PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

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

Frontier Airlines Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August 30 & September 2, 2010

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PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

PRE-CONVENTION MEETING
Monday, August 30, 2010

... At 9:00 a.m., August 30, 2010, the Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Clarence E. Hill, Florida, and the following proceedings were had. National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia, acted as secretary.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I call this Pre-Convention National Executive Meeting to order. The Colors in place, please join me in rendering a salute.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I call on Reverend John L. Beaver from Alabama, National Chaplain.

Invocation
Rev. John L. Beaver, Alabama
National Chaplain

We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator to certain inalienable rights. And among these are the life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

God, creator of heaven and earth, we honor Your presence here today. The founders of this great nation recognized the basic principles, that you are the Creator, and we are your noble yet humble creatures. As such, all men and women are loved and treasured by you.

Send your blessing on this organization, The American Legion, so that they would be guided by your divine law in our deliberations. Grant us your wisdom to seek the common good for our military, our veterans, and for all people.

Lastly, Lord, we pray for protection for all Americans, especially those who serve the uniform in distant lands. Guard and protect these, Your faithful servants, in the shadow of Your wings and bring them home in safety and peace.

Let all this be done for Your greater glory. We ask this in Your divine name. Amen.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Please join me in the Pledge.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I call on the National Adjutant Dan Wheeler for the roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Clarence E. Hill, Florida

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Chaplain
Reverend John L. Beaver, Alabama

National Vice Commanders
Morris M. Bentley, Idaho
Dr. Gordon B. Browning, Maryland
Mark A. Avis, Massachusetts
James C. Morris, Ohio
Eugene Schumacher, South Dakota

Past National Commanders

William E. Galbraith, Nebraska—Excused
John H. Geiger, Illinois—Excused
Michael J. Kogutek, New York—Excused
Keith Kreul, Wisconsin—Excused
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
John P. Comer, Massachusetts
Hon. H.F. Gierke, North Dakota
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania—Excused
Bruce Thiesen, California—Excused
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
Ray G. Smith, North Carolina
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas P. Cadmus, Michigan
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. 'Marty' Conatser, Illinois
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
David K. Rehbein, Iowa

National Executive Committee Members

Department	Committee Members	Alternate
Alabama	Floyd W. Turner	
Alaska	James L. Van Horn	
Arizona	Deodoro M. 'Joe' Aguilar	
Arkansas	Cleave B. Weiss	
California	Fred J. Walton	
Colorado	Ralph P. Bozella	
Connecticut	Richard W. Anderson	
Delaware	Charles T. Armbruster, Jr.	
D.C.	Paul H. Hasz	
Florida	Robert J. Proctor—Excused	Dennis R. Boland
France	William E. Marshall	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	

Hawaii	Andrew W. Johnson	
Idaho	Wayne D. Mitchell	
Illinois	Eugene Thompson	
Indiana	W. Darrell Hansel	
Iowa	John J. Ross—Excused	Bruce C. Feuerbach
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Robert A. Owen	
Maryland	John F. Milburn	
Massachusetts	Milton K. Lashaus	Michael E. Cassidy
Mexico	Arthur Herbruger	
Michigan	Darwin Krieger	
Minnesota	Raymond DeZurik	
Mississippi	Charles E. Langley	
Missouri	Richard A. Heigert	
Montana	Sylvia A. M. Beals	
Nebraska	Douglas Boldt	
Nevada	Salvatore Ruvolo—Excused	Jack L. Ford
New Hampshire	John E. Neylon	
New Jersey	William 'Billy' Mack	
New Mexico	Taurino J. Trevino	
New York	Richard R. Keiser	
North Carolina	Jerry L. Hedrick	
North Dakota	Curtis O. Twete	
Ohio	Richard H. Zulch	
Oklahoma	Warren D. Wilson	
Oregon	Charles E. Schmidt	
Pennsylvania	Richard A. Coccimiglio	
Philippines	William J. Kelly	
Puerto Rico	Alberto Rodriguez	
Rhode Island	Ronald P. Levasseur—Excused	Normand G. Vadnais
South Carolina	Billy W. Bell	
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson	
Tennessee	Perry D. Roberts	
Texas	Conrad L. Roberson—Excused	James E. Prendergast
Utah	William E. Christoffersen	
Vermont	Barbara Bushaw	
Virginia	George C. Lussier, Jr.	
Washington	Michael L. Montaney	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	David L. Gough	
Wyoming	Gerald L. Jacobs	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the Roll Call, commander.
NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Thank you. We have a quorum.

Opening Remarks
Clarence E. Hill, Florida, National Commander

I would like to personally welcome all of you here to the 92nd Convention and for taking the time out of your lives to get on with the business of The American Legion. This is a renewal year, so a lot of work has happened over the weekend, and a lot of work remains ahead of us. So, I congratulate you all on being here and hope you're ready to go to work.

Minutes of the Previous National Executive Committee Meeting

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I call on the national adjutant for the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Now I will call on Jerry L. Hedrick of North Carolina for a report on the Resolutions Subcommittee.

Oral Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Jerry L. Hedrick, North Carolina, Chairman

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, there are no resolutions that have come before the NEC, but I would like for you to prepare the NEC for a memorializing resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Please rise and uncover.

... At this time the members of the National Executive Committee stood in silence for the reading of the following memorial resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: The person we are going to memorialize this morning is Sam Barney. Now, I want you to know that Joe Matthews from Texas, past national commander, is on this list, he's going to be recognized tomorrow morning in the opening ceremonies, plus we're going to do the official memorializing resolution on Joe Matthews at the NEC Meeting in October.

Memorial Resolutions
Samuel Barney, Ohio

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Samuel Barney, Department Vice Commander 1987 to 1989; Department Commander 1989 to 1990; National Sergeant-At-Arms 1992 to 1993; National Executive Committee Alternate Member 1996 to 1998; National Executive Committee Member 1998 to 2000; National Vice Commander 2004 to 2005; National American Legion Magazine Commission Member 1988 to 1992; 1993 to 1998; 2005 to 2010; 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 30th Day of August in the year of our Lord

2010, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Samuel Barney, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it further

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

Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of: Theodore F. 'Ted' Stevens (Alaska); William J. Pomfret (Connecticut); Robert J. 'Bob' Louden, III (France); Russell P. Bieritz (Illinois); Harold J. Epley (Indiana); Max E. Julian, Sr. (Indiana); Paul A. Dahlberg (Kansas); Paul J. Andrejewski (Minnesota); Henry N. Macoy (Mississippi); Roland D. Marble (Mississippi); A. Darrel Merry (Nebraska); James R. Carden (Nevada); William J. Egan (New Hampsire); George R. Everard (New Hampshire); Benjamin F. 'Ben' Talford (New Hampshire); Louis A. Trundy (New Hampshire); Walter 'Mickey' Kuzbyt (New Jersey); Adolph Bitka (New York); Joseph Saia (New York); John E. Kelly (Pennsylvania); Miguel A. Blanco (Puerto Rico); Faustino Espinosa (Puerto Rico); Jerome J. 'JJ' Gorney (Vermont); Edward D. Hamlett (Virginia); Clyde I. Siler (Virginia); Henry E. Lamb, Sr. (Washington); Donald J. 'Jim' McCandish (Wyoming); Joe L. Matthews (Texas).

When on My Day of Life

When on my day of life the night is falling,
And in the winds from unsunned spaces blown
I hear far voices out of darkness calling
My feet to paths unknown.

—J. G. Whittier

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Commander, while we're standing and before they can be seated, I would just like to say one thing. One of the members of our committee, Bob Proctor is not with us. Bob has had some serious health problems, and I know where he's been because I've been in those same shoes. But the Lord has blessed him with all prayers and cards. He's on the mend, and I hope that we'll see him in October. But God bless him, and remember his family as we enter this Convention this week. Thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Thank you. Cover. I call now on Executive Director Marty Justis, for a Citizens Flag Alliance update.

Oral Report: Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc.
Marty Justis, Maryland, Executive Director

Thank you, Mr. Commander. Good morning commander, members of the National Executive Committee, commission chairmen and guests. My full written report of the Citizens Flag Alliance has been distributed, but in summary I would offer that there's been very little activity on the Flag Amendment in this current Congress, beyond the introduction of the proposed amendments: House Joint Resolution 47, which has 84 co-sponsors, and Senate Joint Resolution 15 which has 26 co-sponsors. It is unlikely that either measure will make it to the floor for a vote, or even to hearings in the closing days of the 111th Congress.

Although we cannot accurately gauge amendment support for the coming 112th Congress, plans are indeed underway to bring attention to the issue in the waning days of the current Congress, so that should the November election favor our cause, we will be ready to react.

Historically, more than a simple majority in the House of Representatives has always supported the Flag Protection Amendment and that's true today. This has prompted some people to ask the question: Well, why not go first in the Senate and then if the measure fails, we need not expend resources with efforts in the House. That's a good logical question for which there's a good and logical answer. Strategically, it's important to the overall effort to go to the House first, because activity there generates visibility, media attention, for the issue, and sets the stage for pursuit of the amendment in the Senate.

As we move toward the 112th Congress, which convenes in 2011, plans are to go to the House first in order to drive support for the amendment in the Senate, and here's why. Currently, there are only 45 United States Senators seated who voted for the Flag Amendment in 2006, which is the last time it was brought to the floor. Twenty-seven of them will continue their term into the 112th Congress but 18 of those 45 are in contested seats, or they face declared opponents, or they are retiring from the Senate.

Now we will soon begin to survey all members of the Senate, and those seeking that office, in order to determine their position on the amendment, and we will do the same later in the House.

We have our work cut out for us in the Senate. It's a challenging task, but we can begin on that road to success now by getting all 45 sitting Senators who voted for the amendment in 2006, to sign onto Senate Joint Resolution 15. Among the 26 co-sponsors today, there are 23 who voted for the amendment in 2006. This leaves 22 who have voted for the amendment but who are not currently co-sponsors of the Senate amendment. And we can ill afford to lose those supporters. They are listed on my written report, and I would ask your attention to it at your convenience.

I ask that those of you who are constituents of these 22 senators, to do everything possible to make them co-sponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 15, the Flag Amendment. Having their co-sponsorship, having their official backing now, can provide a stronger base of support to be cited as the Flag Amendment emerges in the 112th Congress. This is a small step, but it's an important one, and it should be one that is relatively easy to achieve.

Mr. Commander, on behalf of the board of directors of the Citizens Flag Alliance and Chairman Professor Richard Parker, I extend grateful appreciation to you and to the members of the National Executive Committee, without whose help, financial and otherwise, all that has been achieved by the CFA, surely would not have been possible.

That concludes my report, Mr. Commander.

Report: Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc.
Marty Justis, Maryland, Executive Director

In May of this year, former director of The American Legion Legislative Division and President of the Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc., Steve Robertson, retired from employment with The American Legion. Concurrent with that action, Mr. Robertson tendered his resignation as President of the CFA, and the Board of Directors appointed Marty Justis to serve as Acting President until such time as that office is filled.

The 111th Congress has evidenced little action and limited noticeable support for the flag protection amendment. Current legislation calling for a flag protection amendment, that both The American Legion and the CFA fully support, is embodied in two measures: House Joint Resolution 47 and Senate Joint Resolution 15. H.J. Res 47 was introduced by Rep. Jo Ann Emerson [MO] in April 2009, during the First Session of the 111th. Today it enjoys the support of 84 cosponsors. S.J. Res. 15 was introduced near the same time by Sen. David Vitter [LA] and has the co-sponsorship of 26 Senators.

Given the complexion of Congress, it is highly unlikely that either measure will make it to the floor for voting, or even to hearings in the respective Judiciary subcommittees. This is partly attributable to the Congressional calendar, which has Congress in recess now, leaving a limited number of business days before Congress adjourns near year's end. The current bills will then die and must be reintroduced in the 112th Congress that begins in January 2011.

Another factor may well be the mid-term elections coming in November. Historically, amendment advocates favored a vote near election time, opponents did not. This brings us to the crowning factor that bears on the near *im*possibility of hearings and a vote, and that is the leadership of the current Congress.

Those in leadership positions, both House and Senate, who control the committees and subcommittees that would act upon a flag protection measure are, and have long been, staunch opponents of a flag amendment. Included in this mix are House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers [MI] and Constitution Subcommittee Chairman Jerrold Nadler [NY]; as well as Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy [VT] and Constitution Subcommittee Chairman Russ Feingold [WI]. All have been out-spoken, and remain vehemently opposed to a flag protection amendment.

Inasmuch as the leadership of each Congress is determined by the majority party, there is always the chance that a flag amendment can gain or lose support every two years. We have faced this several times in our 16-year campaign to legally protect the flag from physical desecration. Although we cannot yet accurately gauge amendment support in the 112th Congress, we do know that more than ten percent of the current members will not return in 2011. Plans are underway to bring attention to the issue in the waning days of the current Congress so that, should the election favor our cause, we will be ready to react.

Historically, more than a simple majority in the House of Representatives has always supported a flag protection amendment. That is true today, although not all supporters are cosponsors of H.J. Res. 47. This has prompted some people to ask: why not go first to the Senate? There, if the measure fails then we need not expend resources with efforts in the House. It's a good, logical question for which there is a good, logical answer. Strategically it is important to the overall effort to go to the House first, because activity there generates visibility – media attention – for the issue and sets the stage for pursuit of the amendment in the Senate.

As we move toward the 112th Congress, plans are to go first to the House, but it is obvious that we must, at this time, drive support for the amendment in the Senate. And here's why.

Currently, there are seated but 45 United States Senators who voted for the flag amendment in 2006, the last time it was brought to the floor. Twenty-seven of them will continue their term into the 112th Congress. The 18 remaining are in contested seats. That is, they face declared opponents or they are retiring from the Senate.

Efforts will soon be underway to survey all members of the Senate and those who aspire to the office, in order to determine their position on the amendment. The focus, of course, will be on those that have no declared position, then those who are facing their first race for the office, and then upon those who are known opponents of the amendment. We do, indeed, have our work cut out for us, and it is a challenging task and a must-win challenge if we are to realize a flag protection amendment in the 112th Congress.

The winning votes we've had through the years, and the tremendous support we have enjoyed from the majority of the members of Congress has come not solely through the strategies of the CFA, but far more so through the "strong arm" efforts of grassroots volunteers who carry the label of "true believers." Success has been reached to a good

measure over the 20-plus years that The American Legion has spearheaded this campaign because of them. And future success also will depend largely on them.

We can begin on that road to success now by getting all sitting Senators who voted for the amendment in 2006 to sign onto S.J. Res. 15. Among the cosponsors are 23 who voted for the amendment in 2006. This leaves 22 who have voted for the amendment, but are not currently co-sponsors of S.J. Res 15. We can ill afford to lose these supporters. They are:

Jeff Sessions — AL	Mary Landrieu — LA	Judd Gregg — NH	K. Hutchinson — TX
John McCain — AZ	Chris Bond — MO	G. Voinovich — OH	John Cornyn — TX
Jon Kyl — AZ	Max Baucus — MT	Arlen Specter — PA	Orrin Hatch — UT
Blanche Lincoln — AR	Ben Nelson — NE	L. Graham — SC	R. Menendez — NJ
D. Feinstein — CA	Harry Reid — NV	Tim Johnson — SD	
Bill Nelson — FL	John Ensign — NV	L. Alexander — TN	

Having their co-sponsorship–the official backing from these Senators – now, can provide a stronger base of support to be cited as the flag amendment emerges in the 112th Congress. It is a small step, but an important one. And it should be one that is relatively easy to achieve.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Chairman, Professor Richard Parker, I extend grateful appreciation to the officers and members of The American Legion, without whose help, financial and otherwise, all that has been achieved to date would surely not have been possible

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I make a motion we receive and file the report. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Thank you, Marty. I call on Michael E. Walton of Illinois for the Convention Report.

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

Good morning commander and distinguished guests. You have a copy of our report in your packet, so I will not go through all the details in reference to that report.

We did have our Convention Commission meeting on Saturday morning at the Hilton Hotel and it went well over there.

A few things I would like to cover for you. As you know, Wayne Jensen and the entire crew here in Wisconsin have been doing an outstanding job on this convention, and we're very pleased with them.

The shuttle service this year I believe everybody would agree it is working very well. We have had no complaints whatsoever regarding the shuttle.

The parade went excellent last night. I think everyone had a good time at the parade. We did have a couple of people go down. And we've checked on them this morning. One is a local Legionnaire from here in Wisconsin, and he did not want to go to the hospital last night, but we forced him to go. They're going to let him out today because they want to get rid of him; he's raising so much heck with them. But everybody is fine that went, so, we made it through that.

A few things coming up: Remember the 4 Troops concert this evening at six o'clock at the Milwaukee Center.

A couple other things to tell you about, we do have five cities that are interested in hosting the 2016 National Convention. So, we will be discussing that at the October

Meetings. We did receive two resolutions at our commission meeting and we received and recorded those resolutions.

Basically, that covers my report. Again, the entire report is in your packet. And we just hope, Commander Hill, that you're enjoying your Convention and that everything is going well for you. That will conclude my report, Mr. Commander.

Report: National Convention Commission
August 28, 2010
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael E. Walton (IL) at 8:00 A.M., August 28, 2010. There were four members of the commission excused from the meeting so that they could assist the contest committee in conducting the National Color Guard Contests. One member was also excused due to illness.

Chairman Walton reviewed the assignments for each of the commission members during this convention and reminded each member a detailed convention report should be provided to the commission at the 2010 Fall Meetings. Four bands competed in the band contest with the American Legion Band of the Tonawandas crowned as National Champion. Fourteen color guards competed in four categories with Harrisburg American Legion Post #472 Color Guard from Houston, Texas crowned as National Champion.

We currently have five cities authorized, via Department resolution, to bid on the 2016 National Convention. Requests for Proposal are due to National Headquarters on or before September 30, 2010. One of these cities will become "not selected" for further consideration in the 2016 bidding process during the 2010 Fall Meetings by a vote of the National Convention Commission. The National Convention Commission will only conduct four site visits during any given year's bidding process. Site visits to four of these cities will be scheduled in the near future. The cities that could be visited are Cincinnati, Ohio; Denver, Colorado; Salt Lake City, Utah; Seattle, Washington and Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Department of Ohio Resolution Number 230, supporting the city of Cincinnati's bid for the 2016 National Convention and Department of Michigan Resolution Number 244, supporting the city of Detroit's bid for the 2017 National Convention were received and recorded by the Commission. There were no other items discussed that would require action by the National Executive Committee.

Minneapolis, MN	August 26 – September 1, 2011
Indianapolis, IN	August 24 – 30, 2012
Houston, TX	August 23 – 29, 2013
Charlotte, NC	August 22 – 28, 2014
Baltimore, MD	August 28 – September 3, 2015

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? I would say that on the parade, I left the reviewing stand and went to march with Florida and saluted all of the groups and tried to convince them that I had taken the reviewing stand on the road and that they could just be dismissed and go home. None of them took me up on that. *(Laughter)*

Any other discussion? All in favor. Opposed. Motion carries.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I call on Kenneth D. Danilson of Iowa for the Finance Commission report.

Oral Report: Finance Commission
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman

Mr. Chairman, members of the NEC and guests. First, Mr. Commander, I want to thank you for my appointment as finance chairman this past year.

I'm not going to read my report. You have a written copy. A couple of important points I think we need to point out, or I need to point out, is that we are projecting a surplus operating year this year, and a positive budget for 2011. We are also entering into several exciting fundraising opportunities that you will be seeing more of in the future.

In conclusion, I want to recognize National Adjutant Wheeler and all the national staff for the excellent job they're doing managing our operating expenses.

Finally, I would be remiss without thanking George Buskirk, our national treasurer, for the continued fantastic job he does in managing our investments.

Mr. Commander, this concludes my report.

Report: Finance Commission
August 28, 2010
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman

The Finance Commission convened at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 28, 2010, in the Juneau Room, Hilton Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Present were Kenneth D. Danilson (IA), Carl E. Levi (TN), John D. Monahan (CT), and Myron D. Kirby (IL). Gaither M. Keener, Jr. (NC) and Denis J. McEneaney (NY) were excused. George C. Lussier, Jr., Chairman, NEC Liaison Committee, was also present, as were guests from several Departments.

Reports were received from the National Adjutant, National Treasurer, Finance Director, National Judge Advocate, the Executive Directors of our three National Headquarters offices, the Fundraising Director, and Chairmen of The American Legion Magazine Commission, the Internal Affairs Commission, and the Membership & Post Activities Committee.

The USAA contract has been executed. The credit card program will go into effect on January 1, 2011, and insurance policies will be available beginning in December.

The American Legion Charities has been established as a 501(c)(3) and is operational, although we are still completing some of the IRS paperwork requirements.

It was reported that the live streaming of The American Legion Baseball World Series had over 105,000 unique visitors, with the average visit lasting 28 minutes. This was an increase over last year of nearly 100,000 visitors.

We met our DMS objective of 205,000, and membership is up 50,000. We are launching a Paid-Up-For-Life promotion program through which we hope to gain nearly 10,000 members a year for the next few years.

A budget surplus of $3.5 million is projected for 2010, compared to the 2010 approved budget which projected a $450,000 deficit. The surplus is due in large part to increased returns on investments.

The Finance Commission approved write-offs of $2,997.52 for obsolete Emblem equipment and $7,493.50 in uncollected Magazine advertising invoices.

Total authorized positions for The American Legion as of August 1, 2010, were 282.

Report: Emblem Committee
August 28 and 29, 2010
Alvan T. Fuller, Massachusetts, Chairman

THRU: National Finance Commission

The National Emblem Committee met August 28-29, in a regularly called session at Hilton City Center

MacArthur Room, 4th Floor, with the following members present:

Alvan T. Fuller (Massachusetts), Chairman
Robert J. Kimball (Ohio), Vice Chairman
Ernie P. Broussard (Louisiana)
Mark A. Foxworthy (California)
Gary Haverman (Iowa)
William G. Hines (Pennsylvania)
N.W. Patterson (South Carolina)
Lance D. Vanderhoof (Utah)
Rene C. Vanmulem (New York)
Ronald W. Wood (Wyoming)
Richard B. Keith, Staff Liaison

Financial Statement

Revenues for the first six months of 2010 amounted to $6,033,549.30 – a decrease of $86,349.37 as compared with the first six months of 2009. Net profit after distribution established by the National Finance Commission was $957,361.24 – a decrease of $131,024.96 for the same period of 2009.

Marketing Report

The 2011 marketing plan was reviewed and includes merchandise renewal, catalog creative & circulation, e-marketing initiatives and flag reward initiatives.

The Chairman expressed appreciation to the committee members for their contribution to the meeting.

The unanimous appreciation of the Committee was expressed to the Emblem Sales Staff for dedicated service to The American Legion during the past year.

The American Legion Emblem Sales staff director thanked the committee members for their continued support throughout the year.

The meeting adjourned Sunday, August 29, 2010.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to approve the report of the Finance Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Call on Joseph E. Caouette, Jr., of New Hampshire, chairman of the Americanism Commission.

Oral Report: Americanism Commission
Joseph E. Caouette, New Hampshire, Chairman

Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee and guests. There are currently no matters of an emergency nature to present to the National Executive Committee. You have been provided copies of the report of the National Americanism Commission, therefore, there is no need for me to read it to you.

Our challenges remain great, but I am confident that The American Legion is up to the task. On behalf of the National Americanism Commission, I extend our deepest gratitude to you, Mr. Commander, for your participation and activity in all of our youth programs this year, and all members of the NEC for the advocacy and support extended to us this past year. Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: Americanism Commission
August 28, 2010
Joseph E. Caouette, New Hampshire, Chairman

The National Americanism and Children & Youth Commissions met jointly on Saturday, August 28, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. in the Frontier Airlines Center, Ballroom C, Street Level, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Each Commission exchanged updates regarding their respective activities. Approximately 100 members of the Americanism Commission, the Americanism Council, the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee and the National Committee on Education were in attendance.

The two Commissions welcomed the 2010 Youth Champion Delegation and heard remarks from each of the young champions. In attendance were: Charles Brown of Florida, 2010 American Legion Boys Nation President; Hannah Black of Virginia, 2010 Junior Air Rifle Sporter Champion; Joe Phillips of Wisconsin, 2010 Eagle Scout of the Year; Tyler Jacobson of Wisconsin, 2009 American Legion Baseball Player of the Year; and Victoria 'Tori' Black of South Carolina, 2010 Oratorical Champion.

The Joint Session also received remarks from Nathan Stiefel, Division Chief, Programs and Policy, Office of Citizenship, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Mr. Stiefel discussed the collaborative opportunities the Office of Citizenship offers for posts to receive the knowledge and tools necessary to organize and offer citizenship orientation sessions within our own communities to legal immigrants pursuing the dream of American citizenship.

Following the adjournment of the Joint Session, the National Americanism Commission reconvened in the Frontier Airlines Center, Ballroom C, Street Level, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Americanism Commission received updates on American Legion Boys Nation, American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, the National Oratorical Contest and the Boy Scouts of America, as well as the Legacy Run and the Patriotic Religious Service.

The National Americanism Commission concluded by expressing appreciation to all volunteers for the fine support and advocacy that our programs have received this past year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Call on Dennis R. Boland, of Florida, chairman of the Children and Youth Commission.

Oral Report: Commission on Children and Youth
Dennis R. Boland, Florida, Chairman

Mr. Commander, there are no matters of emergency nature to present to the National Executive Committee. The Commission on Children and Youth met Saturday morning, and a full written report has been distributed to the NEC.

On behalf of the commission and children and youth of this nation, I thank you and the National Executive Committee for your support during this past program year.

Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: Commission On Children & Youth
August 28, 2010
Dennis R. Boland, Florida, Chairman

The members of the National Commission on Children and Youth met on Saturday, August 28, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in the Frontier Airlines Center, Ballroom C, Street Level in Joint Session with the National Americanism Commission.

This Joint Session provided an opportunity for both Commissions to be briefed on the other's activities. Following greetings, the National Youth Champions were introduced to offer their words of appreciation.

The Joint Session adjourned at 11:05 a.m. and the National Commission on Children & Youth reconvened at 11:15 a.m. in the Frontier Airlines Center, Room 102A, Street Level.

Following remarks from Chairman Boland, the Commission heard four special presentations.

American Legion Children's Home

Bill Alexander, Executive Director, made a presentation to the Commission on the history and future of the American Legion Children's Home in Ponca City, Oklahoma. The mission of the home is to serve children by providing residential care services in times of need, and to perform these services as a sacred obligation to enable their wholesome growth and the development.

The American Legion Children's Home was established in 1928 as an orphanage for children of veterans who could not provide care for their young. The land, as well as the funds for the first dormitory, were donated by E.W. Marland, Conoco Oil man and past Governor of Oklahoma. The facility now serves as a home to 62 children, ages 11-18. Over the past 80 years the home has served children from a wide variety of backgrounds with very diverse needs caused by loss of family, depravity, abuse or neglect. Since opening in 1928, the home has served approximately 8,000 children and still stands as the one and only American Legion Children's Home in our nation.

National Marfan Foundation

Jonathan Martin, Director, Education and Awareness, gave a presentation on the National Marfan Foundation and its work. The National Marfan Foundation, founded in 1981, is a non-profit voluntary health organization dedicated to saving lives and improving the quality of life for individuals and families affected by Marfan syndrome and related disorders.

Marfan syndrome (MFS) is a disorder of connective tissue. Connective tissue holds all parts of the body together and helps control how the body grows. Because connective tissue is found throughout the body, MFS features can occur in many different parts of the body. MFS features are most often found in the heart, blood vessels, bones, joints, and eyes. Sometimes, the lungs and skin are also affected. MFS does not affect intelligence.

MFS is caused by a defect in the gene that tells the body how to make fibrillin-1, a protein that is an important part of connective tissue.

About 1 in 5,000 people have MFS. This includes men and women of all races and ethnic groups. MFS can be inherited. This happens to about 3 out of 4 people with MFS. Other people have a spontaneous mutation, meaning that they are the first in their family to have MFS. People with MFS have a 1 out of 2 chance of passing the mutation on each

time they have a child. People are born with MFS but may not notice any features until later in life. However, MFS features can appear at any age, including in infants and young children. MFS features and medical problems can get worse as people age.

National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association

Bill Fowler, Executive Director, Nevada CASA Association, made a presentation to the Commission on the work of the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association. Each year, approximately 780,000 children in the U.S. are caught up in the court and child welfare maze because they are unable to live safely at home. Now, into these children's lives come dozens of strangers: police, foster parents, therapists, social workers, judges, lawyers, and more. Hopefully, one of these strangers is a CASA volunteer.

CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children, to make sure they don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in an inappropriate group or foster home. They stay with each case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence—the one adult who cares only for them. Last year, more than 70,900 CASA volunteers served more than 237,000 abused and neglected children through 1,055 program offices. CASA volunteers have helped more than two million abused children since the first program was established in 1977.

Josh Jr. and Friends

Randall L. Lange, DVM, gave an update to the Commission on the Josh and Friends Project. Josh, the loving, wag-happy vanilla-colored Golden Retriever based out of Knoxville, Tennessee is an amazing canine that brings comfort to hundreds of hospitalized children.

Using the book, *I'll Be O.K.* and the cuddly "Josh" plush puppy, The Josh and Friends Project is helping transform anxious hospital stays for children into friendship-filled adventures to wellness. Dr. Randy Lange and Josh, the beautiful Golden Retriever, have achieved remarkable results in their quest to comfort children. The two have traveled extensively promoting The Josh and Friends Project and helping children throughout North America cope with hospitalization

National Children & Youth Conference

The third annual National Children & Youth Conference will be held on September 17-19, 2010 at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. This conference educates Legion representatives from our departments on current children's issues and the programs of the National Commission on Children & Youth. Conference participants learn practical strategies for conducting children & youth programs and conferences within their departments. As our children and youth programs work best due to a concerted effort from all members of the Legion family, please encourage the children & youth representatives from your Auxiliary and SAL to consider joining us in September for a number of informative sessions.

Mr. Commander, thank you for your support during this past program year. Thanks, also, to the National Public Relations Commission, The American Legion Magazine, and the American Legion DISPATCH for providing visibility for our programs. This support is not only appreciated; it is critical to the successful accomplishment of the activities of your National Commission on Children & Youth.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the record. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Mr. Commander, I would like to take a point of personal privilege if you would allow me, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Granted.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Thank you, sir. On April 28th Robert J. Proctor went in the hospital with a minor infection in his foot. He spent 40 days in the hospital. During that time, he was misdiagnosed by the VA to have acute leukemia, so they started chemotherapy on him. He went through eight chemotherapy sessions. And then an oncologist at the hospital he was at said, "I don't think you have it." So, they took another bone marrow on him and concluded that he did not have cancer, which is a good thing.

But during that process, the chemo does weird things to your body because you're not killing the source of the cancer. You're killing the rest of your organs.

Anyhow, his kidneys failed; he was on dialysis, and I'm glad to tell you now that the tube has been taken out of his chest. He no longer is on dialysis, but the chemo has caused, like I said, other problems.

He is in good spirits. I talked to him this morning. He is walking again, usually about a mile every day. He can't go very far because he has some problems that I would not like to get into, but he went to church yesterday morning, which was a good deal. The bottom line is Bob Proctor is on the road to recovery. When a man asks you to do his eulogy and then does a flip flop, that's quite a thing.

But anyhow, he looks forward to seeing his brothers and sisters at the Fall Meetings. Thank you, Mr. Commander. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Call on James Koutz, Indiana, chairman of the Legislative Commission.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
James E. Koutz, Indiana, Chairman

National Commander Hill, members of the National Executive Committee and guests. The National Legislative Commission met on Saturday, August 28, 2010 in the Frontier Airlines Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The meeting was devoted primarily to a detailed discussion of recent congressional activities involving legislative matters of The American Legion.

As the National Legislative Commission chairman, I offered opening remarks before introducing the National Legislative Council chairman, Michael Harris from Virginia, for a report. Chairman Harris discussed the grassroots lobbying activities of the upcoming elections and its impact on the council, and gave a brief summary of the Annual Consolidated Activities Report.

Our guest speaker was Dahlia Melendrez, Chief Benefits Counsel of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, who talked about veterans' benefits issues that affect veterans and their families.

The commission received legislative updates on an array of veterans' issues pending before Congress from the professional staff. Issue papers and other documents were distributed to commission members and guests, highlighting legislative initiatives important to The American Legion.

The commission's complete written report provides a detailed accounting of the congressional developments since the commission met in May.

Attached to this report is a copy of the Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council's Activities report for the year 2009-2010.

On September the 22nd, the newly elected National Commander will lead a delegation of Legionnaires to Capitol Hill to present testimony before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. The hearing is scheduled in Room 345, Cannon House Office Building. Mr. Commander that completes my report.

Report: Legislative Commission
August 28, 2010
James E. Koutz, Indiana, Chairman

The National Legislative Commission met on Saturday, August 28, 2010 in the Frontier Airlines Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (19) members of the Commission, three (3) members of the NEC Liaison and 10 visitors were present. Also in attendance was Past National Commander John Brieden (TX). The meeting was devoted primarily to a detailed discussion of recent congressional activities involving legislative mandates of The American Legion.

National Legislative Commission Chairman Koutz (IN) offered opening remarks before introducing the National Legislative Council Chairman, Michael E. Harris (VA) for a report. Chairman Harris discussed the grassroots lobbying activities and gave a brief summary of the Annual Consolidated Activities Report. Our guest speaker was Dahlia Melendrez, Chief Benefits Counsel of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, who discussed activities and issues before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussing detailed point papers on key legislative issues pending in Congress.

The following report provides an abbreviated account of congressional developments since this Committee met in May.

Americanism

Representative Jo Ann Emerson (MO) introduced House Joint Resolution (HJ Res.) 47, a flag protection constitutional amendment for the 111th Congress. It has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. The measure now has 84 cosponsors. A companion bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator David Vitter (LA), Senate Joint Resolution (SJ Res.) 15. The Senate version now has 26 cosponsors. The American Legion will continue to seek passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag.

Children & Youth

On July 22, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved, by a vote of 17-12, S.3636, the FY 2011 funding measure for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, as well as various science programs. The House Appropriations Committee is still developing its version of this spending measure. Funding for Department of Justice (DoJ) programs supported by The American Legion include:

- $8.3 billion for the FBI in the Senate measure, $618 million above FY 2010 levels;
- $3.7 billion for state and local law enforcement assistance grants in the Senate measure, $30 million over the current year amount for this account;
- $2.1 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), $110 million above FY 2010 amounts;
- $1.16 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), an increase over current year funding of $42 million;

- $1.2 billion for the U.S. Marshals Service, $65 million more than the current year; and,
- $490 million for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) – a program The American Legion has enthusiastically supported since its creation in 1974 – an increase of $66 million over FY 2010 levels.

Economic

On March 22, the House approved H.R. 4810, the "End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2010" by a vote of 413-0. Introduced by House Veterans' Affairs Chairman Filner (CA), this bill contains several provisions to combat veteran homelessness in this country, including:

- Increasing funding to successful programs for homeless veterans;
- Requiring each VA medical center that provides supporting housing services to provide housing counselors;
- Requiring housing counselors to conduct landlord research;
- Strengthening permanent housing programs; and,
- Paying special interest to the needs of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

The measure now awaits further Senate action.

On March 23, by a vote of 416-4, the House passed H.R. 3976, the "Helping Heroes Keep Their Homes Act of 2009." This legislation would amend the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-289) to extend, through the end of 2015, specified protections for service members with regard to mortgages and mortgage foreclosures. The bill also adds a new clause that would apply these same mortgage protections to a surviving spouse of a service member who dies while in military service and whose death is service connected.

The House, on March 23, approved H.R. 4592, the "Energy Jobs for Veterans Act." The recorded vote for passage was 397-19. This measure, introduced by Rep. Teague (NM), would direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a five-year pilot program (to be known as the Veterans Energy-Related Employment Program). This program would award competitive grants to three states to establish and administer a program of grants to energy industry employers and labor management organizations that provide training, apprenticeships, and certification classes to veterans employed by one of these energy companies or employers.

Current law does not provide the same employment and reemployment protections for certain individuals ordered to full-time National Guard duty serving missions domestically as it does for National Guard members serving overseas. On March 24, by a recorded vote of 416-1, the House passed H.R. 1879, the "National Guard Employment Protection Act of 2009." This legislation, introduced by Rep. Coffman (CO), provides employment and reemployment rights for individuals ordered to full-time National Guard duty. This bill would close a loophole in existing employment protection law that has adversely impacted members called up to serve homeland security missions in the United States.

On April 20, legislation was introduced to address the employment, training and job placement problems of veterans of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF). This measure, S. 3234, was introduced by Sen. Murray (WA). It currently has 13 cosponsors. The bill will expand GI Bill education benefits to include apprenticeship and training programs, so that veterans can obtain the licenses and certificates they need for new civilian careers. It also calls for small-business training and counseling, and creates pilot programs to help veterans market their military training

more effectively in the civilian sector. Sen. Murray's bill also addresses training requirements for Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program specialists (DVOPs) and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs). On August 5, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee approved a modified version of S. 3234, sending it to the full Senate for further action. Companion legislation, H.R. 5120, was introduced in the House on April 22 by Rep. Smith (WA).

On July 29 the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies approved S. 3686, its version of the FY 2011 spending bill for programs under its jurisdiction, passing the bill by a vote of 17-12. The measure contains funding for programs under Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET). Funding for this agency totals $262 million, an increase of $6 million over current year spending amounts.

Since passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill in 2008 – included in P.L. 110-252, the supplemental appropriations measure for 2008 – The American Legion and veterans throughout the nation have asked for certain improvements to the original law necessary to adequately provide the best educational benefits to the new generation of veterans. On August 5 the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee approved S. 3447, the "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010," introduced by Sen. Akaka (HI). Among the suggested corrections in the measure are:

- Inclusion of certain National Guard members called to service under Title 32 orders;
- Increasing the allowable fees and tuition for public institutions and private colleges;
- Providing a stipend for distance learning veterans; and,
- Adding the ability to use the benefit at vocational and technical schools; apprenticeships and on-the-job training programs; and flight schools.

On July 29, Rep. Minnick (ID) introduced a companion bill, H.R. 5933, with 18 original cosponsors. The bill mirrors the Senate bill and has been referred to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Foreign Relations

As part of P.L. 111-212, the FY 2010 supplemental appropriations bill, $6.2 billion were allocated for State Department and foreign operations programs. These programs include:

- $1.5 billion for reconstruction and law enforcement programs in Afghanistan;
- $1.3 billion for State Department operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Haiti;
- $913 million for humanitarian, economic reconstruction, law enforcement and peacekeeping costs for Haiti. In addition, the bill contains $465 million for International Disaster assistance and $220 million to cancel existing debt for Haiti relief and reconstruction;
- $450 million for start-up costs for Iraqi police programs; and,
- $344 million in economic, law enforcement and military assistance to Pakistan.

On July 29 the Senate Appropriations Committee, by a recorded vote of 18-12, approved S. 3676, the FY 2011 Department of State and Foreign Operations spending measure. The measure provides $54.1 billion in total funding, $5.3 billion more than current year spending and $2.5 billion less than the President's budget request. Specific areas of interest to The American Legion include:

- $8.2 billion in global assistance to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, measles and malaria;

- $3 billion in military assistance to Israel;
- $2.6 billion in combined aid to Afghanistan;
- $2.5 billion in economic and border security/anti-terrorism military aid to Pakistan;
- $1.5 billion for international narcotics control and law enforcement;
- $1.5 billion in economic and military aid to Egypt;
- $715 million in assistance for nations of Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia; and
- $660 million in economic and military aid to Jordan.

National Security

Each year Congress passes legislation authorizing spending levels for DoD programs, and usually includes a number of policy statements. The House of Representatives on May 28 passed H.R. 5136, the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act, sending the measure to the Senate for further action. The recorded vote for passage was 229-186. The Senate Armed Services Committee passed its version of the measure, S. 3454, on June 4. The measure awaits full Senate deliberation. Some of the major provisions of the law include:

- A 1.9 percent across-the-board pay raise for all military personnel – half a percentage point above the President's request – in the House bill, 1.4 percent in the Senate version;
- Authorize $10.3 billion for missile defense programs in the House measure, $10.2 billion in the Senate bill;
- Authorize $2.35 billion in funding for the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 account in both versions;
- Authorize a total of 62 F-35s (Joint Strike Fighters) for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps in the House bill, 42 in the Senate measure;
- Increase Army end strength by 22,000 and Navy end strength by 4,400 for FY 2011 in both bills;
- Continue production of a second, alternative engine to procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, a provision opposed by the White House in both measures;
- Authorize funding for two Virginia-class submarines in FY 2011, and advance procurement for construction of two additional submarines in FY 2012 in both bills;
- Authorize funding for two DDG-51 (Arleigh Burke) destroyers in both measures;
- Authorize the first increment of $345 million in construction funds to modernize DoD schools in the House version;
- Authorizes special compensation for military and DoD civilian victims of the Fort Hood, TX and Little Rock, AR attacks, as if those attacks occurred in a combat zone, in the House bill;
- Address sexual assault in the military in both measures;
- Restrict the transfer of detainees at the Guantanamo Naval Base to the U.S. in the House bill, while Senate language restricts transfer of detainees to certain foreign nations;
- Repeal language in federal law prohibiting homosexuals from serving in the U.S. armed forces, commonly referred to as "don't ask, don't tell;" and,
- Extend TRICARE coverage to cover dependent children up to age 26 in both bills.

On July 15, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved S. 3607, the FY 2011 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The measure provides $43.8 billion in discretionary spending for DHS programs, an increase of $1 billion above FY 2010 funding. Some of the key provisions include:

- $10.4 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard;
- $9.9 billion for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection;
- $8.1 billion for the Transportation Security Administration;
- $5.5 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
- $4.2 billion for various homeland security grants under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);
- $1.6 billion for the U.S. Secret Service;
- $950 million for the Federal Air Marshals; and
- $574 million for border security along the U.S.-Mexico border (included under the "Customs and Border Protection" account), an amount are less than last year's appropriated amount of $800 million.

On July 29 President Obama signed P.L. 111-212, the FY 2010 supplemental appropriation measure. The House passed the final version of the measure on July 27 by a vote of 308-114. The bill contains $33.4 billion for continued prosecution of the Global War on Terrorism. Some of the various DoD earmarks include:

- $4.9 billion to fund procurement of military equipment lost during combat operations;
- $3.6 billion for the training and equipping Afghan and Iraqi security forces;
- $1.8 billion for military personnel programs;
- $1.1 billion for procurement of more Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles; and,
- $657 million for military construction in Afghanistan to support ongoing operations.

In addition, the bill contains $13.3 billion in mandatory funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a recent VA decision for disability compensation of Vietnam veterans for illnesses related to exposure to Agent Orange.

The House on July 28 passed H.R. 5822, the FY 2011 Military Construction-Department of Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, sending the measure to the Senate for further action. This measure contains a total of $13.7 billion in funding for construction projects related to the military, an increase of $1 billion over current year spending totals. Among these projects are:

- $2.35 billion in funding for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) projects for the latest round;
- $1.8 billion for family housing construction, operations and maintenance, and homeowners' assistance accounts;
- $1.35 billion for Army National Guard and Army Reserve construction projects;
- $439 million for the recapitalization of DoD dependent schools; and,
- $125 million for the design and construction of full-scale chemical disposal facilities and associated projects to upgrade installation support facilities and infrastructures required to support the Chemical Demilitarization program.

Selective Service System funding for FY 2011 is contained in S. 3677, the Financial Services and General Government appropriations measure. The bill appropriates $25 million, an increase of $1.1 million over the FY 2010 appropriations. These funds are

intended to upgrade the agency's IT systems. The American Legion continues to support funding for the Selective Service System in case of national emergency.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

On February 1, 2010 President Obama signed P.L. 111-137, a measure that would allow reimbursements to veterans who receive emergency treatment at a non-VA facility. The bill would require VA to pay for a nonservice-connected condition if a third-party insurer does not cover the full cost of care, including the difference between the amount paid by the insurer and the maximum VA allowable amount. Veterans would still be responsible for co-payments to third party insurers. The measure is retroactive, meaning it would allow for reimbursements for emergency treatment provided at a non-department facility at any time before the date of bill's enactment.

During the recent debate on national health care overhaul, one of the controversies raised by the process involved both the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) health care systems. During the debate, it was claimed by some opponents that one of the primary pillars of this legislation would endanger the status of persons who currently use the DoD and VA health care systems, especially those persons using TRICARE. According to P.L. 111-148, the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," a new definition for the term "minimum essential coverage" was established. The law requires all individuals to obtain this minimum level of health insurance or be subject to a penalty tax.

To allay any fears, the chairmen of five House committees, including Veterans' Affairs Chairman Bob Filner (CA) and Armed Services Chairman Ike Skelton (MO), released a joint letter stating that the legislation, as written, would protect those persons receiving care from TRICARE or VA. Further, on March 20, the House passed H.R. 4887, the "TRICARE Affirmation Act," a bill authored by Rep. Skelton, by a vote of 403-0. This measure amends the U.S tax code to provide that all TRICARE plans, even health care plans for DoD non-appropriated fund employees, met the "minimum essential coverage" criteria in the P.L. 111-148. The Senate passed H.R. 4887 by unanimous consent on April 12. The measure was signed by the President on April 26, and is now P.L. 111-159.

Another area of the health care overhaul debate would affect children of TRICARE beneficiaries. Under TRICARE, children are covered until the age of 21, or until 23 if they attend college. P.L. 111-148 requires commercial insurance firms to cover children until they are 26 years of age. In order to insure that this gap in coverage is met, Rep. Martin Heinrich (NM) introduced H.R. 4923, the "TRICARE Dependent Coverage Extension Act." The measure has 46 cosponsors. Similar Senate legislation, S. 3201, was introduced by Sen. Mark Udall (CO), with 21 cosponsors. Both of these measures are expected to be considered by their respective Armed Services committees, and will also be included within the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act.

On May 5, President Obama signed P.L. 111-163, the "Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010." This legislation contains many widely-supported provisions that offer innovative solutions to the many major challenges facing returning service members, veterans and their families by making significant enhancements to VA's health care services.

Many severely disabled veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq need caregivers in the home, especially those living in rural area where VA health care services are often limited. In those situations, the burden of caring for a severely disabled veteran falls on individual family members. P.L. 111-163 will provide support services to family caregivers of veterans of the OEF/OIF era, including:

- Training and education;

- Counseling and mental health services;
- Respite care of no less than 30 days annually, including 24 hour in-home respite care;
- Lodging and subsistence payments when accompanying the veteran on medical care visits;
- Health care through the CHAMPVA program; and,
- A monthly financial stipend as determined appropriate by the VA Secretary based on the amount and degree of personal care services provided, and no less than the monthly amount of a commercial home health care entity.

In addition, a program for caregivers of veterans of a wartime period prior to OEF/OIF will be established. Their support services will include: training and education; counseling and mental health services; respite care including 24 hours in-home care; and, information on the support services available to caregivers through other public, private and non-profit agencies.

Further, P.L. 111-163 will expand VA health care for women veterans. Provisions of the legislation will require VA to:

- Conduct a study to determine the reasons why women veterans are not using the VA medical system;
- Provide education and training for mental health professionals who are caring for veterans with sexual trauma;
- Implement a pilot program to help women veterans who were deployed overseas to receive reintegration and readjustment counseling;
- Establish a pilot program to provide child care for women veterans receiving regular and intensive mental health care and intensive health care services, or who are in need of such services, but do not seek care due to the lack of child care services; and,
- Provide up to seven days of post-delivery health care to a newborn child of a woman veteran.

This measure also makes improvements to VA rural health services. These changes include:

- Establishing a grant program for veterans' service organizations (VSOs) to provide transportation options to veterans living in highly rural areas;
- Authorizing a demonstration project to expand care for veterans in rural areas by having VA partner with the Department of Health and Human Services;
- Giving VA the flexibility to contract with community mental health centers and other qualified entities in areas that are not adequately served by VA; and,
- Creating a pilot program to provide a financial incentive for VA physicians who maintain inpatient privileges at community hospitals in rural areas that are short of qualified health professionals.

In addition, P.L. 111-163 makes provision for mental health care matters for former members of the armed forces. The legislation will require VA to provide readjustment services to any member of the armed forces and requires VA to make referrals for non-VA counseling services for veterans who are not otherwise eligible for readjustment counseling. It would further require VA to conduct a veterans' suicide study, coordinating with DoD, VSOs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the state public health offices and veterans' agencies.

Other provisions included in the bill would:

- Require VA to provide hospital care, medical services and nursing home care for certain Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicides, and to Gulf-War-era veterans who have insufficient medical evidence to establish a service-connected disability;

- Place Medal of Honor recipients in Priority Group 3;
- Prohibit VA from collecting copayments from veterans who are catastrophically disabled;
- Authorize VA to make per diem payments to organizations that met some but not all of the criteria for the receipt of payments under the Grant and Per Diem Program; and,
- Authorize funds for the construction of major medical facilities in FY 2010, including Livermore, CA; Denver, CO; Bay Pines, FL; Louisville, KY; St. Louis, MO; and, Dallas, TX.

On May 24 the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1017, the "Chiropractic Care to All Veterans Act," by a vote of 365-6. The measure was introduced by House Veterans' Affairs Chairman Bob Filner (CA), and would require the VA to expand veterans' access to chiropractic care and services at their local VA facilities. The bill would further require VA chiropractic care to be available at no fewer than 75 VA medical centers (VAMCs) by December 31, 2011, and then at all VAMCs two years later. This care is intended to help veterans get necessary treatments, especially those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and continue to report musculoskeletal ailments. The bill now goes to the Senate for further action.

On May 25 the House passed by a recorded vote of 403-4 H.R. 3885, the "Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act," which was introduced by Rep. Hank Brown (SC). This legislation requires VA to conduct a 5-year pilot program for relieving veterans' post-deployment mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms through training service dogs for veterans with disabilities. The program would be available in at least three and up to five VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) for veterans who volunteer to participate in training and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or post-deployment mental health issues. It now advances to the Senate for action.

Finally, the committee approved H.R. 5145, the "Assuring Quality Care for Veterans Act." The House passed this bill on May 25 by a vote of 413-2, sending it to the Senate for action. Introduced by Rep. Jerry McNerney (CA), H.R. 5145 would increase the reimbursement for continuing professional education for all board-certified health care professionals employed by the VA from $1000 a year to $1600 a year. Current law limits the reimbursements to only physicians and dentists.

On June 30, the House of Representatives by a vote of 420-0 passed H.R. 4505, a bill to allow State veterans' homes to furnish nursing home care to parents who have any children that died while serving in the armed forces. It was introduced in January by Representative Mack Thornberry (TX).

Although admission to a State veterans' home is determined by each individual state, each home is required to maintain a residency of at least 75 percent veterans. Non-veterans may be admitted to a State veterans' home if they meet certain criteria. Under current law, eligible non-veterans are veterans' spouses, widows, and Gold Star parents who have lost all of their children in military service.

There are currently 137 State veterans' homes in the 50 States, with each one determining the priority level about admissions. The average occupancy rate across the country is presently 86 percent. Therefore, H.R. 4505 allows an added group of Gold Star parents who have lost a child while serving in the military to be eligible to fill those beds. The measure now awaits further Senate action.

On July 15, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved S. 3615, legislation for FY 2011 funding for VA and military construction programs. The House passed similar legislation, H.R. 5822, on July 28 by a vote of 411-6. For the coming fiscal year, VA would be funded at $120 billion, the largest overall budget in the agency's history. In addition, both measures allocate advance appropriations for VA medical care accounts

for FY 2012 in the following amounts: $39.65 billion for medical services; $5.54 billion for medical support and compliance; and, $5.42 billion for medical facilities, a total of $50.61 billion.

Funding levels for related agencies included in these measures, that are of interest to The American Legion, include:

- $67 million for the American Battle Monuments Commission in the Senate bill, $66 million in the House measure;
- $90 million in the House measure for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, $53 million in the Senate bill;
- $43 million for Army Cemeterial Expenses – which maintains Arlington National Cemetery – in the Senate bill, while the House measure would fund this account at $40 million; and,
- $71 million for the Armed Forces Retirement Home in both bills.

The chart below compares VA discretionary funding allocations for individual accounts from the current fiscal year, the President's FY 2011 budget request, the Senate Appropriations Committee's recommendations and the House-passed funding recommendations.

Discretionary Programs	**P. L. 111-117 FY 2010 Final VA Funding**	**President's FY 2011 VA Budget Request**	**S. 3615 FY 2011 Recommendation**	**H.R. 5822 FY 2011 Recommendation**
Medical Services	$34.7 bil.	$37.1 bil.	$37.1 bil.	$37.1 bil.
Medical Support & Compliance	$4.9 bil.	$5.3 bil.	$5.3 bil.	$5.3 bil.
Medical Facilities	$4.8 bil	$5.7 bil.	$5.7 bil.	$5.7 bil.
Total Medical Care	***$44.5 bil.***	***$48.1 bil.***	***$48.1 bil.***	***$48.1 bil.***
Medical Care Collections Funds	($2.9 bil.)	($3.3 billion)	($3.4 bil.)	($3.4 bil.)
Medical/Prosthetic Research	$581 mil	$590 mil.	$590 mil.	$590 mil.
National Cemetery Administration	$250 mil.	$251 mil.	$251 mil.	$259 mil.
General Operating Expenses	$2.1 bil.	$2.6 bil.	$2.6 bil.	$2.6 bil.
Information Technology	$3.3 bil.	$3.3 bil.	$3.1 bil.	$3.2 bil.
Major Construction	$1.2 bil.	$1.1 bil.	$1.2 bil.	$1.2 bil.
Minor Construction	$703 mil.	$468 mil.	$486 mil.	$508 mil.
State Veterans' Homes Construction Grants	$100 mil.	$85 mil.	$85 mil.	$85 mil.
State Veterans' Cemeteries Construction Grants	$46 mil.	$46 mil.	$46 mil.	$46 mil.

On July 30 Rep. Halvorson (IL) introduced H.R. 5993, the "Securing America's Veterans Insurance Needs and Goals Act of 2010," or the "SAVINGS Act." She introduced this measure after news reports came out concerning big insurance companies using group life insurance policies to obtain profits by duping the families of fallen soldiers. The legislation would mandate the VA Secretary to require insurance companies that provide group life coverage to provide financial counseling and disclosure information to family members of fallen service members. It would also require an annual report to Congress by VA to ensure that insurance companies are being responsive to military families.

Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council
Activities Report 2009-2010

In accordance with NEC Resolution No. 28 (October 1994), I am pleased to submit the following Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council Activities Report for 2009-2010.

Summaries of the Department Reports are attached as an addendum to this report.

1. Legislative Alerts, Advisories and Updates sent out in the past year:

A. Number of Legislative Alerts and Advisories received: 1

1. 01/08/2010 – National Health Care Reform

B. Number of Legislative Action Center Alerts and Updates: 21

1. 06/05/2009 – Flag Amendment Cosponsors Needed
2. 07/10/2009 – House Votes on FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations Bill Today
3. 07/28/2009 – Legion Day Cosponsors Needed
4. 09/04/2009 – American Legion Commander Blasts AP Decision To Release Image Of Fallen Marine Hero
5. 09/11/2009 – Senate proclaims Sept. 16 'The American Legion Day'
6. 09/16/2009 – House joins Senate in proclaiming Sept. 16 'The American Legion Day'
7. 09/30/2009 – Time to Make a Senate Call
8. 10/02/2009 – Thank You, American Legion Family! Your Voices were Heard on Capitol Hill
9. 10/08/2009 – American Legion Praises Cure for Late VA Budgets
10. 10/09/2009 – Legion stunned over National Defense Authorization Act
11. 10/22/2009 – The American Legion cheers "landmark" VA advance funding bill
12. 10/23/2009 – The American Legion Celebrates Signing of Landmark VA Advance Funding Bill
13. 11/02/2009 – Need Support for S. 1963
14. 01/07/2010 – National Health Care Reform: Impact on America's Veterans and their Families
15. 02/19/2010 – The American Legion Washington Conference will be held March 1-3, 2010
16. 02/26/2010 – VA To Re-Examine Gulf War Vets' Disability Claims
17. 03/26/2010 – Now is the Time for Action on Crucial Veterans' Health Care Legislation
18. 04/14/2010 – GI Bill Gold Medal Act Cosponsors Needed
19. 04/26/2010 – Thank You, American Legion Family! Your Voices were Heard on Capitol Hill
20. 05/10/2010 – 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Policy
21. 05/27/2010 – Message from Legion Commander

2. Grassroots Lobbying Activities in Washington, DC

National Commander's Testimony – September 10, 2009.

Washington Conference – March 1 to March 3, 2010.

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. The Addendum to this report contains specific details regarding National Legislative Council meetings held this past year.

4. The American Legion *DISPATCH* articles: 2009-2010

- Aug. 14, 2009 – "House passes Labor and Defense funding measures"
- Sep. 18, 2009 – "Legion continues to track 2010 appropriations progress"
- Oct. 23, 2009 – "Obama signs off on advance appropriations legislation"
- Nov. 20, 2009 – "Obama signs $42.8 billion DHS funding measure"
- Dec. 21, 2009 – "War, economy dominated first session of 111th Congress"
- Jan. 22, 2010 – "Legion Day designation among 2009 highlights"
- Feb. 22, 2010 – "Fiscal 2011 VA budget request released"
- Mar. 19, 2010 – "Shinseki seeks changes to reduce disability-claims backlog"
- Apr. 16, 2010 – "House passes veterans legislation; Senate up next"
- May 24, 2010 – "President signs TRICARE Affirmation Act into law"
- Jun. 24, 2010 – "Agent Orange compensation included in supplemental funding bill"
- Jul. 21, 2010 – "House passes measure expanding access to state veterans homes"

5. Highlights of the Legislative Year

111th Congress, 2nd Session

The Second Session of the 111th Congress convened on January 5, 2010. Major issues on the agenda for both chambers include the Global War on Terrorism, the deepening economic recession and the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) budget. To date, The American Legion has participated in 39 congressional hearings during the Second Session.

On February 1, 2010, President Obama signed P.L. 111-137, a measure that would allow reimbursements to veterans who receive emergency treatment at a non-VA facility. The bill would require VA to pay for a nonservice-connected condition if a third-party insurer does not cover the full cost of care, including the difference between the amount paid by the insurer and the maximum VA allowable amount. Veterans would still be responsible for co-payments to third party insurers. The measure is retroactive, meaning it would allow for reimbursements for emergency treatment provided at a non-department facility at any time before the date of bill's enactment.

To allay any fears, the chairmen of five House committees, including Veterans' Affairs Chairman Bob Filner (CA) and Armed Services Chairman Ike Skelton (MO), released a joint letter stating that the legislation, as written, would protect those persons receiving care from TRICARE or VA. Further, on March 20, the House passed H.R. 4887, the "TRICARE Affirmation Act," a bill authored by Rep. Skelton, by a vote of 403-0. This measure amends the U.S tax code to provide that all TRICARE plans, even health care plans for DoD non-appropriated fund employees, met the "minimum essential coverage" criteria in the P.L. 111-148. The Senate passed H.R. 4887 by unanimous consent on April 12. The measure was signed by the President on April 26, and is now P.L. 111-159.

On May 5, President Obama signed P.L. 111-163, the "Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010." This legislation contains many widely supported provisions that offer innovative solutions to the many major challenges facing returning service members, veterans and their families by making significant enhancements to VA's health care services.

Many severely disabled veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq need caregivers in the home, especially those living in rural area where VA health care services are often limited. In those situations, the burden of caring for a severely disabled veteran falls on individual family members. P.L. 111-163 will provide support services to family caregivers of veterans of the OEF/OIF era, including:

- Training and education;
- Counseling and mental health services;
- Respite care of no less than 30 days annually, including 24 hour in-home respite care;
- Lodging and subsistence payments when accompanying the veteran on medical care visits;
- Health care through the CHAMPVA program; and,
- A monthly financial stipend as determined appropriate by the VA Secretary based on the amount and degree of personal care services provided, and no less than the monthly amount of a commercial home health care entity.

In addition, a program for caregivers of veterans of a wartime period prior to OEF/OIF will be established. Their supports services will include: training and education; counseling and mental health services; respite care including 24 hours in-home care; and, information on the support services available to caregivers through other public, private and non-profit agencies.

Further, P.L. 111-163 will expand VA health care for women veterans. Provisions of the legislation will require VA to:

- Conduct a study to determine the reasons why women veterans are not using the VA medical system;
- Provide education and training for mental health professionals who are caring for veterans with sexual trauma;
- Implement a pilot program to help women veterans who were deployed overseas to receive reintegration and readjustment counseling;
- Establish a pilot program to provide child care for women veterans receiving regular and intensive mental health care and intensive health care services, or who are in need of such services, but do not seek care due to the lack of child care services; and,
- Provide up to seven days of post-delivery health care to a newborn child of a woman veteran.

This measure also makes improvements to VA rural health services. P.L. 111-163 makes provision for mental health care matters for former members of the armed forces. The legislation will require VA to provide readjustment services to any member of the armed forces and requires VA to make referrals for non-VA counseling services for veterans who are not otherwise eligible for readjustment counseling. It would further require VA to conduct a veterans' suicide study, coordinating with DoD, VSOs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the state public health offices and veterans' agencies.

Each year Congress passes legislation authorizing spending levels for DoD programs, and usually includes a number of policy statements. The House of Representatives on May 28 passed H.R. 5136, the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act, sending the measure to the Senate for further action. The recorded vote for passage was 229-186. The Senate Armed Services Committee passed its version of the measure, S. 3454, on June 4. The measure awaits full Senate deliberation. Some of the major provisions of the law include:

- A 1.9 percent across-the-board pay raise for all military personnel – half a percentage point above the President's request – in the House bill, 1.4 percent in the Senate version;
- Authorize $10.3 billion for missile defense programs in the House measure, $10.2 billion in the Senate bill;
- Authorize $2.35 billion in funding for the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 account in both versions;
- Authorize a total of 62 F-35s (Joint Strike Fighters) for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps in the House bill, 42 in the Senate measure;
- Increase Army end strength by 22,000 and Navy end strength by 4,400 for FY 2011 in both bills;
- Continue production of a second, alternative engine to procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, a provision opposed by the White House in both measures;
- Authorize funding for two Virginia-class submarines in FY 2011, and advance procurement for construction of two additional submarines in FY 2012 in both bills;
- Authorize funding for two DDG-51 (Arleigh Burke) destroyers in both measures;
- Authorize the first increment of $345 mil. in construction funds to modernize DoD schools in the House version;
- Authorizes special compensation for military and DoD civilian victims of the Fort Hood, TX and Little Rock, AR attacks, as if those attacks occurred in a combat zone in the House bill;
- Address sexual assault in the military in both measures;
- Restrict the transfer of detainees at the Guantanamo Naval Base to the U.S. in the House bill, while Senate language restricts transfer of detainees to certain foreign nations;
- Repeal language in federal law prohibiting homosexuals from serving in the U.S. armed forces, commonly referred to as "don't ask, don't tell;" and,
- Extend TRICARE coverage to cover dependent children up to age 26 in both bills.

On July 15, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved S. 3615, legislation for FY 2011 funding for VA and military construction programs. The House passed similar legislation, H.R. 5822, on July 28 by a vote of 411-6. For the coming fiscal year, VA would be funded at $120 billion, the largest overall budget in the agency's history. The chart below compares discretionary funding allocations for individual accounts from the current fiscal year, the President's FY 2011 budget request, the Senate Appropriations Committee's recommendation and the recommendation of the House Appropriations Committee.

VA Discretionary Programs	P. L. 111-117 FY 2010 Final VA Funding	President's FY 2011 VA Budget Request	S. 3615 FY 2011 Recommendation	H.R. 5822 FY 2011 Recommendation
Medical Services	$34.7 bil.	$37.1 bil.	$37.1 bil.	$37.1 bil.
Medical Support & Compliance	$4.9 bil.	$5.3 bil.	$5.3 bil.	$5.3 bil.
Medical Facilities	$4.8 bil.	$5.7 bil.	$5.7 bil.	$5.7 bil.
Total Medical Care	*$44.5 bil.*	*$48.1 bil.*	*$48.1 bil.*	*$48.1 bil.*
Medical Care Collections Funds	[$2.9 bil.]	[$3.3 bil.]	[$3.4 bil.]	[$3.4 bil.]
Medical/Prosthetic Research	$581 mil.	$590 mil.	$590 mil.	$590 mil.
National Cemetery Administration	$250 mil.	$251 mil.	$251 mil.	$259 mil.
General Operating Expenses	$2.1 bil.	$2.6 bil.	$2.6 bil.	$2.6 bil.
Information Technology	$3.3 bil.	$3.3 bil.	$3.1 bil.	$3.2 bil.
Major Construction	$1.2 bil.	$1.1 bil.	$1.2 bil.	$1.2 bil.
Minor Construction	$703 mil.	$468 mil.	$486 mil.	$508 mil.
State Veterans' Homes Construction Grants	$100 mil.	$85 mil.	$85 mil.	$85 mil.
State Veterans' Cemeteries Grants	$46 mil.	$46 mil.	$46 mil.	$46 mil.

In addition, both measures allocate advance appropriations for VA medical care accounts for FY 2012 in the following amounts: $39.65 billion. for medical services; $5.54 billion. for medical support and compliance; and, $5.42 billion. for medical facilities, a total of $50.61 billion.

Funding levels for related agencies that are of interest to The American Legion include:

- $67 million. for the American Battle Monuments Commission in the Senate bill, $66 million. in the House measure;
- $90 million in the House measure for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, $53 million in the Senate bill;
- $43 million. for Army Cemeterial Expenses – which maintains Arlington National Cemetery – in the Senate bill, while the House measure would fund this account at $40 million; and,
- $71 million for the Armed Forces Retirement Home in both bills.

On July 15, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved S. 3607, the FY 2011 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The measure provides $43.8 billion. in discretionary spending for DHS programs, an increase of $1 billion above FY 2010 funding. Some of the key provisions include:

- $10.4 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard;
- $9.9 billion for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection;
- $8.1 billion for the Transportation Security Administration;
- $5.5 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

- $4.2 billion in grants for various homeland security grants under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);
- $1.6 billion for the U.S. Secret Service;
- $950 million for the Federal Air Marshals; and
- $574 billion for border security along the U.S.-Mexico border (included under the "Customs and Border Protection" account), an amount are less than last year's appropriated amount of $800 million.

On July 22, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved, by a vote of 17-12, S.3636, the FY 2011 funding measure for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, as well as various science programs. The House Appropriations Committee is still developing its version of this spending measure. Funding for Department of Justice (DoJ) programs supported by The American Legion include:

- $8.3 billion for the FBI in the Senate measure, $618 million. above FY 2010 levels;
- $3.7 billion for state and local law enforcement assistance grants in the Senate measure, $30 million. over the current year amount for this account;
- $2.1 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), $110 mil. above FY 2010 amounts;
- $1.16 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), an increase over current year funding of $42 million;
- $1.2 billion for the U.S. Marshals Service, $65 mil. more than the current year; and,
- $490 million. for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) – a program The American Legion has enthusiastically supported since its creation in 1974 – an increase of $66 mil. over FY 2010 levels.

The House on July 28 passed H.R. 5822, the FY 2011 Military Construction-Department of Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, sending the measure to the Senate for further action. This measure contains a total of $13.7 billion in funding for construction projects related to the military, an increase of $1 billion over current year spending totals. Among these projects are:

- $2.35 billion. in funding for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) projects for the latest round;
- $1.8 billion. for family housing construction, operations and maintenance, and homeowners' assistance accounts;
- $1.35 billion. for Army National Guard and Army Reserve construction projects;
- $439 million for the recapitalization of DoD dependent schools; and,
- $125 million for the design and construction of full-scale chemical disposal facilities and associated projects to upgrade installation support facilities and infrastructures required to support the Chemical Demilitarization program.

On July 29 the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies approved S. 3686, its version of the FY 2011 spending bill for programs under its jurisdiction, passing the bill by a vote of 17-12. The measure contains funding for programs under Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET). Funding for this agency totals $262 million, an increase of $6 mil. over current year spending amounts.

On July 29 the Senate Appropriations Committee, by a recorded vote of 18-12, approved S. 3676, the FY 2011 Department of State and Foreign Operations spending measure. The measure provides $54.1 billion in total funding, $5.3 billion more than current year spending and $2.5 billion. less than the President's budget request. Specific areas of interest to The American Legion include:

- $8.2 billion in global assistance to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, measles and malaria;
- $2.6 billion. in combined aid to Afghanistan;
- $2.5 billion in economic and border security/anti-terrorism military aid to Pakistan;
- $3 billion in military assistance to Israel;
- $1.5 billion for international narcotics control and law enforcement;
- $1.5 billion in economic and military aid to Egypt;
- $715 mil. in assistance for nations of Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia; and
- $660 mil. in economic and military aid to Jordan.

On July 29, President Obama signed P.L. 111-212, the FY 2010 supplemental appropriation measure. The House passed the final version of the measure on July 27 by a vote of 308-114. The bill contains $33.4 billion for continued prosecution of the Global War on Terrorism. Some of the various DoD earmarks include:

- $4.9 billion. to fund procurement of military equipment lost during combat operations;
- $3.6 billion for the training and equipping Afghan and Iraqi security forces;
- $1.8 billion for military personnel programs;
- $1.1 billion. for procurement of more Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles; and,
- $657 mil. for military construction in Afghanistan to support ongoing operations.

In addition, the bill contains $13.3 billion. in mandatory funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a recent VA decision for disability compensation of Vietnam veterans for illnesses related to exposure to Agent Orange. Further, the measure contains $6.2 billion. for State Department and foreign operations programs. These programs include:

- $1.5 billion for reconstruction and law enforcement programs in Afghanistan;
- $1.3 billion for State Department operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Haiti;
- $913 mil. for humanitarian, economic reconstruction, law enforcement and peacekeeping costs for Haiti. In addition, the bill contains $465 mil. for International Disaster assistance and $220 million to cancel existing debt for Haiti relief and reconstruction;
- $450 million for start-up costs for Iraqi police programs; and,
- $344 million in economic, law enforcement and military assistance to Pakistan.

Selective Service System funding for FY 2011 is contained in S. 3677, the Financial Services and General Government appropriations measure passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 29. The bill appropriates $25 mil., an increase of $1.1 mil. over the FY 2010 appropriations. These funds are intended to upgrade the agency's IT systems. The American Legion continues to support funding for the Selective Service System in case of national emergency.

6. 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 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.

7. National Legislative Council Awards:

I am pleased to announce that two National Legislative Council Vice Chairmen were selected for their outstanding contributions in advancing the legislative portfolio of The

American Legion during this past reporting period: Charles Houseman (NM) and Kenneth Governor (NY).

Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council Activities Report
2009 - 2010
Addendum

Department Summaries

ALABAMA: (Vice Chairwoman Dolores Hardin): Although the Department of Alabama National Legislative Council did not formally meet during the year, Members maintained contact via e-mail and telephone throughout the year. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and nine congressional offices were visited. No Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairwoman reports that Alabama Council Members have not had many opportunities to visit their congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. this year, however, visits to their local offices were made on a regular basis to relay The American Legion stands on issues pertaining to veterans, active duty military, illegal immigration and the flag amendment, among others. In addition, Members make regular contact by e-mail and telephone to both the local and DC offices. The majority of the state's congressional delegation is reported to be very receptive to Legionnaire and Auxiliary Members comments and opinions; the main exception being Senator Richard Shelby. The Department received no feedback regarding the Legislative Action Center or for *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

ALASKA: (Vice Chairman Jim Van Horn): The Department of Alaska National Legislative Council met on March 1, 2010, in Washington, D.C. during the Washington Conference and in Fairbanks, AK on March 6, 2010, at the Western District Convention. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and three congressional offices were visited. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and three congressional offices were visited. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Alaska congressional delegation is kept aware of The American Legion concerns and/or requested action via e-mail and telephone. The Department received no feedback regarding the Legislative Action Center or for *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

ARIZONA: (Vice Chairman Neal S. Sundeen): The Arizona Members of the National Legislative Council met on two occasions during the past 12 months. The Council met at the Fall Conference in Lake Havasu City, Arizona and at the Department Convention in Glendale, Arizona. Arizona has eight congressional districts and two senators; therefore, there are ten Council Members. At the Lake Havasu City meeting, eight Council Members attended. National Commander Clarence Hill and leading candidate for National Commander Jimmie Foster also attended. Topics of discussion at the meeting were the Legislative Point Papers and the Legislative Priority Sheet that had been distributed at the Fall Meeting of The American Legion Legislative Commission. Three Council Members were at the National Commander's Testimony before a joint session of the Veterans' Affairs Committees. Two Arizona representatives sit on the House Veterans Affairs Committee: Ann Kirkpatrick and Harry Mitchell. Both were present and participated in the joint session. Prior to the testimony, Council Member Paul Griffin and the Vice Chairman personally met with Senators Kyl and McCain where each was presented a copy of The American Legion Legislative Priorities; aides for Senators Kyl and McCain also received copies of the Legislative Priorities and Point Papers. The Vice

Chairman reports that the two senators have always been very open to meeting with the Council delegation in Washington prior to the National Commander's Testimony. Representative Harry Mitchell attended the breakfast that was hosted by The American Legion and addressed the attendees. After the testimony, the Arizona Council delegation and the National Commander attended a meeting with Rep. Kirkpatrick. At the Department Convention, held in Glendale, Arizona in June 2010, state representative Jerry Wires was recognized as the Legislator of the Year. Senator McCain also attended and spoke to a Joint Session of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Riders. Approximately six to seven hundred Legion family members attended. The Vice Chairman reports that the senator was thrilled with the turnout. Senator McCain is also a past recipient of a Legislator of the Year award. Although the Vice Chairman was unable to attend, three Arizona Council Members were present at the Washington Conference and visited four congressional offices. Unlike past years, the Department did not hold a luncheon because they were not drawing enough congressional members to justify the cost. The Vice Chairman has an excellent relationship with Senator McCain and is working on his campaign as a veteran. He also works closely with Rep. Harry Mitchell on veterans' issues. The Congressman has been to The American Legion Post in Scottsdale, AZ on at least two occasions for presentations on veterans' issues. The city of Scottsdale also dedicated a veterans' memorial and Rep. Mitchell attended this memorial on November 11, 2009. The Vice Chairman reports that the Arizona Council Members are responding appropriately to legislative alerts issued and strong contacts with the offices of Kyl, McCain, Mitchell and Kirkpatrick means that the Legion is reaching key members concerning veterans' issues. Finally, the Vice Chairman reports that the midterm elections promise to bring some new faces to the Arizona congressional delegation, which might necessitate changes in Council membership.

ARKANSAS: (Vice Chairman Dwight D. Earnest): The Department of Arkansas National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited two congressional members. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices No congressional members attended the breakfast. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received for the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

CALIFORNIA: (Vice Chairman James Nile Creacy): The Department of California National Legislative Council met at the Department Convention in Fresno, CA on June 26, 2010. Twelve Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited numerous congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited nine congressional offices. The Vice Chairman reports that of the nine offices he personally visited, eight were interested, friendly, cooperative and wanted to help veterans. All nine offices received a copy of the legislative priority sheet. Three congressional members attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*** is informative and useful.

COLORADO: (Vice Chairman Thomas L. Bock): The Department of Colorado National Legislative Council met at the Mid-year Conference in January, the Department Convention in June and electronically via e-mail and internet videoconferencing throughout the year. Emails are shared whenever a national update is received or request to contact a legislator is made. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited nine congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited two congressional offices. No

congressional member attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Department cooperates with the United Veterans Committee (UVC) of Colorado in an annual banquet that recognizes Colorado's congressional and state legislators. Close relationships with the congressional delegation are maintained through the UVC, which conducts monthly meetings and are attended by congressional staff which allows for on-going contact and communication on issues of importance to The American Legion and the veterans community. Positive feedback from the membership was received for *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

CONNECTICUT: (Vice Chairman Gerald Dierman): The Department of Connecticut National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year; contact is maintained by e-mail and telephone as needed. One Council Member attended the Washington Conference and visited seven congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. The Department gave recognition to state legislators. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that congressional members continue to assist with military academy nominations which facilitates communication with regard to matters of interest to The American Legion. Furthermore, Senator Dodd participated in a swearing-in ceremony for delegates to Girls Nation. Positive feedback was received for *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

DELAWARE: (Vice Chairman Charles T. Armbruster): The Department of Delaware National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited three congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony. No congressional members attended the breakfast. Three congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that Senators Carper and Kaufman met with National Commander Clarence Hill on the occasion of his visit to the state. In attendance also was an aide to Rep. Castle. Feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center. No feedback for *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*** was received.

FLORIDA: (Vice Chairman Stanley M. Gold): The Department of Florida National Legislative Council met in November 2009 in Orlando, FL during Department Fall Meetings and at the Department Convention in June 2010. Eight Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited 27 congressional offices. Ten Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited 27 congressional offices. Two congressional members attended the breakfast. Congressman Meek received an award. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. Feedback was received from members of Congress regarding legislative alerts forwarded to them from the Legislative Action Center. Feedback for *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*** was received.

GEORGIA: (Vice Chairman Roger Tingler): The Department of Georgia National Legislative Council met at the Fall Conference in October 2009 and the Spring Conference in July 2010. Six Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited six congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited two offices. No congressional member attended the breakfast. Six congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that all senators and representatives were contacted regarding all legislative alerts received. Feedback was

received for the Legislative Action Center, but not for *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

HAWAII: (Vice Chairman Andrew M. Johnson): The Department of Hawaii National Legislative Council met at the Department Headquarters on October 3, 2009, February 6, 2010, April 3, 2010 and June 5, 2010. No Council Members attended the Washington Conference. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited one office. Staff from Senator Akaka's district office attended the Department Convention. No awards were given. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. During the year, contact was made with congressional members regarding legislation on VA issues and benefits. Feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

IDAHO: (Vice Chairman Arthur L. Gimpel): The Department of Idaho National Legislative Council met in Boise on January 15, 2010 during the Department Mid-Winter Conference and at the Department Convention in Post Falls on July 10, 2010. Five Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited four congressional offices. Five Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited four congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards to a congressional member and did not recognize anyone for Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that a good working relationship exists between the Department's Council and the state's congressional delegation and that the delegation is supportive of veteran's issues. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

ILLINOIS: (Vice Chairman Vincent A. Sanzotta): The Department of Illinois National Legislative Council met at the Department Convention in Springfield, IL, on July 15, 2010. Six Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited with five congressional members. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited four congressional offices. Three congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards to a congressional member and did not recognize anyone for Legislative Council Member of the Year. Favorable feedback was received for the Legislative Action Center. Several representatives are routed **The American Legion *Dispatch*** and respond favorably toward the publication.

INDIANA: (Vice Chairman Allen Titus): The Department of Indiana Legislative Council met on September 30, 2009, January 12, 2010, and April 9, 2010. Eight Council Members attended the Washington Conference; also, the Department hosted a breakfast on Capitol Hill for all of the Indiana congressional members of which four attended. Six Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and made six congressional office visits. No congressional member attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented to a Member of Congress. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

IOWA: (Vice Chairman Mike Wanser): The Department of Iowa National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year, as the Vice Chairman has been ill. Although no Council Members attended the Washington Conference, Iowa Legionnaires visited seven congressional offices—both senators and all representatives. Although no Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony, Iowa Legionnaires visited Senators Grassley and Harkin and Representative Latham. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the

Year. No feedback regarding the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*** was received.

KANSAS: (Vice Chairwoman Patricia Culver): The Kansas National Legislative Council met at the Department Convention in Topeka on May 15 and 16, 2010. Five Council Members attended the Washington Conference and six congressional offices were visited. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and two congressional members attended the breakfast. Four congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards to a congressional member and did not recognize anyone for Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice-Chairwoman reports that the entire congressional delegation were contacted via e-mail or regular mail on each alert issued. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center. Favorable feedback was received regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

KENTUCKY: (Vice Chairman James Terrell): The Department of Kentucky National Legislative Council met in Louisville on four occasions this year: at the Fall Conference on October 24, 2009, the Winter Conference on January 23, 2010, the Spring Conference on April 25 and the Department Convention on June 4. Eight Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited eight congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited eight congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department presented an award to a Kentucky state senator. No feedback was received on the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

LOUISIANA: (Vice Chairman William M. Detweiler): The Department of Louisiana National Legislative Council met in Alexandria on January 15 and June 11, 2010. Four Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited seven congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited four congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that all Council Members work closely with congressional members and their staff on issues of importance to veterans and the country. No feedback was received for the Legislative Action Center; however, congressional members and their staff are urged to take advantage of The American Legion Web sites and to use the Washington staff as a resource. No feedback was received regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

MAINE: (Vice Chairman Lloyd H. Woods): The Department of Maine National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited four congressional offices. No Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony. No congressional members attended the breakfast. Three congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that the Department attempts to remain in contact with the congressional delegation through local staff contacts. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

MARYLAND: (Vice Chairman John Milburn): The Department of Maryland National Legislative Council met at Greenbelt Post 136 in Greenbelt, MD, on December 7, 2009; Parkville Post 183 in Parkville, MD, on March 10, 2010; and the Susquehanna Post 135 in Perryville, MD, on May 25, 2010. Four Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited three congressional offices. Ten Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. Both senators and eight congressional representatives

met with the Council Members at a luncheon hosted by the Department following the National Commander's Testimony. Each congressional member spoke and answered questions. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Department has established a state Legislative Council as a means of contacting state delegates and senators on critical issues concerning veterans. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

MASSACHUSETTS: (Vice Chairman Henry Bradley): The Department of Massachusetts National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Eight Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited with eight congressional offices. Four Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited nine congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional member attended the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received for the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

MICHIGAN: (Vice Chairman Douglas Williams): The Department of Michigan National Legislative Council met at the Winter Conference and at the Department Convention in June 2010. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference. Nine congressional representatives or staff met with the Council Members at a reception hosted by the Department during the Washington Conference. No Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department recognized a "Legislative Council Member of the Year." Letters from Council Members were sent to Michigan's congressional delegation along with The American Legion goals and objectives. No feedback was received on the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

MINNESOTA: (Vice Chairman Jeff Olson): The Department of Minnesota National Legislative Council met at the Department Convention on July 22, 2010, in Rochester, MN. Four Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited ten congressional offices. No Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that the E-Alerts from the Legislative Action Center continues to be a very positive and timely process. Favorable feedback was received regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

MISSISSIPPI: (Vice Chairman Robert Gosa): The Department of Mississippi National Legislative Council met at the Midwinter Conference in January 2010. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited five congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice-Chairman reports that congressional members are supportive of The American Legion priorities. The Department received feedback on the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

MISSOURI: (Vice Chairman Richard A. Heigert): The Department of Missouri National Legislative Council met at the Fall Conference on October 24, 2009; Spring Conference on February 20, 2010; and the Department Convention on July 9, 2010. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited seven congressional offices.

Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited four congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department presented two awards to state legislators. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. Council Members forward legislative alerts received from National to their distribution list. No feedback regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*** was received.

MONTANA: (Vice Chairman David M. McLean): The Department of Montana National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited all three congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited all three congressional offices. One congressional member attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department presented no awards. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Department maintains a very active telephone tree for making calls to congressional offices and has established direct email contact with each office so that The American Legion views can be shared in a timely manner. The Department received no feedback on the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

NEBRASKA: (Vice Chairman Michael D. Helm): The Department of Nebraska National Legislative Council met informally on three occasions during the year at Department functions. Four Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited all five congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited all five congressional offices. No congressional member attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that the Department maintains excellent relationships with the congressional delegation, who are always supportive of The American Legion priorities. Furthermore, he reports that the state's Legionnaires use *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion Dispatch** as a ready reference for what is happening on Capitol Hill.

NEVADA: (Vice Chairman Ronald Gutzman): The Department of Nevada National Legislative Council met in Reno on December 6, 2009, in Henderson on February 19, 2010, and the Department Convention in Las Vegas on June 24, 2010. No Council Members attended the Washington Conference or the National Commander's Testimony. No Members of Congress attended the breakfast. One congressional member (Rep. Shelley Berkley) attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. Council Member and Department Adjutant Lionel Motta has monthly contact with Rep. Shelley Berkley to discuss veterans' issues and The American Legion priorities. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: (Vice Chairman John A. Graham): The Department of New Hampshire National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Being a relatively small state the Members stay in touch primarily through email and face-to-face meetings at other Department venues. At the Fall Conference in October, Council Members discussed ways to ensure that all legislative alerts are made known to the state's congressional delegation. Over the next several months following that meeting, all Council Members met with either their congressional member or staff on several occasions. At the Mid-Winter Conference in January, the Vice Chairman talked with all Council Members to ensure that they had been in touch with their respective Members of Congress. Following the hospitalization of the liaison to Rep. Shea-Porter, the Vice Chairman assumed the responsibility for keeping her and her staff advised of

The American Legion's position on critical issues. The Vice Chairman met with the Congresswoman twice and her staff an additional three times between February and July. The Council Member to Senator Shaheen has been in contact with the Senator and her staff on a monthly basis. Likewise, the Council Member to Rep. Hodes has met with him and his staff at least 3 times. In addition, NECman Neylon has been in constant contact with Sen. Gregg's office. Issues worked on by Council Members include working to bring a full service VA hospital to the state (entire congressional delegation supportive); ensuring proper investment in veterans healthcare (Sen. Gregg has budgetary and debt concerns); the homeless veterans issues; resolving the lingering question of who is eligible for help and compensation for exposure to Agent Orange; and garnering support for elimination for the Disabled Veterans Tax (congressional delegation pays lip service, but also expresses reservations about the long-term costs). There are two open seats in the upcoming November elections (one each in the House and Senate) and Council Members have been able to speak with all candidates to ensure that they are aware of the legislative agenda of The American Legion. Other activities of note: Two Council Members along with additional Legionnaires attended the Washington Conference and visited four congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited four congressional offices. No Members of Congress attended the breakfast. One Member of Congress (Rep. Shea-Porter) and staff from the offices of Rep. Hodes and Sen. Gregg attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. A cost-saving suggestion: Those on the Council who receive Legislative Alerts and Updates electronically from the Legislative Action Center should not also receive mailed hardcopies of the same. No feedback was received regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

NEW JERSEY: (Vice Chairman Anthony Lori): The Department of New Jersey National Legislative Council met at Department Headquarters on seven occasions during the 2009-2010 reporting cycle: June 23, 2009; August 15, 2009; October 24, 2009; December 5, 2009; February 13 2010; April 10, 2010; and June 9, 2010. Twelve Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited ten congressional offices. Six Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony, but information was not available as to how many offices were visited or whether any congressional members attended the breakfast. Also unknown was whether any congressional members attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that he keeps in touch with Rep. Frelinghuysen on veterans issues. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*.**

NEW MEXICO: (Vice Chairman Charles Houseman): The Department of New Mexico National Legislative Council met on June 25, 2010, in Albuquerque, NM. No Council Members attended the Washington Conference or National Commander's Testimony. Three congressional members attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. The Department presented an award to Rep. Harry Teague. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center. Favorable feedback was received regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***. After an absence of several years, NM participation in the Council was reestablished in April 2010 with three members. Two more are in the process of being approved. NM is host to a number of military installations and the state's congressional delegation has historically been very supportive of the military and veterans issues. Recent examples include: Rep. Teague (co-founder of the bipartisan congressional Invisible Wounds Caucus, devoted to addressing mental illness that afflicts many soldiers returning from Iraq and

Afghanistan); Rep. Heinrich (introduced HR 4923, Tricare Dependent Coverage Extension Act, followed Legion recommendation to vote for S 1963, Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, and became a cosponsor of HR 4745, GI Bill Gold Medal Act); and Rep. Lujan (recently sponsored a job fair for veterans seeking employment).

NEW YORK: (Vice Chairman Kenneth Governor): The Department of New York National Legislative Council met in Albany on January 22 and March 15, 2010. Ten Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited thirty congressional offices. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited nine congressional offices. Three congressional members attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*.** The Vice Chairman reports that, in general, every member of the NY congressional delegation was supportive of TAL legislative agenda as presented in March 2010. Virtually every office showed a warm and courteous reception to Council Members who met with either the member or an integral staff member. In particular, Senator Schumer affirmed his backing of the entire Legion Legislative Program. Importantly, members were attentive to the reasons and background provided in the DC visits and many later confirmed their co-sponsorship of pending legislation. Senator Gillibrand's office seemed to continue to struggle with its organization as the NY TAL group was met by an ill-informed staffer who thought because he had already met with the VFW and other veterans' groups that he already understood The American Legion's position. Senator Gillibrand later apologized by mail and pledged her support to working closely with TAL. The Department of New York Auxiliary and Sons Detachment continue to work with the Council as a team and to support the Washington Conference. New York has some strong Legislative Council Members who have good rapport with and are respected by their congressional members.

NORTH CAROLINA: (Vice Chairman Jeff W. Joyner): The Department of North Carolina National Legislative Council met on four occasions during the year: October 16, 2009, February 19, 2010, March 2, 2010, and June 10, 2010. Eleven Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited fifteen congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices. One congressional member attended the breakfast. Three congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department presented awards to Reps. Mike McIntyre and Walter Jones. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*.** The Vice Chairman reports that Rep. Heath Shuler signed on as a cosponsor of HR 3554, National Guard Education Equality Act, after meeting with him.

NORTH DAKOTA: (Vice Chairman Curtis O. Twete): The Department of North Dakota National Legislative Council met on February 6 2010, in Mandan, ND and at the Department Convention in Fargo, ND on June 26, 2010. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited three congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices. No congressional member attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. Favorable feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center. No feedback was received on *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*.**

OHIO: (Vice Chairman William K. Balser): The Department of Ohio National Legislative Council met in Columbus, OH, on January 17, 2010 and June 25, 2010. Eight

Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited twenty-one congressional offices. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited twenty-one congressional offices. No Members of Congress attended the breakfast or Department Convention; however, House Representative Pat Tiberi was invited but was unable to attend. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. Council Members continue to push for adequate VA funding and full funding for the war effort. Council Members find that current activities in Congress are well reported in the Legislative Action Center and in *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***, but neither generates much interest or activity from other Legionnaires in the state.

OKLAHOMA: (Vice Chairman John 'Wes' Benge): The Department of Oklahoma National Legislative Council met in Bartlesville, OK on May 15, 2010, and in Tecumseh, OK on June 12, 2010. Six Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited two congressional offices. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited one congressional office. Four Members of Congress attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention and no awards were presented. The Department presented an award for Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that Sen. Inhofe and Reps. Boren and Sullivan are supportive of measures to fix the broken VA benefits claims process. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*.**

OREGON: (Vice Chairman Robert V. Mariani): The Department of Oregon National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Five Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited all seven congressional offices. Four Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited all seven congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional member attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*.**

PENNSYLVANIA: (Vice Chairman Ronald F. Conley): The Department of Pennsylvania National Legislative Council met on January 8, 2010. Six Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited twenty congressional offices; the Department hosted a dinner attended by four congressional members. Four Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited six congressional offices. One congressional member attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. No awards were given. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*.**

RHODE ISLAND: (Vice Chairman Eugene R. Pytka): The Department of Rhode Island National Legislative Council met on October 26, 2009 in East Greenwich, RI; November 23, 2009 in Cumberland, RI; January 25, 2010 in Central Falls, RI; March 22, 2010 in Scituate, RI; and April 26, 2010 in Riverside, RI. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited two congressional offices. No council members attended the National Commander's Testimony. Two congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department presented state Senator Jack Reed a plaque as Legislator of the Year. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Department attended a meeting with the state Treasurer and candidate for Governor and expressed concern for the needs of past war veterans, those currently serving overseas and the financial burden of their families. In addition, the financial support of the Department Service Officer was addressed. No feedback has been

received regarding the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

SOUTH CAROLINA: (Vice Chairman Richard E. Walsh, Sr.): The Department of South Carolina National Legislative Council met in Columbia, SC on September 26, 2009; in Myrtle Beach, SC on January 21, 2010, and in Columbia, SC on May 15, 2010. Five Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited three congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited one congressional office. No congressional members attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

SOUTH DAKOTA: (Vice Chairman Paul A. Evenson): The Department of South Dakota National Legislative Council met during the National Commander's Testimony, at their Midwinter Conference, the Washington Conference and their Department Convention. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited all three congressional offices. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. Two congressional members attended the Department Convention. Plaques of appreciation were presented to Sen. Thune and Rep. Herseth Sandlin at the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The South Dakota congressional delegation remains in tune with The American Legion's legislative agenda, receptive to meeting with and listening to our legislative objectives and either serve on or chair committees or subcommittees important to our priorities. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center. *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*** is read by many Legionnaires and used at Post meetings.

TENNESSEE: (Vice Chairman David G. Alexander): The Department of Tennessee National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Six Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited eleven congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited six congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Tennessee congressional delegation has been quick to respond to messages and telephone calls and is generally veteran/DoD friendly. Email responses from the congressional delegation are forwarded to the Vice Chairman who attests that Tennessee's Council delegation is active. Positive feedback was received for the Legislative Action Center: it is very informational and easily accessed. *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*** helps keep the Council Members and others informed about current or proposed legislation and is very helpful.

TEXAS: (Vice Chairman John Brieden): The Department of Texas National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Four Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited 13 congressional offices. Four Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited six congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Department continues to emphasize meeting and communicating with congressional staffers and following through on each visit to Washington. No feedback was received for the Legislative Action Center. The Vice Chairman continues to stress the importance of saving *Dateline: Capitol Hill* articles from **The American Legion *Dispatch*** as reference materials during meetings or discussions. Note: The Vice Chairman had to step down during the year as he is running for County Judge.

UTAH: (Vice Chairman William E. Christoffersen): The Department of Utah National Legislative Council met at the Department Executive Committee meeting on December 12, 2009; the Department Executive Committee meeting on March 20, 2010 and at the Department Convention on June 26, 2010. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited all five congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited all five congressional offices. No congressional member attended the breakfast. Two congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department presented an award to Representative Jim Matheson. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that he met personally with all of the state's congressional representatives, with whom he is on a first name basis, at various state functions during the year and was able to discuss Legion legislative priorities with them. Furthermore, the Vice Chairman reports that VA is conducting a rural healthcare pilot project in Utah utilizing Legion Post homes and UT Department of Workforce Service offices throughout the state. Feedback was received for both the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

VERMONT: (Vice Chairman Milton Willis, Jr.): The Department of Vermont National Legislative Council met in Montpelier, VT in January 2010. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited two congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited two congressional offices. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that rapport with the Vermont congressional delegation is good. Feedback received regarding the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*** has been favorable.

VIRGINIA: (Vice Chairman Kenneth Knight): The Department of Virginia National Legislative Council met at Hampton, VA on November 7, 2009, Virginia Beach, VA on March 20, 2010 and at the Department Convention in Richmond on July 9, 2010. Eight Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited all 13 congressional offices. Seven Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited 11 congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that the Council Members, along with a number of Legionnaires, members of the Auxiliary and S.A.L, are very effective and that the Virginia congressional delegation is very receptive to the Legion's priorities and supportive of our troops and veterans. Positive feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***. Finally, the Vice Chairman reports that through e-mails the Council communicates with all their representatives and both senators.

WASHINGTON: (Vice Chairman William F. Schrier): Members of the Department of Washington National Legislative Council met at various Departmental Conferences, the 2010 Department Midwinter Conference, at the Washington Conference in March 2010 and at the Department Convention in July 2010. The Department had seven Council Members attend the Washington Conference and visited the entire delegation of 11 congressional offices. Seven Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and, again, visited the entire delegation of 11 congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention because, the Vice Chairman reports, all were on the campaign trail and working on the Boeing 767 military aerial refueling bid project. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. Legislative Council Members have weekly contact with their congressional members or staff and meet once a month over coffee to discuss legislative matters pertaining to veterans and the military.

Also, the Vice Chairman uses social media (Facebook) to disseminate relevant news to a wide network of contacts. Favorable feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch***.

WEST VIRGINIA: (Vice Chairman Robert E. Mayo): The Department of West Virginia National Legislative Council met February 5, 2010 in Morgantown, WV. Eight Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited three congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices. No congressional member attended the breakfast. Three congressional members were invited to the Department Convention, but none were able to attend. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that the state's congressional delegation are invited to all Department Conventions and Midwinter Conferences, that there are very good working relationships between the Council and the delegation and that constant contact is maintained between the two. Furthermore, he reports that *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*** is a great tool that keeps The American Legion membership informed about legislation of importance to veteran and their families.

WISCONSIN: (Vice Chairman Russell Hanseter): The Department of Wisconsin National Legislative Council met at the Fall Meetings October 16-17, 2009 in Portage, WI, at the Mid-Winter Conference January 27-30, 2010 in Wisconsin Dells, WI, at the Spring Meetings May 7-8, 2010 Portage, WI and July 14-18, 2009 during the Department Convention in Milwaukee, WI. Four Council Members and eight other Legionnaires attended the Washington Conference and visited 10 congressional offices. Two Council Members (Hanseter & Sorenson) attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices (3rd, 6th, 8th). Rep. Dave Obey was invited to the Department Convention to receive a citation award; however he was unable to attend and the citation was forwarded with a letter to his office. Tom Petri 6th District WI was invited for a session at Badger Boys State for the third year in a row. The Vice Chairman reports that several Council Members need to be replaced due to moving from a district or change in jobs or office held. New Council Member Roy Helms (Tom Petri 6th) seems to be effective and communicates on a regular basis with his congressional representative. Kendel Feilen with 5th District Congressman Sensenbrenner has moved out of the District. David Kurtz with Senator Russ Feingold is now the Department Adjutant. In addition, Karl Stuvengen with Senator Kohl is on active duty and is no longer involved in that position. Wayne Jensen who is in the 5th continues to cover Gwen Moore 4th District WI, knows her and staff well and communicates on a regular basis. Some of these changes will need attention soon to be effective in the Fall Congressional Session. The Vice Chairman uses and promotes the Legislative Action Center for quick response to legislative concerns and easy access to congressional representatives and senators. The Vice Chairman has prepared a "PRIMER FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS-WISCONSIN" that includes extensive use of the Legislative Action Center resources. It is easy to read and use with information for each congressional district and the two senators of Wisconsin along with basic information on the Legislative Commission and the Legislative Council. It includes a budget glossary, and names, addresses, and email addresses for other Council Members, and use of the Library Of Congress' "THOMAS" web site.

WYOMING: (Vice Chairman Bob Wright): The Department of Wyoming National Legislative Council met on September 12, 2009 in Basin, WY at the Fall Workshop, on January 22, 2010 in Torrington, WY at the Mid-Winter Conference, and on June 17, 2010 in Rock Springs, WY at the Department Convention. One Council Member attended the Washington Conference and visited the two senators and the one at-large congressional representative. No Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. Letters from the congressional delegation were received and presented at the Department

Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Department continues to request that the congressional delegation attend "Yellow Ribbon Salutes" for the state's National Guard troops on their return from the Middle East. The Vice Chairman reports that the Legislative Action Center keeps many members informed and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in **The American Legion *Dispatch*** elicits many comments and discussions at Post and Department meetings.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Call on Dennis J. Henkemeyer of Minnesota, for *The American Legion Magazine*.

Oral Report: *The American Legion Magazine* Commission
Dennis J. Henkemeyer, Minnesota, Chairman

Good morning, commander, members of the NEC, and Legionnaires one and all. You have the written report of *The American Legion Magazine* Commission before you, and there are no resolutions or matters of an emergency nature to come before you.

I do want to highlight just a couple of things very quickly. We are on track right now for a budget surplus at the end of the year of $850,000, primarily because there was no postal increase this year. However, next year they're going to hit us and they're going to hit us hard. We're looking at a minimum of $425,000 of additional expense to the *Magazine* next year just from the postal service alone.

Traffic to the Web site has grown substantially in the last eight months since its introduction, and conversion. In July alone of this year we had in excess of 364,000 visits to our Web site, and one thing to make note of, if any of you watched the live webcast of The American Legion Baseball World Series, last year we had 18,900 unique visitors to the Web site to watch the baseball games. This year that grew to 104,000 unique visitors. By unique, that means if Commander Brieden went there five times, he's one unique visitor even though he was there five times. And unique visitors spent an average of 28 minutes watching the ball games. So, it's something that we're very proud of.

I would encourage all of you when you get back to your departments to continue to promote legion.org, obviously from an advertising standpoint, the more visitors we have to the Web site, the more revenue we are going to have from advertising.

With that, Mr. Commander, I want to thank you for my appointment to the commission, and I want to thank you and the NEC for your continued support. With that, that concludes my report.

Report: *The American Legion Magazine* Commission
August 9, 2010
Dennis J. Henkemeyer, Minnesota, Chairman

The American Legion Magazine Division continues to evolve into a multi-channel media center for the organization. Nearly nine months have passed since the division relaunched www.legion.org and assumed full responsibility for most National Headquarters electronic media. Today, that portfolio includes:

- **The National Headquarters Web site and sub-sites,** which grew substantially in visitation between January and July of 2010, more than doubling in some statistical categories. The number of monthly site visits in July was 364,095, including 270,106 unique visitors. Those visitors clicked on an average of 5.08 pages per session.

- **The Burn Pit blog site,** which has raised tens of thousands of dollars for causes ranging from the COP Keating Fund for soldiers forced to destroy their belongings in Afghanistan to legal defense for the father of a Marine killed in action who sued a fanatical religious group that protested at his son's funeral. More than 300,000 page views of the Burn Pit have been recorded in less than a year.
- **The American Legion Online Update,** which is distributed weekly to more than 220,000 subscribers and has generated enough in advertising revenue to sustain its own cost.
- **The Dugout,** an e-newsletter just for American Legion Baseball coaches, players, fans and supporters, which reaches more than 4,000 subscribers.
- **The American Legion's social media presence,** including Facebook, with more than 13,500 fans, and Twitter.
- **The Electronic Dispatch,** a Web-based alternative to the printed monthly newspaper for Legion officers.
- **The National Commander's Blog site,** where hundreds of photos and personal travelogue entries have been published, covering all of Commander Clarence Hill's travels.

While electronic media are still in their infancy and always a work in progress, the print publications also continue to evolve and remain the primary communications tools of National Headquarters, reaching nearly 2.4 million households a month.

The printed magazine continues to buck industry trends in advertising sales. Eight months into the budget year, advertising sales stood at $5,725,178. Printing and distribution costs were significantly under budget through that period, due to careful page-count management and slightly lower than expected circulation. Through the July issue, the division stood to return a budget surplus of $640,947 at the end of the year.

An expected and budgeted increase in postage cost did not materialize in May, which contributes substantially to the surplus calculation through July. That increase, however, has been proposed to come as early as January 2011 and may be 10 percent or greater.

Printing costs remain stable. Paper costs, though cyclical, are on budget, with a cap of 2 percent per hundredweight per quarter built into our contract.

The Dispatch newspaper reaches nearly 20,000 homes a month, delivering news and information for post, district and department leadership.

The Magazine Division also produces the National Convention program each year as well as the Four Pillars book and a number of other smaller media products.

On behalf of The American Legion Magazine Commission, I thank the National Executive Committee for its leadership, guidance and support during this continued time of transition and opportunity for our organization's media.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Call on Robert L. Morrill, of New York, for the Public Relations Report.

Oral Report: Public Relations Commission
Robert L. Morrill, New York, Chairman

Thank you, Mr. Commander. Good morning everyone. The Public Relations Commission has nothing of an emergency nature at this time, commander. I would however, like to bring a couple of things to your attention.

As part of the strategic initiative to promote the Four Pillars of The American Legion and educate the public about the work and services of our organization, the commission unveiled the new "Powerful Force For Our Nation" campaign based on the "Pledge to Service" video that was presented at the Washington Conference. The new campaign materials are available to posts on a DVD that contains a three minute "Pledge To Service" video, six television spots, 10 radio spots, five Web site ads, six print ads, posters and handbills, and a marketing support guide containing suggestions on getting the materials out to the various news media.

Also, I would like to bring to your attention, and I think you're aware of this already, the *History of The American Legion* video is now available at Emblem Sales. I would urge you to pick up one of these, bring it back home and promote it in your area. It's a great membership tool for an open house or to educate your members on what we're all about.

Mr. Commander, the Public Relations Commission and staff wishes you God speed on all your future travels. It's been a real honor serving with you this year.

That concludes my report.

Report: Public Relations Commission
August 28, 2010
Robert L. Morrill, New York, Chairman

The Public Relations Commission of The American Legion met in the Hilton City Center Mitchell Room, Saturday, August 28, 2010.

As part of the strategic initiative to promote the Four Pillars of The American Legion and educate the public about the work and services of the organization, the commission unveiled the new “Powerful Force for Our Nation” campaign. Based on the “Pledge to Service” video that was presented at the Washington Conference, the new campaign materials are available to posts on a DVD that contains the 3:55 min. “Pledge to Service” video, six television spots, 10 radio spots, 5 Web site ads, six print ads/posters/handbills and a marketing support guide containing suggestions on getting the materials placed in a variety of media. The print materials can be localized with contact information. The television spots will be marketed nationally this fall to over 500 major cable systems across the nation; however, personal marketing by posts is key in getting maximum use of these PSAs. “Powerful Force for Our Nation” DVDs are available here at convention and from the national public relations office free on request.

Sept. 16, The American Legion Day, kicks off the annual Legiontown USA outreach campaign that lasts through November. A sample proclamation, suggested community events and media support tools are available from the commission, centered around the Complete Guide to Your Post’s Legiontown U.S.A. Campaign. The annual suggested campaign of community outreach events was developed to assist posts in conducting membership and renewal recruiting and public relations. The guide, as well as a complete kit of event planning support materials, is available on request from national public relations. Commission members also concurred in promoting the availability of the “Military Experience” posters, available in the small window size as downloads with editable fields or the large 18 X 24 inch, suitable for framing size, from National Flag and Emblem Sales.

Blackhorse Productions completed the History of The American Legion: A National Legacy in early June. It has been available ever since for $19.95 at www.emblem.legion.org. It is also available at the Emblem Sales booth in the Exhibit Hall. The 48-minute DVD is a great membership tool and a portion of the proceeds goes to the Legacy Scholarship Fund, the NEF and the Child Welfare Foundation. The project took more than a year to complete and is the result of Resolution 6, originally generated from this Commission, and passed by the NEC in the Oct. 15-16, 2008 meetings. Trailers are available and all departments, districts and posts are encouraged to help spread the word about this great product, the first video history of the organization.

As reported at the Washington Conference, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors won $250,000 as the top Internet vote-getter in February's Pepsi Refresh Everything Project.

The money is going to good use with some of it already spent on wounded warriors at Fort Gordon, Ga., Landstuhl, Germany, Walter Reed , Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton and other military hospitals and warrior transition units.

The American Legion's Legacy Scholarship Fund also competed in Pepsi Refresh, finishing in 49th place for June and around 60th in July before withdrawing. Considering that 1,200-1,400 charities compete each month, these are respectable finishes – although not as high as hoped. Currently, The American Legion Job Fairs for Veterans is competing for a $250,000 grant. It is important to vote each day at www.legion.org or text messaging 101758 to Pepsi (73774). Most importantly, spread the word via email, Twitter, Facebook and other forms of media.

Audiovisual projects have included supporting the AC&Y Division with video production and web streaming coordination for Boys Nation and Junior Shooting Sports. At American Legion Boys Nation, approximately 10 hours of content was streamed live on the Web and pre-produced daily video packages were produced and placed on Legion TV to highlight each day's activities in Washington. In addition, several of the events at National Convention are being streamed live this year, adding to the coordination and production requirements.

Working with VA&R Commission staff, a video project is being initiated to promote women veterans issues and Legion support of women veterans; the production should be completed in the fall. Additionally, staff is working with a number of departments in the production of specific production requests as well as producing new training materials and providing a significantly increased number of media training seminars.

From the Washington office, Marty Callaghan, director of Media Marketing and Steve Katzenberger, president and COO of Creative Street Media Group in Indianapolis, provided a briefing about the recently completed video production, "American Heroes." Co-sponsored by The American Legion and the Military Channel, this series of 60-second vignettes highlight the sacrifice and success of ten servicemembers who served in Iraq (three died in combat). The vignettes began to air on the Military Channel Memorial Day and will continue to be broadcast for a full year. The American Legion's network of contacts provided many strong candidates to recognize in "American Heroes." Katzenberger explained the production process and current audience response to the series.

The commission received the final report and recommendation of the subcommittee chaired by Vice Chairman Maloberti regarding the status of The American Legion Fourth Estate Award. The recommendation to continue the award and extend it to three categories to realistically include new media technology was approved by members for future consideration. The commission thanked subcommittee members Chuck Zelinsky (IL), Al Richards (WI), Brett Reistad (VA) Joanne Evans (CA) and Vice Chairman Mario Maloberti (PA) for their research and analysis.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Motion to receive and file the report. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Call on Harold D. Barnett, of Georgia, for a membership report.

Oral Report: Membership and Post Activities Committee
Harold D. Barnett, Georgia, Chairman

Mr. Commander, members of the NEC, fellow Legionnaires. I would like to give you a quick update on membership. You have the written report before you. There are no matters of emergency nature to come before you.

First of all, I would like to highlight the traditional recruitment. You all have done a fantastic job. I was so proud to be at the membership dinner the other day. We had 13 departments that were recognized, and you can see by your written report, we have gone up from 90 percent, to 93 percent in traditional recruitment and retention of membership, and we need to maintain that trend.

DMS, as you can see by your written report, obtained 205,000 members – exceeding the 190,000 goal. They did so under budget. The goal for DMS in 2011 is 210,000. I hope each and every one of you have a plan for the second year renewal of these DMS members — we need to get them into local posts. We are excited about that increased communication to those DMS members, and our communications that we have instituted at the national level to keep these new Legionnaires in our great organization.

The on-line renewal has gone well with the five test departments, and we hope to expand that nationally with a resolution.

I want to thank our parent commission, Internal Affairs, for their support; Commander Hill for all your vision this year in membership. Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
August 28, 2010
Harold D. Barnett, Georgia, Chairman

The Membership and Post Activities Committee met at 10:30 a.m. on August 28, 2010, in the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Wright Ballroom C, 4th Floor. Total in attendance was 70 individuals.

DMS accounted for 205,050 members of the current 2010 membership total, the rest was traditional efforts through renewals and traditional recruitment of new members. These two areas, renewal and new starts, has accounted for 92.67% of our membership this year – normal average is between 89% - 91%. Five Departments have participated in Online Renewal and those Departments are very pleased with the results.

The renewal campaign began in June. One area of interest will be the renewal behavior of the 205,050 DMS members acquired in 2010. This group was treated differently than in the past through a special communication campaign. They received five additional mailings/e-mail blasts which discussed the 2011 renewal campaign and what The American Legion was about. We will not know how well the communication campaign worked until the end of the renewal campaign.

Our DMS goal for 2011 is set at 210,000 and we've already acquired 97,000 members to date.

National Staff, working in conjunction with local volunteers, was directly involved in 73 posts being started or revitalized through the work of Post development teams in 2009 (staff efforts run from Jan 1 – Dec 31).

We extend our sincere appreciation to our parent Commission, Internal Affairs, and this Committee for your support, vision and involvement concerning the 2011 membership campaign.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Call on Larry J. Besson of Illinois for the Internal Affairs report.

Oral Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Larry J. Besson, Illinois, Chairman

Thank you, commander. There are no resolutions or emergency matters to come before the NEC. We, the Internal Affairs Commission, express our thanks to you, commander, and the NEC for their continued support. This concludes my report, sir.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
August 28, 2010
Larry J. Besson, Illinois, Chairman

The Internal Affairs Commission met in the Frontier Airlines Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Saturday, August 28, 2010. We have no resolutions to go before the National Executive Committee during this pre-convention meeting.

The Internal Affairs Commission informally reviewed 23 resolutions that were to come before the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Matters, Section II.

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 Clarence E. Hill (FL) for active support and his positive approach to our programs.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Call on Doc Simon of Vermont, vice chairman, for the Foreign Relations report.

Oral Report: Foreign Relations Commission
Doc Simon, Vermont, Vice Chairman

Thank you, commander. The Foreign Relations Commission met with the National Security Commission, and we had five speakers yesterday morning. Two of them were active duty U.S. Army. And I would like to read one of the comments made by Sergeant Mielke who talked about his two tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and his recent return in June. He made suggestions on how The American Legion can attract members of Iraq and Afghanistan which included post counseling sessions on service connection and veterans' benefits, along with welcoming these veterans into our posts, with social events such as barbecues.

In the afternoon, the Foreign Relations Commission met and we reviewed 33 resolutions assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations.

The Foreign Relations Commission thanks National Commander Hill 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 effective and viable foreign relations policy.

Mr. Commander that concludes the report of Foreign Relations.

Report: Foreign Relations Commission
August 28, 2010
Doc Simon (VT), Vice Chairman

On Saturday, August 28, 2010, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session in the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Crystal Ballroom, fifth floor. The Joint Session featured five guest speakers.

Our first guest speaker was Dan Larsen, Deputy Director, Office of Korean Affairs, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. He gave an in-depth discussion on the current situation on the Korean Peninsula, including reports on the economies, diplomacy, and military posture in the region.

Our second speaker was Dr. Alexander Garza, Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Department of Homeland Security. Dr. Garza gave a comprehensive presentation covering the strategic plan behind interagency cooperation in regards to anti-terrorism operations, biological and chemical weapons detection, along with natural disaster preparedness.

Our third speaker was Brigadier General John Hanley, U.S. Army Reserve Commander 3rd Battle Command Training Brigade. Brigadier General John Hanley delved into the topic of military family support and emphasized how the Army and Navy are cooperating to increase family support services by combining their community service agencies.

The next two speakers were Sgt. Nicholas DiMiceli and Sgt. Aaron Mielke of the U.S. Army. Sgt. DiMiceli discussed his 2007 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He explained the events surrounding his survival of an improvised-explosive device (IED) for which he received the Purple Heart.

Sgt. Mielke talked about his two tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and his recent return in June. Sgt Mielke made suggestions on how The American Legion can attract veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, which included hosting counseling sessions on service connection and veterans' benefits along with welcoming these veterans into the posts with social events such as barbeques.

In the afternoon, the Foreign Relations Commission conducted a comprehensive courtesy review of 33 resolutions assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations.

The Foreign Relations Commission thanks National Commander Clarence E. Hill and the National Executive Committee for their support throughout the year and will continue to work diligently to provide The American Legion with timely information and an effective and viable foreign relations policy.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Call on Randall Fisher of Kentucky for the Economic report.

Oral Report: Economic Commission
Randall Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Thank you commander. NEC, national staff and guests. Members of your Committees on Employment and Veterans Preference met at 8:30 a.m. on August 28, 2010 in the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Walker Room, Fourth Floor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin to listen to presentations from a variety of subject matter experts in the area of veterans' employment, education and business development. In attendance were 29 members of the commission, NEC liaisons, and many other guests. Speakers for the Commission meeting included John McWilliam, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor's, Veterans' Employment and Training Services; Jonathan Hesener, Business Development Leader, General Electric; Greg Alleyne, Deputy Director of Veterans Employment Coordination Service, Department of Veterans Affairs; Paul Plasencia, Veterans Outreach Program Manager, Department of Homeland Security; William Elmore, Associate Administrator for Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration; Edner Escarne, Veterans Employment Program Officer, General Service Administration; David Dubois, Director of Operations, Department of Defense; John Campbell, Deputy Under Secretary, Department of Defense, and Linda Brooks-Rix, Co-CEO, Avue Technologies.

In addition to the regular commission meeting, members of the commission participated in a ceremony for The American Legion's third annual Heroes to Hometowns Transition and Benefits Career Fair. The fair was co-sponsored by the Department of Labor's Hire Vet Program. Over 40 companies participated in the fair with approximately 160 veterans in attendance.

The commission is staffed by Director Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr., Deputy Director Mark Walker, Assistant Director Robert Madden, and Assistant Director for Department of Defense Outreach, Heroes to Hometowns Coordinator, Catherine Trombley. Upon completion of business, we adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

There were 26 job offers at the actual job fair, and then the Border Patrol of course offering a thousand positions, new jobs. Now, we don't know, those are applied online, so we don't know how many jobs are going to come out of that.

That concludes my report, Commander.

Report: Economic Commission
August 28, 2010
Randall Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Members of your Committees on Employment and Veterans Preference met at 8:30 on August 28, 2010, in Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Walker Room, Fourth Floor Milwaukee, Wisconsin to listen to presentations from a variety of subject matter experts in the area of veteran, employment, education and business development. In attendance were 29 members of the Commission, the NEC Liaison, and many other guests.

Speakers for the Commission meeting included: John McWilliam, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor's, Veterans' Employment and Training Services (DOL-VETS); Jonathan Hesener, Business Development Leader, General Electric (GE); Greg Alleyne, Deputy Director, Veterans Employment Coordination Service, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); Paul Plasencia, Veterans Outreach Program Manager, Department of Homeland Security (DHS); William Elmore, Associate Administrator for Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA); Edner Escarne, Veterans Employment Program Officer, General Service Administration (GSA); David Dubois, Director of Operations, Department of Defense (DoD); John Campbell, Deputy

Under Secretary, Department of Defense (DoD) and Linda Brooks-Rix, CO-CEO, Avue Technologies.

In-addition, to the regular commission meeting, members of the commission participated in a ceremony for The American Legion's third annual Heroes to Hometown Transition & Benefits Career Fair. The fair was co-sponsored by the Department of Labor's Hire Vet Program. Over 40 companies participated in the fair with approximately 160 veterans in attendance.

The Commission, staffed by Director Joseph C. Sharpe Jr., Deputy Director Mark Walker, Assistant Director Robert Madden and Assistant Director for Department of Defense (DoD) Outreach, Heroes to Hometowns Coordinator Catherine Trombley, upon completion of business, we adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

I call on Michael D. Helm, Nebraska, for the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation report.

Oral Report: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska, Chairman

Mr. Commander, the VA&R Commission met on Saturday, August the 28th at the Hilton Hotel. None of the business conducted calls for any urgent action of this NEC.

I would only note as a matter of interest, that David Schettler, Director of Communications Management Service, VA Central Office, made the remark that the National Cemetery Administration would be ready to take up care and function of Arlington National Cemetery, and the Soldiers and Sailors burial sites in Washington, D.C., should they receive funding and the request to do so.

The military honors for funerals would remain the responsibility of the Military District Washington, and the assembled unit, 3rd Infantry Regiment.

Also, commander, I would like to draw the attention of the NEC to the booklets that we passed out this morning as you came through the door, *A System Worth Saving*. I would like to recognize the staff and those volunteers that did the visits and put this book together. It's a class thing, and I thank the staff for doing that.

Commander, my commission has been proud to have been a part of your great year as commander of this great organization, and this concludes my report.

Report: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
August 28, 2010
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska, Chairman

Your National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission held its session in the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Wright Ballrooms A&B, Fourth Floor, on Saturday, August 28, 2010. In attendance were 41 members of the Commission, the NEC Liaison Chairman, and 7 members of the National Cemetery Committee.

The following Department of Veterans Affairs officials addressed the Commission: Michael Walcoff, Acting Under Secretary for Benefits; Ms. Laura B. Balun, Director, Voluntary Service Office; Mr. David Schettler, Director, Communications Management Service, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs. The Commission was also addressed by The Honorable Judge Alan G. Lance, Sr., U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; Mr. John Wordin, Executive Director, Ride to Recovery;

Ms. Rebecca Dobbins, Senior Director of Corporate Engagement, Rebuilding Together. We also convened two panels to address the Commission. A panel on Traumatic Brain Injury was comprised of Dr. Sonal Pancholi, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Defense and Veterans Brain Injury, Center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Dr. Kelly Petska, Polytrauma Psychologist, Minneapolis VA Medical, The Department of Veterans Affairs. Our other panel on Women Veterans was comprised of Dr. Jill Feldman, Women Veterans Program Manager, Milwaukee VA Medical Center; Dr. Mitzi J. Dearborn, VA VISN 12 Military Sexual Trauma Point of Contact & Milwaukee VA Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator, Milwaukee VA Medical Center; Ms. Bevelyn Johnson, Team Leader, Milwaukee Vet Center, The Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Robert O'Donnell, Field Investigator, Sokolove Law, briefed us on the effects and symptoms of Asbestos.

The Commission was apprised of the activities of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division. There were 0 Certificates of Appreciation given between the Mid-Winter Conference and the National Convention.

The Commission, upon completion of business, adjourned at 3:54p.m. We reconvened on Sunday, August 29, 2010 at 9:00a.m. in the Monarch Ballroom to consider and recommend disposition on 1 Resolution, In-State Licensure of Department of Veterans Affairs' Healthcare Providers.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Call on Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia, for the National Security report.

Oral Report: National Security Commission
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia, Chairman

National Commander, members of the NEC and guests. On Friday, August 27th, 48 members of the National Security Commission and guests attended a pre-convention tour of the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Legionnaires, guided by several airmen, soldiers, and senior military leaders from throughout Wisconsin, received a tour of a KC-135R, the F-16C, UH-60 Blackhawk and Army mobile communications array. Additionally, a panel of seven airmen and soldiers fielded questions from Legionnaires.

On Saturday, August 28th, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session in the Hilton Milwaukee Center. The joint sessions had five presentations this year. Our first guest speaker was Dan Larsen, Deputy Director, Office of Korean Affairs, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

The second speaker was Dr. Alexander Garza, Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Department of Homeland Security. Dr. Garza gave a comprehensive presentation covering his strategic plan behind interagency cooperation in regards to anti-terrorism operations, biological and chemical weapons detection, along with natural disaster preparedness.

The third speaker was Brigadier General John Hanley, U.S. Army Reserve Commander 3rd Battle Command Training Brigade.

The next two speakers were very interesting. They are active duty, Sergeant Nicholas DiMiceli and Sergeant Aaron Mielke of the U.S. Army. Sergeant DiMiceli discussed the 2007 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, explaining events surrounding his survival of an improvised-explosive device, IED, where he received the Purple Heart.

Sergeant Mielke talked about two tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and his recent return in June. He made suggestions of on how The American Legion can attract veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, which include hosting counseling sessions on service connection and veterans' benefits, along with welcoming these veterans into the posts at social events such as barbecues.

In the afternoon, we conducted a comprehensive courtesy review of 79 resolutions assigned to the Convention Committee on National Security.

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Hill and the members of the National Executive Committee for their support throughout this year, and we will work diligently to provide The American Legion with timely information and focused national security policy. This completes my report, Commander.

Report: National Security Commission
August 28, 2010
Dan Dellinger, Virginia, Chairman

On Friday, August 27, 2010, 48 members of the National Security Commission and guests attended the Pre-Convention Tour to the 128th Air Refueling Wing at Milwaukee, WI. Legionnaires, guided by several Airmen, Soldiers and senior military leaders from throughout Wisconsin, received a tour of a KC-135R Stratotanker, F-16C Falcon, UH-60 Blackhawk and an Army mobile communications array. Additionally, a panel of 7 Airmen and Soldiers fielded questions from Legionnaires.

On Saturday, August 28, 2010, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session in the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Crystal Ballroom, Milwaukee, WI. The Joint Session had five guest presentations this year.

Our first guest speaker was Dan Larsen, Deputy Director, Office of Korean Affairs, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. He gave an in-depth discussion on the current situation on the Korean Peninsula, including reports on the economies, diplomacy, and military posture in the region.

Our second speaker was Dr. Alexander Garza, Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Department of Homeland Security. Dr. Garza gave a comprehensive presentation covering the strategic plan behind interagency cooperation in regards to anti-terrorism operations, biological and chemical weapons detection, along with natural disaster preparedness.

Our third speaker was Brigadier General John Hanley, U.S. Army Reserve Commander 3rd Battle Command Training Brigade. BG John Hanley delved into the topic of military family support and emphasized how the Army and Navy are cooperating to increase family support services by combining their community service agencies.

The next two speakers were SGT Nicholas DiMiceli and SGT Aaron Mielke of the U.S. Army. SGT DiMiceli discussed his 2007 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He explained the events surrounding his survival of an improvised-explosive device (IED) for which he received the Purple Heart.

SGT Mielke talked about his two tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and his recent return in June. He made suggestions on how The American Legion can attract veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, which included hosting counseling sessions on service connection and veterans' benefits along with welcoming these veterans into the posts with social events such as barbeques.

In the afternoon, the National Security Commission and Committees conducted a comprehensive courtesy review of 79 resolutions assigned to the Convention Committee on National Security.

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Hill and the National Executive Committee for their support throughout the year and will continue to

work diligently to provide The American Legion with a timely information and focused national security policy.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Now on to the confirmation of interim committee appointments. Do we have any interim committee appointments?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Motion granted.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Interim Appointments

Harold Pawson III (Alaska), Americanism Council, Vice Chairman
(Replaces Alvin R. Diaz—resigned)
Beverly Glover (Pennsylvania), Distinguished Guests Committee, Vice Chairman
(For purpose of call-in only)
Robert Heffelfinger (Pennsylvania), Distinguished Guests Committee, Vice Chairman
(For purpose of call-in only)
Herb Herman (Pennsylvania), Distinguished Guests Committee, Vice Chairman
(For purpose of call-in only)
Richard D. McLaughlin (Oregon), Resolutions Assignment Committee, 2011 Member
(Replaces Edgar L. Horne—resigned)
James R. Bojanowski (New York), Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Committee, 2010 Member (Replaces Adolph Bitka—deceased)
Randall Arnold (Pennsylvania), Foreign Relations Council, Vice Chairman
(For purpose of call-in only)
John Dugan (Pennsylvania, Foreign Relations Council, Vice Chairman
(For purpose of call-in only)
Alvin R. Diaz (Alaska), Naval Affairs Committee, 2011 Member
(Replaced Richard A Smith—resigned)
Henry "Butch" Adams (Georgia), The American Legion Magazine Commission, 2010 Member (Replaces Harold F. Arnold—deceased)

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Now under the business of cancellation of post and/or squadron charters. Do we have any cancellations?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Yes, you may.

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

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: I move the list be approved without being read. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters

On May 6, 2010, at the Spring Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of 163 Posts. The research done on each Post prior to any recommendation made as an attempt to see whether these Posts could be revitalized is based on the following criteria:

Community Size
Veteran Population

Forty (40) Posts have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the 2010 NEC Convention Meeting in Milwaukee, WI. Thirty-four (34) Posts are recommended for cancellation. It is recommended that the remaining six (6) Posts not being cancelled be reconsidered after work can be done to revitalize these Posts.

It is recommended that the following thirty-four (34) Posts be cancelled:

Department	Name	Post #	Location
Arizona	Robert C. St. Clair	92	Peoria
Florida	Skelly-McLeod	257	North Miami Beach
	Capt Eddie V. Rickenbacker	292	Miami
Georgia	Coastal Georgia *(to merge with St. Mary's Post 312)*	317	Coastal Georgia
	Lilburn/Norcross *(to merge with Alpharetta Post 201)*	318	Lilburn
	Bremen *(to merge with Frank P. Dorris Post 145)*	327	Bremen
Illinois	Homewood *(to merge with Hazel Crest Post 398)*	483	Homewood
	Seymour	1256	Seymour
Louisiana	New Orleans	114	New Orleans
	Summer Grove	424	Shreveport
	Randall Smith	523	Gibsland
	William Jackson	564	Independence
Maryland	Catonsville	25	Catonsville
Michigan	Whitmore	359	Whitmore Lake
	De Witt *(to merge with Edwin T. Stiles Post 153)*	379	De Witt
Missouri	Gideon-New Madrid County	324	Gideon
	Roulette-Hill-Stevenson	573	Kansas City
Montana	Emil Beck	59	Hogeland

New Hampshire	George Ryder	71	Hanover
North Dakota	Fairdale	267	Fairdale
Ohio	Harold B. Harris *(to merge with Brooklyn Post 233)*	22	Cleveland
	Army-Navy-Shaker *(to merge with South Euclid Post 104)*	54	Cleveland
Pennsylvania	Fairchance *(to merge with Smithfield-Fairchance Post 278)*	342	Fairchance
	Haubert-Paul	431	Parkesburg
	General Alejo Santos *(to merge with Corp. John Loudenslager Post 366)*	717	Philadelphia
	Philadelphia Frankford Arsenal *(to merge with Rhawnhurst-Castor Memorial Post 754)*	727	Bridesburg, Philadelphia
	Arthur Louis Porreca *(to merge with S/Sgt. Michael J. Brignola (O.S.S.) Post 200)*	822	Philadelphia
	Corporal Rowland J. Adamoli *(to merge with Kilbride-Dougherty-Campbell Post 959)*	985	Philadelphia
South Carolina	Talmadge "Tamp" Tollison, Sr.	199	Greenville
	John B. Wilson Memorial	261	Charleston
South Dakota	Graves-Wallum	51	Carthage
	Edwin F. Cors	191	Eagle Butte
	Looking Back-Growler-Jamerson	239	Little Eagle
	Oglala	321	Oglala

It is the recommendation of the Membership and Post Activities Committee that the following six (6) charter cancellations not be approved until additional research can be done:

Department	**Name**	**Post #**	**Location**
Iowa	Ralph A. Judson	51	Lamoni
	William B. Pulley	343	Derby
	Blakesburg	495	Blakesburg
	Miller-South-Negley	599	Decatur
New Hampshire	Sunapee	117	Sunapee
Texas	Silsbee *(to merge with William H. Curtis Post 72)*	44	Silsbee

SAL Charters Of The American Legion Presented To The National Executive Committee For Cancellation

On May 6, 2010, at the Spring Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of thirty-one (31) Squadrons.

Seven (7) Squadrons have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the 2010 NEC Convention Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Seven (7) Squadrons are recommended for cancellation.

It is recommended that the following seven (7) Squadrons be cancelled:

Department	Name	Squadron #	Location
Arizona	Robert C. St. Clair	92	Peoria
Florida	Skelly-McLeod	257	North Miami Beach
Georgia	Coastal Georgia	317	Coastal Georgia
	Bremen	327	Bremen
Louisiana	New Orleans	114	New Orleans
Maryland	Catonsville	25	Catonsville
Michigan	De Witt	379	De Witt

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Now under the order of unfinished business and technical motions. Do we have any unfinished business or technical motions?

Technical Motion

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed? Motion carries.

I'll now call on the national adjutant for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Commander. Family members of Past National Commander and Mrs. Joe Matthews wish to thank everyone for their kind words, prayers, and cards upon the recent passing of the Past National Commander, and his beloved wife. Thank you.

I would also like to thank Past National Commander Clarence Bacon for representing the national headquarters at the funeral of Past National Commander Joe Matthews.

Members of the NEC who have turned in their expense reports in advance, if you did not get a check, Director of Finance Shawn Long is in the back of the room. See him if you turned it in in advance and you did not get a check. If you have not submitted your expense report, you should do so in Room 203A in this building, and once your expense report has been submitted, checks should be ready tomorrow afternoon.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce the new National Security and Foreign Relations director who replaced Phil Riley who retired, and his name is Robert Kearley. Stand up Robert. He is an officer in the Army Reserve, and he lives in the Washington, D.C. area and he began his duties last Friday. *(Applause)*

Closing Remarks: Clarence E. Hill, Florida
National Commander

Okay, I guess since you didn't let me skip opening remarks, I guess I'll have to give you some closing remarks. *(Laughter)*

I would say that I sincerely believe that those social networks and blogs and technology out there is the future. You'll hear more in my final report, but a lot of things happened this year that only happened, were only announced and only pushed through social networks, and blogs, and e-mail blasts. Starting with the Combat Outpost Keating effort last October; the Operation Comfort Warriors victory in the Pepsi Challenge in February; and to me the most significant was that last year we had some 37,000 new members in the post-Vietnam categories for membership, and this year we had nearly 68,000. They're out there, they're paying attention, and they're participating. They're not just socializing on those networks. And I believe that if this organization gets involved on social networks and puts out the kinds of things that we do on a routine basis and gets our members to copy and paste that and put it out with their picture on it then the Legion networks, instead of individuals. And for me, that network is going to go over 3,900 here at the Convention for my friends on Facebook, and I'll be over 1,800 tweets by the time this Convention is done. So I will continue doing that. The national organization has offered me the opportunity to purchase the clarencehill.legion.org site, and so I have done that, and one of my post members will help me maintain it. So the site will remain active at least for a little while.

And so I appreciate everything that you all have done. As you heard from the membership report, things were up in a lot of other categories besides just gaining nearly 54,000 members. So, I congratulate you on all your hard work and I hope you continue it because having stand alone growth years doesn't get it. We need consecutive growth years. We need to be back and have more people wearing three million on their cap.

So, thank you for all that you do, and I now call on our national chaplain.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander. May I address you before you do that?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Granted.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I know on behalf of the National Executive Committee and the folks in here, we would like to thank you. I know this is going to be your last meeting with us. I would like to thank you for your year of service; what you've done to represent our organization this year, and I think we need to give the national commander a big round of applause.

(Standing applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Thank you.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN BEAVER: May I have permission to address the NEC body?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Permission granted. I call on John L. Beaver of Alabama.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN BEAVER: Before I do the benediction, I would like to say I have been very honored to serve you as the national chaplain for The American Legion. And I would like to say that I have learned a lot while sitting here watching this organization work. I have had the opportunity to watch it from the bottom, but never from the top down. You all are tremendous members of this body, and I hope I can take what I have learned from you back down to my department.

And lastly I would like to say to Commander Hill, I do not have a plaque to give you, sir. I do not have a certificate to give you. Sir, we blessed you in prayers, carried you

in prayers throughout the year, throughout the United States through my prayer lists, and we thank you sir, for a tremendous job.

Benediction: John L. Beaver, Alabama
National Chaplain

Let us pray. God, grant that the information of this meeting might become the inspiration we need as we go forward in the task of serving You in our country.

As we depart from this meeting, let us remember those who have passed on to Post Everlasting, and ask for the comfort to the families during this time of need.

Help us to lift America to its true ideals as its founders' dreams. With this we ask in Your precious name. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I call on National Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Martel, from Florida, for the salute.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I now declare this Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee adjourned.

... At 9:50 a.m., the Pre-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST-CONVENTION MEETING
Thursday, September 2, 2010

... At 1:30 p.m, September 2, 2010, the Post-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska, and the following proceedings were had.

... National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia, acted as secretary.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: I will call this Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting to order. Join me in a hand-salute.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time I call on the person to be appointed national chaplain for the invocation. Uncover.

Invocation
Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin
National Chaplain

We pray. Heavenly Father, I'm so humbled to lead these fellow Legionnaires this day at our first meeting or gathering for You and for this country that You have blessed us with. You know, Lord, being a member of the second largest Lutheran denomination, and of course this largest veterans organization, almost five million strong, but thank You that I did meet all these people before I got married.

But seriously, Lord, we thank You for Past Commander Hill's year of service, and now fully embrace our newly elected commander, Commander Foster, and ask that You will always watch over him, giving him that strength and wisdom along with a compassionate and loving heart for all veterans, and may You empower us with that same vigor to carry out our mission, especially serving American veterans every day.

And so, Lord, now bless this meeting, give us guidance and wisdom and be with us in all we say and do. In Your life-saving name we pray. Amen.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: If you will join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Please be seated. I now call on the national adjutant for the roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Chaplain
Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin

National Vice Commanders
Russell J. Henry, Louisiana
John M Mella, Michigan
Carlos Orria-Medina, Puerto Rico
Eugene Pytka, Rhode Island
William F. Schrier, Washington

Past National Commanders

William E. Galbraith, Nebraska—Excused
John H. Geiger, Illinois—Excused
Michael J. Kogutek, New York—Excused
Keith Kreul, Wisconsin—Excused
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
John P. Comer, Massachusetts
Hon. H.F. Gierke, North Dakota— Excused
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia—Excused
Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania—Excused
Bruce Thiesen, California—Excused
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
Ray G. Smith, North Carolina
Richard J. Santos, Maryland—Excused
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas P. Cadmus, Michigan
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. 'Marty' Conatser, Illinois
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan—Excused
David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Clarence H. Hill, Florida

National Executive Committee Members

Department	Committee Members	Alternate
Alabama	Floyd W. Turner—Excused	Willis Frazier
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Deodoro M. 'Joe' Aguilar—Excused	S. Paul Griffin—Excused
Arkansas	Cleave B. Weiss	
California	Edward C. Landis	
Colorado	Ralph P. Bozella	
Connecticut	Richard W. Anderson	
Delaware	Lyman R. Brenner	
D.C.	Theodore A. Webb	
Florida	Robert J. Proctor—Excused	Dennis R. Boland
France	Liam Kane	

Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	Andrew W. Johnson	
Idaho	Wayne D. Mitchell	
Illinois	Eugene Thompson	
Indiana	W. Darrell Hansel	
Iowa	John J. Ross—Excused	Bruce C. Feuerbach
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Robert A. Owen	
Maryland	Leroy E. Thornton	
Massachusetts	Milton K. Lashaus	
Mexico	Jerry A. King—Excused	Melvin J. Goldbert—Excused
Michigan	Darwin Krieger	
Minnesota	Raymond DeZurik	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Richard A. Heigert	
Montana	Sylvia A. M. Beals	
Nebraska	Douglas Boldt	
Nevada	Ron Gutzman	
New Hampshire	John E. Neylon	
New Jersey	William 'Billy' Mack	
New Mexico	Taurino J. Trevino	
New York	Richard R. Keiser	
North Carolina	Jerry L. Hedrick	
North Dakota	Curtis O. Twete	
Ohio	Henry S. Long	
Oklahoma	Warren D. Wilson	
Oregon	Charles E. Schmidt	
Pennsylvania	Richard A. Coccimiglio	
Philippines	Charles H. Cathey, Jr.—Excused	Herbert J. Scholten
Puerto Rico	Alberto Rodriguez	
Rhode Island	Ronald P. Levasseur—Excused	Normand G. Vadnais
South Carolina	Billy W. Bell	
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson	
Tennessee	Rollen D. Bradshaw, Sr.	
Texas	Conrad L. Roberson—Excused	James E. Prendergast
Utah	William E. Christoffersen—Excused	Terry D. Schow—Excused
Vermont	Barbara Bushaw	
Virginia	George C. Lussier, Jr.	
Washington	Michael L. Montaney	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	David L. Gough	
Wyoming	Gerald L. Jacobs	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll call, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. I declare a quorum.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: Mr. Commander, since the NEC and the alternate from Mexico are not present, the department commander is here. I move that he be seated with a voice but no vote.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: I have a motion on the floor to seat the department commander from the Department of Mexico due to the absence of the NEC and the alternate with voice and no vote. ...*Second*

Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed. Carried. Thank you.

At this time we have a special order of business, the presentation of a blue cap and a name badge to outgoing National Commander Clarence Hill. I call on Past National Commander Jake Comer from Massachusetts.

Special Order of Business

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: This is a great honor for me and a pleasure to present to you and welcome you in the Past National Commander's Club. John Geiger would be the one to be doing this, but he's home ill, and he asked me if I would be in his stead to present this to you. And as you wear this, as I know I wear mine and the other commanders. We look at this blue cap and look at that title; we think of all of the years; the years we've served; where we've gone, and where we've been; who we've met and who you will meet, and then you will know the great honor and privilege you have had this past year. And I'm going to ask your wife, Liz, to place the cap on you.

This cap and past commander's badge for yourself to wear, and the diamond for your coat. And let me say, commander, you've done a great job. *(Applause)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Thank you. I would just like to say the ring made it to my finger. (*Laughter and applause)*

Minutes of the Previous National Executive Committee Meeting

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time I call on the national adjutant for reading of the minutes.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move that the minutes be approved without being read. They will be distributed when ready.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: I have a motion on the floor to approve the minutes without being read. They will be distributed as they are finished. ...*Second*

We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed. Carried.

Disposition of Letters or Communications

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: I call on the national adjutant for any disposition of letters or communications.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: There are none, sir.

Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: I call on the chairman of the NEC Resolutions Subcommittee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: We have no resolutions, Mr. Commander

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: We're moving right along here now. At this time I call on Legislative Chairman Jimmy Koutz from the Department of Indiana, for a special report on the Legislative Council.

Report on the Legislative Council
James E. Koutz, Indiana
Legislative Chairman

National Commander Foster and members of the National Executive Committee. A little more than two months remain before the general elections. It is important for The American Legion to focus on our role in the electoral process. As we all know, we are not partisan, yet closely involved in the politics of America's democracy. Without our efforts in identifying and supporting candidates who support and defend the ideals of The American Legion our efforts in our town halls, states, and nationally would be much more difficult.

With almost all the primary elections now completed, it's time to go to work with the candidates. Host a town hall meeting and question their support for veteran-related issues. Take time to educate them on the issues and concerns of veterans. Help turn the debate to the ideals and issues of The American Legion. Above all, get involved. Most importantly, vote. Thousands of soldiers, sailors, and airmen deployed overseas may be challenged to carry out that simple right. Exercise your right.

Internally now it's time to identify possible candidates for The American Legion Legislative Council. This is one of the most important positions you may be asked to provide input. These 535 Legionnaires are grassroots that are essential to our success in Washington, D.C. Without them, we would be just another lobbying interest within the Capitol. Find us the best person who is most closely associated with a senator or congressman. Find their neighbor, their relative, their close personal friend, or even a staff member. For when the going gets tough and we need their vote, the closer this person is and related to the member, the better our success may be.

I'm sorry to tell you, commander, your testimony on September the 22nd won't be the sole reason for our success in the 112th Congress. Our staff in D.C. won't be the reason we win these issues. Our success will be based on an informed, involved grassroots effort that begins and ends with our Legislative Council. Do your part and make the best Legislative Council possible. Together, we will succeed, and our success will be a win for our nation's veterans, military, and The American Legion.

Commander, thank you for the opportunity to address this NEC.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, move to receive and file the report. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: We have a motion. Jimmy, would you please explain to the audience here how those members of the Legislative Council are selected?

CHAIRMAN KOUTZ: Within each Department, we ask that you go back and anybody that knows a member of Congress very well, maybe even be on a first name basis with them, that's the people we would like for you to select. So we can be first name basis with these congressmen and senators.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Are these forms passed out to the NEC for their recommendation on these 535 legislators?

CHAIRMAN KOUTZ: The legislative director has those forms, Tim Tetz.

DIRECTOR TETZ: Comrade Commander, members of the NEC. Those forms are passed out following the election, because those forms specifically identify the person who has won the office for which it's held. They're sent home to the departments and it's your responsibility to get them back to us, again, identifying the best person for that. If there was a Legionnaire in there who used to be the liaison to that senate seat, and they get replaced, it's not necessarily their replacement that's going to be the best person. Find the right person for the office as it is held, and you'll see those reports after the final elections in November. Thank you, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Thank you. There is a motion and a second on the floor to receive and file the report. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed. Carried.

I now call on the national adjutant for the reading of recommended appointments.

Appointments to Commissions, Committees or Subcommittees

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Members of the National Executive Committee, the national commander recommends the following appointments:

The Advisory Committee to the National Commander
To serve until the close of National Convention, 2011

Clarence E. Hill, Florida, Chairman
David K. Rehbein, Iowa, Vice Chairman
Martin Conatser, Illinois
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
Richard M. Pedro, New York
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Todd E. White, Wyoming
Ray Hendrix, Georgia

Resolutions Subcommittee

Jerry L. Hedrick, North Carolina, Chairman
David O. Warnken, Kansas, Vice Chairman
Robert J. Proctor, Florida
Robert A. Owen, Maine
Raymond DeZurik, Minnesota
Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon
William W. Kile, West Virginia

Subcommittee on Committees

Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman
Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota, Vice Chairman
Randall Coffman, Kentucky
Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana
Richard A. Heigert, Missouri
Richard A. Coccimiglio, Pennsylvania

A System Worth Saving Task Force

Michael D. Helm, Nebraska, Chairman
John W. Hickey, Indiana
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Thomas P. Mullon, Minnesota
Jeanette Rae, Nevada
R. Michael Suter, New York
Phillip L. Driskill, Oklahoma
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Don E. Mathis, Tennessee
William R. (Bob) Wallace, Washington
Todd E. White, Wyoming

Ad Hoc Committee on Veterans Benefits Administration

Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania, Chairman
John W. Hickey, Indiana
Randall Fisher, Kentucky
Julius H. Walsh, Louisiana
Robert A. Owen, Maine
John Kavanagh, New York
Terry D. Schow, Utah

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move the appointments be approved by the National Executive Committee. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: We have a motion and a second that the list of appointments read by the national adjutant be approved by the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed. Carried.

Appointment of National Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time I recommend the following appointments: National Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia; National Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana; National Judge Advocate, Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland; National Chaplain, Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin; National Historian, James Fratolillo, Massachusetts

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move the appointments by the national commander be approved by the National Executive Committee. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: We have a motion and a second that the recommended appointments that I just read be approved. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed. Carried.

At this time we would recommend the appointment of the national sergeant-at-arms, Ernest L. King, Sr.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move the appointment be approved by the National Executive Committee. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: We have a motion and a second that my appointment of the national sergeant-at-arms be approved by the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed. Carried.

Installation of Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time if the national chaplain, the national historian, and the national sergeant-at-arms would please stand up in front here.

Gentlemen, each of you will assist the National Executive Committee and others in carrying out our objectives over the next 12 months. You're entrusted with important duties, and each of you shall perform essential functions 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 Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer who was selected to serve as national chaplain. Chaplain Seehafer, to you is given the spiritual leadership of this great veterans organization. You will, I know, lend dignity and respect to your office. You should remain in close confidence with the commander and 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 the 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 James Fratolillo from Massachusetts, who was appointed to the office of national historian. Mr. Fratolillo, 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 the department 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 policies.

The final office is that of national sergeant-at-arms. I want to introduce Ernest L. King, Sr., of Alaska, who will serve in that capacity over the next year. Mr. King, you are the sentinel or tyler, 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 one shall remain a stranger in our midst, by being 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.

The three of you will please raise your right hand and repeat your name after mine. I, Jimmie Foster, do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office in The American Legion which I'm about to assume.

And I further pledge to uphold the principles outlined in the National Constitution and the Preamble of The American Legion in service to our veterans, their families, their communities, state, and nation.

You three may lower your hands. Congratulations. Then about face. *(Applause)*

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 you have approved. You have 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'll

not fail in this mission to keep The American Legion an organization of free men and women veterans that have been faithful to its principles and ideals for over 90 years.

Let's give them one more hand. *(Applause)*

National chaplain, would you please come up here and assume your position at the table. Congratulations.

I now call for the ratification of resolutions that were adopted by the 92nd National Convention, Mr. Adjutant.

Resolutions 92nd National Convention
August 31- September 2, 2010

Pursuant to Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, the following 210 resolutions, with legislative intent, were adopted at the 92nd National Convention are submitted for this Committee's consideration. If approved by the Committee, this list of resolutions will comprise The American Legion's legislative program for the first session of the 112th Congress.

Res. No.	AMERICANISM
302	Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration
303	The English Language be Declared as the Official United States Language
304	Return Patriotic holidays to Traditional Dates
305	English Language be used in Naturalization Ceremonies
306	Injured or Disabled Non-Citizen Veterans Applying for Naturalization
307	School Prayer
308	Constitutional Amendment to protect the Flag of the United States
309	Oppose Important of Foreign Manufactured American Flags
310	Conscientious Objectors Tax Diversion
311	Amend the "Temporary Protected Status" Portion of the Immigration Act of 1990
312	Support Fairness for Immigrant Spouses
313	Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance
314	The Boy Scouts of America and the Department of Defense
316	Oppose Flag Code change Conduct During Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of the Flag of During the National Anthem
317	Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits

Res. No.	CHILDREN AND YOUTH
277	Protect Children from Unrestricted Media
278	Financially Assist Families Faced by Catastrophic Illness of their Children
279	Maximize efforts to Screen Children for Sickle Cell Disease
280	Oppose all efforts to Undermine, Alter or otherwise Corrupt the Institution of Marriage
281	Oppose any attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing Penalties for the Production, Sale and Distribution of Pornographic of Obscene Materials
283	Provide Equal Treatment in Admission of Children of United States Citizens
284	Strengthen Penalties to Eliminate the Production, Sale & Distribution of materials that use Children in Sexually Explicit Scenes
285	Support Efforts aimed at Improving Child Care Services for Children
286	Support Efforts to Immunize all Children

287	Support Funding Comprehensive health Care for Children & Youth Programs
288	Support Funding for all Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs
289	Support Legislation aimed at the Prevention, Investigation and Prosecution of Child Sexual Exploitation
290	Support Legislation aimed at Reducing or Preventing Teen Pregnancy
291	Support Legislation & Efforts to Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization
292	Support Legislation to prevent Child Maltreatment
293	Support Programs and Organizations that promote Child Safety
295	Urge Congress to Appropriate Sufficient Funds for School Nutrition Program
296	Urge the President and Congress to establish "National Family Week"
297	Improving Services for Children Living in Foster Care

Res. No.	**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**
1	Direct Payment of Renewal Dues

Res. No.	**ECONOMIC**
44	Veterans Entrepreneur Training Program
45	Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program
46	Support Reinstatement of Funding for Veterans Upward Bound
48	Allow Military Retirees to Apply for Positions in Federal Law Enforcement after Age 37
50	Oppose efforts to Change the Residency Requirements for State Directors of the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)
83	Time Constraint with the Montgomery Bill
85	Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservist Returning from Deployment
194	Support full Funding and Staffing for the Veterans Employment Training Services (VETS) Programs
195	Oppose Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Services (DOL-VETS) of hiring Non-Veterans
197	Elimination of the Regional Offices of the Veterans Employment and Training Service
198	Restore Oversight of Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) Programs
215	Supports Staffing Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERS), as Required by Law
216	Support Veterans Preference in Public Employment
217	Support Reasonable Set-Asides of Federal Procurements and Contracts for Businesses Owned and Operated by Veterans
218	Reaffirm Support for Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA)
221	Support Efforts of the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Veterans Affairs
258	Surviving Spouse Mortgage Eligibility
318	Support the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Living Stipend to Match the Post 9/11 GI Bill Living Stipend
319	Support Major Enhancements for the Post 9/11 GI Bill Educational Benefits

320	Funding for homeless Veterans
321	Home Loan Guaranty Program
322	Homeless Veterans Assistance
323	Support Expanding the Department of housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Voucher Program
324	Support Increase in Reporting Fees for Educational Institutions
325	Support Licensure and Certification of Active-Duty and Selected Reserve Personnel
326	Support Major Enhancements for the Montgomery GI Bill
327	Transitional Housing Allotments for Returning Combat Veterans
328	Oppose the national Veterans' Business Development Corporation
330	Veterans Home Loans
331	Amending the Eligibility Criteria for the Transfer of the 9/11 GI Bill Educational Benefits
332	Authorize U.S. Small Business Administration to Re-Establish a direct Loan Program for Veteran Entrepreneurs
333	Support for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program Hiring more counselors and Employment Coordinators
336	Support Recognition of Military Service and Pay when Calculating Starting Federal Civilian Salaries
337	Oppose DVOP/LVER Personnel to work on Public Assistance Related Programs
338	Oppose any Weakening of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program and local Veterans Employment Representative
339	Support Tax Credit for certain Employers
340	Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops for National Guard and Reserve Members
341	Support Legislation to Amend Title 38 United States Code to Prohibit Discrimination and Acts of Reprisals by Employers against Veterans that seek Treatments for their Service-Connected Disabilities
342	Elimination for the VA home Loan Funding Fee

Res. No.	**FOREIGN RELATIONS**
61	Support for New JPAC Headquarters Facility and a Second Laboratory
72	Middle East/Gulf States Foreign Policies
73	POW/MIA Policies
75	Vietnam Human Rights
76	Support for Foreign Exchange Education Programs
77	The American Legion Global Trade Policies
78	Policy on Africa
79	The American Legion Foreign Policy Objectives
81	Central America's Democracy Promotion
207	Support for increased Personnel and Funding
225	The American Legion's Policy on the United Nations
226	The American Legion's Policy on Veterans Mail at Overseas Embassies
227	Save the Montagnards
345	Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) Funding and Support
346	The American legion's Support for World Press Freedom
347	Enhanced Funding for USAID
348	Expand Foreign Service Officer Corps

349	Interagency Policy coordination & Cooperation
350	Joint POW/MIA Accounting command Funding
352	Support Secure Borders and War against Drugs
353	The American Legion's Cuban Policy
354	Defense POW/MIA Accounting Office (DPMO) Funding
355	Social Security Survivor Benefits for Non-Resident Alien Spouses and Dependents

Res. No.	INTERNAL AFFAIRS
250	Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage
276	Change Internal Revenue Rules in Counting Sons of The American Legion Membership at the Post Level as Outline in Section (501) (19) of the US Code

Res. No.	NATIONAL SECURITY
32	Maintaining Military Air Supremacy
33	Protect Against Long Range Strike Threats
51	Support Domestic Energy Production
52	Support Research and Funding for Alternative Energy Resources
116	Conduct Hearings on Nuclear Warhead Modernization
118	Extend Stop Loss Bonus Payments
119	Buy American
120	Support Fight against Cyberspace Threats
121	Prohibit Foreign Investments in U.S. Defense Industry
124	Rebuild America's Defense Industrial Base
125	Support for Battle Monuments Commission
126	Support for Armed Forces Retirement Homes
128	Support for Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
129	Support for Financial Anti-Terrorism Law Enforcement
130	Support for Homeland Security and the War on Terror
131	Support for Financial Anti Terrorism Law Enforcement
132	Support for the Non Federal Roles of the National Guard
133	Support for the U.S. Coast Guard in Homeland Security
135	Support for Citizen
136	Codify Burial Eligibility for Arlington National Cemetery
137	Authorize and Fund Tricare for Reserve Components and Dependents
138	Support for DoD Force Health Protection Program
139	Support full Funding for the Department of Army Budget
142	Support for the Reformation of the Military Voting System
143	Support for Awarding the Purple heart for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
145	Support for Military Quality of Life Standards
146	Reference Veterans' Service Organizations at Discharge
147	Support for Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement and VA Disability Compensation
149	Support Full Funding and Resourcing for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps
151	Support for full Funding of the United States Military
152	Develop Defense against Electromagnetic Pulse Attack
170	Commission the USS American Legion
178	Support Funding for NASA Budgets
179	Support for Research and Development of Air Breathing Scramjet Powered Vehicle
180	Support for the United States Air Force

181	Support for the National Space Program
182	Support for one Manager to Preside over the U.S. Military Air and Space Programs
184	Support for Aeronautical and Space Exploration
223	Support for U.S. Blood Banks
224	Support for Domestic Control of Energy Resources
232	Employ Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
270	Support for Bugles across America to provide Live Taps for Military Honors
343	Commercial Shipbuilding for Defense
344	Support for the Jones Maritime Act and related Cabotage Law

Res. No.	**VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION**
13	State Veteran Homes' Extended Care Facilities Grant Program
16	The American Legion Policy on Pension Protection
17	Opposed Increased Co-Payments and an Enrollment Fee for Priority Group 7&8 Veterans to Receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare
18	The American Legion Policy on Tobacco Related Disabilities
19	Exempt Certain Income from Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Pension Rate Determination
20	The American Legion Policy on Agent Orange
21	Exempt Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provisions
22	Oppose Lump Sum Payments of Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Disability Compensation
23	Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Involvement in the Department of Homeland Security
24	Restore and Increase Burial Plot Allowance
26	Support Legislation to Institute Mandatory Psychological Screening for all Returning Global War on Terror, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Reserve and Guard Troops
27	Support Legislation that the Department of Veterans Affairs Include and Treat Family Members of Veterans with Illnesses and Injuries
28	The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Grant WWII Veterans same Hospital and Medical Entitlements as Previously Granted to WWI and Spanish American War Veterans
29	The American Legion Position on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Means Test
30	Amend Title 38, United State Code, to Establish a Marker for Cremation URNS Provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs
59	The American Legion Petition the Census Bureau to include Veteran Information on Future Censuses
87	Oppose Legislation Authorizing Legion-Accredited Representatives to Develop Claims
88	Clarification of "Service in the Public of Vietnam" for the Purpose of Agent Orange Presumption
90	The American Legion Policy on the Correction of Military Records
91	Exempt Purple Heart Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment
92	The American Legion Policy on Gulf War Illnesses
93	Support Presumption of Service Connection for Hepatitis C
94	Improve the Disability and Death Pension Program

95	Recognize Operations in Lebanon (1958), Grenada (1983), Panama (1989-1990) as Periods of War for Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Purposes
96	Request Congress Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs Adequate Funding for Medical and prosthetic Research
97	The American Legion Policy on Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services
98	The American Legion Policy on Department of Veterans Affairs National Life Insurance
99	Extend the Presumptive period for Service Connection for Gulf War Veterans with Undiagnosed Illnesses
100	Oppose any Reduction of Eligibility Criteria for Department of Veterans Affairs Per Diem Payments to State Veterans Homes
101	Provide Full Funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs Construction Program
102	Amend the Eligibility Requirements and Extend the Eligibility Time Period for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
103	Support Medicare Reimbursement for Department of Veterans Affairs
104	The American Legion Policy on Radiation
105	The American Legion Policy on Department of Veterans Affairs Pharmacy Benefits
106	Extend VA Protection Life Insurance to Service-Connected Veterans who are Permanently and Totally Disabled
107	Support the Automatic Waiver of Veterans Benefits Administration Debts of $250 or Less
108	All Veterans Receive ”Wartime” Benefits for Active Military Service between February 28, 1961 and August 5, 1964
109	Revision of Work-Rate Standards for Department of Veterans Affairs Adjudicators
110	Include World War II Veterans in Priority Group 6 for Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare
111	The American Legion Policy on Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing Home Capacity
112	The American Legion Policy on Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment
113	Increase the Maximum Coverage Under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance Program
114	Support Legislation to Place Mariner Medal Recipients in Priority Group 3 for Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare
156	Remove the Specific Date to Award Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Benefits to Surviving Spouses of Former Prisoners of War
157	Allow Beneficiaries to Retain $90 of their Benefits while in Medicaid-Covered Nursing Homes
158	Extend the Filing Period of an Appeal Notice to the Court of Veterans Appeals for Veterans Claims
159	The American Legion Policy on the National Cemetery Administration
160	The American Legion Policy on State Veterans Home Per Diem Reimbursement
162	Reinstate Vietnam Veterans with Agent Orange Exposure in the Department of Veterans Affairs Priority Group 6
163	Reduce the Number of Years of One-Hundred Percent Service Connection Required for Dependency

164 The American Legion Policy on Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Disability Compensation
165 Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award
166 The American Legion Policy on Assured Funding for VA Medical Care
167 Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Care
168 The American Legion Policy on Former Prisoners of War
169 Department of Veterans Affairs' Role in National Emergency Preparedness
172 GI Bill of Health
173 Support of admission to State Veterans Homes for any Parent whose Child Perished while Serving on Active Duty in the Armed Forces of the United States
174 The American Legion Policy on Opening the Federal Supply Schedule for Pharmaceuticals to Medicare and Medicaid
175 The American Legion Policy on State Veterans Home Per Diem Reimbursement
187 Emergency Medical Treatment Payments to the Department of Veterans Affairs be Extended to on-Year
188 Amend Title 38, United States Code, to Eliminate the Requirement the a Veteran had to Serve in Vietnam to be Eligible for Wartime Benefits
241 Support Department of Veterans Affairs' Vet Centers Expansion to Rural Communities
252 Exempt Income from Jury Duty for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims Purposes
262 Special Monthly Compensation for Female Veterans
300 Reorganization of Arlington National Cemetery
301 Veterans Receive Same Level of Benefits

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander. Pursuant to Rule 8B of the National Executive Committee, I move that the 210 resolutions with legislative intent adopted at the 92nd National Convention, become the legislative intent of the National Executive Committee for the 112th Congress. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion on the resolutions adopted at the 92nd National Convention? All in favor say aye. Opposed. Carried.

Confirmation of Dates For Future Meetings

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: I now call on the national adjutant for dates of annual meetings.

Fall Meetings
Commanders and Adjutants Conference, October 11-12, 2010
Commissions and Committees, October 11-12, 2010
National Executive Committee, October 13-14, 2010
Legislative Meeting concurrent with national commander's appearance before Senate/House Veterans Affairs Committees, September 20-22, 2010
Washington Conference, March 20-23, 2011 (REVISED DATES)
Spring Meetings
Commissions and Committees, May 2-3, 2011
National Executive Committee, May 4-5, 2011

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, may I address the National Adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list is a true and correct list? And I believe we have a corrected date for one of our meetings.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Yes, sir. It's a true and correct list except for the Washington Conference for 2011. It should be March 20 through 23, 2011. The dates previously confirmed were not in accordance with the contract we have.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, pursuant to the corrected date, I move they be approved without being read. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: We have a motion and a second to approve the dates without being read. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed. Carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time I would like to inform you about my homecoming. It will be on October the 9th at Wayne Post 64 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The uniform will be casual. But keep it civilized. *(Laughter)*

You have to specify. There's a difference in words as you go across the country, you know what I mean. I would be honored if you wear my blue membership shirt. That would be very casual and very professional. *(Laughter)*

Anybody have any questions? As we leave the room, the Department Team Alaska will hand you an invitation. There is an address and envelope in there for you to RSVP. Team Alaska and Wayne Post 64 would appreciate if you would pre-register as much as possible so we have enough food or we don't have too much.

Are there any introductions to be made at this time?

Introductions

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Yes, Sylvia.

NEC MEMBER BEALS (MT): Sylvia Beals, NEC from Montana. I would like to introduce our department commander, David Driver; one of our past commanders, Elmer Palmer; our alternate NEC Merv Gunderson, and District 1 Commander Michelle Harada.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Thank you. Missouri.

NEC MEMBER HEIGERT (MO): Mr. Commander, I would like to introduce my new alternate NECman, Charles Goodin; my new department commander, Lynn Dorrell; our past NECman, David Voyles; our honorary department commander, Jim Whitfield, and last but not least, Past National Commander Joe Frank.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Thank you. New Jersey.

NEC MEMBER MACK (NJ): Yes, sir. I have the privilege of introducing our new commander, Robert Looby; my alternate NEC, Daniel McCole, and yours truly, Billy Mack

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: New York.

NEC MEMBER KEISER (NY): Mr. Commander, Rich Keiser, Department of New York. I would like to introduce at this time our department adjutant, Richard Pedro. I would also like to introduce the chairman of the Public Relations Commission, Bob Morrill, and I would like to introduce for the first time, I believe, our leading candidate for national commander, Fang Wong.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Massachusetts.

NEC MEMBER LASHUS (MA): Mr. Commander I would like to introduce my alternate, Michael Cassidy; Department Commander Frank MacDonald; Department Adjutant Leslie McKittrick; the newly installed national historian, James Fratolillo, and

his wife, Diane. And our two past national commanders, John P. 'Jake' Comer, and junior past national commander from Massachusetts, Paul A. Morin. And the rest of the Massachusetts delegation in honor of James Fratolillo, please rise.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: New Hampshire.

NEC MEMBER NEYLON (NH): Mr. Commander, one of your fellow department commanders, 1999, I would like to be one of the first to congratulate you and wish you well this year. With that I would like to introduce my department adjutant from New Hampshire, David Meaney; Past Department Commander Erlon Beale. And New Hampshire looks forward to your visit next week.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Thank you. North Dakota.

NEC MEMBER TWEET (ND): I would like to introduce our new alternate Carroll Quam.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Illinois

NEC MEMBER THOMPSON (IL): I would like to introduce Eugene Thompson, NEC, Richard Groharing, department commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Georgia.

NEC MEMBER WESSINGER (GA): Alternate NEC, Charles French; Past National Commander Bob Turner; Department Commander Charlie Tucker; Charlie Knox, our department adjutant; Joe Simms, our department judge advocate.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Maryland.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Commander, I would like to introduce our newly elected national executive committeeman for Maryland, Leroy Thornton. Our newly elected alternate national executive committeeman, Dave Winpigler.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Mississippi.

NEC MEMBER GOSA (MS): I would like to introduce my alternate, Steve Sweet.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: France.

NEC MEMBER MARSHALL (FR): I would like to introduce my newly elected national executive committeeman from the Department of France.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Delaware.

NEC MEMBER BRENNER (DE): Commander, I'm Lyman Brenner, newly elected NEC, and I would like to introduce my newly elected ANEC, Larry Marcouillier.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: California.

NEC MEMBER LANDIS (CA): My department adjutant Bill Siler, III.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Wisconsin.

NEC MEMBER GOUGH (WI): Mr. Commander, I would like to introduce our newly elected department commander, Bob Batty; Department Adjutant David Kurtz, and newly elected alternate NEC, Steve Krueger, and of course our new national chaplain, Daniel Seehafer.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Iowa.

NEC MEMBER ROSS (IA): Mr. Commander it is with great pleasure that I introduce our newly elected department commander, Jerry Sebben, and Past National Commander Dave Rehbein.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Nebraska.

NEC MEMBER BOLDT (NE): Commander, Doug Boldt, NECman from Nebraska, and we have with us our alternate, Jerry Landkamer; Past Department Commander Leon Deunk; Department Adjutant Burdette Burkhart, and newly elected commander, Ron Corbett; member, Lyle Bartells, and member John Henry Pearson.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Ohio.

PAST NEC MEMBER ZULCH (OH): Commander, newly elected NEC, Hank Long; newly elected alternate, Bill Balser, also his wife Trudy, is with him, and also Dan Watrous, past historian from Ohio.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Colorado.

NEC MEMBER BOZELLA (CO): Our past department commander, Frank McCurdy. Of course, Past National Commander Tom Bock. He's here somewhere. Tom, where are you? He might have left. He might have caught a ride home.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BOCK: I don't miss roll call.

NEC MEMBER BOZELLA: And of course his wife, Elaine Bock. Sue Eaton who does a lot of membership stuff for us. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: North Carolina.

NEC MEMBER HEDRICK (NC): Mr. Commander, I would like to introduce my department adjutant, Frank Stancil, and my department historian, Larry Rozier.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Minnesota.

NEC MEMBER DEZURIK (MN): Ray DeZurik from Minnesota. I would like to introduce our alternate NEC, Marland Ronning; Magazine Commission Chairman Dennis Henkemeyer, and his wife Denise. My wife, Pat, in the back of the room. And then a gentleman who always says you save the best for last, Past National Commander Ludwig.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LUDWIG: And my wife, Harriet, is back there.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Florida.

NEC MEMBER BOLAND (FL): Commander, you know what say, how soon we forget, so I would like to introduce our past national commander from Florida, Clarence Hill.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Indiana.

NEC MEMBER HANSEL (IN): Congratulations from the Department of Indiana, commander. May I introduce our department membership chairman, Jack Cook. Let me introduce the alternate NEC, Paul Steward, and we're really proud to present our candidate for national commander, Jimmy Koutz.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Maine.

NEC MEMBER OWEN (ME): Congratulations on your election, Jimmie. I know you're going to do a great job as you always have. These two people were ordered to be here by Past National Commander Tony Jordan. I don't know if they're here or not. Department Adjutant Lloyd Woods and immediate Past Department Commander Andy Olson. And of course, Anthony Jordan, our past national commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Texas.

ALTERNATE NEC MEMBER PRENDERGAST (TX): Jim Prendergast, alternate NEC from Texas. I would like to introduce Past National Commander John Brieden and his wonderful wife. I also would like to introduce our new department commander, Ken Mueller; our past NECman, Ron Cherry; and our past national vice commander, John Morris. And our adjutant, Bill West.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Puerto Rico.

NEC MEMBER RODRIGUEZ (PR): I would like to introduce Adjutant Michael Quiles, our department commander, Carlos Orria-Medina. And my wife, Maria.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Idaho.

NEC MEMBER MITCHELL (ID): Our department commander, Bill Stevens; our past department commander, Katrina Bentley; our adjutant, Rick Helsey; my alternate NEC, Tom Mattice, my service officer, Milt Smith, and our finance officer, Mike Thurlow.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Virginia.

NEC MEMBER LUSSIER (VA): Mr. Commander, here enjoying your first meeting along with myself is our alternate NEC, Tom Saunders; Past National Commander Butch Miller, and the pride of Virginia, National Adjutant Dan Wheeler.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time I would like to introduce you to my aide. Many of you know him; saw him over the years as a national executive

committeeman from Alaska. He didn't re-run so he could take up the position as the national commander's aide. From Ketchikan, Alaska, Jim Van Horn.

I want to introduce you to the national executive committeeman, a new one. He was my campaign manager for the last two years without him I wouldn't be here, Jim Pisa.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Do you want to introduce the rest of your officers?

NEC MEMBER PISA (AK): From Alaska we have alternate NEC, Harry Pawson; Department Commander Bill Jacobi; and of course National Commander Jimmie Foster.

Announcements

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: I call on the national adjutant for announcements.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, I know that Bill Christoffersen has many friends in this room and throughout the Legion, and it's my sad duty to report that his 16 year old granddaughter was in a horrible automobile accident several days ago in which two young women were killed, and she's reported to be in critical condition at this time, and I know he would appreciate your thoughts and prayers and communications with him.

All newly appointed and elected national officers, that is the five vice commanders, chaplain, sergeant-at-arms, historian, and aide, need to remain in the NEC at the adjournment for photographs which will appear in *The American Legion Magazine* and also to be used elsewhere.

The national commander and the national vice commanders and the national commander's aide, at the conclusion of the NEC Meeting and at the conclusion of the photographs, should proceed as a group to the Commander's Briefing, which will be in the Hilton Hotel, Juneau Room on the fifth floor.

Would all the NECmen please turn in your request for various liaison committees to the front table, and just put them in this stack. *(Indicating)*

Mr. Commander that completes the announcements.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Actually I have one announcement. There will be a reception hosted be the Department of Alaska starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 8:00. And it will be in the Hilton Hotel in the Crystal Ballroom, and I think it's on the fifth floor. I've been to so many caucuses. Fifth Floor, Crystal Ballroom. Fifth Floor, 6:00 to 8:00 tonight. Everybody is welcome.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Comrade Commander, before we adjourn and before the reverend gives the prayer, I want you to be aware of two individuals that come down sick here at this Convention. We want to certainly keep them in our prayers. One that was taken out the Convention Hall was Bob Miller of Pennsylvania, and the other one I just heard about, which saddens me, he's in the hospital, St. Mary's here in Wisconsin, that's Father Fortenberry of Missouri, our ANAVICUS Chaplain. So keep them in your prayers, and possibly a moment of silence at the time of prayer.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Any unfinished business or any technical motions?

Technical Motion

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, before I make this technical motion, I would like to tell you that the gentleman that spoke to us this afternoon, Mr. George Clark of the Montagnards, he's a member of the Department of North Carolina officially this afternoon.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You heard the motion on the floor. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed. Carried.

At this time, if you would please rise. I'll call on National Chaplain Seehafer for the benediction.

Benediction
Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin
National Chaplain

Uncover, and we pray. Dear Lord, we certainly come before You again this day, and we thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon, and continue to bestow upon this great organization as we reach out to all veterans. Again, Lord, we do ask that You watch over Bill's granddaughter, also Bob Miller, and Father Fortenberry. Again, Lord, we just ask for Your healing hand to be upon them, and again that quick ability again of help.

We just ask now Lord that You would watch over us as we depart, but until we meet again, may we continue to serve again for You and this country. In Your lifesaving name once again, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Recover. Salute to the Colors. Hand-salute.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: I now declare the meeting of the 92nd National Convention NEC, adjourned.

... At 2:20 p.m., the Post-National Executive Committee of The American legion, adjourned.

Abbreviations

ANAVICUS	Army, Navy, & Air Force Veterans in Canada - United States unit
ANEC	Assistant National Executive Committeeman
ASVET	Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training
ATF	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocates
CHAMPVA	Civilian Health and Medical Programs of the Veterans Administration
COO	Chief Operating Officer
DEA	Drug Enforcement Agency
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DMS	Direct Membership Solicitation
DoJ	Department of Justice
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
DVOP	Disabled Veterans Outreach Program
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FY	Fiscal Year
GSA	General Service Administration
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IED	improvised explosive device
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
IT	Information Technology
LVER	Local Veterans Employment Representative
MFS	Marfan Syndrome

OEF/OIF	Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom
OJJDP	Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
SBA	Small Business Administration
TAL	The American Legion
USAA	United Services Automobile Association
UVC	United Veterans Committee
VAMC	Veterans Affairs Medical Centers
VFW	Veterans of Foreign Wars
VSO	Veterans Service Organization

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