
PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Pre-Convention Meeting and
Post-Convention Meeting



Reno-Sparks Convention Center
Reno, Nevada

August 21 & August 24, 2017

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Monday, August 21, 2017

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PROCEEDINGS
of the
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of
THE AMERICAN LEGION
PRE-CONVENTION MEETING

Monday, August 21, 2017

At 9:00 a.m., August 21, 2017, the Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon, and the following proceedings were had.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Sergeant-At-Arms, secure the door. I call the meeting of the Pre-Convention National Executive Committee to order. Colors in place. Hand salute. One.

...The National Executive Committee stood and rendered a salute to the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Two. I now call on Chaplain Harvey H. Klee of Texas for the invocation and the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony.

Invocation
Harvey H. Klee, Texas, National Chaplain

Almighty God, may Your presence be felt here among us in this Pre-NEC committee meeting. As we give thanks to You and those who planned and now guide the activities of this convention, bless those who contributed in any way towards its fruition and may it be an outstanding success in every way imaginable.

Lord, we give thanks for the abundant blessing You have bestowed upon us during this past year. We have called upon and received Your divine guidance in our discussions, deliberations and decisions and ask that You continue to do so now. May good health and circumstance embrace all those attending this convention. May old friendships be renewed and new friendships flourish, all in the spirit of love and compassion. May our bonds of friendship and purpose be strengthened during this convention.

We praise You for the heritage which has come to us through the efforts of those to whom freedom, justice and righteousness meant more than life itself. Give us inspiration to meet the needs of the future. Give us wisdom to make the right decisions, persistence to support them, and radiance that will win others to work with us toward those ends. This we pray in the name of all that is holy. Amen.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Harvey H. Klee, Texas, National Chaplain

Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention requires the designation of a POW/MIA chair or flag at all official meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of American POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for from

all wars and conflicts involving our nation. With the POW/MIA flag positioned in front, let it serve as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners, the repatriation of the remains of those who have been killed in action, and a full accounting of those who are still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this effort.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Thank you, chaplain. I now call on National Sergeant-At-Arms Kevin Owens of Oregon to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion
Kevin J. Owens, Oregon, National Sergeant-at-Arms**

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

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

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander

Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon

National Adjutant

Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders

Paul Martel, Florida

Fae Casper, Georgia (Excused)

Douglas L. Boldt, Nebraska

Paul L. Espinoza, New Mexico

Vincent James Troiola, New York

Past National Commanders

Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin (Excused)

Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)

John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts

Miles S. Epling, West Virginia (Excused)

Robert S. Turner, Georgia

Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)

Bruce Thiesen, California

William M. Detweiler, Louisiana

Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota

Joseph J. Frank, Missouri

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 (Excused)

Clarence E. Hill, Florida

Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska

Fang A. Wong, New York

James E. Koutz, Indiana

Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia

Michael D. Helm, Nebraska

Harold D. Barnett, Georgia

National Executive Committeemen

| Department | Committeeman | Alternate |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alabama | Willis Frazier (Excused) | Hardwick Rico Hall, Sr. |
| Alaska | James E. Pisa | |
| Arizona | Richard W. Perry | |
| Arkansas | Mary V. Erdman | |
| California | Janet M. Wilson (Excused) | Edward J. Grimsley |
| Colorado | Francis W. McCurdy | |
| Connecticut | D. Joseph Jackson | |
| Delaware | John A. Endres | |
| D.C. | Bron R. Mogenis | |
| Florida | Dennis R. Boland | |
| France | Nola L. Maloney | |
| Georgia | Charles F. Wessinger | |
| Hawaii | Marvin R. Siegfried | |
| Idaho | Arthur L. Gimpel | |
| Illinois | Wayne Wagner | |
| Indiana | Paul I. Steward | |
| Iowa | Bruce C. Feuerbach | |
| Kansas | David O. Warnken | |
| Kentucky | Randall Coffman | |
| Louisiana | Charles D. Aucoin | |
| Maine | John W. Hargreaves | |
| Maryland | Michael L. Mooney, Jr. | |
| Massachusetts | Francis J. MacDonald, Jr. | |
| Mexico | Michael D. Wood | |
| Michigan | Roger H. Webster | |
| Minnesota | Marland A. Ronning | |
| Mississippi | Robert E. Gosa | |
| Missouri | Kenneth J. Goth | |
| Montana | Mervin G. Gunderson | |
| Nebraska | William D. Crosier, Jr. | |
| Nevada | Ronald L. Michalski | |
| New Hampshire | William R. Roy | |
| New Jersey | Daniel E. McCole (Excused) | Charles K. Robbins |
| New Mexico | Felix M. Trujillo | |
| New York | William H. Burnett | |
| North Carolina | Jeff W. Joyner | |
| North Dakota | Robert L. Krause | |
| Ohio | Dennis E. Clausing | |
| Oklahoma | Marvin A. Sandbek | |
| Oregon | Robert D. Liebenow | |
| Pennsylvania | Dennis C. Haas | |
| Philippines | Lawrence E. Wade | |
| Puerto Rico | Luis A. Ayala | |
| Rhode Island | Robert D. Winston (Excused) | Cory D. Bates |
| South Carolina | Cecil F. Hennis | |
| South Dakota | Paul A. Evenson | |
| Tennessee | Gary R. Drennon | |
| Texas | C. W. Sparks, Jr. | |
| Utah | Terry D. Schow | |

| Department | Committeeman | Alternate |
|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Vermont | Francis J. Killay (Excused) | Marlys A. Lemmah (Excused) |
| Virginia | Thomas E. Saunders | |
| Washington | William R. 'Bob' Wallace (Excused) | Ken C. Lee |
| West Virginia | William W. Kile | |
| Wisconsin | Kenneth J. Rynes, Jr. | |
| Wyoming | Terry E. Miller | |

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. We have a quorum.

Minutes of the Previous National Executive Committee Meeting

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I now call for the reading it of the minutes of the previous meetings.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I got a first and second. You heard the motion. Are there any discussions? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it. ...*National Vice Commander Troiola, assumed the chair.*

Opening Remarks

Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon, National Commander

Good morning, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and all of our guests, and I must say it is indeed an honor and a pleasure to see Merv Gunderson back here. Welcome back. *(Applause)*

While we are about to commence a historical convention, I'm hoping that this meeting will allow us to ride the momentum of what has really been a historic year, a year that has included yet another peaceful transfer of power at the White House but also has marked several important selective victories for our American Legion.

Not only am I grateful to see that the GI Bill no longer has an arbitrary set, 15-year deadline for people to use educational benefits, but that the Forever G.I. Bill is aptly named for the architect of all of this, Past National Commander Harry Colmery.

The American Legion has been very visible in reminding the public about our legacy, as demonstrated by our recent forum at the World War II Museum in New Orleans and also the commemoration of the U.S. entering into World War I in Kansas City. The public exhibition is a forever reminder that the greatest legislation came from the greatest organization of American veterans, our American Legion.

We are heartened to see that Congress finally got around to approving the nominations of six top VA officials as well as eight DOD officials. That means Secretaries Shulkin and Mattis now have some needed assistance as they act on behalf of two of our pillars: The care of veterans and the defense of our great country.

Earlier this year, the president signed an accountability act that will protect VA whistleblowers and finally direct those who abuse the trust of veterans to find employment elsewhere. We are seeing that act being put to the test as Secretary Shulkin tries to remove the director of the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center, a director who by all accounts was failing to live up to the obligation that he was entrusted to. We will be watching this closely. And if accountability isn't delivered, we, The American Legion, will be at it again.

The system is often slow and resistant to change, but The American Legion is a persistent organization. When we see one of our four pillars under attack, we fight, and we fight to win.

Appeals modernization is another example of where our persistence and hard work paid off. This summer both the House and Senate passed this legislation which has been a high legislative priority for our American Legion. Too many veterans were dying and are dying of old age because their appeals could not be adjudicated. It was long past time to better organize and bring some needed control to what was for many veterans a bureaucratic nightmare.

We look forward to seeing the president sign this needed legislation. And if everything goes well, Wednesday is going to be a historic event when the president comes to address our convention. The president is scheduled to sign that appeals modernization bill on our convention stage, probably a first for any veterans service organization, because we fought the hardest, and I believe we earned that. So be proud of what you have done. *(Applause)*

I spoke of legacy a lot during my year, and our legacy, that's the legacy of the people here and the millions of Legionnaires who came before us. What better way to symbolize that legacy than The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin. The Coin Act has passed the Senate. The Senate heard your voice. When Congress returns this September, the Legion will work to ensure passage in the House. It is imperative that we continue to get those co-sponsors so our organization can achieve this rare honor.

When you return to your home states, have you, yourself, and members of your department contact your member of the U.S. House of Representatives and inquire if they have yet to sign on to be a co-sponsor of that bill. And if they already have, please express The American Legion's appreciation of them honoring a service organization that has been serving veterans for a hundred years. Ask them.

So while I have pulled no punches regarding the need for us to get more members in our American Legion family, you will hear me discuss it again during my report to the convention tomorrow. We have achieved some important milestones in Washington and through our outstanding programs in communities across our great land. I've also witnessed the global reach of our American Legion family as I have visited 55 departments, Legion posts of 235, visited military bases in Europe, visited the Far East, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Mexico, and, of course, Alaska. We have a great legacy, my fellow Legionnaires, and we have the infrastructure and we have the will to carry it forward. We must carry it forward. Let's have an outstanding convention, and let's accentuate the positive. It has been a great year for you and for me.

I can't thank each and every one of you enough as leaders of this organization of what you've done. Many of you will continue in your positions as NECmen. You are a representative of your department. You are also a leader in this organization. We all have a responsibility to carry the legacy forward. Let's continue to do it. May God bless each and every one of you, and may God continue to bless our American Legion, and may God continue to bless the greatest country in the world, our United States of America. Thank you. *(Standing applause) ...National Commander Schmidt resumed the Chair.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I now call on Chairman David O. Warnken of the Resolutions Subcommittee for a report.

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

Thank you, Commander. Mr. Commander, we will have three resolutions of emergency nature coming before the NEC this morning, and I'm going to read one at this time.

Resolution No. 3: Law Enforcement and Tolerance**Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions****Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 407: Law Enforcement and Tolerance, was implemented at the Fifth National Convention assembled in San Francisco, California, October 15-19, 1923, and stated:

“WHEREAS, The fundamental law of our country guarantees to all peoples equal rights and equal opportunities and the right to worship their God as they see fit; and

WHEREAS, It is provided that our laws shall be made and enforced by representatives of our people, chosen under the law so to do; and WHEREAS, Membership of The American Legion is made up of those who served our country in time of great national stress, without distinction as to race, color, creed or class; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is pledged to the orderly enforcement of our laws through lawful agencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in San Francisco, California, October 15-19, 1923, That we consider any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which creates, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we consider such action by any individual, groups, or organizations, to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of The American Legion”; and

WHEREAS, Due to the volatile and current violent events occurring in numerous cities throughout the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion completely supports the rule of law and order; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes the time has come to reaffirm our commitment to law and order by reaffirming Resolution 407 of 1923; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Reno, Nevada, on August 21, 2017, That The American Legion considers any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which creates, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion considers such action by any individual, groups, or organizations, to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of The American Legion.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion; you heard the second. Are there any discussions? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, would you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions, please.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Please uncover.

**Memorial Resolutions
T. Les Galloway, Oregon**

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, T. Les Galloway, Department Vice Commander, 1974 to 1975; Department Commander, 1975 to 1976; National Executive Committee Member, 1977 to 2005; National Health Administration Committee National Commander's Representative, 2013 to 2017; 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 21st Day of August in the year of our Lord 2017, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, T. Les Galloway, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution be presented to his family.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I would yield the podium for anyone who wants to speak on behalf of T. Les.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the NEC. Very briefly, I'm privileged to say a few words on behalf of my very close and dear friend, T. Les Galloway.

I don't know how many of us are left, but T. Les and I served as department commanders when he was from Oregon and I was from Massachusetts 42 years ago.

A friend like you would never believe. I must state, and let the commander know for the record, he used to call me constantly in the last couple years and say, "When in the hell are you going to recognize Oregon? When are we going to get a national commander?" I said, "Les, be careful. Take it easy. We'll get there."

He finally called me about six months before the commander was opened up. He said, "I can't wait any longer." I said, "All right." So I talked to the proper individuals, and the commander opened up that following October. That's the way it has to be done, ladies and gentlemen, because of dedication and loyalty and Legion comradeship. More importantly, Legion comradeship.

So, Mr. Chairman, I'm privileged to place into the record my sincere condolences to Les, to his family, on his passing. He'll always be remembered by the Comer family. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: It was my honor and pleasure to know T. Les Galloway, Thomas Les Galloway, a great Legionnaire and a great friend. And if a young Legionnaire ever needed or could ask for a mentor, you couldn't have had a better one than T. Les Galloway.

I think from the first time that I saw my name on the Americanism Council, a young, fresh, green district commander, Les said, "You can handle it." Over the years, he's mentored me. I tell you what, he's mentored many of us. There are those of you in this room that he's touched your life. You may have not felt it, you may have not known it, but he has touched your life, and he certainly touched mine.

T. Les was a gentleman, a perfect gentleman. You couldn't ask for anyone more elegant, more diplomatic and certainly more patriotic. He brought a great deal of love, patriotism and dedication to The American Legion. It was my honor to succeed him in this body after he served this body for 28 years.

You know, we've been talking about membership, who's going to fill their shoes. I think T. Les, way back when, was working on who's going to fill his shoes. I think that responsibility came to me, which I'm so honored and so humbled.

I remember T. Les saying, "I hope the day comes before I die that I will get to see Oregon have its first national commander." T. Les did. T. Les is in Post Everlasting, with his beloved Glad, looking down. Believe it or not, Les, you're still mentoring, because the things you've learned will never leave us.

God bless T. Les. Not only Oregon, but The American Legion has lost a great member. May he rest in peace, T. Les Galloway.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of the following: Ed C. Sawyer, Arizona; Richard H. Patton, Arizona; David L. Raymond, Hawaii; Bobby Thornberry, Kentucky; John Doyle, Maine; Arthur L. Smith, Massachusetts; Thomas G. Brown, Michigan; Patrick D. Smith, Michigan; Audrey B. Box, Mississippi; W. Haskel Smith, Mississippi; Frank E. Anderson, New Hampshire; Robert D. Shalala, Pennsylvania; John M. Hunt, Philippines; Virgil C. Christa, Tennessee; Armand M. "Mike" Hammer, Tennessee.

“We Shall Rise”

*He will not leave our treasures in the dust,
For God is just.*

*The hope sublime that soared into the sky, –
Can such hope die?*

*The faith serene that smiled at death –
Was it but breath?*

*The love that served and took not thought of cost, –
Can it be lost?*

*Nay, is it not with forces such as these
God peoples His eternities?*

–Charles Carroll Albertson

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now call on Gaither M. Keener of North Carolina, chairman of the Finance Commission, for the purpose of a report.

**Oral Report: Finance Commission
Gaither M. Kenner, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman**

Good morning, Commander. Good morning, NEC members. You have my written report in the package, and I'll summarize the report. The Finance Commission convened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 19. All members were present except for one. John Monahan of Connecticut because of flight delays didn't get here until yesterday. And he was excused.

All members of the NEC Liaison Committees were present, as were guests from several other fine departments.

We received the following reports from the national adjutant, national treasurer, finance director, the executive directors of our two national headquarters locations.

Written reports were also received from the Media & Communications, Marketing, and Internal Affairs Commission, the Membership & Post Activities Committee, and the national judge advocate. And all those were reviewed by your members.

The commission approved \$35,110.12 in write-offs as uncollectible debts; \$27,373.30 in emergency purchases and budget overruns made since this last meeting.

Automation of accounts payable and purchase orders processing at an annual cost of \$110,000, with one-time setup costs of \$40,000. Cost savings will be realized from no longer using manual processes and incurring efficiencies. And modern internal controls will be improved in regard to paying expenses and bills.

In addition, we approved a 6 percent cost of living allowance for national headquarters retirees. That was based on the recommendation of our consultants. This will go in effect January 1, 2018. I will tell you that the national headquarter retirees have not had a raise since 2008 and we're sufficiently funded.

Authorized personnel strength remains at 293.

The commission discussed the impact of declining membership. If membership stabilizes but it does not increase, and all other forecasts are approximately accurate, we'll begin seeing budget deficits in 2020. In an effort to avoid this deficit, a dues increase may be and could be needed to pass the national convention in 2019 and be effective January 2020.

There are several factors that will have impact on our forecasts beyond membership. Membership is only 41 percent of our total budget. On the revenue front, any increase in fundraising and corporate alliances could offset some of the losses in membership. On the expense side of the equation, national staff continues to streamline processes. Some of those endeavors, such as replacement of our membership system and automation of account payables, could have significant impact to our costs based upon estimates.

We received an update on department fundraising and the reason national is eliminating guaranteed fundraising for departments.

The commission recommends two resolutions for your approval.

Resolution 1: Transfer of Funds from the Sons of the American Legion Reserve Fund. \$300,000 from the Sons of the American Legion will be transferred from the SAL reserve fund and earmarked for the Temporary Financial Assistant program of The American Legion in order to care for the emergency needs of the children of our nation's veterans. This is the SAL gift to The American Legion for its 100th anniversary as we continue our care for veterans' children in the next 100 years.

The second resolution that came to our committee was: Agreement with Bergmann & Moore, LLC for 2018. The American Legion will enter into a contractual agreement with Bergmann & Moore, LLC to provide The American Legion court representations of veterans cases of procedural nature before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, that's the CAVC, at least two national training sessions annually for department service officers and board units, conduct at least ten VA regional office site visits, as well as research services and provide other services as set forth in the contract. Costs for such services shall not exceed \$350,000, which is \$100,000 less than currently being paid to our old law firm.

Gentlemen, I appreciate you allowing me to serve as your chairman this year. Thank you.

Report: Finance Commission

August 19, 2017

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

The Finance Commission convened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 19, 2017, in the Paradise Ballroom, Section A, of the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa. Present were Gaither M. Keener, Jr. (NC), Carl E. Levi (TN), Myron D. Kirby (IL), Denis J. McEaney (NY) and George C. Lussier, Jr. (VA, by telephone). John Monahan (CT) was excused. David O. Warnken (KS), Gary R. Drennon (TN), Robert L. Krause (ND), Kenneth J. Goth (MO),

and Thomas E. Saunders (VA), NEC Liaison Committee members, were also present, as were guests from several departments.

The following reported to the commission: the national adjutant, national treasurer, finance director, and the executive directors of our two national headquarters offices. Written reports from the Media & Communications, Marketing, and Internal Affairs Commissions, the Membership & Post Activities Committee, and the National Judge Advocate were reviewed.

The commission approved:

\$35,110.12 in write-offs and uncollectible debts.

\$27,373.30 in emergency purchases and budget overruns made since its last meeting.

Automation of accounts payable and purchase order processing at an annual cost of \$110,000, with one-time set-up costs of up to \$40,000. Cost savings will be realized from no longer using manual processes and efficiencies, and modern internal controls will be improved.

A 6 percent cost-of-living allowance for national headquarters' retirees. This will be effective January 1, 2018.

Authorized personnel strength remains at 293.

The commission discussed the impact of declining membership. If membership stabilizes but does not increase, and all other forecasts are approximately accurate, we will begin seeing budget deficits in 2020. In an effort to avoid this deficit, a dues increase would need to pass the national convention in 2019 and be effective January 2020.

There are several factors that will have an impact on our forecasts beyond membership. On the revenue front, any increase in fundraising and corporate alliances could offset some of the loss in membership. On the expense side of the equation, national staff continues to streamline processes. Some of those endeavors, such as the replacement of our membership system and the automation of accounts payable, could have a significant impact on our costs.

We received an update on department fundraising and the reasons national is eliminating guaranteed fundraising for departments.

The commission recommends two resolutions for your approval:

Resolution 1: Transfer Of Funds From The Sons Of The American Legion Reserve Fund \$300,000 from the Sons of The American Legion will be transferred from the SAL reserve fund and "earmarked" for the Temporary Financial Assistance program of The American Legion in order to care for the emergency needs of the children of our nation's veterans. This is the SAL's gift to The American Legion for its 100th anniversary as we continue our care for veterans' children into the next 100 years.

Resolution 2: Agreement with Bergmann & Moore, LLC – 2018. The American Legion will enter into a contractual agreement with Bergmann & Moore, LLC to provide The American Legion court representation on veterans' cases of precedential nature before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, at least two national training sessions annually for department service officers and board units, conduct at least ten VA regional Office site visits, as well as research services and provide other services as set for the in the contract. Costs for such services shall not exceed \$350,000, which is \$100,000 less than currently being paid.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move to approve the Financial report. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: We have a motion and a second. Are there any discussions regarding the Finance report? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, with the exception of the report, I have two resolutions at this time.

Resolution No. 1: Transfer of Funds from the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) approved a donation to The American Legion for the 100th anniversary to the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program in order to support a significant cause to carry on the legacy of the Sons of The American Legion by supporting youths in need at their SAL National Executive Committee Meeting on August 18, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1919 The American Legion has remained committed to the health and welfare of our nation's veterans and their families, and the Temporary Financial Assistance program was born from that commitment nearly 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, The TFA program provides non-repayable cash grants to children of eligible veterans that help maintain the basic needs of those children, such as shelter, utilities, clothing, food and medical care, when parents or guardians are unable to do so; and

WHEREAS, Gifts and donations for the TFA program are added to a trust, The American Legion Endowment Fund, where they will provide perpetual support for future generations since only the income from fund investments are spent; and

WHEREAS, A child calling out in need should never be unanswered, the general fund of The American Legion has stepped up each year to bridge a remaining gap to ensure our youth's needs are met; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Reno, Nevada, on August 21, 2017, That \$300,000 from the Sons of The American Legion be transferred from the Sons of The American Legion reserve fund and "earmarked" for the Temporary Financial Assistance program of The American Legion in order to care for the emergency needs of the children of our nation's veterans; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this transfer be acknowledged by The American Legion as the Sons of The American Legion gift to The American Legion for its 100th anniversary as we continue our care for veterans children into the next 100 years.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You heard the motion; you heard the second. Are there any discussions regarding Resolution No. 1? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it. Let me add: The Sons of the American Legion does great things for The American Legion. (*Applause*)

Resolution No. 2: Agreement with Bergmann & Moore, LLC - 2018

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion, the largest wartime veterans service organization in the United States with 2.3 million members in nearly 14,000 posts in nearly every community in America, was chartered by an Act of Congress in 1919, and is committed to advancing the interests of veterans, their survivors, and dependents (hereafter "veterans") in combatting U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policies and practices that improperly deprive them of the veterans' benefits to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, Bergmann & Moore, LLC (B&M) is a national law firm founded in 2004 and managed by former VA attorneys providing high quality representation of veterans

before VA, the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) and other courts as well as providing effective advocacy training in VA benefits law, including CAVC cases and related matters; and

WHEREAS, The CAVC provides veterans a judicial forum where they may challenge VA decisions that wrongfully deny veterans the benefits they are entitled, including Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) decisions based on illegal VA policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that an efficient method of vindicating veterans' rights before the CAVC would be to appeal to the CAVC cases handled before BVA by The American Legion's appeals staff, including, but not limited to test cases to challenge VA policies or practices injuring many veterans as well as to submit briefs as a friend of the court on other cases presenting far-reaching issues; and

WHEREAS, The quality of administrative representation provided to veterans by The American Legion's advocates could be improved by providing advocacy training in VA benefits law, including the content of CAVC decisions and how to use them; and

WHEREAS, Because the increasing complexity of VA advocacy is of great concern to The American Legion, The American Legion desires: B&M to train American Legion advocates; B&M to participate in Legion site visits of VA regional offices; B&M to represent, pro bono, veterans with a Legion Power of Attorney who are appealing BVA decisions to the CAVC; B&M to prepare amicus curiae, file test case litigation, or serve as a part to a court proceeding; and B&M to provide other services; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and B&M agree that the overall advocacy goal of any agreed upon contract is to assist veterans and certain beneficiaries in a prompt and professional manner in order to obtain the maximum VA benefits allowed at the earliest possible time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Reno, Nevada, on August 21, 2017, That The American Legion enter into a contractual agreement with Bergmann & Moore, LLC (B&M) to provide The American Legion court representation on veterans' cases of precedential nature before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, at least two (2) national training sessions annually for department service officers and board units, conduct at least ten Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office site visits, as well as research services and provide other services as set forth in the contract; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the services provided under the contract are for a period starting January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018, inclusive; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the costs for such services shall not exceed Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$350,000.00); and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the total fee of \$350,000.00 will be paid on or before February 15, 2018; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That after review and approval by the national judge advocate, the national commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement, contract or memorandum of understanding and the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and a second. Are there any discussions on the resolution? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chair recognizes Past National Commander Detweiler.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DETWEILER: On behalf of the National Endowment Fund, I express our sincere thanks to the Sons and we do so in the proper manner for the generous donation to the Temporary Financial Assistance Fund maintained under the Endowment Fund. Thank you, sir. (*Applause*)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I now call on Chairman Michael E. Walton of Illinois for a report on our convention. Mr. Chairman.

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

Good morning, Mr. Commander Schmidt, members of the NEC. Our meeting was held on Saturday, August 19, at 8:00 a.m. at the Atlantis, and all of our members were present. Our complete report is in your packet. I went over the convention assignments for all the members of the commission, and they were also instructed they have to have detailed reports to us for our fall meetings in October.

The Color Guard contests were well attended by the contestants and the observers. We had six color guards compete in three categories with Newport Beach Harbor Post 291 from Newport Beach, California, being crowned as the national champions.

Our parade last night went well. Our national staff members and the members from the Department of Nevada have put everything well together. Everything has been going very well so far with the convention.

We have three departments bidding on the 2023 national convention, which are Charlotte, North Carolina; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Tampa, Florida.

We had no items at our commission that required action by the National Executive Committee.

Dates for our future conventions. Minneapolis will be August 24 through 30, 2018; Indianapolis, August 23 through 29, 2019; Louisville, Kentucky, August 28 through September 3 of 2020; Phoenix, Arizona, will be August 27 through September 2 of 2021; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will be August 26 through September 1 of 2022.

We're going to have an outstanding convention here in Reno. And that concludes my report, commander. I thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Report: Convention Commission
August 19, 2017
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael E. Walton (IL) at 8:00 A.M., August 19, 2017. Roll call was taken and all members were present.

Chairman Walton reviewed the convention assignments for each commission member and reminded them that a detailed convention report should be provided to the commission at the 2017 Fall Meeting. The Color Guard contests were well attended by contestants and observers. Six color guards competed in three categories with Newport Beach Harbor Post 291 from Newport Beach, California, being crowned again as National Champions.

We have three Departments bidding on the 2023 National Convention which are the following: Charlotte, North Carolina; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Tampa, Florida.

There were no items, which require action by the National Executive Committee, discussed during this meeting.

Dates for future Conventions are:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Minneapolis, Minnesota | Aug. 24 – 30, 2018 |
| Indianapolis, Indiana | Aug. 23 – 29, 2019 |
| Louisville, Kentucky | Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 2020 |

Phoenix, Arizona

Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 2021

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Aug. 26 – Sept. 1, 2022

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Motion to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission. ... *Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You heard a motion and second. Are there any discussions regarding the Convention Commission report? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for all your good, hard work coming to fruition this week. It is going to be a great convention. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I now call on Chairman Kenneth D. Danilson of Iowa for a report on the Marketing Commission.

**Oral Report: Marketing Commission
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman**

Thank you, Mr. Commander, members of the NEC, and guests. You have my written report. I only want to touch upon one part of it that I think is important and has already been discussed, but we need to really reiterate that.

The Coin Bill update the commander just talked about, just to go into what I have my in report. On August 3, 2017, the Senate passed S.1182, The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. On the House side, we currently stand at 298 co-sponsors of H.R.2519. Two hundred ninety sponsors are required with an organizational goal of 300. So we are just about where we want to be when they come back into session.

On behalf of the Marketing Commission, James Baca and his staff, I want to thank all of you and those in your departments for everything you have done in this effort. Mr. Commander, there being no further items of importance, this concludes my report. Thank you.

**Report: Marketing Commission
August 21, 2017
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman**

Guaranteed Fundraising Service

With the approval of both the Marketing and Finance Commission chairmen, national headquarters has ceased "guaranteed fundraising" for all departments.

Initially the plan was to have the majority of departments use national for all of their fundraising so that eventually all American Legion fundraising would be controlled out of national headquarters, resulting in consistent messaging, lower costs and greater profit for all.

We have discovered that we do not have sufficient staff to provide the customer service expected, nor the expertise to adequately mine the data collected for maximum profit.

Patriot Fundraising Group, a subsidiary of Moore DM Group, has agreed to honor all existing contracts and work with departments which were expected to renew their contracts in 2018 in order to ensure that no department suffers a revenue loss.

The Geiger Operations Center, where department fundraising was centered, will continue to use the current equipment for core business such as membership card production and other routine printing jobs. While exiting guaranteed fundraising does free up some time, it doesn't do away with the need for most of the staff and equipment. In fact, after adjustments in personnel are effected, the staff head count will probably decrease by no more than three.

Coin bill update

On August 3, 2017, the Senate passed S.1182 The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act.

On the House side, we currently stand at 298 co-sponsors of H.R.2519. 290 sponsors is required with an organizational goal of 300. With the house being in August recess, we will not see a movement in additional sponsors until September. Each member of the Legislative Council has been sent a "handcard" to place in the hand of their representative during their time back in their perspective districts.

House: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2519/cosponsors>

Senate: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1182/cosponsors>

DMS counts finished the 2017 cycle at 100,427 members recruited. Focus again was placed on expired members, where we reactivated 53,959 members. We also acquired an additional 46,468 new - never before members.

The first DMS mailing for the 2018 cycle began in late July and finished in August. Nearly 3 million pieces of mail were produced across many continuation and test rental lists as well as lists of expired members from 2010 forward. This year's focus is planned to concentrate on the new never before segments and fill in with expires. The first mailing contains more than 2.3 million pieces to acquire new members and the balance of about 700,000 pieces to reactivate expires. Through August 8th we have acquired or reactivated approximately 8,000 of the 120,000 goal.

The second of three mailings is planned to drop throughout the month of October and is currently in the early stages of production. With the approval of both the Marketing and Finance Commission chairmen, national headquarters has ceased "guaranteed fundraising" for all departments.

National Fundraising (Non-member)

Through July revenue is on target with budget finishing at about \$6,190,000. We are on pace to meet the budgeted net goal of \$2,100,000.

Report: Emblem Committee
Alvan T. Fuller, Massachusetts, Chairman

As of the June 2017 profit and loss statement, The American Legion Emblem Sales Division had year-to-date revenue of \$7.930 million vs. \$7.581 million in 2016. Net year-to-date profit was \$1.291 million vs. \$1.290 in 2016.

2017 flag sales continue to be strong. Emblem Sales has sold \$1,722,000 in flags which is a +14% increase over last year. Currently, 1,677 posts are registered in the "Flag Rewards" program and 16,000 schools, businesses, churches and individuals have signed up to sponsor a post. This represents an increase of 150 registered American Legion posts as well as 3,134 new sponsors since National Convention 2016.

Flag sales have also been positively impacted by a cover-wrap advertisement in the April issue of The American Legion Magazine. One million magazines with the cover-wrap were mailed to members. As of July 21, 2017, an estimated sales total of \$171,410, as well as an estimated net profit of \$34,000 has been generated from the cover-wrap. In addition, over 80% of the cover-wrap orders have come from new customers.

Emblem Sales continues to market items strategically to members and patriotic Americans, both electronically and in print. In 2017, 670,900 marketing emails have been sent at a cost of only \$2,012. These marketing emails have resulted in \$125,400 in revenue.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and a second. Are there any discussions on the Marketing report? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. All opposed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And let's let the House of Representatives hear The American Legion voice on the coin, once again. I now call on Chairman Richard W. Anderson of Connecticut for a report on the Americanism Commission.

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

Thank you, Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee and guests, your Americanism Commission met on Saturday, August 18, 8:30 a.m. with 134 members present, our youth champions and guests.

You have been provided copies of the written report of the Americanism Commission. There are currently no matters of an emergency nature for the Americanism Commission to present to the National Executive Committee.

Our challenges are great, but I have great confidence that your Americanism Commission is up to the task. On behalf of the commission, I extend our deepest gratitude to you, Mr. Commander, and all members of this National Executive Committee for the advocacy and support that you have extended to us this past year. Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: Americanism Commission
August 19, 2017
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

The Americanism Commission met on Saturday, August 19, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in the Atlantis Resort, Grand Ballroom, Sections 4-7, Second Floor in Reno, Nevada. One hundred thirty-four members of the Americanism Commission, Americanism Council, Committee on Children & Youth, Committee on Youth Education and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee were in attendance. The meeting opened with presentation and posting of the colors and singing of the national anthem by cadets of the Spanish Springs High School U.S. Army JROTC Cougar Battalion. The commission was especially honored by the cadets' special tribute to the WWII era and its veterans, displayed by the WWII period uniforms that each cadet wore.

Charles Schmidt (OR), National Commander of The American Legion brought greetings. Accompanying him were National Vice Commanders Douglas Boldt (NE) and Paul Espinoza (NM), as well as Don Weber (OR), National Commander's Aide. Also bringing greetings were Past National Commander Jake Comer (MA); Paul Evenson (SD), Chairman, Americanism Commission Liaison Committee; Dennis Boland (FL), President, American Legion Child Welfare Foundation; and Jill Druskis (NE), Director, Americanism Division, American Legion National Headquarters.

Mr. David Azerrad was recognized as the honored recipient of the 2017 American Legion National Education Award. Azerrad is director of the B. Kenneth Simon Center for Principles and Politics at the Heritage Foundation, where he devotes his time and research to increase public understanding of America's founding principles. As director for Principles and Politics, Azerrad teaches the tenets of the American political tradition to policymakers, political leaders and the public, while connecting the nation's first principles to the thorny questions of the day. A popular speaker, Azerrad gives talks around the country on topics related to American founding principles, constitutionalism, modern liberalism and conservatism, and the American Dream. He has spoken on many college campuses and has addressed audiences in more than 25 states, including several

presentations to delegates of The American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington D.C.

The Americanism Commission welcomed the 2017 American Legion Youth Champion Delegation and heard remarks from each of the young champions. In attendance were: Adam Conway, 2016 American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team Captain of Chester, Virginia; Darius Thomas, 2017 Boys Nation President of Phenix City, Alabama; Emily Stith, 2017 Precision Junior Shooting Sports Champion of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Andrew Steinberg, 2017 National Oratorical Contest champion of Newton, Massachusetts. Hailey Smith, 2017 Sporter Junior Shooting Sports Champion of Zion, Illinois, and Scott Moore, Jr., 2017 Eagle Scout of the Year of Clarksville, Tennessee, were unable to attend due to each having military training obligations.

Ellen Andrews, Casualty Affairs Liaison, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) next gave a presentation to the commission. TAPS offers compassionate care to all those grieving the loss of a military loved one. TAPS is also a previous American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient. Ms. Andrews briefed the commission about the TAPS organization, its mission and services, and the positive impact that American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants have had upon their organization and the survivors they serve and support.

Paul Pentittla, Scout Executive and CEO, Nevada Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, and also an American Legion Boys State alumnus, provided a presentation that included an overview of the Boy Scouts of America, their impact upon youth and local communities, their longstanding relationship with The American Legion, and how our two organizations work mutually together to “make adventure happen” for youth of America.

The American Legion Youth Law Enforcement (YCLE) Committee met on August 18, 2017, at the Atlantis Resort, Grand Ballroom, Section 3, Second Floor, and a committee report was given by committee chairman Larry Price (SD). Chairman Price briefed on the success of having opportunity to attend and provide a presentation at the State and Provincial Police Academy Directors (SPPADS) Conference last June about the American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program. The conference was comprised of training academy commanders from every state/highway patrol in the nation and five Canadian provinces. The YCLE Committee also discussed their strategic plan and updates to the YCLE online toolkit.

Attendees received information about the Patriotic Memorial Service to be conducted on Sunday, August 20, 2017, from Assistant Director Tyler Mitchell (IN).

Chairman Anderson concluded the meeting by extending some special recognition, and expressing appreciation to all volunteers for the fine support and advocacy that Americanism and Children & Youth programs have received throughout this past year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You have heard the motion and a second. Are there any discussions on the Americanism report? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion passed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had a great year of our programs come to fruition this year. You have given a lot of young folks great opportunities, from oratorical to baseball, to participate. Thank you and thank the folks in your department for making something good happen for our American Legion. I now call on the chairman, James W. Oxford, Legislative Commission, from North Carolina, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
James W. Oxford, North Carolina, Chairman

Commander Schmidt, members of the National Executive Committee and guests, there are currently no matters of an emergency nature or legislative issues to present to the National Executive Committee. You have been provided a copy of our complete report. So I will spare you by not reading it. As required by resolution, the annual report of the National Legislative Council is attached to that report. I'm sure many of you have seen a flurry of activity out of the legislative division in Capitol Hill. It's a true honor to lead this division through such active times.

Just three weeks ago Congress finally passed the Appeals Modernization legislation; the Choice extension; the Colmery GI Bill, as the commander mentioned, named after Past National Commander Colmery; and the Senate also passed The American Legion Coin bill. So we have been active.

We passed out a handout a few minutes ago. Everybody should have a copy of that. This handout shows the legislators not on board as co-sponsors. The report just a minute ago was 298 on board. As of 20 minutes ago, that number is 299. This report is alphabetized by state. It shows the congressmen not on board. So if your man is not on board, please call or contact your representative, get them on board. We need their help.

Since the beginning of the 115th Congress in January of this year, our staff has testified 22 times, provided over 38 letters of support to members of Congress, and have worked on well over 60 pieces of legislation. In short, the Legislative Division is busy fighting for veterans and their families every single day.

All that said, the true power of influence The American Legion holds comes from our members and the fine people in this room. When alerts and requests are sent out, we need you to get active and stay active. We need you to let Congress know The American Legion cares about veterans and the voice we carry.

In closing, on behalf of all members of the national Legislative Commission, I wish to extend to all members of this body my appreciation for your support and encouragement during this past year. And a special thanks to you, commander, for active support and positive approach to our programs. Thank you.

Report: Legislative Commission
August 19, 2017
James W. Oxford, North Carolina, Chairman

The National Legislative Commission met on Saturday, August 19, 2017 in the Reno-Spark Convention Center, D6, in Reno, Nevada. Twenty one (21) members of the Commission, six (6) members of the NEC Liaison, and fifteen (15) visitors were present, bringing it to a total of forty two (42). Others in attendance included Past National Commander Dale Barnett and leading candidate for National Commander Denise Rohan. Also in attendance was National Commander Charles Schmidt. The meeting was devoted primarily to a detailed discussion of recent congressional activities involving legislative mandates of The American Legion.

National Legislative Commission Chairman James Oxford (NC) offered opening remarks before introducing the National Legislative Council Chairman Dewey Moss (GA) for a report. Chairman Moss discussed the grassroots lobbying activities and gave a brief summary of the Annual Consolidated Activities Report.

Matthew Shuman, National Legislative Director, provided the commission a discussion of the 115th Congressional activities as they relate to veterans issues and concerns. He also provided a preview of the remainder of the 2017 congressional session.

The following report provides an abbreviated account of congressional developments since this Commission met in February.

AMERICANISM

On February 8, 2017 Representative Steve Womack (AR) introduced House Joint Resolution (HJ Res.) 61, a flag protection constitutional amendment for the 115th Congress. It has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. The measure currently boasts 24 cosponsors. A Senate companion measure, Senate Joint Resolution (SJ Res.) 46 was introduced on June 14 by Senator Steve Daines (MT). That measure now has 11 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.

On May 5, 2017 the President signed into law the final continuing appropriations measure for FY17, as PL 115-31. Under the provisions of the new law, Department of Justice programs received \$29 billion in funding for the remainder of the fiscal year (until September 30, 2017). Specific areas of interest to The American Legion include:

- *Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)*: The FBI received \$8.8 billion for this year;
- *U.S. Marshals Service*: This agency would receive \$1.2 billion;
- *Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)*: \$2.1 billion is tabbed for this agency;
- *Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)*: The legislation contains \$1.3 billion; and,
- *Juvenile Justice Grants*: One program area that has been a primary Legion concern since 1974 is the account for juvenile justice grants, which totals \$247 million for FY 2017. These grants address such concerns as child abuse, youth gangs and violence against children, missing / exploited children, and underage drinking.

On June 28, the full House Appropriations Committee approved HR 3267, legislation to fund the Departments of Commerce and Justice and Science programs for FY 2018. In particular, the Department of Justice (DOJ) would receive \$29 billion for his various programs. Areas of DOJ which concern the Legion include:

- *Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)* is funded at \$8.8 billion, an increase of \$48 million over FY 2017 amounts;
- *U.S. Marshals Service* includes \$2.8 billion, an increase of \$88 million over FY 17 funding;
- *Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)* would receive \$2.6 billion, \$98 million above current year enacted levels;
- *Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)*: The legislation contains \$1.3 billion, \$35 million more than FY 17;
- *Veterans Treatment Courts grants* will receive \$7 million for the upcoming fiscal year; and,
- *Juvenile Justice Grants* programs would be funded at \$170.5 million for FY 18.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

On March 28, President Trump signed PL 115-15, the *Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017*. The measure permanently recognizes March 29 each year as “National Vietnam War Veterans Day” as an appropriate occasion to fly the American flag. This law added March 29 as a day for displaying the American flag, as enumerated in Title 4, U.S. Code, Section 6(d). With enactment of this new law, there is no longer a need for the President to sign a resolution recognizing this significant date.

President Trump on March 31 signed PL 115-18. This legislation designates a location in our nation's capital for a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

On May 18, Rep. Tim Walz (MN), the Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced HR 2519, *The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act*, with 102 original cosponsors. On the same day in the Senate, Sen. Todd Young (IN) introduced a Senate companion measure, S 1182, with 28 cosponsors. These bills would require the U.S. Mint to strike a commemorative coin to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of our organization. The House measure now includes a total of 269 cosponsors, and the Senate legislation has 75 cosponsors, thanks to the work of the Legislative Division. On August 3, the Senate approved S 1182 by a voice vote, sending the measure to the House for action.

On April 24, the Legislative Division began contacting all members of both the House and Senate, seeking original cosponsors for these commemorative coin bills. More cosponsors are being sought for HR 2519. To that end, all members of the National Legislative Council have been contacted, asking them to get in touch with their elected officials and urge them to become cosponsors of the legislation.

The Senate, on August 3, passed by voice vote HR 873, the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Act. The measure originally was approved by the House on July 28 by a voice vote. The bill allows the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia. The memorial would commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The legislation now goes to President Trump for his signature.

NATIONAL SECURITY

On March 16, the House voted 240-175 to approve HR 1181, the *Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act*. The measure now goes to the Senate for consideration. The measure would prohibit the VA from considering any beneficiary assisted by a fiduciary as "mentally defective" without a magistrate or judicial authority ruling that the beneficiary is a public danger for the purpose of reporting their names to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), or any other database intended to identify persons who would be excluded from keeping, possessing, or owning firearms. The American Legion supports this legislation.

Final funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) for the balance of FY 2017 was contained in PL 115-31, signed by the President on May 5. The measure allots \$593 billion for DOD programs, an increase of \$19.9 billion over the FY 2016 enacted level. It includes \$76.6 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funding – including \$14.8 billion in supplemental funds requested by the current administration.

Defense spending includes:

- *Military Personnel and Pay*: \$132.2 billion for military personnel and pay accounts, including a 2.1 percent pay raise for all uniformed personnel and civilian employees. This funding level provides for 1.305 million active-duty troops and 813,200 Guard and Reserve troops.
- *Operation and Maintenance*: \$223 billion; this category supports key readiness programs to prepare our troops for combat and peacetime missions, including flight time and training, equipment and facility maintenance, and base operations.
- *Research and Development*: \$73.7 billion; this area will fund research, development, testing, and evaluation of new defense technologies. It will help to

advance the safety and success of current and future military operations and prepare our nation to meet a broad range of future security threats.

- Procurement: \$123.3 billion; these funds support our nation's military readiness by providing the necessary platforms, weapons, and other equipment our military needs to train, maintain the force, and conduct successful operations.
- Health: \$34.1 billion for DOD health and family programs; the legislation includes funding for cancer research, as well as traumatic brain injury and psychological health research and suicide prevention outreach programs.

Under the provisions of PL 115-31, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) received \$42.4 billion for its various programs for the remainder of FY 2017. Specific appropriations amounts include:

- Customs and Border Protection – \$11.4 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of \$137 million over the previous year;
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – \$6.4 billion for this agency, a \$550 million increase;
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA) – \$7.8 billion, \$331 million above FY 2016 amounts;
- U.S. Coast Guard – \$10.5 billion, including \$1.37 billion for modernization of vessels, aircraft, and facilities;
- U.S. Secret Service -- \$2 billion, an increase of \$113 million over the previous year's spending;
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – \$7.3 billion for disaster relief funds, including \$2.7 billion in first responder grants; and,
- Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) – Although most of this agency's activities are funded through fee collections, \$121.1 million was appropriated for the E-Verify program, which allows companies to check the legal work status of their employees.

This legislation also contained \$247.7 million in funding for military construction related to Overseas Contingency Operations.

On July 27, the House approved by a vote of 235-192 HR 3219, a bill to fund the Military Construction programs and the Department of Veterans Affairs for FY 2018.

For military construction programs of the Department of Defense (DOD), this bill would provide \$10.2 billion in FY 2018. This amount is an increase of \$2.1 billion – or 25 percent – over current year spending. Within that amount, individual program areas include:

- Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) – \$638 million for projects directly related to facilities to support OCO;
- Military Family Housing – \$1.4 billion to fund construction, operation and maintenance of military family housing, an increase of \$131 billion above FY 2017 level. This funding will ensure quality housing for 1.388 million families served by the program;
- Military Medical Facilities -- \$737 million for construction and alterations for new or existing military medical facilities, an increase of \$433 million above current year level;
- DOD Education Facilities -- \$249 million for essential safety improvements and infrastructure work at four DOD Education Activities facilities in the U.S. and overseas;
- Guard and Reserve -- \$575 million for construction/alteration of Guard and Reserve Facilities in 22 states;

- *NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP)* -- \$178 million – same as FY 2017 – for infrastructure necessary for wartime, crisis, peace support and deterrence operations, and training requirements; and,
- *Guantanamo Bay*– The legislation continues language to prohibit the closure of the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station and a provision to forbid funding for any facility within the U.S. to house detainees. It also includes \$115 million to fund the construction of two new barracks to house servicemembers stationed at Guantanamo Bay.

On July 27, the House of Representatives approved by a recorded vote of 235-192 the bill HR 3219, legislation to fund the Department of Defense (DOD) for FY 2018. Funding for the upcoming fiscal year totals \$658.1 billion – discretionary funding is set at \$584.2 billion, an increase of \$68.1 billion over current year funding – with \$73.9 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)/Global War on Terrorism funding. Funding totals for major DOD accounts include:

- *Military Personnel and Pay* – The legislation includes \$138.3 billion to provide for 1.324 million active-duty troops and 822,900 Guard and Reserve personnel. This category received an additional \$1 billion above the request for the additional end strength, and fully funds a 2.4 percent pay raise for the military.
- *Operation & Maintenance* – A total of \$241 billion was approved for this account. The amount is \$3.1 billion above the request and \$24.1 billion above FY17.
- *Research and Development* – The bill contains \$84.3 billion for research, development, testing and evaluation of new defense technologies. This funding is \$10.3 billion more than current year funding.
- *Procurement* – A total of \$149 billion is proposed for this account. This amount is \$24.1 billion above FY 17 funding. These funds provide for the weapons and other equipment necessary to train, maintain the force, and conduct successful operations.
- *Defense Health and Military Family Programs* – This account contains \$34 billion for the Defense Health Program, an increase of \$267 million above the request. Also included in this account are: \$282 million for cancer research; \$277 million for sexual assault prevention and response; and, \$125 million for traumatic brain injury and psychological health research.

The original text of HR 3219 was combined with HR 2998 (MilCon/VA), and the Legislative Branch funding measure and the Energy Department and Water Development programs spending bill as a “minibus” to enhance its chances of passage.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

On July 27, the House voted 235-192 to approve HR 3219 – as cited above – which contained the text of HR 2998, legislation to fund Military Construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Related Agencies for FY 2018.

Overall spending in the VA portion of the measure totals \$88.8 billion in discretionary funding, a \$6 billion increase over the FY 2017 spending level. Specific VA accounts would receive the following funding amounts:

- *VA Medical Services* – \$69 billion. Individual accounts which interest The American Legion include: \$8.4 billion in mental health care services; \$7.3 billion in homeless veterans treatment, services, housing, and job training; \$751 million for Hepatitis C treatment; \$316 million for traumatic brain injury treatments; \$250 million in rural health initiatives; \$186 million in suicide prevention activities; and, \$50 million for opioid abuse prevention.

- *Medical and Prosthetic Research* – The new law provided \$698 million for this account, an increase of \$23 million over the previous year’s funding.
- *Advance Appropriations for All Veterans Programs for FY 2019* – \$178.4 billion. Discretionary medical programs will be funded in 2019 at \$70.7 billion. In addition, mandatory programs will be funded at \$107.7 billion. This was done to eliminate the possibility that VA programs would go unfunded in case of a government shutdown.
- *National Cemetery Administration* – This agency received \$306 million for its operations, \$20 million more than FY 2017.
- *Information Technology (IT)* – This account received \$4.13 billion, a decrease of \$15 million.
- *Disability Claims Processing* – \$2.89 billion was allocated to address the burgeoning claims backlog. This amount is an increase of \$50 million over the President’s request. This funding will support new staff to tackle claims and appeals work, digital scanning of claims; and centralized mail. Funding for the Board of Veterans Appeals was increased by \$46 million to a total of \$156 million, to address the looming appeals backlog.
- *Construction* – Major construction funding totaled \$410 million, \$118 million below the 2017 amount. Funds will be used for correcting critical seismic deficiencies, new hospital and clinic construction, and repairing crumbling infrastructure in some of VA’s oldest structures. Minor construction was set at \$343 million, a decrease of \$30 million from the previous year.
- *Construction Grants* – The state extended care facilities (state veterans’ homes) account received \$90 million, with the state cemeteries programs receiving \$45 million, both totals equal to FY 2017. Both of these programs have been essentially flat-lined by Congress for a number of years; The American Legion continues to urge Congress to make substantial increases in both grant accounts to allow states to construct state cemeteries and states veterans’ homes.

On June 23, President Trump signed into law PL 115-41, the *VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017*. This legislation, over a year in development, would:

- Create a new streamlined and efficient process to remove, demote or suspend (for longer than 14 days) any VA employee for poor performance or misconduct with a concrete shortened timeline, while still protecting employees’ due process rights, and would provide them with the right to appeal the action;
- Provide expanded protections for whistleblowers and specifically bar VA from using this removal authority if the employee has an open whistleblower complaint/case with the Office of Special Counsel;
- Provide the VA Secretary with the authority to: (1) reduce an employee’s federal pension if they are convicted of a felony that influenced their job at VA; (2) recoup a bonus provided to an employee who engaged in misconduct or poor performance prior to receiving the bonus; and (3) allow the Secretary to recoup any relocation expenses that were authorized for a VA employee only through the employee’s ill-gotten means, such as fraud, waste, or malfeasance; and,
- Authorize the Secretary to directly appoint individuals to the positions of Medical Center Director and Director of Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) if they have a demonstrated ability in the medical profession, health care administration or health care fiscal management. This will make it easier to fill these critical positions quickly.

The bill had its genesis from the VA “waiting list” scandal that erupted in 2014. It was revealed that a number of veterans died while waiting to receive health care. Enactment

of this new law will incentivize VA employees to provide America's veterans with the care they deserve and hold these employees accountable when they fall short of their responsibilities.

On June 27, VA officials announced that veterans with less-than-honorable discharges will be able to access VA emergency rooms for urgent mental health care starting July 5. This action is a fulfillment of a pledge made by VA Secretary David Shulkin in March to find more ways to help those veterans, even if their status makes them ineligible for traditional veterans' benefits. The new initiative mandates that the estimated 300,000 veterans with other-than-honorable paperwork (known by many veterans as "bad paper") may receive care for "a mental health emergency" for up to 90 days. That may include inpatient services, residential care or outpatient options.

Secretary Shulkin in a statement said, "Suicide prevention is my top clinical priority. We want these former servicemembers to know there is someplace they can turn if they are facing a mental health emergency, whether it means urgent care at a VA emergency department, a Vet Center or through the Veterans Crisis Line." The Veterans Crisis Line is also open to all veterans in need of immediate mental health assistance. To access the program, call 800-273-8255 and press 1, text 838255, or visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>.

On July 24, several pieces of legislation related to veterans received action on the House floor. These measures now go to the Senate for further action. The measures included:

- HR 1058, the *VA Provider Equity Act*, which addresses the pay rates and career movement of podiatrists;
- HR 1690, the *Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act*, requiring reporting of all bonuses paid to Department executives;
- HR 1848, the *Veterans Affairs Medical Scribe Pilot Act of 2017*, implementing a pilot project to use scribes to assist physicians in a few VA medical centers; and,
- HR 2006, the *VA Procurement Efficiency and Transparency Act*, to improve the procurement practices of VA.

Also on July 24, the House debated S 114, legislation for funding VA's Choice program for providing community care, failed on a procedural vote of 219 to 186. The proposition was strongly opposed by many veterans' service organizations on the grounds that it paid for the extension by reducing funding for other VA programs.

House Veterans' Affairs Committee members spent the week strengthening the measure. On July 28, S 114 was again presented to the full House. This version of the legislation provides \$2.1 billion to continue the Choice Program for six months while Congress works on other reforms to the Choice Program. It would also authorize 28 major medical facility leases (many pending approval for two years) and included an additional \$1.8 billion to enhance the recruitment, retention, and training of the VA workforce. The House passed the revised version of S 114 by a 414-0 recorded vote. The Senate passed the measure by a voice vote on August 1, sending it to the White House for the President's signature.

On August 1 the Senate passed HR 2288, the *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017*. This legislation would reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Senate passed the measure with amended text which passed the House on May 23 by a 418-0 vote. As a result, the Senate-passed version must return to the House for approval before it can be signed into law by the President.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

On July 19, the House Appropriations Committee by a vote of 28-22 approved HR 3358, legislation which sets FY 2018 funding for the Department of Labor (DOL). The Veterans Employment and Training Service (VET), which oversees programs which interest The American Legion, would receive \$284 million, \$4.4 million above current year spending. Spending totals for individual programs include:

- Jobs for Veterans state grants will receive \$175 million, which fund DVOP and LVER personnel;
- Federal administrative costs were funded at \$42 million;
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs would receive \$47.5 million;
- Transition Assistance Program (TAP) was funded at \$16.1 million; and,
- National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute (NVTI) would receive \$3.4 million for its operations, which includes the training of DVOP and LVER personnel.

By a recorded vote of 405-0, the House on July 24 passed HR 3218, the *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017* – colloquially known as the “Forever GI Bill” – which would make significant changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. These include eliminating a requirement that veterans use their benefits within 15 years of active-duty service. It would also expand benefits for reservists, Purple Heart recipients and surviving dependents. The bill would also retroactively restore benefits to veterans affected by recent school closures and provide additional funds to GI Bill users pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math. The Senate on August 2 passed HR 3218 by unanimous consent without amendments. The legislation now goes to President Trump for his signature.

On July 24, the House passed by voice vote HR 2749, the *Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2017*. This measure improves the oversight of contracts awarded by the VA Secretary to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans. Later the same day, the House passed HR 2781, the *Ensuring Veteran Enterprise Participation in Strategic Sourcing Act*, by a voice vote. This legislation would direct the VA Secretary to certify the sufficient participation of small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and small business concerns owned by veterans with service-connected disabilities in contracts under the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative. These bills now go to the Senate for further action.

**ANNUAL NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACTIVITIES REPORT 2016-2017**

To assist the Legislative Commission in its work, the National Executive Committee created the National Legislative Council in 1975, composed of Legionnaires whose judgment and advice are respected by their Members of Congress. There is generally one council member for each Member of Congress. A Council Chairman heads the Council, and is assisted by a Vice Chair in each Department. The Chairman, Vice Chairs and general membership of the Council are appointed by the National Commander upon recommendation by the Departments.

In accordance with NEC Resolution No. 28 (October 1994), I am pleased to submit the following Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council Activities Report for 2016-2017.

1. Legislative Alerts sent out in the past year

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. House Votes This Week On Appeals Modernization | 09/12/2016 |
| 2. Legion on Bonuses: 'We stand with the soldiers of the Guard | 10/25/2016 |

| | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 3. | Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball | 01/16/2017 |
| 4. | Three veterans bills up for House vote this week | 03/13/2017 |
| 5. | The American Legion Coin Bill | 06/29/2017 |
| 6. | Landmark Bill Would Expand Post 9/11 GI Bill | 07/13/2017 |
| 7. | Legion To Senate: Pass "Forever" GI Bill Immediately | 08/01/2017 |

2. Grassroots Lobbying Activities in Washington, DC

Washington Conference – February 26 – March 1, 2017

National Commander's Testimony – March 1, 2017

3. National Legislative Council Meetings Held

National Legislative Council Meetings are held by the individual states at appropriate times throughout the year. Nationally, no meetings are held, save for those who receive call-ins to the Washington Conference and the National Commander's testimony. Most Department meetings are held in conjunction with existing events such as the Mid-Winter Conferences, Department Conventions, On-The-Hill Days or similar events. Most Departments held between two to four meetings of the Council throughout the year, although there were many informal meetings of the Council.

4. Chairman's Oral Report to the National Legislative Commission (August 19, 2017)

Thank you Chairman. Good morning everyone. Every year the Council Chairman must prepare a report on the activities of the National Legislative Council for the past year and submit it to the National Executive Committee at their Pre-Convention meeting. In compiling this report, my staff and I rely mainly on the reports that are submitted to us by each Department's National Legislative Council Vice-Chairman.

This report details the legislative alerts and updates sent out, and any other activities of a grassroots nature. I am pleased to announce the report is completed and will be submitted in a timely manner. The complete report will be available at the Legislative staff office in the convention center tomorrow, but let me highlight just a few things now.

After reviewing the many fine reports I received from the Legislative Council Vice-Chairs, I can honestly say we have an excellent cadre of Legionnaires willing to dedicate their time, knowledge and passion to work on issues of importance to the Legion and our nation's veterans at the local, state, and national levels.

And the sheer number of reports my staff received following office visits to members of Congress during this year's Washington Conference demonstrate the quality of work of the Legion Family in communicating the needs and values of this nation's veterans to Capitol Hill.

In this reporting period, seven Action Alerts have been sent out using the mailing list generated through the Legion's Capwiz website, which includes our Council members. We now reach almost 20,000 individuals directly, and untold more through forwarding of such messages. This year our activists have sent almost 71,000 emails to Members of Congress through this web site. This is a tremendous number of advocacy messages and demonstrates that users of our Capwiz website find it useful and important.

The Action Alerts called for congressional passage of several important pieces of legislation, including an Appeals Modernization bill, a landmark bill to expand the Post 9/11 GI Bill, and The American Legion Coin Bill.

Speaking of the Coin bill, allow me to relate some of the Council's efforts in the campaign, because I believe they have played a critical part.

Starting at this year's Washington Conference, Council members joined with the Legion family to walk the halls of Congress sharing the Legion's Legislative Agenda, including raising awareness for the need for congressional authorization of the Legion coin.

In the weeks leading up to congressional introduction of the coin bill on May 18, the Council mobilized to obtain original co-sponsors.

The Legislative Division desired to obtain 100 original co-sponsors in the House, in symbolic appreciation of the 100 years of The American Legion's existence, and 25 in the Senate. With the Council's help, these goals were not only met, but surpassed, with the bills on introduction ending up with 102 original co-sponsors in the House and 28 in the Senate.

Congress sets a high standard for coin bills requiring two-thirds co-sponsorship in each chamber before the bills can be brought to the floor. That means a minimum of 67 in the Senate and 291 in the House.

So, after the bills were introduced, the Council continued the charge to secure the required number of co-sponsors.

As you know, the Senate passed out bill before they recessed and ultimately 75 cosponsors joined on the bill in that chamber. That milestone achieved, the Council has turned their efforts to the House and have been working diligently during the recess to obtain more.

As of today, I understand the House bill has 298 cosponsors, having exceeded the minimum required in that chamber the week after Senate passage. You can be assured, though, the Council will continue our efforts until the day the bill passes in the House!

I cannot conclude without sharing how pleased I am with all the hard work and effort members of the Council have put into this undertaking. Council members understood and took to heart the fact that we could not afford to miss this vital opportunity for Congress to recognize the great work of The American Legion!

I'd especially like to recognize the 14 departments that assisted in obtaining their entire congressional delegation as cosponsors: Alaska, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Of course, the states with larger delegations are harder, but I want to specifically recognize California and her Council's Vice Chairman, Eric Measles. California has the largest delegation numbering 55. Of those, 46, including the two senators, are cosponsors of our bills. A wonderful achievement for such a large state.

Finally, the coin campaign has demonstrated why we need to have a strong Council. And as Chairman of the National Legislative Council I will work diligently to ensure we have the strongest Council possible so that we are at the forefront of legislative efforts of importance.

We owe it to veterans, current service-members, and their families to make absolutely certain that we are heard. Therefore, I ask you to help me amplify our voice, by keeping the Council as a vibrant grassroots organization.

I thank you all for listening to my report and I look forward to working with everyone in advancing The American Legion's legislative agenda.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my remarks and I move for adoption of this report.

5. The American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary continues to be an invaluable asset to The American Legion Family and its grassroots lobbying ability. The prolific letter and email writing, countless phone calls and numerous office visits by Auxiliary members never cease to amaze me. Only through a united effort of Legionnaires, Sons and the Auxiliary can our legislative goals be realized.

6. National Legislative Council Award

I am pleased to announce that one National Legislative Council member was selected for her outstanding contributions in advancing the legislative portfolio of The American Legion during this past reporting period: Dolores Hardin (AL). The award was presented during the 2017 Washington Conference.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and a second. Are there any discussions on the Legislative Commission report? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank your commission and also our Legislative staff for the outstanding work you've done this year. We together have achieved a lot on Capitol Hill. And as the chairman said, and I think the Marketing chairman alluded to it, too, our membership enables us to do many, many good things for veterans. I can't emphasize enough what the importance, the value of a strong membership. Membership is our voice. Membership is our strength. Good job, Legislative. Thank you. I now call on Chairman Walter W. Ivie of Texas for a report from the Media & Communications Commission.

Oral Report: Media & Communications Commission Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman

Thank you, Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee. The Media & Communications Commission has no urgent matters nor resolutions to come before the NEC. You have my written report, which details successes overseen by the Media & Communications Commission.

The Legion's website, which was updated in 2016, has continued to record impressive growth in page views, visitors and mobile penetration. Stories highlighted on the website include the post in White Bird, Idaho, where nearly 50 percent of the town's 105 residents belonged to the post. The post has been instrumental in helping veterans bond and recover from PTSD. That is a prime example of the impact that the Legion can have in the communities it serves. It is also a prime example of how Media & Communications is bringing awareness about our organization, our community service, and our brand to internal and external audiences. We will continue to highlight these stories in our media and work with membership staff to help them in recruitment and retention efforts.

On the financial side, the division has had a budget surplus of under \$300,000 thanks to savings in postage, printing, and paper. While the membership decline is having an impact on advertising revenue, primarily for the magazine, we are seeing growth in digital revenue. Additionally, we are working with our advertising vendor on new initiatives that will increase our revenue in both print and digital.

I want to remember to thank our staff for all the good work it's done this year. Tremendous growth in statistics has taken place over the last two years, and this year has continued with the number of unique visitors increasing almost 50 percent again this year.

Commander, I want to thank you for your support, and that concludes my report.

Report: Media & Communications Commission August 21, 2017 Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman

In the past year, The American Legion Media & Communications Commission built on its successes from its top-rated national magazine, significantly improved website and

booming social media platforms to broaden the organization's branding and outreach to internal and external audiences.

Media & Communications staff members have been actively engaged in working to promote membership. They have worked with members of the Membership Division on new tools for post members, recruiters and others to use to recruit and retain eligible members. These include a revitalized web platform, recruitment videos, posters and flyers, and more.

And in the magazine, we have allocated additional space to promote membership, including a special 2-page We Are The American Legion feature on two top recruiters from the Department of Georgia, and more recently a 2-page membership fact sheet and application forms. The fact sheet/membership forms will continue to be published going forward as a way to promote and encourage membership growth as we near our centennial celebration.

Staff members have also worked to produce stories that illustrate the Legion's influence in communities across the nation.

Take, for example, White Bird (Idaho) Post 152. Post members revitalized the post, which now has nearly 50 percent of the town's 105 residents as members. The post uses outdoor activities to engage veterans, providing them with camaraderie and ways to recover from their PTSD.

In Cripple Creek, Colorado, Post 171 led a community effort to return a 100-percent disabled veteran (who is a single dad) and his 8-year-old son who has MS to their home after it was condemned. The post raised money, worked with other nonprofits and Home Depot and donated countless hours of volunteer time to completely renovate the home, which was rededicated on Father's Day.

Success stories at Legion posts are not limited to just rural areas. In Chicago, Post 973 is growing and gaining attention. Post 973 leaders have re-energized the 71-year-old post, coordinating events to attract all types of veterans — comedy night, jazz night and movie night.

Stories such as these have resonated with our digital audience. We have also seen success with our registrations online for programs such as American Legion Baseball, American Legion Riders Legacy Run and others.

By all accounts the website transformation has been a major success. Consider:

- The number of page views grew from 1.3 million in July 2016 to 3.3 million last year to just under 3.6 million this year, or an increase of 173 percent.
- The number of unique visitors increased from 318,397 in July 2016 to 455,733 last year to 476,496 this year, or an increase of 49.7 percent.
- The percentage of page views on mobile rose sharply. In the first six months of 2015, about 7 percent of all page views were on mobile devices. In the same time period in 2016, the percentage was 34 percent. Now, we are seeing an even 50-50 split between desktop and mobile visitation.

Some additional highlights from the past year:

- Staff members worked with the Department of Idaho team to modernize its website and give it a similar look and feel with the national website. The department adjutant has deemed the project a success. We are now communicating with other departments that wish to have a similar website redesign.
- After the NEC approved a resolution to broaden the applicant pool for the Legacy Scholarship, staff worked with co-workers in the Americanism Division to promote the scholarship to the increased pool of eligibles. Promotions included testimonial interviews, stories in print and digital, outreach through other organizations, and a pilot test with posts in four key

communities. Through these efforts, the number of applications grew significantly from previous years.

- The American Legion worked with the national World War II Museum in New Orleans on hosting a celebration of the signing of the GI Bill, which debuted an interactive Legion exhibit in the museum. Now, museum visitors will learn about the Legion's role in one of the nation's most influential pieces of legislation.
- The Media and Communications e-mail newsletter area is growing rapidly. As of the end of July, the number of subscribers year over year has grown from 1.31 million to 1.43 million. Meanwhile, the open rates for each of the dozen e-newsletters fall between 20 and 40 percent – far above the industry standard rate of 14 percent.
- Media and Communication staff members have launched Facebook Live coverage at various key events such as the inauguration, Washington Conference, Boys Nation and others. These videos are much more popular, attracting thousands of viewers each, while the previous live video platform rarely exceeded 100 viewers.
- The Media Relations team in the Washington office is working hard to get the Legion's name and brand out in major media outlets. The Legion has appeared on a weekly CBS radio program and has been quoted in major publications such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, NPR, The Atlantic and others.

Financially, the division now stands with an actual budget surplus of \$285,384, driven by savings in postage, paper and printing. Altogether, the division is \$40,685 behind budget in advertising revenue through the September magazine and July for electronic media. For the magazine, we are \$61,992 behind budget for ad sales through the September magazine. Advertising has been hit hard by the membership decrease and will continue to be a challenge until the membership numbers improve.

Through the September issue of the magazine, production and distribution costs were more than \$218,000 below budget, led by \$66,507 in postage, \$17,711 in printing savings and \$134,039 in paper costs.

Additionally, the division is working on other key areas such as refining brochures and internal documents; updating mobile apps; support for the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee and Honorary Committee; and many other efforts.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission.

... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and second regarding the report from Media & Communications. Are there any discussions? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, you and your staff, for all the good work. I now call on Chairman Randy Goodman of Georgia for a report from the Membership Committee.

**Oral Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Randy Goodman, Georgia, Chairman**

Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, thank you for the opportunity to stand before you this morning. You have my written report, but I would like to comment briefly on the strategic plan for sustained membership growth.

We will focus this year on better executing this membership plan. As I speak to you this morning, we are conducting, along with the national staff and several consultants, district commander training for all incoming district commanders that are present at this convention. We intend to create more incitement in membership this year. Hopefully, this will be the year that we turn the tide and begin to realize our true value in actually creating this culture of growth.

On behalf of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to serve. That concludes my report.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
August 19, 2017
Randy Goodman, Georgia, Chairman

The Membership and Post Activities Committee met at 10:30 a.m. on August 19, 2017, in the Atlantis, Paradise Ballroom, Section E, Second Floor. There were 46 individuals in attendance.

Those in attendance received updates on the strategic plan, the DMS program, membership workshop, district revitalizations, Access Granted and CPR reporting.

Three departments - Idaho, Mexico and Philippines, exceeded 100% of their goal. Four departments exceeded their 2016 membership total – which represents a culture of growth as outlined in the strategic plan.

The online renewal program continues to perform well, adding great value to the renewal process. To date the 2017 campaign has yielded 245,824 members who have renewed online. We expect 2018 results to be similar. Online renewal has been a great addition to the renewal campaign.

National Staff, working in conjunction with local volunteers, were directly involved in 2,500 posts being started or revitalized through the efforts of district revitalization teams in 2016 (staff efforts run from Jan 1 – Dec 31). We expect that number to meet or exceed 2,500 in 2017.

During the recent membership workshop in Indianapolis on July 27-29, 2017, the majority of the time was spent on training and discussion of the strategic plan and setting the 2018 membership goal. The discussions were encouraging and very upbeat. A traditional goal was set of 1,780,211 members for 2018 – almost 10,000 members more than their 2017 membership total. This goal was derived from their total traditional membership as of July 14, 2017, which included a combination of the unencumbered DMS members, traditionally acquired members, DMS transfers from 2017.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our parent Commission, Internal Affairs, and this Committee for your support, vision and involvement concerning the 2018 membership campaign.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report from the Membership Committee. ... *Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and a second regarding the report on the Membership Committee. Are there any discussions? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Continue the good efforts and the good work of growing membership. I call on Chairman Robert E. Newman of Indiana for a report from the Internal Affairs Commission.

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

Good morning, commander, NEC, and guests. My written report is in your packet. I just want to highlight a couple things.

One resolution was passed that was sent to the Finance Commission for the \$300,000 from the Sons transfer to The Legion.

I'd also like to mention this year's Legacy Run from Dodge City to Reno. At this time, they have \$555,312 raised, which is about where we were last year, and we expect more on the convention floor Tuesday.

At this time, Mr. Commander, that completes my report. I want to thank you very much for allowing me to be the chairman of your commission. Thank you, sir.

**Report: Internal Affairs Commission
August 19, 2017
Robert E. Newman, Chairman**

The Internal Affairs Commission and guests totaling 43 attendees met in the Atlantis Resort, Second Floor, Grand Ballroom, on Saturday, August 19, 2017. We reviewed 19 resolutions that went before the Convention Committee on Internal Affairs. We have one resolution (Resolution 1: Transfer of Funds From the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund) to go before the National Executive Committee during this pre-convention meeting.

The American Legion Riders have continued the tradition of service to America's veterans and their families with their unwavering support of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship for the children of fallen warriors. This year we averaged 225 bikes with 60 passengers for this year's run to Reno from Dodge City, KS, a total of 1,400 miles. It was a safe ride with no major accidents. Over 120 people registered as non-riding supporters. At this point, they have raised \$555,312 and we expect more donations Tuesday August 22, 2017 on the convention floor. In comparison to last year, we are at the same level of donations going into convention.

From January 1, 2017 until August 19, 2017, the NEF has assisted 52 American Legion family members with grant money totaling \$51,120. Disasters covered flooding along the Eastern Seaboard and in Illinois, Missouri and Louisiana. Tornadoes caused damage to our members' homes in Georgia and a post in Oklahoma received a grant due to an earthquake.

We started the year with a balance of \$4,794,570 in the NEF fund and so far this year we have donations to bring the current balance to \$5,172,377.

As Chairman of the National Internal Affairs Commission, on behalf of all our members, I wish to extend to all members of this body my appreciation for your support and encouragement during the past year. A special thanks to our National Commander Charles Schmidt for active support and his positive approach to our programs.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and second regarding the Internal Affairs report. Are there any discussions? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I now call on Chairman Paul E. Dillard of Texas for a report on the Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Paul E. Dillard, Texas, Chairman

Good morning, commander. Commander, national officers, past national commanders, NEC and guests, you have my written report. I'll just give you a summary.

Members of your committees on Employment and Veterans Preference and Education, Other Benefits and Homelessness met at 8:30 a.m. on August 19, 2017, in Atlantis, Emerald, Section A and B, Second Floor, Reno, Nevada, to listen to presentations from a variety of subject matter experts in the area of veteran employment, education, credentialing, homelessness, and small business development. In attendance were 48 members of the commission, the NEC Liaison, and many other guests. There was approximately 100 people there.

We had a variety of speakers from the federal and private sector to discuss the transition process of veterans finding gainful employment once they leave the military. Speakers talked about the update on the TAP program, credentialing through new programs and initializing and finding the right fit for the veterans' unique skill sets. Companies in high-growth industries participated in the productive dialogue. The discussion included recommendations that would assist transitioning servicemembers and veterans with searching and ultimately attaining meaningful and other related benefits.

Lastly, the commission handed out national employer and homeless awards. The commission adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Commander, that completes my report, and I want to thank you very much for allowing me to serve as your chairman.

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
August 19, 2017
Paul E. Dillard, Texas, Chairman

Members of your Committees on Employment and Veterans' Preference and Veterans Education, Other Benefits and Homelessness met at 8:30am on August 19, 2017, in Atlantis, Emerald, Sections A & B, Second Floor, Reno, Nevada, to listen to presentations from a variety of subject matter experts in the area of veterans employment, education, credentialing, homelessness and small business development. In attendance were 48 members of the Commission, the NEC Liaison, and many other guests.

Speakers for the Commission meeting included: Scott Wyatt, President, Southern Utah University; Matthew Miller, Special Advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor; Elizabeth McLean, Senior Advisor, HR Programs, Military.com; Thomas Dawkins, Workforce Development & Education Director, Microsoft Corporation; Marion Cain, Assistant Director for Readiness, Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense; Steve Jordon, Director, Veterans Employment Initiative, Northern Virginia Technology Council; Robert Comer, Lead National Trainer/Program Manager, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Terry Howell, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Military.com; Timothy Green, Director of Strategic Outreach, U.S. Department of Labor; Major George Coleman, Director of Education & Training, Soldier for Life, U.S. Department of Defense; Robert Carr, Assistant Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Linda Brooks-Rix, CO-Chief Executive Officer, AVUE Technologies Corporation; Karin Childress-Wiley, Director of Veteran Employment, Monster Worldwide, Inc.; Christen Rodriguez, Manager, Recruitment and Training, Caesars Entertainment Corporation; Raphael Hernandez, Military Senior Program Leader, Amazon.com; David Wallace, Military Relations Manager, Lockheed Martin; Gregory Pratt, Military Affairs Relationship Director, USAA; Colleen Mizuki, Founder, Avenir Coaching and Training; Davy Leghorn, Manager, Veterans Employment Program, Military.com; and Alexander Carrillo, Global Security Operations Manager, Facebook, Inc.

In addition, the Commission handed out national employer and homeless awards, along with hosting both a public and private sector employment panel to discuss cultures and climates of the two sectors while diving into their specific employment opportunities within various high growth industries. The discussion included recommendations that would assist transitioning service members and veterans with searching and ultimately obtaining gainful employment and other related benefits.

The Commission adjourned at 4:00 pm.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. ... *Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and a second regarding the Veterans Employment & Education report. Are there any discussions? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now call on Chairman Ralph P. Bozella of Colorado for a report from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

Oral Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

Good morning, commander. Thank you. Good morning, commander, NEC, special guests, and, national officers. Your VA&R Commission met Saturday, August 19, with a full agenda of many speakers including the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Veteran Appeals, Robert Davis. It was a very productive day. A complete report is available in your packet.

Commander, we do have one urgent issue which you have already disposed of, and that is Resolution No. 2, and we appreciate the Finance Commission's work on that and the NEC for moving that forward.

At the back of the room on a table is a System Worth Saving executive summary report. I encourage you all to take a copy of this as you leave the building today, if you have not already done so.

I am happy to report, as the commander has and I believe our Legislative chairman has, about the Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017. We have worked very hard on this as an organization, and hopefully we will watch President Donald Trump sign that bill before us during the convention, which would indeed be a historic moment. So we are very pleased with that. And, commander, I want to recognize and thank you for your excellent message in the August edition of the *The American Legion Magazine*. If you want to know the provisions of the Appeals Modernization Act, look at what the commander wrote in your August *Legion Magazine*. It is very explicit and yet easy to understand. That was a good job, sir.

I would also like to report that on August 12, 2017, the president signed the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017, which authorized \$2.1 billion to keep care in the community and Choice dollars available for veterans' health care. This is pretty much a stopgap measure which will enable the money to be there so veterans can continue care in the community while allowing Congress time to come up with a more complete bill, hopefully by our mid-winter conference in Washington D.C.

I also need to announce that the film *Blood Road*, which is a Vietnam War documentary produced by Ken Burns, will be shown today at 2:00 p.m. in Room C4, Charlie 4, in this convention center. If you are available and interested, that would be a good place for you to be.

Commander, this has been my sincere honor to serve as your VA&R chairman for this year, and I appreciate the work you have done for VA&R. You have been one of our best

“publicizers” of our programs. We appreciate that, and that has translated into the legislative action which you have talked about. This is my pleasure to do this, my honor to do this, sir, and I thank you very much.

Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

August 19, 2017

Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission held its meeting in the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Rooms D 4-5, 1st floor, on Saturday, August 19, 2017. The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission had a total of 85 call-ins. There were 18 members of the Commission, 12 members of the Health Administration Committee, 13 members of the Veterans Benefits Committee, 11 members of the National Cemetery Committee, 30 VA&R Council members and 1 NEC Liaison.

The following officials addressed the Commission: Judge Robert N. Davis; Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals For Veterans Claims. Chief Judge Davis discussed the challenges within the board with staffing and he asked for The American Legion’s support with securing the building located at 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW, in Washington D.C. as a permanent courthouse for veterans.

Mr. James Manker Jr, Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Veterans Benefits Administration. Mr. Manker gave an overview of some of the benefits administered within the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA). Mr. Manker also discussed the secretary’s priorities which include digitization, automation, efficiency and service.

Ms. Sheila M. Cullen, Director, VA Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21), Veterans Health Administration (VHA); Ms. Cullen thanked The American Legion for its ongoing partnership with VHA through our System Worth Saving, volunteer and service officers program. Ms. Cullen also explained President Trump’s executive order which is intended to improve efficiency and reorganize the agency.

Dr. Sue Sisley, President and Principal Investigator, Scottsdale Research Institute, discussed the need for further research on the medicinal use of marijuana as it pertains to veterans dealing with PTSD and TBI.

Ms. Anita Hansen, Deputy Under Secretary for Management, National Cemetery Administration; Ms. Hansen discussed NCA’s mission and highlighted new initiatives which include a pre-need burial application process, Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to aid in the identification of grave sites and the Veterans Legacy Program aimed at educating the community about the sacrifices made by those that have served.

Charles Schmidt, National Commander of The American Legion brought greetings to The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

At 12:10 p.m. the Commission divided into three break-out sessions.

The Benefits Panel remained in Rooms D 4-5, 1st floor and heard from David McLenachen, Director, Appeals Management Office, and from Mr. Donnie Hachey, Chief Counsel for Operations, Board of Veterans Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs. They presented to the Veterans Benefits Committee the efforts to improve VA’s appeals process. They also presented the design of the new appeals modernization plan that provides veterans greater options in how they pursue appeals while maintaining original effective dates. The Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 was passed by Congress and will be signed into law by the president on August 24, 2017.

The National Cemetery Committee met on August 19, 2017 in Rooms F1-2, 1st floor and heard from Mr. Kenneth C. Johnson, Program Specialist, National Cemetery Administration. Mr. Johnson discussed the requirements for burial and military honors on the NCA’s Pacific region. Ms. Renea C. Yates, Deputy Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery and Major Shannon Way, Strategic Planner, Arlington National Cemetery

discussed the decision that needs to be made concerning the limited space at Arlington Cemetery. They also discussed the possibility of changing the eligibility standards for burial at Arlington as an alternative to expanding the cemetery's useful life cycle. They concluded their presentation with an invitation to have stakeholders like The American Legion to join the discussion. They posted a website which includes updated information and a survey for members to take to offer suggestions for the future of the cemetery. The Uniform Resource Location (URL) is:

www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/News/Post/4178/National-dialogue-begins-at-Arlington-National-Cemetery.

The Health Care Administration Panel met on August 19, 2017 in Rooms D2&3, 1st floor and heard from Dr. Thomas Klobucar, Acting Director, Office of Rural Health, Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Klobucar discussed VA's Office of Rural Health's, two mandates:

- Assist the VA Under Secretary for Health to conduct, coordinate, promote and disseminate research into issues affecting veterans who reside in rural communities
- Develop, refine and promulgate policies, best practices, lessons learned, and innovative and successful programs to increase access to care for rural veterans

Dr. Clinton Greenstone, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Community Care, Department of Veterans Affairs, discussed the Choice program and how VHA is transforming the program from an administrative rule-based program to a clinical driven program. VHA's goal is to deliver a program that is easy to understand, simple to administer, and meets the needs of veterans and their families, community providers and VA staff. Since the beginning of FY 2016, VHA has completed over 43 million appointments via community care and nearly 18 million appointments have been completed via community care so far this fiscal year. According to VA data, 2.7 million enrolled veterans are rural. VA's Office of Rural Health's annual budget is \$250 million. Their FY 2017 portfolio includes 40+ Enterprise-Wide Initiatives adopted at 90 percent of VA medical centers across the county and U.S. territories.

The commission reconvened at 2:10 PM in Rooms D4-5, 1st floor, and heard from the following individuals: Dr. Paula P. Schnurr, PhD., Executive Director, National Center for PTSD. Dr. Schnurr presented to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) commission crisis regarding advancements in PTSD research. Dr. Schnurr stated an elevated focus on predicting the likelihood of developing PTSD before veterans experience symptoms exists within VA. She acknowledged the cause and effect relationship of PTSD and suicide, and stated "PTSD-caused suicide is a crisis in this country. It is the highest clinical priority of VA Secretary David Shulkin."

Mr. Byron Parks, Caregiver Support Coordinator, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System. Mr. Parks discussed the VA's caregiver program. Mr. Parks address how the Sierra Nevada Health Care System currently provides ongoing services to over 75 caregivers and veterans eligible to participate in the comprehensive program, and also offers resources and support to hundreds of caregivers providing general caregiver assistance to veterans they care for. He further explained as a function of implementing the Caregiver program caregivers and veterans are provided assistance to identify resources offered by both the VA and other federal programs, as well as those available through state and local governments, and community based organizations. Some of the services regularly provided include education, training, self-care support, counseling and peer groups, and assistance in navigating the VA and other organizations.

Dr. Samitra Muralidhar and Ms. Jennifer Deen briefed the commission on the Department of Veterans Affairs Million Veteran Program (MVP). MVP is a national voluntary research program whose goal is to partner with veterans receiving their care in the VA health care system to study how genes affect health. To do this, MVP is building

one of the world's largest medical databases by safely collecting blood samples and health information from one million veteran volunteers. Data collected will be stored anonymously for research on diseases like diabetes, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

We have one urgent matter to report. Along with the Finance Commission, we have adopted Resolution No.2, Agreement with Bergmann & Moore that allows The American Legion to enter into a contractual agreement for legal services for calendar year 2018. The Finance Commission had already addressed the details surrounding this important resolution.

The Certificate of Appreciation Committee met on Saturday, August 19, 2017, and considered no new nominations for this award. There were two Certificates of Appreciation given between the mid-winter conference and the National Convention.

The VA&R Commission meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

The minutes for the subcommittee meetings are available upon request from the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Staff offices.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and a second regarding the report from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. Are there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for all your hard work, you and your commission, and also our staff as well. I now call on G. Michael Schlee of Maryland, chairman of the National Security Commission, for a report.

**Oral Report: National Security Commission
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman**

Thank you, Mr. National Commander, members of the NEC. You have a written report in front of you which details our visit to Naval Air Station Fallon on Friday, our speakers program on Saturday morning, as well as our POW/MIA update and our business session on Saturday afternoon. There are no emergency matters before you from the National Security Commission at this time.

I just want to sincerely thank you, commander, members of the National Executive Committee, our National Executive Liaison, and particularly it's great to see our longtime liaison Merv Gunderson back with us. Thank you for supporting the programs of the National Security Commission.

**Report: National Security Commission
August 19, 2017
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman**

On Friday, August 18th, 80 members of the National Security Commission traveled to Naval Air Station Fallon. The visit began with a tour of the Naval Air Station Fallon's aircraft museum, focusing on the station's role providing advanced training for naval aviation, to include the Navy's Top Gun school. The Commission was also brought to the station's observation deck to see the flight line in action.

On Saturday, August 19th, the National Security Commission convened in the Reno-Sparks Convention Center Room A1. National Security Commission Chairman Michael Schlee opened the meeting and welcomed National Commander Charles Schmidt of Oregon, Past National Commanders Dan Dellinger of Virginia, Tom Bock of Colorado,

Tony Jordan of Maine, and Clarence Hill of Florida. The National Security Commission was honored by their attendance and very appreciative of their participation in the National Security Session.

The meeting was comprised of four guest presentations. The first speaker was Ms. Zanny Marsh, Executive Director of the Northern Nevada American Red Cross. Ms. Marsh's presentation focused on disaster preparedness and the American Red Cross' role in supporting and educating the public on best practices. Ms. Marsh discussed creating emergency kits for family members and pets and preparing detailed disaster plans.

The second speaker was Donald Benton, the Director of the Selective Service System, discussed the importance of the Selective Service System to the security of the United States and inclusion of women. He explained the system's dual missions are: to provide untrained manpower and healthcare personnel to the Armed Forces in an emergency and manage an alternative service program of men classified as conscientious objectors during a draft who would serve in the community instead of in uniform. Mr. Benton called on Legionnaires, as influencers and mentors, to volunteer and help educate their communities on the importance of registering young men between the ages of 18 and 26.

Chairman Schlee transitioned the meeting to the POW/MIA update and introduced the third speaker: Mr. Johnie Webb. Mr. Webb serves as the Deputy Director for External Relations and Legislative Affairs to of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Mr. Webb provided the Commission with a report of DPAA's activities and identifications throughout fiscal year 2017. He also provided the Commission with a list of the numbers who remain missing from WWII t. The Commission was very interested in future operations and Mr. Webb provided an overview for the upcoming year.

The fourth speaker was Mr. Les Brown, representing the National League of POW/MIA Families. Mr. Brown discussed the League's continuing work advocating for full funding for the DPAA, and outreach around contacting family members of MIA personnel to submit genetic material to DPAA to assist in identifying remains.

After the end of the speakers' remarks the Commission Chairman directed the seven National Security Committees to conduct a non-binding courtesy review of the resolutions assigned to their Committees, which will subsequently be acted upon by the Convention Committees on August 20th.

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Charles Schmidt, our National Executive Liaison Committee and the National Executive Committee for their support throughout the year and we will continue to work diligently to provide The American Legion with timely information and a focused national security policy and a viable foreign policy.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission. ... *Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and a second regarding the National Security report. Are there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, my fellow Legionnaires and members of the NEC, please welcome back Merv Gunderson, NEC from the Department of Montana, for the purpose of comment. *(Standing applause)*

NEC MEMBER GUNDERSON: Thank you, commander. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to all the members that are here.

I came about as close to moving on as I think a person could come. And, yet, something kept me in this life because I knew that there was more for me to do.

The doctors, when they first flew me out to Harborview, I think they pretty much thought that I was pretty much done with. They sat me down, talked to my wife, and they basically tried to make my life comfortable. All of a sudden the doctor come in the next

day, and he says, "You know, I don't know what's going on here, but all of a sudden you're a lot better." I said, "I can tell you what's going on."

I reached over and I had a whole bagful of cards in no small part from our National Executive Committee. But it wasn't just from the states and stuff in the United States, I had cards and letters from all over the world. You don't realize how many people's lives you have touched until they start responding to you.

But this group here is a special group. I wanted to thank them. And I know Dave Warnken, I received a card from him, and I was very pleased and tickled. I looked at and read every card that I got. It was so gratifying and so uplifting that all of a sudden from my neck down I was paralyzed. I could start moving my upper body. The doctors couldn't believe that I could rejuvenate myself. They said, "The only thing is you'll never move your legs." Well, guess what? I can move my legs. *(Applause)*

But I want to give a special thank you to all of the National Executive Committeemen, all of the alternates, past national commanders, and especially the staff that are here at the convention today, the preconvention meeting. It is so humbling for me to come forward and be able to say thank you and mean it. Please pass on to your departments how much I appreciate everything that they did, because it was your prayers that made me recover. Thank you. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Thank you, Merv. *(Standing applause)* Thank you, Merv. And may God continue to bless you and Patty. Confirmation of Interim Committee Appointments.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant in regards to the interim appointments?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of interim appointments is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move that the list of interim appointments be approved without being read. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You heard the motion and second. Are there any discussions? If not, all in favor say aye. All opposed? The ayes have it.

Interim Appointments Reno, Nevada August 21, 2017

Anthony L. Jones, Sr. (Colorado), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Dean M. Noechel – resigned)

Donald Roberts (Massachusetts), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Louis Brault, Jr. – resigned)

Stephen E. Ridenour (Oklahoma), American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, Vice Chairman (Replaces Thomas J. Haynes (Texas) – resigned)

Stephen E. Ridenour (Oklahoma), American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, 2019 Member (Replaces Thomas J. Haynes (Texas) – resigned)

James Ching (Oklahoma), Membership & Post Activities Committee, 2019 Member (Replaced Marvin Sandbek – resigned)

Dean M. Noechel (Colorado), Media & Communications Commission, 2018 Member (Replaces Terri L. Clinton – resigned)

Dale F. Davis (Washington), Media & Communications Council, Member (Replaces Leo R. Gruba – resigned)

Richard C. Oertel (Virginia), Aerospace Committee, Vice Chairman (Replaces Ronald A. Miluszewski – resigned)

Richard C. Oertel (Virginia), Aerospace Committee, 2017 Member (Replaces Ronald A. Miluszewski – resigned)

Ronald A. Miluszewski (Virginia), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Richard C. Oertel – resigned)

Louis Brault, Jr. (Massachusetts), Health Administration Committee, 2019 Member (Replaces Arthur Smith – deceased)

Greg A. James (Oklahoma), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (Replaces Phillip Driskill – deceased)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, in regards to the cancellation of posts, may I address the national adjutant again?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of cancellations of posts and squadron charters is a true and correct list and everything has been done to try to revitalize these posts?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move the list be approved without being read. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and second regarding the cancellation of post and/or squadron charters. Are there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it.

**Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters
Reno, Nevada
August 24, 2017**

On May 11, 2017, at the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of seventy-seven (77) Posts. The research done on each Post prior to any recommendation made as an attempt to see whether these Posts could be revitalized is based on the following criteria.

Community Size

Veteran Population

Sixty-three (63) Posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

* See Merging Post Information Below

| Department | Post # | Name | Location |
|-------------------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| ALASKA | 2222 | Sgt. 1 st Class Paul R. Smith | Tokyo, Japan |
| ARIZONA | 0055 | James O. Schroeder | Sun Lakes |
| | 0063 | Lena Vaughan Whitney | Mesa |
| COLORADO | 0106* | Blackburn-Dennis <i>(to merge with Manzanola Post 0168)</i> | Fowler |
| | 9313 | Fort Lyon | Las Animas |
| GEORGIA | 0010* | Ware County, Inc. <i>(to merge with Pierce County, Inc. Post 0181)</i> | Waycross |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---|-------------------|
| | 0188* | Michael R. Waters, Inc. <i>(to merge with George Alexander Mincey Post 0116)</i> | Millen |
| | 0193 | Jenkins-Patterson | Alamo |
| | 0323* | Columbus North, Inc. <i>(to merge with Eddie L. Roberts, Inc. Post 0333)</i> | Columbus North |
| | 0531 | Pirkin-Wooden | Monroe |
| ILLINOIS | 0406 | Winifred Fairfax Warder | Cairo |
| Department | Post # | Name | Location |
| INDIANA | 0040 | Fort Harrison | Terre Haute |
| | 0074 | Thomas McCoy | Elkhart |
| | 0091 | John B. Lotz Memorial | Muncie |
| | 0128 | Service | Lawrence |
| | 0175 | Claude Wilcox | Urbana |
| | 0187 | Everette Burdette | Evansville |
| | 0289 | Vytautas | Gary |
| | 0299 | Buss Waters | Muncie |
| | 0305 | Henryville Correctional | Henryville |
| | 0309 | Robert Johnson | South Bend |
| | 0322 | Kent Voyls | Elizabethtown |
| | 0327 | Cammack | Cammack |
| | 0364 | Brook | Brook |
| | 0393 | Black Oak | Gary |
| | 0445 | Waynetown | Waynetown |
| | 0466 | Baltimore + Ohio | Indianapolis |
| | 0483 | Jesse Rogers | Windfall |
| | 0498 | Edward M. Page | Gary |
| | 0506 | Wallace Sniffin | Montmorenci |
| | 0511 | New Directions | Indianapolis |
| | 0556 | Wilbur L. Cox | McCordsville |
| | 0911 | Oliver H. Perry | Indianapolis |
| IOWA | 0144 | Smith-Perry | Northwood |
| | 0452 | Clarksville | Clarksville |
| | 0559 | Gibson-Mueller | Hudson |
| KENTUCKY | 0213 | Rough River | Falls of Rough |
| MASSACHUSETTS | 0290* | Yankee Division <i>(to merge with Bourne Post 0230)</i> | Boston |
| MINNESOTA | 0451 | Lester Tjernlund | St. Paul |
| | 0533 | St. Paul Memorial | St. Paul |
| | 0571 | Lakewood | Duluth |
| MISSOURI | 0103 | Maplewood-Richmond Heights Memorial | Maplewood |
| | 0110 | Aylward-Copelman | Kansas City |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| | 0129 | John C. Monroe, Jr. | Kansas City |
| | 0524 | Archer-Mumma | Gilman City |
| | 0542 | Carterville | Carterville |
| | 0779* | Hamilton Gulledge <i>(to merge with Wayne Miner Post 0149)</i> | Kansas City |
| NEBRASKA | 0284 | Upland | Upland |
| NEW YORK | 0101 | William J. Longuet, Inc. | Westbury |
| | 0163 | Mead | Morrisville |
| | 1325 | Hunter-Suits | Redwood |
| NORTH CAROLINA | 0193 | Charles Cook | Dunn |
| | 0211 | Engelhard, Inc. | Engelhard |
| | 0361 | Coharie, Inc. | Roseboro |
| | 0524 | Robert Puryear | Shelby |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 0176 | Warrior Run | Warrior Run |
| | 0187 | Davis-Wainwright-Gibbons | Scranton |
| | 0448 | Duquesne Memorial | Duquesne |
| | 0451 | Moore-Triplett | Jenkintown |
| | 0521 | John Scott | Cherry Tree |
| | 0657 | Joseph Motiska | Dupont |
| | 0675 | West Scranton | Scranton |
| | 0999* | West Branch <i>(to merge with Roland Ritter Post 0268)</i> | Williamsport |

**SAL Charters of The American Legion Presented to
the National Executive Committee for Cancellation
Reno, Nevada
August 24, 2017**

On May 11, 2017, at the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of twenty-two (22) Squadrons.

Twelve (12) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

* See Merging Squadron Information Below

| Department | Sqdn # | Name | Location |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| GEORGIA | 0531 | Pirkin-Wooden | Monroe |
| INDIANA | 0040 | Fort Harrison | Terre Haute |
| | 0128 | Service | Lawrence |
| | 0299 | Buss Waters | Muncie |
| | 0305 | Henryville Correctional | Henryville |
| | 0327 | Cammack | Cammack |
| IOWA | 0374 | Highland Park | Des Moines |
| | 0737 | Barnett-Swallow | Waukee |

| | | | |
|------------------|------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| MINNESOTA | 0533 | St. Paul Memorial | St. Paul |
| MISSOURI | 0103 | Maplewood-Richmond Heights Memorial | Maplewood |
| NEBRASKA | 0284 | Upland | Upland |
| NEW YORK | 0101 | William J. Longuet | Westbury |

Technical Motion

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, at this time I would like to make a technical motion. I would like to make a technical motion and move that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting, make any necessary corrections without changing the intent of the NEC meeting, and proceed to edit and distribute these minutes. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You've heard the motion and a second. Are there any discussions? Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it. I now call on National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler of Virginia for any announcements.

Announcements

Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia, National Adjutant

Thank you, Mr. Commander. Those of you who the national commander has invited to be on the stage during President Trump's remarks received a packet today that has stage passes in it. The instructions need to be updated now. It is not true that magnetometers will be at the entrance to the convention center; they will be at the entrance to the auditorium where President Trump appears.

Everyone can enter the convention center if they have proper credentials starting at 0615 on Wednesday morning. The auditorium will open at 0700, and there will be magnetometers, and I expect there will be long lines. We would like those on the stage to please be on the stage no later than 0900.

A clarification concerning A System Worth Saving booklets. There are two booklets on the back table. Both of them are called A System Worth Saving. They have different photographs on the cover. One is a summary of the System Worth Saving activities through the year 2017; the other is a recently written excellent article on why we need to do everything we can to protect the VA and save it for future generations. I recommend both of those to you for your reading.

And, finally, in the back of the room, we have George Buskirk, national treasurer, and Shawn Long, director of finance. They have checks for those of you who have not yet received your checks. Please see them as you leave this meeting. Thank you, sir. That completes the announcements.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant.

Closing Remarks

Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon, National Commander

Closing remarks. They're going to be short. You have honored me and humbled me to be able to serve with you this past year, to serve veterans and their families and serve America.

You and I, I do believe, have had a great year. We continue to have challenges, which we'll always have challenges, I do believe. But, again, as I said earlier, we have the will, we have the responsibility as mandated in our charter and our four pillars to carry a great legacy forward. You and I have, still have, that responsibility. I know when you walk out of this room, when you walk away from this convention and go back to your homes, you as leaders of this organization, members of the National Executive Committee, will carry out those responsibilities, carry out that legacy. Because as long as there's conflicts around the world, and unfortunately there are, men and women of our armed services will be out there on the front on our behalf. As long as that happens, and, yes, it is still happening, there will always be a need for The American Legion family.

That's where you and I, that's where The American Legion family comes in to take care of those veterans, past, present, and future, take care of their families, and take care of our country. Again, thank each and every one of you, and God Bless each and every one of you. *(Standing applause)*

Thank you. I now call on National Chaplain Harvey H. Klee from Texas for our benediction.

Benediction
Harvey H. Klee, Texas, National Chaplain

And now let us pray. Lord, You created this day for gain, not loss; success, not failure; positive actions, not negative thoughts. Inspire us with a desire for greatness, to wisely use these gifts and talents that You have so generously given us. They are the tools to be used, not treasures to be stored up. That we go forth in unity and single-mindedness of purpose, to further the mission, vision, goals and objectives of The American Legion.

Direct us, Lord, in Your ways and guide us to those ends. Keep our spirits high. Let good-natured humor among our fellow comrades not be a stranger to us. Let our energy and enthusiasm know no limits. This we pray, dear Lord, in the name of all that is holy. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Cover. The Colors of our nation in place. Hand salute by the numbers. One.

... *The National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Two. I now declare this Pre-Convention National Executive meeting adjourned.

... *The Pre-Convention National Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.*

PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST-CONVENTION MEETING

Thursday, August 24, 2017

... At 1:06 p.m., August 24, 2017, the Post-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, and the following proceedings were had.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: The meeting of the National Executive Committee will come to order. Please join me in a salute to our Colors by the numbers. One. ... *The National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Two. For the invocation, I call on Robert Vick of Florida. Please uncover.

Invocation

Robert Vick, Florida, National Chaplain

I serve a risen savior. He's in the world today. I know that He's living no matter what men may say. Bow with me, please.

Heavenly Father, great God who spoke and all this came into being, we humbly submit ourselves to You this afternoon. We belong to a wonderful organization that preaches and teaches that our organization is dedicated to You and to our country and its veterans. We enter a new year with new programs, continuation of old programs, and we freely admit that in ourselves we're incapable of doing a proper job. We need Your wisdom, wisdom that comes only from You. Father, bless The American Legion. God bless America, a country worth fighting, and I would say dying for, but it's worth living for and working for. And bless our veterans. And we'll be careful to praise You because You're worthy of all our praise. And God's people said amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you. I now call on National Adjutant Dan Wheeler.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony

Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia, National Adjutant

At this time we pause to remember those who are listed as prisoners of war or missing in action from the wars in which we've been engaged. Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention requires a designation of a POW/MIA chair at all official meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of Americans and POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving our nation. With the POW/MIA flag positioned to my left, let it serve as a reminder for all of us to spare no

effort to secure the release of any American prisoners, the repatriation of the remains of those who have been killed in action, and a full accounting of those who are still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I now call on the national adjutant to call roll.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander

Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin

National Adjutant

Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders

Larry J. Marcouillier, Delaware

William J. Flanagan, Illinois

Bobby D. Bryant, Oklahoma

Byron I. Callies, South Dakota

Paula R. Stephenson, Utah

Past National Commanders

Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin (Excused)

Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)

John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts

Miles S. Epling, West Virginia (Excused)

Robert S. Turner, Georgia

Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)

Bruce Thiesen, California

William M. Detweiler, Louisiana (Excused)

Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota

Joseph J. Frank, Missouri

Anthony G. Jordan, Maine

Butch L. Miller, Virginia

Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (Excused)

Richard J. Santos, Maryland

Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania (Excused)

Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas (Excused)

Thomas L. Bock, Colorado

Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts

Martin F. Conatser, Illinois

Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan (Excused)

David K. Rehbein, Iowa

Clarence E. Hill, Florida

Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska

Fang A. Wong, New York

James E. Koutz, Indiana

Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia

Michael D. Helm, Nebraska (Excused)

Harold D. Barnett, Georgia

Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon

National Executive Committeemen

| Department | Committeeman | Alternate |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alabama | Willis Frazier (Excused) | Hardwick Hall |
| Alaska | James E. Pisa | |
| Arizona | Richard W. Perry | |
| Arkansas | Mary V. Erdman | |
| California | Janet M. Wilson | |
| Colorado | Thomas Florez | |
| Connecticut | D. Joseph Jackson | |
| Delaware | John A. Endres | |
| D.C. | Bron R. Mogenis (Excused) | George E. Roundtree (Excused) |
| Florida | Dennis R. Boland | |
| France | Nola L. Maloney | |
| Georgia | Charles F. Wessinger | |
| Hawaii | David Carlson | |
| Idaho | Arthur L. Gimpel | |
| Illinois | Bernard Stegmuller | |
| Indiana | Jerry Jordon | |
| Iowa | Jerry Sebben | |
| Kansas | David O. Warnken | |
| Kentucky | Randall Fisher | |
| Louisiana | Charles D. Aucoin | |
| Maine | John Hargreaves | |
| Maryland | Michael L. Mooney (Excused) | Lewis Trott |
| Massachusetts | William Chisholm | |
| Mexico | Michael D. Wood | |
| Michigan | Raymond Moore | |
| Minnesota | Marland A. Ronning | |
| Mississippi | Robert E. Gosa | |
| Missouri | Kenneth J. Goth | |
| Montana | Mervin G. Gunderson | |
| Nebraska | William D. Crosier, Jr. | |
| Nevada | Ronald L. Michalski | |
| New Hampshire | William R. Roy (Excused) | Kenneth Maynard |
| New Jersey | Charles Robbins | |
| New Mexico | Felix M. Trujillo (Excused) | Paul Espinoza |
| New York | Edward Bertrand | |
| North Carolina | Jeff W. Joyner | |
| North Dakota | Robert L. Krause | |
| Ohio | Dennis E. Clausing | |
| Oklahoma | Marvin Sandbek (Excused) | Timothy Smith |
| Oregon | Robert D. Liebenow | |
| Pennsylvania | Dennis C. Haas (Excused) | E. Michael Stelacio |
| Philippines | Lawrence E. Wade | |
| Puerto Rico | Angel Narvaez-Negron (Excused) | Isaac Rodriguez |
| Rhode Island | Cory Bates | |
| South Carolina | Cecil Hennis | |
| South Dakota | James Huls | |
| Tennessee | Don Mathis (Excused) | Earl Watson (Excused) |
| Texas | C. W. Sparks, Jr. | |
| Utah | Terry D. Schow | |

| Department | Committeeman | Alternate |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Vermont | Marlys Lemmah | |
| Virginia | Michael Mitrione | |
| Washington | Ken Lee | |
| West Virginia | William W. Kile | |
| Wisconsin | Kenneth Rynes, Jr. | |
| Wyoming | Terry E. Miller | |

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Madam Commander, that completes the roll.
 NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you very much.

Special Order of Business
Past National Commander John P. 'Jake' Comer

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I now call on Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer to the floor podium for a special order of business.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Past National Commander Schmidt, approach the podium. Linda, would you come forward, please. It's not in the program, but I just added it. Now you've got him back. I'm very honored and privileged to have the opportunity to place on his head this blue cap, passing back the blue cap, as a past national commander, and a good one. *(Applause)*

He looks good in that blue cap.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you, Past National Commander Comer. I now call on the national adjutant for the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting.

Minutes of the Previous National Executive Committee Meeting
Disposition of Letters or Communications

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Madam Commander, I move that the minutes be approved without being read. They will be printed in digest form and distributed when ready. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you. Is there any discussion? All those in favor so indicate by the usual sign. Opposed? Carried. I now call on national adjutant for the disposition of letters or communications.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Madam Commander, there are no letters of communication to be disposed of.

Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I now call on the chairman of the NEC Resolutions Subcommittee for receipt of resolutions, motions and petitions.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: I would ask that William Kile, West Virginia, have permission to approach the podium for a motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Please.

Oral Report: Appeals Committee
William Kile, West Virginia, Chairman

Good afternoon, Madam Commander, NECmen and guests. This is a report of the findings of the NEC subcommittee on the appeal of Arthur Gossett Post 273, Wichita, Kansas.

The appeal from Arthur Gossett Post 273 of Wichita, Kansas, from a decision by the Department of Executive Committee of the Department of Kansas to suspend its charter came for hearing on August 19, 2017, in Room E-1 of the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, Nevada.

The hearing had been properly noticed and all parties were present for the hearing at 1:00 p.m. The hearing was called to order by National Executive Committeeman William Kile, chairman. National Executive Committeeman Joseph Jackson of Connecticut and Paul Evenson, South Dakota, served with the chairman as the appointed members of the hearing committee.

The members of the committee had been furnished with a copy of the official record of the proceedings prepared by the Department of Kansas, which was attached to the appeal from Post 273 to the national commander.

All members of the committee acknowledged that they had read the record, the transcript, and reviewed the DVD of the department hearing that was submitted to the national organization in support of the decision of the Department Executive Committee to suspend the post charter under the provisions of Section 1, Paragraph 1 of the Uniform Code for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Post Charters.

A certified court reporter retained by the national organization was present and recorded the proceedings of the appeal. The presenting representatives from the Department of Kansas and Post 273 were sequestered from the hearing.

The chairman requested that the department judge advocate to present the department's case in support of its decision to suspend the post charter on May 17, 2015. Following the presentation, the members of the committee questioned the judge advocate regarding several issues that were raised in his presentation. A discussion followed.

The judge advocate was excused from the room. The chairman invited the representative of the post, Mr. William Young, post commander, on behalf of the post to give its reasons for appealing the decision of the department to suspend the post charter. The members of the hearing committee addressed a number of issues raised by the post representative with reference to its appeal. A discussion followed. There being no further questions for the post representative, he was excused from the room. The court reporter was excused, and the hearing committee began its deliberations.

After initial discussions, the chairman recessed the committee at 2:15 p.m. and requested that they reconvene at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 20, in the National Conference Room of the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. The committee reconvened as requested and discussion followed.

The committee has concluded that the evidence contained in the record, much of which is unsubstantiated and acknowledged in documents in the record to be based on hearsay, simple compilation of remarks, complaints, suspicions and so forth from post members is insufficient to support the department's decision to suspend the post charter under the provisions of the Uniform Code for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Post Charters.

Therefore, the decision of the Department of Kansas to suspend the charter of Post 273 is hereby set aside and annulled. The department is hereby ordered to return the control of the post and its assets to the membership of the post immediately.

Although the committee has no authority to take any further action, it does recommend the Department of Kansas mentor the officers of Post 273 to address and correct certain issues regarding the record and bookkeeping practices of the post; reduction of the number of bank accounts; payment or reimbursement of members in cash; failure to issue IRS Form 1099 as necessary for payment or compensation to members and/or vendors; preparation of proper inventories on a monthly basis for the purchase and sale of alcoholic beverages and liquor; a system of purchase orders for the purchase of any products used in the operation of the post; quarterly post activity reports to reflect its

participation in American Legion programs; and to provide any other assistance to assure that the post is in compliance with the department and the national constitution and bylaws.

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of August 2017, William Kile, Chairman; D. Joseph Jackson, member; Paul Evenson, member. And I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt this report. Are there any questions? All those in favor say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you very much.

APPEALS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: I'd like to thank the members of the committee. I'd also like to thank National Judge Advocate Phil Onderdonk and Past National Commander Detweiler. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you. (*Applause*)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Madam Commander, I move that the national adjutant be given authority to confirm interim appointments since the pre NEC; that he be directed to distribute said list to the NEC upon his return to national headquarters. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: We have a motion. It's been seconded. Are there any questions? All those in favor say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Interim Appointments Reno, Nevada August 24, 2017

Paul D. Bennett (Missouri), Committee on Children & Youth, 2018 Member (replaces Lynn M. Dorrell – resigned)

Gaylord K. Sanneman (Kansas), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, 2017 Member (replaces Elgin Wahlborg – resigned)

James E. Wallace (Michigan), Americanism Council, Member (resigned from National Security Council)

Don Weber (Oregon), Americanism Council, Member

Thomas E. Saunders (Virginia), Americanism Council, Member (replaces Robert W. Renner – resigned)

Paul A. Evenson (South Dakota), Finance Commission, 2017 Member (replaces Kevin J. Bartlett (Michigan) – resigned)

Michael A. Reott (North Carolina), Membership & Post Activities Committee, 2018 Member (replaces Louis S. Cook – resigned)

Paul L. Espinoza (New Mexico), Americanism Council, Member (replaces David T. Stevens – resigned)

Appointments to Commissions, Committees or Subcommittees

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Now we'll call the national adjutant to read recommended appointments.

2017-18 Advisory Committee to the National Commander

Chairman: Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts

Vice Chairman: Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon

Members: Thomas L. Bock, Colorado

Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa

William M. Detweiler, Louisiana

John P. Comer, Massachusetts

Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Robert L. Morrill, New York
Gaither M. Keener, North Carolina
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia
William F. Schrier, Washington

Resolutions Subcommittee

Chairman: David O. Warnken, Kansas
Vice Chairman: William W. Kile, West Virginia
Members: James E. Pisa, Alaska
Dennis R. Boland, Florida
Marland L. Ronning, Minnesota
Robert D. Liebenow, Oregon
Dennis E. Haas, Pennsylvania

Subcommittee on Committees

Chairman: Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana
Vice Chairman: D. Joseph Jackson, Connecticut
Members: Mary V. Erdman, Arkansas
James Huls, South Dakota
Terry D. Schow, Utah
Michael F. Mittrione, Virginia

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move the appointments be approved by the NEC. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve these recommended appointments. Is there any discussion? All in favor so indicate by the usual sign. All opposed? Appointments are carried.

Appointment of National Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I recommend the following appointments of national officers for the following year. Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia. Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland. Treasurer: George A. Buskirk Jr., Indiana. Chaplain: Robert A. Vick, Florida. Historian: Richard T. Dubay, Michigan. Sergeant-at-Arms: Roy A. Helms, Wisconsin.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion that the NEC approve those appointments. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you. It's been moved and seconded to approve those appointments. Are there any questions? Discussion? All those in favor say aye. All those opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

Installation of Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I will now ask National Vice Commander Bill Flanagan to come assume the chair while I conduct the next order of business.

... *At this time National Vice Commander Flanagan assumed the Chair.*

At this time, I call forth three distinguished Legionnaires for the validation of their appointment. Roy Helms of Wisconsin, Robert Vick of Florida, and Richard Dubay of Michigan. Would you three please come forward?

Each of you will assist the National Executive Committee and others in carrying out our objectives over the next 12 months. You are entrusted with important duties, and each of you shall perform essential duties throughout the year to preserve the integrity of The American Legion. As you stand before this executive body, I will remind each of you of your duties and obligations.

First I want to present Robert Vick of Florida, who was selected to serve as national chaplain. Chaplain Vick, to you is given the spiritual leadership of this great veterans organization. You will, I know, lend dignity and respect to your office. You shall remain in close confidence with the commander and the other national officers of The American Legion. You should be ready upon occasion to take your part in performing such divine and nonsectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by national headquarters from time to time. Into your keeping we place the spirit of comradeship of this organization. May harmony and unity prevail.

Next is Richard Dubay of Michigan, who was appointed to the office of national historian. Mr. Dubay, I remind you that your office is an important one. To you is given the responsibility of preserving and compiling the records of this organization. The future can only be judged by the past. Your duties include collecting all records and data of value and interest for the national headquarters of The American Legion. And you shall compile, during your term of office, a complete history of the year's activities. Further, you shall assist departments and post historians so as to coordinate and unify the work of these officials. Be mindful that the lamp of recorded experience may do much in guiding the footsteps of those who follow. Ever remember that without the recorded history of this organization, Legionnaires who serve after we are gone will not know of our organization's great accomplishments and our policies.

The final office is that of the national sergeant-at-arms, and I want to introduce Roy Helms of Wisconsin who will serve in that capacity over the next year. Mr. Helms, you are the sentinel or tiler, the outer guard of this organization. You will guard especially against the loss of one of the American Legion's greatest possessions, our deep and abiding spirit of comradeship. You will learn the identity of and introduce to the commander all visiting comrades and guests. You are responsible that no man shall remain a stranger in our midst. Be ready at all times to assist your commander. Into your hands is given charge of the stand of colors, which you will properly display at all national meetings and on ceremonial occasions.

Now, after hearing these obligations, will all three of you raise your right hand and repeat after me, giving your names. "I do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office in The American Legion which I am about to assume. And I further pledge to uphold the principles outlined in the National Constitution and Preamble of The American Legion in service to our veterans, their families, their communities, state and nation." Hands down and congratulations. (*Applause*)

Congratulations, my fellow Legionnaires. I know that each of you will justify the trust that is reposed in each of your offices. I look forward to working and sharing with you many experiences over the next 12 months as each of us continue to serve America's veterans. To the National Executive Committee, I commend you on the selections that you have approved. You've chosen them to guide the destiny of this organization, and it is our duty to aid and assist them in every way. This is the legacy we have inherited, and we will not fail in this mission to keep The American Legion an organization of free men and women veterans that has been faithful to its principles and ideals for more than 90 years.

... *At this time National Commander Rohan resumed the Chair.*

Introduction of National Commander's Aide

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Next, ladies and gentlemen, I would like you to meet the man who I had to twist his arm to make him agree to be my aide in the coming year. My husband, Mike Rohan. Please stand and be recognized. *(Applause)*

Ratification of Legislative Portfolio

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I now call on the chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions for the ratification of our legislative portfolio.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Pursuant to Rule 8b of the National Executive Committee, I move that the 27 resolutions with legislative intent adopted by the 99th National Convention be ratified for distribution as part of the legislative program through the 115th Congress. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Is there any discussion? All in favor so indicate by the usual sign. Opposed? Carried.

**RESOLUTIONS 99th NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 22, 23, 24, 2017**

Pursuant to Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, the following 27 resolutions, with legislative intent, were adopted at the 99th National Convention. This list of resolutions will constitute part of The American Legion's legislative program through the 115th Congress.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 88 National Veterans Memorial and Museum

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 17 Counter Transnational Organized Crime

Res. No. 19 Homeland Security and the Opioid Epidemic

Res. No. 20 National Cybersecurity Strategy

Res. No. 21 National Defense Budget

Res. No. 22 POW/MIA Policies

Res. No. 23 Prohibition on Wrongful Broadcast or Distribution of Intimate Visual Images

Res. No. 40 USS Liberty

Res. No. 70 Medal of Honor for E. Royce Williams

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Res. No. 3 WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility

Res. No. 8 Expand the Presumptive Period for Veterans Who served in South Korea

Res. No. 13 Improve VA Communication with Service Officers

Res. No. 14 Extend Allotted Time for Claims Review by Service Officers

Res. No. 16 Department of Veterans Affairs Automobile Allowance Program

Res. No. 28 Permit VA Providers to Discuss the use of Medical Marijuana in those States that have Legalized Marijuana

Res. No. 41 Radiation-Exposed Veterans

Res. No. 47 Research into Hearing Loss Due to Loud or Constant Noise Exposure in the Military

- Res. No. 74 Air Carrier Access
 Res. No. 75 Department of Veterans Affairs Rural Health Care Program
 Res. No. 76 Veterans Emergency Room or Urgent Care Facility Relief

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

- Res. No. 26 Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development and Veterans Business Outreach Centers
 Res. No. 78 Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole
 Res. No. 81 Military Spouse Employment
 Res. No. 82 Preserve Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Protections
 Res. No. 83 Protect Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Fair Consumer Arbitration
 Res. No. 84 Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
 Res. No. 85 Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservists Returning from Deployment

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED IN THE SPRING MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 MAY 8-9, 2017**

FINANCE

- Res. No. 3 100th Anniversary Commemorative American Legion Coin

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- Res. No. 16 National Global War On Terrorism Memorial

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

- Res. No. 23 Department of Veterans Affairs Provide Mental Health Services for Veterans with other than Honorable and General Discharges
 Res. No. 25 Department of Veterans Affairs Maintained Medical and Dental School
 Res. No. 26 Compliance With Public Law 114-31 Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015
 Res. No. 27 Amend Title 38, United States Code, To Clarify The Treatment of A Veteran as Adjudicated Mentally Incompetent for Certain Purposes
 Res. No. 29 Department of Veterans Affairs Establish An Opioid Treatment Program to include An Opioid Detox Unit at every VA Medical Center

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

- Res. No. 20 GI Bill Fairness for Wounded Servicemembers and Activated National Guard and Reservists
 Res. No. 21 Support State and National Funding for Troops to Teachers Program

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE FALL
MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 12-13, 2016**

AMERICANISM

Res. No. 19 Flag Code Amendment

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 9 Transfer Custodianship of Pershing Hall Building and
Artifacts to the American Battle Monuments Commission

Res. No. 11 Support and Defend Veteran and Military Memorials

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Res. No. 22 Surviving Families Benefits

Res. No. 23 Add Agent Orange Component to Code of Federal Regulations
4.16

Res. No. 24 Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 20 Oppose Efforts to Downgrade Low-Level Wage Positions
within the Department of Veterans Affairs

Res. No. 21 Education Benefit Forgiveness and Relief for Displaced
Student-Veterans

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 98TH
NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI, OHIO
AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1, 2016**

AMERICANISM

Res. No. 278 Financially Assist Families Faced by Catastrophic Illness of Their
Children

Res. No. 279 Support Funding Comprehensive Health Care for Children &
Youth

Res. No. 280 Funding For Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs

Res. No. 281 Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation

Res. No. 282 Oppose any Attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing
Penalties for the Production, Sale and Distribution of
Pornographic or Obscene Materials to Minors

Res. No. 283 Establish "National Family Week"

Res. No. 284 Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization

Res. No. 285 National School Lunch Program

Res. No. 286 Prevent Child Maltreatment

Res. No. 287 Programs and Organizations that Promote Child Safety

Res. No. 288 Reducing or Preventing Teenage Pregnancy

Res. No. 289 Support for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
Prevention

Res. No. 290 Honoring the Anniversary of "In God We Trust"

- Res. No. 291 School Prayer
 Res. No. 292 Return Patriotic Holidays to Traditional Dates
 Res. No. 293 Oppose Importation of Foreign Manufactured American Flags
 Res. No. 294 Boy Scouts of America and The Department Of Defense
 Res. No. 295 Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance
 Res. No. 296 Support Fairness for Immigrant Spouses
 Res. No. 297 Conscientious Objectors Tax Diversion
 Res. No. 298 English Language be Declared as the Official United States
 Language
 Res. No. 299 Pledge of Allegiance
 Res. No. 300 Star Spangled Banner
 Res. No. 301 Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause
 Lawsuits
 Res. No. 302 Oppose Flag Code Changes for Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of
 The Flag, The National Anthem, and The Pledge of Allegiance
 Res. No. 303 Constitutional Amendment to Protect The Flag of The United
 States

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- Res. No. 270 Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage

NATIONAL SECURITY

- Res. No. 15 Support Veteran Status for National Guard and Reserve
 Servicemembers
 Res. No. 16 Second Amendment
 Res. No. 17 Position on the Operational Reserve
 Res. No. 18 Support Research and Funding for Alternative Energy Resources
 Res. No. 19 Develop Defense against Electromagnetic Pulse Attack
 Res. No. 20 Fully Enforce Immigration Laws
 Res. No. 21 Support for Financial Anti-Terrorism
 Res. No. 22 Guard and Reserve Space-A Travel
 Res. No. 23 Support for the Department of Homeland Security and Coast
 Guard
 Res. No. 24 Illegal Immigration Policy
 Res. No. 25 Support for the Non-Federal Roles of the National Guard
 Res. No. 26 Pipeline Construction and Energy Independence
 Res. No. 28 Reserves and National Guard Retirement Benefit Fairness
 Res. No. 29 Commercial Shipbuilding for Defense
 Res. No. 31 Buy American
 Res. No. 32 Support Domestic Energy Production
 Res. No. 33 Rare Earth Elements
 Res. No. 34 Support Unmanned Vehicles
 Res. No. 45 Policy on the Arctic Region
 Res. No. 56 Protection, Preservation and Retention of Federal and Military
 Monuments in the United States
 Res. No. 85 Support for Military Quality of Life Standards
 Res. No. 86 National Defense Budget
 Res. No. 88 POW/MIA Policies
 Res. No. 89 Taiwan Defense Arms Sales
 Res. No. 90 South China Sea Island Building

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| Res. No. | 91 | Cybersecurity and Identity Theft |
| Res. No. | 92 | Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission Positions |
| Res. No. | 93 | Codify Burial Eligibility for Arlington National Cemetery |
| Res. No. | 94 | Earned Military Benefits |
| Res. No. | 95 | Flexible Savings Accounts |
| Res. No. | 96 | Support Full Funding and Resourcing for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps |
| Res. No. | 98 | Support for the Global War on Terrorism |
| Res. No. | 99 | Support for the Jones Maritime Act and Related Cabotage Laws |
| Res. No. | 100 | Military Commissaries |
| Res. No. | 101 | Support for the Reformation of the Military Voting System |
| Res. No. | 102 | Oppose Tricare Fee Increases |
| Res. No. | 103 | Correction of Military Records |
| Res. No. | 104 | Rebuild America's Defense Industrial Base |
| Res. No. | 105 | Reference Veterans Service Organizations at Discharge |
| Res. No. | 106 | Establish a Strategic Plan for the Internal Security within the United States |
| Res. No. | 107 | Support Armed Services Retirement Homes |
| Res. No. | 108 | Support for Legislation Prohibiting Hate Speech at Military Funerals |
| Res. No. | 109 | Support for Pain Management Research, Treatments and Therapies at DOD, VA and NIH |
| Res. No. | 110 | Support for Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences |
| Res. No. | 111 | Taiwan Straits Dialogue |
| Res. No. | 171 | Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) |
| Res. No. | 172 | Support for World Press Freedom |
| Res. No. | 173 | Secure National Borders Against Illegal Drugs |
| Res. No. | 174 | Security of Overseas Embassies |
| Res. No. | 175 | Oppose Iran Nuclear Deal |
| Res. No. | 176 | Authorize and Fund Tricare for Reserve Components and Dependents |
| Res. No. | 200 | Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) |
| Res. No. | 201 | Enhanced Funding for USAID |
| Res. No. | 202 | Military Retiree Mail at Overseas Embassies |
| Res. No. | 203 | Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance |
| Res. No. | 204 | Policy on Latin and Central America |
| Res. No. | 205 | Foreign Policy Objectives |
| Res. No. | 206 | Middle East/Gulf States Foreign Policies |
| Res. No. | 207 | Policy on the United Nations |
| Res. No. | 208 | Prohibit Foreign Investments in U.S. Defense Industry |
| Res. No. | 209 | Space-A Travel for Unemployed and Disabled Veterans and Dependents |
| Res. No. | 210 | Support for the American Battle Monuments Commission |
| Res. No. | 211 | Securing Pakistan's Nuclear Arsenal |
| Res. No. | 212 | Vietnam Human Rights |
| Res. No. | 213 | Support for Foreign Exchange Education Program |
| Res. No. | 214 | Global Trade Policies |
| Res. No. | 215 | Long-Range Strike Capabilities |
| Res. No. | 216 | Support for the United States Air Force |

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| Res. No. | 217 | Identifying National Interests before Committing Military Forces and Assets |
| Res. No. | 218 | Support for the Selective Service Registration Program |
| Res. No. | 219 | Support Full Funding for the Department of the Army Budget |
| Res. No. | 220 | Support for National Missile Defense System |
| Res. No. | 221 | Military Occupational Specialty Standards |
| Res. No. | 222 | Policy on Africa |
| Res. No. | 223 | Policy on Cuba |
| Res. No. | 224 | Support for Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement Pay and VA Disability |
| Res. No. | 225 | Fully Fund NASA |

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

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| Res. No. | 1 | Department of Veterans Quadrennial Plan for Budget |
| Res. No. | 2 | Reinstate Enrollment of Priority Group 8g Veterans into The Department of Veterans Affairs' Patient Enrollment System |
| Res. No. | 3 | Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability |
| Res. No. | 6 | Department of Veterans Affairs Construction Programs |
| Res. No. | 8 | Department of Veterans Affairs Preservation of National Historic Properties |
| Res. No. | 9 | Black Hills National Cemetery Expansion |
| Res. No. | 11 | Medical Marijuana Research |
| Res. No. | 13 | Fiduciary Responsibility |
| Res. No. | 35 | Agent Orange |
| Res. No. | 37 | Improvements to Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Programs |
| Res. No. | 38 | Exempt VA Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provision |
| Res. No. | 39 | Research to Develop a Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer |
| Res. No. | 40 | Exempt certain Income from VA Pension Rate Determination |
| Res. No. | 41 | State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants |
| Res. No. | 42 | Oppose any Reductions to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Budget due to Sequestration |
| Res. No. | 43 | Department of Veterans Affairs Child Care Program |
| Res. No. | 44 | Department of Veterans Affairs Rural Healthcare Program |
| Res. No. | 51 | WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Entitlements |
| Res. No. | 52 | Department of Veterans Affairs Means Test |
| Res. No. | 53 | Veterans Discounts on Federally Funded Public Transportation |
| Res. No. | 54 | Designate Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia as a Presumptive Condition for Veterans who Served in Combat Theaters |
| Res. No. | 55 | Radiation Exposure |
| Res. No. | 57 | Prevent Exploitation of Veterans and Family Members applying for benefits, to include Aid and Attendance |
| Res. No. | 59 | Stopping Non-Attorney Representatives from Charging Fees to provide Appellate Service to Veterans |
| Res. No. | 62 | Veterans Transportation System and Benefits Travel |
| Res. No. | 63 | Department of Veterans Affairs Choice Program |
| Res. No. | 64 | Department of Veterans Affairs Beneficiary Travel Program |
| Res. No. | 83 | Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record |
| Res. No. | 112 | All Veterans Receive "Wartime" Benefits for Active Military Service between February 28, 1961 and August 5, 1964 |

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| Res. No. | 114 | Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Agreements with Non-VA Providers |
| Res. No. | 115 | Department of Veterans Affairs Recruitment and Retention |
| Res. No. | 117 | Disability and Death Pension Program |
| Res. No. | 118 | Environmental Exposures |
| Res. No. | 119 | Exempt Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment |
| Res. No. | 120 | Extend Department of Veterans Affairs Mortgage Protection Life Insurance to Service-Connected Veterans who are Permanently and Totally Disabled |
| Res. No. | 121 | Extend the Presumptive Period for Service Connection for Gulf War Veterans with Undiagnosed Illnesses |
| Res. No. | 122 | Gulf War Illnesses |
| Res. No. | 123 | Increase the Transparency of the Veterans Benefits Administration's Claim Processing |
| Res. No. | 124 | Means Test for Married Veterans |
| Res. No. | 125 | Opening the Federal Supply Schedule for Pharmaceuticals to Medicare and Medicaid |
| Res. No. | 126 | Oppose any Reduction of Eligibility Criteria for Department of Veterans Affairs Per Diem Payment to State Veterans Home |
| Res. No. | 127 | Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment |
| Res. No. | 128 | Protection of Religious Rights and Ceremonies at National Cemetery Administration National and State Cemeteries |
| Res. No. | 129 | Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs the Ability to Purchase Medications Located Outside the United States |
| Res. No. | 130 | Radiation Exposure |
| Res. No. | 131 | Recognize Operations in Lebanon (1958, Grenada (1983), and Panama (1989-1990) as Periods of War for Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Purposes |
| Res. No. | 132 | Request Congress Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs Adequate Funding for Medical and Prosthetic Research |
| Res. No. | 133 | Revision of Work-Rate Standards for Department of Veterans Affairs Adjudicators |
| Res. No. | 134 | Service Dogs for Injured Service Personnel and Veterans with Mental Health Conditions |
| Res. No. | 136 | Strategic Capital Investment Planning Program |
| Res. No. | 137 | Support Legislation to Place Mariner Medal Recipients in Priority Group 3 for the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care |
| Res. No. | 138 | Support Medicare Reimbursement for the Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Res. No. | 139 | Support Presumption of Service Connection for Hepatitis C |
| Res. No. | 141 | Department of Veterans Affairs Enhanced-Use Leasing |
| Res. No. | 142 | Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services |
| Res. No. | 143 | Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing Home Capacity |
| Res. No. | 145 | Veteran Treatment Courts |
| Res. No. | 146 | Veterans Receive Same Level of Benefits |
| Res. No. | 148 | Oppose Legislation Authorizing Legion-Accredited Representatives to Claims Directly on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Res. No. | 160 | Complementary and Alternative Medicine |

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| Res. No. | 161 | Agent Orange Presumption for Service in Southeast Asia since 1975 |
| Res. No. | 162 | In Vitro Fertilization |
| Res. No. | 163 | Legislation to provide Reporting, Tracking, and Action Dealing with Sexual Assaults at Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities |
| Res. No. | 165 | Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Programs |
| Res. No. | 166 | Department of Veterans Affairs Involvement in the Department of Homeland Security |
| Res. No. | 178 | Assured Funding for VA Medical Care |
| Res. No. | 179 | Extend the Filing Period of An Appeal Notice to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims |
| Res. No. | 180 | Designate Hypertension as a Presumptive Condition for Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange |
| Res. No. | 181 | National Cemetery Administration |
| Res. No. | 182 | Non—Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Care |
| Res. No. | 183 | Presumptive Conditions for Former Prisoners of War |
| Res. No. | 185 | State Veteran Home Per Diem Reimbursement |
| Res. No. | 186 | Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Care |
| Res. No. | 187 | Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation |
| Res. No. | 188 | Department of Veterans Affairs' Role in National Emergency Preparedness |
| Res. No. | 194 | Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Integrated Service Networks |
| Res. No. | 230 | Policy for those Serving November 4, 1979 through January 20, 1981 to be Considered Wartime Veterans |
| Res. No. | 236 | Department of Veterans Affairs to provide Interim Benefits for Pending Claims over 90 days |
| Res. No. | 237 | Authorization to Apply for a Headstone, Marker, or Medallion |
| Res. No. | 238 | Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act |
| Res. No. | 239 | Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses |
| Res. No. | 243 | Compensation for Veterans Requiring Hearing Aids for Service Connected Hearing Loss |
| Res. No. | 244 | Exempt Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment |
| Res. No. | 245 | Extend Eligibility for National Cemetery Administration Medallion |
| Res. No. | 246 | Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans |
| Res. No. | 249 | Amend the Eligibility Requirements and Extend the Eligibility Time Period for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance |
| Res. No. | 250 | Increase Maximum Coverage under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance |
| Res. No. | 251 | Grant a 10% Rating for Veterans who must Take Daily Medication for Hypertension |
| Res. No. | 252 | Support Legislation to Pay Interest on Claims Granted by the Board of Veterans' Appeals |
| Res. No. | 253 | Eliminate the benefit Payment Loophole for certain Incarcerated Veterans |
| Res. No. | 255 | Reducing Eligibility for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Payment for 100% Disabled Veterans from 10 Years to 5 Years |

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| Res. No. | 259 | Extend Caregiver Benefits to include Veterans before September 11, 2001 |
| Res. No. | 262 | Department of Veterans Affairs provide Service Dog Allowance |
| Res. No. | 263 | Include World War II Veterans in Priority Group 6 for Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care |
| Res. No. | 265 | Automatic Waiver for Over-Payments of \$300 or Less |
| Res. No. | 267 | Allow Beneficiaries to Retain \$90 of Their Benefits while in Medic Aid-Covered Nursing Homes |
| Res. No. | 268 | Urn Markers provided by the National Cemetery Administration |
| Res. No. | 271 | Request Study by The Department of Veterans Affairs on the Medical Effects of Exposure to Depleted Uranium |
| Res. No. | 272 | Extend Dental Care to Veterans with Service Connection of 50% or More |
| Res. No. | 360 | Advance Appropriations for all of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Discretionary Accounts |
| Res. No. | 361 | Congress to provide Back Pay to Veterans and Dependents |
| Res. No. | 362 | Congressional Budget Office Scoring on Department of Veterans Affairs Leasing |
| Res. No. | 363 | Consolidation of Department of Veterans Affairs Care in the Community Program |
| Res. No. | 364 | Department of Veterans Affairs to Develop Outreach and Peer to Peer Programs for Rehabilitation |
| Res. No. | 365 | Fit to Serve Initiative |
| Res. No. | 366 | Honoring those Who have Earned the Medal of Honor |
| Res. No. | 367 | Include Korean War Veterans in Priority Group 6 for Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care |
| Res. No. | 368 | Increase the Transparency of Asbestos Claims |
| Res. No. | 370 | Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselors and Marriage Family Therapists |
| Res. No. | 372 | Oppose Closing or Privatization of Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System |
| Res. No. | 373 | Oppose Lump Sum Payments for Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation |
| Res. No. | 374 | Priority Care for Medal of Honor Recipients |
| Res. No. | 375 | Prosecution Of VA Employees Engaged in Fraudulent Practices in The Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Res. No. | 377 | Support for Veteran Quality of Life |
| Res. No. | 378 | United States Census to include Veterans Information |
| Res. No. | 379 | Veteran Caretaker Stipend |
| Res. No. | 380 | Exempt Funds Related to Interment Services at Cemeteries from any Future Sequestration |

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

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| Res. No. | 58 | Support Legislation that Prohibits Discrimination against Veterans in Federal Contracts |
| Res. No. | 60 | Support Full Funding of Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOPS) Positions |
| Res. No. | 68 | Support the Increased Funding of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Programs |

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| Res. No. | 69 | Support the Elimination of Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service Regional Offices |
| Res. No. | 71 | Oppose Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service Hiring of Non-Veterans |
| Res. No. | 72 | Oppose Efforts to change the Residency Requirements for State Directors of the Veterans Employment and Training Service |
| Res. No. | 73 | Oppose the Transfer of Veterans' Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Res. No. | 70 | Improve Transition Assistance Program |
| Res. No. | 74 | Oppose any Weakening of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative |
| Res. No. | 75 | 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 |
| Res. No. | 76 | Support Improvements in the Reporting Programs available to and Administered by Veterans' Employment and Training Service |
| Res. No. | 77 | Support for the Military Transition Program |
| Res. No. | 78 | Support for the Strengthening and Adequate Funding of the National Veterans' Training Institute |
| Res. No. | 79 | Support the Restoration of the Duties and Responsibilities of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative |
| Res. No. | 80 | Support Legislation that would return Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Funding to a Staffing Grant |
| Res. No. | 81 | Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops for National Guard and Reserve Members |
| Res. No. | 149 | Support "Buy American" Policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs to Create Jobs and Opportunities for Veterans |
| Res. No. | 150 | Expanding Post 9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship |
| Res. No. | 151 | Status of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business after the Death of the Veteran Owner |
| Res. No. | 152 | Affirm Support for Emerging-Internet-Based and Peer-Financed Alternative Capital Options for Veteran-Owned Small businesses |
| Res. No. | 153 | Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development |
| Res. No. | 154 | Support Reasonable Set-Aside of Federal Procurements and Contracts for Businesses Owned and Operated by Veterans |
| Res. No. | 155 | Improve Transition Assistance Program |
| Res. No. | 156 | Veterans Entrepreneur Training Program |
| Res. No. | 170 | Oppose the Department of Labor's Restructuring of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative Roles |
| Res. No. | 254 | Raise on VA Home Loans for Two Legally Married Eligible Veterans |
| Res. No. | 269 | Surviving Spouse Mortgage Eligibility |
| Res. No. | 274 | Support Employment Services for Spouses of Servicemembers Killed in the Line of Duty |
| Res. No. | 304 | Support Accountability for Institutions of Higher Learning |

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| Res. No. | 305 | Support the Development of Veterans On-The-Job Training Opportunities |
| Res. No. | 306 | Allow Military Retirees to apply for Position in Federal Law Enforcement after Age 37 |
| Res. No. | 307 | Support Legislation to Amend Title 38 United States Code, to Prohibit Discrimination and Acts of Reprisal by Employers against Veterans that Seek Treatment for Their Service-Connected Disabilities |
| Res. No. | 308 | Amending the Eligibility for the Transfer of The Post-9/11 GI Bill Educational Benefits |
| Res. No. | 309 | Supporting the U.S. Economy and increase U.S. Energy Security through a Canadian-American Pipeline |
| Res. No. | 311 | Federal and State Incentive for Employers to use Veterans' Preference |
| Res. No. | 312 | Eliminate Delimiting Dates for the Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill |
| Res. No. | 313 | Support Elimination Funding Fees for Government Guaranteed Loans |
| Res. No. | 314 | Support Elimination of The VA Home Loan Funding Fee |
| Res. No. | 315 | Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservist Returning from Deployment |
| Res. No. | 316 | Support Employment of Veterans in the Public and Private Workforce |
| Res. No. | 317 | Enforcing Veterans' Preference Hiring Practices in Federal Civil Service |
| Res. No. | 318 | Ensuring the Quality of Servicemember and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education |
| Res. No. | 319 | Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within The Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Res. No. | 320 | Support for Expansion of Oil Refineries |
| Res. No. | 321 | Support Extended Time for Mortgage Payments for Servicemembers |
| Res. No. | 322 | Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active –Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel |
| Res. No. | 324 | Support Funding for Homeless Veterans |
| Res. No. | 325 | Support Funding and Changes to VA's Grant and Per Diem Program |
| Res. No. | 326 | Support Funding for Additional Housing for Homeless Veterans with Families |
| Res. No. | 327 | Support further Assessment and Evaluation of Institutions of Higher Learning to Enable Veterans to make Informed Education Choices |
| Res. No. | 328 | GI Bill Medical Transferability Rights |
| Res. No. | 329 | Support Home Loan Guaranty Program |
| Res. No. | 330 | Homeless Veterans Assistance |
| Res. No. | 331 | Support Housing Preference for Low-Income Veterans in The Department of Housing and Urban Development |
| Res. No. | 332 | Support Funding for The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Homeless Program |

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| Res. No. | 333 | Support Increase in Reporting Fees for Educational Institutions |
| Res. No. | 334 | Support Legislation to Increase Telework (Telecommuting) Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veterans and Military Spouses |
| Res. No. | 335 | Support Major Enhancements for The Montgomery GI Bill |
| Res. No. | 336 | Support Legislation that would Change The 12-Year Delimiting Date for Eligibility to Chapter 31 Benefits (VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program) |
| Res. No. | 338 | Support Licensure and Certification of Servicemembers, Veterans and Spouses |
| Res. No. | 339 | Support the Rollover of Ira Account Penalty of Tax Liability of a Permanent and Total 100 Percent Service-Disabled Veteran with Individual Unemployability |
| Res. No. | 340 | Support Permanent Authorization for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program |
| Res. No. | 341 | Support Recognition of Military and Pay when Calculating Starting Federal Civilian Salaries |
| Res. No. | 342 | Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) |
| Res. No. | 343 | Support Student-Veterans Return-On Investment Education Outcomes |
| Res. No. | 344 | Support Federal Legislation that Protects the Employment of Veterans in the U.S. Postal Services Mail Processing Facilities that are Slated for Closure |
| Res. No. | 345 | Support for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program Hiring more Counselors and Employment Coordinators |
| Res. No. | 346 | Support an Investigation of Hiring Practices in the Federal Government |
| Res. No. | 347 | Veterans Education Debt Forgiveness |
| Res. No. | 348 | Support Legislation that Bolsters the Hiring of Veterans in the Public and Private Sectors |
| Res. No. | 349 | Support Legislation to improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill |
| Res. No. | 351 | Support Tax Credit for certain Employers |
| Res. No. | 352 | Transitional Housing Allotments for returning Combat Veterans |
| Res. No. | 353 | Support a Veteran-Centric Website for Employment |
| Res. No. | 354 | Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program |
| Res. No. | 355 | Veterans Employment Initiative |
| Res. No. | 356 | Veterans Home Loans |
| Res. No. | 357 | Support Veterans Housing Repair and Modification for Pilot Program |
| Res. No. | 358 | Support Veterans' Preference in Public Employment |

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I'll call on the national adjutant to read the dates of the meetings that occur over the next year.

Dates of Future Meetings

Fall Meetings

- Department Adjutants Seminar..... October 7-8, 2017
- Commanders and Adjutants Conference..... October 9-10, 2017
- Commissions and Committees..... October 9-10, 2017
- National Executive Committee..... October 11-12, 2017

Washington Conference..... February 25-28, 2018

Spring Meetings

- Commissions and Committees..... May 7-8, 2018
- National Executive Committee..... May 9-10, 2018

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you. I would like to add that the Saturday prior to the Fall NEC in Indianapolis, there will be a homecoming held at the Legion post there in Indianapolis. And there should have been information passed out as you were coming in today. So look for that. It will be exciting.

Introductions

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: At this time I'd like to introduce two Legionnaires who will campaign, they were just waiting for me to get elected so they could take over, who will campaign for the office of national commander in the future. Brett Reistad from Virginia. Brett is your new leading candidate. And James Oxford from North Carolina, who will be the following candidate.

I will now entertain the introduction of new NECmen. Please, in the interests of time, please hold your introductions to only the new members of the NEC.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Commander, former alternate NEC from Massachusetts, the new NEC, Bill Chisholm.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: I would like to announce the new NECman for the Department of Virginia, Michael Mitrione, and our alternate executive committeeman, Linden Dixon.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Madam Commander, I'd like to introduce the new NECman from the Department of Oregon, Robert Liebenow.

PAUL EVENSON (SD): It gives me great pride to introduce a new national vice commander from South Dakota, Byron Callies, and our new NEC, James Huls.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Madam Commander, from the Department of Iowa, our NECman, Jerry Sebben, and his alternate, Dennis Soppe.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CHISHOLM (MA): I'd like to introduce alternate Louis Brault from Massachusetts.

FRANCIS KILLAY (VT): Former NECman from Vermont. I would like to introduce our new NECwoman from Vermont, Marlys Lemnah.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: I'd like to introduce our NEC from Indiana, Jerry Jordon, and our alternate NEC, Edward Trice.

LUIS AVALA (PR): I'd like to introduce our new incoming NECman from the Department of Puerto Rico, past vice commander is not here, I know he's been excused, and thanks very much for having the pleasure to serve for this committee for the past two years. And with me is the NECman alternate, Isaac Rodriguez.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BOCK: Commander, I'd like you to meet our new National Executive Committeeman from Colorado, Tom Florez, and new alternate NEC, Jay Bowen.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CROSIER (NE): Madam Commander, I'd like to introduce our new alternate NECman, Craig Frazier, from Nebraska.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: I'd like to introduce New York NECman Edward Bertrand and alternate NECman William Kearsing.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER JACKSON (CT): I'd like to introduce our new NECman from the Department of Rhode Island, Cory Bates, and new alternate, Bob Murray, from the Department of Connecticut.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONATSER: I'd like to introduce our new NECman, Bernie Stegmuller, and our alternate NECman, Tom Marciciak.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MOORE (MI): Madam Commander, Ray Moore, new National Executive Committeeman from Michigan.

ADJUTANT GRUBA (WA): Madam Commander, department adjutant, we'd like to introduce our new NECman, Ken Lee, and our new alternate NECman, Dale Davis.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ROBBINS (NJ): Commander, Chuck Robbins, new NECman from New Jersey. I'd like to introduce my ANEC Berley Hanna.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER BLOXOM (OK): I'd like to introduce Department of Oklahoma's new alternate NECman, Timothy Smith.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON (HI): Hello. I'd like to introduce myself, David Carlson, new NECman from the state of Hawaii.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BOCK: Madam Commander, I would like to introduce the new alternate NECman from the Department of New Mexico, Paul Espinoza.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Well, thank you all, and I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year. I now call on the national adjutant for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Today, following the recess of the NEC meeting, there will be a directors meeting at Atlantis Grand Ballroom section 7, second floor, from approximately 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. And that includes the national commander, her five national vice commanders to be briefed.

Also, this evening there's a national commander's reception at the Atlantis, Paradise Ballroom, second floor, approximately 4:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m.

Following the recess of this meeting, we ask that all of the national officers and national vice commanders meet outside the door for their official photos. This does not include National Executive Committee members whose photos can be taken at the Fall Meeting, just the new national officers. Thank you.

Technical Motion

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Is there any unfinished business to come before this meeting at this time?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I'd like to make a technical motion and move that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting, make any necessary corrections without changing the intent of the NEC meeting and proceed to edit and distribute these minutes. ... *Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you. Is there any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Any other business? Okay.

I now call on National Chaplain Robert Vick for the benediction. Please rise.

Benediction

Robert A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain

Father, there were only three institutions that You ordained. That was the family, the government, and the church. And we, as governing body of this wonderful organization, need Your wisdom and Your guidance.

Father, there's not one person in this room that isn't here because of Your placing them here. You have seated emperors, You've crowned kings, and You've enthroned rulers. And all government is subject to Your will. We are where we are because You put us here. Make us worthy of Your trust in us. May we do those things that glorify You to further the aims of our organization. Every road we've traveled down, You've gone before us. And You've made the light to shine out of darkness, straightened crooked roads. You've taken roads of evil and turned them into peace and joy. Only God can do that. We are subject to Your will.

Bless us now as we depart. And God bless The American Legion and God bless our new officers and continue to bless those who are continuing to serve. I pray this prayer in that name that's above all names. And God's people said amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Legionnaires, please join me in the salute to the flag of the United States of America by the numbers. One.

... *At this time, the National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Flag.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Two. Is there a motion to adjourn this meeting?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: So moved.

... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I call this meeting adjourned.

... *At 1:51 p.m., the Post-Convention National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion adjourned.*

Abbreviations

ANEC Alternate National Executive Committee Member

B&M..... Bergmann & Moore, LLC

BVA Board of Veterans Appeals

CAVC..... Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

CEO..... chief executive officer

DMS Direct Membership Solicitation

DOD Department of Defense

DOJ Department of Justice

DPAA Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

DVOP Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation

FY fiscal year

GPS Global Positioning System

HR House Resolution

IRS Internal Revenue Service

JROTC..... Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps

LVER Local Veterans Employment Representatives

MIA..... missing in action

MVP Million Veteran Program

NASA.....National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 NATO..... North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 NCA National Cemetery Administration
 NEC..... National Executive Committee
 NEF.....National Emergency Fund
 NIH..... National Institutes of Health
 NPR..... National Public Radio

OCO Overseas Contingency Operations

PL Public Law

POW..... prisoner of war
 PTSD.....post-traumatic stress disorder

SAL Sons of The American Legion

TAP Transition Assistance Program
 TAPS Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
 TBI traumatic brain injury
 TFA Temporary Financial Assistance

USAA.....United Services Automobile Association
 USAID..... United States Agency for International Development

VA Department of Veterans Affairs
 VHA Veterans Health Administration
 VISN..... Veteran Integrated Service Network

WWII..... World War II

YCLE Youth Law Enforcement Committee

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