a public comment period, was postponed because of the pandemic. However, on Sept. 15, 2020, the Secretary of the Army announced the opening of the 60-day public comment period for proposed changes to eligibility criteria for burial at ANC.

The proposed rule will allow new changes to eligibility criteria which will keep the cemetery functioning as an active burial ground well into the future, defined by the Army as 150 years.

The draft rule, must be published in the Federal Register, with public comments accepted for 60 days. The Army is required to respond to significant comments and consider changes based on them.

Among the proposed changes, the Army has said preference for below-ground interment will go to servicemembers killed in action, Medal of Honor recipients and World War II veterans.

The proposed criteria for below-ground interment or above-ground inurnment are:

Below ground:
• Killed in action, including repatriated remains of service members
• Recipients of the Silver Star or higher decorations who served in combat
• Recipients of the Purple Heart Medal
• Combat-related service deaths while conducting uniquely military activities
• Former prisoners of war (POWs)
• Presidents and vice presidents of the United States
• Veterans with combat service who also served out of uniform as government officials, 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 eligible to receive retired pay but are not otherwise eligible for interment
• Veterans who have served at least two years on active duty and 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 levels of public service

The public comment period for the proposed criteria ends on November 16, 2020.

TBI/PTSD COMMITTEE
The TBI/PTSD Committee met at the 60th Annual Washington Conference on February 24, 2020. The following officials addressed emerging therapies with the Commission: Dr. Naclerio and Dr. Cunningham from TruGenomix; Dr. Mulvaney from Regenerative Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Annapolis, Md.; and Mr. Drew Trojanowski, former Special Assistant to the President, Task Force member concerning the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS).

The TBI/PTSD Committee also met virtually via Zoom on September 21, 2020. The committee heard from Ms. Carolyn Colley, Action Officer, President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) Task Force, and Mr. Joe Bartozzi, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF). This virtual meeting was held to further The American Legions understanding of suicide awareness in our community and how we fit into that picture.

Through the year The American Legion attended 16 online forums to build and increase understanding of emerging treatments and recent trends relating to TBI, PTSD and veteran suicide. The American Legion also consulted on over 20 pieces of congressional legislation relating to TBI/PTSD and veteran suicide to clarify The American Legion position on these issues.

National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF)
The NSSF is a Trade association for the firearm and ammunition industry with over 9,000 member companies. This organization has long been committed to supporting firearm safety and keeping firearms out of the "wrong" hands. The primary responsibilities of the NSSF include:
• Advocating on behalf of our industry on state and federal policy matters that affect the lawful commerce in firearms, ammunition, and related products.
• Educating industry members on regulatory compliance and business best practices.
• Promoting hunting and shooting sports and the safe and responsible use and storage of firearms.
• Communicating on the industry's impact on the economy, firearm safety and conservation.
The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a substantial impact on new gun owners. During the first half of 2020, 5 million people decided to purchase firearms for the first time. This spike in new gun owners has many experts concerned about the lack of safety training available (closed gun ranges, etc.) and the potential for increases the number of suicides (access to lethal means). Mr. Bartozzi cited that 2/3 of all firearm-related deaths are suicides. It is clear this is an important issue; however, it is also clear we need to find a responsible way to have this conversation.

The NSSF recently partnered with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) in 2016, and with Veterans Affairs (VA) in 2019. These groundbreaking partnerships have been designed to educate retailers, shooting range staff, and their customers about suicide and suicide prevention in the hopes of reducing the rate of suicide by firearms. AFSP-NSSF toolkits have been given to over 6,000 retailer/range members and are also available to non-members. NSSF have been working hard to open doors to firearm community partnerships aimed at curving this tragic trend.

President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS)

PREVENTS was created through Executive Order 13861 and is focused on a holistic public health approach to suicide prevention. The PREVENTS Roadmap was released on June 17, 2020 and is available online for free. PREVENTS aims to prevent suicide by:

- Changing the culture around mental health and suicide
- Emphasizing the importance of collaboration
- Elevating champions and empowering leaders
- Identifying and amplifying solutions, and
- Involving everyone

Since the launch of the REACH Public Health campaign on July 7, 2020, there have been nearly 2 billion impressions, 5 million clicks to the REACH website, and over 10,000 individuals who have taken the PREVENT Pledge to REACH.

Another priority of PREVENTS is leveraging existing federal agency funding priorities to support PREVENTS state, local and community grants, and prepare for grant implementation. PREVENTS grant database currently contains over 140 grant programs totaling over $2 billion in funding.

Suicide Prevention Summits

The American Legion attended two Suicide Prevention Summits this year. The purpose of attending these virtual summits was to increase our subject matter expert knowledge of current suicide awareness, prevention, mental health treatment, and overall understanding of this space.

August 29- 30, the 2020 Suicide Prevention Summit was held virtually with the following topics of discussion;

- The Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS): Effective Procedures for using CAMS in Crisis Intervention Situations by Dr. Jennifer A. Crumlish.
- Data Science, Digital Media, and Suicide Prevention: A State of the Union Address presented by Dr. April C. Foreman.
- Suicide in Schools: Prevention and Intervention presented by Prof. Jonathan B. Singer.
- Suicide: Why Are Older "White" Men So Vulnerable? presented by Prof. Silvia Sara Canetto.
- Clinicians As Suicide Loss Survivors: Postvention for Caregivers presented by Dr. Vanessa L. McGann.
- Applicability of Zero Suicide in Diverse Settings presented by Dr. Julie Goldstein Grumet.
• Moving America's Soul on Suicide: 988 and Integrated Crisis Response Services and Supports presented by Mr. David Covington.

• When Suicidal Thoughts Persist: Treating Chronic Ideation presented by Prof. Stacey Freedenthal.

• Recovery-oriented Cognitive Therapy and Suicide Prevention: Uncovering the Meaning of High-risk Desires for Individuals with Serious Mental Health Conditions presented by Dr. Ellen Inverso & Dr. Francine Broder

• Suicide Prevention in the Age of Coronavirus: Working with Disaster-affected Clients presented by Prof. Cirecie West-Olatunji.

On September 22, 2020, The American Legion attended the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System Suicide Prevention Summit titled, "Veteran Suicide Prevention & Recovery in the Face of COVID-19." The following four forums were covered in this summit;

• Connectedness: presented by Suzanne Buemi, CO National Guard Family Program, Tiffany Morgan, WarriorNOW, and Melissa Hansen, El Paso SP Coalition

• Peer Support and Resiliency: presented by Kevin Fleener, Veteran Peer Support Specialist, Duane France, Family Health Center, and Dustin Koslowsky, Objective Zero

• Safety Planning and Lethal Means Safety: presented by Emmy Betz, University of Colorado Suzanne McGarity, Rocky Mountain MIRECC, and Matt Wetenkamp CO Gun Shop Project (CDPHE).


VETERANS BENEFITS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Veterans Benefits Committee has met twice in 2020. The first meeting was in conjunction with the 60th Annual Washington Conference on March 9, 2020. The second meeting took place virtually on September 2, 2020.

The first annual meeting was held at the Washington Hilton, Jefferson Room, Concourse Level, on March 9, 2020. The following officials addressed the Commission: Judge Robert Davis, Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; and Mr. Glenn R. Bergmann, Bergmann & Moore, LLC.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Veterans Benefits Committee held its first virtual meeting on September 2, 2020. The meeting was conducted by the committee's chairman, Mr. William J. Smith, Department of Pennsylvania.

48-hour Review

In late April 2020, the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) received an update that eliminated the system's 48-hour review function. The American Legion's accredited representatives depended on this feature to identify errors in VA rating decisions and work with VA adjudicators to correct them before posting onto VBMS.

VA justified the elimination by arguing that VSOs should not be given any special consideration for access to documents that are not available to other parties representing veterans, e.g., private attorneys.

In May 2020, Senator Jon Tester introduced a bill, the Veterans Claim Transparency Act, which would require VA to reinstate the 48-hour rule and ensure that representatives have time to review rating decisions, disability claims and other documents before VA makes a final determination. This review period is a vital step in the VA claims process and ensures that veterans do not fall victim to bureaucratic oversight.

Resolution No. 14, adopted in August 2017, relates to the issue at hand: "Extend Allotted Time for Claims Review by Service Officers." Passed at The American Legion's National Convention in Reno, Nevada, the resolution endorses "efforts to establish
provisions in law allowing for rating decision review to be defined as 48 "Business Hours" before any rating may be automatically expired and then subsequently adjudicated…"

American Legion/VBA Tele-Townhall Meeting

On August 12, 2020, VBA Secretary Dr. Paul Lawrence and VA&R Chairman Ralph Bozella teamed up for a tele-townhall event for American Legion members. Legion members with service-connected claims were able to call in to the conference and directly ask Dr. Lawrence questions regarding the status of their claims. Chairman Bozella provided the introduction of Dr. Lawrence and follow up summary of the event.

Applications for Accreditation

More than 800 applications for veterans service officer/department service officer accreditation were processed by The American Legion from October 2019 through September 2020.

Unfortunately, the accreditation process has experienced serious delays since the COVID-19 pandemic began. At that time, the Office of General Counsel (OGC) staff responsible for processing applications (VA Form 21) abruptly resigned from their positions.

Eventually, a new employee was hired by OGC, who spent several weeks in training. During this changeover in staff, The American Legion was informed of an IT issue affecting OGC's email: accreditation applications were being "lost" in the designated mailbox. After rectifying this problem, OGC made the re-certification of past accreditations – not the processing of new applications – its top priority.

Currently, OGC has only one employee who processes accreditation applications – not only for the Legion, but for all veterans service organizations. While The American Legion is performing its role in a timely manner, the accreditation process as a whole continues to lag.

Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA)

Veterans Disability Claims Specialists represent veterans before the BVA. They review VA claim files, interview claimants in preparation for personal or virtual hearings, write informal hearing presentation (IHPs), and act as counsel on behalf of claimants at their BVA hearings.

From October 2019 through mid-September, The American Legion has represented approximately 22,000 claimants seeking benefits. For the 12,445 claims appeals receiving dispositions from the Board of Veterans Appeals, 4,027 were granted, 2,391 were denied and 5,483 were remanded to the VA regional offices for further development.

As of mid-September 2020, there were 3,889 legacy cases and 1,703 AMA cases assigned to The American Legion's Board Unit. Our Veterans Disability Claims Specialists prepared more than 19,000 informal hearing presentations (IHPs) from October 2019 through September 2020.

The American Legion has found that VA Regional Offices continue to develop veterans' claims inadequately and deny them without good cause. Far too often, VBA fails in its duty to assist veterans when adjudicating their claims. The VBA's lack of proper claim development initially results in further adjudication of those claims, thus extending the time veterans must wait for final decisions to be made. Through continuous professional training and thorough knowledge of VA laws and regulations, American Legion staff achieve more favorable outcomes in their advocacy efforts. Bergmann & Moore, LLC, provides critical training to new claims specialists so they may successfully represent claimants. Additionally, Bergmann & Moore's legal team provides unit and individual training that covers significant changes to federal law or regulations, and recent Court decisions that have an effect on veterans law.
Debt Management Center (DMC)

The VA DMC assists veterans and dependents facing collection actions or garnishment of VA benefits for debts owed to the VA. Assistance is provided by acting as the point of contact between the beneficiary and DMC, submitting documentation to stop garnishment of funds, establishing payment plans when appropriate, requesting waivers of debt, reviewing all casework presented to DMC to ensure accuracy and completeness. Since October 2019, The St. Paul office assisted in 550 cases where waiver grants were approved.

Department Service Officers (DSO) School

The purpose of the DSO school is to provide current information about changes in veterans law, VA regulations and VA adjudication policies. The DSO school enables American Legion service officers and other accredited representatives to improve their advocacy skills.

The program of instruction includes training suitable for new service officers and advanced training on issues relating to claims processing, disability ratings, personal hearings, development of appeals, and the interpretation and application of precedential decisions by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The American Legion conducted two sessions of DSO School during 2020:
- August 5-31, 2020 (conducted virtually by Bergmann & Moore, LLC)

Because of the pandemic, The American Legion held its first virtual Department Service Officer School. All training materials for the course, divided into 29 lessons, were produced by Bergmann & Moore (B&M), LLC, which also monitored the online progress of Legion participants and played a key role in resolving a variety of computer/online impediments.

The American Legion's first effort to train its DSOs in the virtual world was a resounding success, thanks to B&M's stellar performance in preparing training materials and shepherding participants toward successful completion of the course.

Among the 228 registered students in DSO School, 202 completed the course. B&M extended the school for two additional days (September 1-2, 2020), which allowed another seven participants to finish.

Discharge Review and Correction of Military Records

Title 10, United States Code, sections 1552 and 1553, provide statutory authority for the existence and operation of the Military Discharge Review Boards and the Boards for Correction of Military Records. The American Legion was instrumental in the creation of these boards shortly after World War II and since then has represented former servicemembers petitioning them for relief.

Assistance is provided by representing applicants before such boards, educating veterans on their due process and how to apply, review and submit applications, and conducting outreach to veterans with "bad paper" discharges. The American Legion is the only major veterans service organization that still helps veterans to apply for discharge upgrades.

Applications for upgrades involve a wide variety of issues, including character of service upgrades, narrative reason for discharge changes, entitlement or amendment of physical disability severance or retirement, issuance or reissuance of military awards and decorations, requests for military personnel files and service medical records, and administrative corrections to official military records.

Since the beginning of March 2020, Claims Services has two Senior Veterans Disability Claims Specialists in its Washington, D.C. office who help veterans with disability claims, appeals, discharge upgrades and other matters related to veterans benefits. From March 2 through June 30, 2020, these staff members assisted 58 veterans.
with discharge upgrade applications and/or correction of military records. They also helped another 532 veterans with disability claims and other benefits-related matters.

Pension Management Center (PMC)

The VA PMC processes adjustments of benefits for individuals in receipt of nonservice-connected disability pension, death pension and dependency indemnity compensation. Nonservice-connected pension is a need-based benefit available for "most at need" wartime service veterans and their dependents. The American Legion's Veterans Benefits Specialists are located in St. Paul, Minnesota; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They expedite the delivery of benefits when beneficiaries meet the criteria for receipt in order to reduce a financial hardship. This is accomplished by reviewing all claims for accuracy, ensuring that supporting material is included, acting as the counsel and presenting verbal arguments on behalf of a claimant before VA, and preparing claimants for their hearings. Since October 2019, the following activities were reported: 8,950 new pension claims and 195 appeals.

Public-facing Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs)

In March 2020, VA discontinued the use of public-facing Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs), previously available on VA's website. Originally, these DBQs were designed to assist veterans living overseas in obtaining medical evidence in support of their benefit claims – where VA treatment options were limited. However, VA currently works with contracted providers in more than 30 foreign countries to conduct disability medical examinations.

VA's rationale for removing the DBQs is that it now has enough contracted providers available and that removing the document will help to reduce fraudulent claims. However, private practitioners are now unable to make use of DBQs for recording their medical exam results and nexus medical opinions in support of veterans' disability claims.

A resolution addressing this issue, "Restore Disability Benefits Questionnaires to Department of Veterans Affairs Website" was endorsed by the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and forwarded to the National Executive Committee for its consideration.

The resolution argues that eliminating public-facing DBQs "may cause veterans to be denied entitlement to benefits they have earned through their service" and urges VA "to restore public-facing Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) on its website.

Restricted Access Claim Center (RACC)

Sensitive files belonging to current and former senior government officials, VA employees and Veterans Service Organization representatives are handled at the St. Paul Restricted Access Claim Center. Since October 2019, 275 restricted access compensation claims were processed.

Regional Office Action Review (ROAR)

Part of the SWS program includes visits to VA Regional Offices. These ROAR site visits include a review of randomly selected claims adjudications to evaluate the overall development of VA claims, interviews with VA employees, and discussions with local American Legion claims representatives.

VA&R Division staff conducted three (3) ROAR site visits to VA facilities since October 2019:
- October 24-25: Baltimore VA Regional Office, Baltimore, MD
- November 5-6: North Carolina VA Regional Office, Winston-Salem, NC
- December 3-4: Alabama VA Regional Office, Montgomery, AL

Early this year, due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, ROAR site visits scheduled for 2020 were cancelled.
Single-point mailing

In July 2020, the Veterans Benefits Administration shared with veterans service organizations its plan for a "single-point" mailing program that would deliver – on a daily basis -- thousands of notification letters from VBA to a single address for each VSO, i.e., national headquarters, starting on Aug. 31.

Previously, these notification letters were being sent to each VA Regional Office on a regular basis for distribution to VSOs with service officers assigned there.

Several of the VSOs, including The American Legion, discussed this issue with VBA officials throughout the summer. Their rationale for implementing single-point mailing was based on the Office of General Counsel's interpretation of a 1994 Court decision, Trammel v. Brown, which held that VA must send notifications directly to a veteran's accredited representative.

Thus, it was determined by VBA that sending notification letters to VA regional offices – for subsequent delivery to VSOs -- constituted indirect notification.

The only option offered by VBA to avoid being deluged by paper mail was for a VSO to sign a memorandum of agreement that committed them to a nebulous "electronic option." Currently, this option requires service officers to monitor VBMS files for newly uploaded documents – but access is not a notification.

Eventually, VBA would develop an electronic solution for the notification issue. But that solution had yet to be developed and VSOs could not give up their right of notification, since it is stipulated in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Alternatives were suggested but VBA officials declined to consider them as viable options, only recommending that VSOs approach Congress to provide specific funding for a future IT solution.

The American Legion and other VSO representatives held several meetings with Michael Stoddard, the VSO liaison for VBA, and other VBA officials in from July through early September. At each meeting, opposition to the single-point mailing plan remained unified and vociferous. The VSOs agreed they would be hard-pressed to manage the re-delivery of notification letters to service officers in the field.

Finally, in the face of continued opposition from The American Legion and other VSOs, the single-point mailing plan was scrapped by VBA. Instead, notification letters would be mailed to the VA regional offices starting Oct. 1, 2020 – a return to the status quo.

VA Life Insurance

VA life insurance, including Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI), Veterans Group Life Insurance and Family SGLI, TSGLI, and Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance, are handled at the VA Insurance Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The American Legion's Veterans Benefits Specialists assist surviving beneficiaries to file for disbursement of policy at the time of need and ensure that veterans are aware of eligibility windows for enrollment.

**ADDENDUM A**

**Held for Further Study**

Register Resolution No. 2768 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Oppose Restriction or Discontinuation of Effective and Necessary Medications by the Department Of Veterans Affairs

Register Resolution No. 2774 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Expanding and Better Utilizing Services for Veterans

Register Resolution No. 2795 (VA) (2020 Dept. Conv.): Updates to Chaplains Hill Monuments at Arlington National Cemetery

**Received and Recorded**

Register Resolution No. 2769 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Department of Veterans Affairs Drug Pricing Policy
Rejected
Register Resolution No. 2790 (CA) (2020 DEC): Child Care at Vet Centers

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission with the exception of 11 resolutions and one addendum. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and second to receive and file the report of the the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission with the exception of 11 resolutions and one addendum. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 3: Accuracy in Reporting Survivor Benefits and COVID-19
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2788 (NY) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has infected millions across the globe and has resulted in more than 166,000 deaths in the United States; and
WHEREAS, Many of those U.S. citizens who have died were veterans who had underlying service-connected health issues; and
WHEREAS, COVID-19 hastens the veteran's death by accelerating the progression of their service-connected health issues, which potentially contribute to the veteran's death; and
WHEREAS, It is feared that the death certificates of these veterans will only list the COVID-19 as the cause of death, causing delays or denial of survivors' benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and
WHEREAS, 38 USC 5109 requires the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to seek independent medical opinions when such claims demonstrate medical complexities or controversies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion support legislation requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to seek independent medical opinions and veterans military medical history that are chronic and are factors in the veterans demise when claims for survivors' benefits are compromised by medical complexities and controversies, i.e. COVID-19, pandemic disease, etc., that may influence or alter cause of death as recorded on a veterans death certificate.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution No. 3 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There's been a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 3. Any discussion?
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON (HI): Yes. David Carlson, Department of Hawaii.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Go ahead, Dave.
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON: I'd like to just make a statement here that we've gone through, on our island, the Big Island of Hawaii, we have probably 20,- 30,000 people on this island. We have 39 deaths from this virus. Twenty-nine of those deaths are veterans in the Hilo veterans home. This really affects our people. We have several lawsuits already. These 29 deaths have happened over the last two months. The organization that was taking care of the veterans home, that was being paid to take care of it, has been removed by the State of Hawaii, which has never had any interest in veterans homes before. The VA only got information once a month on what was going on. Our department is looking into it very seriously, and Post 3 is doing an excellent job, Post 3 of Hilo, Hawaii, and we will keep you informed. Thank you.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you for that update, Dave. Is there any other discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, motion carried. Resolution No. 3 adopted, unanimous accident.

Resolution No. 4: Appropriate Procedures for Compensation & Pension Examinations
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The reliance of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) on contracted compensation & pension (C&P) examinations has increased substantially since 2016, when it awarded 12 contracts to five private firms for up to $6.8 billion; and
WHEREAS, An October 2018 report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded that such medical providers contracted to conduct C&P exams are not meeting the accuracy and timeliness standards set forth by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and
WHEREAS, C&P exams fulfill essential functions for VA disability claims and appeals, such as establishing service connection for veterans' disabilities and evaluating their severity for the purpose of VA disability compensation; and
WHEREAS, It is reasonable to expect VA to schedule C&P exams only when they are needed, and to notify veterans of their appointments for such examinations in an appropriate and effective manner; and
WHEREAS, It has been reported to The American Legion that C&P exams have been scheduled unnecessarily for veterans whose conditions are already diagnosed and being treated by VA; and
WHEREAS, When VA-contracted providers contact veterans on their home phones, no caller ID appears; thus, veterans often do not take the call and they are subsequently penalized by VA with a "no show" at their scheduled C&P exam; and
WHEREAS, Such "no show" determinations often result in the denial of benefits to America's veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to alleviate the scheduling of unnecessary compensation & pension (C&P) exams; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That VA-contracted medical providers contact veterans telephonically in a manner that will identify the caller to the veteran; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That VA and VA contractors refrain from assigning "no show" determinations in veterans' medical records until such veterans have been contacted via their primary phone numbers, secondary phone numbers and/or email; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the Veterans Benefits Administration establish notification, grievance and a national hotline for veterans who experience inappropriate procedures and standards with contracted medical examiners during the compensation and pension process; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports the use of disability benefits questionnaires and advocates that a VA diagnosis of a veteran(s) condition be recognized in order to avoid subsequent and duplicate medical testing by a contracted medical examiner concerning an established medical condition

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution No. 4 has the approval of the VA&R 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. 4. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carried. Resolution No. 4 accepted, unanimous consent.
Resolution No. 5: Engraving Military Insignia on Government-Furnished Headstones
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
WHEREAS, Abbreviations for military ranks, branches of service and military decorations are currently engraved on government-furnished headstones; and
WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor insignia is allowed to be inscribed on such headstones, in recognition of those who have received America's highest honor for bravery in combat; and
WHEREAS, Emblems of Belief (EOBs) were authorized for display on such headstones by the War Memorial Protection Act, passed by Congress in 2013; and
WHEREAS, The inclusion of military insignia on such headstones would have a positive impact on the dignity and solemnity of national cemeteries honoring those who served our country; and
WHEREAS, Military insignia are often engraved on headstones for veterans laid to rest in public cemeteries; and
WHEREAS, Laser technology, widely used in the monument industry since the 1990s, has made headstone inscriptions substantially more cost-effective; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to authorize the engraving of military insignia for combat-related decorations on government-furnished headstones; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That such authorization will pertain to all combat-related decorations, including the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast Guard Cross, Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device (for valor), Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Combat Action Ribbon and Combat Medical Badge.
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution No. 5 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There's been a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 5. Any discussion? Any objections? Resolution No. 5 carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 6: Minority Veterans
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
WHEREAS, Recent Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) statistics listed minority veterans represented about 22 percent of the total veteran population of 18.6 million; and
WHEREAS, VA projects minority veterans will make up approximately 36 percent of the total veteran population by 2040; and
WHEREAS, The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics estimated that the minority veteran population totaled nearly 4.7 million at the end of 2017, which was estimated to be about 1 in 5 living veterans in the United States; and
WHEREAS, That proportion is projected to increase to about 1 in 3 living veterans in the United States by 2045; and
WHEREAS, According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services data, disparities in health care have persisted over time in the United States for a wide range of conditions; and
WHEREAS, These disparities are associated with worse health outcomes and the presence of unmet health-care needs for minority veterans; and
WHEREAS, Studies show that minority veterans are more likely to depend upon the VA to provide all or some of their health care; and
WHEREAS, Across all veterans, significant disparities were detected between traditionally underserved minority groups and white veterans in their ability to obtain needed medical care; and
WHEREAS, Although VA's recent transformation achieved performance improvements in process of care measures for all veterans, gaps in clinical outcomes still persist for hypertension, cardiovascular care and diabetes care; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure that the health-care needs of all current and future minority veterans are met; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the VA increase the amount of outreach to minority veterans through awareness campaigns, benefits education and community organizations; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the VA continue efforts to focus on preventing, detecting and controlling clinical issues related to hypertension, cardiovascular care and diabetes care; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the VA continue to develop veteran-centered care initiatives for minority veterans, which can include delivery of culturally sensitive care in VA facilities; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That the VA continue research that identifies causes of minority disparities in veterans' health and health care and as evidence-based treatments develop provide interventions to reduce these disparities.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution No. 6 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. …Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There has been a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 6. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution No. 6 carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 7: Restore Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQ) to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Website
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) are standardized forms used by medical experts who conduct compensation and pension (C&P) examinations for VA disability benefits purposes; and
WHEREAS, In March 2020, the VA removed the DBQs from its website; and
WHEREAS, DBQs are an important tool that can be used to obtain medical information from private medical examiners to support a veteran's claim; and
WHEREAS, Information included on a DBQ completed by a private medical expert is valuable medical evidence that the VA must consider when deciding a claim for disability benefits; and
WHEREAS, DBQs address a range of medical conditions and include check-the-box inquiries designed to elicit the information needed for the VA to make determinations on the issues of service connection and the proper disability rating for a condition; and
WHEREAS, Eliminating public-facing DBQs may cause veterans to be denied entitlement to benefits they have earned through their service; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to restore public-facing Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) on its website.
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution No. 7 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There has been a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 7. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution No. 7 carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 8: Department of Veterans Affairs Revise the Definition of "Vietnam Era"
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
WHEREAS, The Vietnam War Commemoration recognizes all men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975; and,
WHEREAS, The Department of Defense recognizes November 1, 1955, as the beginning date of the United States military involvement in the Republic of Vietnam, when the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), composed of roughly 5,000 officers and enlisted men began operations; and
WHEREAS, According to Title 38, United States Code, Section 101(29)(A), the Department of Veterans Affairs currently defines the "Vietnam Era" as (1) the period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on May 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period, or (2) the period beginning on August 5, 1964, and ending on May 7, 1975, in all other cases; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion supports legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code, Section 101(29)(A) to revise the definition of the "Vietnam Era" to begin on November, 1, 1955.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution No. 8 has the approval of the VA&R 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. 8. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution No. 8 carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 9: Support Walkway in Arlington National Cemetery on Chaplains Hill
Origin: Resolution No. 9 (NC) 2017 National Convention
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
WHEREAS, For many years, during all of America's conflicts, chaplains have provided extraordinary service to members of the military; and
WHEREAS, Chaplains Hill sits atop a 30 foot hill facing Eisenhower Drive, in Arlington National Cemetery, located in Section Two, and contains four monuments; World War One Chaplains, Catholic Chaplains Memorial, Protestant Chaplains Monument, and Jewish Chaplains Monument, honoring over 200 Chaplains who died in service; and
WHEREAS, The monuments honor by name each of the "Four Chaplains" lost on the troop ship SS Dorchester in 1943, one of the greatest stories of heroism and selfless service in American History; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion supports the construction of a walkway in Arlington National Cemetery on Chaplains Hill without any financial obligation from the national organization, based on a design meeting American Disability Act requirements by the Department of the Army; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That necessary approvals from the Department of the Army and the United States Congress be sought.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution No. 9 has the approval of the VA&R 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. 9. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution No. 9 adopted, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 10: Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB) Research For Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2771 (CA) Department Convention

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Every June is designated as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month" to help raise public awareness, reduce the associated stigma, and help ensure that those individuals suffering from the invisible wounds of war promptly receive proper treatment; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports that approximately 20% Iraqi Freedom, 12% Persian Gulf and 30% Vietnam War servicemembers and veterans have post-traumatic stress; and

WHEREAS, Both government and non-government organizations have made significant advances in their identification, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress; and

WHEREAS, One of the most promising post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatments is stellate ganglion block (SGB) and the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, in California, and the Veterans Affairs Center for Compassionate Care Innovation are leading an effort to offer stellate ganglion block to a subset of veterans who have not experienced relief from traditional PTSD treatments; and

WHEREAS, There is growing evidence that stellate ganglion block may alleviate certain PTSD symptoms such as hyperarousal, exaggerated startle responses and anxiety, and it appears to calm an exaggerated "fight or flight" survival reflex in people having PTSD, which can become triggered by various events that do not warrant it; and

WHEREAS, Veterans who received stellate ganglion block for other health conditions like nerve pain, report positive effects for the PTSD symptoms including reduced anxiety and hypervigilance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urges the federal government to accelerate stellate ganglion block (SGB) research and that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) advertise SGB in all VA health-care facilities; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports the expansion of the VA's Center for Compassionate Care Innovation program nationwide and throughout VA facilities and to further the Center for Compassionate Care Innovation program's mission to provide veterans a wide array of state-of-the-art treatments and evidence-based therapies with further research, innovation and access.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution No. 10 has the approval of the VA&R 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. 10, one-zero. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution No. 0 adopted, unanimous consent.
Resolution No. 11: Mare Island Naval Cemetery
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2773 (CA) Department Convention Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Mare Island Naval Cemetery is the oldest naval cemetery on the West Coast and it is the final resting place for over 860 of our country's heroes who served between the War of 1812 and World War I and it is designated as a National Historic Landmark with three Congressional Medal of Honor recipients buried there, namely James Cooney-USMC, William Halford-USN and Alexander Parker-USN; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 93043 dated June 18, 1973, mandated that jurisdiction over naval cemeteries, including The Mare Island Naval Cemetery should have been transferred from the Navy to the Veterans Administration, however that law was somehow ignored by the Navy and the Veterans Administration in 1973, and during the Base Realignment and Closure Process in 1993, the federal government left the Mare Island Naval Cemetery behind and did not provide any funding to restore it to honorable conditions nor any support for its immense ongoing maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Mike Thompson (CA-05) and Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced legislation in 2018, and these bills directed the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to seek an agreement with the city of Vallejo to transfer control of The Mare Island Naval Cemetery to the VA, but neither bill was voted on in 2018; and

WHEREAS, On June 13, 2018, the Honorable Denise Rohan, the American Legion's National Commander for 2017-2018, stated, "Showing respect for the dead that served our country is one of the most important things we can do, and the Mare Island Naval Cemetery holds the graves of many veterans to include three Medal of Honor recipients, and two million members of The American Legion wholeheartedly support moving this facility to the care of the National Cemetery Administration and thank Representative Thompson for his leadership"; and

WHEREAS, California State Resolution #26, authored by State Senator Bill Dodd and chaptered on June 26, 2018, urged "the Congress of the United States to act favorably in regard to legislation to have the Mare Island Naval Cemetery transferred to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs"; and

WHEREAS, On January 15, 2019, Congressman Thompson and Senator Feinstein re-introduced similar bills, "To direct the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the city of Vallejo, California, for the transfer of The Mare Island Naval Cemetery in Vallejo, California, for other purposes," and "the National Cemetery Administration shall maintain the cemetery as a national shrine"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion supports legislation that transfers the Mare Island Naval Cemetery in Vallejo, California to the Department of Veterans Affairs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion recommends that the National Cemetery Administration maintain the Mare Island Cemetery as a national shrine.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution No. 11 has the approval of the VA&R 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. 11 one-one. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution No. 11 one-one, adopted, unanimous consent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution No. 12: "Support Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Research of Personalized Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (PrTMS)." Your Subcommittee on Resolutions recommends that Resolution 12 be held for further study. ...Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to hold Resolution No. 12, one-two, for further study. Any discussion? Chair recognizes Mary Erdman from Arkansas.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN (AR): I just have a question about the Center for Compassionate Care, whether these two different programs, this magnetic stimulation and this other one that we just passed for PTSD, are they part of this program? I've not heard of this program before. Is it part of the VA, is it a separate part of the VA?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Ralph, do you want to address the question?

VA&R COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOZELLA: Okay. Thank you, commander. Thank you, Mary, for the question. I'm not certain about the Center for Compassionate Care having anything to do with the PrTMS. I do believe they're working with the SGB therapy. The issue with why Chairman Bill Kile moved that this resolution be set aside for further study is when we processed this information as a commission we didn't have certain information that was presented to us recently. We're concerned about some of the work with this, perhaps the ethical work with this and how it may have been presented to VA. So even though we're calling for research, accelerated research in this case, at this time it's best for us to pull it back and for us to do our own research on the situation, and then to see if this is the kind of program we want to urge VA to continue in a research mode. As to whether or not it's in the Center for Compassionate Care, I don't believe it is. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Ralph. This resolution is being held because of some legal challenges that are taking place right now, so that's why Chairman Kile is holding this resolution. Any further discussion? Objections? Motion carries to hold this resolution for study, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 33: TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, In 2013, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion created a permanent committee to investigate the existing science and procedures as well as alternative methods for treating traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) not currently being employed by either the Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the purpose of determining if such alternative treatments are practical and efficacious; and

WHEREAS, Since numerous persons with TBI or PTSD have subsequently committed suicide the work of the TBI/PTSD committee should now encompass suicide prevention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That due to a progression of duties the TBI/PTSD Committee is renamed to "TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee"; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all such references and use of the new committee name go into use as soon as reasonably possible.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BARBKNECHT: Resolution No. 33 has the approval of 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. 33, three-three. Any further discussion? Any objections? Resolution No. 33 carries, unanimous consent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, attached to the report of the VA&R Commission is Addendum A. I move the actions of the VA&R Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second for the actions of the VA&R Commission to become the actions of the National Executive
Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent. At this time, the chair recognizes Walter W. Ivie of Texas, chairman of the Media & Communications Commission, for the purpose of a report.

**Oral Report: Media & Communications Commission**  
**Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman**

Thank you. Mr. Commander, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, and other distinguished viewers. I believe you have received my written report which details the Media & Communications Division’s operations while dealing with the pandemic, as well as updates on revenue, key metrics related to our media program, and other information.

As noted in the report, the initial wave of the pandemic hit our magazine revenue hard. Roughly two-thirds of our budget deficit through the end of July can be attributed to a poor performance in the June issue of the magazine. The ad deadline for that issue was early April, a time when businesses drastically scaled back advertising across the board. The good news is we are seeing revenue return both in print and digital.

Now I’d like to highlight some successes of the Media & Communications Division and look ahead to what we are planning in the months ahead. For example, the strategic plan. Toward the end of 2019, I met with the Media & Communications Division in a one-day staff strategic session. Everyone contributed and helped shape a plan for the coming year. Then the coronavirus hit, but we did not let that interfere with progress. We adapted the strategic plan and pursued many of the objectives we laid out. Those included reimagining the magazine, cleaning up the website and making it more user friendly, launching the podcast, and more. Staff will continue working on the items identified in the strategic plan going forward.

Of course, we could not foresee the devastating pandemic during that meeting last year. But as the coronavirus took hold, the staff responded well. In the first few weeks of the pandemic, they easily produced over 100 stories of how American Legion posts and members were serving their communities as COVID kept people inside their homes. We also worked with VA&R to create and promote a survey about how members were dealing with the pandemic. Those results allowed us to connect the survey respondents with the resources they needed.

Over the summer, staff also conceived and implemented the commander's 100 Miles for Hope campaign. I completed my hundred-mile journey in mid-September. To date, more than 4,000 other American Legion Family members and friends are walking, cycling, riding their motorcycles, kayaking, or even swimming 100 miles to support our Veterans & Children Foundation. Those 4,000-plus participants mean that more than $120,000 has been generated for the foundation. Plans are being formulated now to make the second version of this campaign even more successful and bring in more donations to the Veterans & Children Foundation.

Another summer project was creating media support for The American Legion Legacy Run's 15th anniversary. Of course, the ride was made virtual due to the pandemic. Staff members published stories, created a commemorative booklet, and helped promote the campaign designed to bring in donations benefiting the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

On April 1, The American Legion launched its podcast, Tango Alpha Lima. The podcast concept emerged from discussions with younger Legionnaires about our media program. It is intended to connect our 101-year-old organization with current and future generations of veterans. I am pleased to report we are off to a good start. In August, we saw the number of monthly downloads quadruple from that first month. Additional plans are being developed to promote the podcast, engage with younger veterans through this medium, and generate revenue with it.

Going forward, the commission and staff will work together on initiatives in the strategic plan, identifying new opportunities to generate revenue, continue to promote The American Legion to key internal and external audiences. I want to thank each and every...
staff member for the tremendous achievements they have made this year during these challenging times. 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 W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman

At a time when uncertainty rules the day, The American Legion Media & Communications Division has overcome obstacles created by the pandemic to fulfill its obligations to our members, military supporters, external influencers, corporate affiliates and others.

Since the coronavirus shut down much of our way of life in March, the media team has accomplished much of what they set out to do this year. Among the achievements: launching the Legion's Tango Alpha Lima podcast on April 1, re-imagining The American Legion Magazine, cleaning up and modernizing the national website, creating a group for post media and public relations volunteers and much more.

And certainly not planned, but executed well, is the continuous coverage of how American Legion posts, members, Riders chapters and others are serving their communities amid the pandemic. In the first month or so since social-distancing measures were implemented and work-from-home orders instituted, staff members easily published more than 100 stories about the pandemic. They also coordinated with freelance videographers and photographers to visually illustrate the good work being accomplished in communities across the nation.

Of course, the coronavirus also is affecting business and advertising revenue. At this time, the American Legion Media & Communications Division is currently under budget in advertising sales and under budget in total expenses.

Overall, the division is behind the budget by $652,000, through the end of July. Since then, revenues have inched back up and have stabilized near budget expectations.

Magazine revenue took a big hit in the June issue (ad deadline was April 10), the first indication of businesses pulling back advertising due to the coronavirus. We were more than $400,000 behind goal in that month, which accounts for two-thirds of the revenue deficit. The September issue surpassed the budget goal and represented our highest sales month since the March issue. The March issue had a Jan. 10 ad deadline, well before the pandemic took hold in America.

After a pause in digital advertising sales, we are starting to see an uptick. Through the month of August, digital advertising is up about $20,000 against budget, which compares with being down $52,156 from budget in 2019. We are also working with our advertising vendor to sell ad spots on the podcast, which is designed to add increasing revenue each episode.

The division has recouped much of the early-year hit through savings from paper, printing and shipping. This is due in large part to the contracts the division has negotiated in recent years, as well as tighter magazines.

On the paper side, right now the division is $88,000 under budgeted cost. We are $28,000 under budget for printing costs. We will continue to see lower costs moving forward based on the price reductions received from LSC by renewing the magazine printing contract with them through 2022, with possible extensions through 2024.

The division stands at $114,000 under budget on postage costs with no anticipated postage increase ahead.

The pandemic has not only affected revenue, but it has also led to a decline in online visitation compared with 2019. Take August, for example, when page views slipped from 1.6 million to just under 1 million, and the number of users fell from 546,000 to just under 400,000. The reason is due to the cancellation of high-profile events in August, including
the national convention, American Legion Baseball World Series and regional games, as well as the Legacy Run and Boys Nation.

Still, we have seen successes continue in other areas of our digital media program. Among them:

- The American Legion Online Update weekly e-newsletter continues to be the organization's primary vehicle to deliver digital news. The number of subscribers has grown to more than 940,000 while maintaining an open rate of between 20 and 25 percent, far above the standard industry average of 14 percent.

- The number of followers on our four primary social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn) is about to surpass 300,000. LinkedIn and Instagram have shown significant percentage gains in the previous year, climbing to more than 18,000 and 10,000, respectively.

- Our YouTube channel is showing steady growth, too. Through August, there have been nearly 40,000 views, accounting for more than 32,200 hours of time spent watching American Legion videos.

- The podcast, launched in April, quadrupled the monthly number of downloads from its debut to August.

We have continued to support other key initiatives by leadership, other divisions and affiliates.

Notably, National Commander Bill Oxford's successful 100 Miles of Hope campaign was conceived, implemented and run by the Media & Commission Division. Continuing through Veterans Day, the program has more than 4,000 American Legion Family members and friends as participants, which will bring in at least $120,000 to the Veterans & Children Foundation. Concepts are being discussed on how to leverage this success into an annual event that could raise additional donations.

At the onset of the pandemic, the division worked with First Degree on updating the Buddy Check kit to encourage posts to perform wellness checks safely, especially on older veterans who may be more susceptible to the virus. Additionally, the media team worked with the Washington office on a COVID-19 survey and received an excellent response rate. The VA&R staff then used that data and input to connect members with the support they needed.

Media & Communication staff members also created a campaign and a commemorative 44-page illustrated book to support the American Legion Riders Legacy Run 15th year anniversary and to provide a fundraising premium gift for donors to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Going forward, the staff is continuing to work largely from home but continuing to document how American Legion members are performing community service. Staff leadership is also 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 KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. 

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and second to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion to receive the report of the Media & Communications Commission passed, unanimous consent. At this time, the chair recognizes the Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer of Wisconsin, chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, for his report.
Good afternoon, Commander Oxford, Legion officers, past national commanders, National Executive Committee members, and special guests. Thank you all for being here today. I am Daniel Seehafer, chairman of the national Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

Many of you are familiar with our programs, from veteran job fairs, licensing and credentialing summits, to small business workshops. Our commission is focused on transitioning servicemembers back into civilian life and into gainful employment. Thank you for this opportunity to update everyone on some of the new initiatives the Veterans Employment & Education Commission has taken on.

What does "Made in U.S.A." mean to you? To most Americans, it evokes an emotional response of pride. More than just a statement or label of a product of origin, "Made in U.S.A." is engrained in the American psyche, with implications of good quality, a promise of well-paying jobs, and it invites memories of when we were a manufacturing-dominated economy. But then came the 1970s when the nation pivoted towards a service-based economy, which foreshadowed the decline of domestic manufacturing, outsourcing to foreign countries with low-cost labor, resulting in the loss of American jobs, decline of the middle class, and ultimately undermined our national security.

Over the years, our laws made it permissible to label products "Made in U.S.A." even when their parts are sourced from overseas. Currently, only 50 percent of the work put into a product has to be done on American soil for it to be considered "Made in U.S.A." These same laws made it permissible for our federal agencies to purchase and rely on these mislabeled goods. The product shortages, the price gouging we experienced during the pandemic exposed the disadvantages of overreliance on foreign manufacturing.

This is a veteran economic opportunity imperative, as well as a national security imperative. As a nation, we must do more to secure the medical supply chain to keep our VA medical facilities running. We must do more to preserve high-tech and skilled labor jobs in the U.S., and maintain our diverse small businesses' industrial base. This is why the VE&E Commission has proposed a resolution titled, "Support 'Buy American' Policy Within the Federal Government to Create Opportunities for Veterans," where The American Legion will support. Then, legislation mandating all federal agencies enforce a 100 percent "Buy American" policy in sourcing supplies and incentivizing the return of manufacturing from overseas.

Next, we'll discuss the adaptation of new technology in our employment programs. On September 15, the commission successfully hosted its first virtual career fair in collaboration with the Department of Texas. There were 226 employers and 776 servicemembers, veterans and spouses, in attendance. By the numbers alone, this is the largest hiring event this commission has ever held.

Lastly, we want to remind everyone about the longest-running program within the VE&E Commission. That is our national awards program honoring employers and advocates who assist in hiring veterans, disabled veterans, and older workers. The awards include Employer of the Year, Employer of Disabled Award, Employer of Older Workers Award, Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year, Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist of the Year, and finally, Employment Service Office of the Year. Nomination forms for each award are available through department headquarters. All completed entries must be submitted no later than January 15, 2021.

In closing, the Veterans Employment & Education Commission cannot do everything we do without our Legion volunteers' assistance. We appreciate your assistance in helping us fulfill our promise to assist veterans and their families in obtaining gainful employment and successfully transition into civilian life. We look forward to your continued support and involvement. Thank you.
Advance Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Chairman

Members and guests of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission and its two standing committees on Employment and Veterans' Preference and Veterans Education, Other Benefits, and Homelessness met at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC, on Monday, March 9, 2020. Those meetings were held in conjunction with the Fifty-Ninth Annual Washington Conference.

Also, a Career Fair hosted with the US Chamber of Commerce was conducted on Thursday, March 5, along with a Financial Literacy, Resume Workshop, and Networking Luncheon. Also, we discussed the commission's ongoing initiative to assist veterans with a successful transition from active-duty to gainful employment and financial stability. Furthermore, we hosted an Employment Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday, March 4, an "access to capital" roundtable on March 6, participated on a policy panel at the Career Education Colleges and Universities on March 10, and a veteran's small business policy roundtable on Wednesday, March 11. An Awards Selection Subcommittee composed of members of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission and its two committees met on the afternoon of Monday, March 9, to select the national winners and runners-up in the Commission's two national awards programs.

Finally, our commission hosted a Veteran Homeless and Incarcerated roundtable and Quality Education and Training in Private Sector panel from leading experts Monday, March 9.

A synopsis of the meetings follows:

I. CAREER FAIR

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission of The American Legion collaborated with the US Chamber of Commerce to host a hiring event on Wednesday, March 5, in the International Terrace, Terrace Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC. The event started with an opening ceremony, which included speakers Mark Toal, Outreach Director, Veterans Employment & Training Services, Department of Labor; Ariel A De Jesus Jr., Assistant Director, Veterans Employment and Education Division, The American Legion. There were 60 employers from various industries and 210 preregistered attendees that participated in the Career Fair. There were 57 on-the-spot interviews, 14 potential job offers, and one immediate hire at the event.

The American Legion staffed a table at this event. The information table is staffed by Ariel De Jesus, Jr., Assistant Director, National Veterans Employment & Education Division: Kashi Russell, Manager, Human Resources Division; and Douglas Chace, Member Engagement Coordinator, Internal Affairs and Membership. These Legionnaires discussed how The American Legion assists veterans with reintegrating back into their local communities. Additionally, they answered servicemembers/veterans questions about benefits and described the Legion's programs and explained how to become a member. The employers and participants at this event were pleased with the outcome. The employers stated that the participants were professional and qualified. The participants liked that employers were from different industries and willing to hire veterans.

II. FINANCIAL, VETERAN RESUME, AND LINKEDIN WORKSHOPS

On Wednesday, March 4, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission held its Employment Advisory Board meeting, otherwise known as the Employment Innovation Task Force. The Task Force exists to: Provide independent surveys and assessments of the efficacy and efficiency of delivering "for life" support to veterans and transitioning servicemembers in the digital era; introduce innovations responsive to the digital age warrior and digital era employer; identify best practices from the best of demonstrated veteran-friendly employers to encourage adoption by all employers; use labor market and labor economic data to guide career goal setting and development of veterans and transitioning servicemembers; introduce the use of digital
tools and skill drills to support just-in-time delivery of information, assistance, support, training, and skill development underlying the "for life" concept; ensure all outcomes further the goal of providing a seamless transition from military service to private-sector employment; and create feedback loops for continuous improvement of TAP and credentialing programs along with continuous innovation in the method and means by which translation and "for life" support are provided.

The Task Force members include but not limited to: Jerry Chan, Vice President, Cyber/Network Audit, BNY Mellon; Abie Chong, Recruiter, Military Programs, Hilton Worldwide; Rosye Cloud, Senior Advisor, Veterans Employment, Office of Economic Opportunity, VA; Berlyn Cooper-Howard, Senior Program Manager, Office of Personnel Management (OPM); Mark Escherich, Military & Veteran Programs Manager, US Transportation Security Administration; Michael Toal, National Veterans' Employment Manager, DOL; Ralph Hernandez, Senior Military Program Leader, Amazon; Stan Kurtz, Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center Program, SBA; Chip Meyers, Vice President, Corporate Public Affairs, UPS; Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, Consultant, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Building Materials & Construction Trade Division; Gary Patton, Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI; Raul Rosas, Commissioner, Maryland Veterans Commission; Max Shuftan, CyberTalent Program Director, SANS Institute; Tony Marlow, Vice President, Field Marketing, Oath: A Verizon Company; and Tamre Newton, Chief, Transition Programs, Transitions to Veterans Programs Office, DOD.

Also, On Thursday, March 5, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a Financial Literacy and Resume Workshops at the Washington Hilton. The workshops were designed to help veterans, service members, and their spouses find meaningful careers in the civilian workforce, expand their networks, and gain the tools necessary to stand out throughout the hiring process. Speakers for these workshops included Kashi Russell, Manager, Human Resources Division, American Legion, Judy Viccellio, President, V-Star Financial Strategies, LLC, and Ariel A De Jesus, Assistant Director, Veterans Employment & Education Division. Following the morning workshops, attendees could mingle with each other and prospective employers during a networking luncheon. The forum speakers included: Mark Escherich, Military and Veteran Programs Manager, US Transportation Security Administration; Ralph Hernandez, Military Senior Program Leader, Amazon; Brian Armstrong, Manager of Military Recruitment, Hilton; and Gary Patton, Major General, US Army (Retired), Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI.

III. NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION FORUM

On Monday, March 9, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission assembled in Lincoln East, Concourse Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington DC, to address education, employment, and small business concerns regarding veterans and their families. The meeting started with a Transition Assistance Program (TAP) panel, consisting of Subject Matter Experts from federal agencies responsible for the program: Mike Miller, Department of Defense; Tim Winters, Department of Labor; Nathan Williamson, Department of Veterans Affairs, Bill Ashton, Department of Agriculture, and moderated by Stanley Kurt, Small Business Administration. This time was used to update the commission on implementing changes to TAP from the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2019. Afterward, a briefing from John Lowry, Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Services (ASVETS), Department of Labor. The intent is to provide his vision on reducing the veteran unemployment rate and to address any concerns related to the ongoing implementation of changes outlined in the 2019 NDAA. It was followed by a briefing from Lily Derella, Marketing Associate, Grow with Google to discuss Google's employment initiatives geared toward veterans and military spouses.

Then briefings by Rudy Rull - Millennium Cohort Study and Valerie Stander - Naval Health Research Center. The Millennium Cohort Study, the most extensive prospective
health study in the military. Conducts prospective epidemiological research to evaluate the impact of military exposures, including deployment, on long-term health outcomes.

IV. AWARDS SELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Before the Washington Conference, the Chairman of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission appointed an awards selection subcommittee to review all the nominations received during 2019 in the Employer of the Year awards program, and in the Employment Service awards program. This subcommittee met on Monday, March 9, 2020, in Lincoln East, Concourse Level in the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC, to select winners in the small, medium and large employer, LVER and DVOP categories, as well as Employment Service Local Office of the Year, Employer of Disabled, and Older Workers categories. During 2019, Departments submitted 70 nominations for employers and employment services. 13 were for small companies (1-50 employees), 10 were for medium-size companies (51-200 employees), and 11 were for large companies (201+employees). 6 were for Employer of Older Workers, 4 was for Enhancing the Lives of the Disabled. Departments also submitted 8 nominations for Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs), 9 for Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and 5 for Local Employment Service (ES) Offices, and 4 for Homeless Veteran Outreach. Those appointed to the subcommittee were James Fratolillo (MA), Chairman; Joseph Magee (FL); Lloyd H. Woods (ME); Eric W. Measles (CA), Geraldine Hines (TX); Dennis R. Tipsword (IL) and Michael Espinosa (AZ).

The Department of Labor will review winners and runners-up for the Employer of the Year categories for pending safety and health or fair labor practices violations before making the announcement.

SMALL EMPLOYER: High Order Solutions, LLC
Frisco, Texas

MEDIUM SIZE EMPLOYER: SJ Innovations dba Computer System Designers (CSD)
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

LARGE EMPLOYER: Lockheed Martin
Crystal City, Virginia

EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS: Harris Health System
Houston, Texas

LVER OF THE YEAR: Kenneth Dinkins
Decatur, Georgia

DVOP OF THE YEAR: Katasha Gray
Ft Worth, Texas

ES LOCAL OFFICE OF THE YEAR: Auburn WorkOne Northeast
Auburn, Indiana

MICHAEL GUTY’S HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH: Department of New Jersey – Housing our Heroes
Trenton, New Jersey

ENHANCE THE LIVES OF DISABLE: Bobby Dodd Institute (BDI)
Atlanta, Georgia

V. SMALL BUSINESS

On Friday, March 6, the Veterans Employment and Education Division continued its investigation into how veterans can help stimulate the economy and create jobs in rural
areas of the country, by hosting the second "Access to Capital" Roundtable. The meeting was hosted by The American Legion's Small Business Taskforce.

The roundtable included representatives from the Department of the Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI); the Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab); the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Financial Assistance (OFA) and Office of Veterans Business Development; banks, such as the US Bank and J.P. Morgan Bank; trade associations, such as VETForce and the National Restaurant Association; as well as, venture capitalists, such as FIServe and Superior Financial Group; and Community Development Entity, Acadia Capital Management LLC.

Additionally, we reviewed the previously identified access to capital challenges and barriers encountered by veteran entrepreneurs, e.g., lower amounts of capital sought, low credit scores and loan approval rates, as well as, higher credit denials, compared to non-veterans. We addressed existing veteran-owned small businesses in specific industries that may be impacted by the Coronavirus, especially those in the food and service industries.

The roundtable continued to analyze the poverty rates of the ten most impoverished states in Rural America. We identified the target industries and the ten highest employers in each state. We also identified the entrepreneurship resources that are currently available within each state.

Finally, we also analyzed the veteran business ownership data that the US Census Bureau published for those impoverished rural states. We then began the discussion on how to connect veterans to these resources using local American Legion posts to assist.

On Wednesday, March 11, during the mid-winter conference, the Veterans Employment and Education Division convened the Veterans Small Business Policy Roundtable with a focus on the VA medical supply chain. The meeting was hosted by The American Legion's Small Business Taskforce along with the National Veterans Small Business Coalition. The main topic of discussion was the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) assumption of some VA supply chain functions through a joint VA-DOD pilot program and VA's existing supply chain in the Medical-Surgical Prime Vendor (MSPV) contracting platform.

The Policy Roundtable opened with remarks from Karen Brazell, an appointee from the Trump Administration, followed by a briefing from Phil Christy, the deputy director of the VA's Office of Contracts, Constriction, Logistics and Acquisitions (OCLA). He discussed the current state of VA's medical supply chain and the progress made on the DOD-VA pilot program and DMLSS integration at the VAMCs. Afterward, Andrew Centineo, Executive Director of procurement for the Veterans Health Administration, provided an overview of the current state of the new MSPV 2.0 supply chain modernization efforts and what small businesses and manufacturers can expect.

Leadership from the Department of Defense Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support, gave a briefing on DMLSS integration pilot and Distribution's current status Pricing Agreement (DAPA) utilization. DLA provided a plan to incorporate veteran small businesses in the pipeline and offered to increase programming to assist veteran firms in obtaining DAPAs. It was clear from the roundtable that VA's plan for medical supply chain modernization is fully vested in the successful creation of MSPV 2.0. However, their long-term goal is to synchronize and streamline all VA and DLA medical supply procurements under a single platform.

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VI. VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

On Monday, March 9, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a Riding the Escalator Up Advocating for Homeless and Incarcerated Veterans Roundtable. Since 2015, the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) leaders have been working to maximize the collective impact of local services, stakeholders, and federal/state agencies to improve veteran outcomes where they live, work, and raise their families. On Monday, March 9, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission several SMEs operating in the space of homelessness and veteran homeless programs. The roundtable, attended by over 50 American Legion volunteers, American Legion Auxillary supporters, and Sons of the American Legion leaders, received presentations from:

- E. Marquel Marshall – Program Manager, Veterans Benefits Administration, Outreach & Engagement
- Micheal Koprowski – National Director, Operation Starts at Home Campaign
- Kelly Circle, JD, Ph.D. – Executive Director, American Legion Auxiliary
- Micheal Ferrell – Executive Director, Coalition for the Homeless
- Bob Steele – Executive Director, Final Salute, Inc.
- Will Fischer – Senior Policy Analyst, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Mark Walker – Associate Director, Swords to Plowshares

Presentations focused on the landscape of homeless veterans. They included remarks on how the VA has Homeless Veterans Outreach Coordinators (HVOC), appointed in 20 regional offices of the most populated veteran areas in the United States. The discussion also covered the additional services of Justice-Involved Veterans Coordinators (JIVC) who serve to assist veterans who have been incarcerated, and the importance of education and re-entry planning.

Coverage for Operation Starts at Home Campaign highlighted their long term goal and strategy of the organization is to ensure robust and equitable housing policies are created in the efforts of eradicating homelessness for the most vulnerable, low-income households. Mr. Koprowski noted the long-term goal could be achieved through bridging the gap between rents and income via rental assistance, expanding the available inventory of affordable housing, and stabilizing households by providing emergency assistance to support this vulnerable population. The critical importance of safe, decent, affordable housing has fallen behind as a top national priority. Skyrocketing rents are crushing households in urban, suburban, and rural areas across the country. Research consistently shows a lack of stable, affordable housing causes and exacerbates adverse outcomes in health, education, economic growth, and upward mobility, civil rights, food security, criminal justice, homelessness prevention, environment, and more.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing, "Returning Citizens: Challenges and Opportunities for Re-entry," on February 27. Formerly incarcerated individuals must navigate significant challenges upon re-entry into their communities after leaving prison or jail, particularly obtaining safe, affordable, accessible housing. These challenges place returning individuals at risk of housing instability, homelessness, and ultimately recidivism. Witnesses discussed barriers to successful re-entry faced by individuals and highlighted potential reforms that would provide returning citizens the stability and opportunities needed to reintegrate after incarceration successfully. Dr. Kelly Circle, JD, provided information on the Red Rocks Community College Gateway program, which focuses on assisting formerly incarcerated citizens to academic communities. Since 2006, College Gateway has supported 1800+ students in supporting their return to a learning environment.

Discussions in the group also centered around the astounding number of 11,000 HUD-VASH vouchers that went unused in 2019 and the potential connection to the lack of available social caseworkers available to assist veterans seeking assistance. The HUD-VASH program is a proven tool to help end chronic veteran homelessness. On January 13, 2020, the House overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan Veteran Housing Opportunities and Unemployment Support Extension Act of 2020 (or the Veteran HOUSE Act of 2020), introduced by Rep. Scott Peters (CA-52), by a vote of 362-31. The bill will help tackle
veteran homelessness by expanding the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. It ensures chronically homeless veterans discharged under conditions other-than-honorable (OTH), but not dishonorable, are eligible for HUD-VASH housing vouchers and supportive case management.

VII. Education

On Monday, March 9, the National Veterans and Employment Commission hosted a panel discussion on quality education and training at the Washington Conference. The panel was moderated by Dr. Joseph Wescott, American Legion National Higher Education Consultant. Panel members were Jennifer Bergeron, President, NASCAR Technical Institute, Jeff Arthur, Vice President, ECPI University, Rachel Cardwell, Director, Georgetown University, Joel English, Vice President, Aviation Institute for Maintenance and Tidewater Tech; and Gregory Pace, National Director, DeVry University. The panelists began by discussing how their institutions ensured the quality of education at their campuses as well as innovations they had introduced to ensure the veteran's success. They addressed how they managed their programs to make sure they were up to date, relevant to employer needs, and taught by qualified faculty. All panelists agreed that it was most important that the training and education provided by their institutions result in good-paying jobs for veterans and better lives for their families. During the question and answer period, Legionnaires asked about what certificates veterans could earn, what innovative technologies were being used to deliver training to student veterans, and what were the most popular programs in which veterans enrolled. At the end of the panel, panelists were available for individual interaction and questions. As one attendee stated, "This was one of the most informative and helpful sessions at this year's conference!"

On Tuesday, March 10, Dr. Joseph Wescott, National Higher Education Consultant, represented the American Legion on a policy panel at the Career Education Colleges and Universities (CECU) Conference in Washington DC. Also serving on the panel was Mr. Steve Patterson, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US, and Mr. Kevin Hollinger, Legislative Director, Reserve Officers Association. The panel was moderated by Steve Gonzalez, Senior Vice President of Government, Military, and Veteran Relations for CECU. Panelists discussed how postsecondary institutions could best help veterans succeed after graduation and what policies were being discussed on the Hill further to support good jobs for veterans and their families. Dr. Wescott discussed new modalities, such as synchronized distance learning, to help veterans be successful in their programs. Also, CECU member institutions could effectively engage with VSOs, particularly the American Legion, to voice their concerns about needed legislation and support for their veteran populations. He, and other members of the panel, solicited success stories as well as issues that veterans faced with utilizing their GI Bill benefits. After the panel, Dr. Wescott spent some time with Dr. Paul Lawrence, VA Undersecretary for Benefits, to discuss some of the challenges faced by Veterans using educational benefits. Finally, we discussed VA's efforts to provide support for veterans and their families as they pursue their educational goals.
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 (2) resolutions. One (1) resolutions were referred from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, one (1) referred from the department of California, and subsequently forwarded it to the National Executive Committee for adoption.

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Title: Support "Buy American" Policy within the Federal Government to Create Opportunities for Veterans

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2772 (CA) Department Executive Committee
Title: Post 9/11 Transfer of Educational Benefits

Two (2) resolutions were presented to the subcommittee by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. Two (2) resolutions were approved.

The following resolutions are to be carried forward and continue as American Legion policy.

2016 National Convention
1. Resolution No. 321: Support Extended Time for Mortgage Payments for Servicemembers
2. Resolution No. 320: Support for Expansion of Oil Refineries
3. Resolution No. 69: Support the Elimination of Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service Regional Offices
4. Resolution No. 72: Oppose Efforts to Change the Residency Requirements for State Directors of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service
5. Resolution No. 79: Support the Restoration of the Duties and Responsibilities of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative
6. Resolution No. 78: Support for the Strengthening and Adequate Funding of the National Veterans' Training Institute
7. Resolution No. 74: Oppose any Weakening of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative
9. Resolution No. 269: Surviving Spouse Mortgage Eligibility
10. Resolution No. 306: Allow Military Retirees to Apply for Positions in Federal Law Enforcement After Age 37
12. Resolution No. 314: Support Elimination of the VA Home Loan Funding Fee
14. **Resolution No. 343**: Support Student-Veterans Return-On-Investment Education Outcomes

15. **Resolution No. 304**: Support Accountability for Institutions of Higher Learning

16. **Resolution No. 305**: Support the Development of Veterans On-The-Job Training Opportunities

17. **Resolution No. 342**: Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)

18. **Resolution No. 315**: Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservists Returning from Deployment

19. **Resolution No. 347**: Veterans Education Debt Forgiveness

20. **Resolution No. 345**: Support for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program Hiring More Counselors and Employment Coordinators

2017 National Convention

21. **Resolution No. 78**: Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole

2017 Spring NEC Meeting

22. **Resolution No. 21**: Support State and National Funding for Troops to Teachers Program

23. **Resolution No. 20**: GI Bill Fairness for Wounded Servicemembers and Activated National Guard and Reservists

2017 Fall NEC Meeting

24. **Resolution No. 19**: Expanding Employment Services to Non-Service Connected Disabled Veterans

2018 Spring NEC Meeting

25. **Resolution No. 14**: Oppose the Cessation of the Department of Defense Hiring Heroes Program

The Commission then discussed the following issues:

**LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION**

In the Fall of 2019, The American Legion signed a groundbreaking $325,000 grant with the Lumina Foundation to expand Legion military credentialing advocacy by publishing a 2020 "Military Credentialing Advancement Report".

With this funding, The American Legion has begun work on drafting a "Military Credentialing Advancement Report"

With grant funding, VE&E Division assembled a team of ten experts in occupational credentialing from five distinct fields: military, academia, industry, trade associations, and federal employment. With advice from these "Ambassadors", VE&E laid the groundwork for the study by convening three credentialing roundtables across the country. By February 2020, VE&E staff and Ambassadors completed initial recommendations for lowering the gap for military credentialing in five distinct workstreams:

i. Public Private Partnership Models
ii. Stackable Credentialing Pathways
iii. Guidelines and Translation Tools
iv. Policy and Legislation
v. Research on Job Shortages and Military to Civilian Employment

As final recommendations were reviewed over the winter of 2020, it became increasingly clear that the cascading economic impact of COVID-19 would fundamentally alter many of the credentialing best practices identified. To formulate revisions and changes in the new operating environment, VE&E staff convened a virtual roundtable on June 25, 2020 with all Ambassadors.
It was decided at this roundtable that the new economic trends must inform every Credentialing recommendation that is released. To assist in further studying and drafting these recommendations, The American Legion enlisted the help of SOLID, LLC — the contractor responsible for assisting with two previous Legion Credentialing Reports.

Through the VE&E Division coordinating report writing with SOLID and its team of Ambassadors, The American Legion will unveil its "Military Credentialing Advancement Report" in Q1 2021.

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. Acclimated 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 a number of events this year to assist veterans, disabled veterans, Reservists and active-duty military members in obtaining employment, to include starting and growing their own businesses.

- March 11 Washington Conference MSPV Policy Roundtable
- June 2 SBA Update and Financial Strategies Webinar
- June 26 Paycheck Protection Program Webinar

**MSPV Policy Roundtable:** Held on March 11, 2020, the Veterans Employment and Education Division convened a Veterans Small Business Policy Roundtable with focus on the VA medical supply chain. The meeting was hosted by The American Legion's Small Business Taskforce along with the National Veterans Small Business Coalition. The main topic of discussion was Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) assumption of some VA supply chain functions through a joint VA-DOD pilot program and VA's existing supply chain in the Medical Surgical Prime Vendor (MSPV) contracting platform.

VA recently announced the Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) 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 affably 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.

The Policy Roundtable opened with remarks from Karen Brazell, an appointee from the Trump Administration, followed by a briefing from Phil Christy the deputy director of the VA's Office of Contracts, Constriction, Logistics and Acquisitions (OCLA). He discussed the current state of VA's medical supply chain and the progress made on the DOD-VA pilot program and DMLSS integration at the VAMCs. Afterward, Andrew Centineo Executive Director of procurement for the Veterans Health Administration, provided an overview of the current state of the new MSPV 2.0 supply chain modernization efforts and what small businesses and manufacturers can expect.

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on the current status of DMLSS integration pilot and Distribution and Pricing Agreement (DAPA) utilization. DLA provided a plan to incorporate veteran small businesses in the pipeline and offered to increase programming to assist veteran firms to obtain DAPAs. It was clear from the roundtable that VA’s plan for medical supply chain modernization is fully vested in the successful creation of MSPV 2.0. However, their long-term goal is to synchronize and streamline all VA and DLA medical supply procurements under a single platform.

The parties agreed that despite this being the third roundtable regarding VA’s medical supply chain modernization policies, there was still more work to be done. The roundtable was merely starting point for further discussions. A functioning VA-DOD partnership in supply procurement currently exists under two laws and two different contracting platforms. Much of the work both agencies are putting in are aspirational and aimed at proving a concept.

**SBA Update and Financial Strategies Webinar:** Held on June 2, 2020, The Veterans Employment and Education Division hosted a Small Business Resources webinar with the U.S. Small Business Administration and Foresight CFO. Associate Administrator Larry Stubblefield from the SBA provided an overview of education and lending programming and services available to veteran small businesses during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In addition to federal resources, VE&E staff invited Kirk McLaren, Founder and CEO of Foresight CFO provided a class to assist veteran small businesses, providing them with best practices to maintain cash-flow during the current economic downturn. Kirk McLaren is a lecturer at George Washington University and teaches part of the MBA program, so it was immensely valuable to have him impart some of his knowledge for veteran business owners.

**Paycheck Protection Program Webinar:** Held on June 26, 2020, The Veterans Employment and Education Division hosted a small business webinar with the U.S. Small Business Administration and Capital Bank to discuss the Paycheck Protection Program and answer any last minute questions before the application period. The intended audience is for American Legion Posts and Departments who have not taken advantage of emergency loan programs or have taken the loans but have specific questions for the SBA. As Legion Posts and Departments struggle to fundraise and provide services in a time of large scale social distancing and economic shutdown, VE&E staff brings together resource partners hosted a well-attended virtual event to help small businesses and nonprofits navigate through emergency federal programing to prevent mass unemployment during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**VETERAN HOMELESSNESS**

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EMPLEOYMENT

The current rate of unemployment in the United States is 6.6 percent. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is 7.0 percent. The total number of unemployed veterans from the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is approximately 256,000, with a total of 560,000 unemployed veterans from all eras. The American Legion has been hosting and participating in Job Fairs since 2005. 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 several Job Fairs a year through our national partnerships. A virtual Career Fair was held on Tuesday, September 15, during the National Veterans Employment and Education Commission meeting, held virtually using Microsoft
TEAMs. This event was hosted by the National staff, along with The American Legion Department of Texas. 226 employers and a total of approximately 780 preregistered jobseekers were expected to attend this event. Based on the exit surveys, 100 resumes were exchanged, multiple interviews were conducted virtually, and there were multiple 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 46,000 veterans, servicemembers, and military spouses nationwide find jobs. The American Legion is scheduled to participate in 4 more virtual Career Fairs, 3 with JobZone and 2 hosted by American Legion Departments by the end of the year. The American Legion is currently strategizing with USCC staff to identify where the best states and cities are for these events. The location of these events occurring in 2021 will be based upon individual state unemployment rates and places where there are substantial veteran populations.

Several Department Highlights:

**Department of Texas** – held 1 Virtual Job Fair with headquarters assistance

**Department of Texas** – held 1 Job Fair affiliated with DOL, 1 during the state mid-winter conference, 1 with Fort Hood (MEGA Career Fair)

**Department of Texas & Headquarter staff** - provided 5 employment workshops to servicemembers assigned to the Wounded Warrior Brigade at Fort Hood.

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 4.0 percent in 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The jobless rate for all veterans was little changed at 3.5 percent in 2019. 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 2019 data:**

- The unemployment rate for female veterans declined to 3.0 percent in 2019, and the rate for male veterans (3.7 percent) changed little over the year. The unemployment rate for male veterans was not statistically different from the rate for female veterans.
- Among the 284,000 unemployed veterans in 2019, 56 percent were age 25 to 54, 40 percent were age 55 and over, and 5 percent were age 18 to 24.
- Veterans with a service-connected disability had an unemployment rate of 4.8 percent in August 2019, higher than the rate for veterans with no disability (3.7 percent).
- In August 2019, 31 percent of employed veterans with a service-connected disability worked in the public sector, compared with 17 percent of veterans with no disabilities. 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 2019, the unemployment rate of veterans varied across the country, ranging from 0.9 percent in Maryland to 6.1 percent in the Montana.

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, to include virtual. JobZone operates within the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

EDUCATION

Last year we stated in our report that the American Legion would use the $500,000 grant from the Foundation to 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. Though certainly COVID has impacted our ability to travel and most major conferences have either been cancelled or moved online, we have still had great success in engaging in the nuanced public education of policymakers in DC and across the nation. We hired a nationally respected higher education consultant, Dr. Joseph Wescott, and he has worked alongside Mr. John Kamin to fulfill our goal of expanding the influence and footprint of the American Legion in the areas of education and gainful employment. We attended and presented at the NAVPA Conference, the Student Veterans of America Conference and attended virtually and presented at the NASAA Conference in Washington DC. Dr. Wescott serves as the Co-Chair of the Nation Risk Based Advisory Council, upon Mr. Joe Sharpe sits as a member. He also is a member of the VA Veterans Committee on Education and is the Policy Group Chair on the George W. Bush Institutes Veterans Education Task Force.

We have played a key role in the writing and passage of all key educational bills written to assist veterans due to the COVID pandemic's effects. Realizing that veterans forced to take their education program online, the Legion worked with HVAC and SVAC, along with Student Veterans of America, to encourage and craft legislation. Which would allow veteran students to continue to draw their full housing allowance even when they were forced to study online from home. That legislation became SB 3503 and was signed by the President on March 16, 2020. We also assisted in the writing and successfully advocated for legislation to allow work-study students, apprenticeship programs and other similar training programs to continue their programs in a non-residential environment. This legislation, HR 6322, the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act was signed by the President on April 28, 2020. We have also played a role in the crafting of HR 7111, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020 which provides for rapid retraining programs for veterans up to age 59 to provide them the skills and knowledge needed for them to recover from the economic impacts of COVID.

We continue to play a key role in the revision of HR 4625, the Protect the GI Bill Act, which we helped craft and pass in the House. We are working closely with SVAC staff to make sure that the bill not only inscribes into statute the Principles of Excellence to protect our veterans. But we have also helped ensure that it provides meaningful oversight of GI Bill approved institutions and programs to guard against a recurrence of ITT and Corinthian Colleges' failures. HR 4625 includes a section requiring risk-based surveys are performed annually at institutions that demonstrate the high risk and stipulates what metrics must be measured. It also mandates establishing a new national database to house RBS findings and other data and provides the necessary financial support for the SAAs to perform these surveys. The surveys themselves shall follow a national model developed by the RBS Advisory Committee that Director Sharpe and Dr. Wescott sit on.

VE&E RURAL INITIATIVE

Twenty million veterans live in the United States. They live in every state and nearly every county across the nation. About 5 million veterans lived in rural areas by the U.S. Census Bureau during the 2011–2015 period. About 10 percent of all rural civilian adults are veterans, but in some rural counties that figure can reach as high as 25 percent.

Veterans have much to contribute to rural communities. Veterans returning home from active duty, as well as those who move to rural communities as newcomers, add to the population base and increase the demand for goods and services. Veterans tend to have
Fostering military veteran entrepreneurship has a powerful effect on veterans, their families, and local economies. When military veterans start businesses, they are more likely to hire other veterans, their families attain more wealth than veteran families who do not start businesses. They become resources that other aspiring veteran entrepreneurs can turn to in their entrepreneurial journeys.

According to the most recent census, there are over 2.45 million veteran-owned businesses in the U.S. economy, contributing to more than $1.2 trillion in total business sales annually. The rate of veteran small business entrepreneurship has trended downward at the highest rate since the Vietnam era. Many small businesses struggle in their first years of start-up and can utilize assistance in getting established. One of the ways the American Legion is fostering veteran entrepreneurship is through the Division of Veterans Employment and Education initiative on improving veterans' access to capital, as well as, other business services, to start and grow their business.

Transitioning service members and veterans need ready access to business assistance services, resource networks, capital and market opportunities to ensure success. Empowering and regenerating America's veteran entrepreneurs is one way to help reverse our declining trends in veteran entrepreneurship while also facilitating the economic revitalization of small towns and rural America.

Residents of rural areas have been more likely than residents of other areas to work for their businesses, but, in recent decades, the share of the self-employed living in rural areas has fallen. For these reasons, VE & E is currently identifying federal, state and local resources throughout the United States that can be accessed by veterans, such as business loan guarantees and counseling services.

We are also updating our on-line small business training videos that are accessible from anywhere in the country. We hosted a small business round-table with financial stakeholders, such as lenders, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Treasury, Syracuse University and trade associations, to identify available resources for veterans. We are also aligning those resources with our local American Legion posts throughout the country.

New businesses create new jobs and new products. A healthy population of businesses keeps prices down as businesses compete for customers and wages up as businesses compete for employees. Veterans are positioned to contribute economically to rural communities.

Improved telecommunications and transportation infrastructure can also improve educational, employment, and business opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated shutdown of businesses and schools have exacerbated the Digital Divide. In particular, rural connectivity lags and many lower-income families lack the necessary digital tools to connect.

Additionally, as people are unable to visit their doctors, they need to use new tools to stay healthy. In rural areas, nearly one-fourth of the population, approximately 14.5 million people, lack access to broadband service. VE&E is continuing its research on broadband opportunities for veteran-owned small businesses in rural areas. The Legion also applauds the Federal Communications Commission initiative to bring broadband to a rural community to enhance the economic development of communities and small businesses, especially veteran-owned small businesses.

Given the potential advantages that veteran-owned small businesses offer, fostering their growth and development in rural communities will positively impact the country and is a priority for VE&E.

**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 to 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.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of two resolutions. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of two resolutions. Any discussion? Objections? Motion carried, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 13: Support "Buy American" Policy within the Federal Government to Create Opportunities for Veterans
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the weaknesses in America's supply chain and national stockpile of emergent and essential supplies and experienced critical product shortages in the nation's time of need; and
WHEREAS, The outsourcing of manufacturing and raw material production has undermined America's national and economic security and created an over-reliance on foreign-made products; and
WHEREAS, Increasing the number of manufacturers in the America will create more well-paying, skill-based jobs for veterans and increase their quality of life; and
WHEREAS, Federal agencies will often divert large shares of their annual budget to contracts with larger businesses selling foreign-made products, even when the same or similar products made in America are available at the same or lower pricing; and
WHEREAS, The federal government through its collective purchasing power, can programmatically incentivize the return of domestic manufacturing of emergency supplies to prevent supply chain breakdowns in future national emergencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion supports legislation that mandates all federal agencies adopt and enforce a "Buy American" policy in the procurement of goods and services to the highest extent possible; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports legislation and policy that incentivizes the return of manufacturing from overseas and the creation of more domestic manufacturers.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SKINNER: 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 13, one-three. Any discussion?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON (HI): Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize David Carlson, NEC from Hawaii.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON: Thirteen and 23 are both about the same ideas. Twenty-three is much more restrictive just to medical supplies provided for American consumption made by Americans, and 13 is more general. Is there some way of putting the two together so that they are not mutually exclusive or thought of as exclusive?
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: David, those two resolutions are coming from two separate sources. I've got a recommendation from the national judge advocate not to consolidate those resolutions. Does that answer your question?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON: Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion? Any objections? Motion carries to adopt Resolution No. 13, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 14: Post 9/11 Transfer of Educational Benefits
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2772 (CA) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Our servicemembers and our veterans have risked their lives to protect our freedom, and their families who collaterally sacrificed, deserve every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental and educational well-being as more than 2,770,000 of our troops have deployed overseas since September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, In the military operations after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, over 959,701 reservists have been involuntarily and/or were voluntarily placed on active duty according to the Congressional Research Service; and

WHEREAS, The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the “Forever GI Bill,” was signed into law on August 17, 2017, and it brought significant changes to veterans education benefits; and

WHEREAS, The Forever GI Bill states, that as of August 1, 2018, veterans who transferred entitlement to a dependent can now designate a new dependent if the original dependent dies, and if the veteran dies, a dependent who received transferred entitlement can now designate a new eligible dependent of the veteran to transfer any of the dependent's remaining entitlement; and

WHEREAS, The Forever GI Bill states that even though a veteran may be eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill, they must also be a current member of the armed forces (active duty or selected reserve, officer or enlisted) on or after August 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Forever GI Bill did not address the transfer of educational benefits for veterans that served after 9/11 but were separated before August 1, 2009, because those veterans did not transfer their educational benefits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that must allow the hundreds of thousands of veterans that served after September 11, 2001, but were separated before August 1, 2009 to transfer their educational benefits.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SKINNER: 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, one-four. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion to accept Resolution No. 14 carries, unanimous consent. At this time the chair recognizes Vincent J. Troiola of New York, chairman of the Legislative Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Vincent J. Troiola, New York, Chairman

Commander Oxford, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, Adjutant Wheeler, and guests, good afternoon. Each of you should have a copy of the commission's written report. Attached to the report is Addendum 1, listing resolutions with legislative intent that were passed. The American Legion's legislative program is in accordance with Rule 8-b of the Rules of the National Executive Committee.

My fellow Legionnaires, it's been a tough year, given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen many Americans struggling to provide for themselves and their
families. Despite these difficulties, The American Legion has continued forging ahead to ensure that veterans' voices are heard in Congress.

It has been another proud year of American Legion successes. The American Legion and VSO community was incredibly successful in getting a lot of important legislation passed. Among our victories in that Congress were, number one, the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, known as NDA, finally ended the widow's tax which forced military survivors, whose spouses died from service-connected health conditions, to forfeit part or all of their purchased military survivor benefits when they received dependency and indemnity compensation from the VA.

Number two, the Burn Pits Accountability Act. This important legislation requires the Department of Defense to evaluate servicemembers for toxic exposure during routine medical exams, and enroll servicemembers exposed to toxic airborne chemicals who are stationed near an open burn pit in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, to monitor and identify the harmful consequences of exposure to burn pits.

Number three, S. 785, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019, has been passed by both chambers and is awaiting the president's signature. This bill, which is the most comprehensive veterans mental health bill to pass in years, would improve outreach to veterans and offer new mental health-care options.

Additionally, several bills show promise for the remaining days of this Congress. Number one, S. 3444, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act, has been added to the fiscal year '21 NDA, and would statutorily add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson-like symptoms, and hypertension as Agent Orange presumptive diseases. Hypertension was stripped in early negotiations as a prerequisite for not being added to the NDA. Negotiations will begin to reconcile the two different versions of the NDA, and it remains to be seen if the bill will remain in the final version.

Number two, Buddy Check Bill. In September, a bill to direct the secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as "Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, was introduced in the Senate by Senator Ernst. The bill is modeled after The American Legion's Buddy Check National Week of Calling, to connect veterans to better ensure they receive the care they need.

In the 116th Congress, the influence of The American Legion was felt on Capitol Hill, but there is more work to be done. Congress has not been as productive as usual, due to the ongoing pandemic and the upcoming elections. This has caused many bills to be put off to the last minute of this Congress or pushed to the next.

We have begun shaping actions for the 117th Congress so we can hit the ground running and make the next Congress even more successful than the last. We anticipate that women vets, suicide prevention, the Higher Education Act, minority veterans, and toxic exposures will remain key topics of interest.

Commander Oxford and members of the NEC, on behalf of the Legislative Commission, I want to thank you for your outstanding leadership and for entrusting me with the leadership of this commission. It has been my privilege and honor to serve The American Legion as your legislative chairman. This completes my report. Thank you.

Advance Report: Legislative Commission
Vincent J. Troiola, New York, Chairman

This report provides a summary of congressional actions since the last national executive committee meeting in the Fall of 2019 on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. The report is arranged by program areas.

Recent Congressional Developments
The Second Session of the 116th Congress began in January of 2020. Congress began their business amid the impeachment and pending trial of President Trump. The
committees continued to conduct regular order during the trial to include congressional hearings. The American Legion participated in seven hearings thus far this year by direct testimony or submitting a statement for the record. This includes the National Commander's Testimony before a joint session of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees during Washington Conference.

In mid-March of 2020, Congress shifted its primary focus to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Presently, regular order has ceased and there is little progress on matters that do not pertain to the pandemic response. The National Legislative Division continues to keep in direct contact with congressional members and staff through weekly conference calls.

On March 27, 2020 President Trump signed into law H.R. 748 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), now known as Public Law (PL) 116-136. This $2.3 trillion relief package allocated $19.6 billion to Department of Veterans Affairs with the majority of the funding directed at the Veterans Health Administration to assist in COVID-19 response efforts. Additionally, it provides direct payments to qualifying veterans. The National Legislative Division continues to participate in discussions surrounding future relief packages and provide suggested legislative fixes to existing law in order to support pandemic relief and recovery efforts.

**AMERICANISM**

In June 2019 Representative Steve Womack (AR) introduced House Joint Resolution (HJ Res) 65 as a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. The legislation is assigned to the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. The measure currently boasts 19 cosponsors. A Senate companion measure was introduced on June 14, 2019 (Flag Day) as Senate Joint Resolution (SJ Res) 49, and currently has seven cosponsors. 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**

The aforementioned CARES Act, now known as Public Law (PL) 116-136, also provides relief for small business and nonprofits. Eligibility under the new law is expanded from just small businesses to any business concern, nonprofit organization, veterans' organization or tribal business concern of less than 500 employees. The CARES Act calls for a portion of the paycheck protection loans created under the new law to be forgiven on a tax-free basis, as well as expands the Small Business Association's (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, in addition to many other human resources-focused provisions aimed towards ensuring our sector of the economy remains intact throughout the pandemic.

**NATIONAL SECURITY**

The American Legion continues to support bills and provisions that will ensure the Coast Guard is paid during government shutdowns. This includes S.21, the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, and H.R. 367, the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019. These bills would continue appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act. The U.S. Coast Guard is the only military branch working without pay during the government shutdown. The repeated and all too common threat of government shutdowns brings severe hardship on our Coast Guard members and their families.

The American Legion is also monitoring H.R.2500, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. The American Legion supports a defense budget that complies with the Pentagon's 2018 National Defense Strategy in order to modernize the U.S. military to protect against any aggression, especially in a time of growing great power competition. It is also imperative that the government provide fair compensation for all military personnel.
The American Legion continues to support legislation to grant citizenship for honorable service. The American Legion is continuing to work with a variety of offices to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed prior to discharge. This would ensure that immigrant veterans would not be at risk of being deported.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

The Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Division has been aggressively pursuing a variety of legislative matters to ensure that every veteran's needs are recognized. The areas of Women Veterans, Mental Health, and Toxic Exposures have been the focuses of effort.

The American Legion is continuing to generate support among members of Congress for S. 514/H.R. 3224 - Deborah Sampson Act. This act not only improves the availability and quality of care provided to our women veterans, but also acknowledges the contribution women veterans have made to the military community. Correspondence between various congressional offices on the topic of women veterans has consistently occurred, especially with the original sponsors of the legislation mentioned; Senator Tester [D-MT] and Representative Brownley [D-CA-26]. The American Legion has also been proactive in initiating conversations with other VSOs during roundtable discussions with the Women Veterans Task Force on this legislative issue.

Mental Health and suicide prevention continue to be a priority for both The American Legion and congress.

To this end, The American Legion has focused its efforts on S. 785, Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019. This piece of legislation, introduced by Senator Tester [D-MT], seeks to address veterans' suicide by improving outreach and expanding mental health care options for veterans. S. 785 has several significant provisions to support this goal, including expanding innovative healthcare options, such as telehealth and alternative therapies, to reach veterans, bolstering VA's mental health workforce, and providing a more robust system of oversight on VA services.

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION**

On February 3rd, staff submitted a letter of support to Senator Ben Cardin (MD) to express support for S. 2361, Closing the Credit Gap Act of 2019. This bill increases access to small-dollar loans for veterans in underserved markets by providing SBA with permanent authority to partner with mission-oriented, nonprofit lenders to deliver capital through the 7(a) Loan Program.

The American Legion has worked with Representative Levin to pass legislation that would protect GI Bill benefits for veterans. The Protect the GI Bill Act ensures that schools receiving GI Bill funding inform prospective students of the cost of attendance, how much their benefits cover, student outcomes, and more. The bill empowers State Approving Agencies (SAAs) to flag or suspend new enrollments to schools that violate these requirements. It also bans schools from misrepresenting themselves while marketing, recruiting, and enrolling students.

The new Congress has also shifted towards addressing predatory lenders, the 90/10 rule, and ensuring for-profit private universities are not targeting servicemembers and veterans for their GI Bill benefits. The American Legion has worked with Senator Carper's office to work on legislation which would end this loophole. S.2857, the Protect Veterans' Education and Taxpayer Spending Act of 2019, would solve this issue by amending the Higher Education Act of 1965 to count military and veteran's education benefits as Federal educational assistance.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission's Report to the National Executive Committee.
Report: Legislative Commission
James Troiola, New York, Chairman

This report summarizes the commission and congressional actions since the 2019 Fall NEC Meetings on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. The report is arranged by program areas.

Recent Congressional Developments
Since the 2019 Fall NEC, Congress has been consumed by partisanship and is currently at odds with the Administration on several fronts that impact the legislative agenda. Additionally, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has shifted congressional attention towards necessary relief packages. This has led to a flurry of congressional activity during March and April with the passage of several relief packages, most notably the CARES Act. However, since then, both parties have been unable to agree on a further relief package, which both agree should occur. Negotiations have stalled at this time and there seems to be no deal in sight as both parties have introduced their own bills in the respective chambers of Congress that they control.

The fiscal year's end is rapidly approaching with no agreement on the various appropriations bills Congress must pass to prevent a government shutdown. Both Congress and the White House have stated they will not allow the government to shut down. Congress will likely pass a continuing resolution to avoid a shutdown while negotiating the appropriations bills after the elections.

Congressional Conferees for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which has passed for 59 consecutive years, are slated to be confirmed in October to negotiate the final package. However, both the House and Senate versions have language which would require the renaming of certain military installations named after Confederate officers. President Trump has indicated that he would veto the bill if those provision remained in the NDAA.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
The American Legion has produced eighteen letters of support and testified six times before the Senate and the House of Representatives on topics surrounding veterans' healthcare. The majority of the letters of support were directed to members of Congress who sought The American Legion's support and input before introducing the legislation. The Legislative Division has been aggressively pursuing various legislative matters to ensure that veteran's healthcare needs are met across several policy areas. Toxic Exposures, Mental Health, and Women Veterans issue have been the focuses of effort.

The American Legion has testified several times before the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) on topics ranging from women veterans, mental health, and harassment. On July 23rd, Health Policy Deputy Director, Katie Purswell, testified on 20 bills relating to veterans' health and healthcare accessibility. The American Legion was also invited to join several roundtable discussions with other large VSOs hosted by the HVAC's Women Veterans Task Force (WVTF). The American Legion is continuing to generate support among members of Congress for S. 514/H.R. 3224 - Deborah Sampson Act, which improves the quality and availability of care provided to our women veterans.

Mental Health and suicide prevention continue to be a priority for both The American Legion and Congress. To this end, The American Legion has focused its efforts on S. 785, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019. This piece of legislation, introduced by Senator Tester, seeks to address veterans' suicide by improving outreach and expanding mental health care options for veterans. S. 785 has several significant provisions to support this goal, including expanding innovative healthcare options, such as telehealth and alternative therapies, reaching veterans, bolstering VA's mental health workforce, and providing a more robust system of oversight VA services. In September, The American Legion testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) on S. 785. This bill would be one of the largest and most
comprehensive mental health bills to pass through Congress since H.R. 203 – Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act.

Legislation related to toxic exposures, such as expanding presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure or burn pits, continues to gain momentum on Capitol Hill. The American Legion submitted a letter of support for S.4393, the TEAM Act of 2020, which was recently introduced. This legislation would potentially be the most comprehensive toxic exposure and burn pits bill if enacted. S.3444, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2020, was introduced by Sen. Tester and was added as an amendment to the NDAA. If enacted this bill would provide a presumption of service-connection for Parkinsonism, bladder cancer, and hypothyroidism for veterans exposed to certain herbicide agents while serving in Vietnam.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Since October 2019, The Legislative Division has submitted five letters of support for legislation that falls under Veterans Employment and Education.

On February 3rd, staff submitted a letter of support to Senator Ben Cardin to express support for S. 2361, Closing the Credit Gap Act of 2019. This bill increases access to small-dollar loans for veterans in underserved markets by providing SBA with permanent authority to partner with mission-oriented, nonprofit lenders to deliver capital through the 7(a) Loan Program.

On July 22nd, staff submitted a letter of support to Representative Abigail Spanberger to express support for H.R. 7566, a bill that would allow the transfer of surplus computers and equipment to private refurbishers to create programs for veterans to learn computer repair as well as transferring the computers refurbished to veterans in need.

On August 11th, staff submitted a letter of support to Senator Kelly Loeffler to express support of S.4520, the Verification Alignment and Service-Disabled business Adjustment Act. This bill would transition the verification process for VOSBs and SDVOSBs from VA to the Small Business Administration, an agency that already has the capabilities to verify small businesses.

On August 27th, staff submitted a letter of support to Representative Andy Kim to express support for H.R. 4941, the Veteran Employment Transition Act or "VET Act." The bill would provide VSO’s contact information on transitioning servicemembers to disseminate information regarding benefits, employment, and events for veterans in the area in which they live.

On August 27th, staff submitted a letter of support to Senator Brian Schatz to express support for draft legislation entitled "Veterans Education Assistance Transparency and Accountability Improvement Act of 2020." The bill would improve the GI Bill Comparison Toll by requiring VA to include even more pertinent information to veterans and dependents and restore benefits to those who utilized their entitlement at an institution that is subject to civil enforcement action.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on all Americans in one way or another, but some unique challenges for our nation's student veterans arose early in the pandemic. As colleges and universities around the country began to close their doors to in-person classes, student veterans were left asking how these changes would affect their earned G.I. Bill benefits. Seeing these challenges, The American Legion quickly supported legislation to address student veterans' issues and Congress acted quickly to pass the Student Veterans Coronavirus Act of 2020. The bill was signed into law on March 21st by President Trump, a week before the passage of the CARES Act.

The American Legion continues to advocate for H.R. 4625, the Protect the GI Bill Act, ensuring that schools receiving GI Bill funding inform prospective students of the cost of attendance, how much their benefits cover, student outcomes, and more. The bill also empowers State Approving Agencies (SAAs) to flag or suspend new enrollments to schools that violate these requirements.
NATIONAL SECURITY

Since the Fall of 2019, The American Legion has submitted five letters of support regarding national security-related topics in conjunction with the National Security Division.

The American Legion submitted numerous letters of support to ensure the Coast Guard is paid during government shutdowns. This includes S.21, the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, and H.R. 367, the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019. These bills would continue appropriations for Coast Guard pay if an appropriations act expires before the enactment of a new one. The U.S. Coast Guard is the only military branch working without pay during the government shutdown. The repeated and all too common threat of government shutdowns brings severe hardship on our Coast Guard members and their families. No member of the U.S. military service should ever live in fear of not being paid.

The American Legion submitted two letters of support regarding H.R. 2500, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. The American Legion supports a defense budget that complies with the Pentagon's 2018 National Defense Strategy in order to modernize the U.S. military to protect against any aggression, especially in a time of growing great power competition. It is also imperative that the government provide fair compensation for all military personnel.

The American Legion also submitted two additional letters supporting S. 1678 - Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 and the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program.

The American Legion continues to support legislation to grant citizenship for honorable service. The American Legion is continuing to work with a variety of offices to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed before discharge. This would ensure that immigrant veterans would not be at risk of being deported.

AMERICANISM

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 then assigned to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration where it now boasts 19 cosponsors. A Senate companion measure was introduced on June 14, 2019 (Flag Day) as a Senate Joint Resolution (SJ Res), and currently has nine cosponsors. 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.

Looking forward to the 117th Congress, The American Legion is looking for potential sponsors to introduce legislation to amend the United States Flag Code and modify it to reflect current, accepted patriotic practices. The American Legion passed Resolution No. 19: Flag Code Amendment in 2016 to codify these patriotic practices.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The American Legion is currently working with Senator Joni Ernst on introducing a bill to require VA to establish a "Buddy Check Week." The bill would require VA to work directly with VSOs on programming and educational tools to help reach veterans in a crisis and provide for additional resources for the Veterans Crisis Line during the designated Buddy Check Week. In May of 2019, The American Legion passed Resolution No. 18: Buddy Check- to require Legion-wide Buddy Check Week, and we look forward to advocating for VA to adopt a similar program.

QUARTERLY LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION CALL

Quarterly Legislative Commission Calls are facilitated by the Legislative Commission Chairman. It occurs once a quarter to inform members of the current legislative strategy and objectives for the upcoming quarter. The Chairmen invites the National Legislative Division to present the "Legislative Landscape" as it currently stands during the meeting.
In the first Quarterly Call, the primary focus was on the 2020 Grassroots Rehabilitation Plan that was initially introduced at the 2020 Washington Conference. The second Quarterly Call had a strong emphasis on COVID-19 response, with specific emphasis on proposed veteran-focused provisions in the CARES Act. The participants discussed the impact COVID-19 had on veterans attending a school that decided to close for health-related concerns. Additional topics surrounding COVID-19's effect on the veteran community including: the now limited medical equipment and other resources for caregivers, inaccessible medical facilities out of fear of illness, and negatively impacted telehealth experiences that revealed infrastructure inadequacies. The most recent Quarterly Call was focused on the 117th Congress and the consideration of future priorities for the Legislative Agenda.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission's Report to the National Executive Committee.

Annual National Legislative Council Activities Report 2019-2020

In 1975, The National Executive Committee created the National Legislative Council to assist the Legislative Commission's work. The Legislative Council is composed of a chairman that leads the council, vice-chairs for each department and the member Legionnaires assigned to each Member of Congress. The purpose of the National Legislative Council is to have Legionnaires that forge relationships with their designated Member of Congress therefore offering sound judgment and advice on issues of importance to The American Legion, veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

In accordance with NEC Resolution No. 28 (October 1994), I am pleased to submit the following Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council Activities Report for 2019-2020.

1. Legislative Alerts sent out in the past year
   1. Commander: Pass the Coast Guard Authorization Act 10/14/2019
   2. WWII Means Test Exemption 06/30/20
   3. Commander: Extend the National Guard 05/20/2020
   4. Computers for Vets Final 07/24/2020

2. Grassroots Lobbying Activities in Washington, DC
   Washington Conference – March 8 – March 11, 2020
   National Commander's Testimony – March 11, 2020

3. National Legislative Council Meetings Held
   The National Legislative Council does not hold national meetings. Instead, meetings are held by the individual departments at the vice-chairman of the respective state deems necessary. Most department meetings are held in conjunction with existing department conferences and conventions. Most departments hold between two and four meetings of the Legislative Council throughout the year along with many other informal meetings at a more local level.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission with the exception of one resolution. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive the report of the Legislative Commission with the exception of one resolution. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, motion passes, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 2: Legislative Program for the 117th Congress
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, National Executive Committee Resolution No. 25, October 2016, titled, "Implementation of the Legislative Program" provides that, "...all resolutions with
legislative intent are to be reviewed by the appropriate convention committees at the National Convention immediately preceding the convening of a new Congress" and that, "...the convention committees include in their reports to the National Convention an addendum listing those resolutions...previously approved with legislative intent that are to remain as part of the legislative program of The American Legion for the next Congress; and

WHEREAS, These requirements were unable to be fulfilled because of the cancellation of the 2020 National Convention by National Executive Committee Resolution No. 3, Mail 2020; and

WHEREAS, The legislative program of The American Legion needs to be continued; and

WHEREAS, The following, previously approved resolutions have been reviewed by the standing commissions to be included in the legislative program for the 117th Congress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That the following resolutions previously approved by a National Convention or the National Executive Committee are hereby reiterated and remain as part of the legislative program of The American Legion through the 117th Congress.

AMERICANISM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>19 Flag Code Amendment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>301 Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>303 Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Flag of the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>111 English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language</td>
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INTERNAL AFFAIRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>11 Support and Defend Veteran and Military Memorials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>16 National Global War on Terrorism Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>11 National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for Honorably Discharged Veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>50 Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>86 Award Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133rd Signal Service Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>110 Support Congressional Gold Medal for Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators of WWI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>1 Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>57 Coin Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II</td>
</tr>
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</table>

NATIONAL SECURITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>225 Fully Fund NASA</td>
</tr>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>29 Commercial Shipbuilding For Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>33 Rare Earth Elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>96 Support Full Funding And Resourcing For The U.S. Navy And Marine Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Number</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
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**VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Surviving Families Benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Add Agent Orange Component To Code Of Federal Regulations 4.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Quadrennial Plan For Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Reinstate Enrollment Of Priority Group 8g Veterans Into The Department Of Veterans Affairs' Patient Enrollment System</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Construction Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Preservation Of National Historic Properties</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Medical Marijuana Research</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Agent Orange</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>State Veterans Home Funding For Construction Grants</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Child Care Program</td>
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<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Rural Healthcare Program</td>
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<td>WWII Veterans Hospital And Medical Entitlements</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Means Test</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>Veterans Discounts On Federally Funded Public Transportation</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>Radiation Exposure</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>Veterans Transportation System And Benefits Travel</td>
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<td>64</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Beneficiary Travel Program</td>
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<td>83</td>
<td>Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record</td>
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<td>117</td>
<td>Disability And Death Pension Program</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>Recognize Operations In Lebanon (1958), Grenada (1983), And Panama (1989-1990) As Periods Of War For Department Of Veterans Affairs Pension Purposes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>Legislation To Provide Reporting, Tracking, And Actions Dealing With Sexual Assaults At Department Of Veterans Affairs Facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>National Cemetery Administration</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>Non-Department Of Veterans Affairs Emergency Care</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>Presumptive Conditions For Former Prisoners Of War</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>State Veteran Home Per Diem Reimbursement</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Dental Care</td>
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<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation</td>
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<td>188</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs' Role In National Emergency Preparedness</td>
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<td>238</td>
<td>Suicide Prevention For American Veterans Act</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>Extend Eligibility For National Cemetery Administration Medallion</td>
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<td>246</td>
<td>Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>Extend Caregiver Benefits To Include Veterans Before September 11, 2001</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>268</td>
<td>Urn Markers Provided By The National Cemetery Administration</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>Congressional Budget Office Scoring On Department Of Veterans Affairs Leasing</td>
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<td>363</td>
<td>Consolidation Of Department Of Veterans Affairs Care In The Community Program</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>Include Korean War Veterans In Priority Group 6 For Department Of Veterans Affairs Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>Oppose Closing Or Privatization Of Department Of Veterans Affairs Health Care System</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>Prosecution Of VA Employees Engaged In Fraudulent Practices In The Department Of Veterans Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>377</td>
<td>Support For Veteran Quality Of Life</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>United States Census To Include Veterans Information</td>
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<td>379</td>
<td>Veteran Caretaker Stipend</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>Exempt Funds Related To Interment Services At Cemeteries From Any Future Sequestration</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td>Resolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Provide Mental Health Services For Veterans With Other Than Honorable And General Discharges</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Amend Title 38, United States Code, To Clarify The Treatment Of A Veteran As Adjudicated Mentally Incompetent For Certain Purposes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Extend Allotted Time For Claims Review By Service Officers</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Automobile Allowance Program</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Research Into Hearing Loss Due To Loud Or Constant Noise Exposure In The Military</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Air Carrier Access</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Rural Health Care Program</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Veterans Emergency Room Or Urgent Care Facility Relief</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Helping Veterans Exposed To Burn Pits</td>
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<td>Agent Orange And Kidney Disease</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Exempt Certain Income From VA Pension Rate Determination</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Means Test For Married Veterans</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>Compensation For Veterans Requiring Hearing Aids For Service Connected Hearing Loss</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>Automatic Waiver For Over-Payment Of $300</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Dental Care For Ratings Of 50% Or More</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Amend The Eligibility Requirements And Extend The Eligibility Time Period For Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Designate Prisoner Of War, Purple Heart And Medal Of Honor Recipients As Priority Group 1 Veterans</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Agent Orange</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>115</td>
<td>Outdoor And Adaptive Sports Programs For Veterans</td>
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<td>Environmental Exposures At Fort McClellan</td>
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<td>Veterans Burial/Plot Allowance Payment</td>
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<td>Antidepressant Harms Analysis</td>
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<td>58</td>
<td>Department Of Veterans Affairs Accreditation Of Individual Claims Agents</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>Establish Green Alert System Interagency Group Or Committee For Veterans In Crisis</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Abolish Premium For Delayed Enrollment In Medicare Part B For Veterans Eligible For Medical Benefits From The Department Of Veterans Affairs</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Payment For Emergency Transportation To A Department Of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tracking of Veteran Unemployment in all U.S. Territories</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Reauthorize and Fund the U.S. Small Business Administration's Patriot Express Loan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>GI Bill Eligibility for Reserve and National Guard Service</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Mandatory use of the Veterans First Contracting Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Support Reasonable Set-Aside of Federal Procurements and Contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Student Loan Repayments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Close the GI Bill Flight School Loophole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Support Funding and Changes to the Department Of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Eliminate GI Bill Transferability Maximum Year Caps</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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2016 Convention 81 Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops for National Guard and Reserve Members

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RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BARBKNECHT: Resolution No. 2 has the approval of 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. 2. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion to pass Resolution No. 2 passes, unanimous consent. At this time the chair recognized Steven A. Brennan of Maryland, chairman of the National Security Commission, for the purpose of a report.

**Oral Report: National Security Commission**

Steven A. Brennan, Maryland, Chairman

National Commander Oxford, members of the National Executive Committee, and fellow Legionnaires, The American Legion took the unprecedented step of canceling this year's 2020 National Convention in the commonwealth of Kentucky. Being in compliance with state and federal public health restrictions imposed by COVID-19 pandemic, safeguarding our members, and adhering to CDC guidelines made this decision not only prudent but necessary.

The American Legion has taken copious actions to prevent the spread of infections by adhering to federal guidance that restrict large public gatherings and urge social distancing. The American Legion continued services such as temporary financial assistance, blood drives, meal delivery, and volunteer assistance remain the top priority of the organization as we navigate during these challenging times of uncertainty. Because no one can say with any certainty when and in what matter these measures will be lifted, a virtual platform has been established to assist with communicating and carrying out the business of The American Legion.

On September 18, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, the National Security Commission, its seven committees, along with our council and consultants, met virtually to review, discuss, and approve resolutions. As a result, six resolutions were adopted by the National Security Commission and recommended to the National Executive Committee.

In the report, you will find the national security and foreign relations activities since the spring of 2020 carried out collectively by our commission, our committees, our council, and our staff. I will highlight both, one encouraging in-person activity, as well as one encouraging virtual platform experience that has afforded all of us the opportunity to get
to know one another more and more. I will finalize this report by discussing the way forward.

I will begin by discussing a gesture of goodwill regarding Taiwan's donation of 250,000 medical masks to The American Legion. National Commander Bill Oxford accepted the donation of 250,000 masks from Ambassador Bi-khim Hsiao, Taiwan's representative to the United States. A ceremony celebrating the gesture of goodwill took place July 28 at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, D.C.

"We are part of a longstanding friendship with The American Legion," Hsiao said. "Last August, President Tsai addressed the 101st American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis, where she spoke about our joint values, as well as the sacrifices our veterans have made for freedom and democracy in both of our countries."

Representative Ted Yoho, representative from Florida, also attended the event. He addressed the audience on the importance of the relationship between the United States and Taiwan, and the commitment of both our nations to freedom, democracy and human rights.

"I stand here between two flags and two countries that represent peace, democracy, liberty, and freedom," he said. "Those will never waiver."

The relationship between Taiwan and The American Legion was furthered during the national commander's trip to the Far East in 2019, when the delegation from The American Legion traveled to Taiwan. While there, Commander Oxford met with President Tsai Ing-Wen to discuss the relations between the two nations and the shared values of freedom and democracy.

"When we think about the world situation as it is today, we come to understand the value of our alliance and our friendship," National Commander Oxford said during the ceremony.

"This event was about more than masks," said Hsiao. "It's about a shared commitment between Taiwan and the United States, as well as a commitment to those who serve in the armed forces of both countries."

"Today we have brought 250,000 medical masks from Taiwan to donate to The American Legion, in part to thank them for their service to veterans and our many communities here in the United States," she said, "but also as a symbol of friendship to jointly work to keep our communities and our veterans safe and healthy. We owe a lot of debt of gratitude to those that have served in defense of our many shared values."

In mid-August, another gesture of goodwill was commenced with the guidance of Past National Commander Jake Comer of Massachusetts, who identified a need and prompted us to host a medical mask giving donation of 10,000 masks to the Soldiers' Home of Holyoke. We sprung into action by reaching out to the national commander for a letter of support. In part it reads, "On behalf of the nearly two million members of The American Legion, I am pleased to make a donation of 10,000 medical masks to assist the residents and staff of the Soldiers' Home of Holyoke in the time of need."

"The coronavirus pandemic has caused great sadness and it has a severe impact on the longterm care facilities nationwide, including the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. Legion posts in Massachusetts have already risen to the occasion by providing care packages to the home. This mask donation is yet another example of our dedication to Holyoke and to keeping American veterans and our communities safe during this unprecedented pandemic, a charge The American Legion eagerly takes as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness."

Second, I want to talk about the virtual National Security Forum. Guest speakers of the national security and foreign affairs community discussed the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on national security and defense global affairs. While the components of foreign policy include trade, economics, and national security, the coronavirus pandemic has brought another component critical to developing and maintaining policy into the limelight: health defined by experts as health security, a developing but critical part of global relations.
That information was shared during the August 29 National Security Forum conducted through the Zoom platform and open to members of The American Legion's National Security Commission our committees, our council, as well as our department National Security chairpersons. National Commander Bill Oxford also took part in the forum. The forum guest speakers from the national security and foreign affairs community discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national security and the defense global affairs. A panel discussion with representatives of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Defense Institute for Medical Operations, and the U.S. Agency for International Development discussed the need for health security, particularly among the coronavirus pandemic.

The forum viewers also heard from former ambassador to the United States, Robert Beecroft, whose foreign service included serving as U.S. ambassador in Bosnia, as well as postings in Sarajevo; Brussels, Belgium; and Paris, who defined the art of diplomacy and how it is to be used to accomplish the objective. Viewers also heard from Dr. Alton Frye, the presidential senior fellow emeritus at the Council on Foreign Relations, who mentioned that the overarching danger remains the "nuclear menace," that great clarity is needed in the essential goals of managing nuclear danger.

This forum was a great update to the commission and leads me to the discussion on the way forward. In foreign relations, participation in the Iowa Department Leadership School with Commander James Kessler, Adjutant John Derner, and Past National Commander David Rehbein, was exciting, timely, and of critical importance.

The inquiry by Past National Commander Rehbein on the posture of the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel peace agreement was presented. As a result, staff moved forward with writing a point paper and setting up desk-side briefings with the Department of State on the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement, a treaty of peace, diplomatic relations, and full normalization between those countries.

On August 16, in a historic signing ceremony hosted by President Donald Trump at the White House, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain on Tuesday became the third and fourth Arab nations to move forward in establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel.

"We're here this afternoon to change the course of history," President Trump said, speaking from the South Lawn of the White House ahead of the signing, presenting himself as a diplomat and dealmaker weeks ahead of the election. "After decades of division and conflict, we mark the dawn of a new Middle East."

Representatives for Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain, similarly heralded the historic nature of the agreements between their countries, making slight nods to the absent Palestinians, and used soaring rhetoric to portray the dawn of a new era in the Middle East.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented himself as a peacemaker while speaking about strength, declaring, "This day is a pivot of history and it heralds a new dawn of peace. This peace will eventually expand to include other Arab states and, ultimately, it can end the Arab-Israeli conflict once and for all," Netanyahu said.

On October 7, we hosted a Webex with United States State Department to receive a briefing from the Office of Israeli Affairs and the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. It was attended by Past National Commander Rehbein, myself, and our division staff, along with two directors from the United States Department staff.

The goal of the briefing was to explore opportunities to ultimately support peace in the Middle East with the focus on a pivot to Asia. The way forward is the diplomatic campaign program designed to improve membership by tracking and reaching veterans through diplomatic training, education, intentionally highlighting the diplomacy as the nation's first instrument of national power, with outcomes ultimately influencing United States foreign policy.

In conclusion, I'd like to take a moment to thank The American Legion for the trust and belief placed in me as your National Security chairman. I've been humbled by the opportunity. I have grown in my understanding of the strong national defense and the
importance of promoting a sustainable United States foreign policy. As spoken by Alexander Hamilton, "The world has its eye upon America."

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Oxford and the 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 and promoting a sustainable United States foreign policy. Thank you.

Advance Report: National Security Commission
Steven A. Brennan, Maryland, Chairman

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Oxford and the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee for their continued support. The National Security Commission convened on March 9th during the 60th Annual Washington Conference at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. The following report is a summary of this session:

The Commission was honored to welcome National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford; who addressed our Commission with a simple message "This information you are receiving today is inspiring, because when we think about whom we are and what we do, National Security is one of our primary pillars…" He stressed, "I hope you realize the value of the contributions that you all are making to the American Legion and to this Country."

National Commander Oxford addressed some key policy areas that the National Security Commission covers, particularly the importance of his recent trips to the Far East and the Indo-Pacific Region (South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and Hawaii), with National Security discussions related to China and North Korea; all supported by our National Security Division.

The program proceeded in the following sections:
• Opening remarks and roll call;
• U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) and the future of American conflicts;
• Army Lieutenant General Karen H. Gibson and the state of present day national security;
• Ms. Fern Sumpter Winbush, Principal Deputy Director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency;
• Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairperson of the Board, National League of POW/MIA Families;
• Director Donald M. Benton, Selective Service Administration

Chairman Steven Brennan (Maryland), National Security Commission, discussed resolutions that will be considered by the National Executive Committee during the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis. These resolutions include the American Legions position on support for Georgian Conflict and the pharmaceutical independence long-term readiness reform. Other resolutions that are being urged to come to a vote are: the opposition to excluding transgender Americans from the military; funding for protection of the national power grid against electromagnetic pulse attack; and oppose deportation of non-citizen immigrant veterans.


Sean Sorbie, Director of Veterans Outreach, USGLC moderated a panel with Retired Air Force General Richard Hawley and Craig Wold, General Counsel, US Aid for International Development (USAID) on a variety of national security topics; including the costs and ramifications of pulling out of our current conflicts; focused mostly on the Middle East region and Africa. The panel had major discussions on the discrepancy between what is actually spent on the U.S. International Affairs Budget and what Americans think is spent – and the importance of this since the U.S. is currently facing numerous threats from terrorism to pandemics, and that these threats cannot be solved by the military alone, but requires diplomacy and USAID to adequately address such challenges.
Experts in the field continue to implement a strategy that will develop diplomacy in future engagements. Many of these strategies include the "hearts and minds" approach, although mostly ineffective in Afghanistan it had short term gains in Iraq. While war is destructive, chaotic, and at times unpredictable we as Americans must push for a better tomorrow and a greater good for the world. Gen. Hawley opined that, "I can't imagine how bad things could get" if the U.S. diminished and retreated on the global scene. "In almost every case where we end up with problems, it was because we didn't adequately invest in diplomacy and development assistance."

While America has been largely bogged down in conflicts like Iraq and Afghanistan other peer or soon to be peer adversarial nations are setting up military installations and ports of entry. China has been particularly unsettling to the United States in recent memory. While America is shifting away from large conflicts in the Middle East we must be vigilant to avoid a power vacuum, blow back, and a possible terrorist haven. It was such havens that orchestrated the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Looking to the future America must build, maintain, and harbor good relations with our allies and potential allies. There are more than two billions people that live in conflict areas around the world, whether that be war zones, civil unrest, and natural disasters. These people and areas are much more susceptible to extremism and future wars.

II. The state of present-day national security
Army Lieutenant General Karen Gibson addressed the commission on a verity of National Security topics. LTG Gibson served in the U.S. Army for more than 30 years. While doing so she has served in a multitude of joint and operational intelligence duty assignments in the U.S., Middle East, Afghanistan, Africa and Korea and commanded from the company level to the brigade.

Later in LTG Gibson's career she had a heavy focus on ISIS in Iraq from 2014-2017. She discussed the most likely dangerous actors and non-state actors that posed a serious threat to America. One area that has been dubbed the "new wild west" is the cyber sphere. There are millions and even billions of dollars lost each year to cyber pirates that are state sponsored and non-state led actors. While it is necessary to secure our borders, they are not always physical in nature. America must remain diligent in securing our critical cyber infrastructure. One of the main players is China. They have consistently stolen and hampered other nations in copyright infringement, currency, and data. While it is nothing new, and has been a factor for the past 20 years, other threats come from North Korea, Iran, and Russia.

Other topics discussed included weapons of mass destruction (WMD) attacks. The main threat pertaining to Russia and the United States, emerging and disruptive technologies, artificial intelligence, 5G, space force, and pandemics. While we go into the new decade we must remain steadfast with our allies, invest in our future, and continue to safeguard the United States.

III. POW/MIA update
The Commission was provided an update on the POW/MIA mission by Ms. Fern Sumpter Winbush, Principal Deputy Director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairperson of the Board, National League of POW/MIA Families.

DPAA's mission statement since its inception has always been to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. This mission is encompassed by their core values which consist of compassion, integrity, teamwork, respect, and innovation.

The DPAA is able to make this possible by a cloud-based case management system (CMS) and public portal. This includes the pace and scope of wars and conflicts throughout our nation's history to pinpoint locations and battle spaces.

Ms. Winbush thanked the American Legion "for your steadfast support, especially your continued march on the Hill to ensure that DPAA is fully funded every year...We
could not do what we do every single day without organizations like you that will stand up and fight." With the help of the U.S. Congress, the DPAA is increasing their field and laboratory operations because of a budget increase of $30 million in 2019, and $24 million in 2020.

IV. Selective Service System update

The Commission was provided an update on the Selective Service System by Director Donald Benton, appointed the 13th Director of Selective Service by President Donald J. Trump on 11 April 2017. In this capacity, Director Benton directs an independent agency of the Executive Branch to provide trained and untrained manpower to the Department of Defense when directed by the President and the United States Congress, supporting America's all volunteer force during a national emergency.

Mr. Benton began his presentation by briefing the Commission on the importance of the Selective Service to the nation. The Selective Service System and the registration requirement for America's young men provide our Nation with a structure and a system of guidelines which will provide the most prompt, efficient, and equitable draft possible, if the country should need it. America's leaders agree that despite the success of the All-Volunteer Force, registration with Selective Service must continue as a key component of national security strategy.

He also provided an update on the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service which is scheduled to release its final report on March 25th. The report will provide a recommendation to Congress on whether the national needs the Selective Service. It will also provide a recommendation on whether women should be required to register for the Selective Service. As of writing this report to the NEC, the final report can be downloaded at: https://inspire2serve.gov/reports.

V. National and Regional Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Selection Subcommittee

Prior to the Washington Conference, the Chairman of the Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee (Chairman George W. Wehrli, Florida) appointed an awards selection subcommittee to review all the nominations that had been received during 2019 from the Departments for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year award programs. The Subcommittee met Monday, March 9th, in the International Ballroom West in the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., to select the 5 Regional Firefighter of the Year winners and the 5 Regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Winners. From the Regional winners the National Law Enforcement Officer and National Firefighter of the year winners were selected.

The winners and runners-up have been contacted and the Regional winners will receive their awards during their respective Department Conventions. The National winners will receive their awards on stage from the National Commander during the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

VI. Joint American Legion / Embassy of Japan Panel and Reception

On Monday evening, March 9, 2020, The American Legion cohosted two events on Capitol Hill with the Embassy of Japan. Titled: "Friends and Partners: The Diamond Jubilee of the U.S. - Japan Alliance," it served to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan. The panel discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities, as well as the pride and solidarity, of military families from both the U.S. and Japanese perspectives. A reception followed. A summary of the two events is below:

Gathering at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, U.S. and Japanese military veterans and their spouses took part in a panel discussion that focused on the challenges faced by military families. The panel consisted of: Retired U.S. Army Chief of Staff General George Casey Jr. and his wife Sheila Casey, and former Chief of Staff for the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Admiral Yutaka Murakawa and his wife Noriko Murakawa.
The panel was moderated by Kathy Roth-Douquet, the founder and CEO of Blue Star Families, which has more than 150,000 members in their network, including chapters all over the world. Blue Star Families claims to touch more than 1.5 million military family members every year.

Roth-Douquet said that her organization believes that "in the 21st century, supporting our troops means supporting military families," noting stressors on military families includes those related to finances, feelings of isolation and the difficulties of being separated during deployments.

Noriko Murakawa, who served as the Chairwoman of the Association for Spouses of Executives of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense from 2016 to 2019, said through a translator that having to move around frequently was difficult, and when she was younger her husband often had to go to work right after the move. "Oftentimes he was not there for us when we moved in the furniture," she said. "It was hard not having him around as we settled into our new home."

GEN. George Casey – who served 41 years in the Army, including as the 36th U.S. Army Chief of Staff from 2007-2011 – was born into a military family. "As an Army brat, I've been a member of the military my entire life," he said. "There are inconveniences. But there are, in fact, serious challenges, and my family experienced both.

"Inconveniences are like I went to four high schools in three different countries. That was a lot of moving around, but I had a very strengthening experience. The separations are more than an inconvenience."

GEN. Casey's father, George Sr., was an Army Major General and in command of the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam when he died in 1970 in a helicopter crash in South Vietnam. George remembered driving his father to the airport for what would be his last tour in Vietnam. Casey remembered his mother having tears in her eyes as her husband left.

"I looked at my mother and I said, 'You've been doing this your whole marriage. It must get easier,'" GEN. Casey said. "And with tears in her eyes, she looked at me and said, 'No dear, it only gets harder.'"

Sheila Casey, the current Chief Operating Officer of The Hill, said her family moved 25 times during George's military career. "With each of those moves early on, it's finding a place to live, finding schools for your children … relocating your job and hoping you can find one comparable or better," she said. "Moving can be stressful, but it also opens up the door to new adventures."

Early on, Sheila said, there were many separations for short periods of time. But when her husband served as the senior coalition commander in Iraq from June 2004 to February 2007, the separation was almost three years.

"When he first left for Iraq he was supposed to be gone for a year," Sheila said. "I was not looking down the barrel of 32 months. With those separations, in some instances there can be an isolation as well. When George went to Iraq for 32 months, I was the only one on the base where I lived on whose husband was gone."

"But the things I learned early on … is that you learn to depend on your friends around you, and how that group unites and becomes a family."

Through a translator, Adm. Yutaka Murakawa – who served as the 33rd Chief of Staff for the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force from 2016 to 2019 – said moving around regularly could be burdensome, but "it was wonderful to gain rich experience through living in different places. My wife and I will never forget our interactions (in different locations)."

Noriko Murakawa said she remembers a time when military service in Japan was considered dishonorable. She even remembered asking Yutaka shortly after they first met why he prepared for war and trained to kill.

"He answered, 'Nobody wants war. War is the worst date of the world, and somebody has to be ready for the worst,'" Noriko said. "At that time it was all clear to me. That was something nobody taught me in school."
GEN. Casey said that despite the moving and separations, "aside from having my dad around for longer, I wouldn't have changed a minute of it. I feel like as a family we grew significantly."

Sheila said that in being part of a military family, you don't think of the challenges on a daily basis. "But as I look back and think about the people we served with, the friends that we made and the friends that we still have – the fact that you really are a part of an organization that is bigger than yourself," she said. "It's filled with people who really are working as a team. It's not about yourself. It's about the collective. I think I'm most proud … that I was a part of that group."

A reception followed the roundtable and was attended by Japanese ambassador to the United States Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, as well as members of Congress that included Rep. Mark Takano, the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and Sen. Angus King, who sits on the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Rep. Takano said the relationship between Japan and the United States is "deeply personal" to him because his great uncles served in the 442nd Regiment in World War II. The unit was composed almost entirely of second-generation American soldiers of Japanese ancestry and is the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.

"In the decades since World War II, the United States and Japan have come together to forge a better and brighter future for the citizens of both our countries," Rep. Takano said. "Our partnership should serve as a model to the world that when shells, ships and planes' roar have fallen silent, economic trade, cultural exchanges and a shared vision for our peoples creates an unbreakable bond."

Noting he's visited Japan multiple times, Sen. King said "the important thing to emphasize is the strength and importance of the alliance between the United States and Japan. Japan is the cornerstone of the alliance in the Indo-Pacific region, which is becoming more and more and more important … to maintaining peace in the world.

"If you look at world politics, one of the things that distinguishes us from the Chinese and the Russians is allies. They have clients, but they don't have allies. We have allies, bound together with bonds of friendship and mutual interests."

Ambassador Sugiyama thanked The American Legion for co-hosting the event. "It is a very good feeling when The American Legion and government of Japan host an event together. It shows how far our friendship has come."

American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford attended both the panel and the reception, and while doing so referenced the "special relationship" the United States has with Japan, referring to it as "an alliance that has been called a gold standard of defense treaties. But it's more than just an alliance. It's a tried-and-true friendship."

**Report: National Security Commission**

**Steven A. Brennan, Maryland, Chairman**

This year, The American Legion took the unprecedented step of cancelling this year's 2020 national convention in compliance with state and federal public-health restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, you have not received a copy of the Report of the Commission on National Security that would have been generated during the 2020 National Convention in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The safety of our members and compliance with state and federal public-health restrictions and guidelines made this decision not only prudent but necessary. The American Legion has taken copious actions to prevent the spread of infections by adhering to federal guidance that restrict large public gatherings and urge social distancing. Local American Legion services such as Buddy Checks, blood drives, meal delivery and volunteer assistance remain the top priority of the organization as we navigate during these challenging times of uncertainty. Because no one can say with any certainty when and in what manner these measures will be lifted, a virtual platform has been established to assist with communicating and carrying out the business of The American Legion.
On September 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. eastern daylight time, The National Security Commission, its seven committees, along with the council and consultants met virtually for the safety of our members in compliance with state and federal public-health restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In carrying out the business of The American Legion, the attendees continued conversing, developing and reviewing pertinent matters in the national security and foreign relations arenas. The National Security Commission adopted Six (6) resolutions which, when added to the 2016 - current 68 existing resolutions, comprise the Commission's policy and legislative agendas for the year ahead.

The Legislative Division addressed the Commission and provided a detailed update on the current legislative initiatives. Of importance were the House Majority Leader announced that the House will vote on a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open past October 1, 2020, the President expressed support for the higher levels of COVID-19 relief fund proposed by the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, and Congress will not hold the conference on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to start until the lame duck session after the election.

The Commission Chairmen were also provided an update with highlights of National Security Division's activities. Noteworthy items include the following activities and updates on National Security and Foreign Relation for your review:

A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL

Taiwan donates 250,000 medical masks to The American Legion due to persistent staff efforts.

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford accepted a donation of 250,000 masks from Ambassador Bi-khim Hsiao, Taiwan's representative to the United States. A ceremony celebrating the gesture of goodwill took place July 28 at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) in Washington, D.C.

"This gift of masks will save lives," Oxford said in his remarks. "Even before COVID-19, it was not unusual to see people – mostly in the Far East – wear facemasks out of consideration for others. It truly is a selfless act. We will ensure that veterans across the country receive these masks."

"We are proud of our longstanding friendship with the American Legion," Hsiao said. "Last August, President Tsai addressed the 101st American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis, where she spoke about our joint values, as well as the sacrifices our veterans have made for democracy and freedom in both our countries."

Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla., also attended the event. He addressed the audience on the importance of the relationship between the United States and Taiwan and the commitment of both nations to freedom, democracy and human rights. "I stand here between two flags of two countries that represent peace, democracy, liberty and freedom," he said. "Those will never waiver."

The relationship between Taiwan and The American Legion was furthered during the national commander's trip to the Far East in 2019, when the delegation from The American Legion traveled to Taiwan. While there, Oxford met with President Tsai Ing-Wen to discuss relations between the two nations and the shared values of freedom and democracy.

"When we think about the world situation as it is today...we come to understand the value of our alliances and our friendship," Oxford said during the ceremony. This event was about more than the masks, said Hsiao. It's about a shared commitment between Taiwan and the U.S., as well as a commitment to those who serve in the armed forces of both countries. "Today, we have brought 250,000 medical masks from Taiwan to donate to The American Legion, in part to thank them for their service to veterans and many communities here in the United States," she said, "but also as a symbol of friendship to jointly work to keep our communities and our veterans safe and healthy."

"We all owe a debt of gratitude to those that have served in defense of our many shared values."
COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY

American Legion Past National Commander Daniel Dellinger and National Security Commission Chairman Steven Brennan presented a wreath commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Allied Forces Victory in the Pacific at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 2.

On Sept. 2, 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allied Powers, when documents were signed aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, officially ending the deadliest military conflict in human history. An estimated 30 to 35 million people died during the war, including 400,000 Americans.

"When America entered the war, they were ill-prepared for what was to come," Dellinger said. "Only through the leadership exhibited by civilian and military leaders were we able to work together as a nation for the common goal of preserving our democracy.

"The Greatest Generation … through their shared grit and determination, were able to defeat two of the most powerful militaries in the world and preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today."

Military leaders lauded World War II veterans during the day's events hosted by Friends of the National World War II Memorial.

"The Greatest Generation took up arms against tyranny," Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley said. "From the ashes of destruction, death and bloodshed of that war, you established a rules-based global order rooted in political and economic liberty that has maintained Great Power peace for over seven decades."

Milley was joined by representatives from the Embassies of Pacific Theater Allied Nations marking the occasion at the "Freedom Wall," which is adorned by 4,048 sculpted gold stars, each representing 100 American military deaths during World War II.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RAISE AWARENESS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

While the components of foreign policy include trade, economics and national security, the coronavirus pandemic has brought another component critical to developing and maintaining policy into the limelight: health, defined by experts as health security – a developing but critical part of global relations.

That information was shared during an August 29 National Security Forum conducted through Zoom and open to members of The American Legion's National Security Commission and Committees, as well as department National Security chairpersons. American Legion National Commander James "Bill" Oxford also took part in the forum. The forum featured guest speakers from the National Security and Foreign Affairs community discussing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on National Security and Defense Global Affairs.

A panel discussion with representatives of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency/Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) discussed the need for health security, especially during the coronavirus pandemic...

The forum's viewers also heard from former U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) Robert M. Bercroft, whose foreign service included serving as U.S. ambassador in Bosnia, as well as postings in Sarajevo, Brussels, Belgium, Paris, Amman and other stops...

Bercroft said there are three definitions of diplomacy he prefers. "Diplomacy is the art of letting someone else have your way," he said. "Diplomacy is the art of saying 'nice doggy' until you can find a rock. And … more seriously, diplomacy is disguised war in which states seek to gain by barter and intrigue the objectives they would have to gain more clumsily by means of war."…

U.S. diplomats are tasked with being able to think on the fly and look at a wide range of possibilities. "Diplomats appreciate nuance. Instead of an automatic 'can do', we're trained to ask "what are our options and how can we exploit them in the U.S. interest?"" Beercroft said. "To some, asking probing questions at times of crisis and confusion may
seem like a weakness. Diplomats see it as a strength. It's sometimes necessary to talk to adversaries, not only friends."

The forum's viewers finally heard from Dr. Alton Frye, Presidential Senior Fellow Emeritus at the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent, nonpartisan member organization, think tank and publisher. He said the United States is best served in advancing its own interests by "understanding and taking account of the interests of other (countries). Not by always agreeing with them. We do not expect identical interests or common interests in every case. But the first task that I find before us … is to define a compatible interest among (nations). The objective is not to defer to the interests of others, but to identify those interests that we can accommodate, rather than to assume that we have to be incompatible."

Frye said the coronavirus has served to divert attention to what he called "the most protracted, long-term threats that we face. There's a familiar list: China becoming a global strategic power. Russia. (North) Korea. Iran. Others fall into lower categories."

Frye said the over-arching danger remains the "nuclear menace." Great clarity, he said, is needed in the essential goals of managing the nuclear danger. "Mutual assured destruction … is not a rational policy," he said. "It is a caricature. It is a technological condition that if nuclear warfare breaks out, the destruction will be on a historic scale."

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Participation in the Iowa Department Leadership School with Commander James D. Kessler, Adjutant John A. Derner, and PNC David K. Rehbein was exciting and of critical importance. An inquiry on the posture of the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel peace agreement was presented. As a result, staff moved forward with setting up desk-side briefings with the Department of State and the Department of Defense on the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement - a Treaty of Peace, Diplomatic Relations and Full Normalization between those countries.

In a historic signing ceremony hosted by President Donald Trump at the White House, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain on Tuesday became the third and fourth Arab nations to move toward establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel.

"We're here this afternoon to change the course of history," Trump said, speaking from the South Lawn of the White House ahead of the signing, presenting himself as a diplomat and dealmaker weeks ahead of the election. "After decades of division and conflict we mark the dawn of a new Middle East."

Representatives for Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain similarly heralded the historic nature of the agreements between their countries, making slight nods to the absent Palestinians and using soaring rhetoric to portray the dawn of a new era in the Middle East.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented himself as a peacemaker while speaking about strength, declaring "this day is a pivot of history. It heralds a new dawn of peace."

"This peace will eventually expand to include other Arab states and, ultimately, it can end the Arab-Israeli conflict once and for all," Netanyahu said.

LEADING THE WAY WHILE PAYING IT FORWARD

A Microsoft Teams call with a U.S. military staffer in the Defense Attaché's Office of the U.S. Embassy in Botswana was conducted as a result of a servicemember reaching out to the staff for assistance in lending our experience and lessons learned to begin the works in establishing a VSO. The servicemember is currently assisting the Government of Botswana Veterans Affairs Team develop their own veterans engagement program(s) akin to The American Legion. More background follows in the Defense Ministry Ex-Military 'Paupers' Bill:

The permanent secretary in the defense ministry, Matshidiso Bokole, said a majority of the ex-military officers are currently struggling, something that has forced the ministry to come up with a Military Veterans Act to address challenges bedeviling them.
Bokole revealed the plan when addressing the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) recently. She went on to share with the committee one of the ministry's achievements being the introduction of the Military Veterans Affairs Unit meant to address the welfare of retired soldiers.

She revealed that a majority of ex-soldiers are currently in the streets struggling because they were previously forced to retire early, especially those of lower ranks, and tend to suffer economic hardships.

"Those are issues that even honorable members are aware of through their constituencies.

"We are currently working on a military veterans bill in order to take care of them as the bill will be taking care of their welfare and management of military personnel," Bokole said.

She added it is possible to do so because in some countries ex-military officers are assisted to start businesses to empower them to take care of their families.

Matshidiso Bokole, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defense in Gabarone, Botswana said through the use of the military veterans' unit, the ministry would explore issues of bringing them together and help them to empower themselves.

She added that it is feasible, especially that in some neighboring countries like Zambia, with military veterans participating in the development of the economy. "Most of them are still active because in the past, especially of lower ranks, they were forced to retire whilst in their 40s with very low pensions to invest in their future.

We have been receiving a lot of such complaints against the Botswana Defense Force (BDF) from some ex-soldiers. Those are issues that we will be following in order to put the matter to rest," she said. She added that some ex-soldiers claim that during their active duty they served under the United Nations (UN) and those are some of the issues the plan intends to address.

Commenting on the matter, the Member of Parliament (MP) for Tonota constituency, Pono Moathodi said ex-military officers are struggling and are unable to feed their families.

He went on to ask the PS if she was aware that ex-militia are suffering with some of them having permanent injuries they incurred during their time as soldiers.

I am reliably informed that from the rank of sergeant downwards they are not pensionable. Some of them represented us very well during the Somalia wars, some represented the United Nations in past wars, but they are paupers," Moathodi said.

Sharing the same sentiments, Francistown South MP, Wynter Mmolotsi said this is a longstanding matter pleading with the permanent secretary to consider meeting with the BDF commander to resolve it. Mmolotsi said the matter has agitated them.

"This is a matter that we should not take lightly anymore. I do not know when it will be put to rest because it has brought a lot of agitation amongst retired soldiers. I believe that it is a matter that the ministry and BDF should interact closely on and put the issues to bed," Mmolotsi said.

REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

The American Legion recognizes our nation's finest of our Law Enforcement Officers. With their steadfast devotion and dedication to duty The American Legion is proud to recognize our Regional Law Enforcement of the Year Award for a job well done from a grateful nation.

This award recognizes those Law Enforcement Officers who have selflessly distinguished themselves over and above their normal duties predominately through community service activities and professional achievement.

The Regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards go to, Curt Andrick of Maine in the New England region, Jeffery S. Ginn of Michigan in the Central region, Brandon Medina of North Carolina of the Southern region, and Bradley K. Walther of Oregon in the Western region.

It is my pleasure to present these awards of behalf of The American Legion and a grateful nation. Job well done.
REGIONAL FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR AWARD

The American Legion recognizes the sacrifices and bravery of our nations Fire Fighters. With their steadfast devotion and dedication to duty The American Legion is proud to recognize our Regional Fire Fighters of the Year Award for a job well done from a grateful nation.

This award recognizes those firefighters who have selflessly distinguished themselves over and above their normal duties predominately through community service activities and professional achievement.

The Regional Firefighter of the Year Awards go to, Donald V. Fletcher of Maryland in the central region, Jeremiah Chisolm of Georgia of the Southern region, Robert Gottbreht of Washington in the western region, and no recipient received from the New England region this year.

It is my pleasure to present these awards of behalf of The American Legion and a grateful nation. Job well done.

POW/MIA UPDATE

National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the third Friday in September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Our participation in a socially distanced ceremony at the Pentagon, a traditionally national-level held ceremony on every National POW/MIA Recognition Day was paramount. It featured members from each branch of military service.

In addition to the national-level ceremony, observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day were held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities.

No matter where they are held, these National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain missing.

NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATIVE BILL TRACKER

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>S. Res. 510/H. Res. 910</td>
<td>A resolution commending the people of Taiwan on holding free and fair democratic presidential and legislative elections, and congratulating Madame Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election to the presidency of Taiwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. RES. 1012</td>
<td>Recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 3508/S.1634</td>
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<td>H.R. 367</td>
<td>Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019</td>
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<td>S.2297</td>
<td>Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4710</td>
<td>The bipartisan Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform Act</td>
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<td>H.R. 303</td>
<td>Retired Pay Restoration Act</td>
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<td>H.R. 4890</td>
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<td>H.R. 5151</td>
<td>Honoring the Oath Act</td>
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<td>S.2794</td>
<td>Bring Our Heroes Home Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 3393</td>
<td>A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. 1041</td>
<td>Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
S. 3732  A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes

S 1218/HR 2249  World War I Valor Medals Review Act

H.R.4807  Cold War Service Medal Act

H.Con.Res 10  Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to honor the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Second World War upon death.

S. 3258  SHIPS Implementation Act

H. RES. 1012  Recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War

H.R. 3508/ S.1634  South China Sea Sanctions

H.R.367  Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION

The National Security Division will support bipartisan legislation recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. A fully sponsored and supported congressional reception will be held. The National Security Division is working with the Legislative Division and the Embassy of Korea to host a Congressional reception in late Fall. The reception will provide a forum for Korea, Australia, Canada, United States and Congressional officials to discuss best practices through diplomatic relations.

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."

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 through diplomacy

The following resolutions are to be carried forward and continue as American Legion Policy.

2016 Convention 216 Support for the United States Air Force
2016 Convention 218 Support for the Selective Service Registration Program
2016 Convention 174 Security of Overseas Embassies
2016 Convention 201 Enhanced funding for USAID
2016 Convention 204 Policy on Latin and Central America
2016 Convention 205 Foreign Policy Objectives
2016 Convention 206 Middle East/Gulf States Foreign Policies
2016 Convention 208 Prohibit Foreign Investments in U.S. Defense Industry
2016 Convention 211 Securing Pakistan's Nuclear Arsenal
2016 Convention 213 Support for Foreign Exchange Education Programs
2016 Convention 214 Global Trade Policies
2016 Convention 222 Policy on Africa
2016 Convention 223 Policy on Cuba
2017 Convention 22 POW/MIA Policies
2018 Convention 34 Support for Department of Defense Stabilization Activities
2018 Convention 37 Taiwan Defense Arms Sales
2018 Convention 38 Taiwan Straits Dialogue
2018 Convention 118 Sustaining United States Commitments in the INDO-PACIFIC
2018 Fall 16 Recognition for Afghan and Iraqi Combat Translators
2016 Convention 16 Second Amendment
2016 Convention 20 Fully Enforce Immigration Laws
2016 Convention 17 Counter Transnational Organized Crime
2017 Convention 19 Homeland Security and the Opioid Epidemic
2017 Convention 20 National Cybersecurity Strategy
2016 Convention 105 Reference Veterans Service Organizations at Discharge
2016 Convention 109 Support for pain management research, treatments and therapies at DOD, VA, and NIH
2016 Convention 176 Authorize and fund TRICARE for Reserve Components and Dependents
2016 Convention 202 Military Retiree Mail at Overseas Embassies
2016 Convention 209 Space Travel for Unemployed and Disabled Veterans and Dependents
2016 Convention 224 Support for Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement Pay And VA Disability Compensation
2018 Spring 9 Military Commissaries
2018 Convention 5 Publicize and promote the Armed Services Retirement Homes
2018 Fall 12 Survivor Benefit Plan
2019 Convention 16 Coast Guard Pay Discrimination
2019 Convention 40 Gold Star Children Access to Base Exchange, Commissaries and MWR Facilities
2016 Convention 17 Position on the Operational Reserve
2016 Convention 22 Guard and Reserve Space-A Travel
2016 Convention 25 Support the Non-Federal Roles of the National Guard
2016 Convention 28 Reserves and National Guard Retirement Benefit Fairness

ADDENDUM A

Hold for Further Study
Resolution No. 20 (TX) (2019 Natl. Conv.): Oppose Deportation Of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans
Register Resolution No. 2770 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Oppose Exclusion of Transgender Americans from the Military
Register Resolution No. 2796 (CT) (2020 DEC): Support for First Responders And Law Enforcement Agencies

Received and Recorded
Register Resolution No. 2791 (MT) (2020 DEC): Establish Committee To Study The Role Of The American Legion In Electromagnetic Pulse Defense
Register Resolution No. 2792 (MT) (2020 DEC): Update Responsibilities Of The Aerospace Committee
Register Resolution No. 2793 (MT) (2020 DEC): Establish Committee To Review The Purpose And Committee Structure Of The National Security Commission

Rejected
Register Resolution No. 2794 (MT) (2020 DEC): Air Force Procurement of B-21s
Withdrawn
Resolution No. 17 (National Security Commission) (2019 Fall NEC): Oppose Deportation Of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission with the exception of six resolutions and one addendum. …Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission with the exception of six resolutions and one addendum. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carried, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 22: Addressing the "Forever War"
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, Nearly two decades after the fall of the World Trade Center and the attack on the Pentagon, American troops continue to wage war in Iraq, Afghanistan and lesser-known corners of the world; and

WHEREAS, Our servicemembers accomplished their original objectives in Afghanistan long ago at great cost — psychological, physical and spiritual; and
WHEREAS, The war on terrorism — the "forever war" or "endless war," as many call it — has been used as the basis for an ever-expanding range of military actions; and
WHEREAS, James Madison wrote to Thomas Jefferson in 1798 "The Constitution supposes, what the History of all Governments demonstrates that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war…. It has accordingly with studied care, vested the question of war in the Legislature"; and
WHEREAS, Congress has mostly abdicated their Article I responsibilities to authorize and oversee military actions by extensive, potentially permanent delegations of congressional war powers; and
WHEREAS, The post-9/11 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) has now been in effect for over twice as long as the 1964-1971 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which gave U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson authorization, without a formal declaration of war by Congress, for the use of conventional military force in Southeast Asia; and
WHEREAS, The Pentagon's 2018 National Defense Strategy lays out a world where great-power competition, rather than counterterrorism, will drive the department's decision-making and force structure; and
WHEREAS, Even a growing number of foreign policy officials have begun to advocate a drawdown in the Middle East and Central Asia because of what they call the opportunity costs to America's mission of balancing against the "revisionist powers" of China and Russia; and
WHEREAS, The emphasis on bolstering a deterrent posture in Asia and Europe should have an attendant downward impact on the U.S. military's activities in the Middle East, Africa, and the Western Hemisphere; and
WHEREAS, From global pandemics to weak and fragile states, America faces an unprecedented number of complex global threats that cannot be solved by military power alone; and
WHEREAS, A disproportionate flow of resources is going to military and intelligence solutions along with a more general sidelining of diplomacy amid a continuing "militarization of foreign policy"; and
WHEREAS, Addressing the root causes of violent conflict overseas through development and diplomacy helps protect Americans and helps reduce the need to send our servicemembers into harm's way; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urges a renewal of a proper constitutional balance to American foreign policy
Proceedings of Wednesday, October 14, 2020

decision-making by encouraging Congress to repeal and replace outdated Authorizations for Use of Military Force; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion advocate for the importance of a civilian-led approach of elevating development and diplomacy alongside a strong defense in order to build a better, safer world.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 22 has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 22, two-two. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, Resolution No. 22 carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 23: Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The United States has grown more dependent on foreign sourced raw materials, medicines, and vaccines for the Department of Defense of which most procured products and production comes from Asia; and

WHEREAS, An assessment of the resilience and capacity of the current pharmaceutical defense industrial base supply chain is necessary in order to identify gaps and ensure sufficient domestic manufacturing capacity; and

WHEREAS, When the secretary of defense determines there are shortages of pharmaceutical raw materials, medicine, or vaccines, the Department of Defense can use the Defense Production Act to acquire both "American-made" products and products from trusted foreign allies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion support efforts to provide more stable and sustainable American-made and sourced raw materials, medications, and vaccines to ensure no shortages impact combat readiness and force protection while diversifying our supply chain to safeguard against potential threats from peer threats, state actors, and non-state actors.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 23 has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There has been a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 23, two-three. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, resolution carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 24: Support for Peaceful Conflict Resolution in the Country of Georgia
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports the continued development of democratic values of Georgia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, while supporting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic and European integration; and

WHEREAS, We condemn ongoing detentions, kidnappings, and other human rights violations committed in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia which have been forcibly occupied by the Russian Federation, including the killings of Georgian citizens Archil Tatumashvili, Giga Otkhozoria, and Davit Basharuli; and
WHEREAS, Establishing security mechanisms for the safe and dignified return of internationally displaced persons and refugees is important for lasting peace and security in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Enhancing assistance to combat Russian disinformation and propaganda intended to undermine the sovereign democratic institutions of Georgia will promote freedom of the press; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That the American Legion support a peaceful conflict resolution in Georgia, in conjunction with the Russian Federation, and urges the Russian Federation to fully implement the European Union-mediated ceasefire agreement of August 12, 2008; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Congress mandate a detailed assessment of Russian disinformation and propaganda efforts across all media platforms targeting Georgia, to include an assessment of Georgia's capabilities to deter and combat Russian disinformation campaigns.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 24 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. 24, two-four. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, resolution two-four.

Resolution No. 25: Funding For Protection Of The National Power Grid Against Electromagnetic Pulse Attack

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2778 (IL) Department Convention
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has established the four pillars of service of our great organization, namely, national defense, Americanism, children and youth, and veterans affairs and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, The United States depends on a power grid for virtually all modern life functions and necessary essential services; and

WHEREAS, The United States power grid is vulnerable to electromagnetic pulse (EMP), high altitude electromagnetic pulse (HEMP) and solar flares; and

WHEREAS, EMPs affect all electronics including military and civilian communications, computers, cellphones and transformers; and

WHEREAS, Adversaries and potential enemies have current capability to create EMPs with missile capability to deliver high altitude nuclear weapons over the United States; and

WHEREAS, Such EMPs can impair our defense capability for as much as five years, thereby compromising United States security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That the American Legion urge Congress to approve funding to harden and protect the deteriorating United States power grid, such action being necessary for the continued defense of the United States should an electromagnetic pulse attack on the United States occur.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 25 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. 25, two-five. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, motion carries to adopt resolution two-five, unanimous consent.
Resolution No. 26: Support For The United States Space Force

Origin: National Security Commission

Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, Space is critical to the American way of life with our dependency on satellites for commerce, communications, power grids, air and ground transportation, emergency services, and national security; and

WHEREAS, Over 2,200 operational satellites are in orbit, with over 1,000 owned and operated by United States firms and the United States government agencies or military units, in support of a space-based economy of over $415 billion; and

WHEREAS, Freedom of the seas was essential to the United States' economic and national security in previous centuries, so is space essential for our continued economic and national security in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Service personnel of all branches of the military are critically dependent on the services provided by our space assets with a typical Army brigade having over 2,000 pieces of equipment that rely on space assets to function; and

WHEREAS, Today's warfighter's battlefield superiority is dependent on our space assets in that those who control space controls the land, sea, and air battlefield environment; and

WHEREAS, China and Russia view space as a critical United States military and economic vulnerability and both are developing doctrine and weapon systems geared toward damaging or interfering with opposing force navigation, reconnaissance and communications satellites; and

WHEREAS, Virtually every United States president, since John F. Kennedy has called for the United States to occupy "a position of pre-eminence" in space, and has recognized the importance of space to our national defense; and

WHEREAS, On 1 September 1982 the Space Force was initially formed as Air Force Space Command within the Air Force "to avoid a space Pearl Harbor"; and

WHEREAS, The Congress and president formally created the U.S. Space Force as a separate military service on 20 December 2019, with the signing of the United States Space Force Act, part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2020; and

WHEREAS, The cornerstone responsibilities of the United States Space Force are: preserve freedom of action, enable joint lethality and effectiveness, and provide independent options fed by the core competencies of space security, combat power projection, space mobility and logistics, information mobility, and space domain awareness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urges Congress to appropriately support the United States Space Force's commitment to attract, retain, and train quality people who will be molded into a force capable of flexibly responding to threats to America's national and economic security that will enhance readiness through its continued focus on total force integration and modernization programs that will maintain America's dominance in space well into the 21st century.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 26 has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There has been a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 26, two-six. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, motion carries to adopt Resolution No. 26 two-six, unanimous consent.
Resolution No. 27: Sustaining Counterterrorism Efforts
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of wartime veterans created by an act of the United States Congress in 1919; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to the security and defense of the United States and its allies; and

WHEREAS, In any war, continued public support not only for the troops, but also for their mission, is essential for victory; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America was suddenly, and without provocation, attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001, resulting in the death of nearly 3,000 innocent people, injuring over 6,000 victims, and causing untold economic damage to the nation; and

WHEREAS, This attack was not an isolated event, but one in a long series of terrorist attacks aimed at destroying such core American values as liberty, democracy and respect for human rights; and

WHEREAS, In response to this clear act of war against the United States, Congress authorized the use of military force against those persons and organizations who planned and helped carry out the attack, their affiliates and those that harbored them, and to deter and pre-empt future acts of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Our servicemembers have made tremendous sacrifices over the past decade in fighting the forces of tyranny and terror; and

WHEREAS, Members of the United States military and intelligence agencies, displaying great courage and commitment to the mission, are still deployed around the world in support of counterterrorism efforts, including Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, the Philippines, and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, While the U.S. and our allies have had great successes in the war on terrorism; global terrorist groups, and their sponsors, continue to operate in many locations and pose a grave threat to the national security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense's 2018 National Defense Strategy lays out a world where great-power competition, rather than counterterrorism, will drive the department's decision-making and force structure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion fully supports the men, women, and leadership of our armed forces as they are engaged in ongoing counterterrorism efforts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion fully supports a joint force with a long-term strategic plan, ability to rapidly disperse new technologies, and devise new concepts of warfare that span the entire spectrum of conflict; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion fully supports a more effective, lethal, resilient, and rapidly innovative joint force, combined with a robust constellation of allies and partners, to sustain American influence, ensure favorable balances of power that will safeguard the free and open international order.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 27 has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There has been a motion and a second to adopt Resolution No. 27, two-seven. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, motion carries to adopt Resolution No. 27, unanimous consent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, attached to the report of the National Security Commission is Addendum A. I move the actions of the National Security Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded that the actions of the National Security Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? I'd like to recognize David Carlson, NEC from Hawaii.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON (HI): I got caught a little off guard here. I just wanted to make a statement on it since it passed, Resolution No. 22. Those of us in the Vietnam era remember when Johnson had his Whiz Kids running the military, and we had our boys getting shot down and fighting in weird areas because of abject fear of China and Russia. That's all I have.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, David. Any further objections? Hearing none, motion carries to adopt the actions of the National Security Commission. The chair would like to recognize National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler of Virginia for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, I would like to announce that I notice that, for the first time in many meetings, Past National Commander Dominic DiFrancesco is with us. He's been ill, and I know everyone wants to extend their good wishes to him for a speedy recovery. Tomorrow the NEC will reconvene at 11 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The meeting promises to be much shorter than today's, and dinner this evening is on your own. (Laughter)

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Dan. Please rise and join me in saluting the colors of our country by the numbers: One, two. We're now in recess until 11 a.m. Eastern time tomorrow.

...At 3:25 p.m., Wednesday, October 14, 2020, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, October 15, 2020.
...At 11:00 a.m. EDT, the National Executive Committee reconvened, National Commander Oxford presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Good morning. I call this meeting of the National Executive Committee to order. Please stand, join me in a salute to the colors of our nation: One, two. I now call on National Chaplain Edward L. Harris of Indiana for the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Dear God, thank You for this day, and as I always pray, thank You for allowing us to be a part of this day. God, I now ask that You give a special blessing of strength and continued knowledge to our national commander and our national adjutant, and the same to all of our national officers and the department heads and their staff of our organization. For it is they who develop the many programs that continue to make our American Legion the greatest and most serving veterans organization. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please recover and be seated. I now call on the national adjutant, Daniel S. Wheeler of Virginia, for the 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
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia  Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Robert S. Turner, Georgia (Excused)  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
National Executive Committee Members

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<td>Willis Frazier</td>
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<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>Angel O. Narvaez</td>
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Rhode Island  David A. Williams  
South Carolina  Michael D. Strauss  
South Dakota  James Huls  
Tennessee  David G. Alexander (Excused)  Robert W. Hensley  
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  Douglas Uhrig  

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, you have a quorum.  

Legislative Program for the 117th Congress  

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I would like to move that the resolutions with legislative intent that were distributed as part of the legislative program through the 117th Congress on Addendum I be approved. ....Second.  

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Any objections? Motion carried with unanimous consent.  

Addendum I  

The Legislative Commission is required, under Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, to compile a list of resolutions with legislative intent adopted during meetings of the American Legion National Convention and the American Legion National Executive Committee. The following resolutions constitute an ongoing list of all resolutions that are legislative in nature. This list of resolutions will constitute part of The American Legion's legislative program through the 117th Congress  

The following resolutions passed at the Fall National Executive Committee meeting, October 14-15, 2020 are added to the Legislative Agenda:  

INTERNAL AFFAIRS  

Resolution No. 17: Support for Review of Minority Awards of Medal of Honor WWI and Subsequent Wars/Conflicts  

NATIONAL SECURITY  

Resolution No. 22: Addressing the "Forever War"  

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION  

Resolution No. 3: Accuracy in Reporting Survivor Benefits and COVID-19  
Resolution No. 8: Department of Veterans Affairs Revise the Definition of "Vietnam Era"  
Resolution No. 11: Mare Island Cemetery  

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION  

Resolution No. 13: "Buy American" Policy within the Federal Government to Create Opportunities for Veterans  
Resolution No. 14: Post 9/11 Transfer of Educational Benefits
The following resolutions which were passed at previous meetings and conventions remain on the Legislative Agenda:

**AMERICANISM**
2016 Fall 19 Flag Code Amendment
2016 Convention 301 Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits
2016 Convention 303 Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Flag of the United States
2018 Convention 111 English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS**
2016 Fall 11 Support and Defend Veteran and Military Memorials
2017 Spring 16 National Global War on Terrorism Memorial
2017 Fall 11 National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for Honorably Discharged Veterans
2018 Convention 50 Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage
2018 Convention 86 Award Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133rd Signal Service Company
2018 Convention 110 Support Congressional Gold Medal for Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators of WWI
2018 Fall 1 Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Recognition
2019 Convention 57 Coin Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II

**NATIONAL SECURITY**
2016 Convention 225 Fully Fund NASA
2016 Convention 29 Commercial Shipbuilding For Defense
2016 Convention 33 Rare Earth Elements
2016 Convention 96 Support Full Funding And Resourcing For The U.S. Navy And Marine Corps
2016 Convention 219 Support Full Funding For The Department Of The Army Budget
2018 Convention 35 National Defense Budget
2016 Convention 45 Policy On The Arctic Region
2016 Convention 90 South China Sea Island Building
2018 Convention 117 Japan Arms Sales
2019 Convention 41 Protection Of The POW/MIA Flag
2016 Convention 23 Support For The Department Of Homeland Security And Coast Guard
2016 Convention 24 Illegal Immigration Policy
2016 Convention 32 Support Domestic Energy Production
2016 Convention 91 Cybersecurity And Identity Theft
2016 Convention 173 Secure National Borders Against Illegal Drugs
2016 Convention 85 Support For Military Quality Of Life Standards
2016 Convention 93 Codify Burial Eligibility For Arlington National Cemetery
2016 Convention 94 Earned Military Benefits
2016 Convention 102 Oppose Tricare Fee Increases
2016 Convention 107 Support Armed Services Retirement Homes
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**VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

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<td>Abolish Premium For Delayed Enrollment In Medicare Part B For Veterans Eligible For Medical Benefits From The Department Of Veterans Affairs</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION**

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<td>2018</td>
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<td>Support and Expand Warrior Transition Advancement Course (WARTAC)</td>
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<td>Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development and Veterans Business Outreach Centers</td>
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<td>Military Spouse Employment</td>
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<td>Preserve Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Protections</td>
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<td>Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)</td>
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<td>Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservists Returning from Deployment</td>
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<td>Oppose Efforts to Downgrade Low-Level Wage Positions within the Department of Veterans Affairs</td>
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<td>Support Legislation that Ensures that all Agencies that Receive Funding from the U.S. Department of Labor or the Workforce Investment Act Meet the Mandatory Compliance Standards for Veterans Preference</td>
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<td>Support Improvements in the Reporting Programs available to and Administered by Veterans' Employment and Training Service</td>
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2016 Convention 151 Status of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business after the Death of the Veteran Owner
2016 Convention 153 Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development
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2016 Convention 170 Oppose the Department of Labor's Restructuring of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative Roles
2016 Convention 254 Raise on VA Home Loans for Two Legally Married Eligible Veterans
2016 Convention 274 Support Employment Services for Spouses of Servicemembers Killed in the Line of Duty
2016 Convention 311 Federal and State Incentive for Employers to use Veterans' Preference
2016 Convention 313 Support Elimination Funding Fees for Government Guaranteed Loans
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2016 Convention 316 Support Employment of Veterans in the Public and Private Workforce
2016 Convention 317 Enforcing Veterans' Preference Hiring Practices in Federal Civil Service
2016 Convention 318 Ensuring the Quality of Servicemember and Veteran Student's
2016 Convention 319 Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within The Department of Veterans Affairs
2016 Convention 327 Support further Assessment and Evaluation of Institutions of Higher Learning to Enable Veterans to make Informed Education Choices
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2016 Convention 329 Support Home Loan Guaranty Program
2016 Convention 330 Homeless Veterans Assistance
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2016 Convention 332 Support Funding for The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Homeless Program
2016 Convention 333 Support Increase in Reporting Fees for Educational Institutions
2016 Convention 334 Support Legislation to Increase Telework (Telecommuting) Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veterans and Military Spouses
2016 Convention 335 Support Major Enhancements for The Montgomery GI Bill
2016 Convention 336 Support Legislation that would Change The 12-Year Delimiting Date for Eligibility to Chapter 31 Benefits (VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program)
2016 Convention 339 Support the Rollover of Ira Account Penalty of Tax Liability of a Permanent and Total 100 Percent Service-Disabled Veteran with Individual Unemployability

2016 Convention 340 Support Permanent Authorization for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

2016 Convention 341 Support Recognition of Military and Pay when Calculating Starting Federal Civilian Salaries

2016 Convention 344 Support Federal Legislation that Protects the Employment of Veterans in the U. S. Postal Service Mail Processing Facilities that are Slated for Closure


2016 Convention 348 Support Legislation that Bolsters the Hiring of Veterans in the Private Sectors

2016 Convention 349 Support Legislation to improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill

2016 Convention 351 Support Tax Credit for certain Employers

2016 Convention 352 Transitional Housing Allotments for returning Combat Veterans

2016 Convention 353 Support a Veteran-Centric Website for Employment

2016 Convention 354 Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program

2016 Convention 355 Veterans Employment Initiative

2016 Convention 356 Veterans Home Loans

2016 Convention 357 Support Veterans Housing Repair and Modification for Pilot Program

2016 Convention 358 Support Veterans' Preference in Public Employment

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Are there other resolutions, motions, or petitions to receive? Chair recognizes Dennis Boland.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Mr. Chairman, there is no unfinished business, additional resolutions, motions, or petitions to consider.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Okay. Do we have unfinished business from the previous day or resolutions lying over from the previous day?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Commander, there is no unfinished business, additional resolutions, motions or petitions to consider.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: At this point I'd like to recognize Chairman Gaither Keener of the Finance Commission, for a clarification or a technical correction on his report.

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: Thank you, commander. My apologies to the NEC. Because of some minor technical difficulties yesterday, I was not able to access the microphones and be heard in regards to questions that were asked.

As a matter of clarification this morning, my NEC liaison chair, Michael Mitrione, and I discussed the insurance resolution. The insurance resolution, the first three paragraphs of the first three "Resolved" talks only about liability policies. All policies, there are liability policies, and if the department has such policies, The American Legion should be named as additional insured.

I know that a lot of you are not aware of the difference between a casualty policy and a liability policy. The general commercial liability policy, which you may think of, is a liability policy. The EPL policies that several departments have is a liability policy. The D&O liability policy is a liability policy. And your bonding theft, as required by the constitution of our organization, is a liability policy.

However, fire protection and flood are not liability. They're casualty policies. So, I thought I'd make that clarification. I know that the judge advocate and I discussed it this morning, and he agrees with my statement here, because he and I worked on this resolution together for over six months. With that said, the judge advocate will probably be sending
out a memo clarifying this for the departments. So, I think, Michael, I hope that answered your question, because it is liability policies only. That's all I have to say, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to call on the national judge advocate for comment.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: Thank you very much, Commander. Chairman Keener is absolutely correct, and I applaud and thank him for that proper clarification.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE (VA): Mr. Commander, Mike Mitrione, Virginia.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize NEC Mike Mitrione.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: Given the discussion we had about the insurance, would Resolution Number 35 have to be amended to add the word "liability" in front of "insurance"?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chairman Keener, would you address that?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: Yes. Michael, it's my opinion it does not, because the three "Resolved" clauses in the very first of the resolution talks about liability. It says "insurance," it's talking basically only liability insurance. Second, the national organization nor the department, can be named as an additional insured on a fire protection policy or a flood policy, because they don't have any insurable interest. I think that the resolution is fine as it is and, like I said, the national judge advocate will be sending a memo clarifying what policies. A lot of departments don't have CGLs, a lot of departments don't have EPLs. I hope they do. A lot of departments don't have D&O, and they should have bonding. So those are the four key policies in a liability policy.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: Thank you for that clarification, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: Thank you, Michael. I apologize if there was a misunderstanding during the meeting because I just said, "liability policies." I will try to make sure in the future that is very clear, although I know that several people may have understood what I was saying. Thank you, Michael, for working with me on this.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mike, does that answer your question?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITRIONE: Very much so, commander. Thank you so much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Gaither, for those comments.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS: Mr. Commander, past NEC Santos. I have an inquiry.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize past NEC Santos.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS: To the national judge advocate. When I stated that the moneys and securities coverage or moneys and disappearance are liability, I ask you to double-check with our insurance agent. They're always sold under property policies, they're all part of property insurance, not liability. So, you may want to check on that, calling money and securities coverage a liability insurance policy.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, commander. Gaither, would you make a comment about that?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: That must be Delaware or some other state law. I can tell you that majority of the laws, that it is property, but it is also a liability issue also. I can tell you that's my opinion, as being involved with insurance coverage for over 40-something years. But we can look at that better, commander, in regard to your statement. The only reason we have bonding there is because several times, as we all know, money is taken, and the dues never get paid to national or to departments.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Gaither. Rick, that might be an issue that we can look at.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS: Sure. That's all I was asking, just take a look at it. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you. At this time, I'd like to recognize the national adjutant for confirmation of interim appointments, confirmation and
cancellation of post and/or squadron charters, and confirmation of dates for future meetings.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Mr. Commander, may I address the adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: 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 VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. Mr. Commander, I move that the list of appointments of members of standing or special commissions, committees, boards, or subcommittees of the NEC be approved without being read. Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded that the list of interim appointments be approved without being read. Any discussion? Objections? None being heard, motion carried to approve the list of interim appointments.

Confirmation of Interim Appointments

National Executive Committee Meeting

Indianapolis, Indiana

October 15, 2020

William W. Kile (West Virginia), Resolutions Subcommittee, Chairman [Replaces David O. Warnken (Kansas) – resigned]

Dennis R. Boland (Florida), Resolutions Subcommittee, Vice Chairman [Replaces William W. Kile (West Virginia)]

Dan K. Wiley (Kansas), Resolutions Subcommittee, Member [Replaces Dennis R. Boland (Florida)]

Douglas L. Huffman (Idaho), Americanism Commission, 2020 Member (Replaces Jack A. Youngs)

Frank J. Fazzio (New York), Americanism Commission, 2020 Member (Replaces Timothy J. Collmer – resigned)

Michael F. Mitrione (Virginia), Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee, Member [Replaces David O. Warnken (Kansas) – resigned]

Charles A. Jackson (New Jersey), Committee on Children & Youth, 2020 Member (Replaces Anthony Lori – deceased)

Kimberly A. Gwyn (Pennsylvania), Committee on Children & Youth, 2022 (Replaces Debra L. Williams – declined appointment)

Deborah Morris, Committee on Youth Education, Auxiliary Consultant (Replaces Linda Feezer – resigned)

Kenneth Paschal (Alabama), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Wayne Stacey – deceased)

Kurt Gies (Florida), Americanism Council, Member [Replaces Robert C. Johnson (Massachusetts) – deceased]

Sandra F. Jordan (Georgia), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Nathaniel L. King – resigned)

Mark A. Person, (Idaho), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Douglas L. Huffman)

Ronald Peppi (Kentucky), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Patrick M. Keefe – declined appointment)

Michael Hurst (Mississippi), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Stanley E Cantrell – declined appointment)

Rose M. Noonan (Missouri), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces James F. Mareshal – deceased)

James L. Beecher (New York), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Frank J. Fazzio – resigned)
David Elmendorf (New York), Americanism Council, Member (New appointment)
Jason Rue (Ohio), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Ruth E. Crutcher – declined appointment)
Patrick O’Brien (Pennsylvania), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Vera G. Eppler – declined appointment)
Ronald J. Hessil (Tennessee), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Shawn J. Brunelle – declined appointment)
Sondra Dickerson (Virginia), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Theresa L. Puckett)
Charles E. Gannon (Maryland), Convention Commission, Vice Chairman [Replaces John Aldecoa (AZ) – deceased]
Dennis O. Brendan (South Dakota), Convention Commission, 2022 Member (Replaces Gunner D. Baatrup)
Kit Watson (Pennsylvania), Convention Commission Advisory Board, Member (Replaces Randall D. Tesdahl – resigned)
Mike Maxa (Minnesota), Convention Commission Advisory Board, Member (Replaces Kit Watson)
Robert J. Morrill (New York), Finance Commission, 2020 Member (Replaces Denis J. McEneaney – resigned)
Michael F. Mitrione (Virginia), Chairman, Finance Commission Liaison Committee [Replaces David O. Warnken (Kansas) – resigned]
Dan K. Wiley (Kansas), Finance Commission Liaison Committee – Replaces Michael F. Mitrione (Virginia)
Robert J. Morrill (New York), American Legion Charities, Member (Replaces Denis J. McEneaney – resigned)
Timothy J. Collmer (New York), Internal Affairs Commission, National Commander's Representative (Replaces Robert J. Morrill – resigned)
James A. Chaney (Kentucky), Internal Affairs Commission, 2022 Member (Replaces Phillip Davis – deceased)
Jessie Horton (Washington), American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, Consultant [Replaces William G. Akers (Alabama) – resigned]
Bonnie Huffman (Idaho), Membership & Post Activities Committee, Consultant (Replaces Matt Wrobel)
W. Michael Bowen (New York), Marketing Commission, Consultant (New appointment)
John Dollinger (Florida), Marketing Commission, 2021 Member (Replaces Lorraine Ahern – declined appointment)
James M. Rohan (Wisconsin), Marketing Commission Executive Committee, Chairman (New appointment)
Gaither M. Keener, Jr. (North Carolina), Marketing Commission Executive Committee, Vice Chairman (New appointment)
Matthew J. Shuman (Arizona), Marketing Commission Executive Committee, National Commander's Representative (New appointment)
John W. Bowen (Colorado), Marketing Commission Executive Committee, Member (New appointment)
Sally Nay (Massachusetts), Marketing Commission Executive Committee, Member (New appointment)
Walter W. Ivie (Texas), Marketing Commission Executive Committee, Member (New appointment)
Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, (Wisconsin), Marketing Commission Executive Committee, Member (New appointment)
David O. Warnken (Kansas), Media & Communications Commission, 2020 Member (Replaces Dan K. Wiley)
John T. Dirkin (California), Media & Communications Council, Member (New appointment)
Benjamin David Gibson (California), Media & Communications Council, Member (New appointment)
Michael Hjelmstad (California), Media & Communications Council, Member (New appointment)
Dennis L. Matarrese (California), Media & Communications Council, Member (New appointment)
Xochitl S. Paderes (California), Media & Communications Council, Member (New appointment)
Patrick Keefe (Kentucky), Media & Communications Council, Member (Replaces James A. Chaney)
Tommy Omer (Kentucky, Media & Communications Council, Member (Replaces Parvin R. Gibbs)
Raymond Vail (Kansas), National Security Commission, 2020 Member (Replaces Gaylord Sanneman)
Lowell E. Long, Jr., (Montana), Conventional Armed Forces Committee, 2022 Member (Replaces George D. Blackard – resigned)
John Kilgallon (Maryland), Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee, 2021 Member (Replaces William Milligan – deceased)
Stuart Scott (Florida), National Security Council, Member [Replaces Alvan T. Fuller (Massachusetts) – deceased]
Parvin R. Gibbs (Kentucky), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Roscoe Robey, Jr. – declined appointment)
Curtis Merrill (Maine), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Matthew Jabaut)
Kevin P. Hamel (Massachusetts), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Billy E. Dolin – deceased)
James Hooker (Mexico), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Mark A. Walker – declined appointment)
Skip Gruber (Nevada), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Richard L. Eberly – declined appointment)
Douglas Uhrig (Wyoming), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Liaison Committee, Member (Replaces Terry E. Miller – resigned)
Paul Smith (Indiana), Health Administration Committee, 2020 Member (Replaces Homer Loudermile – deceased)
Amery Vasso (New Jersey), Health Administration Committee, 2022 Member (Replaces Charles A. Jackson – resigned)
Cecil F. "Bud" Hennis (South Carolina), National Cemetery Committee, 2021 Member (Replaces Leroy Williams – deceased)
Louis J. Neubecker (Oregon), National Cemetery Committee, Consultant (Replaces Phyllis P. York – deceased)
Theresa Puckett (Virginia), National Cemetery Committee, 2022 Member (Replaces Willie D. Ransom – declined appointment)
Mark D. Demers (Georgia), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (Replaces Enrique Henri Torres)
Dr. George D. Horn (Illinois), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (Replaces William J. Skoumal, Jr. – declined appointment)
Eilene Fisher (New York), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (New appointment)
Earl M. Schmidt (New York), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (Replaces Lynda A. Pixley – declined appointment)
Courtney Vanzanten (South Dakota), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (Replaces Wayne Vetter – declined appointment)
Michael T. Byrnes (New York), Veterans Employment & Education Commission, 2021 Member (Replaces W. Michael Bowen – resigned)
  Buddy Keen (Alabama), Veterans Employment & Education Commission, 2022 Member (Replaces John J. Keen, Sr.)
  Francis C. Morales (Idaho), Employment & Veterans Preference Committee, Consultant (Replaces Bonnie Huffman)

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: At this time, 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**

Commander, national officers, my colleagues on the National Executive Committee. The future of The American Legion lies in your hands. You have the responsibility of recommending the most qualified members of your department to serve on various commissions, committees, and councils. We stress this, especially on the qualification of a particular member to serve in the capacity that you recommend. It is also imperative that those individuals 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 enlisted to serve, become deceased, that you notify the national adjutant's office so that changes can be properly addressed, and appropriate people notified.

This committee has reviewed all national appointments with the national commander's recommendation that all appointments be extended one year, due to the current pandemic, unless there is a commission, committee, or council resignation or death. I thank you for your support in this matter. Next year we hope to return to the customary procedure, and I will stress the importance of filling out your appointment forms in their entirety and submitting them by the deadline. I would also ask that you use the revised template provided from the national headquarters office. Please do not submit handwritten appointment forms. If you have any questions about appointments, please refer to the new NEC members orientation brochure.

Commander Oxford, thank you for the privilege as serving as chairman of this subcommittee and for the qualified people that you have assigned to serve with me. I would like to recognize the Subcommittee on Committee members who have assisted me. Our vice chairman, D. Joseph Jackson, Connecticut; Mary V. Erdman, Arkansas; James Huls, South Dakota; Terry D. Schow, Utah; and Michael F. Mitrione, Virginia. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the members of the subcommittee, I want to commend the National Executive Committee members, department commanders, and department adjutants for the timely manner in which you responded this year, enabling the draft report to be prepared prior to these virtual meetings. This report was submitted to the national commander's office for his final approval. The report in its final form was sent to you prior to these meetings. We commend the staff on its excellent work in preparation of this report. I also commend the members of my subcommittee for their hard work. And thank you, commander, and all of those who helped in the decision to extend appointments this year.

With the list in your possession, you have had the opportunity to look it over. I recommend that we do not take time to read it aloud at this time. Therefore, I move that the report be approved, with the exception of whatever minor corrections may be required, and that the national commander be given authority to make any interim appointments as deemed necessary. Commander, this completes my report.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and adopt the record of the Subcommittee on Committees. Any discussion? Objections?
Motion carries to adopt the report of the Subcommittee on Committees, unanimous consent.

**Miscellaneous Business and Technical Motions**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I would like to make a technical motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes Bill Kile.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: I 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 NEC meeting, and to proceed to edit and distribute those minutes. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded for the adjutant to be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meetings and make any necessary corrections without changing intent, and to proceed to distribute those minutes. Any further discussion? Any objections? Motion carried, the adjutant is so instructed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of cancellation of post and squadron charters is a true and correct list, and everything has been done to try and revitalize these posts?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move the list be approved without being read. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve the list of cancellations of post and/or squadron charters without being read. Any further discussion? Objections? Motion carried, unanimous consent.

**Confirmation of Cancellation of Posts and/or Squadron Charters**

Post Charters of the American Legion Presented to the National Executive Committee for Cancellation October 17, 2020

On October 17, 2019, at the Fall meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of forty-two (42) 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:

One hundred three (103) Posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2020 Fall National Executive Committee "virtual" meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 14-15, 2020.

**See Merging Post Information Below**

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<tr>
<td>0129</td>
<td>William Thomas</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
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**SAL Charters of the American Legion Presented to The National Executive Committee for Cancellation October 15, 2020**

On October 17, 2019, at the Fall meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of five (5) Squadrons.

Twenty-six (26) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2020 Fall National Executive Committee "virtual" meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 14-15, 2020.

**See Merging Squadron Information Below**

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<td>Leroy Elliott</td>
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<td>0104*</td>
<td>Nashua</td>
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<td>0014</td>
<td>West Hoboken</td>
<td>Union City</td>
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<td>Murfreesboro</td>
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*(squadron only)*
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, may I again address the national adjutant in regards to the confirmation of dates for future meetings?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: So, granted.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, are there dates of future meetings that require approval of the National Executive Committee?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Chairman, there are two additional dates which have been added since this list was distributed. It is the 2023 D.C. Conference, it is February 26 through March 1, 2023. And the 2024 D.C. conference is February 24 through 28, 2024. The rest are correct and have been approved.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of the dates of future meetings as being true and correct?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, without that list being read, I move that they be approved and printed in the digest. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It’s been moved and seconded to approve the dates of future meetings without being read, with the additions, and they will be published in the digest. Any further discussion? Objections? None being heard, motion passes, unanimous consent.

**Confirmation of Dates of Future Meetings**

**NEC Approval Needed**

**2023 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**
February 26 - March 1

**2024 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**
February 24-28

**2024 SPRING MEETINGS**
Commissions and Committees May 6-7
National Executive Committee May 8-9

**2024 FALL MEETINGS**
Commissions and Committees October 7-8
Commanders and Adjutants Conference October 7-8
National Executive Committee October 9-10

**Previously Approved by NEC**

**2020 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**
March 8-11

**2020 SPRING MEETINGS**
Commissions and Committees May 4-5
National Executive Committee May 6-7
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, may I again address the national adjutant regarding significant gifts to the library?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: 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 KILE: Commander, I move the list be approved and recorded in the digest without being read. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to approve the list of significant gifts to the library and museum be recorded in the digest without being read. Any further discussion? Objections? Motion carries, unanimous consent.

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library and Museum

Donated by the Department of North Carolina: 34 promotion and training video cassettes; Oratorical Contest pamphlets.

Donated by Past National Commander Denise Rohan: DVD of "The Hello Girls: A Lincoln Penny Films Production."
Donated by Bernard Gilliland: Speech given by Bernard Gilliland, Post 1, Paris on March 15, 2019, at the site of the Paris Caucus.
Donated by Paul L’Heureux, Adjutant, Department of Maine: Magazines focused on the Department of Maine; Department 100th Anniversary Membership Directory; Biographical sketches of 100 State Commanders (print and digital copies).
Donated by Richard R. Orlando: Digital files of autobiography, "From a Boy to a Man: Three years in the Life of Nicholas A. Orlando (1943-1945)."
Donated by Tracy Tomaselli: "Post History of Charter members of American Legion Post 48 Guilford, CT."
Donated by James Koenighain: Iowa Post 298 100th Anniversary book.
Donated by Randy Cash, Adjutant, Department of North Carolina: Variety of national publications and four audio PSA reels.
Donated by National Historian Jim Mariner: Department of New Mexico History and Every Department has a Story placemat.
Donated by Jill Blackburn: Photo of the 1938 National Convention Night of Champions.
Donated by the Department of Illinois: Bound volumes of the American Legion Magazine 1919-1925.
Donated by James Hubbard: American Legion 50th anniversary postage Stamps.
Donated by the Frederick W. Schubert: Sheet Music collection and Legion Airs songbook.
Donated by Joseph Y. Bumbleburg, Department of Indiana Judge Advocate: Nail clipper/pocketknife from Father Edmund Murray's mass.
Donated by Nancy Kent: "History of Highland Post No. 206 of the American Legion 1922-1945" (CA).
Donated by Mike Hauser, Adjutant, Frank Gallino Post 130 (CA): Two copies of the Frank Gallino Post 130 Commemorative DVD set (100th anniversary).
Donated by Paulette Cary: Genevieve Cary's memorabilia from the 1937 American Legion Pilgrimage.
Donated by Kathleen McLoughlin: Panoramic photo of Legion members at U.S. Capitol, September 19, 1940.
Donated by The American Legion Auxiliary: American Legion Convention Coin, 1931; National Aerial Roundup pin, 1935.

Closing Remarks
James W. Oxford, North Carolina, National Commander

Ladies and gentlemen, at this time I'd like to make a few closing comments. I'd like to start by saying thank you to the Legion Family. Nicole, I don't know if you're still on, or Clint or the Riders, but I'd like to say thank you for your support and the many other activities that you helped The American Legion with.

The Legacy Run is part of what the Riders do. They never quit. Last week the Riders raised over $100,000 in a Legacy Run in North Carolina, assisted by Maryland, Virginia, Missouri, Florida, and Washington. This past week, we received $83,000 from the Midwest ride. So, I just want to say thank you to the Riders for what you do.

The COVID pandemic has caused many problems and difficulties, but The American Legion is still on the job. I mean, delivering meals, PPE collection, blood drives, working claims, our scholarships. A week ago, the Child Welfare Foundation awarded $740,000 to those charities that they support.
We learned many lessons during this COVID pandemic. Zoom, Skype, phones, they all work. If you are realizing this, we are part of a historical event today in these virtual NEC meetings. We have had great results and continue to learn lessons from the COVID pandemic.

Our Buddy Check program, outstanding results. We've seen great things happen across the country. Our Buddy Check program has received national attention. A bill has been introduced to Congress to make a Buddy Check Week part of the VA services. We are looking, and they were looking for a way to help reduce veteran suicides. All of those things can help contribute to the reduction in veteran suicides. But we have a part in that. We need to make sure that every veteran is enrolled in the VA health-care system. We all can do that.

When we think about our membership goals this year, everybody's not happy with their goals. But we had an opportunity last year, before the pandemic, to reach our membership goal. I'm absolutely convinced the pandemic had a lot to do with not reaching our goal. The isolationism that we were faced with and separation, I'm sure contributed to our lack of enrolling and accessing new members. We need to make sure that we continue those efforts and continue to realize that membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion.

We are approaching a time in the year when the election process is taking place, and it would be easy to talk about political parties, but we're not political. I'm going to leave you with just one thing. Vote, vote, vote. Please cast that ballot. It's one of the things that we have a responsibility to do.

I'm going to close with the fact that we, you, me, we, I, are the foundation for the future of this organization. As we move forward, we need to realize, we control the organization that we're going to turn over to the next generation. So, help me help you create an organization that we can be proud of as we turn it over. Thank you. (Applause)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move that your closing remarks be received and filed. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive those remarks. Any discussion? Objections? Motion passed, unanimous consent. I'd like to now call on William W. Kile for a final report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions.

Final Report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions
William W. Kile, West Virginia, Chairman

Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has considered all resolutions that have come before the committee and have acted upon 38 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 the 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 this committee who have done an outstanding job and who have attended every session and participated in the discussion of these resolutions. My special thanks go to my vice chairman, Dennis Boland, from Florida; Tom Florez of Colorado; Lloyd Woods of Maine; Robert Skinner of Idaho; William Barbknecht of Minnesota; and Dan Wiley from Kansas. I thank you very much for your dedicated service.

Appreciation is also extended to Howard Trace and his staff, who have served our committee. I want to thank the document center, directors and chairmen of the commissions and committees on their work in order to bring the reports and resolutions to you. During our deliberations, we spoke with a number of chairmen who have been very helpful to us in explaining questions we had about resolutions.

Mr. Commander, it is a pleasure to serve as chairman of your Subcommittee on Resolutions. We would like to thank the National Executive Committee in the reporting of
the various resolutions. You have been most cooperative. Mr. Commander, I move this report be received and filed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and adopt the final report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Any further discussions? I'd like to call on Past National Commander Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Comrade Commander, I just want to break in, I should have probably done it earlier. But since we're almost ready to go, and I'm speaking of ANAVICUS. Last May, we would normally, on the desks of each NEC member, give a list of those that are delinquent. Well, we had over 250 delinquents, I've been working on it all summer, and they've been very, very good. But here it is October, and I'm now down to 17 members. If I don't hear from them, I have to remove them in a month, and I don't want to do that because they've been loyal members of ANAVICUS.

So, all I'm going to say is, if the NEC members of the various states would call me, I'm not going to go through it here, but California is three; Bruce has told me he's going to get on it. Georgia, there's one; they're working on it. Louisiana has three. Mexico has one. Michigan has two, and he said he's working on it. Ohio has three. Oklahoma has one, and South Carolina has one. Please, get in touch with me. I have plenty of time, I have nothing to do all summer. That's what I'm doing. I've been knocking it down and sending it on to Jennifer Norton with $20. So, with all that said, commander, thank you for this opportunity.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KNOX (MI): Mr. Commander, John Knox from Michigan.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize John Knox.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KNOX: I'd like to report the sad news that NEC for the Department of Michigan for the Sons of The American Legion, Michael Boughner passed away two days ago while deer hunting, with a massive heart attack. If you would like to send a card to his wife, Jacqueline, you can send it through the Department of Michigan. Thank you, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, John, for that information. Any further discussion? Any objections? Motion to approve the final report of the Subcommittee Resolutions Subcommittee carries unanimously. If you'll please stand and uncover, I'd like to call on National Chaplain Edward L. Harris for the benediction.

Benediction
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Dear God, we have received instructional data through a medium that many of us as Legionnaires are finding to be highly acceptable and received well. It gives us, each attendee, an opportunity to be a part in the same way as if present in our usual format. Thank You, dear God. 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 very much.

...At 11:34 a.m., Thursday, October 15, 2020, the National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion was adjourned, sine die.
...At 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 17, 2020, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Oxford.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It is the appointed hour. I call this meeting of the National Executive Committee to order. Please stand and join me in a salute to the colors of our country by the numbers: One, two. Please uncover. I now call on the national chaplain, Edward Harris of Indiana, for the invocation, the POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony, followed by the Pledge and Preamble.

Invocation
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Dear God, thank You for this day, and as I always pray, thank You for allowing us to be a part of this day. We're able to sit and attend these highly informational sessions in our place of safety from the possibility of exposure to COVID-19, through a method that many of our Legionnaires are finding truly marvelous. We are able to be in a highly relaxed situation and yet receive the information that will be highly beneficial to our divisions, districts, counties, and posts. Thank You, dear God. Amen.

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

Those who have served and those currently serving in the uniformed services of the United States are ever mindful that the sweetness of enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We're compelled to never forget that, while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured and may still be enduring the agonies of pain, deprivation, and imprisonment.

We call your attention to the small table which occupies a place of dignity and honor. It is set for one, symbolizing the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks. They are referred to as POWs and MIAs. We call them "comrades." They are unable to be with their loved ones and families, so we join together to pay humble tribute to them, and to bear witness to their continued absence.

The table is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his or her suppressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The single rose in the vase signifies the blood that they may have shed and sacrificed to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep faith while awaiting their return. The red ribbon on the vase represents an unyielding determination for a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us.

A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait. The glass is inverted. They cannot toast with us at this time. The chair is empty. They are not here.

The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation. The
American flag reminds us that many of them may never return, and they have paid the supreme sacrifice to ensure our freedom.

Let us pray to the Supreme Commander that all of our comrades will soon be back within our ranks. Let us remember and never forget their sacrifice, and may God forever watch over them and protect them and their families.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion**

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

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

**National Executive Committee Members**

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NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, it takes 25 to have a quorum, and you have a quorum.
Acceptance of Meeting Agenda

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The next order of business is the acceptance of the meeting's agenda. Do I have a motion?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: I move to accept. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve today's agenda. Is there any discussion? Any objections? Any objections? Motion carried, unanimous consent, agenda accepted. The next order of business will be the recognition of James M. Rohan, chairman of the national Marketing Commission.

Presentation: Marketing Commission
James M. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman

Good morning, commander, National Executive Committee, and national officers. Your marketing team thanks you for taking the time to discuss Resolution No. 1 titled "#48 IndyCar Team Sponsorship." We have an extraordinary opportunity brought to us by our chief marketing officer, Dean Kessel, an opportunity that is a once-in-a-lifetime, our lifetime. Mr. Commander, there are several people on our team here today to give you and your executive committee the details you need to make an informed decision. You have your marketing chairman, your finance chairman, and you have your chief marketing officer ready to walk you through the proposal and answer any questions you may have.

Before I begin my formal report, Commander Oxford, I ask that you recognize Finance Commission Chairman Gaither Keener for the purpose of giving background on the proposed resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Gaither, before you begin, since this is a special convening of the National Executive Committee, the minutes of the 2020 fall meeting are not yet available and will be read at the next convening of the National Executive Committee. Chair recognizes Finance Commission Chair Gaither Keener.

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: Thank you, commander. National Commander, ladies and gentlemen of the NEC, I want to thank the commander, the leadership, the Commander's Advisory Committee, the commander's Executive Committee on Marketing, the Marketing Commission, my Finance Commission, and the Subcommittee on Resolutions for the unanimous recommendation to review Resolution No. 1.

This program began about three weeks ago. Three weeks ago, your marketing director came to me in Davidson as he was visiting his parents, and I asked him to come see me in regards to the American Legion World Series, we had a great discussion. During that time frame, we learned there was an opportunity with Chip Ganassi and Jimmie Johnson. Now, let me say this and then I'll quickly hurry up for you.

When I went on the Finance Commission in 2002, Commander Geiger made it very clear why he wanted me not to be on baseball but to be on Finance Commission. It was not only that I attended Wake Forest University and received my law degree, but I also attended Duke University Fuqua School of Business in regards to executive business and marketing. I also had the chance to attend Northwestern University in greater details.

With that said, I look at every opportunity that comes to the Finance Commission, to look at the return on investment for anything and any expenditures we have. With that said, in my years since 1977, I have been involved in marketing and business agreements with Major League Baseball, the NFL, the NBA, the National Hockey League, and more particularly, NASCAR or racing. The racing's in my blood.

Bobby Isaac, who was the 1970 Cup Series champion, was my first cousin, as he drove the red 71 K&K Insurance car and won the series in 1970. Ned Jarrett, I'd run with Ned Jarrett's sons, Glenn and Dale. I've been involved in marketing for most companies since 1977, and I always look at what is the return on investment.
With that said, there are certain marketing goals that we must meet, and this resolution gives you the opportunity to meet. One is, it's a great media buy. It is an opportunity for corporate development and, more importantly, business development.

One of the key components I see is renewal of the American Legion brand, our trademark, and more particularly, the awareness of our trademark with the public as they recognize us as the veteran service organization. There are drivers that will increase membership. There are drivers that will increase fundraising and donations not only for the Veterans &Children Foundation but Legion Charities, more particularly the $25 million goal we have to make in seven years.

In my opinion, if you believe that our membership is going to raise 25 million in seven years, we need to really talk about that. We have to go and develop corporate development and business development with individuals and corporations that are willing to be our partners. And we drive sponsorship revenue, and we get our message out. It's a leverage overall of a media buy.

As many of you remember, several years ago when I was on the Finance Commission, not as chair, we approved $6 million for DRTV for two years. After one year and a spend of $2 million, we cut it loose. Those media buys were late at night and did not produce any funds for us.

So, the first thing I do as Finance Commissioner, we look at the money. Currently, as you know, we have a surplus of $10.5 million. There is more opportunity with the racing program versus any direct response TV that we tried years ago. I do know also, we anticipate, conservatively, a $3.8 million surplus this year. So, the first thing you look at is, if there are no returns on investment, no money comes back, forget the media buy, but no money comes back. What does it affect us as to our budget and, more particularly, an increase of dues? That's what everybody talks about, dues, dues, dues.

As you all know, the last dues increase we had was in 2015, over five years ago. We projected that to last seven years. As you all know, I told you during the October meeting, we do not expect a dues increase between five to six years if there are no returns of investment. We believe, and based upon those ROIs and running those numbers, a dues increase would occur one year earlier, four or five years. That's all it will do.

But I will tell you that you can bet my bippy there will be a return on investment. The key on this is this: We have a real experienced leadership in Dean. Dean and I have done numerous agreements together when I was general counsel of Lowe's and he was chief sports marketing. He knows how to deliver results, and he's the first real marketing person that we've ever had.

The last time he and I set up a motorsports platform, Dean came from Reynolds Tobacco as he was the lead of the Reynolds racing. I think our first contract was with Mike Skinner and Richard Childress. And in that opportunity, we later went to Rick Hendrick. I will tell you, the reason Lowe's went to sports marketing, more particularly, we chose racing, because they're loyal. We could not outspend on the public. For every dollar we spend on advertising, recognition, name brand awareness, they can spend $10, $15. By the time I left Lowe's and retired in 2015, we had spent pretty close to half a billion dollars just with Hendrick's. But the return on investment was ten times that.

So, this gives the Legion a new, a different perception of a brand. This is a rallying point. We've always heard it from blue cappers, "Why can't we see us on TV?" Even some people in marketing said, "Why can't we be involved in something." They also provide us with exposure on all the NBC networks.

Now, I'm not covering all the numbers that we've looked at, because I know that Mike will, and I know that Dean will. But I will tell you, the 30 million Indy Racing fans, 21 percent has contributed in the last 12 months to a veteran service organization, and we're not getting that money, and you can figure out where that money's going.

So, with that said, to me, this makes a lot of sense. As you know, Indy Racing is now owned by Roger Penske. Personally, I know Roger, as I represented Roger and Junior Johnson back in the years when I was a younger lawyer. And I've talked to Roger when he comes to Mooresville and had dinner with him about six months ago.
So, with that said, I'm doing exactly what the leadership has asked me to do and what Mr. Geiger asked me to do back in 2002. Give up baseball and think for the best for The American Legion and take that business mind you're supposed to have and use it for nonprofit so that we will become again known as The American Legion and people know what we do do. So, with that said, Mr. Commander, I don't have anything else to say unless and until after all the presentations. Thank you, commander.

MARKETING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ROHAN: Thank you, Chairman Keener, for your insight. We appreciate that. As Chairman Keener said to the National Commander's Advisory Committee, the national staff, the national Finance Commission, the national Marketing Commission and the Marketing Commission Executive Committee were briefed on this proposal and discussed this resolution virtually over the last ten days and, without exception, overwhelmingly endorsed its adoption.

Our membership has been asking us for years to do marketing and advertising at the national level but finding the right opportunity that is in line with our veteran population demographics has been tough, until now. Through this briefing, our team will demonstrate how we believe IndyCar racing will put us in the front of people, both fans and sponsors of racing, who can help us grow membership, grow donations, grow corporate partnerships, and promote brand messaging using our motto of "Veterans Serving America."

As Gaither said, we tried a couple years ago to use DRTV spots to get our brand out across the country, but it was not the right fit for us. The focus was more on the older veterans, which was good since they're our donor base, but it left out the younger, newer veterans. Our 21st Century Committee described our organization, in their report to you last October, as a multigenerational organization. And as your marketing team took that to heart, we realize that we need to market to all veterans, every age, every gender.

The demographics for IndyCar and racing in general match up to The American Legion's current membership and our desired membership of bringing in young veterans without alienating the older veterans. The IndyCar demographics show us that they have 30 million IndyCar fans as of the 2020 racing season. 52 percent, or 16.2 million, are under age 54. 47 percent, or 14.1 million, are over age 55. 11 million are men and 4.5 million of those fans are women. This is exactly what we want The American Legion to look like.

Some other key demographics that I think are important to our fundraising, corporate development, and our membership efforts are IndyCar fans are heavy social media users, on average, three to four hours per day. 60 percent have a college education. 47 percent have a household income between $50,000 and $150,000. 60 percent of IndyCar fans are members of the armed forces or veterans. 21 percent have contributed to a veteran service organization like ours in the past 12 months. 21 percent of those fans donated to organizations like ours.

During this year's Indy 500 race, a race that was postponed for three months because of COVID and put in competition against the NBA playoffs, PGA golf, and NASCAR, still pulled an overall 2.29 household share, or about 4.1 million viewers. That put the Chip Ganassi Racing team in front of 2.4 million veterans for just that one race. The top ten cities bringing in the most viewshipers were Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Columbus, Las Vegas, Nashville, Hartford/New Haven, Milwaukee, West Palm Beach, Sacramento/Stockton, and Tampa/St. Pete. Those states alone have a population of 5.8 million veterans, and we want to be in front of those veterans so they can hear our message loud and clear.

Mr. Commander, as you know, our chief marketing officer, Dean Kessel, came from the racing world with extensive experience in this space. As Gaither said, at that time he worked with our Finance Commission chairman at Lowe's Corporation, and together they had a very successful 17-year run in racing. And today, both Chairman Keener and Mr. Kessel believe that The American Legion is poised to have the same success in IndyCar racing. With that being said, Commander Oxford, I ask you to recognize our chief marketing officer, Dean Kessel, for the purpose of providing the details of the proposal and, through the chair, answer any questions posed by the National Executive Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes Dean Kessel.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: Thank you, Mr. Commander. Thank you, Chairman Keener and Chairman Rohan as well, and I'd also like to thank members of the NEC for taking time today in this sort of emergency fashion, because we do believe it's the right opportunity at the right time. What I'm going to do is take you through a presentation here in a moment that sort of outlines the whys that we're doing this and the hows. I'd like to kick this meeting off with a little bit of a video to sort of set the stage and get everybody in the mood. ...A video was shown to the National Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: So, you have the materials in front of you that were both emailed to you and also mailed to you as well, to sort of give you a synopsis of what we're looking to do here with this platform.

As Chairman Keener said, we worked together for a number of years together at Lowe's building a motorsports program that lasted 17 years. I then left there and went to ESPN and ran a division of their company as well, the outdoor space, and then followed that up by running the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series for the sponsor, which was Nextel at the time and then Sprint. So, at that time, that was a hundred million in annual investment for us to do, but it was probably the best sports marketing platform that you could be associated with because it delivered on all metrics and it delivered three times what we spent on it. So, we were putting a hundred million in a year, we got 300 million back a year, just with simple math on that.

Today I want to talk to you a little bit about the platform that we've got here, why we're doing it, and how we're going to leverage it for the benefit of The American Legion. The first thing you have to look at is, does it match up with our priorities from a marketing perspective? And it does beautifully. We will be very focused and very crystal clear on what we're going to do and how we're going to measure things around this platform. Because it is a large investment; we want to make sure we're getting the value for it. Our charge as a marketing group is grow and retain membership, so think in terms of join. We definitely want to drive donations as well. I'm really excited about the partnership aspect of that, which I'll go into more detail also.

One of the charges that Chairman Keener and Mr. Wheeler had asked me when I came on board is, how are we going to get these programs paid for? Think in terms of oratorical, shooting sports, things of that nature. We want to make sure we're getting sponsorship for that as well. And then, as Chairman Keener talked about, the media value on this is going to be off the chart. It is a very efficient media buy. I'll go into much more detail on how we're going to activate around that as well. Then based on the resolution that we approved just a couple of months ago at the last NEC meeting around "Veterans Strengthening America," this gives us a platform to really push that out as well.

When you go into any marketing venture, you want to look at what the fit is; right? How does that, from a consumer looking at it, what's the customer look like? But for us, what does the membership look like to be able to drive that from us, and it's a perfect match for us. One thing I want to highlight on this slide is the word "loyalty." Our experience at Lowe's, and then again at Sprint, there is no more loyal fan in all of sports, football, baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer, none, no more loyal fan than a motorsports fan, and I'll tell you why. Because they understand that, without corporate involvement and without sponsors like The American Legion or Carvana or Lowe's or Sprint, being involved in their passion and their pastime, it doesn't exist, the sport does not exist. It's a relationship like no other in all of consumer sports.

So, the way they show their loyalty, and I can show you statistics about this over and over again, is with their wallet. They will shop Lowe's because they support the sport. They will buy a Sprint or Nextel phone because of their involvement. And I believe wholeheartedly that they will donate to The American Legion because we're involved with this program. Again, this is some more stats on the 30 million-plus fans and how it matches up nicely with us. Obviously, we want to make sure we're in the right place.

If you layer a little more data on top of it, this slide will show you about what Chairman Rohan talked about as far as the age group of this fan base that we're going after. But then you can see here, from a membership perspective, how the tracks line up, where
the cars are going to race this year on IndyCar circuit, with our membership already. You can see the penetration there from Florida all the way to Illinois and out West. We're already close to 660,000 members that are involved in this or going to have a chance to be involved with this from a penetration standpoint.

Here's the meat of what I want to talk about. This is really the "how" of what we do. This is what I call the hub-and-spoke approach to sponsorship. This is basically our strategy for success. This platform, unlike anything else we will do, and we will do a lot of other things as well, from a marketing standpoint. This won't be the only thing we do, so please don't think that we're walking into this investment as we're going to not do other things that we already have teed up. We're going to do this. This is all incremental.

But when you put the sponsorship at the base of the platform, in the middle of it, and then every line of business that we have comes off as a spoke. So, think in terms of business development, membership growth, donor base growth, content for Jeff Stoffer and his team with The American Legion Magazine, with all of our platforms from a social perspective, from a digital perspective, the website and all the touch points there.

We cannot only increase our relationship from a business development standpoint, but also, most of these companies we are talking to will have foundations. We can tap into those foundation donations as well. Then member, donor, and staff engagement. I saw at Lowe's. I saw it at Sprint. This is something that really changes the conversation amongst our members and amongst our staff and amongst our stakeholders. It's something to root for and root with, to get behind.

The conversation will be, every Saturday and Sunday, "What are we doing?" With a driver like Jimmie Johnson, everybody knows who that guy is. This is one of the big leverage points for us. He's coming over from NASCAR where he won seven championships. He's bringing his notoriety to IndyCar. He is automatically the most popular driver in IndyCar right now, without a doubt. Over four million followers on all his social media platforms. Just a terrific spokesperson, will not have to worry about him getting us in any trouble with any kind of remarks he'll make. And then Chip Ganassi has won over 20 championships. World-class organization. So, we're partnering with the right team at the right time. So, from an engagement standpoint, that's amazing.

We think we can drive some emblem sales as well. So, think in terms of die-cast cars, think in terms of apparel, caps, banners, Fatheads, things of that nature. I will note to this audience, we will be looking to source those items from American-made products. A lot of that stuff is made overseas, but we will look for companies to support our mission here in supporting American companies, so we will be looking at that.

And then big time on the increased brand awareness. What I'm really attracted to from this platform is, this puts us in conversations we're not already in. People know who we are in the veterans space, people know who we are in the military space. But I can tell you, coming from the outside seven months ago in, when I talked to my peers in the marketing world, the question I get asked a lot and, frankly, just being candid with you, is, "What is The American Legion? I'm glad you're doing what you're doing but tell me more about it."

This is going to give us a platform to talk to, A, a highly, highly, highly effective audience for us; and B, to share that message about who we are, what we are, and what we do. Because we do a ton. I mean, 101 years' worth of equity in a brand perspective, it goes a long way. We have to use this platform to tell these stories.

I'll just touch on a couple of the spokes that I just mentioned a minute ago. From a joint perspective, we think it has a rallying point for us as well. We're going to create some platforms that will, at the department and post level to where, with Jack Querfeld and his team, how are we rewarding these posts and these departments for incremental or per capita gains on renewal and also with new membership as well, traditional memberships more importantly. Then we can come up with rewards that will be experiences they can't get anywhere else. We can talk more about that later.

From an activation standpoint, we want to look at the seasonality of the sport, which goes from May until October or September, end of September, and look at those markets where we have a tremendous amount of opportunity. What I mean by that is, where is there
a large veteran population? And then conversely, where is our penetration weak in those markets from a veteran perspective? We have already identified California as a market like that, Texas is a market like that, Florida is a market like that for us. And then, finally, we will do some activation plans here around the Indy 500, given that national headquarters is based here, plus that is the biggest race on the calendar as well.

So, we want to look at those metrics. Again, as part of what Chairman Rohan talked about and in our comments in the NEC meeting before, is we measure everything. Nothing gets done unless we measure it, so that we've got those metrics in place to show our effectiveness. That was a join platform.

When you think in terms of donate, what are we doing there as well? We talked a minute ago about corporate foundations donating to us, but then individuals as well. We're incubating some pretty interesting ideas around that. We definitely want to be able to use call to action. I'll talk more about that in a moment when we talk about the television broadcasting, because when we create TV commercials around this, we have the opportunity to make asks, calls to action. Unlike what we do when we have spots that we put out for free, they're just talking about our brand. This is an opportunity for us to really make an ask. Think in terms of content.

As I mentioned before, Jimmie has over four million followers, we're going to be able to activate that as well. One idea that we're talking about now internally is, the car number will be #48. That is ubiquitous with Jimmie Johnson. If any of you guys are race fans out there, you know that Number 3 is Dale Earnhardt. Racing has a synonymous relationship with the number and a driver. Jimmie is able to take that number from his NASCAR days into the IndyCar series.

So, we're going to play with that. We're going to develop some platforms around 48, and one of them will be a $48 challenge. So, we want to challenge Jimmie's fans to donate $48 to The American Legion. If you do some quick math, if we get 2 percent of his four million followers to donate $48, we pay for the program in one fell swoop, 2 percent.

Remember going back to what I said a moment ago about how loyal these fans are? They will open their wallet and participate to help support the sport and support their favorite driver. So that's something that we're counting on very much.

There's another platform here as well called Omaze. I think I put that in the information I sent out to you with a link. That is a company that creates once-in-a-lifetime experiences. People, not just members or race fans, but anybody can spend $25 on a ticket and potentially win a world-class experience. Think in terms of we may fly a winner and a guest into Indianapolis to attend the Indy 500 with a VIP experience, then get on a plane, Chip Ganassi's private plane, fly down to Charlotte that night, go watch the NASCAR Coke 600 race, which is the longest race of the year, and then fly back that night and spend the night in a hotel. Where else can you do things like that? We're going to think of those type of experiences to be able to drive that, so that's another fundraising platform for us as well.

I talked a little bit about the national media exposure. Here are some things we are going to do around that as well. We will create dedicated television spots. We'll use Jimmie. I'll talk a minute about the other driver that will be part of this program as well and how that's going to work, but it's Tony Kannan, who has won the Indy 500 and won championships as well. So, we'll create dedicated spots. Again, going back to that call to action, join, donate. The opportunity to tell our story, too, so why we matter.

There will be 17 races next year. We will have spots in every one of those races. Every race will be broadcast by the networks you see below, so NBC; NBC Sports; the Peacock Network, which is their digital streaming platform; and NBC Sports Gold, which is where they'll host all their qualifying there as well. Another premium platform from a digital perspective. There's a massive amount of coverage here that will put us on network television all year long. And again, as Chairman Keener mentioned before, around this being an efficient media buy, we think it will be probably anywhere from 15 to 20 million a year that we'll get from an exposure standpoint for evaluation. And again, putting us in conversations, putting us in front of fans that don't ordinarily think about The American Legion, and now they'll be thinking about us.
This is something that I'm really excited about too. One of our missions that we talked about in the beginning is, how are we going to drive corporate relationships? Just like fans in motorsports show their loyalty that way, all these companies you see here listed below, which are in the Chip Ganassi portfolio, they all have board of directors that they have to be responsible to; right? Everybody says: Why are we spending this kind of money? Just like you folks sitting here today: Why are we doing this? What's our return? These companies have tremendous accountability to them. So therefore, everybody works together. We've already got meetings lined up with Carvana. We're going to be talking to General Motors. We're going to be talking to a couple other Ganassi sponsors.

When I say talking to them, I don't mean we're meeting with the Midwest regional vice president who might have a budget of $50,000. We're going to be talking to the CEOs and the chief marketing officers from Honda, from Carvana, from McDonald's, to develop platforms to mutually benefit each other. We have a tremendous amount of membership that's very attractive. They're car-buying folks for one thing; right? They're very attracted to that customer base as well, and those companies, so there's a lot of symbiotic relationships that we can drive as well. Everybody has a vested interest to work together. We're going to be talking to the right people that can make those decisions, so it puts us way ahead of the curve right out of the gate in being able to do these things.

One thing we're talking about, we're going to tee up with McDonald's. I notice that Chairman Keener has talked about this before, even Lowe's does it now. You go into retail establishments and they do a program, it's called a change roundup. So, if your bill is 25.50, the cashier on the other side may say to you, "Would you like to round up to $26," so 50 cents, for this sort of organization. And we want to be in that consideration set. So, could we round up, and the change goes to The American Legion.

Or the other idea we're talking to not only McDonald's about, but another fast-food chain, is can we create, around Memorial Day week and Veterans Day week, a special American Legion meal where you go through the drive-through and you say, "I want The American Legion meal." After costs, a portion of those proceeds will come back to us. I can tell you, the transaction rate on that is super high, so there's a chance for us to add 50 cents, add 20 cents, whatever it is, add up pretty quickly.

Let me give you some particulars around the schedule as well. It's a 17-race season, runs from March through September. What we will be, from an iconographic perspective on the car, what the logo will look like, we'll be an associate sponsor at 17 races, so we're on the car all year long. Jimmie is going to run 12 of those 17 races next year. Jimmie is only running the streetcar races and the road course races, so that's about 12 this year. The reason he's only running those 12 of the 17 is, he wants to make sure he's comfortable in the car. He's already tested three times now. Plus also, when you go down the straight and the backstretch of Indianapolis, you can get up close to 230 miles an hour. His wife would really like him, and their young family, to make sure everything he's doing is pretty safe, so I certainly respect that.

However, I will say this: I believe, in 2022, he will definitely run the Indianapolis 500. Because at his core, this gentleman is a racecar driver, and the Indy 500 is on the bucket list of every racecar driver out there. I think he's going to want to do it, and we've got ourselves poised in a pretty nicely to be able to take advantage of that.

The other five oval races that will take place this season, a gentleman by the name of Tony Kannan, who is a brilliant racecar driver. He won the Indy 500 back in 2013, he also won the Indy Car championship in the mid-2000s. Just a great person for us to leverage from a spokesperson standpoint, in addition to Jimmie. We're really getting two drivers for the price of one, if you will.

But we will be a primary sponsorship. On all 17 races, we're the associate sponsors. On two of them it will be 100 percent American Legion livery. I'll show you what those look like in just a moment. Those will be in Texas in May, and then we were able to negotiate the crown jewel of all motorsports, to have The American Legion on the Indianapolis 500 car. That is the highest rated race in all of motorsports. It gets the most attention. In a non-COVID world, there's 300 to 350,000 people in the stands. Our national
headquarters is right here in Indianapolis. We already do things with the 500 Festival here. We do some entertaining and some hospitality around it as well, so it makes perfect sense for that.

Let me show you what these things are going to look like. This is what the car will look like potentially. Carvana is the primary sponsor. If you don't know, they're in the automotive industry. They are a dealership. They sort of have that slot machine look and feel to them with their cars. They're a young company, and they're killing it right now. I mean, literally, doing great from a sales perspective. Because of COVID and the touchless system that they have, it is phenomenal. They're a young company. I think their CEO is 37, their chief marketing officer is 36. They're aggressive. They've already reached out to us and they want to set something up, as soon as we make the announcement on this, to talk about how we can work together.

You can see, The American Legion will be on the engine cover there behind #48, and then we will also be on the side wing. It doesn't show it on here, but above Carvana on the front wing, we're going to have The American Legion that as well. So we went back and negotiated a little bit harder to get some more assets on that.

This is what it will look like for the 500 and for the Texas race. We've taken the Legion colors here. Again, going back to what I talked about early on, it's all about donate, it's all about join, it's all about the story around The American Legion. We're going to have specific calls to action on here and things that we're going to do around this. Carvana may be on here at some point, there may be another associate on here. But it is 100 percent American Legion for these two events, and I couldn't be happier to have the 500. It's just the marquee event, of course.

Here's the schedule. What I've got highlighted here are those markets that we talked about before. So, think in terms of California, Texas, Indianapolis, and Florida where we have a high concentration of veterans but a low penetration of membership inside The American Legion. So, we'll be doing things there at those tracks. That, frankly, is what the $750,000 that we're going to do, in addition to 3.5, that is the activation dollars. So, think in terms of developing television spots, buying inventory on NBC, buying in-car cameras for each one of those, and then doing things to activate it at the track as well.

Then we're also holding Chip Ganassi's organization accountable as well; right? They're super-excited to work with us. We are in sort of motorsports parlance, from a sponsorship standpoint, we are not competitive to anybody in this space. It's not like they're working with another bank in NASCAR, which they are, and they have a bank sponsorship in IndyCar, which they do, and they're not able to work together that much. We are sort of noncompetitive. Everybody likes to work with veterans, everybody likes to work with military. I think our opportunity to really leverage this platform is exponentially higher than an ordinary sponsorship. We are going to meet on a monthly basis and make sure we're hitting those metrics and hitting those goals, in order to drive the success of the program.

Pending your vote today and pending a couple more meetings with the Ganassi folks, we are targeting to announce this, sign the contract and announce this, on December 1. So, we thought of collaborating internally. We already have marketing initiatives going in and around the platform called "Giving Tuesday." We are thinking, let's leverage that to our benefit. Let's announce it on Giving Tuesday. So, we'll get a big spike, sort of get out of the clutter of all the other companies doing things in and around Giving Tuesday, and drive the announcement of Jimmie Johnson, Chip Ganassi, Tony Kannan, and The American Legion partnering.

And oh, by the way, in a celebratory manner, we'd like everybody to donate $48 to The American Legion, again going back to that car number. We're going to put a goal out there of $148,000 on Giving Tuesday. That's a stretch goal for us. Last time we did this, it was $50,000. We're going to test it right out of the gate and see how we can do. But I figure, let's go big or go home. Let's try this right away and make it work.

We'll use all of our platforms. Chuck Krupa has got everything teed up from a digital mail perspective, we're going to push that out. We're going to be leveraging the website,
we'll be leveraging all of our social media assets. Jimmie is going to put out a message to his four million followers, Ganassi is going to put a message out to their followers, Tony Kanaan is going to put a message out to their followers. So, I think we've got a good shot at hitting that goal right out of the gate, which will be sort of a litmus test for us as we look to build the $48 challenge down the road as well. We're going to give it a shot.

One other thing I wanted to leave you with here too is, you know, this is a sponsorship for Jimmie that is sort of near and dear to his heart. We really pushed Jimmie at Lowe's to help us drive customers to our stores to buy lumber, to buy hammers, to buy nails, to redecorate their kitchen; right? That was our mission there. Here, he has a tie to our mission with The American Legion and serving veterans and the military. This is a post that he put up on Facebook on Veterans Day just last week, you know, thanking those who have served. This is his grandfather who served as an officer on the Navy on one side of his family. On the other side of his family, his other grandfather served in the Army. Also, his wife's brother has served in the Navy as well. His brother-in-law, who has since passed away, also served in the Navy. He can speak to this from the heart. This is not, "Jimmie, we want you to sell this widget." He is excited about being a part of this and knows what our mission is and will do everything he can to help us accomplish that.

Lastly, I'll leave you with this, and I have a quick little message at the end that Reggie's going to play for us here and then I'll turn it back over to the commander and Chairman Rohan. But I've told you everything that this program is, and this is why we're doing it and how we're going to do it. But let me also tell you what it's not. Sometimes that's as important as anything else. This is not simply a logo on a racecar. We talked about the ways we're going to activate it. Success for us will not be defined whether Jimmie Johnson or Tony Kanaan makes it to winner's circle. It just won't be. That will be icing on the cake for us. If they win a race, it's going to be phenomenal. But we are not going to determine our success with that. Everything I laid out to you this morning are the metrics for success for us.

Now, I know there's a little bit of history here about The American Legion participating in motorsports before, but this isn't like anything you've done before. I promise you; it really is not. Not that those attempts weren't meaningful, or they didn't have a lot of emphasis on them and they weren't genuine, but this one is at another level. As I said before, Ganassi's won over 20 championships; Jimmie's won seven. There are only two racecar drivers that have won more championships than Jimmie Johnson -- not more; they've won the same: Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt. That's the list. Those three have won more championships than anybody else.

We have a clearly defined strategy on how we're going to activate this. We're not, again, putting a logo on a car and hoping something works. We're going to put some metrics in place, we've got programs in place. The national adjutant, Chairman Rohan, Chairman Keener are going to hold me and my team accountable to do this, and we will do it. We are partnering with a world-class organization, and we have the talent internally to do it. We are going to be working with folks outside of us. I have a great network to help us build this program, and relationships inside the motorsports ecosystem that I'm pretty confident will work with us to help us deliver our expectations.

With that, I'm going to share one last little video with you, and then we'll turn it over back to the commander and to Chairman Rohan. I thank you for your time, I thank you for your attention today, and I appreciate the opportunity to be in front of you.

...A video was shown to the National Executive Committee.

CHAIRMAN ROHAN: Mr. Commander, this is Chairman Rohan. We are prepared to answer any questions you or your officers or the NEC may have at this time.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Comrade Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes Past National Commander Jake Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: After viewing this program here today, a few things come to mind. First of all, John Geiger, there's no doubt in my mind, one of the finest Legionnaires that ever put on a cap, and he was very bright in talking to
Gaither Keener in coming into finance rather than baseball. Had he talked to me, I would have been in baseball.

For Gaither to bring this program to fruition, and to think that we appointed Mike Rohan as the chairman of marketing, and then hiring Dean Kessel as the executive, has proven that we've done the right job. We've talked about marketing for so long. We've talked to the Legionnaires about getting on television and let's get our name out there, and it's never happened. Finally, we've listened to a program that I personally feel makes a lot of sense. I know nothing about car racing, not one thing. I've never even watched one, I've never been involved in one. But I am so impressed with this program, and I hope the NEC takes note of it. And I certainly want to tell you, commander, how much I approve of this function. Thank you very much for your time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, commander. Let's hold questions until after the resolution is presented. At this time, the Chair recognizes the Subcommittee on Resolutions for a reading on the resolution.

**Resolution No. 1: #48 IndyCar Team Sponsorship**

**Origin: Marketing Commission**

**Submitted by: Finance Commission**

WHEREAS, The American Legion continually works at building and growing The American Legion organization and brand recognition, increasing membership and renewals, increasing fundraising and donations, and increasing sponsorship renewals ("goals"); and

WHEREAS, Not many individual programs are able to impact and connect to all of The American Legion's goals; and

WHEREAS, Sporting event sponsorship opportunities, if properly managed and executed, are a program area that allows sponsors to obtain those goals; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion management team now has the experience, knowledge and ability to implement a complete sporting event marketing strategy ("Marketing Strategy") leading to numerous positive goals; and

WHEREAS, This Marketing Strategy is an opportunity to build a strategic relationship between The American Legion and the Jimmie Johnson / Chip Ganassi #48 IndyCar Team ("JJ #48 Team"); and

WHEREAS, This JJ #48 Team strategic relationship requires a financial contribution, which is less than what it would cost to get television advertising at the sporting events without having the benefit of name recognition and American Legion endorsements by a major race car corporation; and

WHEREAS, The JJ #48 Team has already shown their commitment to The American Legion by reducing their initial requested sponsorship dollars; and

WHEREAS, The JJ #48 Team, if sponsored by The American Legion, would race under The American Legion sponsorship in seventeen (17) IndyCar races ("Races") per year for two years; and

WHEREAS, All Races, and coverage of The American Legion's JJ #48 Team, will be televised throughout the United States on numerous national broadcast outlets; and

WHEREAS, With this sponsorship opportunity comes a solid commitment from the JJ #48 Team, comprised of many members of The American Legion Family, to promote The American Legion and The American Legion's mission, vision and values; and

WHEREAS, With this sponsorship opportunity The American Legion, the world's largest veteran service organization, will be the JJ #48 Team signature sponsor for the 2021 and 2022 Indianapolis 500, the world's largest one-day motor car race; and

WHEREAS, The JJ #48 Team sponsorship opportunity will lead to increased business and revenue generating opportunities outside of the traditional veteran's arena; and

WHEREAS, The JJ #48 Team sponsorship opportunity will lead to increased donation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The JJ #48 Team sponsorship opportunity will lead to increased emblem and merchandise opportunities; and
WHEREAS, The JJ #48 Team sponsorship opportunity will lead to increased American Legion membership; and
WHEREAS, Your Marketing Commission and your Finance Commission have reviewed this resolution and sponsor opportunity and recommend it for approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in special meeting assembled virtually on November 17, 2020, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into a two-year sponsorship agreement by and between Jimmie Johnson/Chip Ganassi #48 IndyCar Team with the option to renew for three additional years if deemed desirable by the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion be authorized to expend $3.5 million per year in sponsorship fees payable to the Ganassi organization plus reasonable expenses and promotional fees as recommended for approval by the Marketing Commission and approved by the national Finance Commission, such expenditure not to exceed $750,000 per year; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national commander, after review and approval by the national judge advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement and the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution No. 1 has the approval of your Marketing Commission, the Finance 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. 1. Is there any discussion?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER STELACIO (PA): Yes, sir, Mike Stelacio, Pennsylvania, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes Mike Stelacio.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER STELACIO: I have a question on the option. Is that at the same fee it's presently at for the three years? Would it continue at the same fee or is that negotiable?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mike, let me ask Dean Kessel to address that question.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: Part of your question was, you know, is it negotiable beyond the first two years? Yes, it is. We've locked in the first two rates, which is highly unlikely. Typically, it's an annual increase from year to year. So, we've got years one and two locked in. There will be some negotiation for three and beyond if it gets to that point, but that's where we are right now.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER STELACIO: Appreciate it. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The chair recognizes the NEC from Nevada, Ron Michalski.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHALSKI (NV): I have a question. Is there any provision in the contract that protects our investment if something should happen to the driver/drivers where they couldn't drive anymore?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Dean, would you care to address that?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: Sure, I can address that. Also, Chairman Keener can address that as well. We put language like that in our other motorsports contracts. So, we do have, if Jimmie or Tony were to become incapacitated, we do have the option of approving the next driver in there, and then potentially working our way out of the deal if we did not want to do it. However, that's highly unlikely; it does happen.
The other thing to think about, too, in times of COVID is, if there are races that do not run, then we will get a prorated return back to us. So, think in terms of 1/17th refund back to us or we wouldn't have to pay that out of the agreement, so if part of the season is canceled, that type of deal. But we will put contingencies in the contract to protect our investments.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chairman Keener, would you care to address?

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: Yes. In the proposed contract now, there are those paragraphs in there, along with morality and all that you expect on a marketing agreement, to protect the shareholders here of The American Legion, correct.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you. Any further discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Comrade Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes Past National Commander Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I would think that, in the stages that we're in, that Jimmie Johnson is eligible to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion. I would hope that you could try to present him with a membership application and do it in front of, whether it be TV or in some significance, that we do it before his fans to let them know that he has joined the American Legion Family.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, sir. I think that's a wonderful idea, and I'm sure that we can make that happen. Any further discussion?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN (AR): Commander, Mary Erdman from Arkansas.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes NEC Arkansas, Mary Erdman.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN: First thing I wanted to note, that on the resolution that was sent out, on the second "Resolved," when it was read, they said "not to exceed $750,000 a year," but it's not here on the resolution that was handed out to us. That's just something that I noticed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mary, that was changed by the subcommittee and it should be in an email to you with that change.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN: Okay. But if I may, it's obvious that a lot of research has been done on this. I realize we have to spend money to make money sometimes. But I know that I'm going to get a lot of questions about this. If this resolution goes through, I'm going to get a lot of questions from the members about this. I do have four questions that I would like to ask, if you'll indulge me, so that I can have some further clarification, so when I am asked, I can answer somewhat intelligently anyway.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Yes, ma'am, proceed.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN: So, whoever can answer for me. One of the things I'm going to be asked, we have a lot of dual members that belong to other organizations and they get a lot of mailings in, you know, asking for donations. I'm sure one of the questions I'm going to be asked is, are they going to get additional mailings for donations with this?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: I'm not sure I'd use the phrase "additional." I think what we are thinking about, is how do we incorporate the content around it in the mailings that we do for it. We have a schedule that's already planned out for the year. Could we do something specific around racing in one of those previously scheduled ones? Yes. But to have an incremental one, probably not. But I think we want to leverage the content that we have, because we know there's a lot of race fans that are veterans and Legion members, and other service organizations as well. I hope that answers your question.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mary, next question.
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN: My next question, is there any minimum guarantee on our investment?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Dean?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: There's a lot of ways you can think about a guarantee. I think probably, the best guarantee we'll get out of it is the media, the platform and exposure that we'll get out of it. As Chairman Keener said early on, if we get nothing out of it, if we don't drive any donations, we don't drive any business relationships, we don't drive any new members or renewals, we will still have spent $3.5 million dollars in a very efficient media buy that will put us in places that we have never been before.

But honestly, I wouldn't even recommend this program or bring it forward if I didn't think we had a better opportunity to do things at a higher level than that. I don't have any guarantees. You know, the race team won't give us any guarantees. But again, we're not all about performance from that perspective. It's a great question, but I can assure you that we'll do our best to drive value across this entire platform.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN: I have another question on Omaze. I looked up the organization. My question is, how do they reach people? How do they contact them? Because this is the first I'd ever seen of them. They offer some great things, you know, like the opportunity for cars and trips and that. I've never heard of them. I was just wondering, how do they contact people.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: Actually, a lot of what they do is on social media. They have a tremendous amount of social media following. That's primarily their big driver. Think Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. They're a heavy, heavy spend on those platforms to drive their attendance. And the offers sort of grow organically. You know, when you're giving away a million-dollar house, which is one of their things that they've done, that tends to get a lot of organic messaging, people send it to their friends. So that's primarily where they get most of their viewership, if you will.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN: I'm going to watch for them. Then my last question, are there any other organizations that have used this method that we're familiar with, do you know?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: In the nonprofit space, there are a few that have used it. Paul Newman's foundation, Victory Junction Gang, they used it in the NASCAR world to some extent. There have been a few folks that have dabbled in it. But I will tell you, companies that don't know what they're doing will jump in, put a logo on a car, and then get away from it, and they don't know how to put the money against it to drive it. So, they get a bad experience. We even saw that at a lot of the NASCAR world. Even big companies that say, "I want to do this," and they base their whole premise on performance and it doesn't work out that way. There have been some nonprofits that have been successful with it. Most notably, I can think of Paul Newman's foundation off the top of my head.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ERDMAN: Thank you very much. Thank you, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you. The chair recognizes Butch Miller, past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Mr. Commander, I believe I had the opportunity to be involved in our racing experience in the past, and I think that it's not fair to compare this effort to the effort of the past. The effort of the past was a totally different car, it was a different race series, to the financial commitment that The American Legion is contemplating today. I had the pleasure of speaking to Dean about this resolution last week, and I told him two things that were mentioned got me excited about this whole aspect of what we're doing today.

Number one, in this synopsis it says if we keep doing the same thing, we're going to get the same result. I think we as an organization, and anybody that wears a red hat, understands that we, as an organization, can't afford to keep doing the same thing and getting the same result.
The other thing that excites me has already been discussed, and that is, we now have on our team an individual or individuals that have been down this road. They have seen the value of our association with the Ganassi team and the Johnson team who are, themselves, wonderful racers in a race community, and they have a reputation that is clean, just like The American Legion. And I, for one, wanted to express my support of this idea and I'm excited about it. All I can say is, let's go racing.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Commander Miller. I'd like to call on the NEC member from Missouri, Kenny Goth.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER GOTH (MO): Mr. Commander, I am for this resolution, but I have one little clarification. On the second "Resolved" it has "authorized to expend 3.5 million," and then the next sentence it says, "expenditures not to exceed 750,000." Just need a little clarification. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Dean, do you want to address that?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: Sure. The 3.5 is coming out of the surplus that we had from this past year. The 750,000 will be an injection into the marketing budget that will come from the Finance Commission to activate against it. So, 3.5 goes to Chip Ganassi and his organization to do the racing program. The $750,000 will be used in our marketing budget to develop television commercials, to buy the inventory on NBC and all their networks, to buy the in-car cameras around that, to do the activation around the tracks as well, and then also just to leverage the sponsorship where we can be opportunistic. So, there are two different spends, but they are all one. We just wanted to be clear on the front end what we were going to be doing with the 3.5 million, and then the 750,000 inside the marketing budget.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Kenny, does that answer your question?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER GOTH: Yes, it does, commander. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Kenny. The chair would like to call on the NEC member from New Mexico, Paul Espinoza.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ESPINOZA (NM): Yes, thank you, commander. This is Paul Espinoza, NEC from New Mexico. I'm all for this too, I love it. But I'm going to have some questions arise with our membership here in New Mexico, and I just have two questions.

One of them is, during this pandemic of COVID-19, how is this going to hurt The American Legion on the ROI/return on investments? And number two, second question, in the future, if any races in the future are canceled because of this pandemic or whatever it may be, will it hurt or how is it going to help The American Legion as well? Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Dean, do you want to address?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: Absolutely. So, I'll take the first one. Around the COVID perspective, so sort of a blessing that it happened this year, from a racing perspective, because the Ganassi folks and IndyCar in general had a plan to work around it. So, what we'll do, if you can't have hundreds of thousands of fans in the stands, we will be doing digital assets around that. So, think in terms of, we'll create a special viewing party, if you will, prior to the race where a Ganassi representative will do an exclusive tour of the garage area, or meet-and-greets with certain personnel when the races are happening or prior to the race, that only Legion members will have access to. That can be as many as we can put on a platform. You can do meet-and-greets with Jimmie, you can do meet-and-greets with Chip, and it can be interactive, and you can ask questions. So, we're thinking through the COVID piece of it on that. If it does happen like it did this year where some races don't have fans, we'll develop platforms to be able to activate against that as well.

If they don't have a race, then we're protected in the contract from a prorated perspective, so where our dollars will come back to us based on how many races don't come out. If for some reason the race gets moved, if something were to happen with the broadcast, this is how far out we're thinking out, if they're unable to do something from a broadcast perspective, then we will have negotiated with NBC on the front end to either, what they call, make goods, so we get additional spend inside other programming that's
similar to what we want. It could be maybe NFL or something along those lines, but that's highly unlikely. Now, it might be moved to another platform. But the relationship that we'll have with the networks is sort of ebb and flow. If things change, then they get creative. They want to make sure we get the value out of our money.

The thing we have to remember here that I didn't explain on the front end, is why they'll be excited about The American Legion coming into this sport in general, is that this is what is called "new money" into the sport. Carvana is a new sponsor into the sport, it's never been there before. The American Legion is new money coming into the sport, it's never been there before. They're going to wrap their arms around us and make sure we're as happy as we can be so that we stay. A lot of times sponsors go from place to place if there's not incremental dollars that come into the sport. We had the opportunity to really work some magic on our negotiations.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Paul, does that answer your question?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ESPINOZA: Yes, commander. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thanks, Paul. The chair recognizes Mike Mitrione, NEC member from Virginia.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER Mitrione (VA): Mr. Commander, when I first heard "racing," I thought NASCAR. I think this ought to be important that we differentiate the fact that IndyCar racing, to our members, is not necessarily NASCAR.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KESSEL: Absolutely. We will do that. I've also heard a couple of comments. We will build some talking points for all of you and to distribute as you deem appropriate, so that these questions can be answered and you can understand sort of the highlights and what we're doing with this, so they'll be armed to answer these questions for you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Mike, does that answer your question?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER Mitrione: Yes, sir. It wasn't a question, just a comment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Roger that. The chair would like to recognize Bill Moore, NEC member from Kentucky, for a comment.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Commander. First of all, I would like to thank each and every person that's been involved with this resolution, with their insight and everything and their labor and effort to get it pushed. Like someone said a few moments ago when we were talking about it, whether it be an individual or an organization, if you continue to do things the same way and expect different results reach time, that's a sign of insanity. But I've always said this, and I wholeheartedly support this resolution with everything that's in me, because I've always said, and people that know me know that I will say this, no guts, no glory. So, I wholeheartedly support this resolution, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Bill. Is there any further discussion? Are there any objections? Are there any other objections? At this point, because of the money involved and the discussion held, I'm going to call for a roll call vote. Mr. Wheeler, will you start that vote? An "aye" is in favor of Motion 1, a "nay" is opposed.

...National Adjutant Wheeler called the roll and recorded votes as follows:

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NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, you have 58 yeas, two nays. [Editor's Note: The final vote has been updated to reflect votes that were unable to be tallied during the meeting.]

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: With a vote of 58 yeas, two nos, Resolution No. 1, motion carries. Please stand and uncover as I call on National Chaplain Edward L. Harris for the benediction.

Benediction
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Dear God, we have received instructional data through a medium that many of us as Legionnaires are finding to be highly acceptable and received well. It gives us, each attendee, an opportunity to be a part in the same way as if present in our usual format. Thank You, dear God. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please recover. With the colors of our nation in place, hand salute. One, two. I now declare this meeting adjourned.

...At 12:43 p.m., Thursday, November 17, 2020, the National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion was adjourned, sine die.
# Abbreviations

**A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFSP</td>
<td>American Foundation for Suicide Prevention</td>
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<td>The American Legion Auxiliary</td>
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<td>Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada United States</td>
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<td>Arlington National Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>BDF</td>
<td>Botswana Defence Force</td>
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<td>C&amp;P</td>
<td>Compensation and Pension</td>
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<td>Children and Youth</td>
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<td>Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Disease Control</td>
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<td>CEO</td>
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<td>CGL</td>
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<td>Committee on Youth Education</td>
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<td>CPR</td>
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<td>CRM</td>
<td>Customer Relationship Management</td>
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<td>CWF</td>
<td>Child Welfare Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>D&amp;O</td>
<td>Directors and Officers</td>
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<td>Distribution and Pricing Agreement</td>
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<td>Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support</td>
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<td>DMS</td>
<td>Direct Membership Solicitation</td>
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<td>Department of Labor</td>
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<td>Department Service Officer</td>
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<td>DVOP</td>
<td>Disabled Veterans Outreach Program</td>
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**E**

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<tr>
<td>EDT</td>
<td>Eastern Daylight Time</td>
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USCC .................................................. United States Chamber of Commerce
USERRA ........................ Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act
USGLC .................................................. United States Global Leadership Coalition
USMC ................................................ United States Marine Corps
USN ........................................................ United States Navy
USO .......................................................... United Service Organizations

VA .......................................................... Department of Veterans Affairs
VA&R ........................................................ Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
VAMC .................................................... VA Medical Center
VASH ........................................................ Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VAVS ........................................................ Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service
VBA .......................................................... Veterans Benefits Administration
VBMS ....................................................... Veterans Benefits Management System
VCF .......................................................... Veterans & Children Foundation
VE&E ........................................................ Veterans Employment and Education
VHA ........................................................ Veterans Health Administration
VISN ........................................................ Veterans Integrated Service Networks
VLP .......................................................... Veterans Legacy Program
VOSB ........................................................ Veteran-Owned Small Businesses
VSR .......................................................... Veteran Service Representative

WWI ........................................................ World War I
WWII ........................................................ World War II

Y

YCLE ........................................................... Youth Cadet Law Enforcement
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Risk Management Mandates for National Youth Programs
Roll Call

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Scouts BSA

Selective Service System

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library and Museum

Sons of The American Legion

Space Force

Special Meeting

Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB) Research for Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

suicide prevention

Support "Buy American" Policy Within the Federal Government to Create Opportunities for Veterans

Support for Review of Minority Awards of Medal Of Honor WWI and Subsequent Wars/Conflicts

Support for the United States Space Force

Support Walkway in Arlington National Cemetery on Chaplains Hill

Support for Peaceful Conflict Resolution in the Country of Georgia

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