PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

May 5-6, 2010

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PROCEEDINGS

Of The

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

... At 9:00 a.m., May 5, 2010, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Clarence E. Hill, and the following proceedings were had:

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: The National Executive Committee will come to order. Hand-salute.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I call on the national chaplain for the invocation. Uncover.

Invocation
John L. Beaver, Alabama
National Chaplain

Let us pray. Dear gracious Father, we come before You today. We're just so thankful for Your mercy and grace. Lord, we thank You for Your unfailing love.

Lord, as we go about this meeting today, we ask for Your guidance and Your direction for each and every decision that we will make. Lord, may we use Your wisdom and Your guidance to all this.

Lord, we thank You for our men and women serving overseas. Protect them and guide them and direct them to bring them home safely to their loved ones. Those that are wounded, those that are in the hospital, give them healing in mind and spirit and body.

Lord, be with those suffering from illnesses in the Legion. Lord, be with those who are facing surgery. We ask You to guide and direct the doctors providing healing to each and every one. We just thank You for this beloved nation, and ask for Your guidance and direction over it, and we ask this in Your precious and Holy name. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance
And Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Call on the national adjutant for the roll.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Clarence E. Hill, Florida

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Chaplain
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
Joe L. Matthews, Texas—Excused
Michael J. Kogutek, New York--Excused
Keith Kreul, Wisconsin
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. DeFrancesco, Pennsylvania—Excused
Bruce Thiesen, California
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Idaho—Excused
Ray G. Smith, North Carolina
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
John A. Brieden, III, Texas—Excused
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 Committeemen

Department	Committeemen	Alternate
Alabama	F. Wayne Turner	
Alaska	James L. Van Horn	
Arizona	Deodoro M. 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	
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Robert A. Owen	
Maryland	John F. Milburn	

Massachusetts	Milton K. Lashus	
Mexico	Arthur Herbruger	
Michigan	Darwin Krieger	
Minnesota	Raymond DeZurik	
Mississippi	Charles E. Langley	
Missouri	Richard A. Heigert	
Montana	Sylvia A. M. Beals	
Nebraska	Douglas L. Boldt	
Nevada	Salvatore Ruvolo—Excused	Jack L. Ford
New Hampshire	John E. Neylon	
New Jersey	William 'Billy' Mack	
New Mexico	Taurino J. Trevino—Excused	Prospero J. Sanchez
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		
Puerto Rico	Alberto Rodriguez	
Rhode Island	Ronald P. Levasseur	
South Carolina	Billy W. Bell	
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson	
Tennessee	Perry D. Roberts	
Texas	Conrad L. Roberson	
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, Mr. Adjutant. We have a quorum. I call on the adjutant for the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

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

... At this time National Vice Commander Avis assumed the Chair.

Opening Remarks
Clarence E. Hill, Florida
National Commander

Good morning. National officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC and all of our guests.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported in its headline: "The American Legion, once civic and social power, is slowly fading away." The article goes on to say, "The old members are dying off and young ones aren't interested. Across the USA it is much the same. The American Legion once a hub around which revolved so much of community, social and civic activity, is slowly ebbing in importance. There also is an indefinable but strong sensation among many veterans and among the Legion's critics, that the organization simply is an anachronism, an echo from the past left far behind. There are many signs that it has lost much of its vigor."

The article quotes an American Legion lobbyist, saying "Some people would like us to raise hell all over the place, but those days are gone. We can't go pound a politician's desk anymore and threaten to defeat him if he doesn't go along with us."

And one of my favorite parts of the article is the quote from the VFW executive director who predicts, "It won't be many years before we pass the Legion."

Now, normally I would write a point by point rebuttal to such an erroneous piece, but since it was published on May 19, 1971, the writer responsible is possibly dead or retired. Moreover, through its actions, I think The American Legion has already done a fine job of rebutting the article's reports of our demise. I checked our membership in 1971, and we were at about 2.7 million, just over that, and we're at 2.5 today.

I don't think President Obama, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the VA or the congressional leadership thought The American Legion was irrelevant when they personally assured me and my predecessor Dave Rehbein that nothing in the national health care reform legislation will change DoD and VA health care eligibility or practices. *(Applause)*

While the entire issue of health care reform is extremely controversial and contentious, The American Legion has taken a position on one aspect only, maintaining the autonomy of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense's health care delivery systems. We made our position known and our national leaders have listened.

We certainly didn't seem to lack any vigor when we won Pepsi's Refresh Everything Project a few months ago, taking first place out of 729 charities, so Operation Comfort Warriors could win a $250,000 grant. That drive not only united The American Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Riders for a common, short-term goal, but it demonstrated the power of our social media capabilities, as vote daily reminders were posted and tweeted by Legion family members everywhere on Facebook, Twitter, and on dozens of websites.

And we're at it again. This month The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund is competing for a $250,000 Pepsi grant. Just visit www.legion.org to vote. Just like last time, you can vote daily. You can vote daily for every email address that you have, and tell all your friends to do the same. I know that I can count on seeing this in department newspapers and on department websites. It's the least we can do for those who lost a parent while serving our nation. A vote for the Legacy Fund is a vote for the future of those children. And as of yesterday, we were 107th. This morning we were 66th. So, we need you all to be out there getting your friends and voting daily.

As important as protecting America is, we must remember those who defended us when they return. A report from the Department of Labor found that unemployment rate for young veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars is 21.1 percent. This is a national

disgrace. President Obama promised The American Legion that he would appoint a commission to look at veterans' unemployment. We would like to be a part of that commission, and we hope to the White House acts immediately on this.

The American Legion is trying to improve the economic conditions for veterans by sponsoring job fairs and small business workshops around the country. We know that unemployment is a precursor to homelessness, another problem that affects veterans disproportionally. We cannot solve these problems alone. Employers must realize that hiring veterans is not only the right thing to do, but it's smart business. These men and women are disciplined, highly trained, and proven workers who know the meaning of sacrifice. Moreover, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki has promised to end homelessness among veterans. It's a huge endeavor, but so was writing and passing the GI Bill. The American Legion will do all we can to help the secretary make this promise become a reality.

We also need to ensure that America remembers its service disabled veterans who own small businesses. The American Legion testified before Congress last week that the federal government is failing to live up to its legal obligations to award at least three percent of its federal contracting dollars to these businesses. It is estimated that this failure has cost these veterans $10 billion in missed business opportunities. The American Legion is calling on President Obama to re-issue Executive Order 13-360, which would increase federal contracting and subcontracting opportunities for veterans. We must also hold the various federal government agencies accountable for their records in awarding contracts to veterans.

We also call on Congress to finally end the disabled veterans tax, also known as concurrent receipt. Although some progress has been made over the last several years, there are still many retirees with VA service connected disabilities who have their military retiree pay offset, dollar for dollar, by the amount of their VA disability compensation. While there are several bills in Congress which would allow more disabled veterans to be eligible to receive both retirement and disability without the offset, HR-4525 would expand the eligibility for concurrent receipt to include all members of the uniformed services who are retired under Chapter 61 for disability, regardless of their rating percentage. Moreover, President Obama submitted to Congress a budget request for fiscal year 2011 that specifically addresses the disabled veterans tax, and frees more service connected retirees from paying the offsets. The American Legion will continue to fight for the full repeal of the disabled veterans tax.

You've heard me say this before, but membership truly is the hardest easy job we have to do. It must be somewhat hard, because many of our departments are not meeting their membership goals. It is easy to talk veterans into joining The American Legion once they find out what we are about, and we just ask them.

There is no doubt that personal face to face contact is still the most effective method of recruiting that exists for The American Legion, but in today's fast pace world, young people rely on technology in ways we couldn't have even imagined just five years ago. Take advantage of our new website that includes the latest news and videos about The American Legion. Direct members and potential members to our Burn Pit blog site, our Facebook page, our Twitter site and other social networking sites. We are truly living in the information age, and we have never had so many methods of educating people about The American Legion. We need a stronger presence at all levels: The state, the district, the post, and the individual. If we regularly post our activities at these various levels and have as many of our individual members copy and paste them and put them out with their picture on them, we're reaching networks instead of individuals.

While we have had some great recent victories, particularly with the passing of the advance funding for VA, the increased budgets for VA health care, and a greatly improved GI Bill for today's veterans and their families, there is still much work to do.

Veterans are still unable to use Medicare at the VA. This is truly an injustice since most veterans have paid Medicare payroll taxes throughout their working careers. They should be able to use their Medicare benefits in the same health care delivery system that was built specifically for them.

The Obama administration and Congress will reportedly be taking up the issue of immigration reform in the coming months. It is important that they remember that America is a nation of laws, and illegal aliens have broken the law. The American Legion, through many of our resolutions, has made it clear that we oppose illegal immigration and any attempts to grant illegal immigrants amnesty.

We are also clear on where we stand on protecting the Flag. It has been 21 years since the Supreme Court ruled that flag desecration is free speech, and we call on Congress to finally pass the Flag Protection Amendment, and give Old Glory the respect that she deserves.

The Supreme Court recently gave us a solid turning the tide, but not yet complete victory in the battle to save the Mojave Desert Cross. The court basically told the lower court to reconsider its faulty reasoning that the First Amendment requires all religious symbols to be eradicated from the public ground. While the cross still remains covered, most legal experts are predicting that our side will ultimately prevail and the cross will remain. This will be a victory not just for common sense and veterans, but for all people of faith.

One of the greatest aspects about being national commander is getting to meet, or be exposed to the wide range of people that one would expect to encounter while serving as the head of the largest veterans organization. One such man is Gunnery Sergeant Nick Popaditch. The gunny received some temporary fame when an AP photographer captured an image of the cigar chomping Marine on top of his tank in front of the hated Saddam statue in 2003. He volunteered to redeploy to Iraq, and a year later lost one eye and 90 percent of his vision in the other eye when he was partially struck by an RPG while manning a .50 caliber machine gun on his tank in Fallujah.

Today, Gunny Popaditch, who earned the Silver Star, is a motivational speaker and author of *Once a Marine*, which I've read. After returning from Iraq, the Marine known as 'Gunny Pop' said, "My friends and my Marines are still there, still fighting. Any Marine in their right mind would want to be right there with them. All I've really lost is about 10 degrees of peripheral vision, and I'll be okay without that. I'm ready to be with my Marines again." He's a civilian now and running for Congress in California's 51st District.

Recently in Colorado I also had the privilege of meeting Latoya Lucas who was also hit by a rocket propelled grenade while serving in Iraq. She was taken to Walter Reed for several months of surgeries and recoveries. She wrote a book titled *The Immeasurable Spirit*, which I've also read, and today organizes wounded warrior welcome socials and is a motivational speaker. She told a reporter, "As a wounded warrior myself, I couldn't help but think about how wonderful it would be to continue to serve our combat wounded soldiers in a different capacity."

Ladies and gentlemen, the Nick Popaditches and Latoya Lucases of this world are why The American Legion exists. If they can continue to serve, so can we. We must be there for our heroes and their families no matter what the *Wall Street Journal* said 39 years ago or what it says today, we aren't going away. God bless you all, and God bless America. Thank you. *(Standing applause)*

... At this time National Commander Hill resumed the Chair.

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

Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session for the last two days going through resolutions. We have 39 resolutions that will be presented from the commissions and committees who will make reports. Any resolution from that commission will follow that report. Any other resolutions that have been disposed of by administrative action or held for further study will be reported as an addendum.

Mr. Commander, I ask that you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

... At this time the national commander asked the National Executive Committee to uncover, and they stood in silence for the reading of the following memorial resolutions.

Memorial Resolutions
Margaret M. Malone, New Jersey

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Margaret M. Malone, Department Vice Commander 1977 to 1978; Department Commander 1981 to 1982; National Vice Commander, 1982 to 1983.

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

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled on this the 5th Day of May in the year of our Lord, 2010, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Margaret M. Malone, that we commend to all men her works and to God her spirit; and be it further

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

Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of: Brian B. Barron, Sr. (Arizona); Richard J. Kepler (Arizona); Bob Legan (Arkansas); Leo P. Burke (California); Donald E. White, Jr. (Delaware); Wendell P. Dore (District of Columbia); Johnson E. Davis (Florida); Harold F. Arnold (Georgia); Harold B. Atkinson (Idaho); Daniel H. Duffy (Idaho); Sidney E. Smith (Idaho); Winford W. Lomon (Idaho); John H. Fugeman (Kentucky); Bill A. Metcalf (Kentucky); Richard Kryza (Michigan); Marvin P. Gerdesmeier (Minnesota); William T. Mealey (Minnesota); Richard H. Clements (Mississippi); Thomas J. Kirk (Mississippi); Grover C. Schmidt, Jr. (Montana); Robert Hamilton (New Mexico); William J. Bandera (New York); Roy Y. Gomez (New York); James L. Howell (New York); Joseph V. Mahoney (New York); John R. McNamara (New York); Sebastian T. Roll (North Dakota); Robert L. Rea (Oklahoma); Joseph F. Chase (Pennsylvania); Louis E. Nalgic (Pennsylvania); William R. Neitz (Pennsylvania); Jesse L. Foster (Philippines); Robert E. 'Jack' David(South Carolina); Charles E. Sonntag, Jr. (Texas); Roger M. Messier (Virginia); Joseph Feldman (Washington).

There's a bridge that lies between
The earthly world we know so well.
And a peaceful, perfect dwelling place
Of which these scriptures tell.

There our loved ones lie forever
And what comfort it will mean
To know our thoughts and prayers have built
The bridge that lies between.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Thank you. God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Cover.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I would like to bring a special resolution to the floor.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Permission granted.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: This resolution is not in your packets, so don't start looking for the resolution. It's an important resolution that I would like to read to you for your consideration.

Resolution No. 8-14:

WHEREAS, The American Legion is bound together by our passions, our principles, and our devotion to mutual helpfulness; and

WHEREAS, We sympathize and console one another in times of sickness, sorrow and loss; and

WHEREAS, We celebrate the good fortune that comes into the lives of our comrades; and

WHEREAS, There is one among us who has touched our lives in profound ways, sometimes with rising voice and passion, and other times with heartfelt warmth and friendship, but always with a good heart and honorable intentions; and

WHEREAS, This person is a leader, a friend, and a deeply respected Legionnaire who is the epitome of service to God and Country; and

WHEREAS, We would be remiss and ungrateful if we did not wish the sun to be at his back, the morning mist to cool his face, and the road to rise to meet him, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2010, That we do honor our friend, Past National Commander Jake Comer, by this resolution, and we do wish him and his fiancée Past National President Elsie Bailey many years of wedded bliss and happiness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this National Executive Committee does affirm our pride and respect for Jake Comer and Elsie Bailey, and does wish them great happiness, good health, and the blessings of the Lord all the days of their lives.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, he was my national commander, and it's with great pride that I move the adoption of this resolution. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed. Motion carries. (*Standing applause*)

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I call on National Historian James Higuera for his report.

Report: National Historian
James T. Higuera, California

Commander Hill, past national commanders, national officers and members of the National Executive Committee, friends, and guests, good morning each and everyone.

I am once again overwhelmed to stand in the glow of such a terrific assembly of talent, knowledge, experience and dedication to our American Legion, especially after attending our tribute to Past National Commander Mr. John Geiger, what a gentleman, and inspiration to all of us. Mr. Geiger, I thank you for your service to America and The American Legion.

I begin by expressing what an honor it is to serve our national organization, and especially in attempting to keep up with Commander Hill's activities and travels over the past eight months. You sir, have blazed a trail through the Internet, blogged, tweeted, re-tweeted, Facebooked, texted, dove into the Burn Pit and tweaked the science of the electronic age to new heights, and made us all more aware of this vital tool in communication.

Aside from this, you have traveled abroad, and visited almost the entire continental United States. Commander Hill, I am most assured that once your tour as our national commander is over, you will have many fond memories. I once again thank you for this opportunity of a lifetime to serve with you and The American Legion.

Since assuming the office of national historian, we made our initial report to this NEC at our fall meeting, announced the winners of our annual history book contest, and met with those department historians attending our national workshop.

In addition to this we had the pleasure of meeting with our librarian and curator Mr. Howard Trace, and his very capable office staff. They are all to be commended for their sterling efforts.

Which bring us to that terrific article in our national magazine, which showcased our museum and its historical items that are now on display. Comrades, we have a treasure chest here that's just waiting for you and members of our American Legion to appreciate. We can only suggest that you pass the word along, if you're not personally here, a visual tour is available through the Internet. Please, check it out.

Since October 2009, we have had the opportunity of attending many gatherings of my home state California, the traditional post, district, and area caucuses. I'd like to pause here and take this opportunity to introduce to you, who just happens to be here, he is the commander of the Noisy 19th District, Area 4 California, and a member of the National Convention Commission, my district commander, my friend Mr. Art Castro.

For Veterans Day 2009, we delivered the keynote address in the All-American City of Carson, California, and I thank Mr. Robert Mitchell, vice chairman of the National Americanism Council for that invitation. Mr. Mitchell also serves on the Veterans Administration Commission for the city of Carson.

Our Christmas gift to California came in the form of a visit by Commander Hill and his aide Larry White, followed by an additional visit in early 2010 to the Northern part of California. At one of those meetings, held in Los Angeles, at Jackie Robinson Post 252, Commander Hill was presented with an honorary Los Angeles County Sheriff's star plaque, followed by a presentation of a Los Angeles Police Commanders Badge the following day at Palisades Post 283. We can only say here, we are kind of glad, letters from the mayor of Los Angeles and county supervisors have not arrived recalling those badges. In any case, we hope you and Larry enjoyed our hospitality, and welcome you back any time.

A few months back we invaded Washington, D.C. Informative lectures were presented, with speakers from the State Department and Veterans Affairs, and members of Congress and House of Representatives. We had the opportunity to meet with the House Chairman of Rules, Congressman David Dreier of my home district in California. I can report to you, that he, too, is in tune that this health bill would be devastating to our veterans community, and assures us that changes are in the making.

Our visit culminated with Commander Hill's visit to the oval office, and a very eventful and positive meeting with President Obama.

At this point in time we are in the process of completing plans for our annual historians luncheon to be held during our National Convention in Milwaukee, A guest speaker will be featured, with a very informative talk, and we urge those of you who can to join with us.

In closing, we take time to once again thank you for your service to American and The American Legion, each and every one of you collectively and individually are the fabric which holds our organization above all others, You, the veteran, by your service and strong commitment to the four pillars, have added one full layer of American bedrock to veterans, youth, defense and Americanism, an accomplishment we are all proud of.

Finally, I ask that you remember, "The future can only be judged by the past, Be mindful the lamp of recorded experience may do much in guiding the footsteps of those who follow, and ever remember that without the recorded history of this organization, its policies will be a blank to the ones who come after we are gone."

Thank you, and God bless you one and all. God bless our troops, our commander, and may God continue to bless The American Legion. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Move the report be received and filed. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Motion and a second to receive and file the report, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed. Motion carries.

At this time the national president of The American Legion Auxiliary, Rita Navarreté, is out representing The American Legion Auxiliary and doing the good work of the organization, and so I call upon the national sergeant-at-arms to escort Mary 'Dubbie' Buckler, the national secretary of The American Legion Auxiliary. *(Standing applause)*

... At this time National Vice Commander Browning assumed the Chair.

American Legion Auxiliary
Mary 'Dubbie' Buckler, National Secretary

Well, thank you everyone, and on behalf of our national president, Rita Navarreté, I'm very pleased to be here to represent The American Legion Auxiliary, and represent our very wonderful, very friendly, very dynamic president. She is somewhere in the friendly skies on her way to Washington. So, I will tell you that were she here, she would be talking an awful lot about family and about youth.

I want to take a moment of personal privilege to say that the skies are indeed friendly because of you, and I want to thank you for that. I am a member of The American Legion Auxiliary. I have many ways that I could be a member: My father was a major in World War II in the Army Air Corps, and my son, a recent veteran of the War on Terror and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and this Saturday - I'm going to take another personal privilege – who will be graduating from Indiana University, thanks to the GI Bill and thanks to all of you who have worked on that over the years. My thanks to you. You're supposed to applaud that one. *(Applause and laughter)* You're applauding yourselves.

And my thanks to you because the skies wouldn't be friendly for Rita to make her travels and for you to all make your travels were it not for the work, the service that you have given our country. And we get so mired in our business sometimes that we just forget to stop and pause and think about that. I don't stop without a day going by, not thinking about that. I miss my father. I love my son. I love everything that you do. I love our armed services, and we just have to sometimes stop amidst our business and remind ourselves as to why we even exist. Why does The American Legion Auxiliary exist? It exists because of you. I know that our upcoming leadership knows that, and we want to do everything we can to make sure that we have a strong Legion Family.

And we are working hard to make sure that we are grounded and getting back to basics. It's the time indeed to do that, to get back to basics, and understand who we are and why we are. We're 90 years old, or 90 years young, depending on how you like to

look at it. Look at where we've come in these 90 years. Now more than ever we need to realize that The American Legion Family exists because of your service, the Auxiliary exists because of your service. I couldn't be a member of the Auxiliary without you, and I am forever grateful for your service as is the Auxiliary and we want you to know that, in spite of what some of you might think. We think very highly of this family, and we believe very strongly in the family.

I've been here now just a little over a year. It's been a long year. And I want to make some thank you's. I want to thank the commander, because if Rita were here, she would talk about what a rock star he is. So, 'Rock Star Hill,' you rock.

I want to thank some of my counterparts behind me. It's hard to turn around and thank them without turning my back on you, but I will thank them back there. My counterpart, Dan Wheeler, who has never hung up on me yet. I appreciate that. And I would be remiss if I didn't say a thank you to the judge advocate, Counsel General Phil Onderdonk. I understand that prior to my coming on board he didn't have a great deal of time to spend with the Auxiliary. I have changed that. It's a pleasure having you on the speed dial, Phil.

Now, I do have a little presentation to make, if I might. In fact, I have I think four. I'm serious. I'm all about comedy sometimes. We're very serious about how firmly The American Legion Auxiliary is about reinforcing the strength of the Legion Family, and understanding we are a part of The American Legion Family.

I understand, if you're looking at this strictly from a marketing standpoint as it relates to membership, the brand is The American Legion. I get it. The American Legion Auxiliary gets it. I hope some of you have looked at the magazine, The American Legion Auxiliary's magazine. Have any of you looked at it? It looks kind of like this. Has anybody seen one of these? Okay. Thanks. I hope you notice a few things that are reinforcing what I've just said. We have a Legion Family news section in here now, and everything we're doing is about promoting what we are as an American Legion Family. So, if you haven't had time lately to look at it, look it over. I think you would agree there are some changes that we hope that you find very enlightening, inspiring, and reinforcing of who we are as a Legion Family.

Now, I know you've got lots of things to do today, but I would like to do four things. My honorable, wonderful commander, The American Legion Auxiliary would like to present a check for $10,000 to the Children and Youth Fund of The American Legion.
The American Legion Auxiliary is proud to present a $10,000 check to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Fund of The American Legion. (*Applause*)

I'm told that's what these amounts are. If you open them up and find different, then let me know.

I am proud to present a check for $10,000 to the Citizens Flag Alliance. And I am proud to present a check for $10,000 to the Child Welfare Foundation. (*Applause*)

Considering that we are operating with a budget shortfall, I will tell you that those checks were written with all the heart and all the respect that goes behind it, because it would have been easier to say we just can't do it this year, but we did because it's the right thing to do.

Because again, I will close on these remarks, we are part of The American Legion Family. We are here because of your work, your service, and we know it and we respect it and we honor it every day. It's all about celebrating 90 years, and if Rita were here she would wrap up by saying, I've heard so many wonderful stories, in the interest of time I won't tell you all of her wonderful stories right now. But she would tell you, I've heard so many wonderful stories about members out there doing God's work. We get focused on the business of the organization. God's work is what the organization is all about. And she is delighted to be reconnecting, which is her theme, 'Reconnecting With Our Heritage,' and energizing our membership to get back to doing what it's all about.

There are two reasons why a person belongs to an organization: either because what we do is so personally meaningful that we want to repeat that experience. It brings personal value to us. Or, we are so proud of what we see an organization doing, that we want our name associated with it. It gets back to doing one of those two things so that we grow our membership.

So our heartfelt thanks to all of you and it was a pleasure to be here and represent our great national president, Rita Navarrete. Thank you very much. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I would just say a couple of things. Thank you for these four checks. That is wonderful. I would like to say what a lot of you who have been married for a long time have said, even though it's been 91 years we still need direction because we don't get it right; you have to tell us when to clap and when to do things. (*Laughter*) But I've had the pleasure to be with Madam President a number of times on department visitations. She's very energetic and bubbly and enthusiastic about all that she does and carries that theme 'Service Not Self,' and represents The American Legion Auxiliary in just a fantastic way. So we're having a great national president this year and I couldn't thank you more.(*Standing applause*)

... National Commander Hill resumes the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Okay. Now we have Pepsi here, so before our next presentation, we'll show a couple of videos about how the money from Operation Comfort Warriors' Pepsi grant was recently spent at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

... At this time the National Executive Committee viewed two videos. (Applause)

... At this time National Vice Commander Morris assumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I would like to read a letter that The American Legion received from the Warrior Transition Battalion regarding some athletic equipment that The American Legion purchased.

"To many it may seem that the volleyball and badminton equipment that you purchased is that, equipment. But let me you tell what you have really supplied to the servicemembers in transition at Fort Gordon. You have supplied an opportunity for a wounded warrior to belong to a team again. You have supplied another way to get through the painful exercises that the soldier needs to do to get the range of motion back into an injured shoulder besides just doing his or her rehab exercises. You have supplied a smile that can only come from getting the ball over the net the first time, and making a point for your team.

"To others, this is just equipment. But the equipment you have purchased is modified and designed for a specific purpose. You see the nets are regular nets, but we will modify them so that they are attached to poles that only sit three feet off the ground. The game will be played on the floor so that we can accommodate lower extremity injuries. Servicemembers will sit on the floor and will use their arms and their legs to move around floor to get at the ball.

"For those with back injuries, they can't get on the floor, we will modify it so that they can play from a special sports wheelchair. The balls look like regular volleyballs but they are lightweight so that the game can be slowed down for soldiers with traumatic brain injuries or vision or limits in motion, so that they have a chance to react and return the ball.

"Yes, to some it will look like just regular everyday sports equipment, but for us at Fort Gordon, it is smiles, a fun way to exercise, and most of all an opportunity for the servicemember to go home, or call home and say to their families whomever they may be, 'You know what I did today? I did something that matters.'

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Warrior Transition Battalion, Fort Gordon, Georgia."

For the purposes of this presentation, I call on our next guest, Miss Stephanie Lloyd, the Marketing Manager of Pepsi Beverage Company, Indianapolis, and after Miss Lloyd finishes, I ask that she stand by for a brief presentation that we have for her.

Stephanie Lloyd
Marketing Manager, Pepsi Beverages Company, Indianapolis

Thank you, and thank you for the few minutes this morning with you. I would like to begin by thanking The American Legion for all the efforts of your organization in providing these comfort items to our wounded warriors. We at Pepsi truly appreciate everything that you are doing for them.

On behalf of Pepsi Beverages Company, I'm pleased to be here to present the Pepsi Refresh Grant certificate to The American Legion this morning.

It is in the spirit of Pepsi Refresh Project you already do have some of the cash in your bank account and are obviously putting it to good use, but we would like to present this certificate to you.

The certificate reads: *Could a soda really change the world? With your help it will. The ideas were gathered, the people voted, and your idea was chosen to refresh the world. We at Pepsi are excited to provide Operation Comfort Warriors with a Pepsi Refresh grant of $250,000. Through the help of organizations like yours, every Pepsi will refresh the world.*

Thank you so much for everything you are doing. Thank you for participating in the Pepsi Refresh Project, and best of luck on your newest endeavor in trying to receive another Pepsi Refresh grant for your Legacy Scholarship Fund. (*Applause*)

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Stephanie, on behalf of the Army at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia, I would like to present you with this plaque from them to you. *Presented to the Pepsi Corporation for your dedication and commitment to the well-being of our wounded warriors and their families. Fort Gordon, Georgia. (Applause)*

... At this time National Commander Hill resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Carrying on with reports, I call on Joe Caouette for the Americanism Commission.

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

Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee. Once again I find myself privileged to stand before you to report on the actions of your National Americanism Commission. Copies of our report have been distributed for your review, so I will not read it to you. There are, however, some items that I would like to bring to your attention.

Let me begin by congratulating some of our new youth champions. Three high school orators vied for top national scholarship honors before judges in Indianapolis last month. The National Americanism Commission is pleased to extend congratulations to Victoria Black of Iva, South Carolina. She is this year's National Oratorical Champion. Victoria took home an $18,000 scholarship and is invited to join the Youth Champion Delegation at the National Convention in Milwaukee. Second-place National Oratorical honors and a $16,000 scholarship was awarded to Elizabeth Blessing of Auburn, Alabama. And third-place honors was awarded to Brooke Conner of Bridport, Vermont, which includes a $14,000 scholarship.

Congratulations to Joe Phillips of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, who was selected to receive The American Legion's 2010 Eagle Scout of the Year award. Joe receives a $10,000 scholarship and an invitation to the National Convention this summer. Eagle Scout runners-up and recipients of $2,500 scholarships are: Michael Smith of Alpharetta, Georgia; Justin Knoll of LaPorte, Indiana; and Robert Rasmussen of Hutchinson, Minnesota. We look forward to congratulating those future youth champions who will emerge at their respective programs this summer.

In 2008 your National Americanism Commission was tasked with conducting a thorough examination of American Legion Baseball and providing recommendations on enhancing the overall program. While the baseball program is quite sound at its core, recommendations to help ensure continued growth, accessibility, and affordability of the program for participants and spectators was the goal.

Several recommendations were made and subsequently adopted by resolution at the 2009 Spring Meetings, among which included designating one permanent site as the host of The American Legion Baseball World Series. Throughout the remainder of 2009 and during January of 2010, open bids were received from American Legion posts and communities that were interested in becoming the permanent host city and home of The American Legion Baseball World Series. All bids that were received underwent an initial evaluation using objective, weighted assessment criteria.

A few months ago, National Commander Hill appointed an American Legion Baseball World Series Site Inspection Committee for the purpose of visiting and evaluating the bidding communities who weighted as the two top sites. The Inspection Committee traveled to Shelby, North Carolina and Bartlesville, Oklahoma. On May 2nd, both of these communities took the opportunity to travel to Indianapolis to formally address the Recreation and Baseball Subcommittee of the National Americanism Commission.

After exhaustive assessment of the objective, weighted evaluation criteria, and fully considering the findings of the onsite inspection committee, and reviewing the two formal presentations last weekend, both sites were found to be outstanding communities that are worthy of designation as a permanent site.

Your National Americanism Commission endorses American Legion Post 82 in Shelby, North Carolina as the permanent host and site of The American Legion Baseball World Series. Your National Americanism Commission and its Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee views designating a permanent single site for The American Legion Baseball World Series as an exceptional opportunity that provides unlimited potential to boost prominence and recognition of the program across the country. This is a milestone in American Legion Baseball history, and was taken with seriousness by your Baseball Subcommittee, by your Americanism Commission.

I would like next to take the opportunity to publicly recognize this year as the 75th anniversary celebration of the founding of The American Legion Boys State program. Boys State began as a measure to counter Young Pioneer Camps established in the 1930s in socialist countries where high school age boys were taught that democracy had outworn its usefulness and should be replaced by Communism. Some of you older veterans remember those days. Two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, are credited with the founding of American Legion Boys State. The first Boys State program was conducted in June of 1935 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Two hundred seventeen young men met at those fairgrounds where newly cleaned and disinfected cow barns housed that first program, and the rest is history. On behalf of the National Americanism Commission, I extend sincere appreciation and congratulations to all who throughout the years have upheld the proud tradition that is American Legion Boys State.

I again extend congratulations expressed by the Commission last year in beginning to reverse the decline that was previously experienced in national participation. If you recall, I sort of read the riot act. We had a decrease in participation for 15 years. We've reversed that trend now for two years, and now the participation is increasing.

Keep up the momentum and your excellent efforts in promoting and supporting this premier youth program that shapes the very future of our nation. I may also note at this point in time that this is also the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. I hope that you all are making efforts to recognize the Boy Scouts who preceded us by nine years. They were chartered nine years before we were. At our first Convention, we had a marriage between the Boy Scouts of America and The American Legion, and it's been a happy marriage through the years. Through good times and bad times, we are still married together.

I would like to conclude by reminding everyone that many local, state, and mid-term elections dot the political landscape in 2010. It is our responsibility to cast ballots in all elections and advocate that others do so as well. The National Americanism Commission encourages all Legion posts and their members to become involved in the 2010 mid-term elections. A brand new *Get Out The Vote 2010* brochure is offered as a guide to promoting the Get Out The Vote program this year. It's available for download from the Legion website and from the Americanism Children and Youth Division at National Headquarters on the second floor in this building. We can make a difference by promoting and supporting involvement in our electoral process.

Mr. Commander, I wish to thank you for having the opportunity to lead this commission one more time. And I want to thank you for your support of the Americanism programs.

You know, we've been tasked with some tremendous challenges. I'm proud of the way that my commission acted this year. I think we met those challenges in an enlightening manner, and for those Red Sox fans of mine, they won again last night, two in a row. We're on a roll. But let me remind you that when October comes around, one half of the World Series games will be played in old Fenway Park. Commander, that concludes my remarks.

Report: National Americanism Commission
May 3-4, 2010
Joseph E. Caouette, Jr., New Hampshire, Chairman

The National Americanism Commission met at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre, Indianapolis, Indiana on May 3 - 4, 2010. There were 47 members present, including members of the Americanism Council, National Committee on Education and Counter-Subversive Activities Committee.

We were privileged to have with us Richard Anderson (CT), Chairman, National Executive Committee Liaison to the National Americanism Commission; Rev. James Akers (KS), Chairman, National Committee on Education; and other distinguished guests representing the American Legion family.

Get Out The Vote 2010

The National Americanism Commission encouraged Legion posts and Legion membership to become involved in the 2010 midterm elections. A new "Get Out The Vote 2010" brochure has been published by the Americanism Commission as a guide to promoting GOTV. The publication is available for download from the Legion website and through the ACY Division at National Headquarters.

Immigration And Naturalization Subcommittee
Joseph DeFina, New York, Chairman

The Immigration and Naturalization Subcommittee met on Monday, May 3, 2010, at the Sheraton City Centre in Indianapolis. Aspects of naturalized citizenship and social concerns relating to illegal immigration were discussed.

The collaboration between the National Americanism Commission and the National Security Commission regarding issues relating to illegal immigration is going well. The collaboration came about last Spring after discussions among the two commissions noted that illegal immigration has escalated into a serious threat against our homeland security. Because the National Security Commission possesses a strong homeland security focus and the National Security/Foreign Relations Division is well-positioned in Washington D.C. to more prominently advocate to the White House and Congress, oversight of illegal immigration issues relating to homeland security began transitioning. The National Americanism Commission continues to oversee the illegal immigration issues that are of social concern.

Bipartisan House Resolution 1026 entitled *"BRIDGE - Bipartisan Reform of Immigration through Defining Good Enforcement"* was introduced by Rep. Chaffetz (R-UT) on January 21st calling for "common sense" immigration reform. Although non-binding, the resolution falls in line with many positions of The American Legion and a letter was sent to Rep. Chaffetz by the national organization recognizing his leadership and standing in strong support of the BRIDGE Resolution.

The subcommittee endorsed the resolution entitled *"Expressing Support For The Ideals and Goals of Citizenship Day"*. The resolution advocates having local community organizations host appropriate ceremonies and activities in appreciation of the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities inherent in U.S. citizenship, and having Legion posts support local collaboration in "Citizenship Outreach," a program sponsored by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist legal immigrants seeking the path to naturalized U.S. citizenship.

American Legion Post #29 in Marietta, Georgia has developed a community partnership with a local church to help legal immigrants learn the things necessary to become naturalized U.S. citizens and approximately 20 legal immigrants took advantage of a meeting hosted last December.

National Committee On Education
James T. Akers, Kansas, Chairman

The National Committee on Education (NCOE) met May 1-2, 2010, at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis. At the meeting the committee awarded 13 American Legacy Scholarships totaling $46,000. Recipients are:

Timothy Stein – Colchester, Illinois - $2,000.00
Taylor Curry – Atlanta, Georgia - $4,000.00
Ashley S. Little – Carrollton, Alabama - $2,000.00
Jordon J. Whitehead – Helena, Alabama - $4,000.00
Jessica A. Dowdal – Monroe, Michigan - $4,000.000
Walter Benard, Jr. – Starkville, Mississippi - $4,000.00
Joseph McVey – Oak Hill, West Virginia - $2,000.00
Tyler Harper – Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas - $4,000.00
Brandon J. Laureta – Troutdale, Oregon - $4,000.00
Eva Marie Witt – Springfield, Ohio - $4,000.00
Samuel Bauer – Pipestone, Minnesota - $4,000.00

Chantel Jeffries – Honolulu, Hawaii - $4,000.00
Meghan Brooks – Norwood, Massachusetts - $4,000.00

The NCOE selected the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as recipient of 2010 The American Legion's National Education Award.

Over $1.08 million was raised in 2009 to benefit The American Legion Legacy Scholarship fund. The 2009 Legacy Run surpassed its stated goal by amassing an amazing $549,030 over its three-day run to Louisville. Over $4.2 million has been raised for the Legacy Scholarship Fund since established in 2002.

The 59th edition of The American Legion's Scholarship and Financial Aid publication entitled *Need a Lift?* is electronically available at www.legion.org/needalift for students, educators and parents to view, search and print information at no cost. Plans continue for mass distribution of future editions of *Need A Lift?* in a CD-ROM format.

Youth Activities Subcommittee
Lawrence G. Sperry, Washington, Acting Chairman

The Youth Activities Subcommittee met on Monday, May 3, 2010, at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis.

National High School Oratorical Contest

The 73rd annual National High School Oratorical Contest Finals were conducted on April 10-11, 2010, in Indianapolis. It featured 53 department winners. The three national finalists are:

First Place	Victoria Black of Iva, South Carolina	$18,000
Second Place	Elizabeth Blessing of Auburn, Alabama	$16,000
Third Place	Brooke Connor of Bridport, Vermont	$14,000

The following contestants competed in the semi-final of competition and will receive $3,000 scholarships: Christina Sauer (KY); Derek Schulze (MO); Madison Kircher (NY); Mitchell Murdock (WA); Aleksander Fedyszyn (WV); and Kelsey Marsolek (WI).

Each department winner who competed in the first round contest received a $1,500 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

The 2010 National High School Oratorical Contest finals were once again broadcast live on the Internet. The webcast featured the three finalists as they vied for the top scholarship honors before judges in Indianapolis. Viewership of the live webcast increased four-fold from last year with 471 visitors going to the live-webcast. Comments received indicate this concept is an over-whelming success.

The 2011 National Oratorical Contest will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 15-17 at University Place on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The 41st annual meeting of Oratorical Department Chairpersons will be held September 24-26, 2010, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Junior Shooting Sports Program

The 20th Junior Air Rifle National Championship will be held August 3-8, 2010, at the USA Shooting range facility, U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In the preliminary rounds there were 1,371 athletes entered in the individual

competition and 222 teams entered in the team competition. Contest finals will be broadcast live on the Internet.

The Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship is awarded to the athlete competing in The American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championship who best exemplifies good sportsmanship and fair play. At the 2009 National Championship the award was presented to co-recipients Courtney Bates of Geneva, Florida and Shayna Thompson of Mims, Florida shooting for the Oviedo High School NJROTC marksmanship unit affiliated by American Post 112.

At the end of calendar year 2009 there were a total of 1,060 marksmanship clubs and teams affiliated by American Legion Posts and Sons of The American Legion Squadrons.

American Legion Boys State and American Legion Boys Nation

The subcommittee applauded Boys State programs and Legion departments for experiencing an upward swing in national participation in 2009, for the first time in 15 years. The subcommittee encouraged continuation of those positive efforts. The subcommittee also recognized this year as the 75th anniversary celebration of the founding of The American Legion Boys State program.

The 64th anniversary program of American Legion Boys Nation will be held July 23-31, 2010 on the campus of Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. Inaugural plans are in place to live-stream some select Boys Nation events on the Internet and view video highlights of each day.

The 75th annual meeting of American Legion Boys State Directors and Chairmen will be held September 24-26, 2010, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Boy Scouts of America

Joe Phillips of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin was selected as the 2010 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year. He will receive a $10,000 scholarship from The American Legion. Runners-up and recipients of $2,500 scholarships are Michael Smith of Alpharetta, Georgia; Justin Knoll of LaPorte, Indiana; and Robert Rasmussen of Hutchinson, Minnesota. A total of 37 applications were considered.

On February 8th the Boy Scouts of America celebrated 100 years of service, with the theme "Celebrating the Adventure, Continuing the Journey". The American Legion will join the Boy Scout celebration at their 100th anniversary jamboree on July 26 – August 4 in Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.

At of the end of 2009 there were 395 American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members who received the Scouting "Square Knot" award since its inception in 2003. This award is presented in recognition of dedication and support in furthering the Scouting programs of The American Legion.

As of March 2010, there were 2,710 Scouting units chartered by American Legion Posts, American Legion Auxiliary Units, and Sons of The American Legion Squadrons serving 71,016 young men and women.

American Legion Baseball And Recreation Subcommittee
Larry L. Price, South Dakota, Chairman

The Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee met on Sunday, May 2, 2010, and Monday, May 3, 2010, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The National Americanism Commission endorsed the following cities as hosts for the 2011 and 2012 Regional Tournaments as recommended by the subcommittee and reflected as such in the resolution entitled *"American Legion Baseball Tournament Sites and Dates for 2011 and 2012"*

Region 1 – no bid submitted
Region 2 – Boyertown, Pennsylvania
West Lawn, Pennsylvania
Region 3 – Sumter, South Carolina
Region 4 – Minden, Louisiana
Region 5 – Midland, Michigan
Region 6 – Dickinson, North Dakota
Region 7 – Billings, Montana
Region 8 – Fairfield, California

This year's American Legion Baseball regional tournaments will be played from August 5 - 9, and the American Legion Baseball World Series played in Spokane, Washington from August 13 - 17.

National Commander Hill appointed an American Legion Baseball World Series Site Inspection Committee for the purpose of visiting and evaluating the two communities who weighted as the top two sites to become the permanent site of The American Legion Baseball World Series. The Inspection Committee traveled to Shelby, North Carolina and Bartlesville, Oklahoma. On May 2 representatives of both communities then traveled to Indianapolis to formally address the Recreation and Baseball subcommittee. The National Americanism Commission endorsed American Legion Post 82 of Shelby, North Carolina as the permanent host and site of The American Legion Baseball World Series as recommended by the subcommittee and reflected in the resolution entitled "Permanent Site of The American Legion Baseball World Series". Both communities are commended for outstanding support of American Legion Baseball and for their outstanding bids.

Online registration for the 2010 American Legion Baseball season began on January 1st with 4,064 teams currently registered. The "one-stop" system and allows coaches the convenience of submitting applications and fees online within minutes and reduces paperwork.

American Legion Baseball has launched the "The Dugout", a complimentary e-newsletter for coaches. The monthly publication features the latest baseball news and updates and offers the convenience of delivery directly to coaches' email inboxes – for free!

At a recent meeting in New York City The American Legion met with Major League Baseball (MLB) staff to recognize MLB's ongoing commitment to troops, veterans and youth. Since World War II MLB has actively promoted efforts honoring troops and veterans. In 1932 MLB dedicated a generous annual contribution to The American Legion Baseball program that continues yet today. National Commander Hill expressed sincere gratitude to MLB officials for all of their ongoing efforts and spoke about the many ways The American Legion and MLB will continue to strengthen its partnership on issues affecting veterans and their families. The American Legion and MLB look forward to future meetings together each year.

At the meeting of the National Americanism Commission held at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre, Indianapolis, Indiana, May 3-4, 2010, the Americanism Commission considered 8 resolutions and submitted its recommendations to the National Executive Committee Subcommittee on Resolutions. There is a separate appendage for your consideration and approval.

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved

Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2647 (CA) (DEC)**: City Of Fairfield, California Offers To Host 2011 And 2012 Region 8 American Legion Baseball Tournaments**

Register Resolution No. 2643 (HI) (DEC)**: City Of Honolulu, Hawaii Offers To Host 2011 And 2012 Western Region American Legion Baseball Tournaments**

Rejected
Resolution No. 31 (ID) (2009 NC)**: No Welfare For Illegal Immigrants**
Resolution No. 46 (CA) (2009 NC)**: American Legion Soccer Program**

Addendum B: Date of Events/Meetings

Events/Meetings	**Dates**
American Legion Boys Nation – 2010	July 23-31, 2010
Shooting Sports Nat'ls – 2010	August 3-8, 2010
Shooting Sports Nat'ls – 2011	August 2-7, 2011
Shooting Sports Nat'ls – 2012	August 7-12, 2012
Shooting Sports Nat'ls – 2013	August 6-11, 2013
Shooting Sports Nat'ls – 2014	August 5-10, 2014
Baseball Regionals – 2010	August 5-9, 2010
Baseball Regionals – 2011	August 4-8, 2011
Baseball Regionals – 2012	August 9-13, 2012
Baseball Regionals – 2013	August 8-12, 2013
Baseball Regionals – 2014	August 7-11, 2014
Baseball World Series – 2010	August 13-17, 2010
Baseball World Series – 2011	August 12-16, 2011
Baseball World Series – 2012	August 17-21, 2012
Baseball World Series – 2013	August 16-20, 2013
Baseball World Series – 2014	August 15-19, 2014
Oratorical Contest Finals – 2011	April 15-17, 2011
Oratorical Contest Finals – 2012	April 13-15, 2012
Oratorical Contest Finals – 2013	April 19-21, 2013
Americanism Conference – 2010 (Includes: Oratorical, Baseball, Boys State Chairmen/Directors and Department Chaplains Conferences)	September 24-26, 2010

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move the report of the Americanism Commission be received and filed, with the exception of two resolutions and two addenda. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I have a motion and a second to receive and file the report, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 37: Expressing Support For The Ideals And Goals Of Citizenship Day
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, "I Am An American Day" originated in 1940 when Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing and requesting the President to issue an annual proclamation for the public recognition of all who had attained the status of American citizenship, either by coming of age or by naturalization; and

WHEREAS, In 1952 Congress replaced I Am An American Day with the annual observance of "Citizenship Day" on September 17 to retain the original purpose of

recognizing those who have become U.S. citizens and to also commemorate the creation and signing of the Constitution of the United States in 1787; and

WHEREAS, Citizenship Day continues to be observed annually on September 17; and

WHEREAS, Citizenship Day is an appropriate opportunity to take pride in being a United States citizen and to appreciate the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities inherent in United States citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Through Title 36, Section 106 of the United States Code, civil and educational authorities of states, counties, cities and towns are urged to make plans for the proper observance and for the complete instruction of citizens in their responsibilities and opportunities as United States citizens and as citizens of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Through Title 36, Section 106 of the United States Code, all people of the United States are invited to observe Citizenship Day in schools, churches, and other suitable places; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion established a collaboration with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services known as "Citizenship Outreach" (formerly referred to as "Task Force On New Americans") to assist legal immigrants seeking the path to naturalized U.S. citizenship by hosting citizenship orientations sessions and classes in U.S. civics, government and English; and

WHEREAS, Citizenship Day is an excellent occasion to support and expand citizenship orientation sessions and classes sponsored by local American Legion posts across the nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion supports the ideals and goals of Citizenship Day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls on government authorities, schools, students and all local community organizations to observe Citizenship Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges American Legion posts to support local collaboration in "Citizenship Outreach," a program sponsored by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist legal immigrants seeking the path to naturalized U.S. citizenship.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: Resolution 37 has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 38: American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites And Dates For 2011 And 2012

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution 9 of the National Executive Committee, May 2009, established that beginning with the 2011-2012 seasons, regional tournaments of The American Legion Baseball program will be sited in one location for two (2) consecutive years based on accessibility and central location as determined by open bids using objective, weighted evaluation criteria; and

WHEREAS, Region 2 was unable to secure a single location for two (2) consecutive years that provided the accessibility mandated in Resolution 9, but is able to provide two (2) single locations for one (1) year each that meets the required accessibility; and

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

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

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That the dates for regional tournaments of The American Legion Baseball program shall be August 4-8, 2011, and August 9-13, 2012; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That sites for the 2011 and 2012 regional tournaments of The American Legion Baseball program be awarded to:

Region 1	**None submitted**	
Region 2	**Boyertown, Pennsylvania in 2011**	**West Lawn Pennsylvania in 2012**
Region 3	**Sumter, South Carolina**	
Region 4	**Minden, Louisiana**	
Region 5	**Midland, Michigan**	
Region 6	**Dickinson, North Dakota**	
Region 7	**Billings, Montana**	
Region 8	**Fairfield, California**	

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: Resolution 38 has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: There's been a motion and a second. Any discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: Mr. Commander, can somebody give us an idea of what you're going to do with Region 1?

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CAOUETTE: Mr. Commander, we have discussed that one very seriously Sunday afternoon and also Sunday evening when they determined the location for the regional tournaments. Efforts are being made right now at the present time to acquire a location for Region 1. It's my region, as a matter of fact. What we're lacking is a confirmation from the city, the direct confirmation of a AA ball club. If we can get that confirmation in writing, then I guess we're ready to award it at the present time. We have approximately a few months that we can still work on it, I believe. I'm looking at the director of baseball operations right now. I think we will have a series. We may have to defer again to the national organization for an exception on the ruling that we're under that it must be granted for two years. We may have to do what happened with Region 2: Grant two locations for one particular year. That's a possibility. I'm not sure. But it's not yet. It looks like we will have a site for 2011-2012. We do have a site for this year, that will be in Middletown, Connecticut. I know it's kind of jumble, jamble, but I'm optimistic that we will have a location.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Any other discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed? Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: Mr. Commander, attached to this report are Addendum A and B. I move the action of the Americanism Commission becomes the action of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

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

Call on Membership and Post Activities Chairman Dale Barnett from Georgia.

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

Good morning, Commander Hill and members of the National Executive Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you this morning. The purpose of my report will be twofold. One, to update you on current membership standings, and secondly to render a report on the commander's directed ad hoc advisory committee on the feasibility of online renewals. You have a written report in front of you and I want to highlight a few areas.

As of yesterday, we are only 30,000 members short of our year end goal of 2,364,667. It's the first time in a number of years we've the opportunity to walk into our National Convention, this year at Milwaukee, and say, "We did it. We accomplished what we set out to do in membership. We made our goal."

But let us not kid ourselves. Without the reintroduction of DMS and the recruitment of 203,000 DMS members, that certainly would not have been possible. Retention of traditional members continues to be an unresolved issue. We are currently 130,000 less than we were a year ago, and we continue to do everything in our power to educate and provide new and innovative techniques so that our blue cap Legionnaires can go out and recruit and retain our traditional members.

Commander Hill appointed an ad hoc committee to study online renewals during the October 2009 Fall Meetings. I was privileged to be part of this committee, and I want to share some information with you, and you have a written copy of that report in your packet.

The committee met on two occasions. The first occasion was December 5, 2009 here in Indianapolis. I will say the selection of the committee members was right on with three of the adjutants from online test departments being part of that committee, and the national staff did a superb job of educating us on certain key concerns such as possible costs of this program to implement.

There were five test departments that did test the online renewals, and all of them reported very favorable response to online renewals, with online renewals with members going up as they went from year one to year two to three year in the test. We found that members, and especially a lot of our younger members but not most of you out there today, are members of the communication age and do electronic transfer of funds, and that's the way we operate. And we think we need to make this option available to all members of The American Legion to choose it if they want to choose it.

Our adjutants who were on the ad hoc committee reported to us that this procedure of online renewals was rather easy and seamless; did not necessitate the additional manpower of hiring additional people. In fact, some of them said it actually reduced their time to process membership. We certainly thought that this should be made available if approved to all members nationwide, not selected by one department and maybe not another.

Membership cards were addressed, and it was recommended by the committee that every member have the option to immediately download a membership card if that individual renewed online, and we are recommending that type of situation occur. And we were very cognitive of costs. I learned more about an automatic transfer of funds and things, and ways to reduce, and the committee, with the guidance of the national staff evaluated how maybe we could help reduce costs for that.

The biggest stepping point that necessitated the second meeting was legal. And of course, it's the old thing about the national organization being separate and autonomous from posts and department activities. A very spirited discussion was had at the first online renewal committee meeting. We talked about it in-depth. Our Judge-Advocate provided very timely advice, as well as our National Adjutant, and it required that we

meet again, and also have an independent law firm evaluate the wording of our Constitution and By-laws. That second meeting that proposed change to our Constitution and By-laws that will maintain the autonomy of our national organization and free us from the potential burden of a frivolous lawsuit that may have nothing directly to do with our national organization, was discussed. The committee unanimously agreed that that type of wording should be in our Constitution and By-laws. And during this meeting you will have a resolution coming to you that proposes changes to that wording.

Additionally, at that meeting we approved that these online renewals should be at no cost to departments or posts for initial implementation of the online renewal process as we capture exactly how much that will cost.

Printable membership cards I've already mentioned. The method of how the departments will implement it as far as credits to the post, the five test departments were doing it in very different manners. Some of them had some great lessons they shared, and we are all agreed that if this proposal is approved, that will be a major topic and focus during our workshop in August, plus additional training to our organization through our *Dispatch*, our national magazine, and our conferences.

As you know, DMS was approved for reinstatement. I've already said that we've done well. I applaud our membership team at the national level for the additional communications, and it's a statement of the obvious, the more you can communicate to your members, the more they tend to renew, and we're finding that the additional five contacts has increased an upward slope to our membership retention of our DMS members.

I know all of you are very concerned specifically about bullets number four and five there on page 3 of the report. I would like to read it. During the 2011 renewal cycle, contact information on those members who renew, name and address, will be provided to the departments within 15 days of the time of posting. This will occur throughout the first renewal cycle, which runs from June 2010 to 2011.

So, departments, please remember, you are going to be getting some names and I hope you got your plan to transfer those DMS members to a local post, because that's where they can do the most good for this American Legion, is to join your local post in your departments and districts and make a difference in your community.

Names of DMS members will be released to the department when the member renews, transfers to a local post, or if you request our membership team to come into your community, we will be armed with those names. So, I guess this is a solicitation to call on our membership director, Mr. Billy Johnson, who does a great job, to get that membership team and they will help empower you to do this.

With these final recommendations, the committee unanimously recommended that the ad hoc committee had completed all missions.

I want to thank Commander Hill this year for his strong support of all membership efforts. I want to thank our chairman of Internal Affairs, Mr. Larry Besson, for all he does, and the fine working relationship that he has in support of membership activities.

The national staff has given us the tools. They provided us with the motivation needed to move forward to make a difference in membership in 2010. We just need to make it happen at our level. I want to thank Billy Johnson, our membership director for his mentorship. If there are no questions, this concludes my report.

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

As of May 4, 2010, the 2010 membership was 2,131,755 without DMS. The DMS total is 203,000 which brings the total membership to 2,334,755 – 29,912 members short

of the year end goal. We expect to make up this shortfall from the final renewal notice that is going out now.

During the past five years several departments have been involved in an on-line renewal test. The results were very favorable and warranted further investigation as to how this process could be made available to all members.

During the October 2009 fall meeting, the National Commander appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee to look into how we could implement this idea for all members to use.

The Committee met twice during the past six months. The first meeting was on December 5, 2009 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Committee was provided information by key national staff members regarding the financial impact, results from the ongoing test of five departments, legal concerns and what other groups similar to The American Legion are doing in this area of online renewals.

The Committee, at its first meeting, recommended the following:

1) The on-line renewal programs worked well for the five test departments – Maryland, Illinois, Arizona, Georgia and Wisconsin.
2) Any implementation of online renewals should be a simple and seamless process for posts and departments.
3) The online renewal should be offered to all members.
4) An officially recognized membership card, signed by an authorized national representative, should be issued.
5) Continue to use the current membership process used by the five test departments.
6) Amend The American Legion Constitution so it would retain separation between national, department and local posts. National Judge Advocate should evaluate the wording and legality of an amending resolution and provide a report to the Committee at the next meeting during the 2010 Washington Conference.
7) Review processing cost for online renewals such as the use of Automatic Clearing House (ACH) as a first option – then payment by credit card.

All of the above items were approved with the exception of item #6, which required additional research. The National Judge Advocate was, at the time of the first meeting, awaiting a ruling from an independent law firm. This legal ruling was needed before the Committee could make their recommendation.

The second meeting was held on Sunday, February 28, 2010 during the Washington Conference. The National Judge Advocate distributed in January, after our initial meeting, the ruling from the independent law firm. In order to meet the requirements suggested by the law firm a proposed resolution was distributed, which would change a portion of the wording in The American Legion's Constitution and By-laws and then its Charter. This would enable the Legion to accept online payments without having control over or otherwise influencing the specific activities and conduct of the independent, autonomous departments and posts. The Committee unanimously voted in favor of this recommendation.

The Committee approved the following items as well:

1) There would be no cost to departments and posts for initial implementation of the online renewal process.
2) Printable membership cards would be tested in the five test departments – the post would be notified when the member prints their card and, also, if the member does not print their card it will be mailed to the post.

3) National will mail a check (payment) to the department; the department will then decide how to get the post their portion – either by check or credit toward their next transmittal or other expenses.
4) Posts, Departments and leaders at all levels will be educated on the new online process through outlets such as the Dispatch, The American Legion Magazine, Website, C&A Conference, National Membership Workshop and other resources that become available.
5) Guidelines for 2010 acquisition/2011 renewal campaign were laid out:

In accordance with NEC Resolution No. 1, May 6-7, 2009, the Direct Membership Solicitation program was reinstated for 2010 after a one-year test period in 2009.

During the 2009 test year, we reaffirmed that the program does work and the constant testing and refinements of packages and wording remains effective in bringing in 200,000 members annually.

It was also determined that retention and recouping of National's investment had to be a priority if the program was to continue.

Resolution No. 1 addressed those concerns and laid out the following requirements for reinstating DMS:

1) Members acquired in 2010 would receive additional communication through the year – a total of five post cards and email blasts. The extra communication was designed to share information about The American Legion, its history, and current initiatives that the Legion is involved in. Effectiveness of the additional communication will be determined in the 2011 renewal campaign.
2) Information on transferring to a local post was part of the communication efforts and included the listing of the Legion's National Web site, Customer Service 1-800 number, and a phone number for the Internal Affairs Division. This resulted in a number of DMS members being transferred to a local post.
3) National will retain the DMS members through one renewal cycle to allow National to recoup its investment in one year, rather than 47 months, as it was under the original DMS program.
4) During the 2011 renewal cycle (beginning June, 2010) contact information on those members who renew (name and address) will be provided to the departments within 15 days from the time of posting. This will occur throughout the first renewal cycle, which runs from June 2010 to May 2011 (total of five renewals).
5) Names of DMS members will be released to Departments when the member renews, transfers to a local post, is used to form new/revitalized posts as part of the post development and revitalization program, or at the end of the renewal cycle, if expired.

Every effort has been made to encourage 2010 DMS members to become members in a local, active post. This will be enhanced in the 2011 renewal year (June, 2010 – May, 2011) when every department will have the opportunity to add a personalized notation to material mailed to those renewing members. National will bear the expense of one mailing per year.

With these final recommendations, the mission of this Committee was deemed complete.

Based on what we have already seen from the test departments, we believe the addition of this option will lead to earlier member renewal and possible long term cost saving in the renewal program.

When you add the efforts of DMS and traditional recruitment to the equation we will see growth in membership become routine from year to year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move that the report be received and filed with no resolutions, no addendum. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Motion and a second. Any discussions? Sir.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HASZ (DC): Can I ask him to elaborate just a little bit on how the department -- how do you select a local post? How is a member of the DMS transferred to a local post?

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BARNETT: If a member contacts us and says they want a local post, of course you know on our website you can find out where every post in the nation is through our website. It's updated.

If there's a member and that we know of a great post in that area, because we know that some posts do not have post homes, we will try to get that member in the right post. Many times we'll contact the department level. So, when we get a request from a DMS member that they want to transfer to a local post, if they don't have a post number, if they select a post because they went down in their community and they went in there and they said, "That's a good place. I want it," of course the local posts can do that themselves with the individual. But if they just request the information, we'll direct them first to the website that will list some local posts that they can go to in their area. And then secondly, if they don't just select one for me, then we will use our knowledge, and our membership folks are pretty knowledgeable of which posts are active and try to get him selected through the assistance of the department adjutants. Any other questions?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Any other discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Call on our Finance Commission chairman, Kenneth Danilson of Iowa.

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

Thank you Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee and guests. The Finance Commission held its meeting on Monday and Tuesday, May 3-4, 2010. All commission members were present with the exception of Carl Levi of Tennessee who was excused. A moment of silence was observed in memory of our good friend and fellow Finance Commission member, Roger Messier of Virginia who passed away last Friday.

Also present were Daniel Wheeler, national adjutant; George Lussier and Richard Heigert, NEC Finance Liaison members, and others noted in my written report.

Also noted in my written report you can see that we received reports from many different businesses, companies and other Legion areas.

Crowe Howath reported on its audit of The American Legion, noting that adjustments made were very minor. Shawn Long, finance director, provided additional information on the audit, and his comments were perceived as adequate by the Finance Commission. Just as a note, it's not in this report, but our final audit surplus for the year 2009 was $5.5 million.

The Finance Commission authorized that annual internal adjustments for uncashed stale checks from June 30, 2009, or older, be made to the outstanding checking balances of Fifth Third Bank and Chase Bank in the amount of $54,457.

The Finance Commission reviewed the performance of the following institutions with regard to The American Legion's trust account on deposit: Fifth Third Bank, First National Bank of Omaha, and Hoosier Trust Company.

Silas Noel, 2009 Kentucky National Convention Corporation president reported that due to unforeseen transportation expenses of $51,000, revenues were lower than expected. The American Legion's share of convention proceeds to be $877, and the Convention Corporation receiving $876. Their report will follow mine.

Harold Barnett, membership chairman provided a report that you have heard in regard to the online renewal. Also regarding DMS it should be noted that members brought in under the new program, while limited to a test number of 15,000, have experienced a renewal rate of 70 percent, which is an increase of 15 percent over the norm. This is due to the numerous communications that have come to them about the mission and accomplishments of The American Legion. We are hoping that this will hold true as well for the more than 200,000 2010 DMS members which are entering into the renewal cycle. And just to refresh your memory, once a DMS member renews for the first time, his contact information will be made available to the department within 15 days, at which time the department will be free to transfer them to a local post.

The Finance Commission authorized $35,000 to refurbish the NEC room painting "America" along with the state seals on the NEC desks.

The Finance Commission approved $60,000 for Internet improvements.

A Century Fund was established for the purpose of recognizing and honoring the 100th anniversary of The American Legion in 2019. $25,000 was approved for the initial deposit into this fund.

Chairman Danilson appointed an ad hoc committee to study the various insurance policies held by The American Legion. Gaither Keener, North Carolina, will serve as chairman, John Monahan from Connecticut will be vice chairman, and Kenneth Danilson, Iowa will serve as a member.

At the 2010 Washington Conference, the Finance Commission approved the addition of four permanent, full-time employee positions, as follows: Two benefits delivery discharge representatives to operate out of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Salt Lake City, Utah. Two service officers to handle medical and physical evaluation boards for wounded servicemen, to operate out of Brooke Army Medical Center and Fort Lewis. Office space will be donated by DoD. The American Legion is the only organization assisting with these evaluation boards and their claims.

The Finance Commission recommends the NEC approve and adopt 15 resolutions as listed in my report. Also finally, Resolution 45, California, NC 2009 titled "Transparency in Operation" that was referred to the Finance Commission was received and recorded with no action taken. Its requests would require violation of privacy laws. A complete explanation is attached to the addendum of this report.

In conclusion, you will see from the following resolutions, several resolutions regarding our participation in new insurance products, and a major new program for nonmember fundraising. Mr. Commander, this concludes my report. Thank you.

Report: National Finance Commission
May 5, 2010
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman

The Finance Commission held its meeting on Monday and Tuesday, May 3-4, 2010. All commission members were present with the exception of Carl Levi of Tennessee, who was excused. A moment of silence was observed in memory of our good friend and fellow Finance Commission member, Roger Messier of Virginia, who passed away last Friday.

Also present were: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant; George A. Buskirk, Jr., National Treasurer; Jeffrey O. Brown, Executive Director, Marketing Services Group; Peter Gaytan, Washington Office Executive Director; Marty Justis, Indianapolis Office Executive Director; Shawn Long, Finance Director; George C. Lussier, Jr., Chairman, NEC Finance Liaison Committee; and Richard A. Heigert, Member, NEC Finance Liaison Committee. Several guests joined us throughout the course of the meeting.

Reports were received from the National Adjutant; National Treasurer; Finance Director; Human Resources Director; National Judge Advocate; Crowe Horwath LLP; Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, The American Legion PUFL Trust – Stocks and The American Legion Retirement Trust – Stocks; S. A. Van Dyk Insurance Company; The Convention Corporation of Kentucky; the three Headquarters buildings' executive directors; First National Bank of Omaha, Trustee, The American Legion Retirement Trust - Bonds; American Legion Insurance Committee; The American Legion Magazine Commission; Hoosier Trust Company, Trustee, The American Legion/Samsung Scholarship Trust, The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Fund and The American Legion PUFL Trust - Bonds; the Internal Affairs Commission, and the Americanism Commission.

Crowe Horwath reported on its audit of The American Legion, noting that adjustments made were "very minor." Shawn Long, Finance Director, provided additional information on the audit, and his comments were perceived as adequate by the Finance Commission.

The Finance Commission authorized that annual internal adjustments for uncashed stale checks from June 30, 2009, or older, be made to the outstanding checking balances of Fifth Third Bank and Chase Bank in the amount of $54,457.28. In addition, $3,636.30 in uncollectible accounts was approved for write-off.

The Finance Commission reviewed the performance of the following financial institutions with regard to The American Legion's trust accounts on deposit: Fifth Third Bank, First National Bank of Omaha, and Hoosier Trust Company.

Silas Noel, 2009 Kentucky National Convention Corporation President, reported that due to unforeseen transportation expenses of $51,000, The American Legion's share of convention proceeds is $877, with the Convention Corporation receiving $876.55. Harold D. Barnett (GA), Membership Chairman, reported on the status of DMS. The 2009 DMS members brought in under the new program – while limited to a test number of 15,000 – have experienced a renewal rate of 70 percent, which is an increase of 15 percent over the norm. This is due to the numerous communications that have come to them about the mission and accomplishments of The American Legion. We are hoping that this will hold true as well for the more than 200,000 2010 DMS members which are entering into the renewal cycle shortly. Just to refresh your memory, once a DMS member renews for the first time, his contact information will be made available to the Department within 15 days, at which time the Department will be free to transfer him into a local Post.

The Finance Commission authorized $35,000 to refurbish the NEC Room painting "America" along with the state seals on the NEC desks.

The Finance Commission approved $60,000 for internet improvements.

A Century Fund was established for the purpose of recognizing and honoring the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion in 2019. $25,000 was approved for initial deposit into the fund.

Chairman Danilson appointed an ad hoc committee to study the various insurance policies held by The American Legion. Gaither M. Keener, Jr. (NC) will serve as chairman, John D. Monahan (CT) will be vice chairman, and Kenneth D. Danilson (IA) will serve as member.

A request from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for education center funds was received and will be reviewed at a later time.

A request from the American Legion Auxiliary for $5,000 to $10,000 to help them fund the Creative Arts Festival was received and filed with no action taken.

At the 2010 Washington Conference, the Finance Commission approved the addition of four permanent, full-time employee positions, as follows:

Two benefits delivery discharge representatives to operate out of Winston-Salem, North Carolina and Salt Lake City, Utah

Two service officers to handle medical and physical evaluation boards for wounded servicemen, to operate out of Brooke Army Medical Center and Fort Lewis

Office space will be donated by DoD. The American Legion is the only organization assisting with these evaluation boards and their claims.

Resolutions

The Finance Commission recommends the NEC approve and adopt 15 resolutions listed below. Copies of the resolutions accompany this report.

Resolution No. 1: Direct Payment of Renewal Dues. Recommend a resolution for approval at the National Convention which would provide changes to the National Constitution. These changes would in turn allow The American Legion to accept renewal of dues through online payment direct to National Headquarters while still confirming the independence of Departments and Posts. The resolution also asks that The American Legion petition Congress and the President of the United States to amend the corporate charter of The American Legion. The changes to the National Constitution would not take effect until the U.S. Congress has amended the Corporate Charter of The American Legion.

Resolution No. 9: Authorization for a Direct Marketing Contract for Non-Member Donor Fundraising Services. Authorize The American Legion to enter into a 3-year agreement with ResourceOne, Inc. and Edge Direct LLC for direct marketing services to raise funds and develop, manage and grow The American Legion non-member donor program. An option to continue this program for two additional years is also recommended.

Resolution No. 2: Authorization for The American Legion to Enter Into a Relationship to Promote Banking Services and Investment Products. Authorize The American Legion to enter into an agreement with a financial institution to offer banking services and investment products. Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by the Finance Commission.

Resolution No. 10: Authorization for The American Legion to Enter Into a Relationship to Promote Commercial Property and Casualty Insurance. Authorize The American Legion to enter into an agreement with an insurance company to offer commercial property and casualty insurance products. Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by the Finance Commission.

Resolution No. 8: Authorization for United Services Automobile Association and The American Legion Relationship to Promote Automobile, Specialty Auto and Motorized Recreational Vehicle Insurance. Authorize The American Legion to enter into an agreement with United Services Automobile Association (USAA) to offer automobile, specialty auto and motorized recreational vehicle insurance, following the normal and customary procedures. Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by the Finance Commission.

Resolution No. 3: Authorization for AON Affinity Services, Inc. and The American Legion Relationship. Authorize The American Legion to enter into an agreement with

Aon Affinity Insurance Services, Inc. to be The American Legion's broker of record and to offer insurance products following the normal and customary procedures. Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by the Finance Commission.

Resolution No. 4: Authorization for Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company and The American Legion Relationship. Authorize The American Legion to enter into an agreement with Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company to offer life insurance products following the normal and customary procedures. Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by the Finance Commission.

Resolution No. 6: Authorization for United Services Automobile Association and The American Legion Relationship to Promote Property and Specialty Property Insurance. Authorize The American Legion to enter into an agreement with United Services Automobile Association (USAA) to offer property insurance following the normal and customary procedures. Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by the Finance Commission.

Resolution No. 7: Authorization for United Services Automobile Association and The American Legion Relationship to Promote Annuities, Long Term Care, Medicare Solutions, Home Owners Warranties and Other New Products That May Become Available. Authorize The American Legion to enter into an agreement with United Services Automobile Association (USAA) to offer annuities, long-term care, Medicare solutions, homeowners warranties, and other products that may become available, following the normal and customary procedures in offering such products. Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by the Finance Commission.

Resolution No. 5: Authorization for United Services Automobile Association and The American Legion Relationship to Promote Life Insurance Products. Authorize The American Legion to enter into an agreement with United Services Automobile Association (USAA) to offer life insurance products. Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by the Finance Commission.

Resolution No. 31: Agreement with James G. Elliott Co., Inc. Authorize The American Legion to enter into an annual agreement with the James G. Elliott Co., Inc., to conduct up to six reader panels per year to research and analyze advertising areas selected by The American Legion. Such agreement would be effective for one year beginning in June 2010 and annually thereafter for an annual amount not to exceed $30,000.

Resolution No. 33: Sons of The American Legion Restricted Account. Authorize the Sons of The American Legion to donate $45,000 from its restricted fund (the amount above the +/- 1½% $500,000 ceiling set by NEC Res. 6, May 4-5, 2005), as follows: $15,000 to American Legion Child Welfare Foundation; $10,000 to Legacy Scholarship Fund; $10,000 to Fisher House; and $10,000 to National Emergency Fund.

Resolution No. 34: Armed Service Academy Awards Update. Increase the sponsorship of The American Legion Air Force Academy Award to $500. The Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee will continue to review this award on a periodic basis.

Resolution No. 35: 2010 American Legion Boys Nation Contract. Authorize The American Legion to enter into a contract with Marymount University for the 2010 American Legion Boys Nation program.

Resolution No. 32: Permanent Site of the American Legion Baseball World Series. Designates Shelby, North Carolina, as the permanent site of the American Legion Baseball World Series and authorized execution of a four-year contract with the host, American Legion Post 82, Shelby, North Carolina. The resolution also sets the next four

tournament dates as August 12-16, 2011; August 17-21, 2012; August 16-20, 2013; and August 15-19, 2014.

Resolution 45, California NC 2009 titled "Transparency in Operation," was received and recorded with no action taken. Its requests would require violation of privacy laws. A complete explanation is attached to the addendum to this report.

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved

Received and Recorded
Resolution No. 45 (CA) (2009 NC)**: Transparency in Operation**

Report: Ad Hoc Committee to Study Resolution No. 45 (CA) (NC 2009)
May 3, 2010
Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

The Ad Hoc Committee to Study Resolution 45, California NC 09, met several times to discuss the applicability of the resolution as requested and required by the 2009 Finance Convention Committee and the Finance Commission of The American Legion. After review of the resolution, the ad hoc committee recommends to the Finance Commission of The American Legion that the resolution is null and void as written due to the following reasons:

Currently, the Internal Revenue Service requires nonprofit corporations to file public information with respect to salaries and benefits for certain employees who are officers of the nonprofit entity and whose total benefits are a certain amount. Those Internal Revenue Service requirements are the only requirements of federal law, and those current requirements are exempt from certain other federal and state law due to the nature of the requirements set forth by the Internal Revenue Service.

The American Legion currently files an annual report in regards to its finances which meets the Internal Revenue Service requirements, provides members with the information that is required by law, and does not violate any privacy requirements in respect to personnel matters.

The proposed resolution would require The American Legion to violate the privacy requirements of ERISA, HIPAA and PPAC, along with other privacy laws of other states in regards to employees' salaries and benefits which are not required to be published pursuant to Internal Revenue Service law.

Employees have certain rights and protections rooted in contract, common law, federal laws and in state constitutions. Certain state and federal laws safeguard personal information, including wage and Social Security Numbers, by restricting the disclosure of and access to such information. Federal laws such as the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (financial institutions) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act place restrictions on the disclosure of private information. Similarly, most public record statutes prohibit third party access the personnel files for privacy reasons. Such disclosure will also feed private compensation discrimination suits under Title VII, ADEA, ADA or Equal Pay Act, with extension of Lilly Ledbetter Act and to lead to extensive discovery requests and production of documents and compensation analysis.

Legal Source of Restriction	**Restriction**
Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act	Protects the privacy of protected health information, restricts disclosure of information to others. Disclosure of wage information may disclose participation in medical programs

FCRA	FCRA limits the use of consumer reports to protect consumers' privacy and limits access to credit data to those who have legally permissible purpose for using the data. Note Vermont and North Dakota issued regulations beyond the provisions of FCRA with broader application.
Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act	Creates definition of personal information that includes the SSN and limits when financial institutions may disclose the information to non-affiliated third parties
Drivers Privacy Protection Act	Prohibits disclosing personal information from a motor vehicle record that includes SSN except for purposes permissible under the law.
Davis Bacon Act	DOL issued regulation in January 2009 to worker privacy under Davis Bacon Act citing worker privacy interest and the government's need to reduce opportunities for identity theft. Limiting disclosure of worker's private information and truncating of identifying information.
California	Constitutional Right to Privacy, also Office of Privacy Protection. Prohibits disclosure of non-public personal information creating a cause of action for violation.
Texas	Information in personnel files would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.
Arizona	Enacted legislation to protect private information, including displaying information, internet safety measures.
South Carolina	South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act requires that any disclosure beyond the employee's grade, job description and salary schedule for his job classification may only be disclosed by authorization by employee or order of the Court.
Georgia Case Law	At least one court has applied state invasion of privacy tort law when deciding whether access is allowable. Kobeck v Nabisco, 305 S. E. 2d 183 (Ga Ct. App 1983)

Other related issues:

Third Party – Plaintiff's lawyers: Fodder for private compensation discrimination suits under Title VII, ADEA, ADA or Equal Pay Act, with extension of Lilly Ledbetter Act to lead to extensive discovery requests and production of documents and compensation analysis.

Domestic Violence Victims Rights: State law provisions to protect the identity and workplace of protected individuals

Identity theft. Misuse of non-public private information.

Implied Breach of Contract: Employees reasonable expectation to protect personal information from disclosure

Competitive advantage/Proprietary protections: Sherman Anti-trust Act sharing of wage information to disadvantage market growth.

Therefore, your Ad Hoc Committee recommends the Finance Commission that the proposed Resolution 45 be received and recorded with no action taken.

Report: Emblem Committee
May 5, 2010
Alvan T. Fuller, Massachusetts, Chairman

Mr. Commander and members of the Executive Committee:

Your National Emblem Committee met at 9:00 a.m., in regularly called sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 3-4, 2010. The following members were present:

Alvan T. Fuller (Massachusetts), Chairman
Robert J. Kimball (Ohio), Vice Chairman
Mark A. Foxworthy (California), National Commander's Representative
Ernie P. Broussard (Louisiana), Consultant
Ronald W. Wood (Wyoming), Consultant
Gary L. Haverman (Iowa)
William G. Hines (Pennsylvania)
N.W. Patterson (South Carolina)
Lance D. Vanderhoof (Utah)
Rene C. Vanmulem (New York)
Richard B. Keith (Indiana), Staff Director

Gross revenues for 2009 amounted to $11,031,734. Net profit after distribution was $1,677,300. The entire financial picture was reviewed in connection with the March 31, 2010 Responsibility Report and found favorable under present economic conditions.

The inventory as of March 31, 2010 was $2,464,855, as compared with $2,222,316 as of March 31, 2009.

The Committee reviewed marketing and operations reports of American Legion Emblem Sales and was most pleased.

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved
Rejected

Resolution No. 60 (MT) (2008 NC)**: Increase Female Recognition Apparel in Emblem Sales Catalog**

Resolution No. 254 (MO) (2008 NC)**: Quality of Emblem Sales American Flags**

Report: Insurance Committee
May 3-4, 2010
(Submitted through the National Finance Commission)

The Insurance Committee met at the Sheraton Hotel, in the Illinois Room on May 3-4, 2010.

The Committee heard reports from Marianne Bergamo, Deputy Director, Corporate Relationships and Insurance.

Ms. Bergamo updated the Committee on the status of the life insurance plans. She also updated the Committee on the status of the Gallagher Benefit Services relationship, GE/ Union Fidelity Life Insurance Program and new exciting opportunities.

GE Financial Assurance (Union Fidelity-Whole Life)

GE Financial Assurance reports $12,443,081 in collected premiums for 2009. Paid claims for 2009 amounted to $3,570,083. The total policies in force for 2009 were 64,388. The total royalty paid to The American Legion in 2009 was $815,123.

Gallagher Benefit Services & Broker Relationship

December 17th of 2009 Ms. Bergamo traveled with Jeff Brown to Chicago to meet with Chris Cordes of Gallagher Benefit Services (GBS). GBS was notified at that meeting of The Legion's intent to terminate the relationship immediately. As directed by the National Adjutant, The American Legion allowed GBS to continue to receive commissions until March 31, 2010. The termination was agreed to by both parties on January 21st 2010.

The American Legion is presently in negotiations with Aon to assume the role of broker on various products and hope to have an agreement in place in the next 30 days.

Mutual Of Omaha

Mutual of Omaha dropped two mailings in 2009 with great results. As a result of the Gallagher termination, The Legion was eligible to sign directly with Mutual of Omaha and increase revenue. This is the first direct contract with a carrier and we are excited about the potential it offers. The first direct mailing yielded $110,000 in revenue to The American Legion.

United Services Automobile Association (USAA)

Since August of last year The American Legion has been engaged in talks with USAA to create a strategic partnership. Although under a non-disclosure agreement, the committee has approved to put forth four (4) resolutions to the National Executive Committee through the Finance Commission to engage in programs with USAA. As of November of 2009 all Legion members became eligible for membership in USSA. Your National Insurance Committee is excited about this opportunity and look forward to a lucrative 2010 second quarter.

This concludes our update.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I would move the report be approved, with the exception of 15 resolutions and two addenda, one from Finance and one from Emblem. ...*Second.*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: These resolutions for Finance will not necessarily be read in numerical order. They will be presented as they appeared in the Finance report.

Resolution No. 1: Direct Payment Of Renewal Dues
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has considered allowing members to renew membership through use of a credit card over the internet or other media with the National Organization transmitting the appropriate amount of dues for the Post and

Department to Department, so that the Department may transfer the appropriate amount of dues to the Post; and

WHEREAS, The National Organization has tested this idea in the Departments of Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland and Wisconsin and confirmed the validity of the concept; and

WHEREAS, The National Constitution of The American Legion contains no such authorizing provision; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 3 of the National Constitution of The American Legion provides:

> "The annual dues shall be collected by each Post and transmitted promptly through the Department to the National Treasurer. Departments are designated agents for collection for The American Legion with respect to such annual dues and upon the receipt thereof shall remit them promptly to The American Legion. In no event shall the period transpiring between the receipt of such annual dues by a Department and the remittance thereof to The American Legion exceed thirty (30) days;" and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is not responsible for the actions of independent, autonomous Posts and Departments, but plaintiff's lawyers are known to argue, incorrectly with regards to The American Legion, that "control follows the money" which argument could cause the organization to be held in various cases through trial as opposed to getting out on summary judgment, as currently happens; and

WHEREAS, The solution to this problem appears to be an amendment to the Corporate Charter to confirm the independence of Departments and Posts; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been approved by the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Direct Renewal, the National Constitution and By-laws Committee, the National Internal Affairs Commission and the National Finance Commission, all of whom recommend it to the National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2010, That it recommends the attached resolution (Exhibit A) to the National Convention for approval which would (1) provide a change in Article X, Section 3 to the National Constitution so that, Article X, Section 3 becomes Article X, Section 3.1, (2) add a section 3.2, (3) amend the corporate charter of The American Legion and (4) provide for the timing of changes as follows:

> **3.1 "The annual dues shall be collected by each Post and transmitted promptly through the Department to the National Treasurer. Departments are designated agents for collection for The American Legion with respect to such annual dues and upon the receipt thereof shall remit them promptly to The American Legion. In no event shall the period transpiring between the receipt of such annual dues by a Department and the remittance thereof to The American Legion exceed thirty (30) days;" and**

that a new section 3.2 be added to Article X of the National Constitution as follows:

> **3.2 "The annual dues shall be collected in such alternate method(s) as determined by the National Executive Committee from time to time and thereafter communicated to the Departments for communications to the Posts provided that (a) in no instance shall the National Organization or the Departments be empowered to retain, or withhold, more than each ones published amount of per capita dues; (b) in no event shall the period transpiring between the receipt of such annual dues by the National Organization and the remittance thereof to the Departments exceed thirty (30) days; and (c) any such alternative method shall be in addition to and not in substitution for method 3.1 above;" and, be it further**

RESOLVED, That The American Legion petition Congress and President of the United States to amend the corporate charter of The American Legion (36 USC Section 21701 et seq) to change subsection 8 of section 21704 to subsection 9 and that a new subsection 8 to Section 21704 be added at follows:

> **(8) "The National Organization may provide guidance and leadership to the individual Departments and Posts, but in no instance does the National Organization control or otherwise influence the specific activities and conduct of the independent, autonomous Departments and Posts;" and, be it finally**

RESOLVED, That as set forth in the attached draft resolution, the change to the National Constitution shall not take effect until the U.S. Congress has amended the Corporate Charter of The American Legion as referenced herein.

Exhibit A to Resolution No. 1
National Executive Committee May 5-6, 2010
RESOLUTION
National Headquarters, The American Legion
Ninety-Second Annual National Convention,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
August 31, September 1, 2, 2010

WHEREAS, The American Legion has considered allowing members to renew membership through use of a credit card over the internet or other media with the National Organization transmitting the appropriate amount of dues for the Post and Department to Department, so that the Department may transfer the appropriate amount of dues to the Post; and

WHEREAS, The National Organization has tested this idea in the Departments of Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland and Wisconsin and confirmed the validity of the concept; and

WHEREAS, The National Constitution of The American Legion contains no such authorizing provision; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 3 of the National Constitution of The American Legion provides:

> "The annual dues shall be collected by each Post and transmitted promptly through the Department to the National Treasurer. Departments are designated agents for collection for The American Legion with respect to such annual dues and upon the receipt thereof shall remit them promptly to The American Legion. In no event shall the period transpiring between the receipt of such annual dues by a Department and the remittance thereof to The American Legion exceed thirty (30) days;" and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is not responsible for the actions of independent, autonomous Posts and Departments, but plaintiff's lawyers are known to argue, incorrectly with regards to The American Legion, that "control follows the money" which argument could cause the organization to be held in various cases through trial as opposed to getting out on summary judgment, as currently happens; and

WHEREAS, The solution to this problem appears to be an amendment to the Corporate Charter to confirm the independence of Departments and Posts; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been approved by the National Executive Committee which recommends it to the National Convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 31, September 1, 2, 2010, That The National Constitution be amended so that Section 3 of Article X of the National Constitution become Section:

> 3.1 "The annual dues shall be collected by each Post and transmitted promptly through the Department to the National Treasurer. Departments are designated agents for collection for The American Legion with respect to such annual dues and upon the receipt thereof shall remit them promptly to The American Legion. In no event shall the period transpiring between the receipt of such annual dues by a Department and the remittance thereof to The American Legion exceed thirty (30) days;" and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a new section 3.2 be added to Article X of the National Constitution as follows:

> 3.2 "The annual dues shall be collected in such alternate method(s) as determined by the National Executive Committee from time to time and thereafter communicated to the Departments for communications to the Posts provided that (a) in no instance shall the National Organization or the Departments be empowered to retain, or withhold, more than each ones published amount of per capita dues; (b) in no event shall the period transpiring between the receipt of such annual dues by the National Organization and the remittance thereof to the Departments exceed thirty (30) days; and (c) any such alternative method shall be in addition to and not in substitution for method 3.1 above;" and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion petition Congress and President of the United States to amend the corporate charter of The American Legion (36 USC Section 21701 et seq) to change subsection 8 of section 21704 to subsection 9 and that a new subsection 8 to Section 21704 be added at follows:

> (8) "The National Organization may provide guidance and leadership to the individual Departments and Posts, but in no instance does the National Organization control or otherwise influence the specific activities and conduct of the independent, autonomous Departments and Posts;" and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the changes to the National Constitution shall not take effect until the U.S. Government has amended the Corporate Charter of The American Legion as referenced herein.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Membership and Post Activities Committee, the chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and Internal Affairs Commission, and the chairman of the Finance Commission, and the approval of your Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 9: Authorization For A Direct Marketing Contract For Non-Member Donor Fundraising Services

Origin: Finance Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Finance Commission recommends that The American Legion seek a full service direct marketing company, to work in conjunction with the fundraising division, for the development of a direct marketing fundraising program that will actively solicit contributions from non-member donors; and

WHEREAS, Six (6) companies responded in writing to a formal request for proposal (RFP); and

WHEREAS, An Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Finance Chairman met in Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 5 – 6, 2010, to review the submissions, and has recommended the selection of ResourceOne, Inc. as the vendor of choice to provide these direct marketing fundraising services, based upon their past performance and presentation; and

WHEREAS, The National Finance Commission and the Ad Hoc Committee met on May 2, 2010, and affirmed the above; and

WHEREAS, Edge Direct, LLC, a separate company, is in the same marketing group with ResourceOne, Inc. and will assist ResourceOne, Inc. in performing these direct marketing fundraising services; and

WHEREAS, The production cycle for these services will commence in 2010 upon the successful execution of said agreement; and

WHEREAS, The National Finance Commission has reviewed all relevant materials and recommends to the National Executive Committee that the appropriate contracts be negotiated and that The American Legion move forward in this fundraising endeavor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into a 3 – year agreement with an option for 2 additional years, for direct marketing services to develop, manage and grow The American Legion non-member donor program and to raise funds, by and between ResourceOne, Inc., Edge Direct, LLC and The American Legion; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That after review and approval, of said agreement, by the National Judge Advocate, the National Commander be and is hereby authorized to execute said agreement and that the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized to attest the same.

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

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

Resolution No. 2: Authorization For The American Legion To Enter Into A Relationship To Promote Banking Services And Investment Products

Origin: Finance Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion on August 24, 1987, adopted resolution No. 3 authorizing an affinity charge card program for members; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion on August 24, 1987, adopted resolution No. 4 authorizing revenue back to the Departments and further preempting Departments from entering into their own affinity credit card programs to raise funds; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion on May 10, 1989, adopted resolution No. 24 authorizing enhancement products; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion wishes to provide to its membership opportunities to obtain the most competitive financial products in the market; and

WHEREAS, The affinity contract with First National Bank of Omaha (FNBO) is slated for renegotiation this year; and

WHEREAS, A Financial institution can offer banking services and investment products to The American Legion membership, thereby producing a significant amount of revenue to The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Banking services include affinity credit cards, deposits, lending and special services; and

WHEREAS, The National Finance Commission has reviewed this resolution and recommends its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into an agreement with a financial institution, as deemed appropriate by the National Commander and approved by the National Finance Commission, to offer banking services and investment products; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by The National Finance Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of your Finance Commission, your Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 10: Authorization For The American Legion To Enter Into A Relationship To Promote Commercial Property And Casualty Insurance

Origin: Insurance Committee

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion wishes to provide to its posts, departments and affiliate-owned and operated businesses, opportunities to purchase the most competitive commercial property and casualty insurance in the market; and

WHEREAS, commercial property and casualty insurance may include; property, building and inventory (assets) general liability, workmen's compensation, commercial vehicle and professional liability; and

WHEREAS, The National Insurance Committee and the National Finance Commission have reviewed this resolution and recommend its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into an agreement with an insurance company, as deemed appropriate by the National Commander and approved by the National Finance Commission, to offer commercial property and casualty insurance products; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by The National Finance Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of your Insurance Committee, your Finance Commission, your Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore, I for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 8: Authorization For United Services Automobile Association (USAA) And The American Legion Relationship To Promote Automobile, Specialty Auto And Motorized Recreational Vehicle Insurance

Origin: Insurance Committee

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion wishes to provide to its membership opportunities to purchase the most competitive auto insurance in the market; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has an opportunity with United Services Automobile Association (USAA) (an insurance and financial company), to form a strategic relationship; and

WHEREAS, USAA is an organization founded by military members, for military members and available only to military members, veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, USAA has an impeccable reputation for products, customer service and integrity in its operations; and

WHEREAS, USAA can offer products to include, automobile, specialty auto and motorized recreational vehicle insurance to The American Legion membership, thereby producing a significant amount of revenue to The American Legion, and, in most cases, significant savings to the member; and

WHEREAS, The National Insurance Committee and the National Finance Commission have reviewed this resolution and recommend its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into an agreement by and between United Services Automobile Association (USAA), and The American Legion to offer automobile, specialty auto and motorized recreational vehicle insurance; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by The National Finance Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of your Insurance Committee, your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 3: Authorization For Aon Affinity Services, Inc And The American Legion Relationship

Origin: Insurance Committee

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been dealing with ING ReliaStar, Hartford, Family Heritage Life and TransAmerica for many years, and currently has policies with these carriers held by members of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Since these carriers are insurance companies and as such do not have their own administrative capabilities, they cannot by law, have a direct relationship with an unlicensed organization and must do business with them through an insurance broker; and

WHEREAS, In order for The American Legion to comply with the law, it is necessary for it to have a broker of record; and

WHEREAS, Aon may also introduce insurance products to The American Legion membership thereby producing a significant amount of revenue to The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The National Insurance Committee and the National Finance Commission have reviewed this resolution and recommend its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into an agreement by and between Aon Affinity Insurance Services, Inc. and The American Legion to offer insurance products following the normal and customary procedures; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by The National Finance Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of your Insurance Committee, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 4: Authorization For Mutual Of Omaha Insurance Company And The American Legion Relationship

Origin: Insurance Committee

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company, an insurance carrier, has a guarantee issue life insurance product that The American Legion's other life insurance provider does not offer; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Life Insurance Program was approved in a special meeting of the National Executive Committee on February 22, 1958 in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, The initial preemption of life insurance was first announced by the National Executive Committee in Resolution 27, adopted May 3-4, 1972, reaffirmed in Resolution No. 38 adopted by the National Executive Committee May 4-5, 1988, and

further reaffirmed in Resolution No. 24 adopted by the National Executive Committee May 1-2, 1991; and

WHEREAS, Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company may introduce life insurance products to The American Legion membership thereby producing a significant amount of revenue to The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The National Insurance Committee and the National Finance Commission have reviewed this resolution and recommend its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into an agreement by and between Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company and The American Legion to offer life insurance products following the normal and customary procedures; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by The National Finance Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of the Insurance Committee, your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 6: Authorization For United Services Automobile Association (USAA) And The American Legion Relationship To Promote Property And Specialty Property Insurance

Origin: Insurance Committee

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion wishes to provide to its membership opportunities to purchase the most competitive property insurance in the market; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has an opportunity with United Services Automobile Association (USAA) (an insurance and financial company), to form a strategic relationship; and

WHEREAS, USAA is an organization founded by military members, for military members and available only to military members, veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, USAA has an impeccable reputation for products, customer service and integrity in its operations; and

WHEREAS, USAA can offer property and special property insurance products to The American Legion membership, thereby producing a significant amount of revenue to The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Property insurance and special property insurance products include homeowners, condominium, renters, flood and windstorm insurance products, among others; and

WHEREAS, The National Insurance Committee and the National Finance Commission have reviewed this resolution and recommend its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The

American Legion be authorized to enter into an agreement by and between United Services Automobile Association (USAA), and The American Legion to offer property insurance; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by The National Finance Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of your Insurance Committee, your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 7: Authorization For United Services Automobile Association (USAA) And The American Legion Relationship To Promote Annuities, Long Term Care, Medicare Solutions, Home Owners Warranties And Other New Products That May Become Available

Origin: Insurance Committee

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion wishes to provide to its membership opportunities to purchase the most competitive insurance products in the market; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has an opportunity with United Services Automobile Association (USAA) (an insurance and financial company), to form a strategic relationship; and

WHEREAS, USAA is an organization founded by military members, for military members and available only to military members, veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, USAA has an impeccable reputation for products, customer service and integrity in its operations; and

WHEREAS, USAA can offer annuities, long term care, Medicare solutions, home owners warranties and other products that may become available, thereby producing a significant amount of revenue to The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The National Insurance Committee and the National Finance Commission have reviewed this resolution and recommend its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into an agreement by and between United Services Automobile Association (USAA), and The American Legion to offer annuities, long term care, Medicare solutions, home owners warranties and other products that may become available; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by The National Finance Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of the Insurance Committee, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 5: Authorization For United Services Automobile Association (USAA) And The American Legion Relationship To Promote Life Insurance Products

Origin: Insurance Committee

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion Life Insurance Program was approved in a special meeting of the National Executive Committee on February 22, 1958, in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, The initial preemption of life insurance was first announced by the National Executive Committee in Resolution 27, adopted May 3-4, 1972, reaffirmed in Resolution No. 38 adopted by the National Executive Committee May 4-5, 1988, and further reaffirmed in Resolution No. 24 adopted by the National Executive Committee May 1-2, 1991; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion wishes to provide to its membership, opportunities to purchase the most competitive life insurance products in the market; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has an opportunity with United Services Automobile Association (USAA) (an insurance and financial company), to form a strategic relationship; and

WHEREAS, USAA is an organization founded by military members, for military members and available only to military members, veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, USAA has an impeccable reputation for products, customer service and integrity in its operations; and

WHEREAS, USAA can offer life insurance products to The American Legion membership, thereby producing a significant amount of revenue to The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The National Insurance Committee and the National Finance Commission have reviewed this resolution and recommend its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into an agreement by and between United Services Automobile Association (USAA), and The American Legion to offer life insurance products; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Departments of The American Legion may share in the revenue, in proportion, as determined by The National Finance Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of the Insurance Committee, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 31: Agreement With James G. Elliott Co., Inc.
Origin: *The American Legion Magazine* Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, J. D. Power and Associates, of Westlake Village, California, has long been a principal research agency contracted annually by The American Legion to provide information and statistical analysis on automotive industry advertising; and

WHEREAS, The need to expand advertising research beyond the automotive field to include other industries, and the cost, has necessitated severing ties with J. D. Power and Associates and securing the services of another vendor; and

WHEREAS, The James G. Elliott Co., Inc., in cooperation with Mediamark Research, Inc., is capable of providing targeted research and analysis on numerous additional selected advertising areas through "reader panels," which rely on Internet-based communications and feedback; and

WHEREAS, The Magazine Commission has determined that entering into an annual agreement with the James G. Elliott Co., Inc., for advertising research and analysis would produce the necessary and desired results if conducted up to six times per year; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the concurrence of the National Finance Commission and *The American Legion Magazine* Commission both of whom recommended it to the National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion shall enter into an annual agreement with The James G. Elliott Co., Inc., to conduct up to six reader panels per year to research and analyze advertising areas selected by The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That such agreement shall be effective for one year beginning in June 2010 and annually thereafter for an annual amount not to exceed $30,000; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander be and is hereby authorized to execute said agreement(s) when approved as to legal sufficiency by the National Judge Advocate, and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of *The American Legion Magazine* Commission, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 33: Sons Of The American Legion Restricted Account
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, In the 1970s a Sons of The American Legion Liability Account was established as a restricted fund in the event of emergency such as membership decline, etc. and if temporary funds were needed to meet expenses; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 4-5, 2005 by NEC Resolution No. 6 established a ceiling of $500,000 (with a variance of +/- 1.5%) for the Sons of The American Legion Liability Account (Account #2118) for each budget year ending in the month of December to be reviewed annually by Internal Affairs and the National Finance Commission at the spring meetings for adequacy and from a fiscal management viewpoint; and

WHEREAS, A donation in a amount over the ceiling can be made to The American Legion approved charities that support America's veterans and youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That the current amount (end of budget year 2009) in the restricted fund is $556,446 and the amount to be donated is $45,000, which is above the +/- 1 ½% of the $500,000 ceiling of the Sons of The American Legion Restricted Fund, to the following charities in the name of The Sons of The American Legion:

Child Welfare Foundation	**$15,000**
Legacy Scholarship Fund	**$10,000**
Fisher House	**$10,000**
National Emergency Fund	**$10,000**

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

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

Resolution No. 34: Armed Service Academy Awards Update
Origin: Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, In 1998, the sponsorship for the United States Naval Academy, United States Air Force Academy, United States Coast Guard Academy and the United States Merchant Marine Academy awards were increased to $400.00 while the United States Military Academy at West Point remained at $250.00 per United States Military Academy Regulation 672-2; and

WHEREAS, Since 1959, The American Legion has sponsored an annual award for one of the graduating cadets from the United States Air Force Academy who demonstrates the highest proficiency in all academic subjects; and

WHEREAS, The service academy awards are some of our longest running awards and reinforce our commitment as an organization to the future of our country and its future leaders; and

WHEREAS, Due to the rising costs of the Air Force Academy's operating/award procedures, the Air Force Academy requested that we increase our sponsorship to cover the cost of this award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That it does hereby increase the sponsorship of The American Legion Air Force Academy Award to $500, all the while the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee will continue to review this award on a periodic basis.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee, Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 35: 2010 American Legion Boys Nation Contract
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, It is necessary that The American Legion enter into a contract with Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia, for the purpose of providing a site for the 2010 American Legion Boys Nation Program; and

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

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Marymount University for the 2010 American Legion Boys Nation Program; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That when the 2010 American Legion Boys Nation contract has been drafted and finalized, the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said 2010 contract and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest same.

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

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

Resolution No. 32: Permanent Site Of The American Legion Baseball World Series
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, In May 2009, an Ad Hoc committee was appointed by the National Commander to conduct a thorough examination of The American Legion Baseball program to provide recommendations for enhancing the program at the regional and national tournament levels; and

WHEREAS, That Ad Hoc Committee did recommend that a single permanent site for The American Legion Baseball World Series tournament be selected to promote continued growth, accessibility and affordability of American Legion Baseball for both participants and spectators; and

WHEREAS, In February 2010 an inspection committee was appointed by the National Commander to visit the top two communities submitting a formal bid to host and become the permanent site of The American Legion Baseball World Series; and

WHEREAS, Both sites were found to be outstanding communities and capable of designation as a permanent site; and

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

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion designates Shelby, North Carolina as the permanent site of The American Legion Baseball World Series; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion enter into a four (4) year contract with the host of the permanent site, American Legion Post 82 located in Shelby, North Carolina; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the permanent site of The American Legion Baseball World Series shall be reviewed annually the first three (3) years of the initial four (4) year contract, and upon receiving favorable reviews, the contract with American Legion Post 82 shall be extended annually thereafter; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the dates for The American Legion Baseball World Series tournaments of the initial four (4) year contract shall be August 12-16, 2011; August 17-21, 2012; August 16-20, 2013; and August 15-19, 2014.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of the Americanism Commission, your Finance Commission, Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Motion and second. Any discussion? Sir.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WILSON (OK): I would personally like to thank the Baseball Commission and the gentlemen involved in making this decision and the decisions they made was a great decision, but Oklahoma will still give them hell. (*Laughter*)

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Thank you. Any other discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, attached to this report from the Finance Commission is Addendum A. I move that the action of the Finance Commission be the action of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, also attached is Addendum A from Emblem Sales. I move the action of Emblem Sales Committee be the action of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

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

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Comrade Commander, I would like to find out on the insurance resolutions the anticipated start dates. And then there was the allotment of revenue and a portion of that. Is there a percentage that can go in there, or do they know yet?

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DANILSON: First of all, the anticipated start date we don't know yet. We are still in negotiations, and our goal is to do it as soon as we can.

In regards to the revenue sharing with the departments, some of that will depend on how much we are going to get, or at least anticipated. But I guess I would say 15 to 25 percent range, just off the top of my head, but until we get those numbers, it'll be hard to tell. But we'll try to do the best we can.

...At this time National Vice Commander Schumacher assumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I appointed a Baseball World Series Site Inspection Committee on January 29, 2010, for the purpose of visiting and evaluating the top two communities submitting a formal bid to host and become the permanent site of The American Legion Baseball World Series.

I appointed David K. Rehbein of Iowa, past national commander; Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, chairman of the Americanism Commission Liaison Committee; John E. Hayes of Indiana, Americanism Commission and member of the National Baseball Subcommittee; and Larry Price, South Dakota, chairman of the Baseball Subcommittee to the committee.

They traveled to Shelby, North Carolina on March 19th to the 21st, and Bartlesville, Oklahoma on March 26th to the 28th. Their final report was submitted to me on May 2nd.

I would like to thank the Site Inspection Committee members for their efforts, and their work is now complete. Resolution number 32 was approved, so, at this time I would accept a motion to dissolve the ad hoc committee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: So moved, commander. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SCHUMACHER: Motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed. Motion carries.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Secondly, I appointed an ad hoc committee on direct renewal on October 7, 2009 for the purpose of discussing and determining a way to implement an online renewal program as a benefit to our members.

I appointed the following individuals to that committee: Dale Barnett, Georgia as chairman; Larry Besson of Illinois, co-chairman; and Ken Danilson of Iowa as co-chairman; Bob Proctor of Florida; Terry Woodburn, Illinois; Chuck Yunker, Kansas; Tom Davis, Maryland; Bob Spanogle, Michigan; Jerry Hedrick, North Carolina; Roger Hight, Ohio; George Lussier, Virginia.

They met December 5, 2009 in Indianapolis, Indiana, and again on February 28, 2010 in Washington, D.C. Their final report submitted to me on April 19, 2010 recommended that the online renewal program begin with the first dues notice in June 2011 for the 2012 membership year.

I would like to thank the ad hoc committee for their efforts. Their work is complete. Resolution number one was approved. At this time I would accept a motion to dissolve the ad hoc committee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: So move. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SCHUMACHER: Motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor. Opposed. Motion carries.

...At this time National Commander Hill resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: At this time I call on Silas Noel, Kentucky, president of the 2009 National Convention Corporation for the final report of the 2009 National Convention.

Oral Report: National Convention Corporation of Kentucky
Silas M. Noel, Kentucky, President

Mr. Commander, before I get started, I just want you to know I wore my Florida coat just to impress you.

This is not the kind of report I really want to give, because I thought we did such a tremendous job we should have got paid more money than we did, but we didn't, and of course our excuse is this: There was a hotel there, The Hotel Louisville. It had been there for years and years and years. It was the Stouffer Inn then the Holiday Inn and then the Downtown Louisville Hotel. Well, it went into the receivership after doing a $2.5 million renovation to it. Anyway, we thought that it would be bought by another hotel chain, but it wasn't. It was bought by The Home of the Innocent and making it a place for homeless people. And yet today hasn't opened. But with that happening, it cost us a bill a little over $50,000 for a couple of buses, and we had to move the other departments over to Indiana and other places, so, therefore, the profit that we would have normally received, was not there.

And we had total expenditures of $160,223.65. We had a total of deposits of $162,505.20. And we had a net profit of $2,281.55. And being the generous person I am, I'm giving national $1,141, and we're receiving $1,140.55. So, we're taking the lesser of the amounts. But the total profit was $2,281.55. And all I can say is we had a great time

at the Convention. Everybody I've talked to, they say they had a great time. But, we didn't make any money, but that's the way it goes. And I certainly thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: I move the report be received and filed. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I would just like to say I liked the outcome of that Convention. (*Laughter*) Any discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: I enjoyed it too, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

CONVENTION CORPORATION PRESIDENT NOEL: Mr. Commander, would you come to the podium so I could present you with the check?

...At this time National Vice Commander Morris assumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Did you spell my name right?

CONVENTION CORPORATION PRESIDENT NOEL: Sure did. Spelled, "National Treasurer." *(Laughter)* I want to give you two checks, and the reason for this is please cash this one first, and wait a while to cash this one. *(Laughter)*

The reason there are two checks is after we got up here the audit was completed, and we got an additional $528 in. So, I didn't know whether to steal it or put it in the pot, so Randy Fisher made me put it in the pot. So that meant I had to do the audit over again, so that gave you another $264. So the total is $1,141, sir.

...At this time National Commander Hill resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Okay. I call on Mike Walton, Illinois, chairman of the Convention Commission.

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

Good morning, Commander Clarence and members of the NEC. Although our written report is in your packet, I would like to touch on some highlights of our meetings that were held in Indianapolis the past couple of days.

Before you is Resolution number 36, which is seeking the approval of the recommendation of the National Convention Commission that the contract between the national organization of The American Legion and the 2013 Texas National Convention Corporation of The American Legion be signed by the National Commander and the president of the 2013 National Convention Corporation.

Also, the commission received two bids for the 2015 National Convention, one from Chicago, Illinois, and one from Baltimore, Maryland. Under Addendum B of my report you will find the commission is recommending the city of Baltimore, Maryland to receive the tentative award of the 2015, 97th National Convention of The American Legion for August 28th through September 3rd, 2015.

We also have four cities that are officially bidding on the 2016 98th National Convention of The American Legion. Those cities are Denver, Colorado, Salt Lake City, Utah, Seattle, Washington, and Virginia Beach, Virginia. Under Addendum A of my report you will find the four departmental resolutions of support. Please also recall when I last briefed you, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma had shown interest in bidding on the 2016 National Convention, but they have advised our National Headquarters that their bid for 2016 is withdrawn.

Wayne Jensen, president of the 2010 National Convention Committee, gave a very good report regarding our Milwaukee convention coming up August 27th through September 2nd of this year. Everything is shaping up quite well for our 92nd National Convention. President Jensen also informed us that they will have a parade party at Pere Marquette Park, which is located at the end of the parade route. This will be on Sunday, August the 29th from approximately 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. which would be right at the end of

the parade route. Commander, that concludes my report, and I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve.

Report: National Convention Commission
May 3 – 4, 2010
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman

Chairman Michael E. Walton, Illinois, called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M., May 3, 2010. Roll call was taken and all members were present.

Resolution No. 36 – Approval of the recommendation by the National Convention Commission that the contract between the National Organization of The American Legion and the 2013 Texas National Convention Corporation of The American Legion, Incorporated for the dates of August 23 – 29, 2013 be signed by the National Commander and the President of the 2013 National Convention Corporation.

Baltimore, Maryland and Chicago, Illinois provided presentations requesting they be awarded the 2015 National Convention of The American Legion. The city of Baltimore, Maryland is recommended to receive the tentative award of the 2015 National Convention for the dates of August 28 – September 3, 2015.

Wayne Jensen, President, of the 2010 National American Legion Convention Committee Incorporated reported on the planning processes for the 2010 National Convention. Planning for the 92nd National Convention of the American Legion is on schedule. The Frontier Airlines Center will be the site of the general sessions, the exhibit hall, color guard contests, the National Commander's Banquet, and the Auxiliary States Dinner. The National Staff Offices for the American Legion, the Auxiliary, SAL and Distinguished Guest Registration area will also be within the Frontier Airlines Center. The National Commander's Banquet, on August 31, 2010, will feature the Country Artist – Aaron Tippin, as our entertainment.

Silas Noel, President of the National Convention Corporation of Kentucky, Incorporated gave his final report to the National Convention Commission for the 91st National Convention of The American Legion. Mr. Noel reported the 2009 convention corporation generated a profit of $1,753.55 and he will present the National Commander with a check for $877.00.

Our National Convention Request for Proposal (RFP) has been updated to reflect our current numbers and to ensure what we provide to bidding cities is properly reflected within the RFP. The RFP will be sent to those cities desiring to bid on the 2016 National Convention, which have been authorized via the appropriate resolution by their respective Department to bid. The RFP will be updated each year as necessary.

Chairman Walton assigned each member of the commission a specific committee functions to observe at the 2010 National Convention. Each commission member will report their findings to the full commission during the 2010 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

We have four Departments of The American Legion that have submitted the proper resolution expressing their interest in bidding on the 2016 National Convention. The cities being supported by the appropriate resolution are Denver, Colorado, Salt Lake City, Utah, Seattle, Washington and Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Dates for future National Conventions are:

Milwaukee, WI	August 27 – September 2, 2010
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

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved

Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2638(VA) (DEC)**: City of Virginia Beach Offers to Host the 2016 National Convention**

Withdrawn

Register Resolution No. 2639 (OK) (DEC)**: City of Oklahoma City Offers to Host the 2016 National Convention**

Addendum B: Date of Events/Meetings

Events/Meetings	**Dates**
2015 National Convention – Baltimore, Maryland	August 28 – September 3, 2015

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move the report be received and filed, with the exception of one resolution and two addenda. ...*Second.*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Resolution 36, 2013 National Convention Contract. Let the record show that this is being read under Rule 8A of the National Executive Committee. It is being read at 11:08.

Resolution No. 36: 2013 National Convention Contract
Origin: National Convention Commission
Submitted by: National Convention Commission

WHEREAS, The National Convention Commission has reviewed the status of the proposed National American Legion Convention in Houston, Texas August 23 – 29, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Subject to receiving a properly executed contract from the 2013 Texas National Convention Corporation of The American Legion, Inc., the National Convention Commission believes that all conditions for a contract covering The American Legion National Convention in Houston, Texas August 23 – 29, 2013, have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, The National Convention Commission hereby recommends to the National Executive Committee that it enter into the appropriate contract with the 2013 Texas National Convention Corporation of The American Legion, Inc., to cover the 2013 American Legion National Convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5 – 6, 2010, That the National Commander, after receipt of an executed contract from the 2013 Texas National Convention Corporation of The American Legion, Inc., and the review and approval of same from the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract and the National Adjutant, be and hereby is authorized and directed to attest to same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Commander, attached to these reports is Addendum A as you heard the chairman say, and Addendum B. I move that the action of the National Convention Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

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

Call on Michael Helm, Nebraska, chairman of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

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

National Commander Hill, members of the NEC, fellow Legionnaires. Good morning. The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met May the 3rd at The American Legion National Headquarters, Room 301, to consider six resolutions. Two of those resolutions have been forwarded for your consideration.

I want to thank and recognize the national staff, departments and local Legionnaires for their steadfast leadership and lobbying efforts in the passage of several pieces of legislation within the past year.

The American Legion received assurances that military and veterans health care would be protected under the new National Health Care Reform Bill. We are working with VA to refund money to those veterans erroneously billed for medical care of injuries sustained in service to our country.

The American Legion lobbied for sufficient, timely, and predictable funding. Congress passed advance appropriations with September 2010 being the first fiscal year with advance funding. We are tracking where that money goes. We have found during the System Worth Saving site visits this year, that in several instances the advance funding is not being implemented locally, but is being held at the VISN levels. The American Legion will continue to advocate for mandatory funding of VA's Veteran Health Administration.

Congress passed Senate Bill 1963, a bill to create two distinct caregiver support programs, one for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, and another for caregivers of all eras. The bill also improves services for women veterans, rural health care, mental health care, and beneficiary travel and other health care matters.

Additionally, our newest generations of veterans are returning home to an outdated health care and claims system. Our job as The American Legion and the purview of this commission is protecting and securing the earned benefits for returning service members who are transitioning into the community.

The VA&R Commission is working hard to develop programs that address the changing demographics and current needs of servicemembers and veterans with traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress disorder, women veterans, rural health care access and suicide prevention outreach and referrals to name a few.

The VA&R Volunteer Program had significant increases this last year. We added 202 new volunteers and 7,118 hours. I want to thank everyone for their commitment to volunteering. We have two goals: Recruit new members into voluntary service, and to engage our current members into the service. The commission asks that you continue to promote volunteerism within your departments.

The American Legion has also established volunteer partnerships with organizations such as Habitat For Humanity and Rebuilding Together to ensure veterans are able to live in quality housing.

The VA&R Division developed a Suicide Prevention and Outreach Volunteer Program to connect a servicemember or veteran experiencing a mental health crisis with VA's National Suicide Prevention Hotline. We were informed by VA that 40 posts have adopted suicide prevention programs. We hope that number continues to grow.

The American Legion also supports the Ride to Recovery program, a week long cycling event throughout the United States to help injured veterans speed up their recovery and rehabilitation process. We were told that Commander Hill rode in his home

state of Florida with the cycling group in December. Thank you for participating, commander.

Lastly, a new volunteer portal was launched on the national website in May which outlines all of these volunteer programs, how to become involved, and a new Track Your Volunteer Hours database was created.

I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to the outstanding VA&R Division staff headed by Barry Searle, director of VA&R; Jacob Gadd, assistant director for program management, and Ian DePlanque, deputy director for operations and legislative action. Would they please stand, and give them a hand. (*Applause*)

I thank you all for the opportunity and privilege to serve as the VA&R chairman. My commission continues to develop programs and initiatives for The American Legion to care for those who have borne the battle. Commander, that concludes my report.

Advance Report: National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
March 1, 2010
Michael Helm, Nebraska, Chairman

I. 2010 Department Service Officers School

The first session of the 2010 Department Service Officers School was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC, February 24 – February 27, 2010. Approximately 110 Department Service officers from around the country attended. The curriculum centered on veterans' law issues, including decisions by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and their impact on the VA's claims adjudication and appeals process. A basic course for newer service officers, conducted by National Association of Department Service Officers, was again provided this year. Guest speakers also provided information on topics such as the VA budget for FY 2010, mandatory funding for VA health care, Women veteran issues, VA billing practices, the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and the military's Disability Evaluation System (DES).

The next session will be held in Indianapolis, August 5-7.

II. National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference

The 87th Annual Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Conference was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. on March 1, 2010. The conference included presentations by officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs and other guest speakers, who will discuss matters relative to veterans' benefits and health care.

This year, the VA&R Commission had their presentation on the National Commander's Volunteer of the Year from Orlando VA Medical Center. Presenters on various topics included Catherine Rick, Chief Nursing Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Bradley Mayes, Director, Compensation and Pension Service for the Department of Veterans Affairs and three panels on Third Party Billing, Volunteering and Women Veterans.

The third party panel included representatives from VA's Chief Business Office, VA's Health Information Management and the Government Accountability Office discussed what steps VA can take to improve on third-party billing and the current status of these initiatives.

The VA&R Commission hosted a first-of-its kind "Legion Volunteering" Panel with representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program and newly established partnerships with Rebuilding Together, Habitat for Humanity, VA Suicide Prevention Program and Ride to Recovery. Jacob Gadd, Assistant Director for Program Management for The American Legion stated, "We have three main goals for the panel which are: first, to provide conferees with an understanding on how to be active in your community as an American Legion volunteer; secondly, to engage

current American Legion members into voluntary service and lastly, to recruit new volunteers. Each of the panelists discussed their program area and how The American Legion makes a difference in terms of volunteers and hours in their communities as well as explain new projects in 2010 designed to help service members and veterans.

A Women Veterans panel also was convened at the conference to discuss VA's outreach, services and treatment. Denise Williams, Assistant Director for Health Policy at The American Legion stated "currently, there are 1.8 million living women veterans. In 2008, 453,250 women veterans enrolled in the VA healthcare system for care. The number of women veterans enrolled in the system is expected to grow by 33 percent in the next three years. These numbers will continue to increase and VA has to be prepared for the influx of younger female veterans. She also stated, "The American Legion remains concerned about the gaps that still exist in the VA healthcare delivery practices towards our women veterans. The American Legion urges VA to continue to make every effort to ensure that women veterans receive the same level of care as their male counterparts."

The panel included highly qualified panelist from both the VA and other VSOs. The overall intent is to have the individuals from both entities have an open and honest discussion about the barriers the women veterans encounter when receiving care through the VA. In addition, they highlighted the difficulties that they face when filing disability claims for their combat related injuries.

III. Meeting Of The National Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission met on March 3 2010, in Congressional Hall A, Ballroom Level, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC. It is the first time that it has met since the National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis in the fall of 2009. Commission Chairman Michael Helm, (NE) presided. The Commission heard comments from R. Michael Suter (NY), Vice Chairman, as well as reports from VA&R Committees and updates from the Washington Headquarters staff.

A. Report of the Committee on Certificates of Appreciation

Your Committee on Certificates of Appreciation met on March 1, 2010, in the Congressional Hall A, Ballroom Level, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC and considered no new nominations for this award.

Between the 88th National Convention of The American Legion and the 2010 National Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Conference, four certificates were awarded to:

Thomas W. Kiernan, M.D.
Chief of Staff
VAMC, Augusta, GA

Richard Bensinger
Decision Review Officer
VARO, Chicago, IL

Kevin Roseland
Regional Officer
VARO, Fargo, North Dakota

James W. Lynch
County Veteran Service Officer
Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

Alachua County, Florida

B. Legion Volunteering Update

On Monday, March 1 the VA&R Conference hosted a first-of-its-kind "Legion Volunteering" Panel, with representatives from VA Voluntary Service, VA Suicide Prevention Office, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together and Ride to Recovery.

VA Voluntary Service

Rick Gillette, VHA/VSO Liaison with the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program office updated the VA&R Commission on volunteers, hours of service and new initiatives. The American Legion has been a staunch supporter of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program. VAVS is the largest program in the Federal Government, providing over 63 of voluntary service to veterans in VA Medical Centers, Clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses and State Veterans Homes. I'm pleased to report that in 2009, The American Legion had 202 new volunteers and 7,118 additional hours- the first significant increases in eight years. In FY 2010, The American Legion is rolling out a FY 2010- 1,000,000 Volunteer Hours Campaign. The website is also launching a Legion Volunteering Page with a "Track Your Volunteer Hours" database so volunteers can track program hours and donations by program, state and post.

VA Suicide Prevention

Dr. Janet Kemp, National VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator facilitated Suicide Prevention Training at the 2009 Convention. Over 40 posts have adopted Suicide Prevention and Referral Programs to VA's National Suicide Prevention Hotline, 1-800-273-TALK, Press 1 if you are a veteran. VA also has local Suicide Prevention Coordinators at all 144 VA Medical Centers nationwide. Department Coordinators are currently being solicited to provide training to Districts and Posts so no veteran falls through the cracks and does not receive the care they need during a crisis. Dr. Kemp's goal for The American Legion is to have half of all The American Legion posts to have suicide prevention coordinators and training in 2010.

Veteran Housing Statistics

More than 25 million veterans reside in the U.S. The largest group of U.S. veterans is now in their 50's and 60's. More than 6.9 million veterans are disabled. More than 131,000 U.S. veterans are homeless. One out of every three homeless individuals is a veteran. More than 4.3 million veterans have a combined family income of less than $20,000.

The American Legion developed two veteran housing volunteer partnerships to assist with the veteran substandard housing crisis- Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity.

Rebuilding Together

John White, Vice President for Rebuilding Together presented on opportunities where The American Legion can assist in veterans housing in the community. The American Legion partnered with Rebuilding Together by resolution at the 2009 Convention. Rebuilding Together is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free home repair services.

The Rebuilding Together's Veterans Housing Initiative was launched in 2005, with currently 516 veterans projects completed, 3,579 Individuals Served, 15,084 Volunteers Engaged which is $9 million in market value.

Rebuilding Together's services are provided at NO cost to qualified veterans and their families.

Steps to Volunteering:

1) Designate a Department Rebuilding Together Coordinator or apply if interested
2) Distribute veteran criteria for assistance to Department Service Officers, Districts and Posts
3) Contact Rebuilding Together Affiliate in your State to assist with veteran home projects
4) Contact Local districts and posts to sponsor a veterans rebuilding home site (volunteers, donations, etc.)

Habitat for Humanity

The American Legion approved (Res. 106, 2009 Convention) to partner with Habitat for Humanity. Desiree Adaway, Director for Volunteer Mobilization presented on opportunities for The American Legion to volunteer with Habitat affiliates to make simple, decent, affordable housing a reality. A Legionnaire's Guide to Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunities toolkit gives veterans options to advocate, build, donate and organize in support of Habitat's mission. The toolkit can be found at: http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/habitat.pdf

Steps to Volunteering:

1) Review Legionnaire's Guide to Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunities Toolkit
2) Choose Assignment
3) Inform service members and veterans in need with Habitat's eligibility criterion and distribute toolkit
4) Families in need of decent shelter can apply to local Habitat affiliates. Affiliates may also contact Department Service Officers to locate individuals who are eligible. Many affiliates have their own homeowner criteria and application
5) Volunteers can assist at local Veteran Build Sites

Ride to Recovery

John Wordin, Executive Director for Ride to Recovery presented on the Ride to Recovery program. The American Legion partnered with Ride to Recovery at the 2009 Spring NEC. Ride to Recovery is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that raises money to support spinning and cycling programs for Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Cycling is an important part of the recovery and rehabilitation process. Program Benefits include: increased cardio fitness, weight loss, improved mental health, sense of normalcy, accomplishment, pride and relief from depression and problems that accompany recovery and rehabilitation. Ride to Recovery program conducts week-long cycling trips for military, veteran and civilian personnel to assist them during their time of recovery and rehabilitation.

Ride to Recovery has East/West Coast, Texas and Florida rides with hundreds of injured troops, celebrities, athletes and elected officials.

Steps to Volunteering:

1) Determine if your state will have upcoming Ride to Recovery events
2) Become a State Ride to Recovery Coordinator
3) Become a Day- Site Captain
4) Other donation and volunteer area (Provide meals, use of post facilities, rest stop breaks, escort with Legion Riders)
5) Ride in the event

In conclusion, volunteering reinforces The American Legion's Veteran Affairs pillar "taking care of veterans." Volunteering raises visibility and awareness of the organization's services and reenergizes members to get active in local posts while continuing to recruit new members. Volunteering carries on the tradition of "serving those who serve."

C.) Report of The American Legion National Cemetery Committee

Members of the VA&R Cemetery Committee met to discuss current issues affective veterans in the operations of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), on Monday, March 1, 2010, at the Marriott, Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel.

Topics discussed included H.R. 761: Parental Burial in National Cemeteries (Corey Shea Act). To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility of parents of certain deceased veterans for interment in national cemeteries sponsored Rep Frank, Barney [MA-4] (introduced 1/28/2009) as well as Related Bill H.R.3949. The "Corey Shea Act" intends to provide for parents of service members who die without spouses to be interred with their service member child. Response from membership of The American Legion has been mixed on this issue, and there is no current position. The decision was made by the Committee to continue to record member opinions on the legislation, but take no action to support a formal opinion at this time.

New Cemetery openings were discussed, including Bakersfield, Calif.; Birmingham, Ala.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Sarasota County, Fla.; southeastern Pennsylvania; and Columbia-Greenville, S.C. All six areas have veteran populations exceeding 170,000, which is the threshold VA has established for new national cemeteries. Ft. Jackson, Jacksonville, Sarasota, Alabama and Bakersfield National Cemeteries opened for interments in 2009. An update on the medallions discussed last year for application to fixed memorial markers that do not identify the deceased as a veteran as the medallions will be available to families of the deceased service members on April 30, 2010

D.) Staff Reports

Barry A. Searle, Director VA&R presented on the FY 2011 Budget. In particular he stated that The American Legion was quite pleased with the fact that most if not all recommendations given in the September Testimony of the National Commander were met and in some cases exceeded. Also it was pointed out that since FY 2002 the total VA Budget was increased from $53.1 billion to $125 billion. Increases in the budget to enhance the claims process and reduce the backlog in excess of $460 million (27% over last year); $250 million to improve access to rural health care, and $265 million to reduce homelessness were highlighted. Additionally, $218 million (an increase of $19 million) and an expansion of eligibility for Priority Group 8, all addressed the commander's priorities. However, it was cautioned that the current increases should be maintained in future budget requests as with the continuation of the current conflict more and more veterans are returning with serious wounds and PTSD issues and will require additional support.

Steve Smithson (MI), Principal Deputy Director, VA&R, presented on the major issues involving the Veterans Benefits Administration. The claims backlog continues to be a problem for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). As of March 1, there were more than 476,000 disability (rating) claims pending, 37 percent of which are pending over 125 days. The American Legion testified on various aspects of the claims process, including the backlog, several times this past year. The director of VA&R will also be representing The American Legion at a House Veterans Affairs Committee Claims Summit on March 18.

On a positive note, VA&R's Appeals and Special Claims Unit staff presented approximately 8,000 appeals to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) in FY 09. This

includes both written brief presentations and representation at BVA personal hearings. In FY 09, 23 percent of American Legion-represented appeals were granted by the BVA and 38 percent were remanded for additional development, giving The American Legion a combined allowance/remand rate of 61 percent. The American Legion's allowance and remand rate for FY 09 were above the BVA average while the denial rate was below the BVA average.

VA&R's discharge review unit continues to provide the bulk of representation before the military's discharge review boards and military records correction boards. DAV has drastically cut back its representation before these boards and the VFW has ended its representation all together.

The VA&R Division's Quality Review Team conducted site visits at three VA Regional Offices this past year (Jackson, MS, Newark, NJ, and New Orleans, LA). The Team continues to find an error of approximately 25 percent in the random samples of recently adjudicated American Legion claims reviewed during the visits.

In response to VA's consolidation of original pension claims and DIC claims at its three Pension Maintenance/Management Centers (St. Paul, Philadelphia, and Milwaukee), the VA&R Division established permanent representative positions at each PMC. The new PMC offices were opened in January. We anticipate the three offices will be fully functional by mid-summer. The two contract representative positions established at VA's Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) claims processing centers in Winston-Salem and Salt Lake City in summer 2008 were elevated to a permanent status based on the current workload and ongoing need for such services.

Joseph L. Wilson (DC), Deputy Director of Health Care of The American Legion presented updates on the System Worth Saving report, produced by The American Legion annually. In accordance with Resolution 206, titled "Annual State of VA Medical Facilities," National Field Service Representatives and the National Commander's 9 appointed Task Force Members, conduct site visits to various VA Medical facilities from January to June annually. Afterwards, the reports are compiled into a publication titled, "A System Worth Saving". The book is then disseminated during the National Convention, as well as to all 535 Congressional Members. It is also distributed to those respective facilities visited.

In 2009, Task Force Members and National Staff visited a total of 31 VA Medical Centers, 31 Vet Centers, and 31 Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). Issues acknowledged included, mental health shortages, particularly in the psychiatric and psychology positions, and shortage of space, to include reserved space for veterans suffering from Dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Other issues included VA facilities placing veterans suffering from Dementia and Alzheimer's in the same locked facilities with veteran patients suffering from other psychiatric disorders.

In 2010, National Field Service Representatives and Task Force Members will conduct two day site visits to a total of 32 VA Medical Facilities. Each visit stems from issues reported by veterans, Government Accountability Office reports, Combined Assessment Reports, valid media resources, and VA Office of Inspector General reports.

To date, we have visited a total of nine VA Medical Centers. The commonalities of issues addressed include, physician and nursing shortages, non receipt of the FY2010 budget at the local VA Medical Center level, diminishing visits by women veterans due to various issues, such as, child care and military sexual trauma.

We have approximately 23 visits remaining. The complete assessment of issues will be in the 2010 "A System Worth Saving" book; which will be available in August 2010.

Denise Williams, Assistant Director for Health Policy provided an update on Women Veterans. We implemented a new aspect of DSO School this year which was focused on Women Veterans. This was in an effort to address the issues that women veterans encounter when filing their disability claims through VA. In addition, this new

endeavor was to educate our Service Officers on how to handle women veterans' claim issues in a sensitive manner. The overall intent was to ensure that women veterans are receiving the disability compensation that they are entitled to like their male counterparts.

For the very first time we had a women veterans' panel to discuss the unique challenges that they face and also to hear about the resources that are available to them through VA and other Veterans Service Organizations. I will highlight some of the concerns that were brought up:

There are still privacy concerns in the VAMCs and CBOCs. We will make a concerted effort to work with our National Field Service Representatives to monitor this situation and ensure privacy practices are being enforced at these facilities.

There is a lack of comprehensive care in the women's health clinic; we will also make a concerted effort to work with our National Field Service Representatives to monitor this situation.

There is a lack of outreach to female service members prior to and after deployment.

Women are in fact participating in combat; however they are not being recognized once they have returned from deployment.

Female veterans have to cancel their medical appointments especially their mental health appointments because of a lack of childcare. This is especially true for the ones that are faced with single-parenthood.

Our membership office out in Indianapolis conducted a tally of our women veteran members. As of February 2010 we had a total 52,026 which makes up almost 2 percent of the total membership population. The American Legion plans to make a better effort to reach out to our female veterans and increase our member.

What plans do we have for the near future?

We are in the process of designing a women veteran's webpage which will be added to our main website. This webpage will be kept updated with, news releases, research initiatives and all other pertinent female veterans' information.

We will be putting together a survey for our female members to get their perspective on the VA healthcare system and also to hear their suggestions. For this survey, I will be collaborating with Ms Genevieve Chase from The American Women Veteran.

Currently, we are drafting a resolution to create a women veterans subcommittee.

We will continue to lobby on behalf our women veterans and through collaboration with VA and other VSOs work on resolving the issues that were brought up during DSO school and our panel discussion.

There being no additional business for the "Good of the Legion," the meeting was adjourned.

Report: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
May 3-4, 2010
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska, Chairman

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met on May 3-4, 2010, at the Headquarters Room 301 for the purpose of considering those matters that had previously been referred for study and to discuss other current matters.

Presiding: Michael D. Helm (NE), Chairman

Present at the meeting were:

Teddy L. Duckworth (WI)
Jack L. Ford (NV)
Don E. Mathis (TN)
James E. Pisa (AK)
James H. Hales Jr (PA)
R. Shuford Edmisten (NC)
Robert E. Gosa (MS)
Thomas P. Mullen (MN)
Wendall J. Sandell (PA)
Henry S. Long (OH)

Also in attendance were Richard Coccimiglio, Alternate NECman (PA); and Joe Gladden (MD), National VA&R Chairman of the Sons of The American Legion.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division staff members present were: Barry A. Searle (PA), VA&R Director, Ian C. Deplanque (DC), Deputy Director Operations and Legislative Action and Jacob B. Gadd (DC), Assistant Director for Program Management.

Matters Received, Considered And Acted Upon By The Commission:
Resolutions

Your Subcommittee considered 6 resolutions. Two (2) originated in the VA&R Commission. One (1) resolution was referred for consideration by the 2009 National Convention. Three (3) were referred from a Department Executive Committee.

Two of the others were forwarded to the National Executive Committee for adoption:

(Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission)
Creation of Ad Hoc Committee to Streamline the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) Processes to Address the Backlog of Claims

(Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission)
The American Legion Policy on Hazardous Environmental Exposures

The Commission then discussed the following issues:

Legislative Activities and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Meetings to Improve Situational Awareness

Barry A. Searle, VA&R Director presented to the commission an update on VA&R Staff activities since the last Commission meeting to include testimony on health care, claims, and entitlement topics, attendance at legislative round tables, and Veteran Service Organization (VSO) summits trips to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Regional Offices in Little Rock AR, Providence RI, to be briefed on VA's Pilot programs to reduce the backlog.

Additionally Mr. Searle outlined briefings attended at VA's Central Office for update briefs on LVER (Lifetime Virtual Electronic Records) Major and Minor construction strategies, and VA hiring practices of veterans.

Personnel Actions to Enhance VA&R Effectiveness

Mr. Searle discussed VA&R personnel actions including the placement of personnel at Pension Management Centers in Philadelphia, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee, status of staffing at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and Appeal Management Center. This staffing is hoped will assist veterans with their claims and to reduce the backlog by making claims more accurate and complete when they are being processed by the VA.

As a point of information he indicated that the "board" is completing 600 to 700 cases per month. But that unfortunately, there are more than 600 new cases per month. To address there will be a cross assignment of Field Service Representatives from the System Worth Saving Task Force to the BVA to assist with reducing the number of claims.

Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee (VPCC) Taskings

Mr. Searle reported the actions taken to support the Veterans' Planning and Coordinating Committee (VPCC) meeting held in February and chaired by the National

Commander. Results from that meeting included the preparation of resolutions for an AD HOC committee to streamline the claims system, and a proposed resolution for a new GI Bill of Health to be presented at the 2010 National Convention. Additionally, taskings were given to the staff to research and report on issues involving Traumatic Brain Injury, Women Veterans' issues, and increased support to DOD personnel and their families.

System Worth Saving Report

Finally, Mr. Searle gave a brief overview of findings of the System Worth Saving Task Force, which will be completed in June as well as a discussion on how the report will be delivered at the 2010 National Convention utilizing a new format.

The Task Force to date has conducted 23 of its 32 planned visits to VA Medical Center Facilities across the country. Changes to the program include the addition of two female field service representatives who will focus on women veteran issues and how women veterans are being addressed by the medical centers. Additionally the format for the visits and report will be impacted by Government Accountability Office (GAO), VA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and reports and previous inspections by the Joint Commission, formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) in order to develop follow up questions. The final report will be in the GAO report format identifying why the facility was visited, what issues were followed up on from previous inspections, and specific findings which will make the report a more valuable tool for our testimony before Congress.

Equitable Tolling

Ian DePlanque, Deputy Director Operations and Legislative Action provided an updated on Equitable Tolling. Equitable tolling is a doctrine or principle of tort law: a statute of limitations will not bar a claim if despite use of due diligence the plaintiff did not or could not discover the injury until after the expiration of the limitations period.

Under 38 U.S.C. § 7266(a), an appellant has 120 days from the date the notice of a final decision of the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) is mailed to file a notice of appeal (NOA) to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). From 1998-2008, previous precedential decisions of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (Bailey) had permitted equitable tolling by the CAVC for the 120 day time period under § 7266(a). The Supreme Court, however, in Bowles v. Russell, 551 U.S. 205 (2007), made it clear that the timely filing of a NOA in a civil case is a jurisdictional requirement and that courts have no authority to create exceptions. The Supreme Court further concluded that only Congress can make such exceptions.

In Henderson v. Shinseki, the CAVC ultimately dismissed the veteran's appeal because he had missed the 120 day deadline by 15 days. The veteran argued that his service-connected mental disorder, rated 100 percent disabling, caused him to miss the deadline. While Mr. Henderson's appeal was pending at the CAVC, the Supreme Court rendered its decision in Bowles, in which it stated that "the timely filing of a notice of appeal in a civil case is a jurisdictional requirement," and thus cannot be waived. The Court also stated that it had no authority to create equitable exceptions to jurisdictional requirements.

On July 24, 2008, the CAVC ruled in a 2–1 decision that the holding in Bowles prohibited it from using equitable tolling to extend the 120-day appeal period set forth in § 7266(a). The CAVC determined that Congress had "specifically authorized" it to conduct "independent judicial appellate review" of the BVA, and that well-settled law established that its cases were "civil actions." Starting from that premise, the CAVC concluded that § 7266(a) was a notice of appeal provision in a civil case, and that it was jurisdictional and could not be equitably tolled. Accordingly, the court ruled that the

Federal Circuit's precedent in Bailey was effectively overruled, and it dismissed Mr. Henderson's appeal for lack of jurisdiction.

Mr. Henderson subsequently filed a timely appeal of the CAVC decision with the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. On December 17, 2009, the Federal Circuit affirmed the decision of the CAVC dismissing the veteran's appeal for lack of jurisdiction.

The Federal Circuit decision in Henderson, citing the Supreme Court decision in Bowles, has made it quite clear that equitable tolling in veterans' appeals at the Federal court level is prohibited. Senator Arlen Specter recently introduced S. 3192, the Fair Access to Veterans Benefits Act, to require the CAVC to consider if a veteran's service-connected disability would have made it difficult or impossible for him or her to meet a deadline for filing an appeal.

The American Legion does not have a specific position on equitable tolling in such instances. However, Resolution No. 32, adopted at the 2008 National Convention, does specifically support legislation to extend the 120 day CAVC appeal deadline to one year following the BVA final denial of an appeal. Given the specific intent of this resolution to extend the current 120 CAVC NOA deadline, not to mention the spirit of the resolution which encompasses an extremely liberal and pro veteran/appellant position, it can be reasonably argued that it would be in keeping with both the spirit and intent of Resolution No. 32 to support legislation, such as S. 3192, that would allow the CAVC to apply equitable tolling in certain situations, especially in such instances where the veteran's service-connected disability hindered the filing of a timely appeal.

Legion Volunteering

Jacob Gadd, Assistant Director for Program Management provided an update on Legion Volunteering. In 2009, The American Legion had its first notable increase in terms of Volunteers and Hours of Service in the last several years. There were an additional 202 new volunteers and an increase of 7,118 total hours. In FY 2009, The American Legion had 6,307 members that volunteered over 916,598 hours of service to hospitalized veterans and those in the communities. Based on an independent sector volunteer rate of $20.25 per volunteer hour in 2010, this is a total cost savings of $18.5 million to VA. Legionnaires that support the VAVS program volunteer in VA Medical Centers, Clinics, Vet Centers, Domiciliaries, State Veterans Homes and Fisher Houses.

Last year, the VA&R division had several national initiatives to help recruit and retain a quality and robust volunteer corps. First, the VA&R Division expanded their volunteer programs into the community with collaborations with Rebuilding Together, Habitat for Humanity, Ride to Recovery and VA's National Suicide Prevention Program on a variety of programs to assist service members and veterans obtain quality housing, sports rehabilitation and to ensure that no veteran experiencing a mental health crisis falls through the cracks. The American Legion National Commander, Clarence Hill registered as a volunteer at his local VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida in December. Following his volunteer orientation and training, he attended the Ride to Recovery send-off to meet with the injured troops and encourage them in their rehabilitation to a healthy life. The Assistant Director for Program Management conducted volunteer Department training in Kansas, Georgia, Ohio and South Carolina to promote Department awareness and support of volunteerism.

As we look ahead, there a couple of national goals that will help us to improve. First, The American Legion is continuing to urge VA to develop and coordinate all of their volunteer registration, orientation and training to a VA online-based system. Second, to develop a National American Legion Family Volunteer Day. This national day of service will be on June 14, "Flag Day" for several purposes, 1) to unite and raise awareness of all American Legion Family members volunteer programs, locations and

assignments available, 2) commemorate our past and current volunteers' service and 3) to recruit new members into voluntary service. Thirdly, as our total volunteer hours this year were 916,598 hours, to develop and publicize a FY 2010 1,000,000 Hours Volunteer Campaign. Lastly, The Magazine Division and VA&R Division are working on a Legion Volunteering website center. The site will house all American Legion volunteer programs, how to register and be involved as a volunteer as well as allow each American Legion member to track their own volunteer hours and donations. Improving communication through Legion Social Media through Facebook, Twitter, Online Update, Legion Magazine and Dispatch will help recruit our newest generations of volunteers to the ranks.

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved

Hold for Study

Resolution No. 84 (WA) (2009 NC)**: Funding for Veterans Service Office at Auburn, Washington**

Receive and Record

Register Resolution No. 2637 (IL) (DEC)**: VA to Receive Third-Party Reimbursements from Medicare**

Register Resolution No. 2646 (UT) (DEC)**: Burn Pits**

Reject

Register Resolution No. 2644 (KY) (DEC)**: Establish Tonsillar Cancer as a Presumed Illness of Agent Orange**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move that the report be received and filed, with the exception of two resolutions and one addendum. ...*Second.*

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

The Chair recognizes Past National Commander Bob Spanogle.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: May I approach the podium, sir?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Yes, sir.

Special Report: Veterans Preference
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan, Past National Commander

Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion I wish to comment on the issue of veterans preference in employment as it relates to the federal government, the hiring of veterans in the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

Veterans preference and benefits has its foundation in Western civilization beginning with the history of the Greek city states, the Roman Empire, and the modern states of Europe. Citizens who were obliged to lay down the tools of civil life and take up arms to protect their families, their communities, and their states against enemies who wished to destroy them, were always granted benefits and among these were employment benefits in addition to grants of land and pensions from the state to assist them in their readjustment from soldier to citizen. This is true of our great nation, the United States of America.

These veterans benefits have been questioned by non-veteran citizens over the generations. Perhaps through ignorance of history or the lack of understanding the cost of

military service on those who defended the nation and their families. Veterans benefits have always withstood these challenges and were continued by a grateful nation and its citizens.

There are two actions in my service to The American Legion that were taken by the Legion in response to those challenging preference and benefits provided to America's veterans. The challenge of veterans preference laws in the state of Massachusetts. The second challenged the right of veterans organizations to lobby members of Congress.

Paul Hunt, deceased, was the judge advocate of the Department of Massachusetts, and John Swift, the department adjutant of Massachusetts, along with the Department of Massachusetts, defended the legal challenge to veterans preference laws in Massachusetts. The challenge was heard all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States. Veterans preference for state and federal employment was upheld by the Supreme Court.

The second challenge was the case of those who said The American Legion and other veterans organizations should not have the right to lobby members of Congress while enjoying a federal non-profit status. The case was titled "Taxation without Representation." The Supreme Court ruled 9-0 in favor of The American Legion's right to lobby members of Congress. Veterans by service to their nation, according to the Court, have earned this special status.

Now to the point. Recently the question was asked, a simple question: How many employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs are veterans? The answer was 40 percent. Many in this room were astounded by this low percentage. Is the Department of Veterans Affairs not granting veterans preference to veterans applying for employment by the Department of Veterans Affairs? Or worse, are the regional offices and medical centers ignoring the law and setting their own standards of employment?

When asked what the target for veteran's employment in the Department of Veterans Affairs and what the percentage should be, the members of the VA&R Commission at this meeting believed it should be 75 percent.

Our country has been at war since 1990. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers, sailors, and Marines have left the service over the 20 years since Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, yet their unemployment numbers continue to be significantly higher than their generation who have not served in uniform.

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, recognized the high unemployment of veterans and issued a number of executive orders to federal agencies to seek out and hire veterans. Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, former Chief of Staff of the United States Army, has stated on many occasions his intent to hire veterans.

But it seems at the Department of Veterans Affairs regional level the secretary's intent to hire veterans is not being implemented. This is based on a Department of Veterans Affairs report on the percentage of veterans employed by regional offices. Is veterans preference, the law of this land, upheld by the Supreme Court, being applied to employment in the Department of Veterans Affairs? Are veterans being sought for employment by the Department of Veterans Affairs at military transition centers? Are they making these employment opportunities available to the wounded warriors?

Here are just a few examples from the Department of Veterans Affairs report on the percentage of veterans employed by some of the regional offices: Philadelphia Regional Office, 26.3 percent of the employees are veterans. New York Regional Office, 35.5 percent of employees are veterans. Boise Regional Office, 75.7 percent of the employees are veterans. San Diego Regional Office, 79.4 percent of employees are veterans. Highs and lows. No consistency.

I have been told, though I cannot confirm, that each regional office can set their own employment standards. I find that really hard to believe, but the statistics on veterans

employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs seems to make the case that veterans preference in employment is not being applied uniformly throughout the system. I encourage you to read the report.

The American Legion Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee, a special committee, met in Washington a few months ago. That committee is chaired by our national commander and makes recommendations to our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Economic Commissions. The VPCC Committee is composed of the chairman of those commissions and experts and consultants in the field of veteran's affairs. One of the VPCC recommendations was to ask *The American Legion Magazine* to work with the VA on an article aimed to veterans on how to apply for jobs with the VA. The purpose was to work with the secretary to recruit veterans for employment by the VA. Frankly, such an article would assist all of us in our outreach to veterans by giving them information on how to obtain VA employment.

But as that article is being developed, I would ask our national commander and through him, at his discretion, our national staff to ask Secretary Shinseki, to send out to all regional offices and VA Medical Centers, a communication that veterans preference will be strictly applied by the Department of Veterans Affairs at all levels of employment as prescribed by federal law and upheld by the Supreme Court.

Furthermore, I would ask them to ask the secretary to inform all VA employment officers at all levels of the department to make sure veterans preference in employment will be strictly applied, without question. Further, that his directive will be monitored by his office and that of the VA's inspector general.

The objective of this request is one of partnership. Our Legion magazine article to inform veterans how to apply for VA positions and the Secretary's efforts to make sure federal veterans preference laws are strictly applied throughout VA.

Last week I attended the United States Army Conference at Kansas City. Lieutenant General Bostick, G-1, United States Army, the director of personnel of the Army, was one of the briefers. Lieutenant General Bostick informed those attending that the Army will be hiring 100,000 civilians in the next three years. I spoke to Lieutenant General Bostick after the briefing. In our discussion I informed him of the Legion's offer to Secretary Shinseki for an article in the Legion magazine on how a veteran can apply for employment at the VA. And I asked him to consider working with *The American Legion Magazine* for a similar article on how veterans can apply for these Army civilian positions. I encourage the Legion staff to formalize this offer with Lieutenant General Bostick.

Thank you, sir. And I would ask, if I could, Mr. Commander, that the national adjutant instruct the staff to copy this report from the VA on the number of veterans employed in the regional offices and share that with the members of the NEC here today. Thank you, sir.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Move the report be received and filed, commander. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Past National Commander Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: First of all, commander, I want to thank Past National Commander Spanogle for the outstanding report. But I would be remiss if I did not add for the record a very important issue. Other states have applied and have had problems with veterans preference, and I'm happy to say it was the Massachusetts case that went to the Supreme Court. It's been the law of the land, and it will be the law of the land forever. But there is one individual that we owe a great debt of gratitude; he's a member of Post 294 in Quincy, Massachusetts, and at that time he was our attorney general, Attorney General Frank Bellotti. Governor Dukakis at the time voted down veterans preference, and authorized this woman who applied for the job, that

she would get the job. And Frank Bellotti, our attorney general, over the objections of his own governor, took the case to the United States Supreme Court. He's a Legionnaire, and that prompts us to get into the halls of attorney generals and other important elected offices, and make sure that they are Legionnaires because then they speak for us. But Frank is still alive. He's a very elderly gentleman, but we're very proud of his service. His son is now the sheriff in my county, in Norfolk County, and we owe Frank, and I want to make sure for the record, you know, I directed public housing in Quincy prior to my retirement, and I just give you a brief idea of what Bob is talking about, about implementing veterans preference.

In Massachusetts there's veterans preference in a veteran going into public housing. They get the first shot. Disabled veterans and veterans get public housing. And I looked at the list and I saw no veteran on the list, and this gentleman came in looking for housing. I was only on the job about two months. And I said, "Well, you'll get it because there's no one else on the list." So, when there was an opening, I went out to the young lady who handles the distribution and who's next on the list, and I said, "How come you're not appointing so and so and his family into housing?" I said, "Veterans get preference in this state." She says, "Oh, I know that, but we never follow that." That was her answer. We never follow that. Well, you can be sure from that point on she followed it or she wouldn't have a job. But I just want to again, for the record, thank Frank Bellotti along with Paul Hunt and John Swift.

The American Legion put up $25,000 in Massachusetts to take that case, and again, we are always proud to say is that these other organizations really have done nothing for us all the way back to the GI Bill. We got no help from any other organization to go to the Supreme Court, with the exception of the Marine Corps League, who gave us $500. So I want to make that as part of the report. Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Any other discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED: I believe the motion is to receive and file?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Correct.

UNIDENTIFIED: I would like to amend it, that it be received, and the actions be implemented of this report, that ask the staff to do certain things.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Is there a second. …*Second.*

We have an amending motion and a second. Any discussion on the amending motion? All in favor of the amending motion, aye. Opposed. The amending motion carries. Past National Commander Conley.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: Mr. Commander, I would like reinforce Past National Commander Bob Spanogle's remarks.

At our VPCC meeting in Washington, D.C., we had representatives from the VA there. They were kind of taken back when we questioned them about veterans preference within the VA. This report came about because our citizens are trying to find out how many veterans are working in the various regional offices. But besides Philadelphia, and that's what actually started all this, is they got a report that they were going to hire 45 adjudicators in Philadelphia, and they had 120 veterans that applied for that position, and because of the individuals in that area responsible for hiring, they didn't want to go through hiring the veterans, they cancelled the call of 45 adjudicators in Philadelphia because of having applications from the 120 veterans that would have been entitled to veterans preference. So that's what initially caused our concerns dealing with the VA.

Oklahoma is another area that there's only about 20 some percent of the employees there that are veterans.

But what's most shocking is the central office in Washington, D.C., only about 41 percent of the people working in central office are veterans. That means over 50 percent of the people working in the VA that have jurisdiction over making sure that veterans are entitled to their benefits, are non-veterans. And when we've asked about it at the

hospitals, you can understand when the question comes up, they tell you about doctors and nurses. There's no professional doctors and nurses except maybe the leaders of the Department of Health Division of the VA, but for overall, the employment within central office, they should have a higher number than 41 percent of veterans.

It's very important, because there are two factors here. Number one, the VA in our country, you see it in the papers all the time, that veterans coming back from OEF/OIF have a higher number of unemployment than their counterparts do. Why is that? So everybody says we have to do something. We're going to do job fairs, we're going to try to connect employers for veterans, and how their qualifications are a lot better than their non-service connected counterparts.

The second reason is, we talk about homeless, and the secretary says we're going to do away with the homeless veterans population within five years. Well, that's not going to happen unless there are good paying jobs out there for veterans to get. And where can they get a good paying job? They can start with the Veterans Administration with a good paying job. We have to put their feet to the fire to make sure that they are committed to do the most they can to hire veterans within the Veterans Administration.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Thank you. Any other discussions?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DETWEILER: Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DETWEILER: We should be, and we always have been, the best advocate for the VA and the worst adversary. In our role as being the worst adversary it seems to me that a lot of things have been said over the years about veterans preference. I'm a little concerned as I've talked to people about the construction of the new hospital, and I know there are other hospitals that are being constructed around the country, and minorities in particular, that are involved in the committees will say, "Is there a chance, is there something that minority contractors or veterans contractors, is there a percentage for us?" The statement is the always "yes." How well or what interest there is at the time the contracts are awarded to consider those people, I don't know.

It seems from this discussion there is this question and it's come up in PCAG, that apparently there are different criteria in different places based on who the director is in that particular regional office for the hiring. What are the criteria?

Mr. Judge Advocate, it seems to me that it would be wise, and we may get some attention from this from the secretary, to make a request to the secretary, under the Public Disclosure Act, or whatever that thing is the called, asking for what are the criteria. Ask for a list from each office. Ask them to produce the list as to what are the criteria for hiring in each office under the Public Records Act. Make that request. You may get some attention, rather than having somebody come sit in Washington at a meeting, and walk out of there and just totally disregard us. And it's been going on for a long time. And I really think that this organization should make that request to the secretary. I think you will get some attention. And I think maybe they will take it seriously, and maybe there should be some convening with the secretary, between the commander and the secretary at that level, to try to get that information. And see that they do adopt and follow the policy and not have someone tell you, "Well, we don't do it."

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Thank you. Any other discussion? We'll vote on the motion as amended. All in favor. Opposed. Motion carries as amended.

Resolution No. 11: Creation Of Ad Hoc Committee To Streamline The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Processes To Address The Backlog Of Claims

Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of the Inspector General reported in March 2009 that almost a quarter (22%) of all veterans' claims for disability compensation were decided incorrectly in the 12-month period reviewed; and

WHEREAS, This amounts to over 200,000 veterans receiving inaccurate decisions on disability compensation during that period; and

WHEREAS, According to the VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), as of April 5, 2010, there were 495,662 claims for disability compensation and pensions awaiting rating decisions, 183,790 (37.1%) of which exceeded VBA's strategic goal of 125 days; and

WHEREAS, According to VBA, as of April 5, 2010, there were more than 189,000 appeals pending which is in addition to the almost 500,000 pending compensation and pension claims; and

WHEREAS, VA's annual claim receipts grew 28.6 percent from 2005 to 2009 (from 788,298 to 1,013,712), an increase of over 225,000; and

WHEREAS, In 2010 and 2011, VA anticipates claim receipts will increase to 1,318,753 and 1,332,347, respectively; and

WHEREAS, The complexity of the workload will continue to grow because veterans are claiming greater numbers of disabilities and the nature of disabilities is becoming increasingly complex; and

WHEREAS, The number of original claims for eight or more disabilities increased from 43,655 in 2005 to 67,175 in 2009 (an increase of 54 percent); and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee (VPCC) recommended the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to explore all viable options available to satisfactorily resolve this situation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion create an Ad Hoc Committee, with representation of four American Legion Department Service Officers appointed by the National Commander and approved by the National Executive Committee, to offer recommendations to help streamline and improve accuracy of the Veterans Benefits Administration Claims Processing System in order to address the growing backlog; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Ad Hoc Committee prepare a report of recommendations for submission to the National Commander at the Fall 2011 meeting of the National Executive Committee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER OWEN: This has the approval of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 12: The American Legion Policy On Hazardous Environmental Exposures

Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been at the forefront of advocacy for veterans exposed to environmental hazards such as Agent Orange, Gulf War-related hazards, ionizing radiation and the various chemicals and agents used during Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD); and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense's disclosure of information regarding various potential hazardous exposures and the current advancement of scientific research

continue to reveal new potential environmental threats to servicemembers on an ongoing basis; and

WHEREAS, In the last several years new threats have been raised regarding contamination of stateside military installations such as, but not limited to: Groundwater contamination at Lejeune, NC; multiple contaminants at Fort Drum, NY; Fort Dugway, UT; and Fort McClellan, AL; and

WHEREAS, Major overseas concerns regarding exposures such as l sodium dichromate in water treatment facility in Qarmat Ali, Iraq; toxic exposures at the Naval Air Facility in Japan and others; and

WHEREAS, During the past year, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced major study concerning whether or not burn pits in Balad, Iraq and other locations in the region and Afghanistan caused or are continuing to cause a variety of health problems in servicemembers; and

WHEREAS, The importance of developing a comprehensive policy that allows for maximum flexibility to fluidly respond to new research as it becomes apparent in the most timely a proactive manner possible is recognized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion's comprehensive policy on Environmental Exposures be an all inclusive policy recognizing the traditions of previous advocacy on behalf of veterans exposed to environmental hazards; an it further

RESOLVED, That this policy be in keeping with previous policies on Agent Orange, Gulf War illness, ionizing radiation and Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That veterans reporting to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care facilities claiming exposure to such environmental hazards be provided examinations and treatment which are thorough and appropriate, and that VA physicians demonstrate compassion in responding to the medical needs of these veterans; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion vigorously support the liberalization of the rule relating to the evaluation of studies involving exposure to any environmental hazard and that all necessary action be taken by the Federal government, both administratively and legislative appropriate, to ensure that veterans are properly compensated for diseases and other disabilities scientifically associated with a particular exposure; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue to closely monitor the development of all ongoing research on the long-term effects of all environmental exposures and point out to proper officials any perceived deficiencies or discrepancies in these projects; and to ensure government committees charged with review of such research are composed of impartial members of the medical and scientific community; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will continue to consult with medical experts in order to ensure the effectiveness of its advocacy.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER OWEN: This has the approval of your National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I therefore move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER OWEN: Mr. Commander, there's an Addendum A to this report. I move that the action of the Veterans Affairs and

Rehabilitation Commission become the action of the National Executive committee. *...Second.*

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

...At this time National Vice Commander Morris assumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: With the passing of Resolution 11, I would like to recommend to the National Executive Committee that the Veterans Benefit Administration Ad Hoc Committee be comprised of the following individuals: Chairman, Past National Commander Ron Conley. Members: Terry Schow of Utah; Julius J. Walsh of Louisiana; John Hickey of Indiana; John Cavanaugh from New York; Bob Owen, Maine; and Randy Fisher, Kentucky. I would accept a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: So move. *...Second.*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MORRIS: Motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

...At this time National Commander Hill resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: At this time I call on the national adjutant for any announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: The National Commander's Dinner honoring the NEC is tonight at the Sheraton City Centre, Indianapolis. The reception will be held in the Circle Suite at 6:00 p.m., dinner will be served in the Meridian Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. The following departments have not requests tickets for the National Commander's Banquet: They are Alabama, Florida, New Mexico, Philippines, and Rhode Island. Once you've requested tickets you may pick them up after lunch. Everyone else who has requested tickets, they are ready to be picked up now. They're available at the front office from Debbie Andrews.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Call on Jerry Hedrick.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, may I address the NEC for a personal privilege?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Certainly.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, and I probably failed in my duties when I first came here. The subcommittee is made up of seven members and one member is missing. And I know you're going to hear some more about it later on probably today or tomorrow or sometime, but Bob Proctor has been a member of the committee for a long time. He's been my good friend, a lot of your friends. He's seriously in need of a lot of prayers. So I ask that you think about him and his wife, Ruthie, they're going through a hard time right now. And I know what that's all about. So, think about Bob. give him your prayers, your thoughts. Cards are going through I know I've seen, but it's a trying situation. And when I talked to him a couple days ago when he was able to correspond with me, he said this is the first time he's missed in 20 years. So, keep him and his family in your prayers. Thank you, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Thank you. I call on the Sergeant-at-Arms for a salute to the Colors.

.. At this time the National Executive Committee stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We stand in recess until 2:00 o'clock.

...At 11:40 a.m., the National Executive Committee stood in recess.

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 Afternoon Session

... At 2:00 p.m., the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Clarence E. Hill.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Sergeant-at-arms lead us in a salute to the Colors.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We're back in session. I call on Tim Tetz, chairman of Foreign Relations, for a report.

Oral Report: National Foreign Relations Commission
Timothy M. Tetz, Nevada, Chairman

Good afternoon. National Commander Hill, members of the National Executive Committee, and fellow Legionnaires. You have a copy of the written National Foreign Relations Commission report before you.

The Foreign Relations Commission met on Monday to discuss current foreign policy issues pertaining to the vital interests of the United States, and to review four resolutions before the commission. The Foreign Relations Commission was honored by the National Commander's visit and kind words, and we appreciate your valuable advice. Thank you, sir.

In terms of business, the commission examined the Nuclear Posture Review, and the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, also known as START. Assistant Director Joe Grassi gave an in-depth look at the history of nuclear disarmament treaties between the United States and the former Soviet Union, along with the contents of the New START treaty, and the accompanying protocol which includes verification measures contained within that treaty. The treaty has not been ratified by the Senate, and experts disagree on whether it will be ratified.

The business session also included recent POW/MIA reports that have been made by Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, and a review of appeals being made by the National League of POW/MIA Families. The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office reported that Mr. Bob Newberry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, has experienced increased cooperation by the Chinese government and the local civilians near recovery sites, especially in south China. He also cited progress in archival research through the arrangements signed in 2008 and 2009. As a result of those arrangements, China has provided documents related to U.S. air losses in China that will hopefully enable recovery of more missing in action. In regards to the National League of POW/MIA Families, the organization has recently made appeals to The American Legion to consider a few issues for potential action. These include expanding accounting efforts, cooperation needed from Vietnam, and establishment of a second identification laboratory.

On Tuesday, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session. The main focus of the joint session was the increasingly broadening role of military women in combat in today's asymmetrical warfare. Members of both commissions intently watched an independent film entitled *The Lioness*. The film traces the stories of five female support soldiers who ultimately became the first women in America to be sent into direct ground combat. The film encompasses first-hand accounts of women in ground combat in Iraq, archival footage, journal entries, and interviews with military commanders. The consensus of the joint session was that the film contains valuable and eye-opening footage.

Throughout America we are currently debating assignments to women on submarines, in combat missions, and other roles not even imagined a decade ago did. It became apparent to me and the members of the commission, that while we sit in relative luxury and debate whether these women should be there, these very women, whether they're labeled as lioness, staff sergeant, or captain, are already there serving bravely and honorably.

I would like to take a moment and recognize the great work of the past chairman, Michael Helm, who made my transition easy into this position, and without the dutiful tutelage of Director Phil Riley and Assistant Director Joe Grassi, I can tell you that our commission and my role there would not have been successful.

The Foreign Relations Commission looks forward to working with the national commander, and the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee in preparation for the National Convention, and we thank you for your support.

Advance Report: Foreign Relations Commission
March 1 – 3, 2010
Timothy M. Tetz, Nevada, Chairman

The Foreign Relations Commission met in a joint session along with the National Security Commission on March 1st and convened for its business session on March3nd during the 50th annual Washington Conference at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. The following is a summary of those sessions:

Morning Joint Session, March 1st

The Foreign Relations Commission, in a joint session with the National Security Committee, met and were addressed by four speakers: Vikram Singh, U.S. Department of State, Senior Defense Advisor, Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan; Major General Reuben Jones, Director of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, U.S. Army; Dr. Robert Zubrin, author of *Energy Victory*; and George Clark, President of Save the Montagnard People, Inc. (STMP).

Mr. Singh began the session by delving into present diplomatic strategies involving Afghanistan and Pakistan. He explained how current fissures in the relationships between the Taliban and al Qaeda and the indigenous people of the region need to be exposed to pave the way for success. He reported that the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) has the will to fight terrorist extremists but lack the capacity; therefore the U.S. must not prematurely abandon them. Mr. Singh also discussed the first real manifestation of President Obama's war strategy in connection with his decision to increase troops in the region and the recent successful battle for Marjah in southern Afghanistan led by the U.S. Marine Corps.

He explained how the ANA is partnering with U.S. and NATO forces by providing 40% of the troops in the ongoing battles against the enemy. Mr. Singh said that USAID Teams and State Department Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) have been increased and are operating shoulder to shoulder with the military operations. These teams are working hard to establish schools and improved agriculture. He continued by giving insight into the delicate political situation in Pakistan by saying that Pakistan recognizes that it faces the same existential threat from the same enemies as the United States.

He conveyed that the Pakistan Security Forces are improving their cooperation with the United States and their anti-terrorist operations. For this reason, he said, the U.S. will continue to provide substantial military and humanitarian assistance. Before we can draw our forces down in July 2011, he said, the U.S. needs to be confident that both Afghanistan and Pakistan can be supportive of U.S. security interests.

Major General Jones gave a very comprehensive presentation covering the Army Family Covenant (AFC); Army Family Covenant – Family Programs and Services; Army OneSource (AOS); Army Family Covenant – Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS); Operation: Military Kids (OMK); Army Family Covenant – Soldier and Community Recreation Programs; Warrior Adventure Quest (WAQ); Gifts and Donations; Commercial Sponsorship and Advertising; How the American Legion Can Help Soldiers and Families; and Social Media. Major General Jones took the opportunity to thank The American Legion for the many ways it is supporting the armed forces with such efforts such as Army Community Covenant; temporary financial support for Soldiers and Families; sponsoring numerous events to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project and "Heroes to Hometowns" venture; scholarships for Operation Purple Camps; volunteering and sponsoring Yellow Ribbon events; along with providing transportation to Soldiers and Families.

Dr. Zubrin took the stage and proceeded to give an intense presentation outlining the absolute need for the United States to move from imported oil to biomass fuel. He showed the audience that since 2008, we now spend more money on imported oil than the U.S. spends on defense, citing $600 billion is 120% of the federal defense budget. He said that Saudi Arabia is by far the largest recipient of international oil revenues – as large as the next four OPEC members combined. He continued by saying the Saudis have used this money to finance a worldwide network of institutions to spread Wahhabism – a violently intolerant version of Islam that requires death or enslavement of Christians, Jews, Hindus, Taoists, Buddhists, Pagans, and Atheists. Dr. Zubrin explained that in 1973, the US was 30% dependent on foreign oil, and the Arab embargo sent our economy into chaos, and today, we are 60% dependent, so the effects of an embargo would be much worse.

Dr. Zubrin reported that in 2008, OPEC cleared $1.5 trillion in net export profits and that the total worth of the US Fortune 500 is $18 trillion. At such rates, he said, OPEC will have enough funds to buy majority control in every company in the Fortune 500 within 6 years and that the Saudis have launched a $900 billion Sovereign Wealth Fund to do such takeovers. Dr. Zubrin said we need to achieve one simple goal to avoid this fate: The Congress should pass a law requiring that all new cars sold in the USA be Flex Fueled. He explained that a Flex Fuel mandate would create a huge advanced-sector market for Third World agricultural production; trade barriers would come down; tropical agricultural countries would be able to secure income for development; manufacturing countries would obtain expanded Third World markets; the oil cartel's vertical monopoly on the world's fuel supply would be broken; terrorist funding would be curtailed; threat of superpower confrontation over Mideast would be halted; and pollution would be reduced.

Mr. Clark made a powerful presentation on the millions of Montagnard people who have been and are currently being illegally imprisoned, denied human rights, raped, tortured, and slaughtered by the Vietnamese government as retribution for the Montagnard's alliance with U.S. Forces during the Vietnam War. Mr. Clark appealed to everyone in attendance to support the Congressional Bill HR 1969 and Senate Bill S 1159. If made into law, these bills would prohibit the federal government from providing the government of Vietnam with nonhumanitarian development, trade, economic, and security assistance during any fiscal year that exceeds the amount of the assiatnce provided in 2009, unless those increases are matched or exceeded by funding for programs focusing on human rights and the promotion of democracy. Also, these bills would make it U.S. policy to overcome jamming of Radio Free Asia by Vietnam and to offer refugee resettlement to Vietnam nationals including the Montagnards who were/are eligible for the Humanitarian Resettlement program and the Orderly Departure Program and associated programs. Mr. Clark said that it is a moral imperative for the U.S. to stop

abandoning this group who proved to be amongst the most loyal allies the U.S. Armed Forces have ever had.

Afternoon Joint Session / POW/MIA Update, March 1st

The expert panel on the POW/MIA issues was comprised of Bob Newberry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Affairs (DPM) and Ann Mills Griffiths, Executive Director, National League of POW/MIA Families. The discussion revolved around the construction of a new $100 million headquarters and lab for identification of American dead from past wars is expected to begin in fiscal 2011 at Hickam Air Force Base as the nation steps up efforts to speed the recovery and return of remains to families. Congress recently mandated that by 2015, the U. S. military make 200 identifications a year - more than twice the annual rate now. The 400-member Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, at Hickam has responsibility for investigating, recovering and identifying American dead from the nation's past wars. That personnel total is expected to grow with more search/recovery missions to the field and the new identification requirement. In fiscal 2009, 69 missions were conducted and 95 identifications were made. Defense officials also are looking at the possibility of creating a satellite forensic identification laboratory on the Mainland - where it's easier to attract anthropologists and where it could be more efficiently closer to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, a key link in the identification process. A total of 74,213 U.S. service members remain missing from World War II, with 19,000 deemed recoverable. There are also 127 missing from the Cold War, 8,034 from the Korean War, and 1,723 from the Vietnam War, 2 from the Persian Gulf War and 2 from Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom. Lab space to lay out and examine remains has been growing at JPAC. The approximately 22-table lab space at Hickam doubled with a $680,000 addition, and tripled with the opening of a second lab in Building 220 at Pearl Harbor, renovated for $1.2 million.

Wednesday Session (Business Meeting) March 3rd

Newly named Foreign Relations Commission Chairman Tim Tetz organized the business session in two sections: 1) A partial commission assessment of 30 out of 52 resolutions with legislative intent in the interest of a review for the experienced commission and council members as well as for the purpose of bringing new commission and council members up to speed; and 2) A Power Point presentation and discussion on the U.S. Federal Budget and U.S. Foreign Aid led by Joseph Grassi, Assistant Director, National Security/Foreign Relations Division.

The partial review of current resolutions with legislative intent included the following resolutions: Smart Power Support; Expand Foreign Service Officer Corps; Taiwan Straights Dialogue; Support New JPAC Headquarters Facility; Support for Increased Personnel and Funding for JPAC and DPMO; Navy Construction Project for POW/MIA; Secure Borders and War Against Drugs; POW/MIA Flag Flying; Support Environmental Treaty; Central America's Democracy Promotion; Unilateral Action for Vietnam POW/MIA; Use of Navy Vessal for Underwater Accounting; Renew Korean War POW/MIA Discussions; Republic of China; Middle East / Gulf States Foreign Policies; Policy on Africa; Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC); US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs; United Nations Policy; Policy Regarding Support of Republic of Korea; Vietnam Underwater Recovery Policy; Vietnam POW/MIA Policy Objectives; Vietnam Human Rights; Taiwan Defense Arms Sales; POW/MIA Policies; Support for Foreign Exchange Student Education Programs; Global Trade Policies; and The American Legion Foreign Policy Objectives.

Mr. Grassi proceeded by giving a presentation encompassing the FY 2010 Foreign Relations Appropriations and FY 2011 Budget Recommendations. The presentation

included the following figures: President Obama's 2010 Recommendation: $51.7 billion; FY 2010 Enacted (December 2009): $48.9 Billion; FY 2009 Enacted (December 2008): $49.9 Billion – Overall Breakdown: State & International =1.46% of the Federal Budget; Social Security = 20% of the Federal Budget; Department of Defense = 20%; Medicare and Medicaid = 20%; Unemployment and Welfare = 16%; 2010 Foreign Relations and International-Aid Breakdown: $8.2 Billion for Diplomatic Operations and Increase Foreign Officer Personnel; complies with Res. 121 (2009); $1.39 Billion for Operating Expenses for USAID; complies with Res. 170 (2008); $4.5 Billion For "Frontline States", Afghanistan: Increase Foreign Officer initiatives, Assistance to Pakistan, Assistance to Iraq, Middle East Security Assistance: Israel: $2.2 Billion; Egypt: $1.5 Billion; Jordan: $534 Million; Western Hemisphere Security Assistance: Mexico: $232 Million; Central America: $83 Million; Caribbean: $37 Million; Columbia: $522 Million U.S. Humanitarian Assistance - USAID Global Health and Child Survival: $10.3 Billion; Global HIV/AIDS, TB, & Malaria Fund: $5.7 Billion; Global Health and Child Survival: $7.8 Billion; UN Peacekeeping Missions: $2.1 Billion; FY 2011 Budget Recommendations: President Obama's: $56.8 Billion: The American Legion's: $52 Billion - Difference: 7%; The American Legion breakdown - $52 Billion = State Ops $27.5 Billion and Global Assistance $24.5

Mr. Grassi concluded the meeting by discussing an upcoming conference between The American Legion Foreign Relations staff and the White House being held on March 11, 2010 covering the issue of renewing direct bilateral humanitarian talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) for the sole purpose of restoring the processes required to account for unreturned Korean War Veterans.

Report: Foreign Relations Commission
May 5-6, 2010
Timothy M. Tetz, Nevada, Chairman

An executive session of the Foreign Relations Commission met on May 3, 2010 in the Circle Suite of the Sheraton Hotel to discuss current foreign policy issues pertaining to the vital interests of the United States and to review four resolutions before the commission.

Tim Tetz, Chairman, Foreign Relations opened the business session and welcomed National Commander Clarence E. Hill to the meeting. The commission was honored by the visit of National Commander Hill. The National Commander complimented the Foreign Relations Commission on its accomplishments, and gave gifts in appreciation to Chairman Tetz and Joseph Grassi, Assistant Director, National Security/Foreign Relations Division. National Commander Hill concluded his remarks by encouraging the commission to keep up the good work.

The commission proceeded by evaluating the following four resolutions: 1) Save the Montagnards; 2) The American Legion's Policy On Veterans Mail at Overseas Embassies; 3) The American Legion Flex Fuel Resolution; and 4) Urge JPAC to Utilize the Knowledge of World War II Veterans In Accounting Activities resolution (Register Resolution Number 2640).

After the commission conducted a thorough analysis of each proposed resolution and engaged in lively discussions on the issues at hand, the commission reached a consensus and made unanimous recommendations to the National Executive Committee (NEC) to approve three of the four aforementioned resolutions with the exception of the resolution entitled Urge JPAC to Utilize the Knowledge of World War II Veterans in Accounting Activities.

The commission's recommendation on this particular JPAC-related resolution was to hold it to for further study. This recommendation was made on the basis that the

underlying principle of the proposed resolution has already been made into law by Congress with the passage of H.R. 2647; Subtitle E; Section 544.

The business meeting also included a foreign relations report by Mr. Grassi. His presentation began with a side by side comparison of the current administration's and the previous administration's Nuclear Posture Review for the purpose of providing necessary background information on the next topic of his presentation: The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (also known as New START) which was signed by President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on April 8, 2010. Mr. Grassi gave an in-depth look into the history of nuclear disarmament treaties between the U.S. and the countries of the former Soviet Union, the New START and the accompanying New Start Protocol to include verification measures contained in the treaty. The treaty had not been ratified by the Senate as of yet.

In a completely different subject, Mr. Grassi also recounted the recent history leading up to the government's policy reversal that subsequently stripped mail privileges from approximately 4,800 military retirees and their family members. For about two years, the State Department and Pentagon have been working to shift mail delivery to State Department facilities overseas from the traditional APO/FPO addresses to a new designation to be known as DPO, for Diplomatic Post Offices. Under the original system, the Defense Department would cover the cost of getting APO/FPO mail from the U.S. port of embarkation to overseas locations, which is the most expensive part of the process. As of January 1, 2010 the Department of State has said it cannot be responsible for the costs of mail going to military retirees at embassies and consulates. Although no firm cost estimates available, the costs are reported as being considerable.

This discontinuation of mail service for military retirees will adversely impact many aspects of their personal lives, as well as their contact with Federal, state and local government agencies. Most importantly, many veterans use this mail service to receive medications, absentee ballots, legal correspondence just to name a few examples of the important matters at stake. The American Legion National Security / Foreign Relations Division has contacted the following government officials and elected officials by phone, e-mail, and regular mail; to include hand-delivered letters signed by National Commander Hill in regards to this issue: Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State; Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense; Patrick Kennedy, Under Secretary of State; Alan Estevez, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense; Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Committee on Foreign Affairs; Rep. Howard Berman, Committee on Foreign Affairs; Senator John Kerry, Committee on Foreign Relations; Senator Richard Lugar, Committee on Foreign Relations. During the business meeting, the commission expressed its dissatisfaction with the Department of State's convoluted response in its letter dated April 26, 2010.

Mr. Grassi wrapped up his presentation by covering the recent POW/MIA reports that have been made by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and reviewing the appeals being made by the National League of POW/MIA Families.

DPMO reported that Mr. Bob Newberry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, DPMO, concluded his visit to China after presenting several U.S. MIA cases to Chinese officials and thanking them for past cooperation. He also cited progress in archival research through the arrangements signed in 2008 and 2009. As a result of those arrangements, China has already provided documents related to U.S. air losses in China.

In other POW/MIA-related matters, the National League of POW/MIA Families has made a recent appeal to The American Legion to consider a few issues for potential resolutions. Those issues include, expanded accounting efforts; actions needed from Vietnam; and support for a second identification laboratory.

Mr. Grassi's presentation culminated with the naming of recently identified and repatriated Airmen and Soldiers who were designated as Missing in Action (MIA). They are: World War II MIA Lt. Jack Arnett; Lt. Frank Arhar; F.O. Will Simpson, Tech. Sgt.

Charles Goulding; Tech Sgt. Robert Stimson; Staff Sgt. Jimmie Doyle; Staff Sgt. Leland Price; and Staff Sgt. Earl E. Yoh Scott; Korean War MIA U.S. Soldier Cpl. Stanley Arendt; and Five Vietnam MIA U.S. Soldiers CW3 Kenneth Stancil; CW2 Jesse Phelps; Spc. 5 Donald Grella; Spc. 4 Thomas Rice; and Maj. Curtis Daniel Miller.

On Tuesday, May 4, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session. The Foreign Relations Commission was honored by the visit of Fang Wong, Candidate for National Commander and very much appreciated his attendance in the program.

The main focus of the joint session was the increasingly broadened role of military women in combat in today's asymmetrical warfare. In light of this topic, members of both commissions intently watched the independent film entitled "*Lioness*" which was directed by Meg McLagan and Daria Sommers. The film traces the stories of five female support soldiers who ultimately became the first women in American history to be sent into direct ground combat. The film encompasses first-hand accounts of women in ground combat in Iraq, archival footage, journal entries, and interviews with military commanders. The consensus of the joint session was that the film contained valuable and eye-opening footage.

The Foreign Relations Commission looks forward to working with National Commander Hill and the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee in preparation for the National convention. We thank you for your support.

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved

Held for Further Study

Register Resolution No. 2640 (NJ) (DEC)**: Urge JPAC to Utilize the Knowledge of World War II Veterans In Accounting Activities**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move the report be received and filed, with the exception of three resolutions and one addendum. ...*Second.*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Resolution 22. American Legion Flex Fuel Resolution. After consultation with the Foreign Relations Commission chairman and the advice of his commission and having another meeting with the Subcommittee on Resolutions, we would like to refer Resolution 22 back to the Foreign Relations Commission and I so move. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 23: The American Legion's Policy On Veterans Mail At Overseas Embassies

Origin: Foreign Relations Commission

Submitted by: Foreign Relations Commission

WHEREAS, As of January 1, 2010 the Department of State has said it cannot be responsible for the costs of mail going to military retirees, veterans, and their dependents at embassies, consulates, and diplomatic missions; and

WHEREAS, This decision has adversely affected the quality-of-life of U.S. military retirees and veterans living abroad; and

WHEREAS, Specifically, this newly implemented policy will negatively impact veterans' personal lives in regards to potential prohibitive costs in addition to potential unreliable delivery of medications, compensation, absentee ballots, legal correspondence,

along with dealings involving Federal, state and local government agencies among other important personal documents; and

WHEREAS, The change in policy is inconsistent with the Department of State Foreign Affairs Manual No. 14 FAM 761.3 (CT:LOG-59; 05-06-2009) which states that U.S. citizen employees, military retirees, and certain authorized contractors may use the diplomatic post office; and

WHEREAS, The Defense Department cannot pay the State Department for the delivery of retiree mail on the basis of the Antideficiency Act also known as 31 U.S.C. § 1341; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion urges Congress to change any applicable law that precludes the Department of Defense from being able to fund ICASS (International Cooperative Administrative Support Services) for the purpose of restoring mail benefits and privileges to military retirees, veterans, along with their dependents, and government employees at all U.S. embassies, consulates, and diplomatic missions abroad.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: This has the approval of the Foreign Relations Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Sir.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HERBRUGER (MX): I'm from the Department of Mexico, I live in Guatemala, and this is an issue that's really important in the sense that it affects not just veterans, but every American now living abroad, and also it's going to happen to people over here because of voting places in order to avoid problems when people vote with an absentee ballot. I went through the process. I got the absentee ballot from the Guatemalan Embassy. They mailed it, and the Post Office returned it to me. I have it here. It's proof, documentary proof that something is amiss in the postal service in terms of especially balloting material that should be handled specially. Maybe it's sorted by machine. Maybe that's why it got sent right back to me.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Any other discussions. Sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Commander, I've been involved in this since about the middle of February working with Joe Grassi and Phil Riley. They've done a lot of heavy lifting in writing of proposed letters, and I believe you've sent out eight or ten letters to the Secretaries of State, Defense, and VA, and also many letters to members of the U.S. Congress.

This is a serious problem, in that the Department of Defense on December 31 of last year cut off all the funding. Mail previously went to the embassies, and it was delivered in two or three days, including absentee ballots. You've just heard of one being returned to the sender that was given to an embassy. This happens to be a serious problem if you're depending on the VA to provide medication to a member living outside the United States, or checks. And I know that The American Legion has been doing all they can to put some pressure on State and DoD. Apparently, the problem is DoD cut the funding off. We've had Peter Gaytan involved in it; Steve Robertson has done a lot; Dan Wheeler and you yourself. And while I support this resolution, I think that we should continue to put the pressure in the right places to ensure that the funding is restored for our military, our veterans, and their dependants living outside the United States

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Thank you. Any other discussions? All in favor say, aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 24: Save The Montagnards
Origin: Foreign Relations Commission
Submitted by: Foreign Relations Commission

WHEREAS, The tribal people of the central Highlands of Vietnam, commonly known as the Montagnards are among the most loyal allies the United States has ever known; and

WHEREAS, The Montagnards were instrumental in the success of many campaigns led by the U.S. Special Forces between 1962 and 1975 which dealt devastating blows to the Vietnamese communists during the war; and

WHEREAS The Montagnards continued to fight the communists in Vietnam long after 1975; and

WHEREAS, Since diplomatic and trade relations have been established over the last 20 years and normalized as recently as 2007 between the U.S. and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the condition of the Montagnard people has greatly worsened in terms of persecution; and

WHEREAS, In the current climate of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the world is watching how the United States is treating allies from earlier conflicts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion urges Congress to take such measures as are necessary to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia by the government of Vietnam; and (2) that educational and cultural exchange programs with Vietnam should promote progress toward freedom and democracy; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to create a U.S. policy that will offer refugee resettlement to Vietnam nationals (including members of the Montagnard ethnic minority groups) who were eligible for the Humanitarian Resettlement program, the Orderly Departure program, the Resettlement Opportunities for Vietnamese Returnees program, the Amerasian Homecoming Act of 1988, or any other U.S. refugee program, but who were deemed ineligible for reasons of administrative error, to include inaccurate language translation or certain circumstances beyond their control.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: This has the approval of the Foreign Relations Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Commander, attached to the report is Addendum A. I move that the action of the Foreign Relations Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Thank you, Tim. We'll now hear from *The American Legion Magazine*, Dennis Henkemeyer, Minnesota, chairman.

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

National Commander Hill, Adjutant Wheeler, national officers, members of the National Executive Committee, Legionnaires one and all.

My written report has been submitted for the record. To sum it up, *The American Legion Magazine* continues to stand on solid financial ground at a time of national economic difficulty, particularly in the area of print advertising. This year, for the first time, Internet advertising spending surpassed magazine advertising spending nationwide. The difficult economy has forced companies to look at new, innovative ways to market their products and services. Understandably, they have turned to the web.

The American Legion Magazine Division has taken this phenomenon and run with it, adding exciting new electronic media channels to its highly successful magazine, newspaper, and other printed materials. The division's media channels include the nation's largest and most read veterans magazine, along with *The Dispatch* newspaper, which now of course is available in digital form on a monthly basis, The American Legion website, social media, like Facebook and Twitter, along with *The American Legion Online Update*, and the *Dugout* e-newsletters. These channels represent multiple and growing audiences. Members and nonmembers alike are responding well to the Legion's message.

At the center of the division, as it has been since 1919, is *The American Legion Magazine*. While the magazine is on solid financial ground today, just slightly below budget for print advertising sales five months into 2010, it is well below budgeted costs for production and distribution. The actual budget surplus on the books through three months, stood at $349,758, compared to a budgeted surplus of $70,659.

Moreover, the new electronic media channels have flourished in the last six months. Since the website was relaunched on November 9th, 2009, visitation to www.legion.org has more than doubled, increasing at a clip of about 20 percent per month. By connecting this site with Facebook, Twitter, the Burn Pit blog site and two new e-newsletters, the division has been able to promote and market a number of successful fundraising efforts in recent months. As you recall, we took first place in the Pepsi Refresh Everything Contest, which was presented to us just this morning, $250,000. A few months ago, we raised nearly $200,000 for the COP Keating Relief Fund. Those were the soldiers who were forced to destroy all their personal belongings in an attack in Afghanistan. And most recently we raised $25,000 for the Albert Snyder Legal Fund, raised through the Burn Pit blog.

Earlier this month, Multimedia Editor Steve Brooks announced a campaign to drive up the Legion's Facebook fan base. With 6,500 fans already following, he called to increase it to 10,000 in time for the National Convention in August. Within a week, there were more than 10,500 fans, and growing. The goal since has been revised to 20,000. The website itself has been pushing 200,000 unique visitors a month, and is drawing the attention of advertisers, affinity partners, and member discount programs.

The staff is now hard at work on stage two development of the website, including a new donations and charities landing page, a member discounts landing page, an online volunteer center, and mylegion.org, which is a new social network just for card-carrying Legionnaires. Also in the works, is a new mobile phone app for the Legion. A tremendous amount of complicated and challenging work has been undertaken by this division in the last 18 months. The fruits of that labor can be found in the attention the organization has been receiving nationwide, and the amount of traffic to the website and social media and a major shift in awareness of American Legion programs and their values.

Commander Hill, I want to thank you for making Internet communications, social media in particular, a high priority this year. I know from reading your blog site that discussions of electronic media and the power of the Internet to connect our members like never before, has been a big part of nearly all of your visits. Your Facebook and Twitter reports have kept our members aware of just how influential The American Legion is, and can be, when we are all united electronically or otherwise.

Your Magazine Division has been honored to help you fulfill this priority. On behalf of *The American Legion Magazine* Commission and staff, I want to thank the National Executive Committee for your continued support and guidance. Thank you, Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: *The American Legion Magazine* Commission
May 5, 2010
Dennis J. Henkemeyer, Minnesota, Chairman

The American Legion Magazine Division continues to evolve into a multi-media hub for National Headquarters and the organization. The Nov. 9, 2009, overhaul and relaunch of the Web site – www.legion.org – has gone extremely well, with dramatic increases in site visitation and audience satisfaction. According to most performance measures, the Web site, e-newsletters and social media like Facebook and Twitter have grown audiences by 15-20 percent each month since the beginning of the year.

Among the electronic media highlights since the Fall Meetings:

- Nearly $200,000 in cash, merchandise and gift cards raised on the Burn Pit blog site for Combat Outpost Keating soldiers in Afghanistan who were forced to destroy all of their personal belongings during a firefight in October.
- First place in the Pepsi Refresh Everything grant competition in February, which generated $250,000 in grant money from Pepsico for Operation Comfort Warriors, leveraging the power of social media and viral marketing on Facebook and Twitter.
- Nearly $25,000 raised on the Burn Pit to help a Marine dad cover legal costs after losing a lawsuit to a church group that protested at his son's funeral.
- A campaign that increased the Legion's Facebook fan base from 6,500 to 10,000 in a matter of less than a week.
- Advertising sales of $42,900 on the Web site and Online Update, January to May.
- In the first year of Web-based registration for American Legion Baseball teams, 3,606 teams were approved through mid-April, $1,073,945 was collected, out of which $102,500 so far is available to help offset the cost of the baseball program.
- Visitation of The American Legion Web site has nearly doubled since November. In March alone, the site had 263,762 visits from nearly 180,000 unique visitors, an increase of about 15 percent from February. The average number of pages per visit has likewise increased to 5.47, which is remarkable.
- The Dugout, an e-newsletter specifically for American Legion Baseball coaches and enthusiasts, was introduced in February.
- The American Legion Online Update continues to grow, with nearly 220,000 subscribers now.
- The Dispatch can now be received in digital form, reducing print costs, paper waste and the time it takes to receive a copy in the mail.

Meanwhile, *The American Legion Magazine* continues to stand as the organization's communication flagship, reaching some 2.4 million homes a month. Through the first five months of the budget year, the magazine was on track to return a surplus at the end of the year.

Advertising has been cyclical in the first five months, but is just one and one-half pages below budget in advertising through June. This is remarkable given the nationwide weakness in print advertising that has persisted now for more than two years.

Print and paper costs are stable. An expected increase in postage cost did not materialize, which will help the division stay on pace to end the year well within budget.

On behalf of *The American Legion Magazine* Commission, I thank the National Executive Committee for its leadership and guidance through this challenging and exciting time. Also, on behalf of the commission, I wish to extend my gratitude to a very dedicated staff.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move that the report be received and filed. There are no resolutions and no addendum. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Thank you.

I'll now hear from Children and Youth, Dennis Boland, Florida.

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

Commander Hill, members of the National Executive Committee and comrades, I thank you for the opportunity to report on the activities of your Commission on Children and Youth. The Commission heard two special presentations, and you will find specific information on each in my written report.

Our service to veterans and their families through the Temporary Financial Assistance Program last year reached nearly $525,000. With the help of The American Legion, 1,137 veterans' children were afforded food, clothing, utilities, and shelter to help maintain the integrity of the family home.

The American Legion Family Support Network continues to play a vital role in assisting our comrades currently serving on active duty, and their families. Last year the Family Support Network fielded nearly 2,700 requests for assistance, or approximately 53 per week.

This year the National Children and Youth Conference is scheduled for September 17th through the 19th at the Sheraton Hotel here in Indianapolis. Our Children and Youth programs work best with support from all members of the Legion Family. I encourage your Department Children and Youth representatives from the Auxiliary and from the Sons of The American Legion to consider joining us this September. The Commission approved the following areas of concern for the year 2010 - 2011 program: Child health, family support, and child safety.

I would be remiss in my duties as President of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation if I neglected to tell you about the success the foundation has enjoyed this past year. While tough economic conditions continue, donations are exceeding the previous year and total over $433,000. With The American Legion Family's continued support, your Foundation will be able to provide for the betterment of all children for years to come. Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, the Commission thanks you for your long standing support. This concludes my report.

Report: Commission on Children and Youth
May 5, 2010
Dennis R. Boland, Florida, Chairman

Your National Commission on Children & Youth met at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Panorama A, 21st floor in Indianapolis, Indiana on Monday and Tuesday, May 3 – 4, 2010. The meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. and the roll was taken. Following opening remarks, the minutes of the fall meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Commission heard two presentations.

National Organizations For Youth Safety (NOYS): Jason Westerheide, Executive Committee Board Member, presented an overview of NOYS. The NOYS coalition of over thirty-five organizations was established in 1994 by national nonprofit organizations and federal agencies to promote the collaboration of youth member agencies at the national, state and local levels. Jason described the activities that NOYS conducted in preparation for "National Youth & Traffic Safety Month" in May. NOYS works to provide youth with information and skills to make safer decisions.

Internet Social Networks And Crimes Against Children: Assistant U.S. Attorney Steve DeBrota gave a powerful overview of the problem and dangers associated with the Internet and crimes against children. Mr. DeBrota provided examples of how predators use the Internet to communicate with potential victims. He provided tips on how to protect children and encouraged parents to: begin at an early age to talk with their child about computer and Internet use and safety and to be aware of the social network sites their child uses and help your child to understand that not everything on the Internet is true or factual. Mr. DeBrota stated an open dialog between parents and children is the best defense.

Temporary Financial Assistance

The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance Program (TFA) continues to provide for the basic needs of children of eligible veterans through cash grants, made possible through the generosity of The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation. During 2009, TFA assisted 1,137 children of veterans throughout the United States to maintain shelter, utilities, food, and clothing with over $524,664 in cash grants. For the first quarter of this year, the Legion has provided over $128,926 to 123 veterans' families and 298 children.

The Temporary Financial Assistance program continues to be one of our best-kept secrets. Through TFA, a post can call upon the National Organization for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of veterans' children. Remember that a veteran does not have to be a Legionnaire, just Legion eligible. Children of veterans are still in need. Please encourage your department to make adequate use of this program for the benefit of all.

Family Support Network

Your Commission received an update on the Family Support Network and the important role The American Legion has in assisting our comrades currently serving on active duty and their families. Last year the Family Support Network fielded nearly 2,700 requests for assistance and information at the National Headquarters alone. For the first quarter of 2010, the Legion has already received over 590 calls for assistance, averaging over 37 requests per week.

National Children & Youth Conference

The third annual National Children & Youth Conference will be held on September 17-19, 2010 at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis. This conference will educate Legion

representatives from our 52 departments on current children's issues and the programs of the National Commission on Children & Youth. Conference participants will learn practical implementation 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 for a number of informative sessions.

Areas of Concern

The Commission approved the following Areas of Concern for the 2010 – 2011 program year: Child Health, Family Support and Child Safety. The staff is charged to develop, revise, and distribute support materials as appropriate.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

The Board of Directors of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation met in regular session at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre on Sunday, May 2, 2010. The following officers were elected: Dennis R. Boland (FL), president; Peggy Moon (MN) vice-president; Joseph J. Frank (MO), secretary; and Robert Turner (GA), treasurer. The administrative personnel appointed by the Board were George A. Buskirk, Jr. (IN), assistant treasurer and Robert K. Caudell (IN), executive secretary.

The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Director Roger Messier (VA).

The Board of Directors invites all Legion family members to visit the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's website (www.cwf-inc.org) to learn more about the good work of their Foundation.

Established in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Its foremost philanthropic priority is to provide other nonprofit organizations with the means to educate the public about the special needs of children across this nation.

Charitable donations from Legion family members make a definite difference in the lives of all children. Remember, because The American Legion generously takes care of the Foundation's overhead expenses, every penny goes to programs for kids. Few, if any, other foundations can make this claim.

The site includes specific information for grant seekers on deadlines, submission criteria, limitations and the grant application is available on the website. The web site contains useful links to assist them in their search for organization funding. The "Donate Now" button allows visitors to evaluate contribution options and provides the ability to donate online via a secure server. Publications, to include annual reports, audits and fact sheets, are now available for member download. A special, password-protected, micro site for Children's Action Team (CAT) members permits them to examine current award year contribution reports and download CAT publications.

Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, the National Commission on Children & Youth thanks you for your long-standing support. By continuing to work together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of children of this great nation, as we were tasked to do as one of the four pillars of this great organization.

Addendum B: Date of Events/Meetings

Events/Meetings	**Dates**
Children & Youth Conference – 2010	September 17-19, 2010

Children & Youth Conference – 2011	September 16-18, 2011
Children & Youth Conference – 2012	September 21-23, 2012
Children & Youth Conference – 2013	September 20-22, 2013
Children & Youth Conference – 2014	September 19-21, 2014
Children & Youth Conference – 2015	September 18-20, 2015

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move the report be received and filed, with the exception of one addendum. There are no resolutions. ...*Second.*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, attached to the report is Addendum B. I move the action of the Children and Youth Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

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

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Mr. Commander, could I make a point of personal privilege?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Okay.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Thank you, sir. In my short American Legion life, I've been very fortunate to have a mentor that has taken me under his wing. At this time my mentor is a little under the weather. He and I would go through the airport, and we would talk about being brothers, and he is my brother. What he has done for The American Legion, as you all have done, has been an earmark that I hope we never forget. Bob Proctor, my friend, my mentor. I talked to his wife Ruthie a little at lunchtime. Bob is going through a rough course. You know he's got acute leukemia, his kidneys are shutting down, and so there was a problem of whether they can do chemo and whether they can do dialysis. Plus, the heavy drugs he's been on because of his diabetes. He had a foot infection and it's just creating havoc on his body.

In my prayers and your prayers, I know Bob can pull through this. Today he is going through dialysis because the fluid in his body is just backing up so bad and catheterization isn't doing the job. The medication has made him where he doesn't realize what he's doing. He has to be restrained because he's pulling out the intravenous and whatever it has. His brother is there. Sorry to say he doesn't remember his brother being there after talking to Ruthie today.

My man will be back. He will be in that seat. He is the man that represents Florida at the ultimate that you could ever represent anything. Commander, I thank you for the few words you've allowed me to present.

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

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MILBURN (MD): May I make a presentation? I've got a check.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: If anybody else has a check, please come forward.

... At this time National Vice Commander Avis assumed the Chair.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MILBURN: Commander, on behalf of the Department of Maryland, I would like to present you with a check for $5,000 for the National Child Welfare Foundation.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KRIEGER (MI): Commander, I'm from the Department of Michigan. We would like to give you this check for $5,000 for the National Emergency Fund.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ANGUILAR (AZ): Commander, on behalf of the state of Arizona, I would like to give you $3,000 for the National Emergency Fund.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LANGLEY (MS): Commander, Department of Mississippi, I have three checks: $296 for Child Welfare; $150 for the Legacy Fund, and $6,059 for NEF.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HEIGERT (MO): Mr. Commander, on behalf of the Department of Missouri, from our annual NEF golf tournament, I would like to present you this check for $4,757 for the NEF.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WESSINGER (GA): Mr. Commander, on behalf of the Department of Georgia I have a check for the National Emergency Fund for $4,220.

And while I'm here, remember this morning that we gave a plaque also to the people from Pepsi Cola. The plaque was made by the veterans of Augusta VA Blind Unit, the same as this one. And this one reads: "Presented to The American Legion for your dedication and commitment to the well-being of our wounded warriors and their families. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Georgia."

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LAVASSEUR (RI): Commander, from the state of Rhode Island, a check for the NEF, $2,200.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MITCHELL (ID): Commander, from the state of Idaho, I'm happy to present a check for $435 to the NEF.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER COOK (NC): Commander on behalf of the Department of the North Carolina, we have got two checks for you. National Emergency Fund, $8,547.25. And to the National Child Welfare Fund, $9,002.32.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: They only have one channel on their calculator, so the combined total for the NEF and Child Welfare is $53,760.27.

... At this time National Commander Hill resumes the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Okay. Next up, Dan Dellinger from Virginia, chairman of National Security.

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

Commander Hill, members of the National Executive Committee, and fellow Legionnaires, thank you for the opportunity to be before you this afternoon to present this report. A copy of the National Security Commission report has been provided to you for your review, therefore, I will only highlight some of more important issues in the report.

The Commission met on May 3rd at 9:00 a.m. Eight resolutions were considered, seven were recommended for approval and one rejected.

The American Legion Flex Fuel Resolution was introduced and presented to the National Security Commission in Joint Session with the Foreign Relations Commission for the purpose of discussion between the two commissions regarding overlapping national security issues.

Resolution 96, Disrespectful Exploitation of Military Insignia, which had been held over for further study from the 91st National Convention, was rejected.

As an issue of major importance, The American Legion remains steadfast in its support of the DoD Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy. However, as the White House moves to repeal this policy, Department of Defense Secretary Gates wrote a letter to Congress asking them to deny the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy until the Pentagon completes a review of the policy. The American Legion's concern with the policy is one of combat readiness. Otherwise, the issue isn't germane to The American Legion.

The National Security Commission recommended approval of a new resolution urging Congress not to preempt the current Department of Defense directed study on the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy, and reaffirm the Legion's position on this issue.

The fiscal year 2011 budget request has been published, and overall the requested budget is consistent with the Legion's position on defense spending. The good news is, the requested budget authorizes pay increases for our active duty, Guard, and reserve forces to keep pace with the private sector. In addition, there are provisions that support access to medical care for more than 9.5 million beneficiaries, including service members, military families, and retirees. Finally, the 2011 DoD budget request includes $33 billion for a 2010 supplemental request and $159.3 billion for 2011 to support ongoing overseas operations.

Another point of concern is the authorized end strength of the United States Army. The Army has recruited 15,000 of the 22,000 authorized through fiscal year 2015. The American Legion urges Congress and DoD to fill the additional 7,000 authorized slots and not draw down their end strength any further, as was previously done with negative effects after previous conflicts.

The American Legion must urge Congress to resource and man the armed forces for the missions and requirements that they must be ready to perform. The American Legion urges the end strength and resourcing to reduce the current incidence of unacceptable and moderate risks in vital national security mission areas, as referenced in Resolution 95.

Mr. Commander, I would like to thank you for your support. May God bless The American Legion and God bless our country. This completes my report.

Advance Report: National Security Commission
February 28 – March 3, 2010
Daniel Dellinger, Virginia, Chairman

The National Security Commission met in general sessions on March 1 – 3, 2010 during the 50th Annual Washington Conference at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington DC. The following is a summary of those sessions:

Morning Joint Session, March 1, 2010

National Security Commission, in a joint session with the Foreign Relations Commission, met and were addressed by four speakers: Vikram Singh, U.S. Department of State senior defense advisor, office of the special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan; Major General Reuben Jones, Commanding General, Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program; and Energy speaker Dr. Robert Zubrin, aerospace engineer and author of Energy Victory, spoke on the subject of U.S. dependence on foreign oil and the direct threat it poses to National Security. George Clark, President of Save the Montagnard People (STMP) gave a presentation and update on the human rights abuses being suffered by the Montagnard People. Currently there are only an estimated 700,000 Montagnard people left as the Vietnamese are still executing the surviving Montagnard People for the role they played during the Vietnam War, fighting along, side of American troops.

Vikam Singh addressed the attendees of the joint session, giving an update on the progress of Afghan troop readiness. Singh explained that expanding the Afghan army and teaching it to become a force capable of defending Afghanistan in the air and on the ground is a huge undertaking, and the reason why nine nations are working together. There is a training advisory group in place. Its mission is to advise and monitor Afghan National Army Training Command in establishing a training system capable of developing a professional, modern army.

Currently the U.S. effort to train the Afghan military is still in its first of three stages, which is growing the army. After enough troops are recruited and given basic combat training, he said, the focus must then turn to providing more specialized training for the Afghan soldiers. Afghan officials expect easily to reach the 134,000-member target for Afghan army recruitment. However Singh advised that the most important element of this effort is the continued development of future army components and laying the groundwork for Afghans to take the reins and control the army and its programs. The training effort will require great international collaboration. In addition to the United States and Great Britain, France, Germany, Turkey, Romania, Mongolia, Canada and Estonia have provided trainers and mentors. Recently, NATO asked its member nations to provide 2,000 more trainers. When asked, Singh would not comment or speculate on U.S. and India relations since the U.S. began training Afghan troops.

Major General Reuben Jones gave a presentation on the vital relationship between family morale and troop readiness. He is responsible for providing the tools and resources soldiers and their families may require to maintain their stability. To this end, The Army One Source was developed under his command. The Army One Source is a web portal that allows users to access a variety of programs and services for various groups of military personnel, such as: The active duty Army community, Army reserve family programs, eLearning Center, Family Readiness Groups, National Guard family programs, and several others. These programs have been all been successful and his command has been responsible for providing 249 Army National Guard Readiness Centers while increasing staffing and funding to provide 1,099 Family Readiness support assistants (for national call centers). His command has served approximately 13,000 special needs families and created 477 Army community staff positions to meet operational needs. The accomplishments of Major General Jones and his command are certainly most impressive, but more importantly actually save the department of defense money by efficiently linking vital resources to soldiers and families who need them. The reach of the programs and services is so great that it provides residual effects may be difficult to calculate, for example, the cost saving for the DOD when a good soldier decides to continue a career in the military as opposed to the cost of recruiting and training a new soldier to replace one who leaves the military in search of a more stable lifestyle.

Dr. Robert Zubrin gave a presentation on America's dependence on foreign oil (specifically from OPEC nations) and how this dependence constitutes a direct threat to national security. Dr. Zubrin made the case that the price of oil over the past 30 years has been strategically manipulated by OPEC and that, while the poorest nations may be suffering the most now, ultimately the United States has the most at stake economically. In 2008 OPEC cleared $1.5 trillion in net export profits. At that rate, in just six years OPEC will have accumulated enough wealth to purchase all of the United States Fortune 500 companies. Dr. Zubrin used a metaphor of a deck of cards having four suits; oil, coal, natural gas and biomass. Currently (and throughout recent history), and for the foreseeable future, oil is the trump cards and the U.S. will ultimately loose because "the other side" holds all trump cards. According to Dr. Zubrin, the remedy to this quandary is not conservation (a slower more painful demise). The only solution is alternative fuels. He suggests that the U.S. move to adopt a "flex fuel" policy for all new cars. This strategy will ultimately take the power away from the countries that now hold the keys to one of our most vital resources.

Afternoon Joint Session / POW/MIA Update, March 1st

Bob Newberry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Affairs gave a presentation on the status of the Department of Defense's efforts to identify American Prisoners of War and impediments that curtail their efforts. His presentation was followed by Ann Mills Griffiths presentation (rebuttal) in which she

address the POW issue from the perspective of a private citizen who brother was taken as a prisoner of war in 1966, during the Vietnam War. While Ms. Griffiths was generally pleased by the candor of Bob Newberry she did offer suggestions regarding the way the federal government may do more for our missing veterans. Her suggestions included the following:

1. Centralization: There have been proposals to merge the operational elements, including the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and its forensic identification laboratory, under the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO). Over the years since the League was formally incorporated on May 28, 1970, we have experienced much reorganization, and this concept would be particularly destructive to mission effectiveness at this time. It is critical to ensure and sustain the accounting process as a system of checks and balances. A system that recognizes the tremendous variation in environments, both geographically and in complexity, is best implemented as close to the challenges as possible. The operational commands located in Southeast Asia are at their most effective level yet seen, reaffirmed on my just-completed trip to the region. While functioning under DPMO's broad policy guidance and JPAC's command structure, the operational detachments are able to react quickly to challenges, interface effectively with host country officials and coordinate the various operational activities without constantly seeking guidance. DPMO is in no position to function effectively operationally, and bringing them into operations would not only encroach on traditional command prerogatives of PACOM, but lead to micro-management and injurious interference with effective implementation of national accounting policy. Far removed from operational frontlines, DPMO is ill-equipped by skill sets, time zones and institutional placement to handle the numerous daily requirements faced by JPAC headquarters, their dispersed operational detachments and the lab's unique identification challenges. We would vigorously oppose movement toward more centralization under DPMO.
2. Archival Research: The League supports the independent pursuit and analysis of all forms of information collection, whether foreign archival documents, interviews with knowledgeable sources – foreign and domestic – or research of domestic archives for relevant data overlooked or misplaced in earlier years. The League opposes centralized collection and analysis due to the potential of being influenced for political reasons. In this communications era, sharing of data collected is readily available. Electronic means are the primary communication link between offices housed in the same building, much less the same metropolitan area. We have seen that proximity does not assure communication or coordination.

Business Session

The National Security Commission met in business session on Wednesday morning March 3, 2010. After Chairman Dellinger's opening remarks and introductions he invited Diane Duscheck, the National Security Commission Chairwoman of the American Legion Auxiliary to briefly address the session. She was followed by LTC. Robert Chandler (ret.), who gave a very informed presentation on boarder security. Deputy Director Sam Gilmore then gave an update on the preconference trip to Wisconsin's 128 ARW on August 27, 2010. He then led a brief discussion on the role that the Commissions should play to encourage more relevant resolutions that address current disparities in national security from the Departments. The program was then turned back

over to Chairman Dan Dellinger who then reviewed the Law Enforcement Officer of The Year and Firefighter of the Year reports.

Budget Summary

Having steered the economy back from the brink of a depression, the Administration is committed to moving the Nation from recession to recovery by sparking job creation to get millions of Americans back to work and building a new foundation for the long-term prosperity for all American families. To do this, the 2011 Budget makes critical investments in the key areas that will help to reverse the decline in economic security that American families have experienced over the past decade with investments in education, clean energy, infrastructure, and innovation.

But even as we meet the challenge of the recession and work to build an economy that works for all American families, we must also change the way Washington does business – ending programs that don't work, streamlining those that do, cracking down on special interest access, and bringing a new responsibility to how tax dollars are spent. The President's Budget takes the steps to help jumpstart job creation, works to strengthen the economic security of American families, and makes the tough choices to put our Nation back on the path to fiscal responsibility.

Defending our country are the men and women of our military, and the families that love and support them deserve a grateful Nation's support. To stand by military families, the Budget will:

Increase Military Pay and Housing Allowances. The Budget continues the Administration's commitment to caring for our Nation's men and women in uniform and promoting the well-being of the families who support them. To meet this objective, the Budget includes funding for a 1.4 percent basic pay raise that will keep military pay increases in line with those in the private sector. In addition to this pay raise, the Budget also includes an average housing increase of 4.2 percent, as well as a variety of monthly special skill-based payments, enlistment and reenlistment bonuses, and other benefits.

Boost Funding for Family Support Programs. The strength of our troops relies on the strength and stability of the families that support them, and the Budget supports these military families as our servicemembers answer our country's call to service. Overall, family support programs grow over 3 percent above the 2010 enacted level to $8.8 billion. Examples include:

$1.3 billion (an increase of $87 million over the 2010 enacted level) to expand availability for affordable, high-quality child care services at over 800 child development centers both in the United States and overseas.

$1.9 billion (an increase of $37 million over the 2010 enacted level) for expanded counseling and assistance services, from financial counseling to transition and relocation assistance, to help families meet the challenges brought on by repeated deployments and family separations.

$84 million (an increase of $12 million over the 2010 enacted level) for enhanced career and educational opportunities for military spouses through tuition assistance and Federal internship programs.

Replace or Renovate 103 schools by 2015. To give our children the world-class education they deserve, they need world-class facilities. To this end, the Department of Defense is investing substantial resources to replace and renovate 103 DOD Education Activity schools by 2015, starting with $439 million to build 10 new schools funded in the FY 2011 budget.

Care for Wounded, Ill, and Injured Servicemembers. The 2011 Budget sustains ongoing efforts to provide high quality medical care to the over 9.5 million servicemembers and military family and retiree beneficiaries. This includes support for wounded warrior transition units and centers of excellence in vision, hearing, traumatic

brain injury, and other areas to continuously improve the care provided to wounded, ill, and injured servicemembers, including:

$30.9 billion overall for medical care, an increase of 5.8 percent over the 2010 enacted level.

$669 million to provide care for traumatic brain injury and psychological health.

$250 million for continued support of mental health and traumatic brain injury research, such as the development of tools to detect and treat post-traumatic stress, and enhancements to suicide prevention measures.

Increase Employment and Job Training for Veterans and Military Spouses. The 2011 Budget provides $262 million for the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service, which is a $6 million (2 percent) increase over the 2010 enacted level. Of the increase, $5 million is for an initiative to assist homeless women veterans and homeless families. The remaining $1 million will be used to make employment workshops more accessible to spouses of separating servicemembers.

Expand Access to Veterans Medical Care. The men and women who have worn the uniform of our armed forces deserve the best medical care. That is why the 2011 Budget requests $50.6 billion in advance appropriations for the VA medical care program so that care for the Nation's veterans is not hindered by budget delays. This funding will enable the Department to have timely and predictable funding from year to year, ultimately making it easier for veterans to rely on accessible VA care. In addition, for the first time, highly-disabled veterans who are medically retired from service will be eligible for concurrent receipt of disability benefits from VA in addition to DOD retirement benefits. All medically retired servicemembers will be eligible for concurrent receipt of VA and DOD benefits by 2015. Finally, the President's Budget continues enrolling more than 500,000 moderate-income veterans into the VA health care system by 2013 while maintaining high-quality and timely care for the lower-income and disabled veterans who currently rely on VA.

Support Timely and High-Quality Delivery of Health Care and Benefits through 21st Century Technology. VA and the Department of Defense are jointly implementing VLER, which will enable VA to maintain a complete health record for each Veteran and to deliver care and benefits to veterans with efficiency and accuracy. The President's Budget also invests over $200 million in automated processing to directly improve the accuracy and timeliness of veterans benefits, particularly disability compensation and the new Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit.

Report: National Security Commission
May 5-6, 2010
Daniel Dellinger, Virginia, Chairman

An executive session of the National Security Commission met on May 3, 2010 in the Circle Room of the Sheraton Hotel to discuss current national security issues pertaining to the vital interests of the United States and to review the nine resolutions before the commission.

Dan Dellinger, Chairman, of the National Security Commission opened the meeting and shortly thereafter, welcomed National Commander Clarence E. Hill. National Commander Hill spoke briefly and complimented the National Security Commission on its accomplishments and gave gifts in appreciation to Chairman Dellinger and Director Phil Riley. National Commander Hill concluded his remarks by encouraging the commission to keep up the good work.

The following seven proposed resolutions were evaluated by the commission and recommended for approval:

1. *Establish a Unified Military Medical Command*

2. *Support Mandatory Separation/Retirement Physicals and Mental Examinations for Servicemembers at Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States*
3. *Open Eligibility for TRICARE for Life to All Military Retirees and Their Dependents*
4. *Repeal the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate Federal Statute*
5. *Streamline TRICARE Practices to Reduce Costs*
6. *The American Legion Policy on the Nuclear Posture Review 2010*
7. *The American Legion Urges Congress Not to Pre-Empt the Completion of the Department of Defense Directed Study on Don't Ask; Don't Tell (DADT) Policy*

Resolution 96, Disrespectful Exploitation of Military Insignia, which had had been held for further study from the fall NEC, was evaluated and rejected. Foreign Relations Commission joined the National Security meeting and presented The American Legion Flex Fuel Resolution for purposes of discussion between the two commissions regarding the overlapping national security issues. The American Legion's position on the current DOD policy on the "Don't Ask; Don't Tell" Policy is one of combat readiness. As such, The American Legion adopted a new resolution in consideration of the current DOD directed study, which examines the impact of ending "Don't Ask; Don't Tell" on combat readiness. The National Security Commission adopted, The American Legion Urges Congress Not to Pre-Empt the Completion of the Department of Defense Directed Study on "Don't Ask; Don't Tell" (DADT) Policy

On Tuesday, May 4, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session and viewed a feature length documentary on women who serve in combat, entitled *Lioness*. NSFR Assistant Director, Joseph Grassi gave an introduction which placed the film in context for the joint session. He spoke briefly on the topic of women serving in combat before introducing National Security Chairman Daniel Dellinger and Foreign Relations Chairman, Tim Tetz, who each spoke briefly. National Security. And Foreign Relations Division Director, Phil Riley, addressed the joint session prior to the start of the documentary regarding Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW) and his recent trip to Fort Gordon, GA.

In addition, Phil Riley addressed the current issue of troop strength in the United States Army. The Army has filled 15,000 of the 22,000 slots and this end strength is authorized through FY 2015. The Legion urges Congress and DOD to fill the additional 7,000 authorized slots and not draw down end strength further as has been done with negative effects after previous conflicts. The Legion must urge Congress to resource and man the armed forces for the missions and requirements they must be ready to perform. The Legion urges this end strength and resourcing to reduce the current level of unacceptable moderate risks in vital national security mission areas. (See Resolution 95).

The National Security Commission looks forward to working with the distinguished members of the national Executive Committee in preparation for the National Convention. We thank you for your support.

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved

Rejected

Resolution No. 96 (IL) (2009 NC)**: Disrespectful Exploitation of Military Insignias**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move the report be received and filed, with the exception of seven resolutions and one addendum. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: Mr. Commander, I would like to ask the chairman, and possibly the director maybe a question.

I was briefed not long ago on the end strength of the American Army by the Secretary of the Army John McHugh. That 22,000 in the report, the Army has filled 15,000 of the 22,000 additional end strength which, is it correct in the report, that is only through fiscal year 2015. I would say, or at least with a little clarification here, that The American Legion is going to move on Congress to make that 22,000 permanent.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DELLINGER: Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: Now, my second question is, or to get clarification basically, as the secretary was indicating, that they're not going to, or at least he doesn't have the intention of recruiting that additional 7,000, and the reason given for that was, with the 22,000 expiring in 2015, when we withdraw by mutual agreement from Iraq at the end of December of 2011, there's a belief, or at least a feeling, that Congress will say everything is all right in the world, and do what they did before and declare a peace dividend.

So, if your appropriations go down in the United States Army, and those 22,000 disappear, he wanted kind of a soft landing by not filling the 7,000. Because if he has to go to a smaller end strength, he's going to have a reduction in force to meet that appropriated end strength, and that means that you don't reduce the force by reducing privates, that might go deeper than a peace dividend, where he have to reduce top NCOs, in other words, RIF them out of the service because of the various number of claims, and he said in my heart of hearts I did not wish to do that, because they have got three or four combat tours.

So, what I'm saying is, basically, just for clarification, I would hope that The American Legion would go forth to make that 22,000 permanent, and not expire at the end of fiscal year 2015. Now, given that, we also know, and I applaud you for doing it, that our withdrawal from Iraq in 2011, let's hope everything works out all right, we still have got Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, Iran, and I've heard particulars, and this is my personal thinking, that the end strength ought to be somewhere around 800,000.

I just wanted to clarify that because I would hate to see a reduction in force with a reduction in appropriations in a dangerous world.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIRECTOR RILEY: In Resolution 95, it calls for an even greater end strength than that in the Army, and it refers to getting end strength straight in the other services as well.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: I understand that, Phil, but what I'm saying is, you understand why he's holding back the 7,000?

DIRECTOR RILEY: Yes, I do.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: I think we ought to go forward with due diligence to Congress to hold that 22,000 and make it permanent.

DIRECTOR RILEY: We will do that, sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: We would do a great favor to this nation, and a great favor to our national security. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Any other discussion? Sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: I have one question also. In this report you mentioned that Don't Ask, Don't Tell; part of that is not germane to The American Legion. I didn't quite understand what you meant by that because Don't Ask, Don't Tell is actually a position The American Legion has held since it's inception, and not only deals with morale of our troops and most enlisted people support the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy and I know you have a resolution, but I think it is germane to The American Legion. There's a lot of repercussions that would follow besides the morale of the troops, because then you're going to get into partners or whatever, and then they're going to be involved with TRICARE, and so the whole situation would have a domino

effect, and I think it's very important that The American Legion stay constant on our position on Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

CHAIRMAN DELLINGER: Sir, at this time, until the secretary comes back with his completed study, at which time we will review his recommendations. But right now we are still steadfast in our position on that issue. So, I see what you mean. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Any other discussions? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Resolutions.

Resolution No. 25: Streamline TRICARE Practices To Reduce Costs

Origin: National Security Commission

Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DOD) medical budget has increased from $19 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 to an estimated $51 billion in FY 2011; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE serves 9.6 million beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will provide coverage for 32 million previously uninsured Americans and increase demand for qualified health care professionals; and

WHEREAS, Many health care professions reportedly consider TRICARE reimbursement rates below average; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE fees have not increased since its inception; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion opposes any fee increase; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE must take measures to streamline costs in an effort to remain competitive; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meetings assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion urges Congress to take steps toward streamlining TRICARE costs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the DOD offer better incentives to private medical providers who accept TRICARE beneficiaries as patients; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD simplify TRICARE pre-authorization and referral requirements to reduce contractor overhead; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD should make all military retirees and their dependents eligible to participate in TRICARE for Life; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD reduce TRICARE Reserve Select costs by allowing members the option of a government subsidy (at cost capped below cost of providing TRICARE) for payment of civilian employer health premiums during periods of mobilization; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD exempt medications/services for chronic diseases (e.g., diabetes, asthma) from deductibles and co-pays to reduce long-term health costs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD promote the use of lower-cost mail-order pharmacies by eliminating all mail-order co-pays; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD better educate TRICARE beneficiaries and medical providers on the advantages of mail-order pharmacies, to include requiring greater command emphasis to improve TRICARE knowledge throughout the ranks of the military services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD change the electronic claim system to reject errors in real time to help providers submit "clean" claims and to reduce delays and multiple submissions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD establish a centralized "high-cost pharmacy" for central ordering and filling of prescriptions for exceptionally high-cost drugs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD realign military treatment facilities' pharmacy budget process for centralized funding, with greater emphasis on accountability and cost-shifting; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD eliminate its unique administrative requirements that compels contractors to assume more overhead costs (and charge higher fees) than those defined in other insurance programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DOD encourage offers regarding special care management services to beneficiaries with chronic and expensive conditions; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That DOD consider the testing of voluntary participation in Medicare Advantage Regional Preferred Provider Option (PPO) to foster chronic care improvement and disease management programs.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee, and therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 26: Open Eligibility For TRICARE For Life To All Military Retirees And Their Dependents

Origin: National Security Commission

Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DOD) created TRICARE to augment its Military Healthcare System; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE largely consists of regional Federally-contracted, for-profit health care providers; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE for Life is the supplemental coverage for military retirees who are entitled to Medicare Part A and have Medicare Part B coverage; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE for Life is currently restricted to military retirees, age 65 and older, who are eligible for Medicare Part A and Part B; and

WHEREAS, The Military Healthcare System has demonstrated the ability to provide timely access to quality health care to both adults and children within the health care delivery system or through contracted services (TRICARE and TRICARE for Life); and

WHEREAS, If TRICARE for Life is used as supplemental insurance by all military retirees and their dependents it will create inherent, mutually beneficial costs-saving incentives for DOD and retirees; and

WHEREAS, Availability of TRICARE as supplemental insurance will provide a strong incentive for beneficiaries to take advantage of employer's primary coverage and reduce DOD healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, All military retirees and their dependents are deserving and rightfully entitled to healthcare benefits that enhance the quality of life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion urges the Congress to authorize and fund the Department of Defense (DOD) in providing permanent TRICARE for Life to all military retirees and their dependents until age 26.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 27: The American Legion Policy On The Nuclear Posture Review 2010

Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion's deep-rooted interest in national security was born in the hearts and minds of its founders and those who piloted this national veterans service organization through treacherous waters in volatile environments; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's bitter wartime experiences have crystallized its determination to fight for a strong national security doctrine capable of protecting the sovereignty of the United States; and

WHEREAS, As mandated by Congress, the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) 2010 is the third comprehensive assessment of the America's nuclear policy and strategy (NPR 1994 and NPR 2001); and

WHEREAS, The NPR 2010 outlines America's approach to promoting an agenda for reducing nuclear dangers and pursuing the goal of a world without nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, The NPR 2010 is consistent with current national security priorities and supports defense strategy objectives indentified in the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review; and

WHEREAS, The NPR 2010 was conducted by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Secretaries of State and Energy, as well as other relative Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, The NPR 2010 reaffirms that as long as nuclear weapons exist, the United States will maintain a safe, secure, and effective arsenal, both to deter potential adversaries and to assure its allies and other security partners that they can count on America's security commitments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion fully supports a nuclear posture that would prevent nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports a nuclear posture that would, based on the national threat assessment, cautiously reduce the role of nuclear weapons in the United States' national security strategy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports a nuclear posture that would maintain strategic deterrence and stability at reduced nuclear force levels; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports a nuclear posture that would strengthen regional deterrence and would reassure America's allies and security partners; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports a nuclear posture that would sustain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear arsenal.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 28: Repeal The Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate Federal Statute
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The Military Health System (MHS) is designed with two components, the active duty military component and a civilian component called TRICARE; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE is designed to meet the healthcare needs of all military medical beneficiaries to including family members of active-duty servicemembers, members of the Reserves and retirees who are not Medicare-eligible; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE for Life is designed to meet the health care needs of military beneficiaries who are Medicare-eligible; and

WHEREAS, Medical providers within the MHS network are reimbursed at a rate consistent with Medicare; and

WHEREAS, Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate was enacted by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-33) to amend Section 1848(f) of the Social Security Act; and

WHEREAS, Medicare and TRICARE provider reimbursement rates are scheduled to be significantly reduced as a result of Public Law 105-33; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion urges Congress to repeal the Federal statute concerning the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate, which adversely affects TRICARE beneficiaries and medical providers within the Military Health System.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 29: Support Mandatory Separation/Retirement Physicals And Mental Examinations For Servicemembers At Discharge From The Armed Forces Of The United States
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, Over 200,000 servicemembers are discharged from active-duty in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Today's All-Volunteer Force continues to rely on members of the National Guard and Reserves to carry on military missions, especially during higher states of readiness, such as the Global War on Terror; and

WHEREAS, The Armed Forces mandate physical conditioning to acceptable standards; and

WHEREAS, The very nature of combat places servicemembers in harm's way in areas of operation with varying terrains and environments; and

WHEREAS, Having an established and accurate medical baseline, upon separation, is critical in determining fitness for duty within the Department of Defense or service-connected medical conditions within the Department of Veterans Affairs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion urges the Congress and the Department of Defense to require mandatory separation/retirement physicals, to include mental health examinations,

of all separating servicemembers to include members of the National Guard and Reserves.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 30: Establish A Unified Military Medical Command

Origin: National Security Commission

Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The Military Health System (MHS) is designed to meet the health care needs of the members of the United States Armed Forces, in peacetime and wartime, around the world with a separate health care command for each branch of service; and

WHEREAS, The MHS serves active military personnel and their beneficiaries to include family members of active-duty servicemembers and also retired military members and their family members who are not Medicare-eligible; and

WHEREAS, The cost of TRICARE, the civilian care component of the MHS, significantly increased since 2001, with fewer military retirees, their families and military family members being treated in Military Treatment Facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense budget is heavily weighed down by the costs of the Military Health Care System wherein the MHS cost has increased from $19 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 to an anticipated cost of $51 billion for FY 2011; and

WHEREAS, In FY 2001 the direct military health care share of the MHS cost was 70 percent of the budget with the TRICARE share cost at 30 percent of the budget; and in FY 2009, nearly the exact opposite of the cost has occurred with TRICARE cost at 67 percent and the direct military cost share at 33 percent of the MHS budget; and

WHEREAS, Cost-efficiency is sacrificed under the current MHS organizational model with its inherent redundancies and cultural differences among the separate service medical commands; and

WHEREAS, the Unified Command model has demonstrated budgeting and operational gains in existing unified military commands; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion urges Congress to direct re-organization of the Military Health Care System into a Unified Military Medical Command preceded by a study, if necessary, to determine the operational gains and cost savings of this proposed command structure.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 39: The American Legion Urges Congress To Await The Completion Of The Department Of Defense Directed Study On *Don't Ask Don't Tell* (DADT) Policy

Origin: National Security Commission

Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of wartime veterans created by an act of the United States Congress in 1919; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense establishes fitness for duty criteria and standards of conduct consistent with the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion adopted Resolution 34 in regular meeting of the National Executive Committee in the fall of 2009, which supports the current policy; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense is currently engaged in a study to determine the impact of ending *Don't Ask; Don't Tell* (DADT) on the Armed Forces and on combat readiness; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's sole concern with the DADT issue is that of maintaining combat readiness; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense's current standards and directives have produced one of the most dominant military forces in history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion urges Congress not to take any action that would alter the Department of Defense (DoD) policy of *Don't Ask; Don't Tell* before DoD completes its review.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Commander, attached to the report is Addendum A. I move that the action of the National Security Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Thank you. We will now hear from the Economic Commission, Chairman Randy Fisher, Kentucky.

Oral Report: Economic Commission
Randall A. Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Good afternoon. Thank you, commander, head table, NEC, past national commanders and guests. You have the full report on your desk. I'm just going to hit some high points from the National Economic Commission report.

We met at Headquarters in Indianapolis for the purpose of considering those matters that previously been referred for study, and to discuss a range of other current matters. Seven resolutions were considered. Six resolutions were forwarded to the National Executive Committee for approval from the National Economic Commission. And one was referred from the 2009 National Convention for further study.

During this meeting the commission discussed many issues. Employment: The Department of Labor reports that one in four Iraq and Afghanistan veterans under the age of 24 are currently out of work. The unemployment rate for veterans of all ages was 9.8 percent in March. The total number of employed veterans of the two wars is about 250,000. Unfortunately, many of the thousands of service-members who are currently leaving the service are from the combat arms and non-skilled professions that are not readily transferable to the civilian labor market. The American Legion understands that with the staggeringly high veteran unemployment rate, there's immense need to insure

that veterans are getting trained and are afforded ample opportunity to succeed in an unstable job market.

So far in 2010, The American Legion has already sponsored 44 career fairs across the country for veterans and their families seeking employment, including the one we hosted at the Washington Conference. Also, the Economic Division is revamping its section on the Legion website to provide assistance to job seekers through our network and partnerships.

During the year, staff members of the Economic Division continued to prepare and delivered testimony for Congressional committees on the subjects of vital interest to the Commission, including: contract procurement for veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses; transition from Department of Defense to Department of Labor; Veterans Employment and Training Services; the VETS budget; VA services for vocational rehabilitation; education and home loans; and veterans preference in federal hiring.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill only covers institutions of higher learning. Not all veterans attend institutions of higher learning. Many veterans prefer traditional employment, and may require employment for personal or family reasons. The American Legion recommends that these programs be included under the Post 9/11 GI Bill: Flight training; correspondence schools; apprentice programs; vocational schools; and on-the-job training programs. The Post 9/11 GI Bill needs to be modified to include non-college degree programs. The American Legion believes that veterans should never be limited in the manner they use their educational benefits. Also, The American Legion is recommending that the allowances for distance learning be made similar to those in effect for residential learning. This assures equity for veterans, including such individuals as single parents, and veterans with significant medical disabilities.

In addition, The American Legion strongly recommends that Title 32 for active duty, Guard, and Reserve, be included for eligibility under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The American Legion strongly supported the enhancements of the Montgomery GI Bill and is grateful that Congress passed the bill, and the president signed this vital piece of legislation on June 30, 2008. This new GI Bill has been hard-earned and is certainly well-deserved for the men and women who have protected, sacrificed, and served our country honorably. With modest refinements, the bill could have the same economic and social effect as the original GI Bill signed in 1944.

Small businesses have become another casualty to the credit crunch caused by the ongoing financial crisis. By the end of 2009, more than half of the nation's small businesses looking for credit were unable to obtain a loan. This credit freeze will force many businesses to shut their doors, while others will be unable to expand. In either case, it means a loss of American jobs. To help ease the credit crisis for small businesses, The American Legion urges Congress to establish a direct lending program through the Small Business Administration. This effort would offer low interest loans to otherwise healthy veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses that are currently having trouble obtaining the credit they need for necessary operating expenses and/or expansion.

In conclusion, the National Economic Commission is fully aware that it would be impossible to carry out its mandates without the active involvement of posts, districts, counties, departments and individual Legionnaires. We deeply appreciate your continued support and involvement. I would also like to thank the national commander, the national adjutant, the National Executive Committee and the staff of both at Washington and Indianapolis offices for their outstanding support and cooperation they have provided during this year.

I would like to introduce some staff that's here. Joe Sharpe, director; Mark Walker, deputy director; Robert Madden in the Washington office; Andrew Tramontana has left The American Legion and has been replaced with Catherine Trombley. She came from

the VA&R Division. Also Jasmine Davis in the Washington Office. We would like to thank them for their assistance and their hard work. You do an excellent job and we appreciate all you do for The American Legion. *(Applause)* That concludes my report.

Advance Report: Economic Commission
March 19, 2010
Randall A. Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Members and guests of the National Economic Commission and its two standing committees on Employment and Veterans Preference met at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C., on Monday, March 2, and Wednesday, March 3, 2010. Those meetings were held in conjunction with the Fiftieth Annual Washington Conference.

In addition, a Career Fair hosted with RecruitMilitary was conducted on Thursday, February 25, 2010, a Homeless Veterans Workshop was conducted on Friday, February 26, 2010, and the Veterans' on Campus Seminar met on Sunday, February 28, 2010, to discuss the Commission's ongoing initiative to assist veterans with a successful transition from active-duty to colleges/universities campuses across the country. An Awards Selection Subcommittee composed of members of the Economic Commission and its two committees met on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, for the purpose of selecting the national winners and runners-up in the commission's two national awards programs.

Finally, the Small Business Task Force hosted a Business Development Workshop at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, followed by a networking social to end the day.

A synopsis of the meetings follows:

I. Career Fair

The National Economic Commission of The American Legion partnered with RecruitMilitary to host a Career Fair on Thursday, February 25, 2010, in the Renaissance Ballroom, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. This event started with an opening ceremony, which included Matthew Murphy from RecruitMilitary, Ronald Drach, Director, Government & Legislative Affairs of DOL-VETS, and Randall Fisher, National Economic Commission Chairman. There were 32 employers from various industries and over 200 attendees that participated in the Career Fair. The American Legion manned two tables at this event. One table lead by Andrew Tramontana, H2H Program Coordinator, discussed how H2H assists veterans with reintegrating back to their local communities and the other was manned by Legionnaires of the Department of Washington, D.C., who answered veterans' questions about benefits and described the Legion's programs as well as explained how to become a member of The American Legion. Most importantly, the employers and participants at this event were pleased with the outcome. The employers stated that the participants were professional and well-qualified. The participants liked the fact that employers were from different industries and willing to hire veterans. The American Legion along with RecruitMilitary will continue to make this an annual event at the Washington Conference.

II. Homeless Veterans Providers Workshop

The National Economic Commission of The American Legion held an extremely successful homeless veterans providers workshop on Friday, February 26, 2010, in Meeting Room 4, Meeting Room Level, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC: training was given to all attendees so they could operate a "train the trainer" program back at their Post and to take valuable information back to their respective departments and share with other members of The American Legion. The one-day free workshop had experts from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Labor (DOL) the

Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and the National Guard and Reserve Benefits; specifically, Mary O'Malley, Special Populations Manager, VA, Gordon Burke, Director of Operations, Grants, and Transition Programs, DOL, Cynthia High, Special needs Assistance Program Specialist (HUD) and William Sermons, Director, National Alliance to End Homeless. During the workshop it was noted that VA estimates nearly 131,000 homeless veterans on any given night. Approximately 250,000 will experience homelessness during the year. VA is taking decisive action toward its goal of ending homelessness among our Nation's veterans. To achieve this goal, VA has developed a Five Year Plan to assist every homeless veteran willing to accept services retain or acquire: safe housing; needed treatment services; opportunities to retain or return to employment; and benefits assistance. VA will continue to partner with the community, national and local service providers, and other state and federal agencies to provide comprehensive care to homeless veterans and veterans at-risk for homelessness. Also mentioned was the successful Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) within the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Services (DOL-VETS). HVRP is the only nationwide program focused on assisting homeless veterans to reintegrate into the workforce. This program is a highly successful grant program that needs to be fully funded at $50 million. Currently, HVRP is funded at $41 million. Among other matters, classes were taught on how to successfully engage the homeless veteran issue in the local community and how to successfully execute a Stand Down.

III. Veterans' On Campus Seminar

The National Economic Commission hosted a one-day seminar titled: "Veterans On Campus" on Sunday, February 28, 2010 in the Grand Ballroom South, Lower Level at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. "Veterans On Campus" was designed to reach out to Academia, Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and student veterans on how Academia and VSOs can assist this younger generation in transitioning from military to college life. This event attracted over 100 guests who listened to a variety of issues. The seminar was opened with discussion from keynote speakers: Maj. Gen. Michael Lehnert (USMC Ret.) and Admiral Ted Gordon, along with Past National Commander and National Adjutant, Robert Spanogle. In addition, Dr. Doug Hermann gave a presentation on making veterans a protected class on campus. There were 5 panels that discussed transitioning challenges for veterans returning to school. The panels were: 1) an opening panel from representatives from The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans Institute and

Student Veterans of America (SVA); 2) a student veteran panel, which included veterans from George Washington University, American University, University of the District of Columbia and Georgetown University; 3) Congressional Panel, which included staff members from both sides of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; 4) VSO/University panel, which included individuals from VFW, MOAA and SVA, George Washington University, University of the District of Columbia and American University; 5) VA briefing by Keith Wilson. After each panel, the audience was invited to ask questions in order to better understand the problem student veterans are facing and how to address those problems and needs of veterans on campus.

IV. National Economic Commission Forum

The National Economic Commission assembled in Meeting Rooms 10-11, Meeting Room Level, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC, to hear speakers on topics of interest to the commission members. The main focus of the morning's session was veterans' employment concerns.

The first speaker was John McWilliam, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, who gave the audience an overview of DOL-VETS recent

activities. He stated that about 160,000 service members return to civilian status each year. Mr. McWilliam focused on the DOL-VETS three-sided approach to helping veterans. 1. Workforce Investment System; Career One-Stop, Veterans Workforce Investment Program, Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program, HireVetsFirst Campaign. 2. Employment Rights; USERRA, Veterans' Preference, Disabled Veterans Hiring Initiative. 3. Transition Services; Transition Assistance Employment Workshops, REALifelines, Operation Warfighter.

The other speakers, in consecutive order, were:

Hakeem Basheerud-Deen**,** Senior Human Resources Specialist, Office of Personnel Management, Paul Plasencia, Veterans Outreach Program Manager, Department of Homeland Security, Edner Escarne, Acting Deputy Accountability Program Officer, Department of Commerce, and Dennis May, Director, Veterans Employment Coordination Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Jamie Frankel, Officer, High Volume Recruiter, Bank of America and William Philbrick, Theatre Lead**,** CISCO.

The afternoon session continued with a series of speakers, focused on Transition and Reintegration of veterans:

David Dubois, Director, Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy, Department of Defense, Gregory Boyle, Commander Officer, Department of Defense, Roger Neppl, Director, Military Program, Paralympics Division, Department of Defense and Stacie Hitts, Director, Operation Diploma, Military Family Research Institute, Purdue University. Terry Quattlebaum, Director, US Army Garrison, Walter Reed, and Ruth Fanning, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program, Department of Veterans Affairs.

V. Awards Selection Subcommittee Meeting

Prior to the Washington Conference, the Chairman of the National Economic Commission appointed an awards selection subcommittee to review all the nominations that had been received during 2009 in the Employer of the Year awards program, and in the Employment Service awards program. This subcommittee met on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, in Chairman Fisher's Suite, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C., to select winners in the large, medium and small employer, LVER and DVOP categories, as well as Employment Service Local Office of the Year, and Employer of Disabled and Older Workers categories. During 2009, Departments submitted 99 nominations for employers and employment services. 10 were for small companies (1-50 employees), 14 were for medium size companies (51-200 employees), and 13 were for large companies (201+employees). 10 were for Employer of Older Workers, 5 were for Employer of the Disabled. Departments also submitted 17 nominations for Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs), 17 for Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and 13 for local Employment Service (ES) Local Offices. Those appointed to the subcommittee were Al Robotti (NJ), Chairman; William E. Christoffersen (UT); James Fratolillo (MA), Alfred Canale (MA), Dennis Tipsword (IL) and Peggy Dettori (AK). Kenneth Connors (NJ) was a consultant.

The winners and runners-up in the Employer of the Year categories will be reviewed by the Department of Labor for pending safety and health or fair labor practices violations before announcement is made.

Small Employer	Millennium Security Services, LLC Roswell, Georgia
Medium Size Employer	Regent Security Services, Inc. Columbus, Georgia
Large Employer	BNSF Railway Company Fort Worth, Texas

Employer Of The Disabled	Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Madison, Wisconsin
Employer Of Older Workers	Allen Corporation of America, Inc. Fairfax, Virginia
LVER Of The Year	Kathy Y. Ford Denver, Colorado
DVOP Of The Year	Kenneth E. Kempf Raleigh, North Carolina
ES Local Office Of The Year	Cumberland County Job Link Center Fayetteville, North Carolina

VI. Small Business Task Force's Veterans Small Business Development Workshop

The National Economic Commission Small Business Task Force sponsored their Annual Mid-Winter Conference Small Business Development Workshop and Seminar Series on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, in Congressional Ballroom B, Ballroom Level of the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. Approximately 120 veteran and service-disabled business owners participated in this event. Veterans traveled from as far away as Texas, Hawaii, North Carolina, Tennessee, Pennsylvania as well as Maryland and Virginia.

Top experts from the private and federal sectors provided veterans with information on how to start and maintain successful businesses. Also, veterans heard pertinent information that gave them the necessary insight to effectively penetrate the federal marketplace. The free one-day workshop included representatives from Department of the Treasury, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Defense (DOD), the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Government Service Administration (GSA), PNC Bank, and the Northeast Veterans Business Resource Center.

VII. Meeting Of The National Economic Commission

The National Economic Commission met at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, in Meeting Room 5, Meeting Room Level, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. Commission Chairman Randall Fisher (KY) presided. William Elmore, Associate Administrator for Veterans Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) presented that the Office of Veterans' Business Development received $2 million to operate SBA's outreach centers. However, Mr. Elmore stated he needs more staff (service-disabled veterans) in his office, and for the outreach centers to have more program activities to adequately serve the veteran business community. Also, Mr. Elmore mentioned that SBA recently received $10 million in discretionary funding; consequently, he hopes a significant portion of these funds will be used to further the business development office outreach goals and develop a nationwide community-based service delivery system, specifically for veterans and members of the Reserve Components.

Finally, the awards selection subcommittee's report was considered.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Report: Economic Commission
May 5-6, 2010
Randall A. Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

The National Economic Commission met on May 3-4, 2010, at Headquarters Room 311 in Indianapolis, Indiana for the purpose of considering those matters that had previously been referred for study and to discuss a range of other current matters.

Presiding: Randall A. Fisher (KY), Chairman

Present at the meeting were:

Albert M. Robotti (NJ)	Milton G. Heifner (IA)
William G. Bickford (ME)	Donald W. Cabrol (MS)
William Marshall (FR)	William Christoffersen (UT)
Edward Bertrand (NY)	R. Shuford Edmisten (NC)
Richard Coccimiglio (PA)	

Also in attendance were:

The staff members present were Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr. (DC), Director for Economic, and Mark Walker (DC), Deputy Director for Economic

Matters Received, Considered And Acted Upon By The Commission:
Resolutions

Your Subcommittee considered Seven (7) resolutions. Six (6) referred from the National Economic Commission and one from the 2009 National Convention which is been held for further study.

The Commission then discussed the following issues:

State Of The Economy

The Department of Labor (DOL) reports that one in four Iraq and Afghanistan veterans under the age of 24 are currently out of work. The unemployment rate for veterans of all ages was 9.8 percent in April. The total number of unemployed veterans of the two wars is about 250,000. Unfortunately, many of the thousands of service members who are currently leaving the service are from the combat arms and non-skilled professions that are not readily transferable to the civilian labor market. The American Legion understands that, with an overall unemployment rate at 14.7 percent for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, there is an immense need to ensure that veterans are getting trained and are afforded ample opportunities to succeed in this unstable job market.

The American Legion will continue to assist veterans and their families in their transition to employment through our Career Fairs that we sponsor across the country with Military.com and RecruitMilitary along with the Small Business Development Workshops that we hold during our annual Washington Conference and National Convention. So far in 2010, The American Legion has already sponsored 44 Career Fairs across the country for veterans and their families seeking employment. 6 of those Career Fairs were held in Wisconsin, where a Reserve Component of over 4,000 returned from deployment of which 51 percent stated that they needed employment assistance. Also, the Economic Division is revamping its section on the Legion website to provide assistance to job seekers through our network of partnerships.

In addition, The American Legion is collaborating with VeteransPlus and Microsoft to provide veterans and their families with the tools to make solid financial decisions and the technology skills to acquire meaningful employment. VeteransPlus is a non-profit group which assists veterans in providing financial guidance and literacy in order to

provide best practices to veterans and their families. VeteransPlus has partnered with National Foundation for Debt Management to provide financial education and counseling programs at no cost to veterans and their families. Furthermore, Microsoft has announced the Elevate America's Veterans Initiative to help prepare veterans and their spouses with technology skills and resources they need to be successful in today's workplace. The American Legion will participate on the Advisory Committee to provide overall feedback to process, direction and goals of Microsoft's new initiative for veterans and their spouses.

Employment And Career Fairs

During the year, staff members from the Economic Division continue to prepare and deliver testimony for Congressional committees on subjects of vital interest to the Commission, including contracting/procurement for veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses; transition from Department of Defense (DOD) to Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Services (DOL-VETS), the VETS budget, and VA services for vocational rehabilitation, education and home loans; and veterans' preference in Federal hiring.

The American Legion has formal memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with RecruitMilitary, Avue Technologies, and Military.com, allowing The American Legion to have a presence at veterans' Career Fairs around the country. The purpose is to educate veterans regarding their benefits, provide them outlets for employment and promote The American Legion. This is an extremely important opportunity with incredibly positive impact for veterans and our organization. The American Legion will participate in more than 90 Career Fairs in 2010 conducted through our national partnerships.

Additionally, each department Employment chairperson organizes participation in numerous local Job Fairs (other that our two national partners). Job duties, expectation instructions and flyers accompany approximately 100 educational brochures from The American Legion for each Career Fair. Educational material is sent automatically to departments associated with Military.com and RecruitMilitary and per individual request.

The staff of the National Headquarters Economic Division is also deeply involved in advisory committees. Director Joseph Sharpe is a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Education Advisory Committee, the Department of Labor's Veterans Advisory Committee, the Small Business Administration's Veterans Advisory Committee and Deputy Director Mark Walker is a contributor to the Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Advisory Committee**.**

National Employer Awards

During the Washington Conference, the Commission's Awards Subcommittee met to select winners in the Employer of Veterans and Employment Service awards categories. Winners include:

Small Employer:	Millennium Security Services, LLC. Roswell, Georgia
Medium Size Employer:	Regent Security Services, Inc. Columbus, Georgia
Large Employer:	BNSF Railway Company Fort Worth, Texas
Employer Of The Disabled:	Wisconsin Department Of Workforce Development Madison, Wisconsin
Employer Of Older Workers:	Allen Corporation Of America, Inc. Fairfax, Virginia

LVER Of The Year:	Kathy Y. Ford Denver, Colorado
DVOP Of The Year:	Kenneth E. Kempf Raleigh, North Carolina
ES Local Office Of The Year:	Cumberland County Job Link Center Fayetteville, North Carolina
Homeless Outreach Program	Department Of Colorado Denver, Colorado

Education

The National Economic Commission hosted a one-day seminar titled: "Veterans on Campus" on Sunday, February 28, 2010 in the Grand Ballroom South, Lower Level at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. "Veterans on Campus" was designed to reach out to Academia, Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and student veterans on how Academia and VSOs can assist this younger generation in transitioning from military to college life. This event attracted over 100 guests who listened to a variety of issues. The seminar was opened with discussion from keynote speakers: Maj. Gen. Michael Lehnert (USMC Ret.) and Admiral Ted Gordon, along with Past National Commander and National Adjutant, Robert Spanogle. In addition, Dr. Doug Hermann gave a presentation on making veterans a protected class on campus.

There were 5 panels that discussed transitioning challenges for veterans returning to school. The panels were: 1) an opening panel from representatives from The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans Institute and Student Veterans of America (SVA); 2) a student veteran panel, which included veterans from George Washington University, American University, University of the District of Columbia and Georgetown University; 3) Congressional Panel, which included staff members from both sides of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; 4) VSO/University panel, which included individuals from VFW, MOAA and SVA, George Washington University, University of the District of Columbia and American University; 5) VA briefing by Keith Wilson. After each panel, the audience was invited to ask questions in order to better understand the problem student veterans are facing and how to address those problems and needs of veterans on campus.

The Economic Division has discussed and recommended to the VA to be more proactive in their outreach efforts with the veteran community and colleges/universities as they continue to implement the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Our division will continue working with Keith Wilson, Director of Education Service, to ensure that VA is sending out payments (i.e., tuition, housing and book stipends) to colleges and student veterans in an effective and timely manner. The American Legion will also continue working with VA's outreach management team and other stakeholders to coordinate outreach efforts so service members and veterans have the necessary information concerning their new education benefit. The Post 9/11 GI Bill has been hard earned and is certainly well deserved for the men and women who have protected, sacrificed, and served our country honorably.

Veterans Entrepreneurship

The National Economic Commission Small Business Task Force sponsored 2 Small Business Development Workshops that were held in Louisville, Kentucky, during the National Convention and most recently at the Washington Conference. Over 300 participants have attended these workshops. The National Economic Division is looking to expand these events in the coming months.

On Tuesday, March 2, 2010, in Congressional Ballroom B, Ballroom Level of the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. There were over 100 participants at this event. Veterans traveled from as far away as California, Utah, Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania as well as Maryland and Virginia.

Top experts from the private and federal sectors provided veterans with information on how to start and maintain successful businesses. Also, veterans heard pertinent information that gave them the necessary insight into effectively penetrating the federal marketplace. The free one-day workshop included representatives from the Department of Treasury, the Small Business Administration (SBA), the General Service Administration (GSA), Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), PNC Bank, and the Northeast Veterans Business Resource Center.

Small Business And The Credit Crunch

By the end of 2009, more than half of the nation's small businesses looking for credit were unable to obtain a loan. This credit freeze will force many businesses to shut their doors, while others will be unable to expand. In either case, it means a loss of American jobs. Congress should supplement current efforts to thaw the credit market for small businesses by establishing a direct lending program within the Small Business Administration (SBA). This program could provide loans to small businesses that cannot otherwise find credit, thereby potentially saving or creating tens of thousands of American jobs. This effort would offer low-interest loans to otherwise healthy veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses that are having trouble obtaining the credit they need for necessary operating expenses or expansion.

A USA TODAY/American University review found that banks that received federal assistance during the financial crisis reduced lending more aggressively and gave bigger pay raises to employees than institutions that did not receive aid. The amount of loans outstanding to businesses and individuals fell 9.1 percent for the 12 months ending September 30, 2009, at banks that participated in Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) compared with 6.2 percent drop at banks that did not. Banks not lending to small businesses have been well-document over the past two years. Although the economy is slowing moving in the right direction, veterans are still in desperate need of capital to start and/or expand their businesses. Financial institutions state that the lack of lending is due to this uncertain environment, which makes it difficult for banks to raise needed capital to deal with higher risk and continue (or start again) to lend; banks are not rewarded for making those riskier loans, even to current business borrowers; and, the economic challenges mean many businesses that would have been credit-worthy last year or the year before may be in a riskier, weakened condition.

Additionally, The American Legion strongly recommends increased funding of the SBA's Office of Veterans' Business Development to provide enhanced outreach and specific community-based assistance to veterans and self-employed members of the Reserves and National Guard. The American Legion also supports legislation that would permit the Office of Veterans Business Development to enter into contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements to further its outreach goals and develop a nationwide community-based service delivery system specifically for veterans and members of the Reserve Components.

One way of combating unemployment is through the creation of new jobs. Small business creates an estimated 60 percent to 80 percent of net jobs, therefore providing a central element for strong economic growth. Government should assist in the creation of new jobs by encouraging qualified entrepreneurs to start and expand their small businesses, and no group is better qualified or deserving of this type of assistance than our veterans.

Heroes To Hometowns (H2H)

H2H's mission is to facilitate the coming home of a wounded service member and his or her family by calling on resources available in their community. Whether it will include finding jobs for the soldier and his or her spouse, helping find a home, fixing a leaky faucet to more serious needs including money to pay the rent, getting an automobile running again or watching the kids while mom takes another child to the doctor, The American Legion will be there for them.

In the past, H2H Program Coordinators have built a strong network of contacts; however, the current infrastructure does not permit the maximum ability/potential to assist wounded warriors once they transition back to their communities. We found a breakdown in service once the information was passed from the National Office to the Department level. Approximately 85 percent of wounded warriors who were referred to H2H in the last several months were not contacted; consequently, we are resolving this infrastructure issue with assistance from the Auxiliary and Legion Riders who volunteered to help to ensure that wounded warriors do not fall through the cracks when returning home.

In addition, Catherine Trombley was hired as the new H2H Program Coordinator. Ms. Trombley is looking to attack the issues of this program with new ideas while continuing to work with the significant networking based already established. The H2H program is heading in the right direction. We look forward to H2H becoming a more productive and meaningful program within The American Legion.

Homelessness

The National Economic Commission of The American Legion held an extremely successful homeless veterans providers workshop on Friday, February 26, 2010, in Meeting Room 4, Meeting Room Level, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C.: training for all attendees to train the trainer and to bring knowledge back to their respective departments and other members of The American Legion. The one-day free workshop had experts from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Labor (DOL) the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), and the National Guard and Reserve Benefits; specifically, Mary O'Malley, Homeless Special Populations Manager, Homeless Program Office, VA, Gordon Burke, Director of Operations, Grants, and Transition Programs, DOL-VETS, and Cynthia High, Special Needs Assistance Specialist, HUD. During the workshop it was noted that VA estimates there are nearly 107,000 homeless veterans on any given night. Approximately 250,000 will experience homelessness during the year.

VA is taking decisive action toward its goal of ending homelessness among our Nation's Veterans. To achieve this goal, VA has developed a Five-Year Plan to assist every homeless Veteran willing to accept services retain or acquire: safe housing; needed treatment services; opportunities to retain or return to employment; and benefits assistance. VA will continue to partner with the community, national and local service providers, and other state and federal agencies to provide comprehensive care to homeless veterans and veterans at-risk for homelessness. The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) within the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Services (DOL-VETS) is the only nationwide program focused on assisting homeless veterans to reintegrate into the workforce. This program is a highly successful grant program that needs to be fully funded at $50 million. Currently, HVRP is funded at $41 million.

Conclusion

The National Economic Commission is fully aware that it would be impossible to carry out its mandates without the active involvement of Posts, Districts, Counties,

Departments and individual Legionnaires. We deeply appreciate their continued support and involvement. Chairman Fisher also thanks the National Commander, the National Adjutant, the National Executive Committee, and the staff of both the Washington and Indianapolis offices for the outstanding support and cooperation they have provided during the past year.

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved

Held for Further Study

Resolution No. 74 (MA) (2009 NC)**: Support Veterans Businesses and Establish a Program Supporting Small Business Education and Outreach**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move that the report be received and filed, with the exception of six resolutions and one addendum. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 16: Authorize U.S. Small Business Administration To Re-Establish A Direct Loan Program For Veterans, National Guard, And Reservists Who Are Entrepreneurs

Origin: Economic Commission

Submitted by: Economic Commission

WHEREAS, Small Business Development Assistance to veterans who have honorably served this country is a veterans'-benefit that dates back to the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and

WHEREAS, Small Business Benefits specifically for veterans have always included assistance in creating and operating veteran-owned small businesses; and

WHEREAS, A core mission of the U.S. Small Business Administration is to assist eligible small business entrepreneurs who are the backbone and engine of the American economy, to gain access to the financial resources needed to either start or expand their small business through either a guaranty or direct loan, or both; and

WHEREAS, During military service, many veterans may not accrue necessary or adequate capital or collateral requirements necessary to privately finance their small business, especially if it is home based; and

WHEREAS, These prospective veteran entrepreneurs, may need from $25,000 to $250,000 (or more or less) to finance their small business; and

WHEREAS, Regardless of the particular amount, access to capital and credit is critical and extremely difficult in the current and future economic recessions; and

WHEREAS, Commercial credit sources are "risk adverse" and look for applicants with near perfect credit, which can be more difficult for veterans, Reservists and National Guard members/families who risk all during their service to this country, their credit is often impaired and accumulation of collateral diminished; and

WHEREAS, The current and historical high unemployment rate of returning veterans also presents a career challenge for military personnel whose skills can be difficult to transition to civilian life, resulting in unemployment; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports the efforts of the U. S. Small Business Administration to improve access to capital for veterans, active-duty servicemembers eligible for the military's Transition Assistance Program, Reserve and Guard members; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion sees great value in a significant expansion of the existing Microloan and 7a Loan Programs as another financial resource for veterans in

need of small and reasonable amounts of capital for their small business creation or purchase, and who may otherwise be adversely impacted by lack of credit and capital as they return to diminished civilian employment opportunities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion encourages Congress to require the U.S. Small Business Administration, whose core responsibility as an alternative lender to American small businesses, to provide capital and credit under reasonable terms to veterans who are entrepreneurs, that is not otherwise available from the commercial credit markets; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation which would direct and authorize funds to the U.S. Small Business Administration to reestablish a direct loan program for eligible veterans, National Guard and Reservists to either establish, purchase or expand a small business.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution is approved by your National Economic Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 17: Support Expanding The Department Of Housing And Urban Development (HUD) And Department Of Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Voucher Program

Origin: Economic Commission

Submitted by: Economic Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes the nation has a responsibility to ease the difficulties experienced by military veterans returning to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, In the most severe cases, veterans transitioning home and their families have found themselves homeless; and

WHEREAS, In 2010 VA estimates there are nearly 107,000 homeless veterans on any given night and nearly twice as many veterans experience homelessness at some point during the year; and

WHEREAS, President Obama and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Shinseki are committed to eliminating homelessness for the nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA has developed a comprehensive Five-Year Plan to achieve this goal; and

WHEREAS, The HUD-VASH program is a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (VASH) program to help homeless veterans and their immediate families by providing permanent housing with case management and supportive and clinical services provided by VA at its medical centers (VAMCs) and in the community that promote and maintain recovery and housing stability; and

WHEREAS, The HUD-VASH is a prominent element of the Five-Year Plan; and

WHEREAS, VA identified 132 VAMCs that will participate with the program; and

WHEREAS, In doing so, the VA took into account the population of homeless veterans needing services in the area, the number of homeless veterans served by the homeless programs at each VAMC, geographic distribution and VA case management resources; and

WHEREAS, There will be at least one site in each of the 50 states and in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, To be eligible for this program, veterans must be VA Health Care eligible, homeless and needy and participate in case management services in order to obtain and sustain permanent independent community housing; and

WHEREAS, This program was designed to address the needs of the most vulnerable homeless veterans; and

WHEREAS, The program is designed to improve each veteran's health and mental health, and to enhance each veteran's ability to remain stable, housed, and integrated in their local community; and

WHEREAS, This is done using HUD Section 8 "Housing Choice" rental assistance vouchers and VA's intensive case management services; and

WHEREAS, A voucher may be either "project-based" (where its use is limited to a specific apartment complex) or "tenant-based" (where the tenant is free to choose a unit in the private sector with a Section 8 program); and

WHEREAS, Of the approximately 9400 housing vouchers allocated in Fiscal Year 2010, only 400 are project-based; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion supports expanding the HUD-VASH voucher program, to include the funding of 20,000 additional housing vouchers; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages a higher allocation of project-based HUD-VASH voucher units.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution has been approved by your National Economic Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 18: Support VeteransPlus And The National Foundation For Debt Management

Origin: Economic Commission

Submitted by: Economic Commission

WHEREAS, VeteransPlus and the National Foundation for Debt Management (NFDM) a nationally organized 501(C)(3), nonprofit organization dedicated in assisting veterans, Active Duty Servicemembers, Reservists, National Guard members and their families with financial education, counseling and literacy; and

WHEREAS, VeteransPlus and the National Foundation for Debt Management focus on providing financial education, counseling and services that provide life changing assistance to those who are currently serving and those who have served the country; and

WHEREAS, VeteransPlus and National Foundation for Debt Management are dedicated to providing the information necessary to address and improve veterans' financial circumstances and are committed to supporting veterans with financial wellness services to help establish a better quality of life and a sound financial future; and

WHEREAS, VeteransPlus and the National Foundation for Debt Management's goals are to deliver preventative and rehabilitative education and counseling services to veterans and their families who are committed to gaining control over their personal finances and provide tools and one-on-one counseling services to assist with strategic financial decisions that result in long-term financial behavioral changes; and

WHEREAS, In order to be eligible, a person needs to be a veteran, serving on Active Duty, in the Reserves, National Guard or their family member to participate; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to improving the lives of Active Duty Servicemembers, Reservists, National Guard members and veterans during any phase of their financial lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion supports VeteransPlus and the National Foundation for Debt Management in their goal to provide financial education and counseling to veterans, Active Duty Servicemembers, Reservists, National Guard members and their family members.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This has been approved by the National Economic Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 19: Support Microsoft New Veterans' Initiative

Origin: Economic Commission

Submitted by: Economic Commission

WHEREAS, Veterans returning from Afghanistan, Iraq and other tours of duty are not always coming back to a hero's welcome—at least from employers; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor reported that the unemployment rate for veterans aged 18 to 24 is 30.2 percent; and

WHEREAS, For veterans of all ages from the recent wars, the current unemployment rate is 9.8 percent; and

WHEREAS, Difficulty finding work can make the adjustment to life back home extremely challenging for veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Veterans and their spouses need proper training and tools to begin new careers after they leave military service; and

WHEREAS, Microsoft has announced the Elevate America's Veterans Initiative to help prepare veterans and their spouses with technology skills and resources they need to be successful in today's workplace; and

WHEREAS, Microsoft is looking for guidance from veterans' groups and other stakeholders through an Advisory Committee to enable them to make cash/software awards to eligible organizations to aid the transition to civilian careers for veterans and their spouses, with technology training, skills training, job placement, career counseling and other support services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion supports Microsoft's Elevate America's Veterans Initiative that will provide veterans and their spouses with necessary skills and resources to obtain gainful employment in today's global marketplace; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will participate on the Advisory Committee to provide overall feedback to process, direction and goals of Microsoft's new initiative for veterans and their spouses; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion authorizes, approves and ratifies the partnership with Microsoft Elevate American Veterans Initiative.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution has been approved by your National Economic Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 20: Support Licensure And Certification Of Active-Duty And Selected Reserve Personnel

Origin: Economic Commission

Submitted by: Economic Commission

WHEREAS, The unemployment rate in March 2010 for Operation Enduring Freedom/**Operation Iraqi Freedom** (OEF/OIF) veterans is at 14.7 percent; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are in need of employment after exiting the military; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD) provides some of the best vocational training in the nation for its military personnel; and

WHEREAS, DoD establishes, measures and evaluates performance standards for every occupation within the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, There are many occupational career fields in the Armed Forces that can easily translate to a civilian counterpart; and

WHEREAS, There are many occupations in the civilian workforce that require a license or certification; and

WHEREAS, In the Armed Forces, these unique occupations are performed to approved military standards that may meet or exceed the civilian license or certification criteria; and

WHEREAS, Upon separation, many former military personnel, certified as proficient in their military occupational career, are not licensed or certified to perform the comparable job in the civilian workforce, thus hindering chances for immediate civilian employment and delaying career advancement; and

WHEREAS, This situation creates an artificial barrier to employment upon separation from military service; and

WHEREAS, A study by the Presidential Commission on Servicemembers' and Veterans' Transition Assistance identified a total of 105 military professions where civilian credentialing is required; and

WHEREAS, That DoD is obligated to keep such licenses and certifications current and cover the costs of renewal; and

WHEREAS, The Post 9/11 GI Bill is not authorized to pay for civilian licenses or to pay for necessary preparatory course work for the credentialing examinations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion support efforts to eliminate employment barriers that impede the timely and successful transfer of military job skills to the civilian labor market; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Defense take appropriate steps to ensure that Servicemembers be trained, tested, evaluated and obtain any licensure or certification that may be required in the local civilian workforce; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion supports a pilot program dedicated to working with the top 10 transferable military occupations to find the best practices for providing veterans with a way to become gainfully employed using their military skills; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support making the Post 9/11 GI Bill eligibility available to pay for all necessary civilian license and certification examination requirements, including necessary preparatory courses; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support efforts to increase the civilian labor market's acceptance of the occupational training provided by the military.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution has been approved by your National Economic Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 21: Support Increase In Reporting Fees For Educational Institutions
Origin: Economic Commission
Submitted by: Economic Commission

WHEREAS, A Certifying Official is responsible for certifying the enrollment and changes in enrollment of eligible students to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, The Certifying Official's primary function is to let VA know if a student is registered for classes, showing the beginning and ending dates, number of credit hours or clock hours per week in attendance, and indicating the status of the student as an undergraduate or graduate student; and

WHEREAS, VA pays an annual reporting fee to schools; and

WHEREAS, The reporting fee is intended to help defray the cost of processing VA certifications; and

WHEREAS, The annual reporting fee is based on the number of VA students, including chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation), certified by the school during the calendar year; and

WHEREAS, Colleges and Universities are always relying on reporting fees from VA to pay for veteran-related activities; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the reporting fees to colleges and universities is $7.00 per student-veteran enrolled; and

WHEREAS, Colleges and universities use certifying officials as the first liaison for a veteran using veterans' educational benefits; and

WHEREAS, Certifying officials need continuing training in order to properly inform veterans about their education benefits; and

WHEREAS, Veterans enrolled in institutions are in need of a place/location to meet other enrolled veterans to confer and find information for veteran-related assistance; and

WHEREAS, The increase in reporting fees would allow certifying officials to receive initial and recurring training, buy and/or upgrade equipment (i.e., computers) and provide office space for student-veterans to meet; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to assuring proper education and information for those who are assisting veterans and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion supports increasing the amount of the reporting fees payable to educational institutions for Certifying Officials who assist/enroll veterans receiving educational benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution has been approved by your National Economic Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move. ...*Second.*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: Attached is an addendum. I move the action of the Economic Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

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

... At this time National Vice Commander Browning assumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: With the passing of resolution 19, Microsoft New Veterans Initiative, I would like to recommend the Economic Commission Chairman Randy Fisher be our representative.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: I make a motion. *...Second.*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER BROWNING: Motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

... At this time National Commander Hill resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We'll now hear from the Internal Affairs Commission, Chairman Larry Besson, Illinois.

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

Thank you, commander. Members of the National Executive Committee, my fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen, you have a detailed report of our actions and deliberations. I want to take a few minutes to hit the highlights of this report.

The National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Mark Arneson, from Georgia, reported to the meeting of the SAL NEC which took place this weekend here in Indianapolis. I draw your attention to the SAL donation to the Child Welfare Foundation. They have raised over $360,500, which is 72 percent of their goal so far this year. What a great job they have done this year. *(Applause)*

As far as membership is concerned, the Sons are on track for another great year. They are at 89 percent of their 2010 membership, moving toward another all time high. This indeed is an outstanding report and we are truly proud of their accomplishments.

Our NEF is in great shape, as we currently have $2.6 million available in the fund to help our members and families impacted by any national disaster. Once again, we have received great support from our members, our posts, our departments as far as donations to assist our members and families that are in need. I've been told that we may have some on the floor, but I think we've had a few brought forward already, and we'll do that maybe a little later if there is anymore. And we thank you for the donations that were brought forward earlier.

Mr. Commander, I would like to ask your permission for a special privilege to allow Past National Commander Butch Miller, to give a short update on the racing team.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: With emphasis on the short, permission granted. (*Laughter)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Understood, commander. It's a pleasure to stand here and report to you that American Legion Racing is doing very well. I would, however, like to squelch a few rumors.

First of all, I would like to squelch the rumor that NASCAR stands for "Non-Athletic Sport Centered Around Rednecks." That is not true. (*Laughter)* It's a racing sport. I would also like to squelch the idea that a lot of people have out there that

The American Legion is putting a lot of money into this program. There is no direct cost to The American Legion. That's by your resolution which you passed some five years ago, okay, and that includes my travel funds. I go to races on my dime, all right?

So far, those of you who came in through the front door, if you haven't, please do so. You'll find a fine display there that's got a nice trophy that our American Legion race car won last year in the ASA Series. They took first place in rookie points.

So far this year, in Daytona we had a little mechanical problem and we did not qualify. That's the first race of the year, there's a lot of cars there. It's tough to beat people like Danica Patrick that are out there spending hundreds of thousands of dollars just to be there, much less make it through the year. However, in Texas we managed to pull down 15th. We led the race for a few laps, and thank you to the Department of Texas and all the support they gave us while we were down there.

We went from there to a small track in Southern Indiana, down here in Salem. We pulled down 22nd place there. We got some starter points which helped us get on the track in Talladega. Talladega, we made the whole race. We did 16th position. So far every time we've gotten on the track, other than down here in Salem, in the big super tracks we've been in the top 20.

I would like to thank Wayne Turner and his folks down in Alabama for the great work that they did with us. The folks down in Texas again. And we're going to be going to the Poconos. I've already talked to Past National Commander Ron Conley, and he's pointing us in the right direction to get a district commander working with us down there.

We've had two races there in Michigan. Tom Cadmus and the folks up there in Michigan are on that one. Iowa, Past National Commander Dave Rehbein is certainly helping us out on that. Chicago, we will be racing the Friday before our National Convention, and hopefully we'll have a big surprise for you and possibly The American Legion Riders at that point in time. Then we move on to Kansas and Rockingham Speedway.

I'm going to close by simply saying if you haven't been to a race and you plan on being there, give me a call. I've got some contacts and maybe I can get you some tickets.

If you want to know where this program is going, it's not going nationwide, okay? There's some of you that will never benefit from this program simply because NASCAR auto racing is not prevelant in your state. Minnesota unfortunately is one of them. However, NASCAR is the largest single spectator sport in this country. I know Al Robotti will probably not believe me, but yes, NASCAR pulls more people on an annual basis than the Yankees or the Red Sox or anybody else. If you want to know where the youth of America is, come to a race and watch the attention that that car gets in the pits and all around the track. I'm telling you, we're on the right track. The American Legion needs to be in racing, and thanks to the sponsorship of you and the David Law Firm out of Houston, Texas, we are there and we're getting better each and every week.

Thank you, Commander, for the opportunity to give this report. Let's go racing gentlemen and ladies. *(Applause)*

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BESSON: Thank you, Butch. Lastly, our Commission over the last couple of days has had many spirited discussions on topics important to this organization. And we have considered many resolutions which were discussed in detail. Our actions are outlined in my report.

Mr. Commander, this concludes my report, so I submit it to the action of the National Executive Committee with my deepest respect and appreciation for the support and encouragement that we enjoy from this body. Thank you for your attention.

Report: National Internal Affairs Commission
May 5-6, 2010
Larry L. Besson, Illinois, Chairman

Chairman Larry J. Besson (IL), called an assembly of the Internal Affairs Commission to order at 9:00 a.m., May 3, 2010, and at 8:30 a.m., May 4, 2010, in the Herman G. Harrington Conference Room, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The National Emergency Fund as $2.6M available in the fund. We are ready to support any natural disaster that our Legionnaires experience.

The Internal Affairs Division received one application for the NEF Post Excellence Award. The application was from Oklahoma Post #306. A plaque will be presented to the Post's Department on stage at the National Convention in Milwaukee.

My report consists of the following sections: Standing Committee Reports; Program and Internal Action Reports; and Actions on Assigned Resolutions.

Standing Committee Reports
Membership and Post Activities Committee

Harold Barnett (GA), Chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee reported on status of membership programs and results of their annual planning session held in January 2010. Chairman Barnett presented the written recommendations originating from the January Annual Membership Planning Session to the Commission for acceptance, which are attached. The report was accepted by the Commission for implementation in 2011.

Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Committee

Randall W. Busch (NE), Chairman, reported on business of the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee meeting conducted May 2-3, 2010. Commission approved the actions of the Committee except for resolutions, which were handled separately. Copy of report is attached.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Vincent M. Gaughan (IL), Chairman, Constitution and By-Laws Committee reported that they submitted one resolution and had no further business at this meeting.

M & PA Recommendations

Leading candidate Jimmie Foster reminded everyone that we are approaching the first target date of 2010 – 80% on January 13, 2010. His discussion centered around the Four Pillars of the American Legion; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth. "It is very important that we communicate our purpose to the public all of the time so that it is evident what our focus has been and always will be – our veterans, the welfare of our nation, accentuating our Americanism and of course our future of tomorrow, children and youth!"

Other very important initiatives include: membership retention – not to lose those members gained via the DMS program; post revitalization – getting out there and adding a personal touch, shaking hands and making folks feel welcomed – asking for their membership and giving them substantial reasons to join; market penetration, through National you have access to useful information to help identify the areas within your state/districts that you may be able to capture additional membership and or establishment of new posts, reach out to urban areas as well.

Leading Candidate Foster introduced his incentive program – "Lucky Seven", this program will reward those Legionnaires who recruit 2 new members and renew 5. He is developing a pin that will be given for this incentive program.

He encouraged the committee to use the Operation Reconnect program (currently Operation Outreach) in order to reconnect with the military branches, active duty, National Guard and reserves, and let them know that the American Legion is available for them and welcome them with open arms.

Leading Candidate Foster talked about department goal setting that occurs in July during the National Membership Workshop – no goal would be less than your Department's 2010 totals (excludes DMS members).

He is confident that the Legion Riders along with the American Legion can disseminate his message, a new slogan – S.A.V.E.D. which means Serving America's Veterans Every Day!

Chairman Barnett again took the podium and reiterated the point Jimmie Foster made about market penetration. Chairman Barnett suggested that the committee contact National Membership Division to find out what their market penetration numbers are and exactly how they can increase it. National is willing to send them any help that they need and ask for in order to get the desired results.

Chairman Barnett then introduced Fang Wong (NY), Consultant, Legislative Commission. Fang Wong encouraged the group to push our programs, Children & Youth, Americanism – you never know who you may inspire to join the American Legion, if only one person it's worth it.

In the absence of Larry Besson (IL), Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission, Dan Wheeler, National Adjutant was asked to say a few words.

Dan Wheeler spoke optimistically about the results that could be gained by following-up on the direct mail program and adding a personal touch to area solicitation practices. Gaining membership happens at the grassroots level, where establishment of trust and bonds of friendship can be earned. These people need to know that you care about them and hear about what the American Legion can do for them. An example of how we make a difference is the Operation Comfort Warriors campaign, the American Legion raised over $300,000 – mentioned a donor who wanted to know how close we were to our goal and this donor sent in a $50,000 donation.

Dan Wheeler stated that it is projected that the Legion will gain approximately 190,000 members through the DMS program.

Before lunch, presentations were made by Jeff Stoffer, Website Editor/Jacob Piercy, Web Manager and Brad Pryor, Director/Joe Gallagher, Deputy Director, IT Division regarding the website, ALPOP/AIMS and MyLegion.org.

The session resumed at 1:00 pm with Joe March (MD), Director, Public Relations, John Raughter (IN), and Duane Mercier (OR), Audio Visual Manager presenting information on being interviewed. A short video was shown on how not to be interviewed followed by the proper interviewing techniques.

Handouts of the above presentations were distributed and made available to all committee members.

Results of our renewal survey were given by Amanda DeCastro, Senior Account Executive and Dave Schwantes, Account Executive of Fahlgren Mortine Public Relations/Advertising Firm. The findings were that people were interested in 1. Support of our military, 2. Help for our veterans and 3. Representation within our government.

Chairman Barnett placed the issue of dates for the 2012 January Planning session and July Membership Workshop. Both issues passed with majority of voices being heard that the January Planning Session will be January 6-7, 2012 and the July Membership Workshop will be July 27-28, 2012.

Patty Waltz, Director, Human Resources presented the opportunity for the American Legion to be awarded a grant for 2010 given by AmeriCorps. This issue was approved that the American Legion move forward with applying for this grant.

Chairman Barnett closed the meeting reminding everyone of the National Membership Workshop this year – August 6-7, 2010. The Committee voted and approved a change to the Membership Workshop new dates July 27-29, 2011; previous dates were July 28-30, 2011.

Meeting was adjourned.

Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials [TAC] Committee
Report To Internal Affairs Commission

The 2010 meeting of the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee was called to order by Chairman Randall W. Busch (NE), at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 2, 2010, Circle East, Sheraton Hotel, for the purpose of conducting its annual meeting.

Guests present were:

Larry Besson (IL), Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission and Jack Querfeld (IL), Director, Internal Affairs

The matters covered included:

Official and Unofficial Awards

It is routine to make the awards given out since the last meeting of the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee a part of the annual report that goes to the National Executive Committee to become a part of the permanent record of that body. Information on these awards is attached to our report as attachment one and attachment two. Charles Berry (CT) and Carl Reese (OH) seconded the motion to accept these awards. Motion carried.

Canadian Friendship and International Amity Awards
International Amity Award

Edwin Findlater was nominated for this award by Post 209 (WA). It was recommended to reject this nominee for the International Amity Award by Charles Berry (CT) and Anthony Guerrero (CA) seconded the motion. Headquarters staff will send a letter to Washington Post 209 notifying them this should be a Canadian Friendship Award instead of an International Amity Award. Motion carried.

Canadian Friendship Award

Twenty-three (23) nominations were received for this award; twenty-two (22) of the nominations were from ANAVICUS (which is awarded every other year) and one for Carmel Boulay. After review and discussion the following recommendation is submitted for approval: Anthony Guerrero (CA) made a motion and seconded by James May (IN) to accept the twenty-two nominations from ANAVICUS. Carl Reese (OH) made the motion and Charles Erwin (OK) seconded the motion to reject Carmel Boulay for the Canadian Friendship award on the grounds of not enough information and no information on when Mr. Boulay served in the Armed Forces of Canada. Motion carried.

Resolutions
Register No. 34 (TAC) Armed Service Academy Awards Update

It was recommended to accept this resolution. Duane C. Chinander (WI) made a motion to accept this resolution and James May (IN) seconded the motion. After further discussion, it was recommended that this resolution be accepted. Motion carried.

National Commander's Presentation

National Commander Clarence E. Hill (FL) addressed the committee for the purpose of presenting one nomination for the 2010 American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Award.

National Commander Hill presented his recommendation for this award to the TAC Committee, whose public service to our country reflects the principles upon which this award is based. Carl Reese (OH) and John C. Pellegrini (MT) seconded the motion to accept this nomination and the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee unanimously supported the nominee. Motion carried.

The Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee presents this nomination for The American Legion's most prestigious award to the Internal Affairs Commission with the recommendation that the Commission and the National Executive Committee add this outstanding name to the list of recipients who have already received the Distinguished Service Medal Award.

The meeting was recessed and to reconvene at 8a.m. the next morning, for the purpose of acting on any unfinished business, and to approve the prepared report to be presented to the Internal Affairs Commission.

The Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee reconvened at 8 a.m. on May 3, 2010, at the Sheraton Hotel.

The final order of business was to review and discuss the written report of this committee's actions of yesterday. This being done, a motion was made by Anthony Guerrero (CA) and seconded by Carl M. Reese (OH) to adopt the actions of the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee, by approving the 2010 written report as prepared for presentation to the Internal Affairs Commission. Motion carried.

There being no further business to conduct, the 2010 meeting of the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

2009 Official Awards
Announcement Of Annual Recipient(s)

National American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Award: Awarded annually for outstanding service to the nation and to the programs of The American Legion.
RECIPIENT: General David Petraeus, Commander of the United States Central Command

American Legion Baseball Graduate of The Year Award: Presented to the major league baseball player who played American Legion Baseball as a teenager and best exemplifies the principles and purposes of the program in sportsmanship, citizenship, general good conduct, integrity, and playing ability.
RECIPIENT: Lyle Overbay – Toronto Blue Jays

Bob Feller Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player recording the greatest number of strikeouts during the regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.
RECIPIENT: Matt Stites – Festus, MO

Commissioner of Baseball Trophy: Awarded annually at the Major League World Series to that baseball team which becomes the National Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion World Series.
RECIPIENT: Midland Berryhill Post 165 – Midland, MI

Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger Memorial R.B.I. Award: Awarded annually to The American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official score keepers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.
RECIPIENT: Kyle O'Boyle – Midland, MI

Ford C. Frick Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the runner-up team in the National Finals of The American Legion Baseball program.
RECIPIENT: Department of Oregon

The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the year to the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
RECIPIENT: Department of North Carolina

George W. Rulon Baseball Player of the Year: A Plaque is presented to recipient by appropriate official upon conclusion of The American Legion Baseball World Series. Citation is presented to recipient at a special Hall of Fame ceremony at Cooperstown, NY, the following summer.
RECIPIENT: Tyler Jacobson, Post 337 – Pulaski, WI

The Howard P. Savage Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having the baseball team which becomes the Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion World Series.
RECIPIENT: Department of Michigan

Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award: Awarded annually to the manager and coach of the national championship team, as representative of the adult leadership Jack Williams stressed during his lifetime.
RECIPIENT(s): Dan Cronkright, Mgr., Steven Cronkright and Patrick Dawson, Coaches – Las Vegas, NV

James F. Daniel, Jr. Memorial Sportsmanship Award: Awarded to The American Legion Baseball player participating in the World Series that represents the principle of good sportsmanship emphasized by the program.
RECIPIENT: Garret Yatch – Midland, MI

Junior Shooting Sports Trophy: Awarded annually in four categories to the top performing Individual and Team in the Sporter and Precision categories competing in the annual USA Shooting National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship who are members of clubs and teams affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program.
RECIPIENT(s):

Precision Team:	**Lincoln Rifle Club (CA) – American Legion Post 264 Jacob Carrillo, Dustin McQueary, Brett Morrison, Kaitlin Pennell.**
Precision Individual:	**Kaitlin Pennell, Lincoln Rifle Club (CA) – Post 264**
Sporter Team:	**Lafayette Gun Club of Virginia "White" (VA) - Post 273 Hannah Black, Joshua Black, Matthew Brewer, Thomas Wheeless.**
Sporter Individual:	**William Eades, III, C.E. Byrd H.S. JROTC (LA) – Post 6**

Louisville Slugger Trophy: Plaque is presented to recipient, or designated representative, by appropriate official upon the conclusion of The American Legion Baseball World Series.
RECIPIENT: T. J. White – Las Vegas, NV

The Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department within the continental limits in the United States showing the greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards.
RECIPIENT: Department of Vermont

Rawlings "Big Stick" Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player having the highest total number of bases as determined by the official score keepers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.
RECIPIENT: Kyle O'Boyle – Midland, MI

Spafford National Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department of The American Legion having within its jurisdiction the winner of the National High School Oratorical Contest.
RECIPIENT: Department of Indiana (Andrew Dykstal – National Oratorical Winner)

Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship Award: Awarded annually to the athlete competing in The American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championship who best exemplifies good sportsmanship and fair play.
RECIPIENT(s):
Courtney Bates – Geneva, FL and Shayna Thompson – Sims, FL
Oviedo H.S. Navy JROTC, American Legion Post 112 (FL)

William Randolph Hearst Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department attaining the greatest number of percentage points compiled from information contained in the Consolidated Post Reports, and supporting Department narrative.
RECIPIENT: Department of Virginia

American Legion & Scouting Square Knot Award: This award is designed to recognize American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who completes the requirements for the award. The Award is meant to recognize dedication and work required by an American Legion, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion.
RECIPIENT(s):
2008 – Joseph V. Vicek, Gordon K. Place, Lynn Sears, Lawrence Foley, Paul A. Petty, Richard H. Siddall, David Baillie, Mark A. Delaney, Kurt W. Lindemann, Steven Monaghan, Joseph W. Shaw, Patrick Beer, William Mills, Denny Sweat, Michael Katona, Barbara Belmont, John Zantek, Jr., Larry Boyer, Eugene Standfield.
2009 – Alan Munch, Ronald Smith, Charles Martin, Mark Milliron, Gary Nordahl, Steven Varner, Sandra Ritter, Lowell Badgley, James Ferris, Don Steele, Steve Baker, Terry Cosgriff, Ronald LeBlanc, Donald McIntosh, Howard Yeomans, Ivan Anderson, Christopher Cancilla, Charles Eubank, Charles Yunker, David Lambeth, Warren Tobin, John Manz, Robert Dusso, David Campbell, Sheldon Gotesky, Theodore Spangenberg, John Murphy, Terry Grogan, David Lunning, Robert Gorshe, Robert Ryan, Wayne Chatfield, Gary Tanner (as of: 12/4/09)

Canadian Friendship Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate. It shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of authentic veterans' organization in Canada. It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans' affairs and in the development and perpetuation of the spirit of international good will and comradeship between the United States and Canada and between their veterans' organization and The American Legion.
RECIPIENT(s): None awarded for 2009

Department Award for 100% Post Children & Youth Reporting: Awarded annually to those Departments which achieve 100% of Posts indicating Children & Youth activity on Consolidated Post reports.
RECIPIENT: Department of Montana, Department of Washington

Employer of the Year Award for Hiring Veterans: Awarded to an employer in recognition of outstanding achievement in the employment and retraining of veterans.
RECIPIENT(s):
2008 Winners
Category I **Lear Siegler (LSI) EG&G Division of URS Corporation – New Boston, TX**
Category II **Industrial Maintenance Services, Inc. – Wells, MI**
Category III **Millennium Security Services, LLC. – Roswell, GA**
Note: The 2009 Employer of the Year Awards will not be determined until December 31, 2009.

Employment Service Awards: Awarded in three categories: Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) of the Year; Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP) of the Year; Employment Service (ES) Office of the Year.
RECIPIENT(s):
2008 Winners
LVER of the Year: **Michael Dembowski – Birmingham, NY**
DVOP of the Year: **Steve Lord – Meridian, ID**
ES Office of the Year: **WorkSource (Southside) Career Center – Jacksonville, FL**
Note: The 2009 Employment Service Awards will not be determined until December 31, 2009.

Awards To Enhance The Lives Of Disabled Persons: The program is a joint project between the National Organization & the AETNA Company, to award those Posts that enhance the lives of disable persons by providing opportunities for their participation in community activities.
RECIPIENT(s):
2008 Winner
Black Hills Service, Inc. – Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD
Note: The 2009 Awards To Enhance The Lives Of Disabled Persons will not be determined until December 31, 2009.

National DEPARTMENT History Contest Awards: Awarded annually at the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee to those contestants entered in the National Department History Contest having submitted the One-Year History *Narrative* or *Yearbook* of the Department which best meets the standards established for that particular competition.

RECIPIENT(s):
Department of South Dakota (One-Year Narrative History)
Department of Florida (One-Year Yearbook History)

National POST History Contest Awards: Awarded annually to those contestants entered in the National Post History Contest deemed by a duly authorized panel of judges to have submitted the One-Year History of the Post which best meets the standards established for the competitions.
RECIPIENT(s):
No-Vel Post 159 – Venice, FL (One-Year Narrative History)
Ontario Post 67 – Ontario, OR (One-Year Yearbook History)

International Amity Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate. It shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of an authentic veteran organization established in the territory of any of the nations associated as war-time allies of the United States of America. It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans affairs and for service and contributions made in the development of international good will and comradeship between their organization and The American Legion.
RECIPIENT(s): None awarded for 2009

The Distinguished Public Service Award: Awarded annually by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the Commander's Advisory Committee at the time of the annual Washington Conference. It may be awarded to one or more person(s) of the United States Congress.
RECIPIENT(s): Senator Chuck Grassley, Iowa

The Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy: Awarded annually to that Detachment of Sons of The American Legion in each of five membership categories (I – 200-1,000 members; II - 1,001-3,000 members; III - 3,001-6000 members; IV – 6001-12,000 members; V – 12,001 or more), each of said Detachments attaining the greatest percentage of increase over previous year's membership when compared with all Detachments in its category.
RECIPIENT(s):
2008 Winners
Category I Detachment of Rhode Island
Category II Detachment of New Mexico
Category III Detachment of Arizona
Category IV Detachment of Florida
Category V Detachment of Pennsylvania
Note: The 2009 Houghton awards will not be determined until December 31, 2009.

General Henri Gouraud Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department in each of six categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said Department having been the first in its respective category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota (effective 1986).
RECIPIENT(s):
Category I None Qualified
Category II None Qualified
Category III None Qualified

Category IV	**None Qualified**
Category V	**Department of Maine**
Category VI	**Department of Puerto Rico**

General John J. Pershing Honor Award: Awarded annually to that Department having the greatest percentage of its posts receiving the Honor Ribbon for having 100 percent or more, of the post's previous year's membership enrolled for the coming year by December 31, and having reported such achievement to National Headquarters by not later than January 31.
RECIPIENT: Department of Wyoming

The Henry D. Lindsley Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.
RECIPIENT: None awarded for 2009

The North Carolina Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department, not included among the several state Departments or the Department of the District of Columbia, attaining the highest percentage of membership as of March 31, over its preceding year's membership.
RECIPIENT: None awarded for 2009

The O. L. Bodenhamer Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing National Convention.
RECIPIENT: Department of Maine

The American Legion Air Force Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the Air Force Academy who demonstrates the highest proficiency in all academic subjects.
RECIPIENT: Cadet Bradley R. Dewees

The American Legion Coast Guard Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class of the United States Coast Guard Academy who is considered to have personally excelled in athletics.
RECIPIENT: Ensign Craig Johnson

The American Legion Merchant Marine Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman of the Merchant Marine Academy, enrolled in the Pre-Commissioning Seminar Course, and selected by the Academy Faculty, as achieving the highest grade pertaining to a 1,000-word composition dealing with the subject of National Security.
RECIPIENT: Midshipman Jonathan E. Wellman

The American Legion Military Academy Award: Awarded annually to cadet of the graduating class at the United States Military Academy with the highest standing in Chemistry.
RECIPIENT: Cadet Andy L. Cahoy

The American Legion Naval Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman of the United States Naval Academy who stands highest in those English, History and Government courses taken to complete a Foreign Affairs major.
RECIPIENT: Midshipman Cory Matthew Francis Kampf

National Commander's Blood Donor Awards: Presented to departments in different sized categories for participating in The American Legion's Blood Donor Program.
RECIPIENT(s):

Category I	**Departments with 100,000 or more members:**
Post Participation:	**Department of Florida**
Individual Participation:	**Department of Ohio**
Category II	**Departments with 70,000 to 99,999 members:**
Post Participation:	**Department of Wisconsin**
Individual Participation:	**Department of Wisconsin**
Category III	**Departments with 40,000 to 69,999 members:**
Post Participation:	**Department of Georgia**
Individual Participation:	**Department of Georgia**
Category IV	**Departments with 25,000 to 39,999 members:**
Post Participation:	**Department of Washington**
Individual Participation:	**Department of Washington**
Category V	**Departments with 10,000 to 24,999 members:**
Post Participation:	**Department of Montana**
Individual Participation:	**Department of Montana**
Category VI	**Departments with less than 10,000 members:**
Post Participation:	**Department of Alaska**
Individual Participation:	**Department of Hawaii**

National Law Enforcement Officer Of The Year Award: To recognize an outstanding law enforcement officer as selected from Department law enforcement officer winners for distinguished on-and off-duty service. The accomplishments for which the award is presented shall have been in accordance with, or in furtherance of, established American Legion policies or programs and it shall have contributed to the preservation of law and order as well as the American way of life.
RECIPIENT: Officer Christopher Biron, Manchester Police Department – Manchester, NH

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department giving the highest degree of support to the ROTC program within its jurisdiction, based on criteria drawn up by the National Security Commission.
RECIPIENT(s): Departments of Florida, Minnesota, Michigan, Montana, Hawaii.

Fourth Estate Award: Awarded to press, radio, TV, or other communications media; to associations of same, to owners, executive heads or staff members; such award to be in recognition of outstanding service to community, state, or nation, which service shall have been in accordance with or the furtherance of established American Legion policies and programs.
RECIPIENT: USA Today

National Commander's Public Relations Award: Awarded to an outstanding individual and/or organization for distinguished public service in the field of communications.
RECIPIENT: Ben Stein

The Arch M. Cantrall Trophy: Awarded annually to that American Legion Band winning first prize in competition with all other American Legion bands during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.
RECIPIENT: The Band of the Tonawandas - Williamsville, NY

Emblem Sales Trophy: To be awarded annually to that Junior sponsored Color Guard winning first prize in competition with all other Junior sponsored Color Guards during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.
RECIPIENT: Last awarded 1984

The Four Chaplains Trophy: Awarded annually to the winner of The American Legion Firing Squad competition at the National Convention.
RECIPIENT: Last awarded 1985

The Glen R. Hillis Trophy: Awarded annually to that Color Guard winning first prize in competition with all other Color Guards during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.
RECIPIENT: American Legion Post 472 – Houston, TX

The Lemuel Bolles Trophy: Awarded annually to that band winning first prize in competition with all other bands during the annual National Convention.
RECIPIENT: The Band of the Tonawandas - Williamsville, NY

National Adjutant's Trophy: Awarded annually to that American Legion Firing Squad winning first prize in competition with all other Firing Squads during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.
RECIPIENT: Last awarded 1985

William F. Lenker National Service Trophy: Awarded annually to that State Department of The American Legion excelling in welfare work for war veterans, providing the membership of that Department shall be no less than 80% of the membership of the preceding year.
RECIPIENT: Department of Minnesota

The American Legion Patriot Award: Awarded to outstanding citizens who have demonstrated a profound and exceptional commitment to military personnel and their families. In addition to the award, the national winners will receive expense-paid round trip travel to Convention to include airfare and lodging.
RECIPIENT(s): U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Michael R. Strobl

2010 Official Awards

General Henri Gouraud Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department in each of six categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said Department having been the first in its respective category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota (effective 1986).
RECIPIENT(s):

Category I	**Not yet determined**
Category II	**Not yet determined**
Category III	**Not yet determined**
Category IV	**Not yet determined**

Category V **Not yet determined**
Category VI **Not yet determined**

General John J. Pershing Honor Award: Awarded annually to that Department having the greatest percentage of its posts receiving the Honor Ribbon for having 100 percent or more, of the post's previous year's membership enrolled for the coming year by December 31, and having reported such achievement to National Headquarters by not later than January 31.
RECIPIENT: Department of North Dakota

The Henry D. Lindsley Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.
RECIPIENT: None qualified for 2010

The North Carolina Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department, not included among the several state Departments or the Department of the District of Columbia, attaining the highest percentage of membership as of March 31, over its preceding year's membership.
RECIPIENT: None qualified for 2010

The O. L. Bodenhamer Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing National Convention.
RECIPIENT: Not yet determined

2009-2010 Unofficial Awards

Unofficial Membership Awards

Contained within this extensive program are a wide variety of prizes ranging from simple certificates and ribbons to valuable gifts and travel. The awards are designed to reward the membership success of dedicated Legionnaires at all levels of the organization and to encourage continued growth. By getting active in membership recruiting, and by asking a veterans to join our ranks, one or more of the many prizes and awards listed below can be earned. The Department Membership Chairman can be contacted for more information.

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff - September 10, 2009: Fifty Departments qualified for the 50% target date they are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Fall Meetings - October 15, 2009: Fifty-Three Departments qualified for the 55% target date they are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Veterans Day – November 17, 2009: Fifty-One Departments qualified for the 65% target date they are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Pearl Harbor Day – December 9, 2009: Thirty-Eight Departments qualified for the 75% target date they are: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Mid Winter – January 21, 2010: Thirty-Seven Departments qualified for the 80% target date they are: Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

President's Day – February 10, 2010: Twenty-Six Departments qualified for the 85% target date they are: Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Legion Birthday – March 10, 2010: Thirteen Departments qualified for the 90% target date they are: Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Mexico, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin.

Note: The "Big Twelve" Competition has moved to the March Target Date.

"Big Twelve" Competition Winners:

Category I	**Ohio**
Category II	**Michigan, Wisconsin**
Category III	**Iowa, Nebraska**
Category IV	**Kansas**
Category V	**Maine, Vermont**
Category VI	**None qualified**

Children & Youth – April 14, 2010: One Department qualified for the 95% target date: Mexico.

Armed Forces Day - May 12, 2010: Department qualified for the 100% target date: Not yet determined.

By achieving 100% of the Department's 2010 membership goal, winning Department Commanders and Membership Chairmen have a choice of several gifts available, based on the number of targets/bonuses made during the year.

Delegate Strength – August 2, 2010: Delegate Strength is determined by the membership in the hands of the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the National Convention. Total number of delegates for each Department is based on five delegates at large, one delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, and the members of the National Executive Committee.

Department Commander Of The Year: Any Department Commander, who met or exceeds his/her 100% goal for 2010 by May 12, 2010, will receive a plaque recognizing his/her achievement. The plaque will be presented at the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Gold Brigade Recruiter Award: A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more NEW members by May 12, 2010, will qualify for enrollment in the elite GOLD BRIGADE of The American Legion.

Post Honor Ribbons: Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to 1,313 Posts whose 2010 membership as of December 31, 2009 exceeded their final 2009 membership.

Certificate Of Meritorious Service: These certificates were awarded for 144 Posts for attaining a new All-Time-High membership for 2010 by December 31, 2009.

Five Consecutive Years All-Time-High: These citations are awarded to Posts with five or more consecutive years of All-Time High membership in 2010.

District Commanders "Race To The Top"

District Commanders are the lynchpin of The American Legion's Chain of Command, serving as the vital link between the National and Department organizations and all Posts. As we are all aware, the local Post is where the "rubber meets the road." If it doesn't happen at the Post level -- it doesn't happen at all. District Commanders are the people charged with insuring all Posts in their District maintain their vitality.

Consequently, this unique award was created to provide a meaningful incentive for the five Top District Commanders in each category and reward their successful membership efforts. The winning District Commanders and guests receive:

- Distinguished guests of the National Commander at National Convention.
- 1st class hotel accommodations for four nights at Convention location.
- Legion cap that signifies they are Race-To-The-Top winners.

The following provides more specific information on how you can win.

District Commanders "Race To The Top": Competition will be divided into five categories based on the membership of the District without regard to geographic locations. District Commanders will compete in each of the following categories based on the final 2009 totals, and a top District Commander for the National award will be selected from each of the five categories. Second and Third place awards will also be presented in each category.

Category I	**Districts of 15 to 1,499 members**
Category II	**Districts of 1,500 to 2,999 members**
Category III	**Districts of 3,000 to 4,999 members**

Category IV **Districts of 5,000 to 7,499 members**
Category V **Districts of 7,500 and above members**

Trip to National Convention will be presented to the Top District Commander and spouse in each category whose District membership on March 31st represents the greatest percentage over the final previous year membership of that District. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. First Place Award entitles you and your guest to attend the 2010 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and first-class hotel accommodations.

Second Place Awards will be presented to the District Commander in each category whose District membership on March 31st represents the second highest percentage over the final previous year membership of that District. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. Winners will receive a $500 Check.

Third Place Awards will be presented to the District Commander in each category whose District membership on March 31st represents the third highest percentage over the final previous year membership of that District. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. Winners will receive a $375 Check.

This year's winners are:

First Place Winners: (Trip To National Convention – Milwaukee, WI):

Category I	**Jack Climer**	**Utah**	**121.31%**	**District 3**
Category II	**Wayne Duffell**	**Virginia**	**108.76%**	**District 12**
Category III	**Carl Nelson**	**Georgia**	**101.34%**	**District 3**
Category IV	**Gary B. Nelson**	**Arizona**	**106.99%**	**District 2**
Category V	**William Holter**	**Maryland**	**100.98%**	**Northern Central District**

Second Place Winners ($500 Gift Certificate):

Category I	**David Evans**	**Nevada**	**108.28%**	**District 1**
Category II	**Thomas Guthrie**	**Virginia**	**102.87%**	**District 13**
Category III	**None qualified**			
Category IV	**None qualified**			
Category V	**None qualified**			

Third Place Winners ($375 Gift Certificate):

Category I	**Roy Pete**	**Mississippi**	**106.16%**	**District 5**
Category II	**William Stephens**	**Virginia**	**102.45%**	**District 5**
Category III	**None qualified**			
Category IV	**None qualified**			
Category V	**None qualified**			

District Commander New Post Achievement Award Recipients: District Commanders, who achieve the goal of creating new American Legion Posts in their respective District and have the new Post's Temporary Charter Application on file at National Headquarters by May 12, 2010, qualify for a special recognition framed certificate.

District Commander Achievement Award W/District Honor Ribbon: All District Commanders whose May Target Date membership exceeds the previous year's membership by at least the number of Posts in that District will be awarded the District Commander Achievement framed certificate. In addition, the District will receive a District Honor Ribbon for its District colors.

Department Recruiter Of The Year: Each American Legion Post will have the opportunity to submit the name of the "Top Recruiter" for that Post who has signed up

the highest number of new members for the 2010 membership year by May 12, 2010. Department Adjutants will determine the Top New Member Recruiter for their respective Department and certify their "Department Recruiter" to National Headquarters on or before May 28, 2010.
The "Department Recruiter" properly certified from each Department, will be awarded a Plaque with his/her accomplishment inscribed thereon.

National Recruiter Of The Year: The individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all the Departments will be declared "National Recruiter of the Year". The winner of this award receives an all expense paid trip to the 2010 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Program Reports
Sons Of The American Legion

The Sons of The American Legion has just completed a very successful National Executive Committee meeting this past weekend.

As of April 30, 2010 we have a total reported membership of 310,065. This is 92.32% of our 100% target and 89% of our membership goal for 2010 of 350,000 members.

Again this year, we remained a strong supporter of the Child Welfare Foundation, raising $210,848 total to date as of April 20, 2010. During the National Executive Committee meeting this past weekend an additional amount of $129,736 was donated to the Foundation, with more coming prior to May 31st. The total, after the donations this weekend, is over $360,584, which is 72% of our goal of $500,000.

The SAL is also focused on assisting The American Legion through donations to the National Emergency Fund. As of April 27, 2010 we have donated over $12,047 to NEF. During the National Executive Committee meeting this past weekend $10,650 was donated to the NEF Fund, with more coming in all of the time.

Highlights Of The Spring
National Executive Committee Meeting

One hundred sixty seven (167) National Executive Committeemen, Alternates, Commission and Committee members attended the 2010 Spring National Executive Committee meeting representing forty-seven (47) Detachments. Thirty-six (36) guests also attended.

The Member Training and Development Committee continued training our members with the National Management Institute (N.M.I.). Two Hundred and Thirteen (213) S.A.L. leaders have now completed all phases of this three session Management training. Twenty-two graduated during this 10th Anniversary session. All graduates receive a Certificate of Graduation. The N.M.I. is a three-course seminar that encompasses Communication Skills and Public Appearances, Time Management and Personal Administration, Building Action Plans for results, Driving for Results, Develop Oneself, Acting with Integrity and Thinking Strategically.

Other donations received were as follows: Children's Miracle Network $2,500, Legacy Scholarship Fund $500, Operation Military Kids $400, Hometown to Heroes $100 and Operation Comfort Warriors $100.

The total donations received this weekend, without the resolutions, totaled $143,987. The donations came from various Detachments, Districts and Squadrons from across the country.

Sixteen resolutions were presented to the National Executive Committee for consideration. Thirteen were recommended for adoption and are attached and three were received and filed. The thirteen resolutions presented and the dispositions are as follows:

Resolution Number	Title	Action Taken
NEC 1 - S10	American Legion Boys Nation Scholarship Awards	Recommend Approval
NEC 2 - S10	Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $1,000 in Memory of PNC Richard J. Kepler	Recommend Approval
NEC 3 - S10	Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $4,000 from the 2010 Budget	Recommend Approval
NEC 4 - S10	Child Welfare Donation of $15,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, SAL restricted fund	Recommend Approval
NEC 5 - S10	Fisher House Donation of $10,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, SAL restricted fund	Recommend Approval
NEC 6 - S10	National Emergency Fund Donation of $10,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, SAL restricted fund	Recommend Approval
NEC 7 - S10	The American Legacy Scholarship Fund Donation of $10,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, SAL restricted fund	Recommend Approval
NEC 8 - S10	Endorsement of John Sansoucie (MO) for National Vice Commander	Received and Filed
NEC 9 - S10	Support the American Legion on Children's Organ Transplant Association	Recommend Approval
NEC 10 - S10	Support American Legion Policy for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program	Recommend Approval
NEC 11 - S10	Support for the Mercy Medical Airlift Program	Recommend Approval
NEC 12 - S10	United States Census 2010	Recommend Approval
NEC 13 - S10	Endorsement of Bob Fulkerson (KY) for National Vice Commander	Received and Filed
NEC 14 - S10	Support the Missing In America Project	Recommend Approval
NEC 15 - S10	Endorsement of Steven Blank (AZ) for National Vice Commander West	Received and Filed
NEC 16 - S10	Support the Constitutional Flag Amendment	Recommend Approval

Conclusion

With our membership goal for this year appearing to be very attainable, we appear to be heading towards another record year. Our members from around the country have been actively supporting the programs and ideals of our parent organization, The American Legion. The Sons of The American Legion will continue to work for the

benefit of our veterans who helped make this country great. Our work in assisting veterans in the local VA Medical Centers and Hospitals continues to grow and will remain the top priority of the S.A.L.

Through the use of our in-house training courses, and the mentoring from our current leaders, our members will continue to enhance our dedication to the purposes and programs of The American Legion. We will continue to develop in-depth programs so that the Sons of The American Legion will become even more of an asset to The American Legion Family.

On behalf of the members of the Sons of The American Legion, I would like to thank the Internal Affairs Commission, the S.A.L. sub-committee and the division staff for their help and guidance. A special thanks to Mr. Larry Besson, Mr. George West, Mr. John Querfeld, and Mr. John Kerestan, through their perseverance and dedication the S.A.L. program has grown to where we are today.

I am very pleased with the work and dedication of the National Executive Committee, our Detachments and our members from which our further growth is insured.

Internal Affairs Sub-Committee Report on the Sons of The American Legion

The Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee of Internal Affairs met at 10:40 a.m. on May 3, 2010. Members present were George V. West (NH), Chairman; Larry D. Sheets (FL), member; Philip J. Surprenant (MD), member; Herbert W. Odell (TX), member; Larry J. Besson (IL), Chairman of Internal Affairs who attended the meeting as a guest, and John W. Kerestan (IN), Headquarters Staff.

The National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Mr. Mark E. Arneson (GA) and SAL National Advisory Chairman Douglas P. Bible (MN) were introduced and gave brief comments on SAL programs, goals, and accomplishments for this year. Past National Commander Douglas Bible (MN) provided the Commanders Advisory Committee report and recommendation for SAL National Commander 2012. All the SAL members in attendance thanked the sub-committee for their support and assistance throughout the year. The SAL was then excused from this sub-committee meeting for consideration of resolutions, candidates, and special request items.

There were thirteen (13) resolutions that came before the Sub-Committee that required action from the Internal Affairs Commission and the National Executive Committee of The American Legion. They are as follows:

SAL NEC-1-S10 – American Legion Boys Nation Scholarship Awards for the President Pro-Tempore and Secretary of the Senate – **Recommend Approval**
SAL NEC-2-S10 – Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $1,000 in memory of SAL Past National Commander Richard J. Kepler (AZ) from the SAL (operating 2010 budget item) - **Recommend Approval**
SAL NEC-3-S10 – Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $4,000 (operating 2010 budget line item) – **Recommend Approval**
SAL NEC-4-S10 – Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $15,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, restricted fund – **Recommend Approval**
SAL NEC-5-S10 – Fisher House Donation of $10,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, restricted fund – **Recommend Approval**
SAL NEC-6-S10 – National Emergency Fund donation of $10,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, restricted fund – **Recommend Approval**
SAL NEC-7-S10 – The American Legion Legacy Scholarship donation of $10,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, restricted fund – **Recommend Approval**
SAL NEC-9-S10 – Support The American Legion on Children's Organ Transplant Association – **Recommend Approval**

SAL NEC-10-S10 – Support The American Legion Policy for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program – **Recommend Approval**
SAL NEC –11-S10 – Support for the Mercy Medical Airlift Program – **Recommend Approval**
SAL NEC-12-S10 – Support the United States Census 2010 – **Received and filed**
SAL NEC-14-S10 – Support the Missing In America Project – **Recommend Approval**
SAL NEC-16-S10 – Support the Constitutional Flag Amendment – **Recommend Approval**

Motions were made and duly seconded by the SAL Sub-Committee on all of the above resolutions.

The Sub-Committee reviewed and discussed the suggestions and recommendations from the SAL National Commander. All items were taken under advisement and will require additional time and detailed input for resolution.

The Sub-Committee then reviewed all Candidates for National Commander, National Vice Commanders, National Chaplain, National Appointments for 2010-2011, and the SAL National Commander candidates for 2011 and 2012. All candidates and appointments were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. with a special thanks to the Sons of The American Legion for their accomplishments, continued growth and support to The American Legion programs and family.

Internal Affairs Commission Resolutions

Approved and forwarded to Sub-Committee on Resolutions

Resolution No. 14: 100th Anniversary Commemorative American Legion Coin
Resolution No. 15: Designate Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri as the National World War I Memorial

Approved and forwarded to the Finance Commission

Resolution No. 1: Direct Payment of Renewal Dues
Resolution No. 34: Armed Service Academy Awards Update
Resolution No. 33: Sons of The American Legion Restricted Account

Disposition of all other resolutions is addressed in Addendum A.

Conclusion

Thank you for your assistance and for giving us the opportunity to appear before you. Our commission is "Still Serving America."

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved

Received and Recorded

Resolution No. 17 (CO) (2009 NC)**: Battle of ATTU Memorial**
Resolution No. 28 (GA) (2009 NC)**: 100th Anniversary Commemorative American Legion Coins**
Resolution No. 80 (FL) (2009 NC)**: 100th Anniversary Commemorative American Legion Coins**
Register Resolution No. 2641 (OH) (DEC)**: Endorsement of Glenn A. Hickman for National Vice Commander**
Register Resolution No. 2642 (RI) (DEC)**: Endorsement of Eugene R. Pytka for National Vice Commander**

Register Resolution No. 2645 (KY) (DEC)**: Endorsement of William O. "Bill" Moore, Jr. for National Vice Commander**

Rejected

Resolution No. 38 (UT) (2009 NC)**: Support Operation Give**

Resolution No. 113 (Nat'l Sec. Committee) (2009 NC)**: Designation of National World War I Memorial**

Register Resolution No. 2609 (SC) (DEC)**: Additional Names to be Added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

Register Resolution No. 2614 (MX) (DEC)**: Recommend the Renaming of the Department of Mexico to the Department of Latin America**

Addendum B: List of Sons of The American Legion Resolutions

In compliance with Resolution 21 "entitled", "Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees", adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee May 1-2, 2010.

Approved

Resolution SAL NEC-1-S10:	American Legion Boys National Scholarship Awards for the President Pro-Tempore and Secretary of the Senate
Resolution SAL NEC-2-S10:	Child Welfare Foundation donation of $1,000 in memory of SAL Past National Commander Richard J. Kepler (AZ) from the SAL (operating budget)
Resolution SAL NEC-3-S10:	Child Welfare Foundation donation of $4,000 (operating budget)
Resolution SAL NEC-4-S10:	Child Welfare Foundation donation of $15,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, restricted fund
Resolution SAL NEC-5-S10:	Fisher House donation of $10,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, restricted fund
Resolution SAL NEC-6-S10:	National Emergency Fund donation of $10,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, restricted fund
Resolution SAL NEC-7-S10:	The American Legion Legacy Scholarship donation of $10,000 from the SAL Liability Account #2118, restricted fund
Resolution SAL NEC-9-S10:	Support The American Legion on Children's Organ Transplant Association
Resolution SAL NEC-10-S10:	Support The American Legion policy for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program
Resolution SAL NEC-11-S10:	Support for the Mercy Medical Airlift Program
Resolution SAL NEC-14-S10:	Support the Missing In America Project
Resolution SAL NEC-16-S10:	Support the Constitutional Flag Amendment

Received and Filed

Resolution SAL NEC-12-S10	Support the United States Census 2010

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move the report be received and filed, with the exception of two resolutions and two addenda. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 14: 100th Anniversary Commemorative American Legion Coin
Origin: 2009 National Convention Resolution No. 16 (CO)
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic war-time veterans service organization; and

WHEREAS, The cardinal principles of The American Legion include the care of the dependents of those who have answered the final call, those who are suffering from wounds, disease and want, the education of the children of our country, and devoted service to the community, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, Based on its tremendous success in carrying out these cardinal principles, The American Legion is recognized as the preeminent United States veterans service organization promoting citizenship and veteran's affairs; and

WHEREAS, The 100th Anniversary of The American Legion will occur in 2019; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of the 100th Anniversary is not only an appropriate time to mark the achievements of The American Legion, but also affords an opportunity to further its cardinal principles; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion established The American Legion Legacy Scholarship in 2001, in order to provide the necessary financial means for dependents of service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terrorism to attend college and attain an undergraduate degree; and

WHEREAS, The United States Mint, in compliance with the Commemorative Coin Reform Act of 1996 ("CCRA of 1996"), Public Law 104-208, conducts commemorative coin programs to honor a person, place, or event; and

WHEREAS, The 100th Anniversary of The American Legion is an event that qualifies for such high recognition; and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the CCRA of 1996, The American Legion has demonstrated the ability to raise funds from private sources, most notably from the annual American Legion Legacy Run, in conjunction with the National Convention of The American Legion to fund The American Legacy Scholarship Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, Commemorative Coin Programs have been successfully conducted for other worthy causes related to veterans and the military; and

WHEREAS, The Commemorative Coin Program provides for surcharge payments to be made from proceeds received from the sale of commemorative coins; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion request the U.S. Congress to enact legislation to mint 100th Anniversary American Legion Commemorative Coins by The United States Mint, in compliance with the Commemorative Coin Reform Act of 1996 ("CCRA of 1996"), Public Law 104-208, in both gold and silver, with the surcharge payment earmarked to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Trust Fund.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, your Subcommitee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

[The following resolution was held for study.]

Resolution No. 15: Designate Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri as the National World War I Memorial

Origin: 2009 (National Convention) Resolution No. 92 (MO)

Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, More than 4,000,000 Americans served in World War I; and

WHEREAS, There is no nationally recognized memorial honoring the service of those over 4,000,000 Americans; and

WHEREAS, In 1919, the people of Kansas City, Missouri, expressed an outpouring of support and raised more than $ 2,000,000 in two (2) weeks for a memorial to the service of Americans who served in World War I. This fund was an accomplishment unparalleled by any other city in the United States irrespective of population and reflected the passion of public opinion about World War I, which had so recently ended; and

WHEREAS, Following the drive, a national architectural competition was held by the American Institute of Architects for designs for a memorial to the service of Americans in World War I, and the competition yielded a design by Architect H. Van Buren Magonigle; and

WHEREAS, On November 1, 1921, more than 100,000 people witnessed the dedication of the site for the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, The dedication of the site on November 1, 1921 marked the only time in history that the five (5) allied Military Leaders present, Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando Diaz of Italy, Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France, Admiral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain, and General of the Armies John J. Pershing of the United States of America, were together at one place; and

WHEREAS, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, a native of Missouri and the Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, noted at the November 1, 1921 Dedication that "the people of Kansas City, Missouri are deeply proud of the beautiful memorial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant achievements, and the heroic sacrifices of their sons and daughters who served in our country's armed forces during the World War. It symbolized their grateful appreciation of duty well done, and appreciation which I share, because I know so well how richly it is merited;" and

WHEREAS, During an Armistice Day ceremony in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge marked the beginning of a three year construction project for the Liberty Memorial by the laying of the cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, The 217 foot Liberty Memorial Tower has an inscription that reads", In honor of Those Who Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and Our Country" as well as Four (4) stone "Guardian Spirits" representing Courage, Honor, Patriotism, and Sacrifices, which rise above the Observation deck, making the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all who served in World War I; and

WHEREAS, During a rededication of the Liberty Memorial in 1961, World War I Veterans and former Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized the memorial as a constant reminder of the sacrifices during World War I and the progress that followed; and

WHEREAS, The 106th Congress recognized the Liberty Memorial as a National Symbol of World War I; and

WHEREAS, The 108th Congress designated that the museum at the base of The Liberty Memorial as "Americas' National World War I Museum;" and

WHEREAS, The American's National World War I Museum is the only public museum in the United States specifically dedicated to the history of World War I; and

WHEREAS, The National World War I Museum is known throughout the World as a major center of World War I remembrance; and

WHEREAS, There is another campaign to designate the District of Columbia WWI Memorial, also, as the National World War I Memorial even though this memorial is located on the National Mall its original intent was to honor the 499 residents of the District of Columbia who gave their lives in this Great War; and

WHEREAS, Since the Liberty Memorial located in Kansas City, Missouri, has a long history of representing the Great War and with the National World War I Museum being located in the memorial it appears only appropriate that it also be designated the National World War I Memorial; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion urge The Congress of The United States of America to designate The Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, Missouri at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri as the "National World War I Memorial".

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Sir.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HASZ (D.C.): Paul Hasz from the District of Columbia. We in the District of Columbia recognize that there is a very fine and outstanding museum in Missouri, and we support it as being designated as a national museum. However, we strongly feel that the official World War I memorial should in the District of Columbia. It should be on the National Mall along with the other national memorials: The World War II Memorial; the Korean War Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial.

We're not alone in this. We know that Frank Buckles, who is the last surviving World War I veteran, has expressed a strong desire to have a World War I Memorial on the Mall. There may be some discussion of how that gets done, and that's still up in the air, and I understand that. We also know that Congress has established a World War I Memorial Foundation in 2008 for the purpose of developing a World War I Memorial, and they strongly favor doing that on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

The Department of District of Columbia has a resolution in the process which will come before our convention in May, and which will be submitted to the national organization that's establishing this position.

I recognize that the commission had two competing resolutions and selected one, but I'm also told that they did not have an opportunity to hear from the D.C. personnel or from the Missouri personnel on the subject. While I'm certainly not an expert on it, I would like to at least have the opportunity for the commission to hear from our personnel in D.C. that's been working with this World War I Memorial for a number of years. So, I would amend the motion on the floor so that this resolution be referred for further study.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have not had a second yet. ...*Second.* The motion has been seconded. Sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I would like to support the remarks made by the National Executive Committeeman from the District of Columbia. And as you know, we have a precedent for establishing a World War II Museum in New Orleans, and the National World War II Memorial is in the District of Columbia.

In about 1925 the District of Columbia raised enough money to create what is now the World War I Memorial on the Mall in the District of Columbia. When Frank Buckles came in last May, I happened to be among those that visited the World War I Memorial. Frank Buckles indicated that this memorial needs a lot of repair, and the District of Columbia has been working on a resolution which as you have heard will be presented at the National Convention.

In order to separate the two World War I Memorials and have one recognized as a national museum, which already exists, and have the other one recognized as the World War I Memorial, I would move that the last word of the resolve clause in resolution number 15 be amended from the word "memorial" to the word "museum".

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We already have a substitute resolution. We're not dealing with that resolution at this point.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: What is the substitution?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: His substitute resolution was to refer it back to the commission.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I will second that, and then you will receive another one at the next National Convention

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We're looking for discussion on the substitute resolution to refer it back to the commission. Sir?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HEIGERT (MO): Mr. Commander, members of the NEC, I'm speaking in support of the original resolution 15 to put the National World War I Memorial, Liberty Memorial in Kansas City. The Liberty Memorial right now is an integral part of the National World War I Museum. They are a combined construction there. The Liberty Memorial is in excellent condition right now and would require very little repair, if any, to meet the needs.

Currently in the House there's a bill, House Bill H.R.1849 which has already passed the House of Representatives and has been discussed in committee by the U.S. Senate supporting the Liberty Memorial as the National World War I Memorial. Included in that bill is the wording to establish the Centennial Commission for the celebration of the end of World War I, and there is very little time left in the current session of the Congress, and it would behoove The American Legion to take a stand now to support the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City as the National World War I Memorial. Time is getting short and we need to get on with planning for the centennial commemoration.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Any other discussion on the substitute motion to refer this back to the commission? You have already spoken once, if the body doesn't have an objection, I will let you speak again. Is there any objection?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HASZ: I just want to say I recognize your concerns. I recognize that time is an issue. We begin celebrating in 2017. We've got seven years, and I know in terms of putting together a memorial, that can be just barely enough time. On the other hand, I do feel strongly that when people come to visit the memorials, they come to see the World War II Memorial; they come to see the Vietnam Memorial; they come to see the Korean Memorial. I think that's where we should have a World War I Memorial, and that's our position.

I recognize that it may or may not be part of the current D.C. World War I Memorial and that's to be sorted out. But I would like to at least put this aside for further study, and give the commission to hear from our experts. I'm not one of them.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Is there any other discussion? Okay. So, we'll be voting on the substitute motion to refer this resolution back to the commission.

All those in favor say aye. Opposed. The ayes have it. Motion is approved. Sent back to the commission.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: Mr. Commander, attached to this report is Addendum A and Addendum B. I move the action of the Internal Affairs Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

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

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BESSON: Thank you, Mr. Commander, and I would ask if there's any other NEF contributions, if they would bring them forward. Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Okay. Thank you, Larry. This completes our agenda items.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Comrade Commander, could I address the body on an ANIVICUS item?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Permission granted.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, commander. I have put on the desks of many of the NEC here this afternoon the list of delinquents to our ANAVICUS $20 fund. I urge you please to go back and call these individuals and see if they still want to belong. If you feel that they're way beyond, someone with Alzheimers, or what have you, well then notify Jennifer to take them off the list. But it's very important that those lists be kept up so the scholarships can be presented.

Other have asked me, even some of the NECmen, "How do you get to belong to the ANAVICUS?" We have nominees for induction, and we just had a meeting the other day and we included them all. If there's anyone from your department that you would like to be included. I have the forms, or you can contact Jennifer in the office on the third floor, or send in a letter to my attention, and attention Jennifer with the name and address and put down the background of the individuals, what titles he held, what have you.

We would really like to see those that are already in the book. To me that makes more strength to what ANAVICUS is all about. But whatever you have, please do that.

Lastly, I'm trying to make some little change for the good of The American Legion. We have these scholarships, the ones in this country, and we normally just send out the scholarships and send out the plaque, and it goes to the school, and that's not what it's really all about. So this year I'm asking, like I did for a young man in New Hampshire, and I asked John Neylon, who did an outstanding job when he went up to St. Anselm in New Hampshire to present the scholarship on behalf of Past National Commander Jimmy O'Neil. But when they went up there they decided when they were going to make the presentation and it was at their oratorical contest being held at the same school. So with over a hundred in attendance, the young man stayed throughout the whole thing, and many people at the school were very enthralled, and that makes it good for us.

So, if I ask you to make a presentation in your community, try to do it in a time when it can be best for The American Legion. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Thank you. As I said, we have completed our agenda items, I'll accept a motion to go into executive session.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: So move. ...*Second.*

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We'll go into executive session, and the NECmen will remain; the alternates acting as NECmen will remain; past national commanders may remain if they choose, and those other alternates also may remain if they choose. All others would please leave the room. I would also ask permission to keep the adjutant and the judge advocate in the room.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: I would like to make that a motion, Mr. Commander. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Motion and a second for the adjutant and the judge advocate to remain, any discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

... At the conclusion of the executive session on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 the National Executive Committee stood in recess until 8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 6, 2010.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 6, 2010

... At 8:30 a.m., May 6, 2010, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Clarence E. Hill and the following proceedings were had.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Come to order. Call on the sergeant-at-arms for a salute to the Colors.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Call on the national chaplain for the invocation.

Invocation
John L. Beaver, Alabama
National Chaplain

When I was in Washington D.C., I had the opportunity to say the prayer for the House of Representatives and at the time the House of Representatives chaplain gave me a book of prayers from Past Chaplain, James David Ford. So I selected a prayer for this meeting from the House of Representatives.

Our thanks be to you, O God, in the gifts of Your spirit which is with us everyday. Though we seek to face concerns of our day and solve the problems before us, we admit that we sometimes fail and do not meet the standards that we seek. We can lose heart.

In the midst of the uncertain path, we are grateful for Your spirit that guides us, which gives us strength and wisdom which provides assurance and forgiveness. For these and all Your beautiful gifts, we offer this, our prayer of praise. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Call on the national sergeant-at-arms to lead the Pledge.

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Call on the national adjutant for the roll call.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander
Clarence E. Hill, Florida

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Chaplain
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
Joe L. Matthews, Texas—Excused
Michael J. Kogutek, New York—Excused
Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
John P. 'Jake' 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—Excused
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine—Excused
Butch L. Miller, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Idaho—Excused
Ray G. Smith, North Carolina
Richard J. Santos, Maryland--Excused
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
John A. Brieden, III, Texas—Excused
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 Committeemen

Department	Committeemen	Alternate
Alabama	F. Wayne Turner	
Alaska	James L. Van Horn	
Arizona	Deodoro M. 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	
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Robert A. Owen	
Maryland	John F. Milburn	
Massachusetts	Milton K. Lashus	
Mexico	Arthur Herbruger	

Michigan	Darwin Krieger	
Minnesota	Raymond DeZurik	
Mississippi	Charles E. Langley	
Missouri	Richard A. Heigert	
Montana	Sylvia A. M. Beals	
Nebraska	Douglas L. Boldt	
Nevada	Salvatore Ruvolo—Excused	Jack L. Ford
New Hampshire	John E. Neylon	
New Jersey	William 'Billy' Mack	
New Mexico	Taurino J. Trevino—Excused	Prospero J. Sanchez
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		
Puerto Rico	Alberto Rodriguez	
Rhode Island	Ronald P. Levasseur	
South Carolina	Billy W. Bell	
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson	
Tennessee	Perry D. Roberts	
Texas	Conrad L. Roberson	
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, national commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We have a quorum. Do we have any unfinished business?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: No, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: No unfinished business. Then I call on Bob Morrill of New York for the Public Relations Commission report.

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

Thank you Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee. The Public Relations Commission met in Room 105 at National Headquarters on Monday, May 3rd at 9:00 a.m. One resolution was considered at that time. Please take the time to read our full report placed on your desk.

Since developing and introducing the Legiontown USA campaign late last year, nearly a thousand campaign kits were ordered by posts and districts to be used in 2010 and beyond. Because receipt of the materials early in the year facilitates greater planning and expanded execution in September, the commission will launch another effort to

market the materials next month. The kit provides meeting tools and suggested event materials to be incorporated into a three-month membership campaign beginning with American Legion Day, September 16th.

Text copy of the new PR Systems Toolkit is nearly complete and will go to design later this month. Slated for completion by the end of the year, the multi-media product will be available in print, electronic, Internet, and disk formats, and will include public relations products for direct use by The American Legion Family. It will contain news releases and advisories; letters; message points; radio and television copy and produced spots; social media tools and guidance; outdoor advertising tips; designed video production; produced radio and television spots; programs and training and much more.

Yesterday many of you saw the debut of the much anticipated Blackhorse Production: *The American Legion History*. The product is in its final production stage and will likely be ready for purchase in June through National Flag and Emblem Sales. It is expected to cost 19.95 plus postage and handling. Naturally, it will be available in Milwaukee. A portion of the proceeds will go directly to American Legion charities.

More than $575,000 has been raised for Operation Comfort Warriors since the program was created in December 2008. This includes a $250,000 grant awarded by Pepsi Cola as a result of OCW's first place in February's Refresh Everything Program. The PR Division recently produced a video for Operation Comfort Warriors and a brochure on the fund. Now we are asking everyone to spread the word. We need everyone in your department to vote every day for the Pepsi Refresh Project for May, to get a grant for $250,000 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Please Tweet, Twitter, blog and Facebook for votes, and another win for this most important scholarship fund.

From our nation's capitol, The American Legion Media Marketing Division continues its outreach to media in Washington D.C. and beyond. Recent coverage includes appearances by Executive Director Peter Gaytan on Fox News and C-SPAN's "Washington Journal," discussing how recent health care reform affects veterans. Media Relations Manager Craig Roberts, appearing at a press conference covered by CNN, NBC, and Fox News, commented on the Supreme Court's Mojave Cross decision, and how it was a victory for the veterans community. Staff members at The American Legion National Headquarters in Washington have been interviewed by the Associated Press; *Washington Times*; *Military Times*; *National Journal* Online; *Kansas City Star*/McClatchy Newspapers, and several radio stations. They also provide the national website with a number of stories, photos, and video clips. Legion testimony before Congress is now being covered consistently with stories being distributed via legion.org, the Public Relations Division, and PR Newswire.

Audiovisual projects recently completed include the new 3-minute and 55-second "Pledge to Service" promotional video which you saw at the Washington Conference. Now a series of six additional public service television spots are following in the same format. It pays to work hard to achieve a good outcome and we believe these spots are right on target. Debuting now, please enjoy the new American Legion PSA package.

... At this time the National Executive Committee viewed several videos.

What did you think? (*Applause)* Are you going to use them? The new DVD will include the "Pledge to Service" video and all six spots, and a marketing brochure with tips on getting the most out of the package. It will be distributed next month.

Sometimes we enjoy a good outcome just because our members are proud of their service both to America and The American Legion. As our commissions were in session on Monday, Legionnaire Duane Jackson, now dubbed "Action Jackson" by one news anchor, did the rounds of all the major network news shows, including *Good Morning America*, *Fox and Friends*, CNN, and more. In every appearance he proudly wore his blue cap. Please watch.

... At this time the National Executive Committee viewed a video.

Duane is a 15-year member of the Department of New York, Post 758, and his fellow Legionnaire, Lance Horton, a 12-year member, both are credited with discovering the bomb laden SUV in Times Square and sounding the first alert. They are credited with saving anywhere from 500 to 7,000 lives. National Commander Hill will present them with The American Legion's Patriot Award at the 92nd National Convention in Milwaukee. Did I say they were New York Legionnaires?

And finally, a Public Relations Commission subcommittee is reviewing the Fourth Estate Award and discussed findings submitted so far by members to finalize the report to be submitted for consideration during the National Convention Commission meeting. The commission's objective is to review the relevance of the award and its impact on organization public relations, and review possible changes or upgrades to enhance the popularity, prestige, and impact of the award. Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee that concludes my report.

Advance Report: Public Relations Commission
March 1, 2010
Robert L. Morrill, New York, Chairman

The Public Relations Commission of The American Legion met in Washington D.C. at the Renaissance Washington Hotel on Monday, March 1, 2010.

The commission received copies of, and previewed the new American Legion video, "A Pledge to Service." The 3-minute and 55-second DVD presents the Four Pillars of our organization presented by Ryan Gonzales, creative director for the Dept. of Florida and a graduate of The American Legion National College class of 2009. Four Legionnaires, veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, assist. With an original music score, the video ends with a call to join us either on the Web site or at "your nearest American Legion post." Some uses include posting on a post Website for viewing on-demand; using it at membership booths running in a looped configuration; displaying it on a laptop or DVD player for individual membership recruiting presentations; marketing to cable and broadcast television stations; presenting it during public speaking opportunities to community and civic groups; having local movie theaters run it as a public service feature before features, etc. The video will be available free on request from the national public relations commission office. Because the contents are not dated, the video was produced with a long shelf life to offer unlimited marketing opportunities. It will also be featured prominently on The American Legion Web site and others such as YouTube. PSA spots based on the theme will be produced and distributed in Spring. Other videos produced included a series of four short video programs for the Web site featuring staff members from the DC office talking about what their respective divisions do and how the organization supports veterans. Future videos will cover all divisions providing services to membership and community members.

Materials to conduct the September – November Legiontown USA information campaign are now available upon request. The Complete Guide to Your Post's Legiontown USA Campaign along with support publications and event planning materials can be ordered by a request to pr@legion.org. The new high-tech PR System Tool Kit is being developed for use by public relations chairmen/officers at all levels of the organization. It will provide practical PR products that can be edited and printed, as well as electronic products that can be downloaded for local use from DVD and direct Internet connections. New chapters on Emerging Media, Outdoor Advertising, and Electronic Marketing will highlight the state-of-the art product for anticipated delivery toward the end of 2010.

As of late February, Operation Comfort Warriors was ranked #2 in the Pepsi Refresh Everything grant competition. A first or second place finish, based on Internet votes received, will result in a $250,000 grant for Operation Comfort Warriors from Pepsi. The winners will be announced today (March 1). As a result of the competition, OCW has garnered mentions on numerous radio shows, the El Dorado (Colorado) Times Newspaper, community newspapers, department newspapers, Military.com and numerous web sites. As of February 22, OCW has raised $316,064.87 (not including the Pepsi grant). More than $228,000 has been spent purchasing comfort items for dozens of military hospitals and warrior transition units worldwide.

Working with departments, staff, district and post commander and PR chairpersons, PR commission staff has sent out stories and news releases on national wire services and distributed media adivsories to daily and weekly newspapers across the nation; conducted numerous talk radio interviews and utilized social media to promote voting. Thanks to the participation of Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion, family members and many Americans watching, reading and listening to media, voting has kept the Legion in 2nd place throughout most of the month. Tweets and emails from National Commander Hill and National Adjutant Wheeler spearheaded a grass roots effort to add a quarter of a million dollars to OCW and our wounded warriors.

Media Relations in Washington is now part of a new Public Relations Commission division titled Media Marketing, established last November to promote Legion expertise on veterans issues to the external media, to provide news content for the Legion's Web site, and to act as liaison with the Magazine and PR divisions in Indianapolis. Since January, the division began a media outreach program, contacting media on a daily basis and promoting Legion expertise on issues ranging from VA disability claims to providing jobs for unemployed veterans. Media Relations works on increasing media coverage of The American Legion's National Commander at the local, statewide and national levels.

GI Film Festival founders President Brandon Millett and Festival Director Laura Law were presented a sponsorship check by Chairman Morrill for the 2010 event forthcoming in May. The GI Film Festival will receive the National Commander's Public Relations Award for the promotion of the honorable nature of military service on March 3 in Washington.

Navy Lieutanant Lesley Lykins, deputy director of Emerging Media Integration at the United States Navy Chief of Information (Public Affairs) office in Washington - who's Twitter bio says she is a "naval officer, mother and wife, with a love of PR and people," - presented the commission with an overview of how the U.S. Navy is effectively using social media in both its internal and external communications. The recent earthquakes in Haiti and the Navy's extensive involvement in relief operations used social media heavily in disseminating information.

Following selection of the commission's recommended winner of the Fourth Estate Award to National Commander Hill, Chairman Morrill appointed an ad hoc committee to review the current status of the award and the possible inclusion of new categories to reflect the changing media structures in today's world of instant mass communications. The committee will report their findings and recommendations at the Spring meetings in Indianapolis.

The new American Legion Newscenter on Twitter, designed for media, was presented. All agreed to spread the special twitter page to media in their respective areas that focus on veterans affairs and defense issues. The page can be found at: http://twitter.com/AmLegionNewsCtr.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at noon.

Report: Public Relations Commission
May 6, 2010
Robert L. Morrill, New York, Chairman

The Public Relations Commission of The American Legion met in Indianapolis, Indiana at National Headquarters on Monday, May 3, 2010.

Since developing and introducing the Legiontown, USA Campaign late last year, nearly a thousand campaign kits were ordered by posts and districts for use in 2010 and beyond. Because receipt of the materials early in the year facilitates greater planning and expanded execution in September, the commission will launch another effort to market the materials next month. The kits provide media tools and suggested event materials to be incorporated into a three month membership campaign beginning with American Legion Day on Sept. 16. Additionally, a new poster – the Military Experience – is available from Emblem Sales (large size) and is downloadable on the Internet with a field for local contact information.

Text copy for the new PR Systems Toolkit is nearly complete and will go to design later this month. Slated for completion by the end of the year, the multi-media product will be available in print, electronic, Internet and disk formats and will include public relations products for direct use by the Legion family. It will contain news releases and advisories, letters, message points, radio and television copy and produced spots, social media tools and guidance, outdoor advertising tips, design, video production, produced radio and television spots, programs and training, and more.

"The History of The American Legion" DVD is in its final editing stages and will likely be ready to purchase at National Convention. National Flag and Emblem Sales will sell the DVD, which is being produced by Blackhorse Productions and is expected to cost $19.95. A portion of the sales will go directly to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, Child Welfare Foundation and the NEF.

More than $575,000 has been raised for Operation Comfort Warriors since the program's creation in December 2008. This includes a $250,000 grant awarded by Pepsi Cola as a result of OCW's first place finish in February's Refresh Everything Project. An American Legion delegation from National Headquarters and the Department of Georgia held a very successful OCW event for the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Gordon, Ga., April 20-22. Almost $14,000 in comfort items were delivered to the wounded, ill and injured veterans in the unit. Items included handicapped-adapted volleyball equipment, badminton equipment, DVDs, CDS, restaurant cards, gasoline cards, gift cards, electronics, movie theater tickets, arcade tickets, backpacks, magazines, socks and other miscellaneous items. The American Legion delegation was briefed on quality of life issues by military personnel. Augusta, Georgia ABC affiliate, WJBF-TV, broadcast a report which included coverage of Legionnaires purchasing Operation Comfort Warriors items at the local Wal-Mart. The PR Division recently produced an Operation Comfort Warriors DVD and brochure.

From its presence in the nation's capital, the Media Marketing Division continued its outreach to media in Washington, D.C. and beyond. Recent coverage included appearances by Executive Director Peter Gaytan on Fox News and C-SPAN's "*Washington Journal*," discussing how recent healthcare reform affects veterans. Media Relations Manager Craig Roberts, appearing at a press conference covered by CNN, NBC and Fox News, commented on the Supreme Court's "Mojave Cross" decision and how it was a victory for the veterans' community. Staff members at The American Legion National Headquarters in Washington have been interviewed by The Associated Press, Washington Times, Military Times, National Journal Online, Kansas City Star/McClatchy Newspapers, and several radio stations including Fox Radio, WTTG Boston, KOA Denver and WWL New Orleans. A variety of topics were covered,

including veterans' unemployment, GI Bill benefits, and post-deployment medical screenings. National Commander, Clarence Hill's visits were covered by media in Burlington, Vt., Syracuse, N.Y., and Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Colo. The division also provided the national Web site with a number of stories, photos and video clips. Legion testimony before Congress is now being covered consistently, with stories being distributed via legion.org, the Public Relations Division, and PR Newswire.

The American Legion's Media News Center is now on Twitter, with daily "tweets" targeting veterans and defense affairs reporters, producers, talk radio and television hosts, assignment editors and columnists. Staff will initiate a marketing effort to beat reporters around the country at both print and electronic media. National wire service writers are already following the news center "tweets."

Audio-visual projects recently completed includes the new 3-minute and 55-second "*Pledge to Service*" promotional video and a series of six additional public service television spots following the same theme which were reviewed for the first time. All of the DVDs will include a marketing brochure with tips on getting the most out of the videos by making them available to myriad outlets; they will be distributed following reproduction. In addition, two videos have been produced in support of The American Legion Legacy Run. A 9-minute promotional video is being distributed through Internal Affairs and AC&Y to promote participation and sponsorship in the annual event. Copies are being sent to all department headquarters and Legion Rider contacts in each department. A compilation of all previous rides with footage and interviews not included in previous videos has also been produced and will be offered for sale through Emblem Sales for $10 plus S&H. Proceeds from the sale will help support the ride.

The commission forwarded a resolution for NEC consideration saluting the efforts of the GI Film Festival in publicizing the honorable nature of military service. GIFF received the National Commander's Public Relations Award in March during the 50th Washington Conference.

The Public Relations Commission subcommittee reviewing the Fourth Estate Award discussed findings submitted so far by members in order to finalize a report which will be submitted for consideration during the National Convention commission meeting. The commission objective is to review the relevance of the award, its impact on the organization's public relations initiatives and review possible changes or upgrades to enhance the popularity, prestige and impact of the award. Members also discussed potential Patriot Award nominations for the National Commander's consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move the report be received and filed with the exception of one resolution. ...*Second.*

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

Resolution No. 13: Recognition Of The GI Film Festival
Origin: Public Relations Commission
Submitted by: Public Relations Commission

WHEREAS, The GI Film Festival is the nation's first and only military film festival; and

WHEREAS, The GI Film Festival was co-founded by a Legionnaire committed to raising public awareness about the contributions of the men and women in the U.S. military; and

WHEREAS, The GI Film Festival was the recipient of the National Commander's 2010 Public Relations Award; and

WHEREAS, The GI Film Festival is an annual event started in 2007 that has presented hundreds of works that celebrate the successes and sacrifices of the American military through the medium of film; and

WHEREAS, The GI Film Festival hosts panel discussions that feature untold personal stories of heroism from the frontlines; and

WHEREAS, The GI Film Festival shares The American Legion's corporate goal to promote the honorable nature of military service; and

WHEREAS, This affirmation has been reviewed and approved by the National Public Relations Commission and recommended to the National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2010, That The American Legion recognizes that The GI Film Festival is the preeminent venue for military film screenings and that The American Legion salutes the GI Film Festival.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This has the approval of the Public Relations Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

We'll now call on Jim Koutz of Indiana for the Legislative Commission report.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
James Koutz, Indiana, Chairman

Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, the National Legislative Commission met at National Headquarters on May 3 and 4. There were no resolutions referred to the commission for consideration. Each of you should have a copy of the commission's report. Attached to the report is an addendum listing those resolutions with legislative intent, approved by this commission.

During both sessions, the commission discussed current congressional developments and recently passed legislation. We also remembered Bob Proctor, national liaison to this commission in our thoughts and prayers. Mr. Commander, thank you for stopping by and meeting and sharing your comments and observations.

On the legislative front, the federal budget process is underway. The president's budget request for the Department of Veterans Affairs is once again record setting. His total request for VA is $125 billion for the fiscal year 2011. It also includes fiscal year 2012 advance appropriations request of $54.3 billion for the three VA medical care accounts. My fellow Legionnaires that advance appropriations request is now required by law thanks in large part to the effective grassroots lobbying efforts of The American Legion. It wasn't that long ago that we were fighting flat line budgets, proposed enrollment fees, and threats of increased co-payments. But we cannot rest based on those achievements. Nothing is automatic on Capitol Hill. We must remain actively engaged with lawmakers, both in Washington and back home.

Congress is facing many challenges on critical issues from deficit reduction to immigration, to national health care reform, to economic recovery, to the job crisis, not to mention the on-going military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many of these topics will be openly addressed during the months ahead leading to the mid-term elections.

Remember, The American Legion cannot endorse candidates or political parties, but that does not mean that candidates for political parties cannot endorse The American Legion's positions concerning many of these hot issues. It is our job to advance The American Legion's legislative agenda through the media, town hall meetings, and other

windows of opportunity. For an example, the flag protection amendment can still be a powerful tie breaker in closely contested races.

I am pleased to report that the joint hearing before the Veterans' Affairs Committees by the newly-elected national commander of The American Legion is scheduled on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2010. Therefore, members of The American Legion family attending this event should be able to schedule face-to-face meetings with their elected officials well in advance, especially since this is an election year.

Commander Hill, on behalf of this commission, I want to thank you for your outstanding leadership. We wish you Godspeed on the remainder of your travels.

I also want to thank the national staff, and especially Steve Robertson who many of you know is retiring in two weeks. We're definitely going to miss him. Let's give him a round of applause. ... *Standing applause*. He told me not to do that. Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

Advance Report: National Legislative Commission
April 9, 2010
James E. Koutz, Indiana, Chairman

There has been one meeting of the National Legislative Commission since the National Executive Committee last met in October, 2009. Seventeen members of the Commission met on March 1, 2010 at the Renaissance Washington Hotel in Washington, DC. Legislative Commission Chairman Koutz (IN) chaired the meeting. Although National Legislative Council Chairman Michael Harris (VA) was not present, his report was presented to the attendees.

The Commission was briefed by William Collins, Professional Staff Member in the Office of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. His remarks were centered on employment opportunities for service members returning from overseas deployment, especially on Capitol Hill. Following his remarks, a question-and-answer session was held.

Steve Robertson (LA), Legislative Director, reported on the status of current legislation impacting on issues critical to The American Legion. Major discussion topics included: the constitutional amendment to prohibit the physical desecration of the American flag; the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 and 2012 budgets for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); problems with the timely and accurate adjudication of VA disability claims; continued support for the Global War on Terrorism; timely administration for the new Post-9/11 GI Bill; and quality-of-life issues for service members and their families.

Recent Congressional Developments

The Second Session of the 111th Congress convened on January 5, 2010. Major issues on the agenda for both chambers include the war on terrorism, health care reform, economic recovery and the FY 2011 VA budget. To date, The American Legion has participated in nine congressional hearings during the First Session.

The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance continue to support a proposed constitutional amendment: “The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.” The American Legion supports passage of the measure and ratification by the state legislatures.

On February 1, the Obama Administration released its budget request for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Federal budget, including VA. The President’s overall VA budget request would provide $125 billion for health care, benefits, and memorial service to this nation’s veterans, $11 billion above the current FY 2010 enacted level. This proposal includes $60.3 billion in discretionary funding to include medical programs to provide high-quality health care for veterans and research for conditions and diseases that affect

these veterans. It further provides $64.7 billion for mandatory programs, including benefits for veterans and their beneficiaries.

There are six major areas of emphasis in this new budget that the President has made an integral part of VA's FY 2011 budget:

Reducing the Claims Backlog: VA is requesting an increase for staffing in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to address a dramatic increase in disability claims. In 2009, for the first time, VA received over one million claims during the course of a single year, which was 75 percent higher than the number of claims received in 2000. The Obama Administration states that the average time to process a disability claim fell from 179 to 161 days in 2009, an improvement of 11 percent. However, this "progress" does not include processing of denied claims on appeal. The progress is a step in the right direction, but it is not nearly enough. The goal for VBA is to reduce the average time to process a claim to no more than 125 days. Reaching this goal will become even more challenging because of additional claims VA expects to receive related to exposure to Agent Orange. The FY 2011 request for VBA is $2.1 billion, a 27 percent increase over the current year, and more than 4,000 additional claims processors for veterans' benefits.

Eliminating Veterans' Homelessness: VA's homeless-specific programs provide a continuum of care for homeless veterans that provide treatment, rehabilitation and supportive services in addressing health, mental health and psychosocial issues. VA also offers a full range of support necessary to end the cycle of homelessness by providing education, jobs, and health care, in addition to housing. Homelessness is primarily a health care issue, often heavily burdened with depression and substance abuse. VA's budget request includes $4.2 billion in FY 2011 to prevent and reduce homelessness among veterans — over $3.4 billion for core medical services and $799 million for specific homeless programs and expanded medical programs.

Automating the GI Bill Benefits System: In August 2009, the Post-9/11 GI Bill program was launched. VA has received more than 397,000 original and 219,000 supplemental applications since the inception of this program. VA has established a comprehensive strategy to develop an end-to-end IT solution that utilizes modern technologies to modernize the delivery of education benefits. The automated solution for the Post-9/11 GI Bill education program is scheduled to be implemented by December 2010. The FY 2011 budget request provides $44.1 million to complete the automated solution for processing claims from the Post-9/11 GI Bill program and to begin the development and implementation of electronic systems to process claims associated with other education programs.

Establishing a Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER): In April 2009, the President charged VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) with building a fully interoperable electronic records system that will provide each member of our armed forces a Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER). This virtual record will enhance the timely delivery of high-quality benefits and services by capturing key information needed about their history from the day they put on the uniform, through their time as veterans, until the day they are laid to rest. The budget request would provide VA with $52 million in IT funds in FY 2011 to continue the development and implementation of this priority.

Improving Mental Health Care: VA's budget request would provide about $5.2 billion for mental health, an increase of $410 million, or 8.5 percent, over the FY 2010 enacted level. VA will expand inpatient, residential, and outpatient mental health programs with an emphasis on integrating mental health services with primary and specialty care. VA will continue to be proactive in screening for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and intervening early in order to prevent chronic problems that could lead to more complex disorders and functional problems. VA will also expand its screening program for other mental health conditions, most notably traumatic brain injury (TBI), depression, and substance use disorders. VA will enhance its suicide prevention

advertising campaign to raise awareness among veterans and their families of the services available to them.

Deploying a Veterans Relationship Management System: This system will allow veterans to access comprehensive online information anytime and anywhere via a single consistent entry point. The budget request would provide $51.6 million for this project, which will also provide veterans with the ability to access VA through multiple methods; complete multiple business processes within VA without having to re-enter identifying information; and seamlessly access VA across multiple lines of business.

Some of the specific budget requests include:

- $250 million to strengthen access to health care for 3.2 million veterans enrolled in VA's medical system who live in rural and highly areas. Rural outreach includes expanded use of home-based primary care and mental health.
- The 2011 budget provides $217.6 million to meet the gender-specific health care needs of women veterans, an increase of $18.6 million (or 9.4 percent) over the 2010 level. Enhanced primary care for women veterans remains one of the Department's top priorities.
- The budget provides an increase of $42 million for VA's home telehealth program. The effort already cares for 35,000 patients and is the largest program of its kind in the world.
- During 2011, VA expects to treat 6.1 million patients, who will account for more than 800,000 hospitalizations and 83 million outpatient visits. That number includes 439,000 veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, for whom $2.6 billion is included in the budget proposal. That's an increase of $597 million – or 30 percent – from the current budget.

The proposed budget for health care also includes:

- $54.3 billion in advance appropriations for 2012 for health care, an increase of $2.8 billion over the 2010 enacted amount.
- $6.8 billion for long-term care, an increase of $859 million (or 14 percent) over 2010. This amount includes $1.5 billion for non-institutional long-term care.
- Expanding access to VA health care system for more than 99,000 veterans who were previously denied care because of their incomes.

The chart below shows VA's discretionary funding programs, with current year (FY 2010) funding totals, the President's proposed FY 2011 budget amounts, and The American Legion's proposed appropriations totals as presented to Congress last September by National Commander Hill.

VA Discretionary Programs	**P. L. 111-117 FY 2010 Final VA Funding**	**President's FY 2011 VA Budget Request**	**American Legion's FY 2011 VA Budget Request**
Medical Services	$34.7 billion	$37.1 billion	*$48 billion (includes medical & prosthetic research)*
Medical Support & Compliance	$4.9 billion	$5.3 billion	
Medical Facilities	$4.8 billion	$5.7 billion	
Total Medical Care	*$41.3 billion*	*$48.1 billion*	
Medical Care Collections Funds	[$2.9 billion]	[$3.3 billion]	*
Medical/Prosthetic Research	$581 million	$590 million	$700 million

National Cemetery Administration	$250 million	$251 million	$260 million
General Operating Expenses	$2.1 billion	$2.6 billion	$3.2 billion
Information Technology	$3.3 billion	$3.3 billion	$3.8 billion
Major Construction	$1.2 billion	$1.1 billion	$2.0 billion
Minor Construction	$703 million	$468 million	$1.5 billion
State Veterans' Homes Construction Grants	$100 million	$85 million	$275 million
State Veterans' Cemeteries Construction Grants	$46 million	$46 million	$50 million

** The American Legion supports using Medical Care Collections Funds as supplements, not offsets, to discretionary VA funding.*

On February 4 and 26, The American Legion testified before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees respectively, giving its views on VA's FY 2011 budget request. The testimony also re-emphasized the VA budget request presented by National Commander Hill last September. The American Legion will continue to monitor the FY 2011 budget process.

A more substantive report on congressional developments will be presented by the Legislative Commission at the May 5-6, 2010 meetings of the National Executive Committee.

Report: National Legislative Commission
May 5-6, 2010
James E. Koutz, Indiana, Chairman

The National Legislative Commission met in the National Headquarters Building in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 3-4, 2010. Seven (7) members of the National Legislative Commission, three (3) members of the National Executive Committee Liaison Committee, and four (4) guests were in attendance. Not in attendance, but very much in our thoughts and prayers was the National Executive Committee Liaison Committee Chairman Bob Proctor (FL).

During these meetings, the Commission received in-depth briefings from the Legislative Division's professional staff on various congressional actions since the Commission's last meeting. The remainder of this report provides a summary of congressional actions since the National Convention on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. The report is arranged by program areas.

Recent Congressional Developments

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 economic recession and the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) budget. To date, The American Legion has participated in 19 congressional hearings during the Second Session, with several more scheduled to occur during the NEC meetings.

On February 1, President Obama released the FY 2011 budget request, including funding recommendations for VA. The Administration is requesting $60.3 billion for VA discretionary spending programs, an increase of $11 billion over the FY 2010 amounts. Mandatory funding would be set at $64.7 billion, making the total VA budget request

$125 billion. The gradual expansion of health care will support the health care needs of over 500,000 Priority Group 8 veterans who have been excluded from VA coverage since 2003. This increased funding will also provide the necessary resources to maintain the high-quality and timely care for lower-income and service-disabled veterans who currently use the system. However, The American Legion remains adamant that all Priority Group 8 veterans must be enrolled.

There are six major areas of emphasis in this new budget that the President has made an integral part of VA's FY 2011 budget request:

Reducing the Claims Backlog: VA is requesting an increase for staffing in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to address a dramatic increase in disability compensation claims. In 2009, for the first time, VA received over one million claims during the course of a single year, which was 75 percent higher than the number of claims received in 2000. Of note, VBA also reported that 1.3 million new claims were filed in FY 2009. The Obama Administration states that the average time to process a disability claim fell from 179 to 161 days in 2009, an improvement of 11 percent. However, this "progress" does not include processing of denied claims on appeal. The progress is a step in the right direction, but it is not enough. The goal for VBA is to reduce the average time to process a claim to no more than 125 days. Reaching this goal will become even more challenging because of additional claims VA expects to receive related to exposure to Agent Orange. The FY 2011 budget request for VBA is $2.1 billion, a 27 percent increase over the current year, and more than 4,000 additional claims processors for veterans' benefits.

Eliminating Veterans' Homelessness: VA's homeless-specific programs provide a continuum of care for homeless veterans that provide treatment, rehabilitation and supportive services in addressing health, mental health and psychosocial issues. VA also offers a full range of support necessary to end the cycle of homelessness by providing education, jobs, and health care, in addition to housing. Homelessness is primarily a health care issue, often heavily burdened with depression and substance abuse. VA's budget request includes $4.2 billion in FY 2011 to prevent and reduce homelessness among veterans — over $3.4 billion for core medical services and $799 million for specific homeless programs and expanded medical programs.

Automating the GI Bill Education Benefits System: In August 2009, the Post-9/11 GI Bill program was implemented. VA has received more than 397,000 original and 219,000 supplemental applications since the inception of this program. VA has established a comprehensive strategy to develop an end-to-end IT solution that utilizes modern technologies to modernize the delivery of education benefits. The automated solution for the Post-9/11 GI Bill education program is scheduled to be implemented by December 2010. The FY 2011 budget request provides $44.1 million to complete the automated solution for processing claims from the Post-9/11 GI Bill program and to begin the development and implementation of electronic systems to process claims associated with other education programs.

Establishing a Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER): In April 2009, the President charged VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) with building a fully interoperable electronic records system that will provide each member of the Armed Forces a Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER). This virtual record will enhance the timely delivery of high-quality benefits and services by capturing key information needed about their history from the day they put on the uniform, through their time as veterans, until the day they are laid to rest. The budget request would provide VA with $52 million in IT funds in FY 2011 to continue the development and implementation of this priority.

Improving Mental Health Care: VA's budget request would provide about $5.2 billion for mental health, an increase of $410 million, or 8.5 percent, over the FY 2010 enacted level. VA will expand inpatient, residential, and outpatient mental health

programs with an emphasis on integrating mental health services with primary and specialty care. VA will continue to be proactive in screening for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and intervening early in order to prevent chronic problems that could lead to more complex disorders and functional problems. VA will also expand its screening program for other mental health conditions, most notably traumatic brain injury (TBI), depression, and substance use disorders. VA will enhance its suicide prevention advertising campaign to raise awareness among veterans and their families of the services available to them.

Deploying a Veterans Relationship Management System: This system will allow veterans to access comprehensive online information anytime and anywhere via a single consistent entry point. The budget request would provide $51.6 million for this project, which will also provide veterans with the ability to access VA through multiple methods; complete multiple business processes within VA without having to re-enter identifying information; and seamlessly access VA across multiple lines of business.

Some of the specific budget requests include:

- $250 million to strengthen access to health care for 3.2 million veterans enrolled in VA's medical system who reside in rural and highly areas. Rural outreach includes expanded use of home-based primary care and mental health.
- The FY 2011 budget request would provide $217.6 million to meet the gender-specific health care needs of women veterans, an increase of $18.6 million (or 9.4 percent) over the FY 2010 level. Enhanced primary care for women veterans remains one of VA's top priorities.
- The budget request provides an increase of $42 million for VA's home telehealth program. The effort already cares for 35,000 patients and is the largest program of its kind in the world.
- During FY 2011, VA expects to treat 6.1 million patients, who will account for more than 800,000 hospitalizations and 83 million outpatient visits. That number includes 439,000 veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, for whom $2.6 billion is included in the budget proposal. That's an increase of $597 million – or 30 percent – from the current budget.

The proposed budget for health care also includes:

- $54.3 billion in advance appropriations for FY 2012 for health care, an increase of $2.8 billion over the FY 2010 enacted amount.
- $6.8 billion for long-term care, an increase of $859 million (or 14 percent) over FY 2010. This amount includes $1.5 billion for non-institutional long-term care.
- Expanding access to VA health care system for more than 99,000 Priority Group 8 veterans who were previously denied care because of their incomes.

The chart below shows VA's discretionary funding programs, with current year (FY 2010) funding totals, the President's proposed FY 2011 budget amounts, and The American Legion's proposed appropriations totals as presented to Congress last September by National Commander Hill.

VA Discretionary Programs	**P. L. 111-117 FY 2010 Final VA Funding**	**President's FY 2011 VA Budget Request**	**American Legion's FY 2011 VA Budget Request**
Medical Services	$34.7 billion	$37.1 billion	*$48 billion (includes medical & prosthetic research)*
Medical Support & Compliance	$4.9 billion	$5.3 billion	

Medical Facilities	$4.8 billion	$5.7 billion	
Total Medical Care	*$44.5 billion*	*$48.1 billion*	
Medical Care Collections Funds	[$2.9 billion]	[$3.3 billion]	*
Medical/Prosthetic Research	$581 million	$590 million	$700 million
National Cemetery Administration	$250 million	$251 million	$260 million
General Operating Expenses	$2.1 billion	$2.6 billion	$3.2 billion
Information Technology	$3.3 billion	$3.3 billion	$3.8 billion
Major Construction	$1.2 billion	$1.1 billion	$2.0 billion
Minor Construction	$703 million	$468 million	$1.5 billion
State Veterans' Homes Construction Grants	$100 million	$85 million	$275 million
State Veterans' Cemeteries Construction Grants	$46 million	$46 million	$50 million

** The American Legion supports using Medical Care Collections Funds as supplements, not offsets, to discretionary VA funding.*

On February 4 and 26, The American Legion testified before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees respectively, giving its views on VA's FY 2011 budget request. The testimony also re-emphasized the VA budget request presented by National Commander Hill last September. The American Legion will continue to monitor the FY 2011 budget process.

Americanism

Last year, Representatives Emerson (MO) and seven cosponsors introduced House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 47, a flag protection constitutional amendment for the 111th Congress. It has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. The measure now has 80 cosponsors. Last May, a companion bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Vitter (LA), Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 15, with 26 cosponsors. The American Legion will continue to seek passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag because it is the right thing to do. Let the people decide.

Children & Youth

On December 16, 2009, the President signed into law Public Law (P.L.) 111-117, the FY 2010 omnibus funding measure. The law includes appropriations for the six remaining appropriations bill that had not been enacted for the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2010. Funding for Department of Justice (DoJ) programs supported by The American Legion include:

- $7.9 billion for the FBI;
- $3.7 billion for state and local law enforcement assistance grants;
- $2 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA);
- $1.1 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATF);
- $1.1 billion for the U.S. Marshals Service; and,

- $424 million for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), a program The American Legion has enthusiastically supported since its creation in 1974.

Economics

On November 2, 2009, the House approved H.R. 1168, the "Veterans Retraining Act of 2009," by a recorded vote of 356-0. The bill was introduced by Rep. Boozman (AR), who is the ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. H.R. 1168 authorizes $100 million per year to provide a living stipend and moving assistance to veterans who have been unemployed for at least 4 months, who are not eligible for training or education under VA, and are enrolled in a Department of Labor (DOL) re-training program. The measure now awaits action by the Senate.

The House, on November 3 by a 382-2 recorded vote, passed H.R. 3949, the "Veterans Small Business Assistance and Servicemembers Protection Act of 2009," introduced by House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Filner (CA). This bill would:

- Clarify current law and require VA to verify that firms are veteran-owned small businesses or service disabled veteran-owned small businesses in order to be listed in the Vendor Information Pages database maintained by the VA Secretary;
- Improve outreach efforts by VA;
- Establish a scholarship program for students learning to care for veterans with visual impairments;
- Permit a parent, whose child gave their life in service to the country, to be buried in a national cemetery with that child when their veteran child has no living spouse or children;
- Reauthorize the Veterans Advisory Committee on Education until the end of 2015;
- Expand the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act protections to service members seeking to cancel certain service contracts due to a change in duty station where such service is not provided; and,
- Amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to improve the equitable relief available for service members called to active duty, including allowing greater flexibility for family cell phone plans, rental leases, and motor vehicle leases when a service member has changed duty stations or been deployed.

The measure now awaits further action in the Senate.

P.L. 111-117 also contains FY 2010 appropriations for DOL. The measure funds veterans' programs under the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET). The chart below outlines funding for ASVET accounts appropriated for FY 2009 and for FY 2010.

VETS Programs	*P.L. 111-8 FY 2009*	*P.L. 111-117 FY 2010*
State Administration Grants	$168.9 million	$172.4 million
Federal Administration	$34.6 million	$35.3 million
National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI)	$1.9 million	$2.4 million
Homeless Veterans Programs	$26.4 million	$36.3 million
Veterans' Workforce Investment Programs	$7.6 million	$9.6 million
Totals	**$239.4 million**	**$256 million**

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 goes to the Senate for further 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 relating 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.

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 certain 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. Current law does not provide the same protections for those serving missions domestically as it does for National Guard members serving overseas.

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) with six 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). Companion legislation, H.R. 5120, was introduced in the House on April 22 by Rep. Smith (WA).

Foreign Relations

Appropriations for the Department of State and Foreign Operations programs for FY 2010 were contained in P.L. 111-117. The measure provides $48.8 billion in total funding. Specific areas of interest to The American Legion include:

- $7.8 billion in global assistance to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, measles and malaria;
- $2.6 billion in combined aid to Afghanistan;
- $2.2 billion in military assistance to Israel;
- $1.6 billion for international narcotics control and law enforcement, which now includes the Andean Counterdrug Initiative;
- $1.5 billion in economic and border security/anti-terrorism military aid to Pakistan;
- $1.3 billion in economic and military aid to Egypt;
- $742 million in assistance for nations of Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia; and
- $543 million in economic and military aid to Jordan.

National Security

On October 28, 2009, President Obama signed P.L. 111-83, the FY 2010 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The measure provides $42.8 billion in discretionary spending for DHS programs, an increase of $2.6 billion above FY 2009 funding. Some of the key provisions include:

- $10.1 billion for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, $306 million above the FY 2009 funding levels;
- $9.9 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard, $776 million more than the previous fiscal year;
- $7.7 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, $679 million above last year's spending amounts;
- $5.4 billion for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is $448 million above FY 2009 levels;
- $4.2 billion in grants for state and local "first responders" which is nearly $300 million above the amount requested by the Administration;
- $1.5 billion for the U.S. Secret Service, $70 million above last year's levels;
- $860 million for the Federal Air Marshals, an increase of $41 million from FY 2009; and
- $800 billion for border security along the U.S.-Mexico border (included under the "Customs and Border Protection" account), $25 million more than last year.

The President, on October 28, signed into law P.L. 111-84, the FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. Each year, Congress passes legislation authorizing spending levels for DOD programs, and usually includes a number of policy statements. Some of the major provisions of the law include:

- A 3.4 percent across-the-board pay raise for all military personnel – half a percentage point above the President's request – before special pay or bonuses;
- Authorization for missile defense programs;
- Authorization to fund the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 account;
- Authorization to address equipment shortfalls in the National Guard and Reserves;
- Authorization for 28 F-35s (Joint Strike Fighters);
- Authorization of full funding for 1 *Virginia*-class submarine, and advance procurement for construction of two additional submarines in FY 2011;

- Increases for FY 2010 of 15,000 Army personnel, 8,000 Marines, 14,650 Air Force personnel, and 2,477 Navy sailors;
- Increases in Army personnel by 30,000 for FYs 2011 and 2012;
- Discontinues further production of the F-22 fighter plane;
- Adds production of a second, alternative engine to procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, a provision opposed by the White House;
- Authorization for family housing programs;
- Additions to Federal hate-crimes legislation to cover attacks based on gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and military service;
- An authorization for educational impact aid, with an additional funding authorization for those agencies heavily impacted by force structure changes and BRAC; and,
- Extension of TRICARE eligibility to Reserve component service members so they can receive full TRICARE coverage 180 days before they go on active duty.

Military construction funding was included as part of P.L. 111-117, the omnibus appropriations bill. A total of $24 billion was set aside to support American military forces and their families at home and overseas. Some specific funding areas include:

- $11.8 billion for such items as barracks, child care centers and mission-critical operational bases. This includes the modernization of troop housing facilities and for certain energy conservation programs;
- $7.5 billion for projects involved in the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process;
- $2.3 billion to further eliminate inadequate military family housing, as well as provide expanded mortgage relief assistance for some military families;
- $1.6 billion to provide readiness centers and operational facilities for National Guard and Reserve forces;
- $1.4 billion to support additional military construction requirements for operations and deployments to Afghanistan;
- $497 million to address the large unfunded backlog of environmental cleanup for the 1990 BRAC process; and,
- $152 million **for the destruction of the United States stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions**.

On December 19, the President signed into law P.L. 111-118, the DOD appropriations measure for FY 2010. The bill totals $636.3 billion, an increase of $11 billion over current year funding and $3.8 billion below the President's request. Funding for specific program areas include:

- $124.5 billion for all costs to continue military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;
- $29.2 billion for DoD health programs;
- $6.8 billion for the F-35 program, including procurement of 30 planes for the Air Force and Navy;
- $6.3 billion for further development, procurement and upgrades of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles for Iraq and Afghanistan;
- $3.8 billion for purchase of one *Virginia*-class attack submarine in FY 2010, and advance procurement for another sub in FY 2011;
- $2.7 billion in both measures for procurement of 35 V-22 Ospreys for the Air Force and Marine Corps;
- $2.2 billion for further development and procurement of one additional DDG-51 (*Arleigh Burke*) destroyer;

- $2 billion for missile defense programs;
- $1.6 billion for the destruction of chemical agents and munitions;
- $1.5 billion for procurement of 18 additional F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft;
- $1.4 billion for further development and procurement of the DDG-1000 (*Zumwalt*) destroyer;
- $1.2 billion for drug interdiction and counter-drug activities; and,
- $364 million for upgrades and procurement of additional Stryker vehicles.

The measure contains no funding for closing the Guantanamo Bay detention facility for terrorists captured during the Global War on Terrorism. Appropriators stated that once a plan was in place to close the facility, funding would then be requested.

Selective Service System funding for FY 2010 is contained in P.L. 111-117, the omnibus continuing appropriations measure. The law appropriates $24 million, an increase of $2 million over the FY 2009 appropriations. The American Legion continues to support funding for the Selective Service System in case of national emergency.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

On November 11, 2009, President Obama enacted P.L. 111-98, a measure to authorize a major medical facility project at the VA Medical Center at Walla Walla, WA. The law calls for the construction of a new multiple-specialty outpatient facility, campus renovation and upgrades, and additional parking, with the project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed $71 million.

FY 2010 funding for VA, military construction programs and related agencies was included in P.L. 111-117, the omnibus appropriations bill. In addition to FY 2010 appropriations, P.L. 111-117 included advance appropriations for FY 2011 for VA's medical care accounts, totaling nearly $48.2 billion. These FY 2011 accounts include: $37.1 billion for medical services; $5.3 billion for medical support and compliance; and, $5.7 billion for medical facilities.

The chart below presents the major discretionary funding categories of VA's budget, showing funding for the previous year, the final funding totals for P.L. 111-117 and The American Legion's FY 2010 budget proposal as presented in testimony before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees in September, 2008.

VA Discretionary Programs	**P. L. 110-329 FY 2009 Final VA Funding**	**P.L. 111-117 FY 2010 VA Appropriations**	**American Legion's FY 2010 Request**
Medical Services	$30.9 billion	$34.7 billion	*$42.8 billion (includes medical & prosthetic research)*
Medical Support and Compliance	$4.4 billion	$4.9 billion	
Medical Facilities	$6 billion#	$4.9 billion	
Total Medical Care	*$41.3 billion*	*$44.5 billion*	
Medical Care Collections Funds	[$2.5 billion]	[$2.9 billion]	*
Medical and Prosthetic Research	$510 million	$581 million	$532 million
Information Technology	$2.5 billion#	$3.3 billion	$2.7 billion

General Operating Expenses	$2 billion#	$2.1 billion	$2.8 billion
Natl. Cemetery Administration	$280 million#	$250 million	$249 million
Major Construction	$923 million	$1.2 billion	$1.8 billion
Minor Construction	$742 million	$703 million	$1.5 billion
State Homes Construction Grants	$325 million#	$100 million	$275 million
State Cemeteries Construction Grants	$42 million	$46 million	$49 million

 # Includes supplemental funding from PL 111-5

** The American Legion supports using Medical Care Collections Funds as supplements, not offsets, to discretionary VA funding.*

Funding in this bill for related agencies monitored by The American Legion include:

- $63 million for the American Battle Monuments Commission;
- $27 million for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims;
- $40 million for operations, maintenance and construction at Arlington National Cemetery; and,
- $134 million for operations, maintenance and new construction at the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

On February 1, 2010, President Obama signed P.L. 111-137. This measure, sponsored by House Veterans' Affairs Chairman Filner (CA), would allow reimbursements to veterans who receive emergency treatment at a non-VA facility. The law requires 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 will still be responsible for co-payments to third party insurers. The law 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.

On March 22, the House passed H.R. 4667, the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2010." The vote for passage was 407-0. This bill, introduced by Rep. Perriello (VA), directs the VA Secretary to increase the rates of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. The percentage increase in the veterans' compensation rates is also required to be the same percentage as the increase in benefits provided under title II of the Social Security Act. This increase goes into effect on December 1. The bill now awaits action by the Senate.

Last year, the House and Senate passed differing versions of badly needed legislation to address the needs of severely disabled veterans. Late last month, a joint agreement was worked out reconciling the two versions. The revised bill, S. 1963, entitled the "Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010," 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. On April 21 the measure passed the House by a vote of 419-0, and then passed the Senate by a voice vote the next day. It now goes to the White House for the President's signature.

Many of the 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. S. 1963 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, S. 1963 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, S. 1963 makes provision for mental health care matters for former members of the Armed Forces. The legislation would 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 FY 2010 funds for construction of major medical facilities, including Livermore, CA; Denver, CO; Bay Pines, FL; Louisville, KY; St. Louis, MO; and, Dallas, TX.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission's Report to the National Executive Committee.

Addendum I
National Legislative Commission
May 5-6, 2010

In compliance with Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, the resolutions listed below have legislative intent and are submitted for approval.

Americanism

Res. No. 37: Expressing Support for the Ideals and Goals of Citizenship Day

Internal Affairs

Res. No. 1: Direct Payment of Renewal Dues
Res. No. 14: 100th Anniversary Commemorative American Legion Coin

Economics

Res. No. 16: Authorize U.S. Small Business Administration to Re-establish a Direct Loan Program for Veterans, National Guard, and Reservists Who are Entrepreneurs
Res. No. 17: Support Expanding the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Voucher Program
Res. No. 20: Support Licensure and Certification of Active Duty and Selective Reserve Personnel
Res. No. 21: Support Increase in Reporting Fees for Educational Institutions

Foreign Relations

Res. No. 23: The American Legion's Policy on Veterans Mail at Overseas Embassies
Res. No. 24: Save the Montagnards

National Security

Res. No. 25: Streamline TRICARE Practices to Reduce Costs

Res. No. 26: Open Eligibility for TRICARE for Life to all Military Retirees and their Dependents
Res. No. 27: The American Legion Policy on the Nuclear Posture Review 2010
Res. No. 28: Repeal the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate Federal Statute
Res. No. 29: Support Mandatory Separation/Retirement Physicals and Mental Examinations for Servicemembers at Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States
Res. No. 30: Establish a Unified Military Medical Command
Res. No. 39: The American Legion Urges Congress to Await the Completion of the Department of Defense-Directed Study on *Don't Ask; Don't Tell* (DADT) Policy

Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation
Res. No. 12: The American Legion Policy on Hazardous Environmental Exposures

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move the report be received and filed. There are no resolutions and one addendum. ...*Second.*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, in compliance with Rule 8B of the National Executive Committee, I move that the 17 resolutions with legislative intent of The America Legion, become the legislative intent of the National Executive Committee for the 111th Congress. ...*Second.*

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

Thank you, Jim. I'll now call on Bill Christoffersen, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to hear the appeal of South Carolina Post 179.

Report: Ad Hoc Committee To Hear The Appeal Of Post No. 179, South Carolina
May 3, 2010
William E. Christoffersen, Utah, Chairman

I also want to salute Steve over here. He's been a stalwart person when it comes to Congress, because all of my congressional people all respect you, Steve. We are sure going to miss you.

I have a report here on a committee for which we've done quite a bit of work on over the past few years.

The committee consists of myself as Chairman from Utah; Dave Warnken from Kansas; Richard Anderson, Connecticut, and Jerry Hedrick of North Carolina.

We met at 1:00 p.m. May 3rd, 2010 in the office of the national judge advocate. The post filed a submission on time for the April 1st, 2010 deadline established last May. The department was late, but did file its submission. The department totally disagrees with the post that the post has attempted to comply with the conditions of the probation.

The post has done a number of things specified on the probation list, although it has not completed all of them. It has functioned this past year as a Legion post performing a number of functions such as visiting disabled veterans in the VA hospital, providing a color guard, shooting sports, and assisted by donations to the Boy Scout troops, and a number of other functions.

Because the department has not fully cooperated with the post, it is the recommendation of this ad hoc committee that the post be released from probation, because it has made great strides in functioning as a Legion post, despite the department opposition.

In addition, the department refused to allow the post to have The American Legion Post Officer Portal, which is ALPOP, and the Association Information Manager, which is AIM, programs where the post desired to contact its membership and especially those who had not renewed.

Therefore, it is further recommended by the ad hoc committee that the NEC authorize, by approval of this report, the delivery of the AIM and ALPOP programs, including a list of expired membership to that Legion post.

This report is signed by David Warnken, member; Richard Anderson, a member; Jerry Hedrick, a member, and of course myself as chairman and a member.

I would like to complete the functions of this ad hoc committee to hear the appeal of Post 179 of South Carolina. In closing, I would also like to thank the members of this committee for their excellent work in reviewing a very, very difficult issue.

Mr. Commander, I would move the NEC approve this report as submitted. *...Second.*

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

... At this time National Vice Commander Morris assumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Having completed their work and their report being accepted by the National Executive Committee, I would ask for a motion that the ad hoc committee for this appeal consisting of Bill Christofferesen of Utah, chairman; David Warnken of Kansas, member; Richard Anderson of Connecticut, a member, and Jerry Hedrick of North Carolina, member, be dissolved.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER BENTLEY (ID): So move. *...Second.*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MORRIS: Motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Okay. Final report of the Resolutions Subcommittee, Jerry Hedrick.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Commander. Before I give my report, one resolution was brought before the committee under Rule 8A yesterday. At this time I would like to make a second reading of resolution number 36, and let the record show that it's being read again on May the 6th at 9:06 a.m.

Resolution No. 36: 2013 National Convention Contract
Origin: National Convention Commission
Submitted by: National Convention Commission

WHEREAS, The National Convention Commission has reviewed the status of the proposed National American Legion Convention in Houston, Texas August 23 – 29, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Subject to receiving a properly executed contract from the 2013 Texas National Convention Corporation of The American Legion, Inc., the National Convention Commission believes that all conditions for a contract covering The American Legion National Convention in Houston, Texas August 23 – 29, 2013, have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, The National Convention Commission hereby recommends to the National Executive Committee that it enter into the appropriate contract with the 2013 Texas National Convention Corporation of The American Legion, Inc., to cover the 2013 American Legion National Convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5 – 6, 2010, That the National Commander, after receipt of an executed contract from the 2013 Texas National Convention Corporation of The American Legion, Inc., and the review and

approval of same from the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract and the National Adjutant, be and hereby is authorized and directed to attest to same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: This has the approval of the National Convention Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

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

Final Report of Subcommittee on Resolutions
Jerry L. Hedrick, North Carolina, Chairman

Thank you. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session since May the 3rd. We have considered all resolutions that have come before the committee, and considered and acted upon 39 resolutions.

I would like at this time to thank the members of the committee who have done an outstanding job, and attended every session and participated in discussion of all these resolutions.

As I call your name, could you stand please? My special thanks goes to my Vice Chairman Dave Warnken, my right-hand man from Kansas; Robert Owen from Maine; Bill Kile of West Virginia; Charles Schmidt of Oregon; and Ray DeZurik of Minnesota.

Appreciation also extended to Howard Trace and his staff who served our committee. And this is not in our report but without their assistance we could not accomplish our job.

I would also like to thank the document center, directors, and chairmen of the commissions and committees who have been most cooperative and helpful and subcommittees this week in order to bring these reports to you. We did bring many chairmen into our office and talk to them about resolutions. During our deliberations we have met with a number of chairmen who have very helpful to us in explaining questions about the resolutions before us.

Mr. Commander, it's a pleasure to serve as your chairman for the Subcommittee on Resolutions. I would like to thank you and the National Executive Committee in reporting out the various resolutions. You have been most cooperative. Mr. Commander, I move this report be received and filed. ...*Second.*

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: We're now on the Confirmation of Interim Appointments.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Yes, sir

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

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

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

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

Interim Appointments
National Executive Committee Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 5-6, 2010

Alvin R. Diaz (Alaska), Americanism Council, 2010 Vice Chairman
(Replaces Gary A. Berry--resigned)
Woody W. Jones (Idaho), Distinguished Guests Committee, 2010 Vice Chairman
(Replaces Winford W. Lomon deceased)
W. Michael Bowen (New York), Distinguished Guests Committee, 2010 Vice Chairman
(Replaces Joseph V. Mahoney deceased)
Pauline R. Fletcher (New York), Distinguished Guests Committee, 2010 Vice Chairman
(Replaces William J. Bandera deceased)
Gordon Ladwig (Oklahoma), Distinguished Guests Committee, 2010 Vice Chairman
(Replaces Robert L. Rea deceased)
Vincent A. Sanzotta (Illinois), Foreign Relations Commission, 2012 Member
(Replaces Gary R. Jenson resigned)
Harold Wilson (Pennsylvania), Foreign Relations Council, 2010 Vice Chairman
(Replaces Louis E. Naglic deceased)
Don G. Gunderson (Idaho), National & Homeland Security Council, 2010 Vice Chairman
(Replaces Daniel H. Duffy deceased)
William L. Garlitz (Maryland), National & Homeland Security Council, 2010 Vice Chairman
(Replaces James M. Hurley declined appointment)

... At this time National Vice Commander Schumacher assumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: I would like to offer a name as an addition to the Systems Worth Saving, and recommend him to you as an addition to that task force, I would like to recommend that Todd White of Wyoming be added to the task force, and I would accept a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commandeer, I would like to make a motion that Todd White be added to the committee. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SCHUMACHER: Motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor, aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

... At this time National Commander Hill resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Confirmation and cancellation of post and/or squadron charters.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Yes, sir.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of posts and squadrons cancellation of charters is a true and accurate list, and that everything has been done in their power to revitalize those posts and squadrons?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

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

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

Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters

On October 15, 2009, at the Fall Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of twenty-seven (27) 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

One Hundred Sixty-Three (163) Posts have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the 2010 Spring NEC Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. One Hundred Sixty-Three (163) Posts are recommended for cancellation.

It is recommended that the following one hundred sixty-three (163) Posts be cancelled:

Department	Name	Post #	Location
California	Beverly Hills *(to merge w/Palisades Post 283)*	253	Beverly Hills
	Mill Valley *(to merge w/Twin Cities Post 313)*	284	Mill Valley
	East Yolo	440	West Sacramento
	Lockeford-Clements	588	Lockeford
	Las Animas *(to merge w/Gilroy Post 217)*	669	Gilroy
	Mono Basin	672	Lee Vining
Delaware	Atlas	9	Smyrna
District of Columbia	Department of Justice	41	Washington, DC
Florida	Miami Beach	85	Miami Beach
	South Bay	161	South Bay
	Filmore-Baker	216	Tarpon Springs
Hawaii	Kinney-Nozaki	5	Waialua
Illinois	Miller-Manning	418	Dongola
	Dominick P. Nuccio, Jr.	1056	Chicago
Indiana	Central	132	Indianapolis
Kentucky	Godsey-Dishman	134	Monticello
Massachusetts	Huntington	233	Huntington
	McSweeney-Gage-Runz	329	Becket
Michigan	Elmer J. Perkins *(to merge w/Alfred Erickson Post 186)*	304	South Range
Missouri	Kansas City Post Office	80	Kansas City
	Owen-McGuire *(to merge w/Arthur Williams Post 161)*	212	St. Louis County
	Thomson-DeGraffenreid	547	Stoutland
	MECC	900	Pacific
New Jersey	Argonne *(to merge w/Linden*	6	Elizabeth

	Post 102)		
	Chatham	92	Chatham
	Summit	138	Summit
	Cranford	212	Cranford
	Camden Memorial	274	Camden
	Bradley Beach	337	Bradley Beach
	Montville Memorial	500	Montville
New York	Capital City-Edward N. Scheiberling	225	Albany
	Gordon Webster	951	Ozone Park
	Armfield Kittrell	1272	W.Brighton, Staten Island
North Carolina	Colonel Charles C. Young	168	Charlotte
	Town Creek	445	Winnabow
	Legion Racing	1776	Mooresville
Philippines	Cavite	2	Cavite City
	Gen Carlos P. Romulo	6	Lucena City
	Davao	12	Davao City
		16	San Antonio, Zambales
	Capt Ralph McGuire		
	Frank Murphy	17	Iloilo City
	Bataan	19	Balanga, Bataan
	President John F. Kennedy	25	Manila
	General Arthur MacArthur	26	Tala, Rizal
	PFC Theodore C. Venther	27	Bacolod City, Negros
	General Gregorio Del Pilar	30	Solano, Nueva Viz
	Sergeant Clyde Eugene Kilgore	34	San Carlso City Negro
	Lieutenant Eligio Yabyabin	44	Isabela, City of Bas
	Americal Division	45	Cebu City
	Samar	46	Catabalogan, Samar
	Col Alfonso C. Dalope	49	Cebut City
	Col Andres Soriano Memorial	50	Makati, Rizal
	President William McKinley	56	Taguig, Rizal
	Captain James Canfield Fisher	57	Cabanatuan City
	Thorpes Veterans	58	Manila
	War Veterans Service	59	Intramuros, Manila
	Ifugao	60	Kiangan
	Associated Veterans	64	Manila
	Lapu Lapu	67	Lapu Lapu City
	General Joseph F. Vachon	72	Midsayap, N. Cotabato
	Veterans Center	74	Vets Center, Taguig
	Philippine Veterans Bank	75	Manila
	Col Hugh Straughn	79	Manila
	President Sergio Osmena, Sr.	85	Caloocan City
	Pagasa	86	Quezon City
	Capt Joseph B. Barker, II	87	Caloocan City
	Colonel Jesus Villamor	88	Guilhulngan, Negros
	Asiatic-Pac Vets Assoc Iatio	89	Guinobatan, Albay
	Admiral Chester W. Nimitz	90	Malabon, Rizal
	General Paulino Santos	91	Tampakan, S Cotaba
	General William F. Sharp	92	Davao City
	Dipolog City	93	Dipolog City
	Captain Federico Padayhag, Sr.	95	Pagadian City
	Lacson College US Vets St	97	Pasay City
	Pacific Stars & Stripes	98	Virac, Catanduanes

Philippines (Con't)	Gen Macario Peralta, Jr.	100	Buenavista, Guimaras
	Gen Omar Bradley	101	Olongapo City, Zamba
	Aurora	102	Baler, Aurora
	Luzvimin Defenders	103	Matanao, Davao Del
	RP-US Veterans	104	Olongapo, Zamales
	Bustos	106	Bustos, Bulacan
	Batute	108	Sta Maria, Bulacan
	Mayon	111	Legazpi City
	San Rafael	112	San Rafael, Bulacan
	Colonel Victoriano Luna MD	113	Pinahan, Quezon City
	Hagonoy	116	Hagonoy, Bulacan
	Kwangson Young	122	Plaza Cervantes Man
	Metro Manila	124	Plainview, Mandaluyo
	Col Mariano C. Exalatacion	125	Bancal, Meycauyan
	Governor Higinio Mendoza	126	Puerto Princesa City
	Cantanduanes	127	Virac, Cantanduanes
	Balagtas	129	Balagtas, Bulacan
	Col Wendel W Fertig	130	Kidapawan, N Cotab
	USAFIP Nthrn Luzon Vets	131	
	World		Sablan, Benguet
	Bulacan Military Area BMA	133	Quezon City
	Tarlac Veterans	136	Tarlac, Tarlac
	Kalayaan Command	139	Real, Quezon
	Gen MacArthru W Pac Area	140	
	USA		San Augusting, Iriga
	Ampao	142	Tondo, Manila
	Surigao City	145	Surigao City
	War Veterans Organization	148	Lipa City
	Naval Veterans Service	149	Manila
	Ltc Porferio Jain	150	Panabo, Davao
	Negros Oriental Veterans	151	Dumaguete City
	Andres Bonifacio	152	Norzagaraay, Bulacan
	Felipe S. Alpas, Sr.	153	Culasi, Antique
	Gen Antonio Luna	154	Surallah, South Cot
	Colonel Ciriaco Mortera	156	Cagayan De Oro City
	Manticao-Naawan-Lugait	157	Manticao, Misamisor
	Dominador Samson	158	Angat, Bulacan
	Blessed Name	160	Iloilo City
	Colonel Sofio P Mendoza	162	Glan, South Cotabato
	Plaridel	165	Plaridel, Bulacan
	President Harry Truman	166	Meycauayan, Bulacan
	IBA	168	Bangantalinga, Iba
	PFC Rizalio Sinco	169	Molave, Zamboanga
	Naga City	178	Naga City
	Colonel Daniel Maramba	180	Blue Beach, Dagupan
	Presidente Aniceto Y Enerio	181	Oroguieta City
	Espiritu	182	Espiritu, Ilocos
	Montalban Rizal	183	Montalban Rizal
	Col Silvano Gallardo	184	Poblacion, Tanay
	Port Area Veterans Association	186	South harbor, Port
	Sipaca	187	Talisayan, Misamis
	Calamba	191	Calamba, Misamis Oc
	Camp S. Malitbog Southern	192	
	Leyte		Malitbog, Southern
	Urdaneta	193	Urdaneta, Pangasinan
	Panay Enlisted Men Vets Assoc	194	Lloilo City
	Major Manuel O Donato	196	Masbate, Masbate
	Cataingan	197	Cataingan, Masbate

Philippines (Con't)	Philippine Scouts US Army	200	Iloilo City
	Lt Venancio Magbanua	201	Isulan, Sultan Kud
	Arthur Furagganan	203	Aparri, Cagayan
	Col Joaquin Dunuan	204	Aurora, Isabela
	John J. Gordon	208	Olongapo City, Zamba
	Placer	210	Placer, Masbate
	Capt Glicerio Efre	211	Burauen, Leyte
	Cagayan De Oro	217	Cagayan De Oro City
	Admiral Thomas Cassin Kinkaid	219	Potrero, Malabon
	General Mateo Capinpin	224	Binan, Laguan
	Sultan Kudarat	231	Isulan, Sultan Kud
	Captain T. O. Javonillo	234	Diffun, Quirino
	Cavite City	235	Cavite City
	Norala	237	Norala
	Gen Carlos P Romulo	241	Quezon City
	Col Claro Laureta	249	Banay-Banay, Davao
	Manuel L. Quezon Memorial	263	Poblacion, Quezon
	Jones Command	264	Jones, Isabela
	Sta Maria Ilocos Sur	267	Sta Maria, Ilocos
	Lieut Julian Perdegueros	280	E B Maagalona
	Major Roberto V Gacayan, Sr.	282	Manila
Rhode Island	Pawtucket	4	Pawtucket
South Carolina	Estill *(to merge w/Hampton Post 108)*	131	Estill
South Dakota	Whitney-Roseland	163	Seneca
	Agar	271	Agar
Tennessee	Dobson-Warr	38	Somerville
	Hardeman County	84	Bolivar
	Warren Kyle	175	Hollow Rock
Texas	Ben Bailey	125	Pasadena
	Neal Huffaker	473	Monahans
Virginia	Memorial	163	Rustburg
Wisconsin	Middleton *(to merge w/Kerl-Endres-Brannan Post 245)*	275	Middleton
	Big Bend	561	Big Bend

Sons of The American Legion Charters Presented To
The National Executive Committee for Cancellation
May 5-6, 2010

On October 15, 2009, at the Fall Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of eleven (11) Squadrons.

Thirty-One (31) Squadrons have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the 2010 Spring NEC Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

It is recommended that the following thirty-one (31) Squadrons be cancelled:

Department	**Name**	**Squadron#**	**Location**
Massachusetts	Huntington	233	Huntington

Missouri	Owen-McGuire	212	St. Louis City
	MECC	900	Pacific
New Jersey	Argonne	6	Elizabeth
	Chatham	92	Chatham
	Camden Memorial	274	Camden
New York	Capital City	225	Albany
	A. Gordon Webster	951	Ozone Park
	Armfield Kittrell	1272	West Brighton, SI
Philippines	Cavite	2	Cavite City
	Gen Carlos P. Romulo	6	Lucena City
	Davao	12	Davao City
	Capt Ralph McGuire	16	San Antonio, Zambales
	President John F. Kennedy	25	Manila
	PFC Theodore C. Venther	27	Bacolod City, Negros
	Phlippine Veterans Bank	75	Manil
	President Sergio Osmena, Sr.	85	Caloocan City
	Asiatic-Pac Vets Assoc Iatio	89	Guinobatan, Albay
	General William F. Sharp	92	Davao City
	Captain Federico Padayhag, Sr.	95	Pagadian City
	RP-US Veterans	104	Olongapo, Zamales
	Mayon	111	Legazpi City
	Kwangson Young	122	Plaza Cervantes, Manila
	Tarlac Veterans	136	Tarlac, Tarlac
	Ampao	142	Tondo, Manila
	Gen Antonio Luna	154	Surallah, South Cot
	Dominador Samson	158	Angat, Bulacan
	President Harry Truman	166	Meycauayan, Bulacan
	John J. Gordon	208	Olongapo City, Zamba
	Gen Carlos P. Romulo	241	Quezon City
West Virginia	Jane Lew Memorial	166	Jane Lew

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Confirmation of dates for future meetings.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Yes sir.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list, and I think everybody has been provided the list of dates for future meetings?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: The list has been distributed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: I make a motion that it be approved without being read. ...*Second.*

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

Confirmation of Dates For Future Meetings

Following are dates for future meetings of The American Legion for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012, which have been previously confirmed by the National Executive Committee. They are as follows:

2010 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committee	October 11-12
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 11-12
National Executive Committee	October 13-14
2011 Washington Conference	March 6-9*
2011 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 2-3
National Executive Committee	May 4-5
2011 Fall Meetings	
Commission and Committees	October 10-11
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 10-11
National Executive Committee	October 12-13
2012 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 7-8
National Executive Committee	May 9-10
2012 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 15-16
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 15-16
National Executive Committee	October 17-18
These dates need National Executive Committee confirmation:	
2012 Washington Conference	February 26-29
2013 Washington Conference	February 24-27
2013 Spring Meeting	
Commissions and Committees	May 6-7
National Executive Committee	May 8-9
2013 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 14-15
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 14-15
National Executive Committee	October 16-17
2014 Washington Conference	March 23-26
2014 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 5-6
National Executive Committee	May 7-8
2014 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 13-14
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 13-14
National Executive Committee	October 15-16
2015 Washington Conference	February 22-25
2015 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 5-5
National Executive Committee	May 6-7
2015 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 12-13
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 12-13
National Executive Committee	October 14-15
2016 Washington Conference	February 21-24
2016 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 2-3
National Executive Committee	May 4-5

* *Correct date for the 2011 Washington Conference, March 20-23, to be ratified*

2016 Fall Meeting

Commissions and Committees	October 10-11
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 10-11
National Executive Committee	October 12-13.

... At this time National Vice Commander Bentley assumed the Chair.

Closing Remarks
Clarence E. Hill, Florida, National Commander

Good morning national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, guests and staff.

Eighteen years ago in the presidential election of 1992 we were told, "It's the economy, stupid." But just who gave us what was, and in spite of all the current problems, what I believe still is the greatest economy on the planet. To paraphrase what Ben Stein said in the documentary about the history of The American Legion, who is it that allows us as a nation to live in incredible luxury, and choose what we want to eat for breakfast every morning? It's the men and women of the American military, that's who.

As Past National Commander Spanogle pointed out yesterday, the fact that veterans comprise only 30 percent of VA's workforce is not just a shame, it's a disgrace. Well, I'm mad as hell about it, and I'm certain most of the people in this room are too. But what I'm feeling is a constructive anger, not a pointless rage. What The American Legion is seeking is a partnership with the VA, not a war of words. We want to work with the agency that was created to serve veterans, not against it.

We asked VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to send a letter to his entire department that all veterans preference laws will be adhered to, and that the Department Inspector General will monitor the progress of VA's hiring record. We believe VA should have a workforce made up of 75 percent veterans.... *Applause.*

We want to help them in this regard, not as adversaries, but as constructive partners. This is not just about the VA. In fact, VA ranks first among non-defense agencies in the hiring of disabled veterans, and second only to DoD in the overall number of veterans. This is about who we are as a nation. This is about the homeless person on the street who we pass by because we feel threatened. It's about who he or she was yesterday; the shining soldier from Iraq in a crisp uniform with rows of medals. Are we to tell the Marine who liberated the nation of Afghanistan that they are unqualified to work as a government employee for the Department of Commerce? Wouldn't any citizen want the former Naval intelligence officer to protect their community as a civilian police detective, or how about an airman working as a computer specialist at your local bank?

America has been at war for 20 years, whether everybody in society realizes it or not. There is a huge population of young people that answered the nation's call since August the 2nd, 1990 when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. The number one priority for most people leaving the military is to find a job. The American Legion will be there for them. President Obama signed an executive order committing jobs for veterans, and it is our job to ensure that it is enforced. Veterans preference is not a goal, it's the law.

We have accomplished a lot over the last few days. You have approved new resolutions that deal with issues as diverse as small business loans for veterans, to establishment of a unified military medical command. You have addressed issues that will not only make America a better nation, but the Legion a better Legion.

I am excited about the resolutions that you passed pertaining to AON Affinity Insurance Services, Mutual of Omaha, and USAA. Their products and services have been vetted by our staff and commissions to ensure that our members receive a great value in exchange for their patronage. Go back to your departments and tell people to take advantage of these great opportunities.

You have made a historical decision to petition Congress to change The American Legion Constitution to allow for on-line renewal. You all know that as a social media commander on-line anything is near and dear to my heart. But this truly is something that will enhance our ability to retain our younger members, especially the mobile ones that are on active duty, by making it easy for them to renew their membership online.

We also need the ability to recruit new dollars, and I think you addressed that by authorizing a direct marketing contract for non-member fundraising.

Ideas matter, but too often when it comes to running programs and being an effective advocate, it's cash that's king. This is a reality which is why I'm excited about some of the business opportunities that you have opened up for us. We have established a great new permanent site for The American Legion World Series. It will make an already great event even greater by providing continuity and experience to our hosts in Shelby, North Carolina.

The men and women in this room deserve a great deal of credit for addressing the important issues, not only facing America's veterans, but our nation overall. In my opening remarks you heard me discuss heroes like Gunny Popaditch and Latoya Lucas. When people in this room mention a strong military, I think of them. They are wounded in body but not in spirit. Maybe if our nation would supply our military with overwhelming firepower and force structure, these heroes would not have to shoulder such a disproportionate burden, and we would have fewer casualties as a result. America's enemies are determined, and they are not going away. The American Legion believes peace can only be achieved through strength. We are strongly on record with positions that we have just passed.

I am looking forward to hearing the recommendations from the ad hoc committee on how we can finally put an end to the unacceptable backlog for VA claims. Whether it's addressing hazardous environmental exposure or streamlining TRICARE, this body is not afraid to take on tough issues.

Next, we begin the hard and steady work that it takes to make these positions a reality. We can make our legislative positions a reality by being strong in numbers. That means growing our membership. Our 100 percent membership target date is next week, May 12th, less than a week away. The last I checked, no department is there yet, but some are pretty close, and one tells me they have transmitted enough membership to make it. We need to try and try harder. DMS can't do it alone. It's up to all of us to meet the hardest easy job challenge.

I would like to read to you an email that I got this morning that troubles me because I've had this comment made to me by younger veterans in about a dozen departments since I've been commander. It just says: Young Vets.

> *Dear Commander. Today I saw an article in the Syracuse New York Post Standard about your visit recently. Your discussion about adding new members and younger members was interesting, as I have been telling the local VFW and American Legion posts about the lack of outreach to the new group of veterans. I've been a member since Desert Storm when vets were first allowed to join. I will tell you the first Legion post I tried to join in Syracuse I was told they did not want Desert Storm veterans.*
>
> *There's still the lack of concerted effort to get more recent veterans to join. How do I know? I am a veteran from both Afghanistan and Iraq. I have told the commanders to call my unit commander to come and discuss the benefits of both organizations, and they give me a "we will see." I guess talking to the Vietnam veterans I know, it is how they were treated when they came back. Even when I was gone, my post did not hold my membership or offer to cover my dues. I've been deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan, and my former post never stood up. So what is a*

young veteran to think? Also, the local posts tend to adopt active duty units only, and not reserve units. My unit has had six deployments since 2002, and it's never been adopted. See a trend? When you can get the message to sink in with your members that the Legion posts are not owned by the older members, then the organizations will survive.

And I've been told that, like I said, in about a dozen departments that younger veterans go to a post and they're told they don't want them. And we need to fix that.

We also need to do better in getting our posts to turn in their Consolidated Post Reports. We had a rate of only 59 percent at the end of last year. That simply isn't good enough. So far I have visited 40 departments and 196 posts. I know that there are posts who are doing wonderful things in their communities because I've seen it firsthand. The American Legion needs these reports when we go before Congress and testify about issues facing our veterans and our active duty military. These Consolidated Reports help members of Congress realize just how much The American Legion really does for our veterans and the amount of service we provide for our communities. They serve as our collective voice. Full participation is critical for us to provide an accurate picture of our achievements and our accomplishments.

Finally, I would like to ask you to do one more thing for me. Help The American Legion win again in the Pepsi Refresh Everything Challenge. This is not about the same organization winning twice; it's about helping another group of deserving people, the children of our fallen heroes. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship was established in this very room. It is intended to make college a reality for the offspring of those who paid the ultimate price for our country. You can help us add $250,000 to the fund without it costing you anything but a few seconds a day to vote. More importantly, alert the entire American Legion Family in your departments to do the same. Have it posted on their websites and social networking accounts; print it in your department newspapers and newsletters. Operation Comfort Warriors finished first in February. The Legacy Fund can do the same this month, a month that includes Memorial Day. When I voted this morning, we were 54th.

With that I will wrap up my remarks. I want to thank you all for your hard work over these last few days. You have passed some truly historic resolutions that I believe will have a long lasting impact. God bless you all and have a safe trip home. Thank you.

... At this time National Commander Hill resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Do we have any unfinished business?

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

...Second.

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

Any other unfinished business? Call on the national chaplain, John Beaver of Alabama, for the benediction. Uncover.

Benediction
John L. Beaver, Alabama
National Chaplain

Our gracious Father, we just thank you for the business that's been conducted here today and yesterday. We thank you for this body who makes decisions for our veterans,

for our American Legion Family. Lord, we just thank you and keep us ever mindful of why we are here, for God and country.

We ask for speedy travel and also for safety for all those who are traveling. We ask you to God bless America and this organization. Amen

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: Cover. Call on National Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Martel, Florida, for a salute to the Colors.

... At this time the National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HILL: This meeting of the National Executive Committee is adjourned.

... At 9:25 a.m., the Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee adjourned. Sine Die.

Abbreviations

AAP ..... AdoptAPlatoon
AAVBD ..... Associate Administrator for Veterans Business Development
ACDUTRA ..... Active Duty Training
ACLU ..... American Civil Liberties Union
AGIA ..... Association Group Insurance Administrators
AGR ..... Active Guard Reserve
AIDS ..... Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ALB ..... American Legion Baseball
ALB WS ..... American Legion Baseball World Series
ASA ..... American Speed Association

BATF ..... Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
BDD ..... Benefits Delivery at Discharge
BRAC ..... Base Realignment and Closure
BVA ..... Board of Veterans Appeals

C&Y ..... Children and Youth
CARES ..... Capital Assets for Realignment for Enhanced Services
CFR ..... Code of Federal Regulations
CHALENG ..... Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups
CHKD ..... Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters
CMS ..... Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

DCHV ..... Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans
DEA ..... Drug Enforcement Agency
DHS ..... Department of Homeland Security
DIC ..... Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
DMS ..... Direct Mail Solicitation
DOD ..... Department of Defense
DoJ ..... Department of Justice
DOL ..... Department of Labor
DSO ..... Department Service Officer
DTAP ..... Disabled Transitional Assistance Program
DVET ..... Director for Veterans Employment and Training
DVOP ..... Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

ECI ..... Educational Communications, Inc.
ERISA ..... Employee Retirement Income Security Act
EUL ..... Enhanced Use Lease, Enhanced Use Lease

FAR ..... Federal Acquisition Regulation
FBI ..... Federal Bureau of Investigation
FPEG ..... Fischer/Parr Entertainment Group
FY ..... Fiscal Year

GNP ..... Gross National Product

HCHV ..... Health Care for Homeless Veterans

HHS ..... Health & Human Services
HIPAA ..... Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HIV ..... Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPC ..... Haynes and Partners Communications
HT-LT ..... Hear Today-Learn Tomorrow
HUD ..... Housing and Urban Development
HUD-VASH ..... Housing Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing

IG ..... Inspector General
IHL ..... Institutes of Higher Learning
IRS ..... Internal Revenue Service

KBM ..... Knowledge Base Marketing

LI ..... Legislative Initiative
LIHTCP ..... Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program
LP ..... Legislative Policy

MEI ..... Managing Editor, Inc.
MGIB ..... Montgomery GI Bill
MH RRTP ..... Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program
MOST ..... Military Occupational Specialty Transition
MOU ..... Memorandum of Understanding
MRAP ..... Mine Resistant Ambush Protected
MREIDL ..... Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan

NALPA ..... National American Legion Press Association
NASCAR ..... National Association for Stock Car Racing
NASDVA ..... National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs
NASVH ..... National Association of State Veterans Homes
NCLD ..... National Center for Learning Disabilities
NEC ..... National Executive Committee
NEF ..... National Emergency Fund
NHQ ..... National Headquarters
NIH ..... National Institutes of Health
NVLSP ..... National Veterans Legal Services Program
NVTI ..... National Veterans Training Institute

OEF ..... Operation Enduring Freedom
OIF ..... Operation Iraqi Freedom
OJJDP ..... Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

PKS ..... Pallister-Killian Syndrome
PL ..... Public Law
PMC ..... Pension Maintenance Center
PNC ..... Past National Commander
POC ..... Point of Contact
PR ..... Public Relations
PSA ..... Public Service Announcement
PTSD ..... Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
PVA ..... Paralyzed Veterans of America

QACA.....Qualified Automatic Contribution Arrangement

SADD.....Students Against Destructive Decisions
SAL..... Sons of The American Legion
SBA..... Small Business Administration
SBP.....Survivor Benefit Plan
SDVOSB..... Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses
SES..... Senior Executive Service
SHMC.....Sears Holdings Management Corp.
SMOCTA..... Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act
SWAT.....Special Weapons And Tactics

TAP.....Transitional Assistance Program
TAPS.....Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
TBI .....Traumatic Brain Injury
TFA..... Temporary Financial Assistance
TSRR.....Technical Services Rate Retainer

UFI .....Union Fidelity Insurance
UPS..... Uninterruptible Power System
USAREC.....United States Army Recruiting Command
USC.....United States Code
USU.....Uniformed Services University

VAVS..... Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service
VBA..... Veterans Benefits Administration
VETS..... Veterans Employment and Training Services
VFW..... Veterans of Foreign Wars
VISTA..... Volunteers in Service to America
VSO.....Veterans Service Organization

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