PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

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

Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 29 & September 1, 2011

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PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

PRE-CONVENTION MEETING
Monday, August 29, 2011

...At 9:00 a.m., August 29, 2011, the Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Jimmie L. Foster and the following proceedings were had. National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler acted as Secretary.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time we'll call Pre-National Executive Committee Meeting to order. If you will follow me in a hand-salute to our Colors. One. Two.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: We'll now call on Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer from Wisconsin, National Chaplain, for the invocation.

Invocation
Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin
National Chaplain

Family we pray. Heavenly Father, thank you first of all for safely gathering our American Legion Family here in Minneapolis at our 93rd National Convention. Thank you for bringing us together, especially for this meeting. You have certainly empowered us throughout this year to carry out our mission of service, and that is serving America's veterans every day.

Lord, continue to be with us this morning. Bless our words and our works. All that we do is to Your glory and for the benefit of the people you entrust us to serve.

This we pray in Your life saving name, and so it shall be, Amen.

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

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Remain standing, please. I call on Reverend Seehafer again for the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN SEEHAFER: Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th annual National Convention requires the designation of a POW/MIA chair at all official

meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIA's still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving our nation.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Be seated, please. At this time I will call on National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler from Virginia for the roll call.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Chaplain
Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin

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

Past National Commanders

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

National Executive Committee Members

Department	Committee Members	Alternate
Alabama	Floyd W. Turner	
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Deodoro M. 'Joe' Aguilar	
Arkansas	Cleave B. Weiss—Excused	Gene McVay
California	Edward C. Landis	
Colorado	Ralph P. Bozella	
Connecticut	Richard W. Anderson	
Delaware	Lyman R. Brenner	
D.C.	Arturo Rivera—Excused	
Florida	Robert J. Proctor—Excused	Dennis R. Boland
France	Liam Kane	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	Andrew W. Johnson	
Idaho	Wayne D. Mitchell	
Illinois	Eugene Thompson	
Indiana	W. Darrell Hansel	
Iowa	John J. Ross	
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Robert A. Owen	
Maryland	Leroy E. Thornton	
Massachusetts	Milton K. Lashaus	
Mexico	Jerry A. King	
Michigan	Darwin Krieger—Excused	Thomas G. Holzgen
Minnesota	Raymond DeZurik	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Richard A. Heigert	
Montana	Sylvia A. M. Beals	
Nebraska	Douglas Boldt	
Nevada	Ron Gutzman	
New Hampshire	John E. Neylon	
New Jersey	William 'Billy' Mack	
New Mexico	Taurino J. Trevino	
New York	Richard R. Keiser	
North Carolina	Jerry L. Hedrick	
North Dakota	Curtis O. Twete	
Ohio	Henry S. Long	
Oklahoma	Warren D. Wilson	
Oregon	Charles E. Schmidt	
Pennsylvania	Richard A. Coccimiglio	
Philippines	Charles H. Cathey, Jr.—Excused	Herbert J. Scholten
Puerto Rico	Alberto Rodriguez	
Rhode Island	Ronald P. LeVasseur	
South Carolina	Billy W. Bell	
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson	
Tennessee	Rollen D. Bradshaw, Sr.—Excused	Charles R. Dornan
Texas	James E. Prendergast	

Utah	William E. Christoffersen
Vermont	Barbara Bushaw
Virginia	George C. Lussier, Jr.
Washington	Michael L. Montaney
West Virginia	William W. Kile
Wisconsin	David L. Gough
Wyoming	Gerald L. Jacobs

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: We have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Let the record reflect that a quorum is present.

Minutes of the Previous National Executive Committee Meeting

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time we'll have the reading of the minutes of previous meeting.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: We have a motion and a second that the reading of the minutes be waived. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

Opening Remarks
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska, National Commander

You know, we've traveled the country and traveled the world; been in 53 departments; had a great time at each one. Got to see wounded warriors in many places. Visited many VA medical centers; many CBOCs; many cemeteries, and many active duty people.

It was an honor and privilege of making all the travels and representing you, the NEC, and all the blue cap Legionnaires. I tried to instill The American Legion Family everywhere I went. Hoped that National Auxiliary President Carlene was in attendance, and Dave Dew, the SAL National Commander. And on two or three occasions we even had Honorary National Junior President Sabrina Cobb from Ohio. So we tried to instill that, and make it a complete package, have stuff going on for every entity of The American Legion Family, and I think we did that well.

I tried to stress women in the service. Almost one fifth of the armed forces today are female. We had the survey that went out, 3,012 female veterans responded and we were amazed that some of the stuff that they sent back. Some of the stuff that we thought, or pre-thought that there would be in there, wasn't. Did they want a separate entrance into a facility? The answer was overwhelmingly, "No." They wanted to sit beside the male veterans that were there just as they did when they were on active duty. But they did say that they wanted the VA to bring in more female primary care providers so they could, in private, talk about their problems with a female doctor.

Amazing, VA&R did a great job. We had a great platform in Washington, D.C. at the Washington Conference. Minorities, almost one third of the armed forces make up a minority status of some kind. We need to look around and we need to become diversified. You know, if you have one fifth, if you're sitting at your department convention, look around and see how many are there. Take a vote. Look at it. If they're not there, find out why. See what's happening within your local areas.

You know, I've tried to stress the Legion Riders. I had the honor and privilege of riding with them the full length of the Legacy Ride. They do a superb job. We went to

one post, and the guy had four bartenders on duty. I got there on the advanced party and I said, "Sir, why do you have all these bartenders?" He goes, "I heard they're power drinkers." I said, "Sir, if anybody on that ride has a drink, they are gone. They are gone." He goes, "Well, nobody told me that." I said, "Would you like to have a bunch of Legion Riders power drinking in here and getting on the road trying to make it to the next post or the next fuel stop?" He said, "Sorry, Commander, I never thought about it." I said, "Why don't you put those three people out on the floor, make sure they have tea, water and soda."

But that's what it's all about. We had Legion people there. We had Auxiliary. We had Sons, and we had Juniors, and it was a great feeling to see people up on an overpass with banners, flags, horn honking and going on and waiving just to show that there still is patriotism within our country. And I'm hoping, with some of this stuff like PNC Bacon did, that I can beat Clarence Hill's record. Somebody told me, "Mr. Commander, that's selfish." I said, "No, it's not. If I get a dollar more than Clarence did, that's progression." We need to progress not regress. And the people across this great land have dipped down into their wallets, taking money from something that they could probably use at their own house. And they're up to $355,000 at this moment. And I know that some big checks are coming, because a couple of departments are notorious for coming in with a big surprise up on the platform.

So, I appreciate everything they've done. And I've taken up for them because across the country I've had veterans come to me and say, "Commander, those guys and gals are no other than a bunch of renegade bikers that have no use in our association." I said, "You know what, sir or ma'am, those guys and girls fought so they would have the right to ride their bikes, and get another venue of veterans that we wouldn't have if we didn't have the Legion Riders."

Family environment, I want you to instill that. I challenged the Auxiliary to mentor and groom the young girls that are under eighteen, so that they know what it's about when they do their Fly-Up Ceremony to become Senior members of the American Legion Auxiliary. That's what it's all about. Those kids are our future.

Active duty people, my God, you just can't believe the stuff that they do; the stresses that they go through. We went to Landstuhl at 2nd Army General Hospital. That night while we were there, they had two medivac planes come in from both Iraq and Afghanistan, 31 wounded warriors that they got to where we could go in and talk to them. Carlene and I shook hands with each one. Thirty out of 31, the first thing they said to us was, "Commander, all we want to do is get well, and get back in the war with our unit." That tells you what kind of dedication and determination that you have in the military. One Marine didn't want to do that. Very bitter. I told him, "That's fine, sergeant. You get well. Make sure they take care of you."

One thing here, we gave a check from your donations, $28,000 to the lending closet. While there with the doctors and chaplains and some of the GIs coming in and doing their shopping, they stood there, one guy stood in front of this bin. There was two bins. One bin was left shoes. One bin was right shoes. And he said, "You guys got to stand here and watch this guy. He's going to look at the left bin because he lost his left leg. He has to choose the shoe out of this bin to go on to his prosthetic."

So, I tell you folks, when you get up in the morning and look in your closet, whether you're going to wear brown shoes, black, pink, red, white, who cares. Just think about what he's doing. That's his shoe for the rest of his life.

I want to tell you thanks to everyone. I want to thank you for the hospitality and courtesies you extended to me and my wife. It's been an honor and privilege to be your national commander. Keep up the faith. I love all of you. Thank you. *(Standing applause)*

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, before I give my report, can I have a few minutes of personal privilege?

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: First of all, I would like to report on Past National Commander Ray Smith, our friend. He's very ill as you know. He has pancreatic cancer. He's lost about 72 pounds. He still is able to get out and walk around his house and move around a little bit, but he's a very sick man. And Ray has a feeding tube in and IVs. For your prayers and your thoughts, and I know he's received many cards. He wanted me to say thank you to all of folks that have sent him a card, and he appreciates your prayers.

Another gentleman that's not here on this subcommittee is Bob Proctor from Florida. Bob has been a sick man for a couple of years as most of you know. Continue to keep him and Ruthie in your prayers, and hopefully when we go to the October meetings we'll be able to see Bob again at the October meetings. And no one can tell you know how much it means better than I can, from where I was at three years ago. So, it means a lot for prayer, cards and thoughts. So, just keep those folks in your mind as you go about.

One other thing that the national commander did not say, but we were very privileged to have the national commander and his wife in Shelby, North Carolina for the whole seven days during the World Series, and that meant very much to the community of Shelby to have the national commander spend a whole week in Shelby.

We had a wonderful World Series, an inaugural event. I hope that we made the right choice. We broke the all time attendance record since 1938, of 86,000 people attending the World Series so I think we're on the right track. We look for bigger and better things next year. And if you have an opportunity next August, come to Shelby, and be a part of the World Series, and I think you'll be glad you did. And thank you again, commander, for being there the whole week.

Commander, we do have one resolution of an emergency nature that will come before you this morning. It will be reported out after the Finance Commission chairman makes his report, and we'll bring that resolution to you at that time.

Mr. Commander, if you would prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Everyone, please uncover.

Memorial Resolutions
Alfred Pirolli, Pennsylvania

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Alfred Pirolli, Department Vice Commander 1975 to 1976; Department Commander 1988 to 1989; National Executive Committee Alternate Member 1992 to 2002; National Executive Committee Member 2002 to 2008; National Convention Commission Member 2009 to 2011; and

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

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this 29th Day of August in the year of our Lord 2011, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Alfred Pirolli, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it further

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

Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of: Byron W. White, (Alabama); Walter Bolling, (Alaska); Carol A. Hamburger, (Arizona); Joseph F. Mardu, (Connecticut); Lewis E. Waller, Sr., (Connecticut); Theodore A. Webb, (District of Columbia); Horace Borders, (Georgia); K. W. Ohl, (Indiana); Peter E. Pappas, (Massachusetts); Arthur R. Kennedy, (Mexico); Vincent S. Bevilacqua, (New Jersey); John A. Murray, (New Jersey); John L. Yeager, (Oklahoma); Monserrate Oquendo, (Puerto Rico); Maurice C. Cleveland, (Tennessee); Bob G. Walls, (Texas); William M. Warren, (Virginia); Gordon K. Richmond, Sr., (Washington); James H. Ashcraft, (West Virginia); Joseph W. Grahame, (West Virginia); Clarence Walton, (West Virginia).

The Life That I Have

The life that I have is all that I have,
And the life that I have is yours,
The love that I have of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and yours.

A sleep I shall have
A rest I shall have,
Yet death will be but a pause.
For the peace of my years in the long green grass
Will be yours and yours and yours.

— Leo Marks

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time we'll call on the reports of the commissions. Note: Only emergency matters that must be considered by the convention will be considered at this meeting. Complete written reports will be submitted to the national adjutant for publication in digest form. First, we'll call on Convention Commission Chairman Michael E. Walton from Illinois.

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

Good morning. Commander, members of the NEC, and distinguished guests. The National Convention Commission met on Saturday morning at eight o'clock at the Hilton. We had four members excused as they were handling the contests.

We reviewed all the assignments of our commission members with them as they all have to give a detailed report on their functions during the convention at our fall meetings. They were all reminded of their many assignments.

We had three bands compete in the Band Contest, with The American Legion Band of the Tonawandas from the Department of New York being crowned as National Champions.

Eleven color guards competed in four categories, with the American Legion Post 472 Color Guard from Houston, Texas being crowned as National Champions.

We currently have six cities that have expressed interest in bidding on the 2017 National Convention. Those cities are: Detroit, Michigan; Louisville, Kentucky; Nashville, Tennessee; Reno, Nevada; Salt Lake City, Utah, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Each of those cities has been instructed that they must have their Request for Proposal to the Convention and Meetings Office on or before September 30th of this year, or they will not be considered.

There were no items that were discussed that would require action by the NEC, but we do know, and will give you the dates for our future National Conventions that you

have approved. We have Indianapolis, Indiana, August 24 through 30, 2012. Houston, Texas, August 23 through the 29 of 2013. Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22 through the 28 of 2014. Baltimore, Maryland, August 28 through September 3 of 2015. And Cincinnati, Ohio, August 26 through September 1 of 2016.

We believe we had an excellent parade last evening. I also would like for you to go back and compliment all of your department adjutants on the good job they did this year on picking up their registration packets. It really ran smooth. And I thought Director Dick might have a heart attack because it went so smooth. We remind you that tomorrow morning the shuttles will begin at 6:00 a.m. due to the President's visit.

The staff of The American Legion has been doing an outstanding job as they always do, and I would like to compliment them. I hope you all enjoy your convention.
And commander, thank you for allowing me to serve. That concludes my report.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael E. Walton (IL) at 8:00 A.M.,

August 27, 2011. There were four members of the commission excused from the meeting so that they could assist the contest committee in conducting the National Color Guard Contests.

Chairman Walton reviewed the assignments for each of the commission members during this convention and reminded each member that a detailed convention report should be provided to the commission at the 2011 Fall Meetings. Three bands competed in the band contest with the American Legion Band of the Tonawandas from the Department of New York being crowned as National Champions. Eleven color guards competed in four categories with the American Legion Post #472 Color Guard from Houston, Texas being crowned as National Champions.

We currently have six cities that have expressed an interest in bidding on the 2017 National Convention. The cities are Detroit, MI, Louisville, KY, Nashville, TN, Reno, NV, Salt Lake City, UT and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Each city must submit their Request for Proposal to the Convention & Meetings Office on or before September 30, 2011.

There were no items discussed that would require action by the National Executive Committee.

Dates for future Conventions, approved by the National Executive Committee are:

Indianapolis, IN	August 24 – 30, 2012
Houston, TX	August 23 – 29, 2013
Charlotte, NC	August 22 – 28, 2014
Baltimore, MD	August 28 – September 3, 2015
Cincinnati, OH	August 26 – September 1, 2016

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: I have a motion to receive and file the Convention Commission report. Any discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Yes. PNC Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: To the chairman, on a positive note, a suggestion. There are some departments as they are marching in the parade would like to have some band participation as they march if they have a large unit. Is it possible that in future conventions you may gather some bands that are in the local area that would like

to be hired to march in the convention parade and send out that list to the various department adjutants?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WALTON: That should not be a problem at all. We have a lot of high schools that are interested a lot of times in doing that, and we can prepare that information with no problem. Thank you, commander, for that suggestion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Any other discussion? I have something to bring up for informational purposes. You heard Mike read the prospective cities bidding for 2017. For 2018 Minneapolis, Minnesota was proposed, and 2019, Indianapolis, Indiana was proposed. Those two cities, their Department Executive Committees have accepted and submitted bids for ratification, so in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion, and the Centennial Task Force. So you have eighteen at Minneapolis, nineteen at Indianapolis. So the only one for next seven years for bid proposal is 2017.

Any other discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Motion carried. Thank you, Michael. At this time I recognize Finance Commission Chairman Ken Danilson from Iowa.

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

Mr. Commander, members of the NEC and guests. This is the report of the Finance Commission by Kenneth Danilson of Iowa, chairman. You have my written report and I will touch upon the key points. The Finance Commission convened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday with all members present.

A budget deficit of $400,000 is projected at this time for this year, but typically we will fine-tune that, and it's hopeful that we will at least break even by the end of the year. We will know further at the October meeting.

The first draft of the 2012 budget projects a surplus of $255,364. Total authorized positions for The American Legion as of August 1, 2011, were 283, which is no increase.

The Finance Commission allocated $270,000 to purchase a new generator for the Washington Office. This will replace two obsolete generators, protect our asset and comply with Washington, DC law.

Approval of a resolution titled "Renaming the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy to the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy" is recommended. Funds expended to purchase the trophy shall not exceed $1,000 annually. Mr. Commander, this concludes my report.

Report: Finance Commission
August 27, 2011
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman

The Finance Commission convened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 27, 2011, in the Duluth Room, Hilton Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Present were Kenneth D. Danilson (IA), Carl E. Levi (TN), John D. Monahan (CT), Myron D. Kirby (IL), Kevin J. Bartlett (MI), Denis J. McEneaney (NY) and Gaither M. Keener, Jr. (NC). George C. Lussier, Jr. (VA), Richard Heigert (MO) and Curt Twete (ND), NEC Liaison Committee, were also present, as were guests from several Departments.

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

A budget deficit of $400,000 is projected for 2011. The first draft of the 2012 budget projects a surplus of $255,364.

Total authorized positions for The American Legion as of August 1, 2011, were 283.

The National Judge Advocate briefed the commission on the IRS and Post tax exempt status. Any Post that has its tax exempt status wrongly revoked is asked to contact the National Judge Advocate.

The Finance Commission approved emergency and budget overrun purchases in the amount of $26,477.

The Finance Commission allocated $270,000 to purchase a new generator for the Washington Office. This will replace two obsolete generators, protect our asset and comply with Washington DC law.

Approval of a resolution titled "Re-naming the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy to the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy" is recommended. Funds expended to purchase the trophy shall not exceed $1,000 annually.

Report: Emblem Committee
August 28, 2011
Alvan T. Fuller, Massachusetts, Chairman

THRU: National Finance Commission

The National Emblem Committee met August 27-28, 2011 in a regularly called session at the Hilton Minneapolis, Rochester Room, Third Floor, with the following members present:

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

Financial Statement

Revenues for the first six months of 2011 amounted to $6,321,909.85 – an increase of $288,363.55 as compared with the first six months of 2010. Net profit after distribution established by the National Finance Commission was $1,108,144.18, an increase of $153,033.65 for the same period of 2010.

Marketing Report

The 2012 marketing plan was reviewed and includes merchandise renewal, catalog creative & circulation, e-marketing initiatives and emblem licensing initiatives.

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned Sunday, August 28, 2011.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move the report be approved with the exception of one resolution. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You heard the motion and second that the Finance Report be approved. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

Resolution No. 1: Re-naming the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy to the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy has been a prestigious award of The American Legion that was first awarded in 1938 to annually honor that department which in the judgment of the National Americanism Commission has conducted the best all-around Americanism activities; and

WHEREAS, Hearst Newspapers unexpectedly decided to no longer sponsor the annual Americanism trophy beginning in 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Daniel J. O'Connor faithfully and loyally served The American Legion as Chairman of the National Americanism Commission from 1962 to 1983 and as Chairman Emeritus from 1984 until his passing in 2004; and

WHEREAS, During his distinguished service he developed many new and innovative programs that advanced patriotism among the citizens of our nation and promoted wide-spread participation in youth activities; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is desirous of focusing attention on his valuable contributions and giving recognition to his special abilities; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the National Americanism Commission and with concurrence from the Internal Affairs Commission and 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 Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 29, 2011, That the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy be re-named as the "Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy" in honor of Daniel J. O'Connor; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy continue to be awarded annually to that department which in the judgment of the National Americanism Commission has conducted the best all-around Americanism activities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That conditions for selecting the annual winner of the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy will continue as formerly set forth for the William Randolph Hearst Trophy:

1. The National Americanism Commission shall determine the three departments achieving the greatest number of credit points based upon a review of all Consolidated Post Reports submitted to National Headquarters; A certification by the department as to the number of active posts is required;

2. The winner shall be selected from the aforementioned three departments based on the best narrative statement supporting the claim of points determined from the Consolidated Post Report; Such narrative statement is to be no less than 200 words and not more than 500 words; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That funds expended for purchase of the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy be set at an amount not to exceed $1,000 annually.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Resolution number one has the approval of the Americanism Commission, the Internal Affairs

Commission, the Finance Commission, and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You've heard the motion and the second to approve resolution number one. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

Thank you Ken. At this time we'll call on Americanism Commission Chairman Joseph Caouette from New Hampshire.

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

Commander, members of the National Executive Committee and guests. I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to introduce two of our American Legion Boys Nation Junior Counselors, and fellow SAL members that are present, Andrew Beckendorf of Iowa, and Joseph Ellenberg of Georgia. *(Applause)*

They have been with us over the past four days to learn more about The American Legion so we can count on them to go back home and tell their peers about all the good work The American Legion does to become further involved with our programs.

You've been provided copies of the report of the National Americanism Commission, therefore, there is no need for me to read it.

On behalf of the commission, I extend my appreciation and thanks to the Internal Affairs and Finance Commissions for their approval of Resolution No. 1, "Renaming the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy to the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy." This is a great remembrance of an individual that was so instrumental to the programs of The American Legion.

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

Report: Americanism Commission
August 29, 2011
Joseph E. Caouette, New Hampshire, Chairman

The National Americanism and Children & Youth Commissions met jointly on Saturday, August 27, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in the Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis Grand Ballrooms A & B, Third Floor, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Each Commission exchanged updates regarding their respective activities. Approximately 100 members of the Americanism Commission, the Americanism Council, the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee and the National Committee on Education were in attendance.

The two Commissions welcomed the 2011 Youth Champion Delegation and heard remarks from each of the young champions. In attendance were: Michael Herbert of Colorado, 2011 American Legion Boys Nation President; Mitchell Van Patten of Idaho, 2011 Junior Air Rifle Sporter Champion; Daniel Lowe of Washington, 2011 Junior Air Rifle Precision Champion; Robert Rasmussen of Minnesota, 2011 Eagle Scout of the Year; and Brandon Drozd of Nebraska, 2010 American Legion Baseball Player of the Year.

The Joint Session also received remarks from country-western recording artist Michael Peterson, recipient of the 2011 American Legion National Education Award. Peterson discussed his work as spokesperson for The American Legion Legacy Fund and the "Tag, You're It" program, a social-emotional learning program for students to help young adults think about their direction in life. Mr. Peterson also showed his new music DVD of the song "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" which will further benefit the fund-

raising efforts of The American Legion Legacy Fund. A new Public Service Announcement (PSA) for the Legacy Fund featuring Michael Peterson was also viewed.

The National Americanism Commission considered Resolution No. 1 "Re-naming the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy to the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy." The commission unanimously recommended approval of the resolution.

Following the adjournment of the Joint Session, the National Americanism Commission reconvened in the Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis Grand Ballrooms A & B, Third Floor, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

National Americanism Commission members viewed the Citizens Flag Alliance video "A Flag Protection Call to Action" and received updates on American Legion Boys Nation, American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, the National Oratorical Contest and the Boy Scouts of America, as well as the Legacy Run and the Patriotic Religious Service.

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion on the floor to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thank you Joe. At this time we call on Children and Youth Commission Chairman Dennis R. Boland from Florida.

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

Mr. Commander, National Executive Committeemen and guests. There are no matters of an emergency nature to present to the National Executive Committee.

The Commission on Children and Youth met Saturday morning, and a full written report has been distributed to the NEC.

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

Commander, this concludes my report, but at the same time I would like to have a point of personal privilege if I may, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You may.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Hopefully most of you know a very good friend of mine, that I call my brother, has been very ill for two years, Bob Proctor. I just talked to Bob before I came here this morning, and asked him if he would like me to say something. It's fair to say that right now he is at the doctor and trying to clear up colitis. But Bob has gone through two years of misery, and he sends his thanks for all the emails and cards, and he tells me, he says, "I never knew how true a family The American Legion was until I got sick."

He is very appreciative of your concern for his health. Right now, Bob used to walk two miles a day. He is up to half mile a day. It takes him a little time to do it, but he steadfastly does it every day.

He's looking so much forward to being at the October meeting. I hope he builds his strength up so I can have my brother sit at my side again to do the voting that has been bestowed upon him by the Department of Florida.

Bob has a positive attitude. He's upbeat, and he just misses the family that you have given him. He's been a Legionnaire ever since he came out of Vietnam back in '68. He's

been part of this family for a long time. And myself, I appreciate what you are doing to give him an upbeat attitude so he'll be back amongst us and doing the voting.

I thank you very much, commander, for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Mr. Proctor.

Report: Commission on Children and Youth
August 29, 2011
Dennis R. Boland, Florida, Chairman

The members of the National Commission on Children and Youth met on Saturday, August 27, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in the Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis Grand Ballrooms A & B, Third Floor in Joint Session with the National Americanism Commission.

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

Michael Peterson, national spokesman for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, provided a brief overview of his high school program "TAG YOU'RE IT!" Michael also previewed his new video "He Ain't Heavy, He's my Brother."

The Joint Session adjourned at 10:45 a.m. and the National Commission on Children & Youth reconvened at 11:15 a.m. in the Hilton Minneapolis, Marquette Ballroom VII, Second Floor.

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

The National Children's Cancer Society

Pam Gabris, RN, Beyond the Cure Coordinator, made a presentation to the Commission describing the mission and work of The National Children's Cancer Society (NCCS). The NCCS is dedicated to improving the quality of life for families facing childhood cancer. They offer children and their families the strength, assistance, and financial support they need to cope with their disease. NCCS helps ease the family's financial burden throughout their cancer treatment. NCCS also offers ongoing emotional support and advocacy, the latest educational resources, and the much-needed feeling of hope.

For childhood cancer patients and their parents, the experience of completing treatment is a time of celebration and hope as well as anxiety and fear. NCCS believes knowledge is a powerful tool to combat that anxiety. That's why the NCCS recently produced a survivorship video to educate and inspire childhood cancer survivors to embrace their future, recognize their conquests and successfully handle the challenges ahead of them. As part of its survivorship program, Beyond the Cure, NCCS teaches every survivor about the late effects that can come as a result of their cancer and its treatment. A grant from The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. provided funding to produce this very important video.

Young Marines

Michael B. Kessler, LtCol, USMC (Ret), Executive Director, made a presentation to the Commission outlining the Marine Corps League's Young Marine Program. The Young Marines is a youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building, leadership, and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines is the focal point for the U.S. Marine Corps' Youth Drug Demand Reduction efforts.

The mission of the Young Marines is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

During November each year, Young Marines units across the country celebrate Young Marines Veterans Appreciation Week (YMVAW). The purpose of the campaign is to challenge Young Marines to dedicate some of their time to help our nation's veterans and to demonstrate, through their actions, their sincere appreciation for our veterans' service to our country. Unit projects include sending thank you cards to hospitalized veterans, cleaning up a disabled veteran's yard, visiting veterans in the hospital, or simply setting up a community function to socialize with local veterans.

The Young Marines program was a recipient of a 2011 Child Welfare Foundation Grant to promote its anti-drug and substance abuse programs.

National Children & Youth Conference

The annual National Children & Youth Conference will be held on September 16-18, 2011 at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. This conference educates Legion representatives from our departments on current children's issues and the programs of the National Commission on Children & Youth. Conference participants learn practical strategies for conducting children & youth programs and conferences within their departments. As our children and youth programs work best due to a concerted effort from all members of the Legion family, please encourage the children & youth representatives from your Auxiliary and SAL to consider joining us in September for a number of informative sessions.

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion to receive and file the report of the Children and Youth Commission. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thanks, Dennis. At this time I call on Legislative Commission Chairman Daniel M. Dellinger from Virginia.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Daniel Dellinger, Virginia, Chairman

Commander Foster, members of the National Executive Committee and guests. There are currently no matters of an emergency nature to present to the National Executive Committee. You have been provided copies of this complete report so I will not read it to you.

As required by resolution, the Annual Report of the National Legislative Council is attached to our report. On behalf of all the members of the National Legislative Commission, I would like to extend to all the members of this body, my appreciation for your support and encouragement during this past year.

A special thanks to National Commander Jimmie Foster for his active support and his positive approach to our efforts. Mr. Commander, this completes my report.

Report: Legislative Commission
August 27, 2011
Daniel Dellinger, Virginia, Chairman

The National Legislative Commission met on Saturday, August 27, 2011 in the Marquette VI Conference Room of the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Fourteen (14) members of the Commission, three (3) members of the NEC Liaison and twelve (12) visitors were present. Also in attendance was Leading Candidate for National Commander Fang Wong.

National Legislative Commission Chairman Dellinger (VA) offered opening remarks before introducing the National Legislative Council Chairman, Michael E. Harris (VA) for a report. Chairman Harris discussed the grassroots lobbying activities and gave a brief summary of the Annual Consolidated Activities Report. Two guest speakers presented information to the Commission. Our first guest speaker was Josh Syrjamaki, Chief of Staff for Congressman Tim Walz (MN-1). Mr. Syrjamaki briefly highlighted the legislative issues related to veterans Congressman Walz was targeting, discussed the newly formed Congressional "Supercommittee" and its potential impact on budgets for the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and spent quite some time fielding questions and soliciting feedback from the "veterans' community" of the assembled membership. Our second guest speaker was John B. Wells, an attorney from Slidell, LA, who discussed legislation related to Agent Orange and the "Bluewater Navy." The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussing and reviewing resolutions of key concern to the legislative agenda.

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

AMERICANISM

On January 7, 2011 Representative Emerson (MO) introduced House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 13, a flag protection constitutional amendment for the 112th Congress. It has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. The measure now has 54 cosponsors.

On June 14, Sen. Orrin Hatch (UT) introduced Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 19. That measure now has 24 cosponsors. The American Legion will continue to seek passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag because it is the right thing to do. Let "We the People" decide.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

On July 13 the House Appropriations Committee approved a draft measure to fund important Department of Justice (DOJ) programs which have been supported by The American Legion for many years. DOJ funding for FY 2012 totals $26 billion, $2.4 billion less than the President's budget request. Proposed funding for DOJ programs supported by our organization include:

- $8.1 billion for the FBI, an increase of $149 million over FY 2011 funding;
- $2.3 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), $30 million over last year's level;
- $1.7 billion for various state and local law enforcement and crime prevention grant programs, including those aimed at combating juvenile delinquency and youth crime prevention. These programs include many formerly assigned to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The OJJDP program has been enthusiastically supported The American Legion since its creation in 1974;

- $1.1 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), a level similar to last year's amount; and,
- $1.1 billion for the U.S. Marshals Service, the same funding amount as last year.

These figures are, by no means, final. The FY 2012 budget/appropriations process continues.

ECONOMICS

The Obama Administration's budget plan for FY 2012 also contains funding for the Department of Labor (DOL). The measure funds veterans' programs under the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET). Funding for ASVET programs has become even more critical in recent years. In addition to the large numbers of service members leaving the armed forces, the current economic situation has contributed to unacceptably high levels of unemployment for veterans of the Gulf War period.

The chart below outlines funding for ASVET accounts appropriated for FY 2011 and proposed funding levels for FY 2012. Again, it should be stressed that these are only preliminary figures, not the final funding for next fiscal year. At press time, the House Appropriations Committee had not approved a draft spending bill for DOL-ASVET programs for the upcoming fiscal year.

VETS Programs	P.L. 112-8 FY 2011	President's Budget, FY 2012
State Administration Grants	$165.4 million	$165.7 million
Transition Assistance Program	$7 million	$8.7 million
Federal Administration	$35.3 million	$35.3 million
National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI)	$2.4 million	$2.4 million
Homeless Veterans Programs	$36.3 million	$39.3 million
Veterans' Workforce Investment Programs	$9.6 million	$9.6 million
Totals	$256 million	$261 million

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Appropriations for the Department of State and Foreign Operations programs for FY 2011 were contained in a succession of seven continuing resolutions (CRs) passed by Congress between September of last year and April of this year. These measures provided $51.4 billion in total funding.

The House Appropriations Committee is still developing a spending measure to address this area of the federal budget for FY 2012.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

On June 24, Rep. Jason Altmire (PA) introduced H.R. 2369, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to provide for an additional power for The American Legion under its Federal charter. This measure would amend the charter of The American Legion to clarify statutorily the autonomous, independent nature of our posts and departments. It would also facilitate credit card processing of online membership renewals. The bill is awaiting action in the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives. It currently has 196 cosponsors. Further action on H.R. 2369 is expected later this fall.

NATIONAL SECURITY

On June 2, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2017, a spending measure to fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for FY 2012. The vote for passage was 231-188. This is the first of 12 appropriations bills to be presented to either the House or Senate this year.

This measure would provide $40.6 billion for the operations of DHS programs, a $1.1 billion reduction from current year spending and $3 billion less than the President's spending request. Some of the specific program totals in the bill which are of interest to The American Legion include:

- $11.8 billion for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, an increase of $431 million over last year's amount;
- $10 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard, $196 million below last year's spending total;
- $7.8 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, $125 million more than last year's funding total;
- $5.8 billion for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an increase of $35 million over last year's funding;
- $1.7 billion for the U.S. Secret Service, an increase of $155 million over last year's level;
- $1 billion for the state and local "first responders" grant program; and,
- $961 million for the Federal Air Marshals, an increase of $40 million over the previous year's funding amount.

The measure now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

On June 16, the Senate Armed Services Committee unanimously approved S. 1253, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2012. This bill authorizes funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) and the national security programs of the Department of Energy (DOE). The measure now goes before the full Senate for consideration.

The President's request for national defense discretionary programs for FY 2012 was $688.9 billion and was in three parts: $553 billion for the base budget of DOD; $117.8 billion for overseas contingency operations (OCO), which funds the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and $18.1 billion for national security programs in the DOE.

The Senate bill authorizes $682.5 billion for national defense. The bill authorizes $5.9 billion less than was requested for the base budget of DOD and $537 million less for OCO. The bill authorizes the requested level of funding for DOE.

Major highlights of interest to the Legion include:

- $142.4 billion for military personnel, including pay, allowances, bonuses, death benefits, and permanent change of station moves;
- A 1.6 percent pay raise for members of the uniformed services;
- No prohibition against pharmacy copayment changes;
- No prohibition for TRICARE Prime enrollment fee increases in FY 2012 and limits annual increases of the fee to the amount equal to the percentage increase in retired pay beginning on October 1, 2012;
- Amends the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) section relating to the offenses of rape, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct, to create three separate articles of the UCMJ to correct deficiencies in existing law, and also repeals the UCMJ article relating to the offense of sodomy;
- $25 million to local educational agencies with military children and $5 million for schools with military children with severe disabilities;

- Requires hostile fire and imminent danger pay be prorated according to the number of days spent in a qualifying area rather than be paid on a monthly basis;
- $12.8 billion for training and equipping Afghan security forces;
- $322 million to upgrade M1A2 tanks and preserve minimum industrial capability through FY 2012;
- Cuts of more than $1 billion from the President's budget for military construction and family housing projects; and,
- Cuts of $1.1 billion from operation and maintenance accounts for the acquisition of contract services;

Other provisions of note are:

- FY 2012 active-duty end strengths for the Army of 562,000; the Navy, 325,700; the Marine Corps, 202,100; and the Air Force, 332,800;
- Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to authorize the issuance of a Cold War Service Medal;
- Reauthorizes over 30 types of bonuses and special pays aimed at encouraging enlistment, reenlistment, and continued service by active-duty and reserve component military personnel; and,
- Excludes TRICARE institutional, professional, and pharmacy network providers from being considered subcontractors for the purposes of Federal Acquisition Regulation or any other law, in order to maintain adequate TRICARE provider networks.

Once this measure is passed by the full Senate, It will then be necessary for a conference committee to reconcile difference between this bill and the House-passed version, H.R. 1540, which was approved by the House in late May.

On July 8 the House by a vote of 336-87 passed H.R. 2219 the Department of Defense (DOD) spending measure for FY 2012. Discretionary programs would be funded at $519.8 billion, an increase of $17.4 billion over the FY 2011 enacted amounts. An additional $118.5 billion would be assigned to the Overseas Contingency Operations account – the military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Some of the major funding proposals include:

- $132.1 billion for Military Personnel, which includes pay and allowance, training, bonuses and incentive pays, and health and retirement benefits;
- $170 billion for Operations and Maintenance, which provides for operating and maintaining the armed forces;
- $107.6 billion for Procurement accounts, allowing DOD to provide the troops with the best weapons possible; and,
- $73 billion for Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDTE), which aims to keep U.S. armed forces as up-to-date and modernized as is practicable.

Specific programs which interest The American Legion include:

- $32.3 billion for Defense Health Programs;
- $8.1 billion for procurement of 26 F-35 Lightnings (the Joint Strike Fighter) for the Navy and Air Force. This total includes $2.7 billion for further RDTE for the F-35 program;
- $6 billion for procurement of 2 more *Virginia*-class attack submarines, as well as further RDTE;
- $2.6 billion for 35 MV-22s and CV-22 Ospreys for the Air Force and Marines;
- $2.6 billion for 71 Blackhawk and 47 Chinook helicopters;
- $2.4 billion for 28 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft for the Navy;

- $2.1 billion for one additional *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer;
- $1.5 billion for the chemical agents and munitions destruction account;
- $1.2 billion for the drug interdiction and counter-drug activities account;
- $633 million for procurement of 100 more Stryker vehicles;
- $508 million for the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, the purpose of which is to secure and dismantle weapons of mass destruction and their associated infrastructure in states of the former Soviet Union.
- $453 million for 54 M1A2 SEP Abrams tanks; and,
- $40 million for impact aid for local school districts which contain large numbers of DOD dependent students.

The President's FY 2012 budget request also contains a proposal to raise fees for TRICARE, the medical program used by former service members, their dependents, and some members of the Reserve component. Former DOD Secretary Robert Gates has said that the burgeoning costs of TRICARE will soon become unsustainable. The President's budget proposal seeks to raise annual enrollment fees in FY 2012; then, beginning in 2013, TRICARE fees would increase at a rate equal to the rate of medical inflation, currently estimated at about 6 percent per year.

Selective Service System funding is included in draft legislation to fund various federal programs under the term "Financial Services." The Selective Service would receive $23.6 million for salaries and expenses. The American Legion continues to support funding for the Selective Service System in case of national emergency.

Both House and Senate have passed H.R. 2055, the FY 2012 spending measure for Military Construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The House version funds military construction programs at $14 billion, while the Senate's bill funds the same programs at $13.7 billion. Within the total, H.R. 2055 fully funds the President's request for Military Family Housing Construction at $376 million, which provides for a total of 48 new family housing construction projects, 80 replacement projects, and improvements to 216 family housing units. In addition, the legislation contains $1.1 billion for construction and alterations for new or existing military medical facilities. Included in that amount is funding for the first phase of construction on the replacement hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. In addition, $483 million was included for 15 Department of Defense (DOD) Education facilities located in the U.S. and overseas. The Senate bill funds family housing construction and privatization projects at $1.69 billion. A conference committee will meet to resolve differences in the two versions of the bill, mostly likely after the August recess.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

FY 2011 funding for VA, military construction programs and related agencies was included in P.L. 112-10, the omnibus appropriations bill signed by the President on April 15. With the enactment of this measure, funding for the remainder of this fiscal year was completed.

The chart below presents the major discretionary funding categories of VA's budget, showing the final FY 2011 funding totals for P.L. 112-10, the President's proposed budget for FY 2012, and The American Legion's FY 2012 budget proposal as presented in testimony before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees by National Commander Foster in September, 2010.

VA Discretionary Programs	P. L. 112-10 FY 2011 Final VA Funding	President's Proposed FY 2012 VA Budget	American Legion's FY 2012 Request
Medical Services	$37.1 billion	$39.6 billion	$38.1 billion
Medical Support and Compliance	$5.3 billion	$5.5 billion	$5.3 billion
Medical Facilities	$5.7 billion	$5.4 billion	$6.2 billion
Medical and Prosthetic Research	$581 million	$509 million	$600 million
Total Medical Care	*$48.6 billion*	*$51.0 million*	*$50.2 billion*
Information Technology	$3.0 billion	$3.2 billion	$3.5 billion
General Operating Expenses	$2.5 billion	$2.5 billion	$2.6 billion
Natl. Cemetery Administration	$250 million	$251 million	$260 million
Major Construction	$1.1 billion	$590 million	$1.2 billion
Minor Construction	$468 million	$550 million	$800 million
State Homes Construction Grants	$85 million	$85 million	$100 million
State Cemeteries Construction Grants	$46 million	$46 million	$60 million

Funding in P.L. 112-10 for related agencies monitored by The American Legion include:

- $64 million for the American Battle Monuments Commission;
- $27.6 million for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims;
- $45 million for operations and maintenance at Arlington National Cemetery; and,
- $71 million for operations, maintenance and construction at the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

The President on August 3 signed P.L. 112-26, the "Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011." The Senate on July 21 passed an amended version of the House-approved bill by unanimous consent. The amended bill was then passed by the House by a 424-0 vote on July 26.

A 2010 law (P.L. 111-377) made a series of corrections to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. While that measure enhanced benefits for many veterans, it included a provision that capped benefits for students attending private institutions at $17,500 in the next academic year, amounting to a potentially drastic cut in benefits for some veterans.

This measure – introduced by House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (FL) – would modify the Post-9/11 GI Bill to temporarily preserve higher reimbursement rates for tuition and fees for veterans who were enrolled in education programs at private higher education institutions on or before April 1, 2011. It would set the payable amount of benefits for such students at $17,500 or at the established charges payable level determined using the maximums published in October 2010 – whichever is greater – through July 31, 2014.

On May 23, the House approved H.R. 1627, passed by a vote of 380-0, which would establish a new process for the placement of monuments at Arlington National Cemetery. It would also enforce the reservation process at Arlington. Finally, the bill contains a "sense of Congress" provision supporting the placement in Arlington of a monument to Jewish chaplains who have died while on active duty. A Senate bill addressing just the Jewish chaplains monument, Senate Concurrent Resolution 4, was passed by that body by unanimous consent on May 27.

H.R. 1657, which passed the House on May 23 by a near-unanimous 385-1 tally, would impose penalties for small businesses claiming veteran-owned status. It would direct that any business determined by the VA Secretary to have misrepresented its status as a small business owned and controlled by veterans or service-disabled veterans in

order to increase its contracting opportunities shall be debarred from contracting with the VA for not less than five years.

Also on May 23, H.R. 1407, approved by a voice vote, is the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans and survivors. If passed by the Senate and signed by the President, H.R. 1407 would institute a COLA for veterans who receive disability compensation and for survivors who receive dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) payments. This COLA would be effective for FY 2012, beginning December 1, 2011. The COLA would be tied to the same COLA given to Social Security benefits recipients. Because of the economic downturn, these recipients have received no COLA for the past two years. A report issued earlier this month by the Medicare and Social Security Trustees projected that Social Security recipients would receive a 0.7 percent cost-of-living increase in 2012.

On Tuesday, May 31 the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1484, the "Veterans Appeals Improvement Act of 2011" by a vote of 418-1. This bill would help cut down on the bureaucracy experienced by veterans with pending claims by eliminating unwanted duplication of review of claims. Specifically, the bill provides that if a veteran claimant submits evidence in support of a claim for which a substantive appeal has been filed to the Board of Veterans' Appeals, such evidence shall be submitted directly to the Board and not to a regional office of the VA, unless the claimant requests that the evidence first be reviewed by the regional office. The measure also establishes the Veterans Judicial Review Commission, which would evaluate and make specific decisions to improve the administrative and judicial appellate review processes of veterans' and survivors' benefits determinations.

The House on June 1 passed H.R. 802, legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct VA to establish a VetStar Award Program. The bill passed by a recorded vote of 408-11. The measure would implement a recognition program to highlight businesses that hire veterans. The VA shall establish a process for the administration of the award program, including criteria for categories and sectors of businesses eligible for recognition each year, as well as objective measures to be used in selecting businesses to receive the award. These measures now head to the Senate for consideration.

On June 14, the House passed H.R. 2055, a spending bill to fund Military Construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Related Agencies for fiscal year (FY) 2012. The vote for passage was 411-5. On July 20, the Senate voted 97-2 to pass their version of H.R. 2055. This measure becomes the first of 12 appropriations measures that have passed both chambers for FY 2012.

VA discretionary funding would be set at $58.5 billion in the House measure. It also includes $52.5 billion in advance appropriations for the major VA medical accounts for FY 2013. The Senate bill would set VA discretionary spending at $58.6 billion,

The first chart below outlines: the President's proposed advance funding for VA medical accounts for FY 2012; President Obama's budget proposal for FY 2013; preliminary changes made by the House – contained in H.R. 2055 – to the advance VA medical accounts funding for FY 2013; the Senate version; and The American Legion's proposed funding in National Commander Foster's testimony in September of last year. The second chart shows: other VA discretionary accounts for FY 2011 (the current year); the President's FY 2012 proposal for those accounts; House changes for FY 2012 contained in H.R. 2055; the Senate totals; and, the Legion's proposals for the non-medical accounts for FY 2012.

VA DISCRETIONARY MEDICAL PROGRAMS

Discretionary Medical Programs	President's FY 2012 VA Advance Approps.	President's FY 2013 VA Advance Approps.	H.R. 2055 FY 2013 Proposed Advance Approps.	H.R. 2055 Senate Version FY 2013 Advance Approps.	American Legion's FY 2012 Request
Medical Services	$39.9 bil.@	$41.3 bil.	$41.3 bil.	$41.3 bil.	$38.1 bil.
Medical Support & Compliance	$5.5 bil.	$5.7 bil.	$5.7 bil.	$5.7 bil.	$5.3 bil.
Medical Facilities	$5.4 bil.	$5.4 bil.	$5.4 bil.	$5.4 bil.	$6.2 bil.
Medical/Prosthetic Research	$509 mil.	$509 mil.	$531mil.	$581 mil.	$600 mil.
Total Medical Care	***$51.3 bil.***	***$52.9 bil.***	***$52.9 bil.***	***$53.0 bil.***	***$50.2 bil.***

@ As part of President Obama's FY 2012 VA budget proposal, he requested $240 million be added to the Medical Services account for the upcoming fiscal year.

VA Discretionary Non-Medical Programs	**P.L. 111-322 FY 2011 VA Funding**	**President's FY 2012 VA Budget Proposal**	**H.R. 2055 FY 2012 VA Budget Proposal**	**H.R. 2055 Senate Version FY 2012 VA Budget Proposal**	**Legion's FY 2012 VA Budget Request**
National Cemetery Administration	$250 mil.	$251 mil.	$251 mil.	$251 mil.	$260 mil.
General Operating Expenses – VBA	$2.5 bil.	$2.5 bil.	$2.0 bil.	$2.0 bil.	$2.6 bil.
Information Technology	$3.3 bil.	$3.2 bil.	$3.0 bil.	$3.2 bil.	$3.5 bil.
Major Construction	$1.2 bil.	$590 mil.	$590 mil.	$590 mil.	$1.2 bil.
Minor Construction	$468 mil.	$550 mil.	$475 mil.	$550 mil.	$800 mil.
State Veterans' Homes Grants	$100 mil.	$85 mil.	$85 mil.	$85 mil.	$100 mil.
State Veterans' Cemeteries Grants	$46 mil.	$46 mil.	$46 mil.	$46 mil.	$60 mil.

A conference committee will now need to reconcile differences in the two measures before it can be signed into law by the President.

On June 29 the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a mark-up hearing to approve a number of bills which affect this country's veterans. One of the more significant measures was S. 894, the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans and survivors, which passed by a voice vote. This bill would institute a COLA for veterans who receive disability compensation and for survivors who receive dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) payments. This COLA would be effective for FY 2012, beginning December 1, 2011. The COLA would be tied to the same COLA given to Social Security benefits recipients.

Because of the economic downturn, these recipients have received no COLA for the past two years. A report issued earlier this month by the Medicare and Social Security Trustees projected that Social Security recipients would receive a 0.7 percent cost-of-living increase in 2012. The House passed a companion measure, H.R. 1407, on May 23 by a voice vote.

Another measure approved by the committee was S. 277, the "Caring for Camp Lejeune Veterans Act of 2011," which passed by a voice vote. This measure would provide hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for any illness acquired by

veterans and family members who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water there was contaminated by volatile organic compounds, including known human carcinogens and probable human carcinogens.

Another bill passed was S. 572. This bill would repeal the prohibition on collective bargaining with respect to matters and questions regarding compensation of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs other than rates of basic pay, and for other purposes. The bill passed the committee by an 8-7 recorded vote.

Next, the committee gave voice vote approval to S. 745. This measure would protect certain veterans who would otherwise be subject to a reduction in educational assistance benefits. Makes the amount payable for programs of education at nonpublic institutions of higher education pursued by individuals enrolled in VA's post-9/11 educational assistance program during the period beginning on August 1, 2011, and ending on December 31, 2014, the lesser of: a) the established charges for that program; b) the established charges payable under a VA maximum payments table published on October 27, 2010; or, c) the amount for the previous academic year, increased by the authorized annual percentage increase. This measure is a companion to H.R. 1383, a similar bill which passed the House on May 23 by a vote of 389-0.

The Senate panel also passed S. 914, the "Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2011." This omnibus bill includes provisions related to health, homeless veterans, housing, compensation, burial and construction. For example, the bill takes another stab at preventing military and veterans' funerals from being disrupted by protesters by expanding the zone, in terms of both time and space, when disruption or disturbance is illegal. This effort resulted from a Supreme Court ruling that held funeral protests are constitutionally protected, even if they are offensive to the family of the deceased.

One provision of the bill would authorize VA to provide an extra year of disability compensation for veterans who submit a fully developed claim rather than a claim that needs more work. Extra pay would result from backdating the effective day to one year before it was submitted.

Health care provisions include waiving co-payments for veterans using telehealth and telemedicine programs, prohibiting VA from preventing the use of service dogs at any VA or VA-funded facility, and expanding chiropractic services so there are at least two locations in every region offering the treatment.

Part of the bill is aimed at punishing businesses who fraudulently claim they are veteran-owned in order to get government contracts. A small business found to have misrepresented itself would be barred for no less than five years from contracting with VA, and debarment action must happen within 90 days if the misrepresentation was deliberate.

On housing, S. 914 would offer extended protections under the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act against foreclosure or seizure of property. It would extend these protections to 12 months after leaving active duty, three months longer than now provided.

Finally, the committee passed by a voice vote S. 951, the "Hiring Heroes Act of 2011." The bill would fine-tune current programs, order that military transition assistance programs (TAP) be mandatory for everyone leaving service, and require follow-up after service members leave the military to see if they have landed jobs or need more help.

One of the key features of the bill is follow-up. For people receiving transition help in the military, or from VA or the Labor Department after getting out of the military, the bill requires follow-up six months to a year afterward. For those who do not have jobs – especially disabled veterans who have used vocational rehabilitation programs – S. 951 would allow them to attend the TAP sessions again.

Other provisions of S. 951 would:

- Amend the Wounded Warriors Act to extend until January 1, 2015, the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide the same rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses as are provided to veterans.
- Expand VA authority to make payments to employers to provide on-job training to veterans to include veterans who have not been rehabilitated to the point of employability.
- Entitle certain veterans with service-connected disabilities who have exhausted their rights to unemployment benefits to participation in an additional VA rehabilitation program. It would also limit the duration of such a program to 24 months, and make the 12-year period of eligibility for a VA rehabilitation program inapplicable under such an additional program.
- Direct VA to award grants to up to three nonprofit organizations under a collaborative veterans' training, mentoring, and placement program for eligible veterans seeking employment.
- Require participants in the TAP to receive individualized assessments of civilian positions for which they may be qualified based on a joint DOD, VA, and Department of Labor study of the equivalencies between military skills and civilian employment requirements.
- Authorize the appointment of an honorably discharged member of the uniformed services to a position in the civil service, without regard to specified civil service examination, certification, and appointment provisions, if otherwise qualified.
- Authorize a pilot program to assess the feasibility of providing work experience to certain members of the Armed Forces who are on terminal leave.
- Require a VA demonstration project on the credentialing and licensing of veterans.

These measures now go to the full Senate for further consideration.

Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council Activities Report 2010-2011

In accordance with NEC Resolution No. 28 (October 1994), I am pleased to submit the following Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council Activities Report for 2010-2011.

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

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

A. Number of Legislative Action Center Alerts and Updates: 9

1. 7/12/2010 - Contact Both of Your Senators Today : Urge Senate to pass S. 1450: Gold Star Parents Bill
2. 10/5/2009 - National Commander Jimmie Foster Testifies before Joint Session of Congress
3. 11/30/2010 - Tell Congress to vote NO on the DREAM Act
4. 12/17/2010 - Message from Legion Commander: Now is not the time on DADT, CALL NOW!
5. 12/21/2010 - Lame Duck Session Recap
6. 1/12/2011 - Rally once again around the Flag: Flag Amendment Cosponsors Needed
7. 4/6/2011 - Government Shutdown Looms: The American Legion urges Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to pass a budget now!

8. 6/14/2011 - Celebrate Flag Day by protecting Old Glory: Commander Foster Rallies Support for Constitutional Amendment
9. 7/4/2011 - Rally once again around the Flag: Flag Amendment Cosponsors Needed (Updated)

2. Grassroots Lobbying Activities in Washington, DC

National Commander's Testimony – September 20, 2010.
Washington Conference – March 20 to March 23, 2011.

3. National Legislative Council Meetings Held

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

4. The American Legion *DISPATCH* articles: 2010-2011

- Aug. 21, 2010 "President signs supplemental appropriations measure"
- Sep. 27, 2010 "Legion monitoring fiscal 2011 VA appropriations"
- Oct. 22, 2010 "House passes veterans' bill; Senate action next"
- Nov. 22, 2010 "A look at the new faces in the 112th Congress"
- Dec. 17, 2010 "Recession, war among issues that faced 111th Congress"
- Jan. 21, 2011 – "War funding, enhanced GI Bill among 2010
- issues"
- Feb. 18, 2011 "New Faces on House, Senate Veterans Affairs committees"
- Mar. 25, 2011 "Veteran caregivers program slowly moves forward"
- Apr. 15, 2011 "Hearings focus on TRICARE, military health system"
- May 20, 2011 "Hearing examines veteran unemployment"
- Jun. 24, 2011 "House begins work on fiscal 2012 MilCon/VA appropriations"
- Jul. 15, 2011 "House passes fiscal 2012 MilCon/VA bill"

5. Highlights of the Legislative Year

112th Congress, 1st Session

The First Session of the 112th Congress convened on January 3, 2011. Major issues on the agenda for both chambers include the Global War on Terrorism, the economic recession and finishing up the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 federal appropriations. To date, The American Legion has participated in four congressional hearings during the First Session, with several more scheduled to occur during the NEC meetings.

On February 14, the Obama Administration released its budget request for the fiscal year (FY) 2012 Federal budget, including VA. The President's overall VA budget request would provide $124.3 billion for health care, benefits, and memorial service to this nation's veterans, $16 billion above the FY 2010 enacted level. This proposal includes $58.8 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 $65.6 billion for mandatory programs, including benefits for veterans and their beneficiaries.

There are four major areas of emphasis in this new budget that the President has made an integral part of VA's FY 2012 budget:

Prioritizes Specialized Care for Veterans with Psychological and Cognitive Health Needs — The President's Budget includes $6 billion to enhance the VA's ability to provide the best possible specialized care for post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and other mental health needs. The Budget makes possible collaborative programs between the Department of Defense and VA that target psychological health, research new evidence-based approaches, and increase outreach to veterans. Those programs will increase our ability to care for the psychological and cognitive conditions that will continue to impact our veteran population for many years to come.

Effectively Utilizes Estimated Savings and Multi-Year Funding to Manage VA Medical Care – The Administration proposes $52.5 billion in advance appropriations for the VA medical care program in 2013, which enables timely and predictable funding for VA's medical care to prevent our Nation's veterans from being adversely affected by budget delays. Advance appropriations require a multi-year approach to budget planning whereby one year builds off the previous year. For example, estimated savings from management improvements in 2011 and 2012 will be carried forward into the following years to reduce the new appropriations needed in 2012 and 2013. Without the carryover of those resources from 2011 and 2012 – currently estimated at $1.1 billion—VA would need a higher level of appropriations in 2012 and 2013.

Combats Veteran Homelessness – The President's Budget invests $939 million to continue the expansion of VA services for homeless and at-risk veterans. These funds will combat veteran homelessness through collaborative partnerships with local governments, non-profit organizations, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Labor.

Begins Implementation of a New Paperless Claims System and Other Initiatives to Boost Efficiency and Responsiveness – The President's Budget provides $183 million for the implementation of a new paperless claims processing system. These funds will allow the VA to move away from its reliance on paper records, thereby improving the speed and efficiency of claims processing while simultaneously enhancing the security of veterans' personal information. Furthermore, the President's Budget reduces spending for construction to focus resources on providing timely, high-quality care and benefits to veterans.

On February 17 and March 2, The American Legion testified before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees respectively, giving its views on VA's FY 2012 budget request. The testimony re-emphasized the VA budget request presented by National Commander Foster last September. The American Legion will continue to monitor the FY 2012 budget process.

AMERICANISM

On January 7, 2011 Representative Emerson (MO) introduced House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 13, a flag protection constitutional amendment for the 112th Congress. It has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. The measure now has ***54*** cosponsors. On June 14, Sen. Orrin Hatch (UT) introduced Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 19. That measure now has ***24*** cosponsors. The American Legion will continue to seek passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag because it is the right thing to do. Let "We the People" decide.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

On July 13 the House Appropriations Committee approved a draft measure to fund important Department of Justice (DOJ) programs which have been supported by The American Legion for many years. DOJ funding for FY 2012 totals $26 billion, $2.4 billion less than the President's budget request. Proposed funding for DOJ programs supported by our organization include:

- $8.1 billion for the FBI, an increase of $149 million over FY 2011 funding;
- $2.3 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), $30 million over last year's level;
- $1.7 billion for various state and local law enforcement and crime prevention grant programs, including those aimed at combating juvenile delinquency and youth crime prevention. These programs include many formerly assigned to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The OJJDP program has been enthusiastically supported The American Legion since its creation in 1974;
- $1.1 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), a level similar to last year's amount; and,
- $1.1 billion for the U.S. Marshals Service, the same funding amount as last year.

These figures are, by no means, final. The FY 2012 budget/appropriations process continues.

ECONOMICS

The Obama Administration's budget plan for FY 2012 also contains funding for the Department of Labor (DOL). The measure funds veterans' programs under the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET). Funding for ASVET programs has become even more critical in recent years. In addition to the large numbers of former service members leaving the armed forces, the current economic situation has contributed to unacceptably high levels of unemployment for veterans of the Gulf War period.

The chart below outlines funding for ASVET accounts appropriated for FY 2011 and proposed funding levels for FY 2012. Again, it should be stressed that these are only preliminary figures, not the final funding for next fiscal year. At press time, the House Appropriations Committee had not approved a draft spending bill for DOL-ASVET programs for the upcoming fiscal year.

VETS Programs	***P.L. 112-8 FY 2011***	***President's Budget, FY 2012***
State Administration Grants	$165.4 million	$165.7 million
Transition Assistance Program	$7 million	$8.7 million
Federal Administration	$35.3 million	$35.3 million
National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI)	$2.4 million	$2.4 million
Homeless Veterans Programs	$36.3 million	$39.3 million
Veterans' Workforce Investment Programs	$9.6 million	$9.6 million
Totals	**$256 million**	**$261 million**

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Appropriations for the Department of State and Foreign Operations programs for FY 2011 were contained in a succession of seven continuing resolutions (CRs) passed by Congress between September of last year and April of this year. These measures provided $51.4 billion in total funding. President Obama's FY 2012 budget request for State and Foreign Operations totals $47 billion. Currently, a draft bill for State and Foreign Operations has yet to be passed by the House Appropriations Committee. The measure provides $39.6 billion in total funding, $8.6 billion less than current year spending. Specific areas of interest to The American Legion include:

- $7.1 billion in global assistance to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, measles and malaria, $1.1 billion below FY 2011 amounts;
- $3.08 billion in military assistance to Israel, an amount similar to the current year's funding;
- $914 million for international narcotics control and law enforcement, a decrease of $600 million over FY 2011 funding totals;
- $1.5 billion in economic and military aid to Egypt, the same as the current fiscal year;
- $627 million in assistance for nations of Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia, $88 million below FY 2011 amounts; and
- $660 million in economic and military aid to Jordan, the same as current year funding.

NATIONAL SECURITY

On June 2, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2017, a spending measure to fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for FY 2012. The vote for passage was 231-188. This is the first of 12 appropriations bills to be presented to either the House or Senate this year.

This measure would provide $40.6 billion for the operations of DHS programs, a $1.1 billion reduction from current year spending and $3 billion less than the President's spending request. Some of the specific program totals in the bill which are of interest to The American Legion include:

- $11.8 billion for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, an increase of $431 million over last year's amount;
- $10 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard, $196 million below last year's spending total;
- $7.8 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, $125 million more than last year's funding total;
- $5.8 billion for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an increase of $35 million over last year's funding;
- $1.7 billion for the U.S. Secret Service, an increase of $155 million over last year's level;
- $1 billion for the state and local "first responders" grant program; and,
- $961 million for the Federal Air Marshals, an increase of $40 million over the previous year's funding amount.

The measure now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

On June 16, the Senate Armed Services Committee unanimously approved S. 1253, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2012. This bill authorizes funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) and the national security programs of the Department of Energy (DOE). The measure now goes before the full Senate for consideration.

The President's request for national defense discretionary programs for FY 2012 was $688.9 billion and was in three parts: $553 billion for the base budget of DOD; $117.8 billion for overseas contingency operations (OCO), which funds the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and $18.1 billion for national security programs in the DOE.

The Senate bill authorizes $682.5 billion for national defense. The bill authorizes $5.9 billion less than was requested for the base budget of DOD and $537 million less for OCO. The bill authorizes the requested level of funding for DOE. Major highlights of interest to the Legion include:

- $142.4 billion for military personnel, including pay, allowances, bonuses, death benefits, and permanent change of station moves;

- A 1.6 percent pay raise for members of the uniformed services;
- No prohibition against pharmacy copayment changes;
- No prohibition for TRICARE Prime enrollment fee increases in FY 2012 and limits annual increases of the fee to the amount equal to the percentage increase in retired pay beginning on October 1, 2012;
- Amends the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) section relating to the offenses of rape, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct, to create three separate articles of the UCMJ to correct deficiencies in existing law, and also repeals the UCMJ article relating to the offense of sodomy;
- $25 million to local educational agencies with military children and $5 million for schools with military children with severe disabilities;
- Requires hostile fire and imminent danger pay be prorated according to the number of days spent in a qualifying area rather than be paid on a monthly basis;
- $12.8 billion for training and equipping Afghan security forces;
- $322 million to upgrade M1A2 tanks and preserve minimum industrial capability through FY 2012;
- Cuts of more than $1 billion from the President's budget for military construction and family housing projects; and,
- Cuts of $1.1 billion from operation and maintenance accounts for the acquisition of contract services;

Other provisions of note are:

- FY 2012 active-duty end strengths for the Army of 562,000; the Navy, 325,700; the Marine Corps, 202,100; and the Air Force, 332,800;
- Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to authorize the issuance of a Cold War Service Medal;
- Reauthorizes over 30 types of bonuses and special pays aimed at encouraging enlistment, reenlistment, and continued service by active-duty and reserve component military personnel; and,
- Excludes TRICARE institutional, professional, and pharmacy network providers from being considered subcontractors for the purposes of Federal Acquisition Regulation or any other law, in order to maintain adequate TRICARE provider networks.

Once this measure is passed by the full Senate, It will then be necessary for a conference committee to reconcile difference between this bill and the House-passed version, H.R. 1540, which was approved by the House in late May.

On July 8 the House by a vote of 336-87 passed H.R. 2219 the Department of Defense (DOD) spending measure for FY 2012. Discretionary programs would be funded at $519.8 billion, an increase of $17.4 billion over the FY 2011 enacted amounts. An additional $118.5 billion would be assigned to the Overseas Contingency Operations account – the military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Some of the major funding proposals include:

- $132.1 billion for Military Personnel, which includes pay and allowance, training, bonuses and incentive pays, and health and retirement benefits;
- $170 billion for Operations and Maintenance, which provides for operating and maintaining the armed forces;
- $107.6 billion for Procurement accounts, allowing DOD to provide the troops with the best weapons possible; and,
- $73 billion for Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDTE), which aims to keep U.S. armed forces as up-to-date and modernized as is practicable.

Specific programs which interest The American Legion include:

- $32.3 billion for Defense Health Programs;
- $8.1 billion for procurement of 26 F-35 Lightnings (the Joint Strike Fighter) for the Navy and Air Force. This total includes $2.7 billion for further RDTE for the F-35 program;
- $6 billion for procurement of 2 more *Virginia*-class attack submarines, as well as further RDTE;
- $2.6 billion for 35 MV-22s and CV-22 Ospreys for the Air Force and Marines;
- $2.6 billion for 71 Blackhawk and 47 Chinook helicopters;
- $2.4 billion for 28 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft for the Navy;
- $2.1 billion for one additional *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer;
- $1.5 billion for the chemical agents and munitions destruction account;
- $1.2 billion for the drug interdiction and counter-drug activities account;
- $633 million for procurement of 100 more Stryker vehicles;
- $508 million for the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, the purpose of which is to secure and dismantle weapons of mass destruction and their associated infrastructure in states of the former Soviet Union.
- $453 million for 54 M1A2 SEP Abrams tanks; and,
- $40 million for impact aid for local school districts which contain large numbers of DOD dependent students.

The President's FY 2012 budget request also contains a proposal to raise fees for TRICARE, the medical program used by former service members, their dependents, and some members of the Reserve component. DOD Secretary Robert Gates has said that the burgeoning costs of TRICARE will soon become unsustainable. The President's budget proposal seeks to raise annual enrollment fees in FY 2012; then, beginning in 2013, TRICARE fees would increase at a rate equal to the rate of medical inflation, currently estimated at about 6 percent per year.

Selective Service System funding is included in draft legislation to fund various federal programs under the term "Financial Services." The Selective Service would receive $23.6 million for salaries and expenses. The American Legion continues to support funding for the Selective Service System in case of national emergency.

Both House and Senate have passed H.R. 2055, the FY 2012 spending measure for Military Construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The House version funds military construction programs at $14 billion, while the Senate's bill funds the same programs at $13.7 billion. Within the total, H.R. 2055 fully funds the President's request for Military Family Housing Construction at $376 million, which provides for a total of 48 new family housing construction projects, 80 replacement projects, and improvements to 216 family housing units. In addition, the legislation contains $1.1 billion for construction and alterations for new or existing military medical facilities. Included in that amount is funding for the first phase of construction on the replacement hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. In addition, $483 million was included for 15 Department of Defense (DOD) Education facilities located in the U.S. and overseas. The Senate bill funds family housing construction and privatization projects at $1.69 billion.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

FY 2011 funding for VA, military construction programs and related agencies was included in P.L. 112-10, the omnibus appropriations bill signed by the President on April 15. With the enactment of this measure, funding for the remainder of this fiscal year was completed.

The chart below presents the major discretionary funding categories of VA's budget, showing the final FY 2011 funding totals for P.L. 112-10, the President's proposed budget for FY 2012, and The American Legion's FY 2012 budget proposal as presented

in testimony before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees by National Commander Foster in September, 2010.

VA Discretionary Programs	**P. L. 112-10 FY 2011 Final VA Funding**	**President's Proposed FY 2012 VA Budget**	**American Legion's FY 2012 Request**
Medical Services	$37.1 billion	$39.6 billion	$38.1 billion
Medical Support and Compliance	$5.3 billion	$5.5 billion	$5.3 billion
Medical Facilities	$5.7 billion	$5.4 billion	$6.2 billion
Medical and Prosthetic Research	$581 million	$509 million	$600 million
Total Medical Care	*$48.6 billion*	*$51.0 million*	*$50.2 billion*
Information Technology	$3.0 billion	$3.2 billion	$3.5 billion
General Operating Expenses	$2.5 billion	$2.5 billion	$2.6 billion
Natl. Cemetery Administration	$250 million	$251 million	$260 million
Major Construction	$1.1 billion	$590 million	$1.2 billion
Minor Construction	$468 million	$550 million	$800 million
State Homes Construction Grants	$85 million	$85 million	$100 million
State Cemeteries Construction Grants	$46 million	$46 million	$60 million

Funding in P.L. 112-10 for related agencies monitored by The American Legion include:

- $64 million for the American Battle Monuments Commission;
- $27.6 million for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims;
- $45 million for operations and maintenance at Arlington National Cemetery; and,
- $71 million for operations, maintenance and construction at the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

On June 14, the House passed H.R. 2055, a spending bill to fund Military Construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Related Agencies for fiscal year (FY) 2012. The vote for passage was 411-5. On July 20, the Senate voted 97-2 to pass their version of H.R. 2055.

VA discretionary funding would be set at $58.5 billion in the House measure. It also includes $52.5 billion in advance appropriations for the major VA medical accounts for FY 2013. The Senate bill would set VA discretionary spending at $58.6 billion,

The first chart below outlines: the President's proposed advance funding for VA medical accounts for FY 2012; President Obama's budget proposal for FY 2013; preliminary changes made by the House – contained in H.R. 2055 – to the advance VA medical accounts funding for FY 2013; the Senate version; and The American Legion's proposed funding in National Commander Foster's testimony in September of last year. The second chart shows: other VA discretionary accounts for FY 2011 (the current year); the President's FY 2012 proposal for those accounts; House changes for FY 2012 contained in H.R. 2055; the Senate totals; and, the Legion's proposals for the non-medical accounts for FY 2012.

VA Medical Discretionary Programs	President's FY 2012 VA Advance Appropriations	President's FY 2013 VA Advance Appropriations	H.R. 2055 FY 2013 Proposed Advance Appropriations	H.R. 2055 Senate Version FY 2013 Advance Appropriations	American Legion's FY 2013 Request
Medical Services	$39.9 bil@	$41.3 bil	$41.3 bil	$41.3 bil	$38.1 bil
Medical Support & Compliance	$5.5 bil	$5.7 bil	$5.7 bil	$5.7 bil	$5.3 bil
Medical Facilities	$5.4 bil	$5.4 bil	$5.4 bil	$5.4 bil	$6.2 bil
Medical/Prosthetic Research	$509 mil	$509 mil	$531mil	$581 mil	$600 mil
Total Medical Care	***$51.3 bi***	***$52.9 bil***	***$52.9 bil***	***$53.0 bil***	***$50.2 bil***

@ As part of President Obama's FY 2012 VA budget proposal, he requested $240 million be added to the Medical Services account for the upcoming fiscal year.

VA Non-Medical Discretionary Programs	P.L. 111-322 FY 2011 VA Funding	President's FY 2012 VA Budget Proposal	H.R. 2055 FY 2012 VA Budget Proposal	Senate Version H.R. 2055 FY 2012 VA Budget Proposal	Legion's FY 2012 VA Budget Request
National Cemetery Administration	$250 mil	$251 mil	$251 mil	$251 mil	$260 mil
General Operating Expenses – VBA	$2.5 bil	$2.5 bil	$2.0 bil	$2.0 bil	$2.6 bil
Information Technology	$3.3 bil	$3.2 bil	$3.0 bil	$3.2 bil	$3.5 bil
Major Construction	$1.2 bil	$590 mil	$590 mil	$590 mil	$1.2 bil.
Minor Construction	$468 mil	$550 mil	$475 mil	$550 mil	$800 mil.
State Veterans' Homes Grants	$100 mil	$85 mil	$85 mil	$85 mil	$100 mil
State Veterans' Cemeteries Grants	$46 mil	$46 mill	$46 mil	$46 mil	$60 million

A conference committee will now need to reconcile differences in the two measures before it can be signed into law by the President. The House leadership hopes to have all of the FY 2012 spending bills passed by that chamber before the beginning of the August recess.

6. The American Legion Auxiliary:

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

7. National Legislative Council Award:

I am pleased to announce that one National Legislative Council Vice Chairman was selected for his outstanding contributions in advancing the legislative portfolio of The American Legion during this past reporting period: Kenneth Governor (NY). The award was presented during the 2011 Washington Conference.

Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council Activities Report
2010 - 2011
Addendum

Department Summaries

ALABAMA: (Vice Chairwoman Dolores Hardin): The Department of Alabama National Legislative Council met in September 2010 to strategize about the mid-term congressional elections. We were honored to have NLC Fang Wong attend our meeting. He was receptive to our concerns regarding the congressional delegation from Alabama and passed along some of his wisdom to us. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and nine congressional offices were visited. No Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Alabama National Legislative Council continues to stay in close contact with our congressional delegation via email, telephone and visits to their local offices throughout the state. One council member, ANEC Willis Frazier, also chairs the Legislative Committee for the Alabama Board of Veterans Affairs. His knowledge and tenacity for veterans and active duty military benefits make him very well respected in Washington and the state capital. We commend Commander Foster for his leading role in Washington. He has addressed President Obama and congressional delegates regarding The American Legion's stance on national security, active duty and veterans' benefits, the war on terror and the state of the economy, which affects all Americans. We sincerely appreciate his work on behalf of all Legionnaires. The Department received no feedback regarding the Legislative Action Center or for Dateline: Capitol Hill in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

ALASKA: (Vice Chairman J.E. Pisa): The Department of Alaska National Legislative Council did not formally meet during the year. Eight Council Members attended the Washington Conference and three congressional offices were visited. Although no Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony, other members of the Alaska delegation visited three congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Alaska congressional delegation is kept aware of The American Legion concerns and/or requested action via e-mail and telephone. The Department received feedback regarding the Legislative Action Center or for *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

ARIZONA: (Vice Chairman Neal S. Sundeen): The Arizona American Legion Legislative Council met on two occasions this past year. We met at the fall conference in Mesa, Arizona, and at the Department Convention in Carefree, Arizona. The council met with members of the Arizona Legislative Commission at both of these meetings. I see from the email that you sent to me that Congressman Quayle does not have a legislative council member from the American Legion. We previously appointed Carol Hamburger as the counsel person for Congressman Quayle. Unfortunately, Carol Hamburger passed away last week and we will be appointing a new member. Three Arizona American Legion members attended the National Commander's testimony in September 2010. Prior to the National Commanders testimony, John Aldecoa, Paul Griffin, and myself met with Senator John Kyl and Senator John McCain in their senatorial offices. We discussed the point papers with our senators and reviewed the National Commander's testimony with each of our senators. We also discussed these point papers and legislative priorities with the senator's aids. Following the National Commander's testimony, we met with Congressman Harry Mitchell and Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, who are both

members of the House Veteran's Affairs Committee. When we met with Congressman Mitchell and Congresswoman Kirkpatrick, we discussed the American Legion priorities, the Commander's Testimony and local veterans' issues with these congressmen. Congressman Mitchell and Congresswoman Kirkpatrick have both been very helpful with veteran's issues, unfortunately, they were both defeated in the November 2010 elections. At the department convention in 2010, Senator McCain and Congressman Mitchell both attended and spoke to a joint session of the legion members, auxiliary members, and SAL members. The American Legion presented the legislature of the year award to Congressman Harry Mitchell in June 2010. The American Legion did not recognize any congressional members at the department convention in 2011. The American Legion did recognize Carol Hamburger at the department convention in 2011 and presented her with a photograph of her with Senator John McCain that had been signed by Senator John McCain. At the department convention we also had a representative from the Arizona department of Veterans Affairs discuss legislation that had passed the Arizona House Senate and signed by the Governor. Several members of the counsel are registered lobbyist in the state Arizona. At the department convention, several of the council members stated that they are receiving the *Dispatch* and read the legislative column that is in included in the *Dispatch*. Several of the members also stated that they have discussed issues with their councilperson with regards to the legislative action center alerts that have been sent and they have also sent emails or letters to their congressman regarding the American Legion Legislative Action Center Alerts. I am enclosing with this letter a copy of the letter that I have received from Congressman Schweikert regarding H.J. res 13 regarding the desecration of the American Flag. I have this discussed this issue with Congressman Schweikert and I believe that he will vote to protect the flag, however, I do not believe he has signed on as a co-sponsor.

ARKANSAS: (Vice Chairman R.D. Kinsey): The Department of Arkansas has four congregational districts and two senators. As a result, the department has six council members and one vice chairman. Since the official appointment in January two council members attended the Washington conference in March. While in Washington, Vice Chairman R.D. Kinsey, and council member Stephen Gray visited senators John Boozman and Mark Pryor. We discussed the American Legion's legislatives, priorities, goals, and objectives and provided each senator with a copy of the American Legion legislative priorities drop sheet; both senators were responsive and open to discussion, particularly Senator John Boozman. Since the Washington conference, Vice Chairman Kinsey and council member Robert Johnson met again with Senator Boozman and Congressman Tim Griffin. Congressman Griffin is a veteran and member of the American Legion Department of Arkansas; he has pledged to offer as much support as he can toward helping fellow veterans and their families. He and his staff also promised an open door policy. Five members of the council met on July 15th during the Department's 93rd Annual Convention in North Little Rock. Congressman Tim Griffin attended briefly and addressed the body. The vice chairman presided over the meeting. We were able to define our goals and objectives as members of the legislative council. Members pledged to work closer with their elected officials and to keep them informed of the Legion's list of priorities and to keep the vice chairman aware of their actions. Vice Chairman Kinsey will keep members informed of any action alerts received and will forward an updated members contact list to our national chairman.

CALIFORNIA: (Vice Chairman, Eric W. Measles): This past year has been a 'reconstructive' year for the California Council. A new Vice Chairman and many new members to the council were tasked with becoming familiar with the Council's objectives. Although the Council did not convene a Regular Meeting of the Legislative Council, the actions and information of the National Organization were shared on a regular basis; the Vice Chairman frequently encouraging action by all members. The

focal point of action of this year's Council was the attendance of many members during the Washington Conference. The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary joined forces in our efforts to better communicate with our elected officials. The Annual American Legion Legislative Conference and Auxiliary's Awareness Assembly convened in Washington, D.C. during Mid-March. The purpose of these meetings was, in part, to attend various commission meetings and seminars presented by numerous speakers from different national organizations. Guest speakers from various Government offices, including the Veterans Administration were presented for dissemination of information and Q&A sessions. These meetings allowed us to better understand the direction in which our Administration is headed as it relates to Veterans, their families and our current military. A highlight of the Conference was National Commander Jimmy Foster's "Commanders Call". This Call 'spotlighted' leaders from within the Administration, and included another visit from Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Retired Army General Eric Shinseki. Although numerous topics were presented during our sessions, the underlying message throughout our sessions was the need for Congress to pass a budget that protects our military and properly supports the VA and its programs. This message was stressed to be carried to 'the Hill' on our visit and we came away with this thought as our major talking point. We were again presented with our annual "Legislative Priority Sheet" aka 'Drop Sheet', which we were instructed to discuss with our Representatives on our visit to their offices. The "Hill Walk" allowed us to visit the offices of our California Legislators and discuss our most current Legislative Priorities, including our continuing effort for passage of a Flag Protection Amendment. Early on Tuesday, March 22nd, prior to the Commander's Call, the California contingent gathered to discuss our strategy prior to our annual "Hill Walk". At this meeting, the Vice Chairman created teams to ensure a visit to each and every Senator's and Representative's office. The Hill Walk allows us to visit the offices of our California Legislators and discuss our most current Legislative Priorities, including our continuing effort for passage of a Flag Protection Amendment. I am proud to report that the 'California Team' worked harmoniously and accomplished exactly what we were tasked to do. I would like to personally thank the following members of the Legion and Auxiliary for performing our assignment in a courteous, timely and professional manner. In no particular order they are: Past Dept Cmdr and N.E.C. man Michael Gombar, Past Sixth Area V.C. Larry Van Kuran, Past Dept Pres. Nancy Brown-Park and her husband Jim Park, Auxiliary President Pilar Reyes, Past Fourth Area V.C. and candidate for Dept. Cmdr. Hugh Crooks, Past Dept Cmdr. Howard Darter, Dept. Service Officer Scott McKee, CA Auxiliary Legislative Director Gloria Williams, Past 5th District Cmdr. Bob Taylor accompanied by Past Dept Presidents Melanie Taylor, Dianne Delashimitt, and Luann Capazzi, Past Alt N.E.C. man Randy Wharton and Past 6th Area V.C. Nile Creacy. Another very productive result of this Conference and Hill Walk and a beneficial undertaking that Past National Commander Bruce Thiesen and Department of California Commander Mark Foxworthy are proud of is the accumulation and compilation of information gathered from each of our Senators and Representatives. I have compiled a Roster of all 54 CA Council Members assigned to each Legislator. The roster includes direct contact information for each Council member along with the specific contact information for each Legislative Aide. The purpose of this Roster is to allow each member of the California Council to better communicate with his or her respective Legislator. Instead of a 'cold call' to the Representatives' office, this information will allow the Council Member to contact the proper person directly. Included in the Roster is the Name, Phone Number and email address for each aide…The email addresses were compiled to allow a 'broadcast message' to all 'Aides' and thus allowing the Vice Chairman to ensure that all updates and actions are being shared with our Congressional Aides with instructions to forward the information to their Representatives. All 9 Legislative Actions Alerts were forwarded to each member of this

list. Council email addresses have been shared with Jeff Steele, Tim Tetz, and Michael Harris, all members of our National Legislative Commission/Council. The Vice Chairman feels this type of internet information will certainly make our jobs easier, for the National Organization as well as those of us in the state. No longer going 'on hold' in attempts to share information over the telephone. Of course, facebook/twitter/linked-in are sure to follow and once a relationship is formed, would almost be an obvious 'next step'. Using such a 'group list', I have encouraged members of our current Council to contact their Aide immediately and begin a dialogue that will encourage a renewed 'working relationship'. This direct contact with 'the proper person assigned to address Legislative, Military and Veterans Affairs', streamlines the process of sharing information with our elected officials in Washington, D.C. This of course does not circumvent the need for all Legionnaires to contact their Senators and Congressman directly when needed, however this does allow The American Legion at the highest levels to share information, through the Council and ensure that it is being delivered to the proper persons. Our National organization also benefits from this information when surveys and studies of Congressmen/women are necessary. As many may be aware, the current Senators of the State of California are on opposite sides of the fence in their support of the Flag Amendment. Currently, Senator Dianne Feinstein remains in support of the Amendment, while her counterpart, Senator Barbara Boxer is still opposed. The current council members assigned to these Senators, Past Dept Commander Mark Foxworthy and City Council Woman, Joanne Evans are in constant contact with these offices, and continue to work to secure 'two' Aye votes when the next vote comes around. Much of the above information (sans email info) was presented to California Legionnaire, the Departments monthly newsletter. The information is relevant to encourage all members of the Legion to remain attached to their Legislators, to share relevant updates and of course to request support for all Veterans issues. I respectfully submit my first report as Vice Chairman of the Legislative Council.

COLORADO: (Vice Chairman Ralph Bozella): The Department of Colorado National Legislative Council was carefully formed after the 2010 national election. NEC Ralph Bozella served as Vice Chairman for the Department. Alternate NEC Neal Thomas, PNC Tom Bock, and Department Adjutant Pat Smith worked with Bozella to review existing council members and select new members for 2011-2013 because of the national elections of 2010. The following Legionnaires were nominated to serve and eventually appointed by National Commander Jimmy Foster:

U.S. Senator Mark Udall	Ralph Bozella
U.S. Senator Michael Bennet	Jim Stanko
U.S. Representative CD 1 Diana DeGette	Frank McCurdy
U.S. Representative CD 2 Jared Polis	Gary Force
U.S. Representative CD 3 Scott Tipton	John Shriner
U.S. Representative CD 4 Cory Gardner	Jim McCracken
U.S. Representative CD 5 Doug Lamborn	Tim Grabin
U.S. Representative CD 6 Mike Coffman	Pat Smith
U.S. Representative CD 7 Ed Perlmutter	Tom Bock

Colorado National council members are kept constantly updated on federal legislative initiatives and issues through The American Legion's national legislative office. All pertinent legislative emails from the national office are sent to Council members with instructions as FYI, or action needed. The following messages from national staff were forwarded to the "new 2011" Council members: Tell Congress to vote NO on the DREAM Act, Message from Legion Commander: Now is not the time on DADT, CALL NOW, Lame Duck Session Recap, Rally once again around the Flag, Flag Amendment Cosponsors Needed, Government Shutdown Looms: The American Legion urges Congress to work in a bipartisan manners to pass the budget now, Celebrate Flag Day by

protecting Old Glory, Flag Amendment sponsors needed. Legislative Updates from Tim Tetz were forwarded to each member to keep them informed. Council members are encouraged to pass this information along to other Legionnaires in their districts to keep them updated on important legislative matters. Members of the National Legislative Council from the Department of Colorado met at Mid-year Conference, January, in Colorado Springs; and at the Department Convention, June, in Colorado Springs. The Mid-year Conference was attended by National Vice Commander Bill Schrier and National Commander Candidate Jim Koutz. Both of these national leaders took the time to attend the Legislative Committee and Colorado National Legislative Council meetings and briefed the attendees. An electronic blast for Council members is shared on a consistent basis throughout the year. Two Council members, Bozella and McCurdy, attended the Washington Conference. Nine (all) Colorado Congressional offices were visited. Council members are encouraged to establish strong working relationships with the congressional office within their charge and are asked about this effort. Council members serve on various advisory committees for Colorado's congressional delegates. At the Washington conference, newly elected U.S. Representative Scott Tipton's office was encouraged to begin an advisory council for veterans. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention and this is something we will work on for next year. If we cannot get the representative or senator to appear, we will seek representation from their staff. The Department did not present any congressional awards, but this is another consideration for future years. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Department works closely with the United Veterans Committee of Colorado (UVC) which meets monthly and each congressional office sends representatives to these meetings. The American Legion has a high profile at these meetings. Council member Bozella is president of this group, Council member McCurdy is Vice President, Council member Bock is past president. Other department leaders are involved with monthly meetings and activities of UVC. UVC sponsors an annual black tie legislative dinner and Council members are urged to attend. Every Colorado Congressional office is represented at this banquet usually attended by nearly 500 people. More often than not, the U.S. Representatives or U.S. Senators are present at this banquet or at least make an appearance. Council members use this opportunity to interact directly with their charge. Colorado Council members were sent the Legislative Action Center link and urged to use this valuable resource. It was also talked about at Council meetings at Mid-year and Department Convention. The feedback is that this center is very valuable to veterans interested in federal legislative issues. Council members are pleased to receive the *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch* and find it useful for legislative matters. This is one more important educational tool for those of us involved in American Legion legislative work.

CONNECTICUT: (Vice Chairman Gerald Dierman): The Department of Connecticut National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year; contact is maintained by e-mail and telephone as needed. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited seven congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. The Department gave recognition to two state legislators. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that congressional members continue to assist with military academy nominations, which facilitates communication with regard to matters of interest to The American Legion. Positive feedback was received for Dateline: Capitol Hill in The American Legion *Dispatch*. The council continues to remain very active on a state level regarding legislation that concerns veterans. When asked, the CT council continues to be a reference point and facilitator in regards to pending legislation.

DELAWARE: (Vice Chairman Lyman R. Brenner): The Department of Delaware National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Being the second smallest state in the union the Members stay in touch primarily through e-mail and face-to-face meetings at other Department venues. As 2/3rds of the Congressional Delegation are freshman and the liaison to Senator Carper had passed away after the Congressional recess last year the entire Department's National Legislative Council and the Vice Chairman are new to their positions. In addition, both Senator Coons and Representative Carney have small Congressional Staff. Each staff group has had the problem of establishing who is their liaison with veteran's organizations – as they were both slow in hiring staff and responsibilities were being constantly changed. On every issue that the National Legislative Council contacted their respective Member of Congress the response was positive except for the flag amendment issue. However, in every case the responses were hard to pin down as they always left a way out of supporting an issue if they were told to follow a party line that was different from what the legion wants. Other activities of note: The Vice Chairman attended the National Commander's Testimony before Congress in September and then visited with Sen. Carper's Staff about what the National Commander had told the committee. Two of the three Council Members along with the Vice Chairman and twelve other members of the Delaware Legion Family (including the Department Commander, SAL State Commander, and the State Auxiliary President) attended the Washington Conference and visited all three Congressional Offices where they met with the Staff of the Congressman and Senators. Senators Carper, Coons, and Representative Castle were in Delaware as Congress was in recess. The staff from each office was positive but not extremely encouraging on what they could do. Senator Coon's and Representative Carney's staff took copious notes to give to their bosses while Senator Carper's did not. He tried to explain the Senator's position on the flag amendment but neither side changed their view. Senator Carper met with National Commander Foster during Commander Foster's official visit to the state. The Senator basically assured the National Commander that he would support all Legion issues except the flag amendment. Senator Carper and Senator Coons made presentations to the Boys State Program (the National Vice Chairman is the Boys State Chairman) where they explained how they considered issues before they voted on them. Senator Carper and Senator Coons both attended the Department Convention. PNC Comer was in attendance and he talked to Senator Coons who agreed to look over any information that PNC Comer would give him on the Legion position on the Flag Amendment. No official feedback was received on the electronic Legislative Alerts and Updates. However, the council members did follow the recommendations in them.

FLORIDA: (Vice Chairman Stanley M. Gold): The Department of Florida National Legislative Council met in Orlando at the Department Convention in June 2010. We discussed our plans for our Washington visit when our National Commander gives testimony to a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees. During that visit in Washington, nine delegates from Florida visited all 25 House offices plus our 2 Senator's offices. We delivered the national point papers to each office. When Rep. Alcee Hastings introduced the Veterans Pensions' Protection bill, we got 17 Florida members to sign on from both parties. During the March 2011 Washington Conference, we held our 5th annual luncheon at the Rayburn building. All Florida members of Congress were invited and if not present, we requested they send one of their aides in their place. Unfortunately, Congress was in recess that week, but we did have 17 aides in attendance and we were able to tell them our Legion goals and request support. We later visited all of the offices of members with no aides in attendance. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen helped us secure the meeting room at the Rayburn building at no cost to the Department. During this past year I was able to have a legislative assistant appointed, Paul Martel (PDC), who helped out with legislative matters. As Chairman I saw to it that

my legislative update was printed in the Department newsletter and website. Each month I would call my south Florida member's offices to ask support for whatever was being pushed by our national office. The National *Dispatch* was received. On July 22, 2011, I received word from National to have our two senators vote down Senate Amendment 564 introduced by Senator Tom, Coburn to HR 2055, the 2012 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act. I called both our senators the next day and they reported they would support us and vote against the specific amendment. The final vote was 30-69 and thankfully, the amendment was defeated.

GEORGIA: (Vice Chairman Roger Tingler): The Department of Georgia National Legislative Council met at the Spring Conference in Atlanta and at the Department Convention. Four Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited eight congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited six offices. No congressional member attended the breakfast. Four congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department presented an award to a congressional member. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that all senators and representatives were contacted regarding all legislative alerts received. No feedback was received for the Legislative Action Center, but an aide for Senator Chambliss called to inform the Vice Chairman they received The American Legion *Dispatch*.

HAWAII: (Vice Chairman Andrew M. Johnson): The Department of Hawaii National Legislative Council met at the Department Headquarters on October 2, 2010, February 5, 2011, and June 4, 2011. No Council Members attended the Washington Conference. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited one office. Staff from Senator Akaka and Representative Hirono's district offices attended the Department Convention. No awards were given. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. During the year, efforts were made to publicize the Flag amendment. Feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

IDAHO: (Vice Chairman Arthur L. Gimpel): The Department of Idaho National Legislative Council met during the Department Convention in Twin Falls on July 8, 2011. Eight Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited four congressional offices. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited four congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast, but two congressional aides attended the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards to a congressional member and did not recognize anyone for Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reported letters and emails from the congressional delegation have been received demonstrating their supportiveness of veteran's issues. No feedback was received regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

ILLINOIS: (Vice Chairman Vincent Sanzotta): The Department of Illinois National Legislative Council met during the Washington Conference, National Commander's Testimony and at the department convention in Peoria, IL on July 14, 2011. Five Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited with seven congressional members. Five Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited seven congressional offices. One congressional member attended the breakfast. Six congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards to a congressional member and did not recognize anyone for Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that press releases from the department and national are forwarded to congressional offices as needed, which received favorable responses from congressional offices during visits. Feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center and two members of the

congressional delegation receive a copy of The American Legion *Dispatch*, which also garner favorable responses.

INDIANA: (Vice Chairman Allan Titus): The Department of Indiana Legislative Council met quarterly during the Departments seasonal conferences. Seven Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited all congressional members. Six Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and made six congressional office visits. No congressional member attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented to a Member of Congress. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports the Department annually recognizes state and local representatives of the state legislature and government. Regarding the Legislative Action Center, the Department legislative chairman Danny Rice forwards all electronic and mailed correspondence to each of their state legislative committee members. No feedback was received regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

IOWA: (Vice Chairman Mike Wanser): The Department of Iowa National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Discussions on individual issues took place as required. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited seven congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. The Department presented no awards to congressional members. No feedback was received on the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

KANSAS: (Vice Chairwoman Patricia Culver): Five Council Members attended the Washington Conference and six congressional offices were visited. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and two congressional members attended the breakfast. Kansas NEC Dave Warnken served on Sen. Moran's Military and Veteran's Advisory Committee; they have met twice this past year and have discussed many military and veteran's issues. According to NEC Warnken this is a very beneficial and interesting committee. The Kansas National Legislative Council met at the Department Convention in Topeka on May 13 and 14, 2011. Five legislative members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards to a congressional member and did not recognize anyone for Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice-Chairwoman reports that the entire congressional delegations were contacted via e-mail or regular mail on each alert issued. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center.

KENTUCKY: (Vice Chairman James Terrell): The Department of Kentucky National Legislative Council met during the March 2011 Washington Conference. Nine Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited six congressional offices. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited six congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department presented no awards to congressional members. No feedback was received on the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

LOUISIANA: (Vice Chairman William M. Detweiler): The Department of Louisiana National Legislative Council (Julius Walsh, Roy Kirkham, Kenneth Lafleur, John Marrero, Jr., and Will Detweiler), met in Alexandria on January 15 and June 11 during the Louisiana Midwinter meeting and Department Convention. Four Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited seven congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited seven congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented.

The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that Council Members, as well as other Legionnaires, work on a regular basis with their congressional delegation on issues of importance to veterans and their families, on a local, state and national level. No feedback was received for the Legislative Action Center; however, congressional members and their staff are urged to take advantage of The American Legion websites and to use the Washington staff as a resource. No feedback was received regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

MAINE: (Vice Chairman Lloyd H. Woods): The Department of Maine National Legislative Council met three times during the year – one at Fall Conference in Millinocket, Maine; one at Mid Winter Conference held in Waterville, Maine and at the State Convention held in Bangor, Maine. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited four congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. No congressional members attended the breakfast. Two congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not present any awards. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that members of the Maine Council remain in constant contact with either the member of the legislature or one of the aides either in the State of Maine or from the Washington offices. Contacts with the member/the member's local aide or both are conducted on a fairly regular basis. This past year as the members were not in session during the Washington Conference, the attending council members met with the aides and presented the legislative point papers given at the conference to present to the members. At this year's state convention, both Congressman Michael Michaud and Senator Olympia Snowe spoke to all of the American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary and Sons). Only positive feedback is received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

MARYLAND: (Vice Chairman Leroy Thornton): On Wednesday, September 22, 2010, The Maryland National Legislative Council traveled to Washington D.C., to hear The American Legion National Commander Jimmy Foster give testimony to the Joint Veterans Affairs Committee. There were six members of the Maryland National Legislative Council present; they were Clarence Bacon, Thomas Davis, Elbert White, Marian James, Michael Mooney, and Leroy Thornton. On the afternoon of the 22 September 2010, a Luncheon was held for the Maryland Congressional Delegation in the Longworth Building. The Congressmen in attendance were: Rep. C A Dutch Ruppersberger, Rep. John Sarbanes, Rep. Donna F. Edwards, Rep. Steny H Hoyer, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, Rep. Christopher Van Hollen Jr. and Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin. Each were handed a copy of the Legislative Priority Sheet and each afforded the opportunity to speak and take a photo with their respective American Legion National Legislative Council liaison member. Several times during the year each Council Member has been called on to contact their respective legislative member, and ask them to support key American Legion supported bills. The Maryland National Legislative Council has been very successful in getting the Maryland Congressional Delegation to meet with them and talk about veterans issues the American Legion has.

MASSACHUSETTS: (Vice Chairman John Lenotte): Ten Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited nine Congressional offices. The group visiting offices included Past National Commanders John P. Comer and Paul A. Morin, National Historian Jim Fratillilo, NEC Milton Lashus, Department Commander Frank MacDonald, Department Adjutant Leslie J. McKittrick, jr., and Vice Chairman John Lenotte. Meetings were arranged prior to the conference with legislative aides as the Congressional Representatives were back in Massachusetts. All were well received and a report filed with the Washington office on progress made and where the Congressperson

stood in regards to Legion legislative priorities. Before and since that time, appropriated press releases on issues are forwarded by email to the legislative aides. It should be noted that Congressman Bill Keating from the 10th Mass. District has agreed to be a co-sponsor for the Flag Amendment. He is the first and only one to date. We will continue to work this important issue. Four council members attended the National Commander's testimony and visited 10 Congressional offices. No Congressional members attended the breakfast. No Congressional members attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented, nor was a Legislative Council Member recognized by the Department of Massachusetts. The Department of Massachusetts Legislative Council did not conduct any general meetings during the year.

MICHIGAN: (Vice Chairman Douglas Williams): Members of the Department of Michigan National Legislative Council met on June 23 and 24, 2011, at the Department Convention and prior to that at the Winter Conference on February 18, 2011. Six Council Members attended the Washington Conference in March 2011. This year our Michigan delegation was not in DC, instead they were in their home districts. Our Legion members made contact with each of the 17 congressional offices and presented them with point papers and matters of concern to our veterans. No Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. Two congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department will recognize a "Legislative Council Member of the Year" later this year at our Winter Conference. The Department held a legislative reception for our state senators and representatives on February 9, 2011, with at least 58 in attendance. Many of those in attendance indicated they would be talking with our Washington representatives about our national and state issues and concerns. No feedback was received on the Legislative Action Center. I review the *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

MINNESOTA: (Vice Chairman Jeff Olson): The Department of Minnesota National Legislative Council met at the Department Convention, July 2011 in Mahnomen, MN. Five Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited ten congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited four congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that The Minnesota Congressional delegation is very veteran friendly. All offices are aware and appreciative of the many good things being done by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota. The staff members in our congressional offices are very interested in veterans programs and legislation, asking many excellent questions and later briefing the Congressional Member. In the last election, Chip Cravaak, 8th District, Republican was elected. He is former military and appears to be very interested in veterans' issues. He may be a person we can cultivate and work with closely in the future. The Legislative Action Center is regarded as a useful tool to use in continuing to educate ourselves on the activity taking place on Capitol Hill. *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch* is very valuable information that is very well supported and documented by the weekly update emails sent to us from Director Tetz. These updates are excellent and really provide important and timely information.

MISSISSIPPI: (Vice Chairman Robert Gosa): The Department of Mississippi National Legislative Council met at the Midwinter Conference in January 2011 and at the Department Convention in July 2011. One Council Member attended the Washington Conference and visited five congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited five congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast or the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice-Chairman reports that two new congressmen were elected to the

delegation as a result of the 2010 midterm elections, i.e. Alan Nunnelee and Steven Palazzo. Rep. Nunnelee's liaison worked on his campaign and so is well placed, while the liaison to Rep. Palazzo also liaised with his predecessor and has been able to continue to work with the current congressman. All Council members have a good relationship with their assigned congressional member and when requested contact them in a timely manner and report such contacts and feedback to the vice chair. The Department received feedback on *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

MISSOURI: (Vice Chairman Richard A. Heigert): The Department of Missouri National Legislative Council met on October 23, 2010, Jefferson City, MO; February 20, 2011, Jefferson City, MO; July 8, 2011, Jefferson City. Six Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited seven congressional offices. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited five congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. The Department presented a Special Legislative Award to Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (MO-8) for her support for veterans and in particular for her sponsorship of the Flag Protection Amendment bill in the US House of Representatives. Missouri has two additional co-sponsors on H.J. Res 13 in Rep. Vicky Hartzler (MO-4) and Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-9). We are working to gain the support of both Senators and the other seven Representatives on this important legislation. Several of our Council members serve on their representative/senator veterans committee and have made numerous contacts with them or their staff here in Missouri. We are also very active in the Missouri Legislature with Lynn Dorrell serving as Vice-Chairman of the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) and Rich Heigert serving as Legislative Committee Chairman of MAVO. We have given state legislative awards to Rep. Chris Kelly and Sen. Robert Mayer for their support of veterans' legislation in the Missouri Legislature. The American Legion Dept. of Missouri is very active working with the Missouri Veterans Commission, MAVO and the legislators in passing legislation in support of the seven State Veterans' Homes, five State Veterans' Cemeteries and the many veterans' issues that come about each year. Again, three Council members attended the National Commander's testimony in Washington, DC. Following the testimony, Council Member Blair Moran and Vice Chairman Heigert personally met with Senators Bond and McCaskill where each was presented a copy of The American Legion Legislative Priorities. Along with Council Member Al Dieckhoff, we each visited our own Congressional representative also. At the Washington Conference, six members of the Council along with other Legion Family Members from Missouri visited seven of the Missouri Senatorial and Congressional offices. Although none of the members of Congress were present due to the Congressional recess, we did place copies of The American Legion Legislative Priorities in the hands of their staff. With the change of congressional seats following the 2010 elections, we had several changes to the Council and they have each received briefings from the Vice Chairman on their duties as Council Legislative Liaisons.

MONTANA: (Vice Chairman David M. McLean): The Department of Montana National Legislative Council held no formal general meetings this year. However, two members of the Council, David M. McLean and Merv Gunderson both attended the Department of Montana fall conference; spring conference and Department Convention. The same two also were present at a number of the District meeting in both the spring and fall. On each of these occasions, the business of the National Legislative Council is discussed. A third member, Roger Hagan, and David McLean converse regularly by telephone. The new monthly legislative report from Tim Tetz is very informative and helpful. It allows us to get information to the entire Department of Montana in a very timely manner. Due to the large distances in Montana, we communicate by telephone and e-mail so the electronic reports can be easily transmitted to all concerned. Roger Hagan attended the Washington

Conference this year and he also attended the National Commander's testimony. All three congressional offices were visited at this time. No members attended the breakfast. No members attended our Department Convention but all three congressional members sent representatives from their staffs to assure the American Legion of their continued support of veteran's issues. The members of the Legislative Council have excellent relationships with their assigned congressional representatives and converse with them or their staff at least monthly. Senator Max Baucus and Senator Jon Tester both sent letters to the Department Convention commending the work of members of the Legislative Council for keeping their offices informed as to the position of the Department of Montana on applicable veteran's issues. The Department of Montana presented no awards this year nor did it recognize a Legislator of the year. We are very satisfied that we have established a great network with our congressional delegation and know that our representatives value the input we give them regarding American Legion policies and positions. I proudly point out that one of our Council members, Merv Gunderson, has been selected by the Department of Montana to serve as a National Vice Commander representing the Western Caucus for the upcoming year. Merv has been the contact for Senator Jon Tester who sits on the Senate Veterans Affairs committee. Both Senator Tester and Baucus are delighted with Merv assuming this post and have specifically expressed this sentiment to me.

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

NEVADA: (Vice Chairman Ronald Gutzman): The Department of Nevada National Legislative Council met on three occasion during the reporting year: DEC Post #8 Las Vegas, Nevada in November 2010, DEC Post #30 Reno, Nevada in February 2011, and at the Department Convention Winnemucca, Nevada in June 2011. One Council Member attended the Washington Conference and visited four congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited two congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: (Vice Chairman John A. Graham): Members of the National Legislative Council in the Department of New Hampshire met "face to face" only twice in the last year. First was at the Department Mid-winter conference in January, and then again at the Department Convention in June. In an era of almost instantaneous communications (email, cell phones, etc.) it is not necessary to hold formal meetings. What is critical is ensuring that all members of the Council did in fact receive the latest action alert, and that the information is quickly passed on to the members of Congress and their staffs. To preclude multi-hour drives here in New Hampshire we rely on email and phone calls to accomplish this. Two Council members attended the Washington Conference. In addition, approximately 20 members of the Legion Family attended,

including the Department Commander, Department Vice-commanders and Department Adjutant. Vice-Chairman Graham, who is also a member of the NH House of Representatives, was unable to attend since that was the week the NH House was voting on the state budget. One Council member attended the Commander's Testimony and visited four congressional offices. During the time that members of the Department of NH were in D.C. visiting congressional offices speaking to staff members, Graham was able to schedule meetings with Rep. Guinta (NH1) and Sen. Ayotte to go over the Legion's agenda and action requests. With 2010 being an election year and half of the congressional seats being open New Hampshire faced a challenge in making sure all candidates received copies of the position papers provided during the National Commander's testimony. In New Hampshire's 1st congressional district Rep. Shea-Porter and her staff received the information as part of the visits during the days surrounding the Commanders testimony. Following his return to NH Graham met with her opponent Frank Guinta and provided him with all of the information that had been provided to sitting members of Congress. It was fortunate that he did so since Guinta did win the seat in the general election. In the open 2nd district, Graham met with both major party candidates (Bass and Anne Kuster), in order to ensure that whichever prevailed would understand the Legion's priorities for the next session of Congress. In the open U.S. Senate race, Paul Hodes received the information as part of the initial visits to members of congress (at the time he represented NH District 2). Graham met with his challenger and ultimate winner of the seat, Kelly Ayotte, in a similar effort to ensure that she knew our legislative agenda for the coming session. The NH members of the Council strongly suggest that this become a national program during election years – to make sure that challengers receive the same information as sitting members. You never can be absolutely certain who will be holding the seat the following January. Three of the four members of the NH congressional delegation [Representatives Guinta (NH1), Bass (NH2) and Senator Ayotte] attended the Department Convention. Here in New Hampshire we are having difficulty in having the newly elected congressional members become advocates versus paying lip service to any new expenditure of funds (i.e. concurrent receipt). Given the current mood within the state over the federal budget, it is doubtful that Guinta, Bass or Ayotte will be vocal supporters for increased spending. The only possible exception for this will be in the VA budget, but even support for this may be tempered. On other non-financial issues, such as the flag protection amendment, we do expect support. Regarding the Legislative Action Center, only positive comments have been received. The format is excellent in that it allows our Department Headquarters to forward the information to a wider audience. By doing so, it provides for timely action on the part of not only our Council members but by all who receive the alert whether from National or the Department.

NEW JERSEY: (Vice Chairman Joseph Gugliuzza): The Department of New Jersey National Legislative Council held no formal general meetings this year. Nine Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited thirteen congressional offices. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony, and visited one congressional office. One congressional member attended the breakfast. Two congressional members attended the Department Convention. Congressman Jon Runyan received a certificate of appreciation. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

NEW MEXICO: (Vice Chairman T.J. Trevino): The Department of New Mexico National Legislative Council held no formal general meetings this year. No Council Members attended the Washington Conference. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional member attended the

Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. Favorable feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*. The Vice Chairman reports that Council member Audie Miranda met with Senator Udall several times during the year. Vice Chairman T.J. Trevino hosted two town hall meetings with Rep. Pearce during the year.

NEW YORK: (Vice Chairman Kenneth Governor): The Department of New York National Legislative Council January 21, 2011, Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY; March 14, 2011, Crown Plaza Hotel, Albany, NY; July 14, 2011, Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY. Sixteen Council Members, along with a large contingent of Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons, attended the Washington Conference and visited thirty congressional offices. Six Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited twelve congressional offices. In New York, Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons are invited to the legislative meetings regardless of whether they are appointed members of the Legislative Council. Depending on the audience, the thrust of the meeting may be tailored to the experience level of those in attendance. In some instances the meetings may be broad and general by pointing out the composition and purposes of the advocacy programs to both the New York State Legislature and to the US Congress. In all instances, Legislative Point Papers, Legislative Policy Priorities, Weekly Legislative Division Updates, Legislative Alerts highlighting the importance on the "Take Action Link" are covered. Within the Council, special emphasis is placed on developing a strong relationship with newly elected Members of Congress to ensure that The American Legion is their "Go-To" organization for veteran and related issues both at home in the District and in Washington. In particular, the staffs of newly elected Representatives have been appreciative of this offer of assistance. Over 300 copies of the "Legislative Handbook" and the "How a Thought Becomes a Bill - How a Bill Becomes a Law" pamphlets were distributed at the Department Legislative Meeting in January and discussed as a learning aide in the legislative portion of the Department of New York's American Legion College conducted in June. While an exact count is hard to pinpoint, the number of written communications in the form of letters or emails from the Department of New York's legislative family of Council Members, Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion would easily exceed 1,000 in number. All members of New York's Congressional Delegation and staff have received the Drop Sheets outlining American Legion positions. Furthermore, Members of Congress and their staffs seem more accessible and interested in our views. New Members of Congress, Ann Marie Buerkle (NY25), appointed to Veterans Affairs and Foreign Affairs, and Chris Gibson (NY20), on Armed Services and Agriculture, respectively, are both supportive of The American Legion Legislative Agenda. Gibson, a recently retired US Army Colonel, however, has not committed to the Flag Amendment, describing himself a Constitutionalist. Others, such as Hinchey (NY22), Lowrey (NY18) and Serrano (NY16) are Minority members of the Appropriations Committee; Bill Owens (NY23), whose District includes the 10th Mountain Division's Fort Drum, serves on the Armed Services Committee as a Minority member. Along with Tonko (NY21), a Minority member of the House Budget Committee, both Owens and Tonko are generally supportive of our positions. New Congressmen, Richard Hanna (NY24) serves on the Education and Workforce Committee and Tom Reed (NY29) on Judiciary and Transportation and Infrastructure; both are receptive. Minority members of the same committee, Bishop (NY01) and Carolyn McCarthy (NY04) are approachable and friendly, but may be influenced by their party leadership. New Members, Grimm (NY13) and Hayworth (NY19) as well as Peter King (NY03) in the Majority are amenable and serve on Financial Service with strong Minority Party Members Gary Ackerman (NY05), Maloney (NY14), Velazquez (NY12), Meeks (NY06) and McCarthy. King continues to fully support The American Legion

agenda and also chairs Homeland Security, while on the same committee, Minority Members Yvette Clarke (NY11) and Brian Higgins (NY27) are appreciative of our endeavors if not always supportive. Joe Crowley (NY07) and Charlie Rangel (NY15) are Minority Members of Ways and Means and are generally supportive. Crowley, in particular, has been instrumental in paving the way for us into other offices where we have had difficulty in the past. Senator Schumer has voiced his support for the entire American Legion legislative program, but, in actuality, proceeds selectively. Senator Gillibrand has a better understanding of what we are trying to accomplish and is more open to suggestions and willing to help. She expresses her deep concern with the jobs situation and particularly the high unemployment rate among veterans. I would be remiss not to mention the dishonor and humiliation brought on our state by the disreputable actions of two members of the New York Congressional Delegation. US Representatives Christopher Lee (R-NY26) and Anthony Weiner (D-NY09) both resigned amid accusations of unseemly and inappropriate internet postings. Legislative Council Member, John Severa, resigned from the Council in disgust at Weiner's waffling in weighing his options before he resigned from Congress. Lee's District was thought to be solidly Republican, but went Democratic when the former Erie County Clerk, Kathy Hochul, won a hotly contested close special election in May. While the liaison to Lee continues to represent The American Legion in NY26, we will advise whether a Legionnaire with a closer affiliation should be recommended. A special election is scheduled for September 13, 2011, to fill the vacancy left by Weiner's resignation as well as to fill a handful of state legislative offices. NY-09 is heavily Jewish and, so far, three major candidates have appeared. Former New York City Mayor, Edward Koch, a Democrat, has endorsed one of the Republican candidates, Bob Turner, as, among other issues, a repudiation of President Obama's policies concerning the state of Israel. Regardless, there is a feeling that Weiner may have done the Democrats a favor when it comes to reapportionment. Since the NY legislature is currently a divided house, the prevailing wisdom is that, as a result of the 2010 US Census, each major political party will have to give up a seat when NY loses 2 of its 29 Congressional Districts. If that means carving up NY-09 by the Democrats, the Republicans will be expected to lose one of its Upstate Congressional Districts – and it could be NY-26 although others are vulnerable. If 90 year old Louise Slaughter (D-NY28) decides to retire, her sharply gerrymandered District could make things easier for Democrats. In the meantime, New York Governor, Andrew Cuomo, disagreeing with the state legislature, has insisted reapportionment be done by an impartial body. This situation bears watching because New York's well-known dysfunctional government could disenfranchise military and other voters in the next election if the issue is not resolved in a timely manner. The 2010 November mid-term elections changed the face of New York's US Congressional Delegation and provided us with an opportunity to capitalize on the changes to benefit our veterans, their families and our country. Six of the 27 Democratic New York US Congressional Districts changed from Democratic Party control to Republican Party control. Several races were cliff-hangers with the winners chosen by recount while other seemingly solid incumbents found their positions teetering in the balance before they were finally resolved. The election results were significant as, according to the New York State Board of Elections, there are 11.8 million registered voters in New York — 50 percent enrolled Democrats; 25 percent Republicans; and 20 percent independents not enrolled in a party. The rest are enrolled in minor parties. From the perspective of the National Legislative Council, the most obvious adjustment was to recommend replacements for two strong veteran advocates, our departed brothers, Peter Holowecki and Joe Saia. In other US Congressional Districts, political parties changed signaling a call for a potential change of the current council member to a Legionnaire with closer ties to the Representative-elect. Consideration was given to whether other council members

may be ready for a change due to medical reasons, loss of interest, or general inability or unwillingness to continue in the legislative program. Realizing that, as the nature of contemporary Congressional actions tend to require quick action, reaction or a response in tandem with concurrent Congressional developments and/or American Legion requirements, the need to communicate rapidly with Legislative Council Members, Congressional offices and the Legislative Division via e-mail or other electronic media has never been as important. Comparatively, strict and lengthy off-site inspection and irradiation of the US Mail greatly delayed written communication with Capitol Hill. As a result, Congressional staffers learned to depend more and more on e-mail and any media other than paper to conduct the nation's business. It is anticipated that more technological advances will continue as mobile and web-based applications continue to develop. Not surprisingly, all of the newly elected freshmen Members of Congress were each issued a new Blackberry during their recent orientation week. Importantly, a National Legislative Council with the same capabilities would be able to carry out a more effective legislative program. The idea was proposed that unless we consider steps to bring our Council up to date, The American Legion legislative program will go backwards as we are eclipsed by other organizations that take advantage of contemporary communication methods. Moreover, in the long run, our military, our veterans and their families will be hurt the most if we are unable to connect and execute in a timely manner. The key is communication and motivated focus among informed National Legislative Council Members in a quick, concise and unified manner. In reorganizing New York's National Legislative Council, in addition to ideally choosing a Legionnaire with a personal relationship with the Member of Congress or staff, some ideas considered for selecting new members were:

- Technology oriented in order to receive, communicate and research matters of legislative importance to The American Legion in order to keep pace with the rapidly changing high volume of issues being handled by Congressional and American Legion staffs.
- Fluency and flexibility in internet, cell phone, text messaging and other new media communication methods along with the ability to learn, adapt and change, as applicable.
- Representative of The American Legion membership population and the demographic goals of The American Legion (i.e.: not only the wisdom of our elders, but minorities such as women, Legionnaires of color, various ages and war eras, etc.).
- Knowledgeable and have a historical perspective of The American Legion and its ideals or be able to learn quickly about The American Legion and its positions and programs in order to put them in perspective and fully explain them to others, particularly members of Congress and their staffs. In general, Congress receives The American Legion in a courteous manner but that doesn't mean they will always support our positions. Since many Congressional staffers are young (some even detailed from the military services under the military fellows program), consideration of appointing contemporary war era veterans to council vacancies, where possible or applicable, may enhance our relationships in a peer-related association in Congressional offices. Additionally, with a long term view in mind, council appointees of the current war era could grow in experience and knowledge while building rapport and credibility with Congressional Members and their staffs for the future of our great organization.

Building such a team, placing all the right people in all the right places in a large and diverse Department, state and Congressional Delegation is both exacting and rewarding. While not perfect and still incomplete, the Department of New York has made great

strides in attaining the above goals. During the most recent Department Convention of about 1,600 Legionnaires, 400 Auxiliary and 200 Sons of The American Legion, Department Commander, V. James Troiola, responded to a member of the news media: "The importance of it is for everyone at the convention to know what our legislative issues are, what all the issues are that we'll be to Congress about this year, make sure they take it back to their communities and to make sure they get support from their communities as well as from their elected officials." The New York Legislative Council continues to build on its strengths and take advantage of the relationships it has established with its Congressional Delegation. Regarding the Legislative Action Center, for Legislative Council Members or American Legion family advocates nothing could be simpler or more effective when all that is required is to click on the "Take Action" link of the appropriate Action Alert email and a message is automatically generated to both US Senators and the citizen's Congressional Representative. Hardly any effort required – couldn't be easier. This is a great idea! Regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*, even in the most recent past, Legislative Council members primarily depended on The American Legion *Dispatch* for guidance or information from the National Legislative Chairman. Action items and supplied facts continue to be printed in the Chairman's message in the *Dispatch*'s *Dateline: Capitol Hill* section and they should continue to be published in that excellent periodical. The *Dispatch* is timelier than The American Legion Magazine and both are a great source of information. However, I would suggest that in this present age of instant messaging, the *Dispatch* as a communication vehicle for the Legislative Council is not as effective and timely as alternative media. As an example, the September 27, 2010, issue was delivered by US Mail on October 22, 2010, and primarily refers to Congressional actions during the month of August 2010 – about a two month lag time. Moreover, in the September 27th issue of the *Dispatch*, the National Chairman requested Council Members to contact their Members of Congress by September 30th – an impossible task when the newspaper was delivered three weeks after September 30th.

NORTH CAROLINA: (Vice Chairman Jeff W. Joyner): The Department of North Carolina National Legislative Council met on three occasions during the year: October 2010, February 2011, and June 2011. Four Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited fifteen congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. Two congressional members attended the breakfast. Two congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department presented awards to Reps. Walter Jones and Mike McIntyre. The Department recognized a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*. The Vice Chairman reports that North Carolina added veterans status to the state's drivers licenses during the last year.

NORTH DAKOTA: (Vice Chairman Curtis O. Twete): The Department of North Dakota National Legislative Council met twice during the year on February 4, 2011, in Minot, ND and at the Department Convention in Dickinson, ND on June 25, 2011. One Council Member attended the Washington Conference and visited three congressional offices. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices. No congressional member attended the breakfast. No congressional member attended the Department Convention. No awards were presented. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center. No feedback was received on *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

OHIO: (Vice Chairman William K. Balser): The Department of Ohio National Legislative Council met in Columbus, OH on January 15, 2011 and July 1, 2011. Nine Council members attended the Washington Conference and visited eighteen

congressional offices. No members attended the National Commander's testimony. Eighteen members visited their congressional offices. No congressional representatives attended the breakfast or the Department Convention, however, House Representatives Pat Tiberi and Robert Gibbs were invited but unable to attend. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year, but welcomed new Senator Rob Portman and thanked him for his support of veteran issues in the past. Council members continue to push for adequate VA funding, support of our troops in the war efforts overseas, and a balanced budget. The Legislative Action Center and Dateline provide us all with current Legion priorities and we continue to report to the general membership in Ohio about their elected representatives voting preferences. We find a growing concern among the Blue Cappers about the congressional activity in Washington.

OKLAHOMA: (Vice Chairman John 'Wes' Benge): The Department of Oklahoma National Legislative Council met in Oklahoma City, OK on June 10, 2011. One Council Member attended the Washington Conference and visited two congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony. No Members of Congress attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention and no awards were presented. The Department did not present an award for Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that he met once with Senator Tom Coburn at his office in Muskogee, OK and with Rep. Dan Boren twice, once at a town hall meeting in Tahlequah and once in Claremore. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

OREGON: (Vice Chairman Jim Willis): First, it is my sad duty to report the passing of Vice Chairman Robert V. Mariani, whose over 50 years of service to the American Legion and decades spent on Capitol Hill leave a legacy of service which will be difficult to replace. The Department of Oregon National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings during the year. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and were accompanied by five additional members of the Department of Oregon attendees. This group visited all seven of the Oregon delegation offices and passed out the National priority factsheet. All three council members attended the National Commander's testimony. No members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attend the Department Convention and no award was presented. The Department did not recognize a legislative council member of the year, however every Legion Action Alert was conveyed to the delegation in a timely manner. Department of Oregon Legionnaire Jerry Shorey has been appointed to the National Legislative Council (pending approval) to replace the late Robert Mariani and has also been appointed Chair of our State Council. I and the member of the Oregon Council appreciate this opportunity to serve our fellow Legionnaires, our veterans and their families.

PENNSYLVANIA: (Vice Chairman Ronald F. Conley): The Department of Pennsylvania National Legislative Council met on January 14, 2011. Eight Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited fourteen congressional offices. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited three congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department presented a Distinguised Service Award to a congressional member who accepted the award by video. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

RHODE ISLAND: (Vice Chairman Norman Vadnais): The Department of Rhode Island National Legislative Council met on seven occasions during the year. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited four congressional offices. One council member attended the National Commander's Testimony. No congressional

members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was been received regarding the Legislative Action Center. *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch* considered to be very interesting.

SOUTH CAROLINA: (Vice Chairman Richard E. Walsh, Sr.): The Department of South Carolina National Legislative Council met on three occasions during the year. Two Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited one congressional office. Two Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. One congressional member attended the breakfast. No congressional member attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*. The Vice Chairman reports that with four new congressional members in the delegation for the 112th Congress, they had their work cut out for them in their educational efforts regarding Legion positions on our issues.

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

TENNESSEE: (Vice Chairman Kenneth F. Irvine, Jr.): The Tennessee National Legislative Council consists of eleven members. Our two Senators and nine Representatives each have a person that is a direct liaison with that legislator. One of our Council members has recently passed away and we are actively working to replace that member. Three Tennessee council members attended that National Commander's call in last September. All three attended the Legislative breakfast and Commander Foster's testimony before the Joint Committee of Congress. During the breakfast a member of our delegation had a lengthy conversation with an active duty officer that was assigned to the White House staff. This officer was assigned to deal with issues being encountered by wounded veterans returning to their local communities. He was quite interested in hearing the experiences of wounded veterans that have been returning to Tennessee. After the Commander's testimony, a lengthy meeting was held with Congressman Duncan (2nd Dist. TN). This was the third meeting with Congressman Duncan in the last year. Before the Commander's testimony, I had a short meeting with Mr. Jack Price, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Phil Roe (1st Dist. TN). At our Annual Department Convention, I put on a one hour Legislative Seminar. Approximately 15 people attended this seminar. Several of these attendees were members of the Tennessee National Legislative Council. A sixty-page handout was provided to each attendee. About half of the handout was taken directly from the Legislative Division Updates. A lively discussion was held about the legislation/budget that is currently before Congress. One unexpected development of this meeting was a decision to develop a legislative presence in our state legislature. On June 29, 2011, I recently attended a meeting with Mr. David Leaverton, Aide to Senator Corker. Also attending this meeting were Bob Dewald, Commander, Post 2, Marvin Tuggle, Adjutant, Post 2, Joleen Dewald, Post 2 ALR and Auxiliary, Dennis Moldenhauer, District 2 Commander and Marty Everett, East Tennessee Vice

Commander. The meeting covered a variety of topics of interest to local veterans. We are expecting to follow up two key issues after this meeting. Mr. Leaverton is going to see what programs are available to help with the high unemployment rate of veterans in East Tennessee and he is going to explore some type of public meeting/fair where we can attract all veterans in the area and get them information about all the benefits available to them as veterans. The Tennessee National Legislative Council is looking forward to working with the National Legislative Council in the coming year.

TEXAS: (Vice Chairman Don Daft): The Department of Texas National Legislative Council met once during the year at the midwinter conference. Three Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited six congressional offices. Three Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited six congressional offices. Three congressional members attended the breakfast. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Legislative Action Center brings issues to the forefront so they can be discussed in ample time to react. The Department has begun an informational network, Hubmaster Network, that is beginning to take root. It is a managed network that relays information and bulletins up and down the chain of command between the Department and the local posts. It is a very effective tool to get the issues out to the grassroots and it developing very rapidly. It has made a real impact on the letters and calls forwarded to our legislators. Membership is encouraged to subscribe to The American Legion *Dispatch* and excerpts are put out on the Hubmaster Network to inform the posts.

UTAH: (Vice Chairman William E. Christoffersen): The Department of Utah National Legislative Council met on six occasions during the year. One Council Member attended the Washington Conference and visited all five congressional offices. One Council Member attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited all five congressional offices. No congressional member attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. The Department presented certificates of appreciation to Representatives Jim Matheson and Bob Bishop. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. The Vice Chairman reports that he is on a first name basis with the state's congressional representatives. He was asked to get Senator Hatch to reintroduce the flag protection amendment in the Senate, which was done on Flag Day 2011. Furthermore, the Vice Chairman reports that the Utah congressional delegation is receptive to the Legion's legislative goals, such as the repeal of the disabled veterans tax and allowing Medicare reimbursement at VA medical facilities. Feedback was received for both the Legislative Action Center (Hatch's Flag Amendment) and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

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

VIRGINIA: (Vice Chairman Kenneth Knight): The Department of Virginia National Legislative Council met at Hampton, VA in October 2010, and in Virginia Beach, VA on March 12, 2011. Nine Council Members attended the Washington Conference and visited eleven congressional offices. Seven Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and visited twelve congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. No congressional members attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the

Year. The Vice Chairman reports that the Council Members, along with a number of Legionnaires, members of the Auxiliary and S.A.L, are very effective and that the Virginia congressional delegation is very receptive to the Legion's priorities and supportive of our troops and veterans. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center and *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

WASHINGTON: (Vice Chairman William F. Schrier): Members of the Department of Washington National Legislative Council met at the 2011 Department Midwinter Conference and at the Department Convention in July 2011. The Department had six Council Members attend the Washington Conference and visited the entire delegation of 11 congressional offices. Six Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony and, again, visited the entire delegation of 11 congressional offices. No congressional members attended the breakfast. One congressional member attended the Department Convention. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. Legislative Council Members have weekly contact with their congressional members or staff and meet once a quarter to discuss legislative matters pertaining to veterans and the military. All updates are sent to both local and DC offices, Veterans Network (VetNet) to advise and update all members of Congress. Favorable feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center from Rep. Larsen's legislative staff. No feedback was received about *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*. The Vice Chairman submitted individual reports provided by several Council members which were detailed, informative and helpful in understanding the nature of the relationships with those congressional offices.

WEST VIRGINIA: (Vice Chairman Robert E. Mayo): The Department of West Virginia National Legislative Council conducted no general meetings, during the year. Being a relatively small state the members stay in touch primarily through e-mail, phone contact and face-to-face meetings during the State Convention, Mid-Winter Conference, etc. Four of our members attended the National Commander's Testimony. All of our members visited each Congressman and Congresswoman's office at least once during the year. Usually, we visit both Senators twice each year. Our members and department headquarters work with staff all throughout the year. The Department did not present any special award or recognition to a congressional member, but all five have received awards in past years. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. No feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center or *Dateline: Capitol Hill* in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

WISCONSIN: (Vice Chairman Russell Hanseter): The Department of Wisconsin National Legislative Council members met at the Midwinter, Spring & Fall Department meetings and during the Department Convention. Four Council Members (Duckworth, Sorenson, Rohan, and Richards) attended the Washington Conference and visited the entire delegation's congressional offices. No Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. Senator Ron Johnson attended the Department Convention, where the vice chairman obtained a commitment from him to cosponsor the Flag Protection Amendment. The Vice Chairman introduced all Council members to the Department Convention indicating to which congressional member they liaised with and recognized individually each for their participation on the Council. He reports the Department has fielded the strongest Council ever in his years as vice chairman. Favorable feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center. Council members are encouraged by the vice chairman to read and use the *Dateline: Capitol Hill* column in The American Legion *Dispatch*.

WYOMING: (Vice Chairman W.R. Wright): The Department of Wyoming National Legislative Council met on September 30, 2010 in Glendo, WY; at the Fall Workshop on January 22, 2011, in Worland, WY; at the Mid-Winter Conference; on June 18, 2011 in Laramie, WY; and at the Department Convention. One Council Member attended the

Washington Conference and visited the two senators and the one at-large congressional representative. No Council Members attended the National Commander's Testimony. Two members of congress attended the breakfast. The Department did not recognize a Legislative Council Member of the Year. Senator Mike Enzi and Rep. Cynthia Lummis attended Wyoming Boys State on June 4, 2011. Senator John Barasso attended later on June 9, 2011. The vice chairman was able to speak with Senator Enzo and Rep. Lummis individually at that time. Both Senator Enzi and Rep. Lummis attended then Department Convention on June 17, 2011. A letter from Senator Barasso was presented in his absence. Favorable feedback was received regarding the Legislative Action Center. Finally, the vice chairman reports mostly favorable feedback regarding *Dateline: Capitol Hill* The American Legion *Dispatch*. Those members without internet access often ask for more information on the debate and vote about the legislation highlighted in the column. They are advised to read The American Legion magazine which often has more information. Those with internet access already use online Legion resources, such as the Burn Pit blog and the website as information sources.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thanks, Dan. At this time we'll call on *The American Legion Magazine* Commission, Dennis J. Henkemeyer, of Minnesota.

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

Mr. Commander, Mr. Adjutant, members of the NEC and Legionnaires one and all.

The American Legion Magazine report has been submitted for publication, and I'm happy to tell you there are no matters that are emergency in nature.

So with that, Mr. Commander, I would like to thank you on behalf of the commission. As you know we've truly evolved this last year under your command. Many changes. You've been very supportive. I thank you for that, and I thank you for the opportunity of serving.

Report: *The American Legion Magazine* Commission
August 11, 2011
Dennis J. Henkemeyer, Minnesota, Chairman

The American Legion Magazine Division continues to cultivate a variety of diverse audiences through new online media channels, including the most visited website among all veterans service organizations, www.legion.org. The division also manages a growing portfolio of e-newsletters, a blog, mobile applications and social media, all in addition to publication of the nation's largest veterans magazine, the monthly *Dispatch*, a convention guide, an annual report and many other communications products.

In July of 2011, www.legion.org broke its all-time record for visitation in a month. Fueled by online renewals, traffic hit 600,264 total visits, including 475,091 unique visitors in that month alone. More than 62,000 members renewed online in the first five weeks following introduction of that service on July 1. Advertising in American Legion electronic media continues to increase and is now projected to generate $225,515 in revenue by the end of the year, compared to an original budget expectation of $187,000.

Much of this performance is attributed to business from USAA, which reports better-than-expected results from its advertising campaign with the Magazine Division.

The American Legion Magazine itself continues to hold its ground in a flat, recession-driven print advertising environment. The magazine is poised to return a budget surplus of $299,129, despite lower-than-expected advertising sales. Total advertising for the division is projected to exceed $8.9 million compared to a budget of $9.8 million. The year-end budget will be adjusted accordingly.

All costs are running below budget for the division, due to the reduction of pages printed and delivered. Through September, the division published 40 fewer pages than were budgeted.

Significant recent developments include the American Legion Online Update's subscription list passing 320,000 and growth in both the Flag Alert and Dugout e-newsletters. The Flag Alert e-newsletter now has more than 10,000 subscribers, and the Dugout has more than 30,000. The division also developed a web landing page for The American Legion Youth Programs Alumni Association and developed a survey on the performance of VA Regional Offices for the Veterans Affairs & Rehabiliation Division. The Magazine Division also produced the new "Why You Should Belong" booklet for Internal Affairs.

Also this summer, The American Legion Magazine Division produced the first-ever American Legion Annual Report, a 58-page document that shows how the organization's values and programs are executed at the local level. The new annual report will be available for membership recruitment, fundraising and other uses. This replaces the Four Pillars booklet, which had been produced by the division since 2008. By doing this, the division had to rework the annual convention guide and establish an online module to house the reports of commission and committees on www.legion.org.

As the division continues to evolve into a multi-media production complex for the entire organization, the Magazine Division produces and delivers more and more materials in support of programs and services outside the division's traditional workload. These efforts are diverse and include technological development and customer support for the baseball registration site, e-newsletters for the Youth Alumni Association, online promotions for Economic Division events, designing engraved labels for the pillars in the front of the building, creating posters to promote concerts at convention, writing scripts for online training materials, and much more. In many cases, these efforts do not generate direct revenue or other measurable performance, but they all contribute to the enhancement of The American Legion brand and image.

As of this writing, a new Legion.org site architecture is being constructed. The new design and conversion to Drupal 7 will improve the site's performance, ease navigability and provide better membership promotion without forfeiting any of its news value. The new architecture was developed after considerable market research during the winter and is built to drive membership, promote the organization, showcase its services and answer questions non-member veterans have about The American Legion.

The staff is stable and working hard to produce the best media products possible for The American Legion and its members at a time of great transformation in the world of communications.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the *The American Legion Magazine* Commission. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the *The American Legion Magazine* Commission. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thanks, Dennis. At this time we'll call on Public Relations Commission Chairman Robert L. Morrill from New York.

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

Thank you, Mr. Commander. Good morning everyone. The Public Relations Commission has nothing of an emergency nature this morning.

Mr. Commander, I'm happy because I have an opportunity to present to this body the latest public relations tool. It's a public relations tool kit, and I would urge all of you to pick up one of these before you go home, and bring it to your people at the grassroots level. It covers everything from press releases, to social media, to interview techniques, and the art of getting your events into the public. And it's not a bit of good if you don't bring it back and tell your people about it and ask them to utilize it.

There are some studies that suggest that sometimes when we bring new material forward; it takes 18 months before it gets to the local level for use. So I would urge you, as leaders of this organization, to get the word down to the grassroots as soon as possible.

Mr. Commander, it's been an honor and privilege to serve with you this year, and the commission and staff wishes you Godspeed for all your future endeavors. Thank you.

Report: Public Relations Commission
August 29, 2011
Robert L. Morrill, New York, Chairman

The Public Relations Commission of The American Legion met in the Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 103D, Saturday, August 27, 2011.

The new PR System Tool Kit debuted at the meeting as each commission member received the first kits off the line. The new publication/DVD/Interactive replaces The American Legion Public Relations Handbook. It offers a wide array of new media tools, information, templates for press releases, advisories, letters, as well as electronic PSAs, videos, website media ads, and PR presentations. The new kit provides insight into new media technologies, references, websites and tips on using social media to the benefit of post public relations efforts. The kits are available for delegates at the public relations office here at Convention. Copies will be forwarded to each department and individual kits will be available free on request to Legion public relations officers by calling, writing or emailing the national PR office at pr@legion.org.

The American Legion "Powerful Force" television PSA package distributed by Goodwill Communications to major cable systems around the country has received nearly 19,000 air plays in 28 states and 52 cities with a value of $2,447,020. This is in addition to the local distribution being accomplished by department, district and post public relations officers to cable and television systems in their communities. Additionally, the "Powerful Force for the Nation" radio package is available on CD for marketing to radio stations free on request to the national public relations office at pr@legion.org.

With Resolution 11 passed during the May meetings, the commission was given an update on The American Legion Amateur Radio Club status. Through amateur radio's value as a means of reliable emergency local, regional, and national communications, The American Legion Amateur Radio Club provides a venue to increase post community service, provide an additional membership recruiting and retention incentive and strengthen outreach to youth. Since the May meeting, more than 250 licensed radio amateurs have joined the club – several joining the Legion to become club members. The American Legion club received coverage by Military.com, the Amateur Radio Newsline and the national magazine, QST, published monthly by the ARRL, the National Association of Amateur Radio. A plaque of appreciation was presented to the Southern

Maryland District of the Sons of The American Legion for their donation of a radio transceiver to the club station in Indianapolis.

The American Legion 2011 Patriot Award winner is Col. Greg Gadson, Director of the U.S. Army's Wounded Warrior Program. Col. Gadson lost his legs and suffered severe nerve damage to his right arm as a result of an IED attack in Iraq. The commission viewed a short video by ESPN about Col. Gadson and the inspiration he provided to the 2008/2009 Superbowl Champion N.Y. Giants.

Operation Comfort Warriors continues to provide needed gifts to our wounded warriors. Since the 92nd National Convention, OCW has provided electronics, backpacks and event support to wounded warriors at Camp Pendleton, Balboa, San Jose, Fort Hood, Landstuhl and other areas. Most recently, Operation Comfort Warriors made it possible for wounded warriors and their families to visit Six Flags Amusement park in San Antonio, Texas. The $250,000 grant by Pepsi was spent in the required 12-month period, meaning donations and continued support to OCW are needed more than ever.

Commission staff this year provided video support and Live Web Streaming of four different sessions of Boys Nation in Washington DC. The result was a series of daily highlight videos for each of the eight days totaling nearly 60 minutes of finished video posted to the web site. In addition, 10 hours of live streaming was provided during the week as well as staff media liaison coordinating hometown and national media coverage during the weeklong event. Other activities included the production of a new CFA video, development of a training video on Post Development and Revitalization with the Internal Affairs Division and the creation of a series of video PSAs for distribution in the Fall Goodwill PSA distribution package. The spots will highlight the need to recognize and take action in hiring veterans, supporting military families, recognizing the contributions of women veterans and our wounded warriors. Anticipated completion is 30 September.

During the summer, the commission's media marketing staff in Washington coordinated a number of national media interviews including the appearance of the executive director on the Fox News Channel to discuss JPMorgan Chase overcharging servicemembers on home loans; the economic director on CNN to discuss veterans unemployment and strategies to hire more of them; the legislative director on CNN's "State of the Union" program to discuss the quality of VA health care and how it can be improved and the VA & R director on the Christian Broadcasting Network to discuss religious censorship at the National VA Cemetery in Houston. Other stories with quotes from Legion experts were published by the Washington Post, New York Times, Military Times, Stars & Stripes and Associated Press.

Mr. David Evans of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) briefed the commission on the latest outreach efforts to provide information to the troops on the services being offered by The American Legion and other VSOs. There is now a special DoD website in place to publish information about support activities – www.ourmilitary.mil – and services directly available to U.S. Service personnel by private organizations. The commission will disseminate the information to public relations chairmen/officers for full participation.

Mr. Michael Duggan, Executive Director of the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) provided an update on the status of the organization, new officers and recent awards. He discussed the current plan to expand NALPA membership over the next year.

Production of the CW entertainment program, "The Making of a Star," designed to showcase the talents of veterans and active duty military entertainers, has been pushed back to the end of the year. The American Legion has been assisting the producers in locating audition venues.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Public Relations Commission. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thanks, Bob. At this time I call on the Membership and Post Activities Committee, Denise H. Rohan from Wisconsin.

Oral Report: Membership and Post Activities Committee
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman

Good Morning Commander; members of the National Executive Committee and guests.

You have a copy of our report in your folders. I would like to just highlight a few items. Of our 2.4 million members that we have to date, DMS accounts for 216,000. Of that total, the rest are traditional renewals and recruitments. The renewals and recruitments are 95 percent of our membership for this year. The normal average is 89 to 91 percent. So 95 percent is a great job.

The 2012 renewal campaign began in June. And one area we are particularly interested in is to see how those 216,000 DMS members do as far as renewals go.

We are doing the same as last year, five additional mailings and email blasts to those members to remind them about what The American Legion does and why they should renew their dues.

Our DMS goal for 2012 is 210,000. The 2012 renewal campaign is out, and as we talked about, in May all departments are eligible to do the online renewal process. And so far to date, 75,000 members have used that online renewal process.

The national staff, in conjunction with our local volunteers, has been directly involved with 70 new post starts or revitalizations, which is a wonderful job. I remind you that they're all available to come to our departments and help out if needed. That's the staff efforts from January 1st to December 31st, and we hope to end this year with even better numbers.

The first target date of 50 percent is September 14th. From what I'm hearing, we're going to have a wonderful year coming up. We expect the first membership report will be coming out as soon as the staff returns back to Indianapolis.

We have a wonderful Membership and Post Activities staff, and I appreciate all the work they have done, as well as our parent commission, Internal Affairs, and this committee. I thank you for your support, your vision, and involvement concerning the 2012 membership campaign. Mr. Commander, that's my report. Thank you.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
August 29, 2011
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman

The Membership and Post Activities Committee met at 10:30 a.m. on August 27, 2011, in the Hilton Minneapolis, Marquette Ballroom V, 2nd Floor. Total in attendance was 56 individuals.

DMS accounted for 216,000 members of the current 2011 membership total, the rest was traditional efforts through renewals and traditional recruitment of new members. These two areas, renewal and new starts, has accounted for 95% of our membership this year – normal average is between 89% - 91%.

The renewal campaign began in June. One area of interest will be the renewal behavior of the 216,000 DMS members acquired in 2011. They will receive five additional mailings/e-mail blasts which outline the 2012 renewal campaign and tell them more about The American Legion. This will be the second year in which these added communications have been included. Our DMS goal for 2012 is set at 210,000. The 2012 renewal campaign will include the option for members to renew online. To date, 75,000 have chosen to renew online.

National Staff, working in conjunction with local volunteers, was directly involved in 70 posts being started or revitalized through the work of Post development teams in 2011 (staff efforts run from Jan 1 – Dec 31).

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

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the Membership and Post Activities report. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Membership and Post Activities Committee. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

I want to say thanks, Denise. Whenever I was looking at the commission chairman and I went to the team and said, "Hey, guys, you know, my whole focal point is to have female veterans and minorities." I want to thank the team for agreeing with me, and we have at least one female chairman, and Denise, you did a great job. I've seen you across the country. Thank you very much. At this time I'll call on the Internal Affairs Commission report, Larry J. Besson from Illinois.

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

Thank you commander, NEC, and guests. You have my report in your hands, and there's nothing of an emergency nature to bring before you.

Mr. Commander, I appreciate your help and your guidance, along with the help that has been shown to us by the NEC. We appreciate this as a body and I thank you very much for this honor to serve you at this time. Thank you.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
August 29, 2011
Larry J. Besson, Illinois, Chairman

The Internal Affairs Commission met in the Hilton Minneapolis in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Saturday, August 27, 2011. We have no resolutions to go before the National Executive Committee during this pre-convention meeting.

The Internal Affairs Commission informally reviewed 22 resolutions that were to come before the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Matters, Section II.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the Internal Affairs report. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thank you, Larry. At this time we'll call on Foreign Relations Commission Chairman Randall Fisher from Kentucky.

Oral Report: Foreign Relations Commission
Randall Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Good morning. On August 27th the Foreign Relations and National Security Commissions met in joint session at the Hilton Minneapolis Grand Ballroom. The joint session had four guest presentations this year.

Our first guest speaker was Victoria Holt, Deputy Assistant Director, Bureau of International Organization Affairs. She gave a comprehensive report covering the bureau's perspective on future peacekeeping operations.

The second speaker was Ronald Jensen, President of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. He shared his thoughts regarding critical challenges regarding the U.S. in terms of the infrastructure of electric power and pressing cyber security issues.

The third speaker was Kristy Kaufmann, Vice President and Executive Director of the Code of Support Foundation. She gave a briefing on the effects on PTSD on spouses and children. She also spoke on the policy regarding the relationship between the veteran service organizations and the Department of Defense.

The event culminated with an address by Koby Langley, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy. Mr. Langley described how his offices work to ensure high quality support and service to wounded warriors and their families, as well as military members in transition through outreach, collaboration, policy, and program oversight.

In the afternoon, the Foreign Relations Commission reconvened at the Minneapolis Convention Center Ballroom, and conducted a comprehensive courtesy review of five resolutions assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations. The Convention Committee recommended one of these five resolutions for adoption, three were recommended to be received and recorded, and one resolution was recommended to be referred to the standing commission for further development.

The Foreign Relations Commission thanks Jimmie Foster and the National Executive Committee for their support throughout this year and will continue to work diligently to provide The American Legion with timely information and focused foreign relations policy. Commander Foster, this concludes my report.

Report: Foreign Relations Commission
August 30, 2011
Randall Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

On Saturday, August 27, the Foreign Relations and National Security Commissions met in joint session in the Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis Grand Ballroom D, 3rd floor. The joint session had four guest presentations this year.

The first guest speaker was Victoria K Holt, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs. Ms. Holt gave a comprehensive report covering the bureau's perspective on future peacekeeping operations.

The second speaker was Ronald G. Jensen, President, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. Mr. Jensen shared his thoughts regarding critical challenges facing

the U.S. in terms of the infrastructure of electric power and pressing cyber security issues.

The third speaker Kristy Kaufmann, Vice-President, Executive Director of the Code of Support Foundation gave a briefing on the effects on PTSD on spouses and children. She also spoke on the policy regarding the relationship between veteran service organizations and DoD.

The event culminated with an address by Koby Langley, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy. Mr. Langley described how his offices works to ensure high quality support and service for wounded warriors and their families as well as military members in transition through outreach, collaboration, policy, and program oversight.

In the afternoon, the Foreign Relations Commission reconvened at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Ballroom B, level one; and conducted a comprehensive courtesy review of five resolutions assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations. The Commission recommended one of the five resolutions for adoption, three were recommended to be received and recorded and one resolution was recommended to be referred to the standing commission for further development.

The Foreign Relations Commission thanks National Commander Jimmie Foster and the National Executive Committee for their support throughout the year and will continue to work diligently to provide The American Legion with timely information and focused foreign relations policy.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Foreign Relations Commission. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Foreign Relations Commission. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. At this time I call on Economic Commission Chairman Harold D. Barnett of Georgia.

Oral Report: Economic Commission
Harold D. Barnett, Georgia, Chairman

Thank you Commander Foster, members of the NEC and guests. Thank you for the opportunity to highlight the activities of the Economic Commission. There are no matters of an emergency matter, and you have our written report. However, I would like to highlight three key roundtables that we had during this convention.

We had key leaders from Department of Labor, Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and USDA. We conducted roundtables in education and homelessness, to include a visit to a homeless site this morning, and employment. I would like to especially highlight our veterans' Job Fair that was conducted on Saturday, August 27. We had over 65 employers. We had over 350 veterans who went through that, and there were job offerings and follow-up interviews that were made. We got excellent public relations coverage on both the television as well as an interface with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

On behalf of the commission, Commander Foster and our Washington Office, I want to thank you for your strong support of employment issues for veterans. Commander, this concludes my report.

Report: Economic Commission
August 29, 2011
Harold Barnett, Georgia, Chairman

Members of your Committees on Employment and Veterans Preference met at 8:30 on August 27, 2011, in Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 103A, Level One Minneapolis, Minnesota to listen to presentations from a variety of subject matter experts in the area of veterans employment, education, credentialing and business development. In attendance were 36 members of the Commission, the NEC Liaison, and many other guests.

Speakers for the Commission meeting included: Doris Brown, Deputy Vice President and Engagement Partner, Avue Technologies Corporation; Anne St. Eloi, Special Representative, Veterans in Piping; Michael Meyer, Executive Director, Coalition to Salute America's Heroes; Stephen Robinson, Vice President, External Veterans Affairs, The Prudential Insurance Company of America; David Dissinger, Veterans Employment Program Manager, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Gary Quernemoen, Veterans Program Manager, Minnesota Department of Economic Development and Employment; Daniel Nichols, Executive Director, Inova Health System; David Heidebrink, Field Operation Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Economic Development and Employment; Raymond Decker, Assistant Director, Veterans' Services, Office of Personnel Management; and William Elmore, Associate Administrator, Office of Veterans Business Development, Small Business Administration (SBA).

In addition, to the regular commission meeting, members of the commission participated in a ceremony for The American Legion's fourth annual Heroes to Hometowns Transition & Benefits Career Fair. The Career Fair was co-sponsored with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and local Minnesota Chambers. Over 65 companies participated in the Career Fair with approximately 350 veterans in attendance.

Furthermore, the Commission hosted an Education Roundtable on Thursday, August 25, 2011, to discuss the challenges and issues student-veterans face on university/college campuses across the Nation. The Commission also hosted a Homeless Veterans Roundtable on Friday, August 26, 2011, to discuss the plight of homeless veterans along with the programs/services that are available for them and their families to reintegrate back into mainstream society.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the Economic Commission report. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Economic Commission. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thank you, Dale. At this time we'll call on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission report by Michael D. Helm of Nebraska.

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

Mr. Commander, members of the NEC. You have my report in front of you. There is nothing calling for action in that report.

Commander, I commend you on a great year. It's been a pleasure for the VA&R Commission and staff to serve you, and this great organization. This concludes my report.

Report: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
August 29, 2011
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska, Chairman

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission held its session in the Minneapolis Convention Center, Rooms 103 E&F, Level One, on Saturday, August 27, 2011. In attendance were 48 members of the Commission, the NEC Liaison Chairman, and 9 members of the National Cemetery Committee.

The following Department of Veterans Affairs officials addressed the Commission: Robert A. Petzel, MD, Under Secretary for Health; Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits; Steve L. Muro, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs; Derek Blumke, Campus Outreach Program Coordinator, Office of Mental Health Services; Debra S. Wagner, Social Work Supervisor, Minneapolis VA Medical Center; Barbara O'Reilly, Director, Women Veterans and Employment Initiatives, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Laura B. Balun, Director, Voluntary Service Office; Lindy Fortin, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Department of Veterans Affairs. The Commission was also addressed by The Honorable Judge Alan G. Lance, Sr., U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; Ashley Setala, Health Insurance Specialist, Office of the Regional Administration, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Our meeting included a panel discussion on Women Veterans Issues with the following, Retired Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, President, Women in the Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.; Retired Brigadier General Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Barbara O'Reilly, Director, Women Veterans and Employment Initiatives, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs; Trista Matascastillo, Chair, Minnesota Women Veterans Initiative Working Group.

The Commission was apprised of the activities of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division. There were 1 Certificate of Appreciation given between the Mid-Winter Conference and the National Convention.

The Commission, upon completion of business, adjourned at 4:27p.m.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thank you, Mike. I now call on National Security Commission Chairman Mike Schlee from Maryland.

Oral Report: National Security Commission
G. Michael Schlee, New York, Chairman

Thank you, commander, members of the NEC and guests. You have the full report of the National Security Commission before you. I would like to highlight just a few things.

On Friday, 45 members of the commission and guests visited the 133rd Airlift Wing of the Minnesota National Guard, and the 934th Air Wing of the U.S. Air Force, and we truly appreciate and thank the military members for their service.

You have already heard of the speakers we shared jointly with Foreign Relations on Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon the commission did as a courtesy, a nonbinding review of the 26 resolutions which were formerly considered by the convention committee.

From me personally and on behalf of the commission, I want to thank you, National Commander Jimmie Foster, and the members of the National Executive Committee and in particular our NEC liaisons, for your continued support of our efforts to have a secure and safe America, and for our efforts to take care of the men, women, and their families who so valiantly serve this great nation.

Report: National Security Commission
August 29, 2011
G. Michael Schlee, New York, Chairman

On Friday, August 26, 2011, 45 members of the National Security Commission and guests attended the Pre-Convention Trip to tour 133rd Airlift Wing and 934th Airlift Wing in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

The 133rd Airlift Wing is a Minnesota Air National Guard Wing headquartered in St. Paul. Utilizing the C-130 Hercules the 133rd AW provides the U.S. Air Force with tactical airlift of troops, cargo, and medical patients anywhere in the world; additionally, the 133rd is prepared to support the State of Minnesota with troops capable of assisting in a disaster.

The 934th Airlift Wing, also known as the "Flying Vikings," is Minnesota's only Air Force Reserve unit. It is a combat-ready Air Force Reserve Command flying unit at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn. The wing's mission is to fly C-130H cargo aircraft, both airdropping and airlanding cargo and people. Aeromedical evacuation of patients within the theater of operations is another facet of the mission.

This year, our trip will include:

- Tour of 133rd Air Base with walkthrough tour of C-130 Hercules Aircraft
- Tour of Minnesota Air Guard Museum
- Tour of 934th Air Force Reserve Base
- Buffet Lunch at the NCO Club followed by a Joint Force HQ Briefing
- American Legion Award Presentation to the 133rd and 934th Commanders

On behalf of the National Security Commission, Chairman G. Michael Schlee presented awards to Colonel Darrell G. Young, Commander, 934th Airlift Wing, and Colonel Greg A. Haase, Commander of the 133rd Airlift Wing. Chairman Schlee thanked the commanders and recognized their gracious hospitality, military service, and dear friendship. Also recognized were Col. Brian Wyneke, Master Sgt. Paul Zadach and Chief Master Sgt. Mike Rak.

On Saturday, August 27, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session in the Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis Grand Ballroom D, 3rd floor. The joint session had three guest presentations this year.

The first guest speaker was Victoria K Holt, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs. Ms. Holt gave a comprehensive report covering the bureau's perspective on future peacekeeping operations.

The second speaker was Ronald G. Jensen, President, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. Mr. Jensen shared his thoughts regarding critical challenges facing the U.S. in terms of the infrastructure of electric power and pressing cyber security issues.

The third speaker was Kristina Kaufmann, Vice President/Executive Director, Code of Support Foundation. Ms. Kaufmann gave an in depth presentation covering such subjects as military-family-support, how PTSD affects spouses and children, as well as the relationship between veterans service organizations and the active and reserve components of the Armed Forces.

The fourth and final speaker of the program was Koby Langley, Special Assistant for Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense. Mr. Langley described how his office works to ensure equitable, consistent, high-quality support and service for wounded warriors and their families, as well as transitioning members of the Armed Forces, through effective outreach, interagency collaboration, policy and program oversight.

In the afternoon, the National Security Commission reconvened at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Ballroom B, Level 1; received subcommittee-room assignments and conducted a comprehensive courtesy review of 26 resolutions assigned to the Convention Committee on National Security in accordance with each of the subcommittees' obligations.

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Jimmie Foster and the National Executive Committee for their support throughout the year and will continue to work diligently to provide The American Legion with timely information and focused national security policy.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thanks, Mike. At this time we'll have the confirmation of interim committee appointments.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Adjutant, sir, 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 of interim appointments be approved without being read. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second that the confirmation of interim committee appointments be approved without being read. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

Interim Appointments

Linden B. Dixon, Jr. (Virginia), Commission on Children & Youth, 2012 Member
(Replaces Jerry W. Howard—resigned)

E. Michael Stelacio (Pennsylvania), Convention Commission, 2013 Member
(Replaces Alfred Piroli—deceased)

Glenn J. Scott (Texas), Distinguished Guests Committee, 2011 Vice Chairman
(Replaces Kenneth Mueller—resigned)

Robert Heffelfinger (Pennsylvania), Distinguished Guests Committee, 2011 Vice Chairman
(For purpose of a call-in)

C. W. Sparks (Texas), American Legion Insurance Committee, 2011 Consultant
(Replaces Paul E. Dillard—resigned)

Paul M. Kennedy (Pennsylvania), Foreign Relations Council, 2011 Vice Chairman (For purpose of a call-in)
Robin Liberty (Pennsylvania), Foreign Relations Council, 2011 Vice Chairman (For purpose of a call-in)
Gerald Lakey (Oklahoma), Constitution & By-Laws Committee, 2012 Member (Replaces Arturo Besa—deceased)
Kenneth Mueller (Texas), Membership & Post Activities Committee, 2013 Member (Replaces C. W. Sparks, Jr.—resigned)
Gerald G. Shorey (Oregon), Legislative Commission, 2011 Member (Replaces Robert V. Mariani—deceased)
Eldon L. Cummings (Pennsylvania), National & Homeland Security Council, 2011 Vice Chairman (For purpose of a call-in)
James M. Page III (Pennsylvania), National & Homeland Security Council, 2011 Vice Chairman (For purpose of a call-in)
Levi E. Smalls (Pennsylvania), National & Homeland Security Council, 2011 Vice Chairman (For purpose of a call-in)
Jay S. Gaffri (Montana), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, 2011 General Member (Replaces David Capps—resigned)
David K. Rehbein (Iowa), Centennial Task Force, Member
Alan T. Zdon (Minnesota), 100th Anniversary Observance Committee, Member

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Now we'll have the cancellation of post and/or squadron charters.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You may.

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

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 FOSTER: You have a motion and a second that the cancellation of post and/or squadron charters be approved without being read. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters

On May 5, 2011, at the Spring Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of 124 Posts. The research done on each Post prior to any recommendation made as an attempt to see whether these Posts could be revitalized is based on the following criteria:

Community Size

Veteran Population

Sixty-six (66) Posts have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the 2011 NEC Convention Meeting in Minneapolis, MN. Sixty-two (62) Posts are recommended for cancellation. It is recommended that the remaining four (4) Posts not being cancelled be reconsidered after work can be done to revitalize these Posts.

It is recommended that the following sixty-two (62) Posts be cancelled:

Department	Post #	Name	Location
ALASKA	10	George H. Hohman, Jr.	Bethel
ARIZONA	74	Calabasas	Rio Rico
CALIFORNIA	89	San Jose	San Jose
	444	Morgan Hill	Morgan Hill
	633	Joe Louis	Inglewood
CONNECTICUT	119	New York New Haven & Hartford Railroad (to merge with Frank J. Stempick Post 162)	New Haven
FLORIDA	60	Smith-Fletcher (to merge with Cyber Post 208)	Polk City
	132	Wellborn Memorial (to merge with Cyber Post 208)	Wellborn
	391	Lt. Baldomero Lopez Memorial (to merge with Cyber Post 208)	Land O'Lakes
FRANCE	GR10	Babenhausen	Babenhausen, Germany
	GR16	Friedberg	Friedberg, Germany
	GR165	Rick E. Louray	Pirmasens, Germany
IOWA	134	Younie Brothers	Schaller
	185	Jack Hamilton	Le High
	212	Edgar C. Davison	Brighton
	282	Edwin Todd	Tabor
	320	Donald Lee	Cumberland
	549	Knoll	Burt
	614	Austin Earl Hiatt	Irwin
	702	Struble-Rowland	Turin
	715	Charlotte Memorial	Charlotte
	736	West Des Moines	West Des Moines
MARYLAND	210	Pikesville (to merge with Liberty Post 122)	Pikesville
	301	Jacksonville (to merge with Social Security Post 142)	Jacksonville
MICHIGAN	19	Novi (to merge with Lloyd H. Green Post 147)	Novi
	124	Norman L. Terpening (to merge with Patterson-Dawson-Crawford-Arnold Post 57)	Durand
	187	Thomas A. Edison (to merge with Grosse Pointe Post 303)	Detroit
	330	George W. Danuk	Ferndale
MINNESOTA	176	Annandale	Annandale
	520	Odessa	Odessa
NEW HAMPSHIRE	117	Sunapee	Sunapee
NEW YORK	53	James S. Slosson (to merge with Joseph F. Merrill, Jr. Post 1368)	Livingston, S. I.

	1019	Ambrose J. Scully (to merge with Joseph E. Zaloga Post 1520)	Albany
	1056	Walker-Blafield-Yater (to merge with Joseph F. Merrill, Jr. Post 1368)	West Brighton, S. I.
	1127	Jordan	Jordan
	1145	Snyder-Huffstater	Scriba
	1261	Schoharie	Schoharie
	1825	Menands (to merge with North Albany Post 1610)	Menands
	1909	Kingsbridge (to merge with Jesse Palmer Post 1068)	Bronx
NORTH CAROLINA	4	Fayetteville	Fayetteville
NORTH DAKOTA	85	Argonne	Beulah
	183	Frye-Hougerud	Columbus
OHIO	463	Waterville (to merge with Whitehouse Post 384)	Waterville
	520	Lewis-Whitaker	Hamilton
	789	Blythe-Williams	Middletown
PENNSYLVANIA	7	The Red Rose (to merge with Lancaster Post 34)	Lancaster
	70	Herbert Warriner (to merge with Brignola-Cerone-Warriner Post 200)	Secane
	110	Charles A. Bell (to merge with William P. Roche Post 21)	Philadelphia
	190	Stevenson-Baxter	Chester
	233	Otto McHenry (to merge with Valley of Bloomsburg Post 273)	Berwick
	253	Canonsburg (to merge with John C. McIlvaine, Jr. Post 902)	Canonsburg
	526	Gus E. Warden	Endeavor
	747	Kinzua-Brant-Bentley (to merge with Chief Cornplanter Post 135)	Warren
	794	Charles E. Williams (to merge with Charles E. Williams Post 127)	York
	846	D. Alonzo Verderame (to merge with Kilbride-Dougherty-Campbell Post 959)	Philadelphia
SOUTH DAKOTA	275	LaVerne Bauer	Java
TEXAS	131	Richard A. Holloway Memorial	Longview
	360	Jean Rossi (to merge with Jim Havens Post 578)	Houston
	824	Settagest Heights	Houston
	931	Highland Heights	Houston
WISCONSIN	107	Bohnsdahl-Gustin (to merge with Roy L. Drew Post 492)	Mosinee
	421	Lt. August V. Pabst (to merge with Lakeshore Post 474)	Milwaukee

It is the recommendation of the Membership and Post Activities Committee that the following four (4) charter cancellations **not** be approved until additional research can be done:

Department	Post #	Name	Location
CALIFORNIA	171	Concord (to merge with Pleasant Hill Post 331)	Concord
	392	Fort Sutter (to merge with George W. Manhart Post 391)	Sacramento
	398	Morningside Park	Inglewood
	607	Fresno Police (to merge with Fresno Federal Post 509)	Fresno

SAL Charters of The American Legion Presented to The National Executive Committee for Cancellation

On May 5, 2011, at the Spring Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of thirty-one (31) Squadrons.

Fifteen (15) Squadrons have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the 2011 NEC Convention Meeting in Minneapolis, MN. Fourteen (14) Squadrons are recommended for cancellation. It is recommended that the remaining one (1) Squadron not being cancelled be reconsidered after work can be done to revitalize the Post.

It is recommended that the following fourteen (14) Squadrons be cancelled:

Department	Sqdn #	Name	Location
FRANCE	GR16	Friedberg	Friedberg, Germany
ILLINOIS	413*	Table Grove	Table Grove
	759*	Chatham	Chatham
	975*	Deceased Veterans	Dowell
KANSAS	152*	Frank Stull	Ness City
MICHIGAN	330	George W. Danuk	Ferndale
NEW YORK	53	James S. Slosson	Livingston, S. I.
	1056	Walker-Blafield-Yater	West Brighton, S. I.
	1127	Jordan	Jordan
	1145	Snyder-Huffstater	Scriba
OHIO	520	Lewis-Whitaker	Hamilton
PENNSYLVANIA	7	The Red Rose	Lancaster
	253	Canonsburg	Canonsburg
TEXAS	131	Richard A. Holloway Memorial	Longview

*** Indicates Squadron Only**

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

Department	Sqdn #	Name	Location
CALIFORNIA	398	Morningside Park	Inglewood

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Unfinished business and/or technical motions.

Technical Motion

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: You have a motion and a second that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of this meeting and make any necessary technical corrections to the minutes without changing the intent of this meeting. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thank you.

I have announcements by Daniel S. Wheeler from Virginia.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Reimbursement checks not distributed during this meeting can be picked up in the Finance office located in 203 A and B of this building.

Tomorrow morning the doors to the convention center will open at 6:00 a.m. You will have to go through magnetometers, and we would like for you to be in your seats by 8:00 a.m. The Secret Service will probably lock down the auditorium about 10:15 or so, and it will remain locked down until the President of the United States leaves the building.

As far as checks that you receive here, the US Bank branch located at 800 Nicollett Mall, second floor, has agreed to cash those checks at no charge to you. And a copy of their letter and the map on how to get to the bank is located in back of the room.

That completes the announcements.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time we will have the final report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: No report. Mr. Commander, can I have a moment? I would like to recognize my department commander, Ben Lee, and my department historian, Larry Rozier, for being with us this morning.

Closing Remarks: Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
National Commander

You heard the national adjutant talk about the president being here. I told the sergeant-at-arms today in a meeting with the two people from the White House that it's going to be a very taxing time, as you well know, when the commander-in-chief is in the house. Security is going to be at a plus. Secret Service agents have zero sense of humor. It's their way or no way. We have changed the seating charts about six times already, and I'm sure it will change again, but that's the way it's going to be.

I put out to the sergeant-at-arms, especially the national sergeant-at-arms and the two national assistant sergeant-at-arms, that I want them to be on the lookout. You know, you can agree or disagree with a politician, that's your right. But we're not into partisan politics, we're into issues and merits. And I ask that you show dignity, pride, honor and respect. He is the commander-in-chief, whether you like him or not, that's irrelevant. I have instructed the sergeant-at-arms if they see anybody, any member, anybody on that floor that shows disrespect to the commander-in-chief, they have my authority to evict

them from the convention until this thing is over. Not tomorrow. For the duration of this convention.

So, I ask that you people here, the leaders; you're the infrastructure of our own departments, past national commanders, NEC's, alternates, many department commanders here, please take the opportunity between now and the morning, please tell your people if you don't want to do that, please come in after he speaks. Are you all with me? Do you agree with me? *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: At this time we'll call on National Chaplain Daniel Seehafer from Wisconsin for the benediction.

Benediction: Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin
National Chaplain

Family we pray. Heavenly Father, we have once again witnessed Your love and Your blessings that You keep bestowing upon us. As we reflect Your unconditional love, it is evident that service is very emotional. The shedding of tears this morning. The stories shared that pull on the sensitive strings of our hearts, and examples that also just made us laugh. It's good to have people who outbid me.

But Lord, thank You, seriously, for our commander. His faithfulness, his dedication to us, obviously to this organization. Thank You for bringing also the strong men and women before me into our leadership positions of our organization, and thank You, thank You so much for empowering us to continue to be that shining example of compassion, love and service.

All glory be to You, and bless our organization. In Your most lifesaving name, and so it shall be, together we say. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Remain standing. My sergeant-at-arms has been released by the Secret Service it looks like, so if you'll call us to attention and hand salute.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: Thank you. The Pre-Convention NEC is adjourned.

...The Pre-Convention National Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

Report: Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc.
August 29, 2011
Marty Justis, Maryland, President

From 1995 through 2006, strong grassroots support carried the flag amendment through six consecutive floor votes in the House of Representatives and to within one vote of passage in the Senate. Then, in 2007, the complexion of Congress changed drastically and a decision to bide our time was made by the CFA Board of Directors. Today, as a result of the 2010 elections, there is reason for new enthusiasm over a Capitol Hill climate that, again, has a majority of flag amendment supporters in both houses of Congress.

In January, Rep. Jo Ann Emerson [R-MO] introduced House Joint Resolution 13; it has 54 cosponsors. On Flag Day, June 14, Sen. Orrin Hatch [R-UT] returned to the campaign and with bi-partisan support from Sen. Max Baucus [D-MT], introduced Senate Joint Resolution 19; it has 24 cosponsors. Both measures are supported by the Citizens Flag Alliance and The American Legion.

A February analysis of flag amendment support shows for the House of Representatives 193 supporters, 95 opponents, and 146 whose position is unknown. In the Senate, there are 51 supporters, 29 opponents, and 20 whose position is unknown. This information is based on past voting records on the amendment or upon written commitment to include official cosponsors.

To give impetus to the need for securing cosponsors to the measures, CFA Board Chairman Richard Parker summarized the current situation and issued a call to action via a DVD, which went to Legion department adjutants, National Americanism Commission and Council members, the CFA Advisory Board, and all member organizations of the CFA. In addition, the video is posted on You Tube. Prof. Parker notes in the video that getting congressional support for the amendment "isn't terribly time consuming, but it is terribly important." It is, in fact, a critical component in reaching our ultimate goal of returning to the American people the right to protect their flag from acts of physical desecration.

Expenses for CFA operation continue to be minimal. Occasional contributions still come in, generally as a result of expense-report designations made by call-ins to the several meetings and the national convention. As of July 26, 2011, the current balance on hand in the checking account of the Citizens Flag Alliance is $31,874.

[This report was distributed but not presented as part of the meeting]

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST-CONVENTION MEETING
Thursday, September 1, 2011

... At 1:15 p.m., September 1, 2011, the Post-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Fang A. Wong, New York, and the following proceedings were had. National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia, acted as Secretary.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: The Flag of our nation in place, hand-salute.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: I call on Gerald Theriot to give us the invocation.

Invocation
Gerald Theriot, Louisiana
National Chaplain

Be with us, O Lord as we gather, and let the beauty and wisdom of Your holy presence guide our every thought, word and action. Erase from our minds every word and ambition, giving us instead the bounties of Your wisdom and Your understanding.

We're human and weak, and we pray that You give us strength. We are filled with desires and things of this earth, and we beseech You that You will show us instead the greater riches of Your eternal life.

We're self-centered and occupied with the struggle for daily living. Grant us the gift of charity, that in helping others we may gain a broader knowledge of how to live ourselves. Amen.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Please remain standing and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Now I call on the national adjutant to read the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention requires the designation of a POW/MIA chair at all official meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of

American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving our nation. The POW/MIA flag positioned before me, let it serve as a reminder to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners, repatriating the remains of those killed in action, and a full accounting of those who are still missing.

Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor. Please uncover for a moment of silence. *...At this time a moment of silence was observed.* Let us remember.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Now I ask the national adjutant for the roll call.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander
Fang A. Wong, New York

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Larry D. Sheets, Florida
Milton G. Heifner, Iowa
David N. Voyles, Missouri
Mervin G. Gunderson, Montana
James H. Hales, Jr., Pennsylvania

Past National Commanders

William E. Galbraith, Nebraska—Excused
Michael J. Kogutek, New York—Excused
Keith Kreul, Wisconsin—Excused
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts
Hon. H.F. Gierke, North Dakota— Excused
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia—Excused
Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania—Excused
Bruce Thiesen, California
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana—Excused
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia—Excused
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho—Excused
Ray G. Smith, North Carolina—Excused
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania—Excused
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas P. Cadmus, Michigan
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. 'Marty' Conatser, Illinois
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska

National Executive Committee Members

Department	Committee Members	Alternate
Alabama	Floyd W. Turner—Excused	Willis Frazier
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Deodoro M. 'Joe' Aguilar—Excused	S. Paul Griffin—Excused
Arkansas	James V. Bynum	
California	Edward C. Landis—Excused	
Colorado	Ralph P. Bozella	
Connecticut	Richard W. Anderson	
Delaware	Lyman R. Brenner	
D.C.	Arturo Rivera—Excused	
Florida	Robert J. Proctor—Excused	Dennis R. Boland
France	Liam Kane	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	Andrew W. Johnson	
Idaho	Wayne D. Mitchell	
Illinois	Luis V. Gonzalez	
Indiana	W. Darrell Hansel	
Iowa	John J. Ross	
Kansas	David O. Warnken—Excused	Elgin Wahlborg
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Robert A. Owen	
Maryland	Leroy E. Thornton	
Massachusetts	Michael E. Cassidy	
Mexico	Jerry A. King—Excused	Melvin J. Goldbert—Excused
Michigan	Thomas G. Holzgen	
Minnesota	Raymond DeZurik	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Richard A. Heigert	
Montana	Elmer W. Palmer	
Nebraska	Douglas Boldt	
Nevada	Ron Gutzman	
New Hampshire	Earlon L. Beale	
New Jersey	William 'Billy' Mack	
New Mexico	Prospero J. Sanchez	
New York	Charles I. Herschlag	
North Carolina	Jerry L. Hedrick	
North Dakota	Curtis O. Twete	
Ohio	Henry S. Long	
Oklahoma	Warren D. Wilson	
Oregon	Charles E. Schmidt	
Pennsylvania	Richard A. Coccimiglio	
Philippines	Charles H. Cathey, Jr.—Excused	Herbert J. Scholten
Puerto Rico	Alberto Rodriguez	
Rhode Island	Normand G. Vadnais	
South Carolina	John E. Palmer, Jr.	
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson	
Tennessee	Rollen D. Bradshaw, Sr.—Excused	Charles R. Dornan
Texas	James E. Prendergast	

Utah	William E. Christoffersen—Excused	Terry D. Schow
Vermont	Richard H. Farmer	
Virginia	George C. Lussier, Jr.	
Washington	Michael L. Montaney	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	David L. Gough	
Wyoming	Gerald L. Jacobs	

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: Commander, I move the department commander of California be seated with voice but no vote. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Commander is recognized.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Commander I move that Department Commander Tim Stern of the Department of Mexico be seated with voice but no vote. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: I have a motion, any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? The chair will recognize the commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll call. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: I declare a quorum.

Special Order of Business

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Now we go into a special order of business. I call on Past National Commander Jake Comer, please come forward. Please present the blue cap and name badge to the outgoing junior past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: First, we're going to have his lovely wife present him with his badge for his jacket, and his past national commander's diamond jewel pin. Rehta, thank you for your service this year, and ladies and gentlemen, let's give a round of applause to a great lady. *(Standing applause)*

And now I have the wonderful duty to perform as we do every year. I do this on behalf of John Geiger who's no longer with us, but he put the cap on so many past commanders, that I feel honored to be here in his stead.

But Jimmie, this will represent, as you travel throughout the nation again as past national commander, all the wonderful opportunities that we had in serving for you and you serving with us. You're a great commander. *(Standing applause)*

Disposition of Letters or Communications
Minutes of the Previous National Executive Committee Meeting
Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Now I call on the national adjutant for any disposition of letters and communications.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, there are none. Would you like me to read the minutes?

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Passed.

Now I call on the chairman of the NEC Resolutions Subcommittee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, we have no resolutions and no petitions at this time.

Appointments to Commissions, Committees or Subcommittees

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Appointment of members of standing or special commissions. I call on the national adjutant for the reading of the recommended appointments.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Members of the National Executive Committee, the national commander recommends the following appointments. Do you wish to take these group by group or all at once?

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: One at a time.

2011-2012 Special Committees

Advisory Committee to the National Commander
Chairman: Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Vice Chairman: Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Members: Martin Conatser, Illinois
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
Richard M. Pedro, New York
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
William F. Schrier, Washington

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move that the appointments be approved as read. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Carried.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: Mr. Commander, I move that the appointments be approved as read. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Carried.

Subcommittee on Committees
Chairman: Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut
Vice Chairman: Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota
Members: Randall Coffman, Kentucky

Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana
Richard A. Heigert, Missouri
Richard A. Coccimiglio, Pennsylvania

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move that the appointments be approved as read. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Carried.

Ad Hoc Committees

A System Worth Saving Task Force
Chairman: Michael D. Helm, Nebraska
Members: Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Vickie D. Smith Dikes, Georgia
John Hickey, Jr., Indiana
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Thomas P. Mullon, Minnesota
R. Michael Suter, New York
Phillip L. Driskill, Oklahoma
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
William R. (Bob) Wallace, Washington
Todd E. White, Wyoming

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move that the System Worth Saving appointments be approved. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Carried.

Ad Hoc Committee on TBI/PTS
Chairman: William M. Detweiler, Louisiana
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
William W. Kile, West Virginia
Consultants: Col. Jill W. Chambers, USA (Ret.), Tennessee
Jeanne Mager Stellman, Ph.D.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move that the committee be approved. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Carried.

Ad Hoc Committee on Veterans Benefits Administration
Chairman: Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
John Hickey, Jr., Indiana
Randall Fisher, Kentucky
Julius H. Walsh, Louisiana
John W. Kavanagh, New York
Terry D. Schow, Utah
William W. Kile, West Virginia

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: I move that the committee be approved. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Carried.

American Legion Riders Ad Hoc Committee

Chairman: Terry L. Woodburn, Illinois
Vice Chairman: Thomas J. Haynes, Texas
Michael N. Kirchoff, Florida
Everett Freel, Iowa
Bill Kaladas, Michigan

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: I move that the committee be approved. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Carried.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander that completes the appointment to special committees.

Appointment of National Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: I recommend the following appointments: National Adjutant, Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia; National Treasurer, George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana; National Judge Advocate, Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland; National Chaplain, Gerald Theriot, Lousiana; National Historian, Robert B. Craig, Nebraska.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move that we approve the appointments to national officers that you just read. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Carried. Thank you.

As national commander, I move that the appointment of David J. Louie, as sergeant-at-arms be approved. ...*Second.*

Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Carried.

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

Installation of Officers

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER HALES: Would the newly nominated chaplain, sergeant-at-arms and historian please step up to the front of the podium here.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Each of you will assist the National Executive Committee and others in carrying out their objectives over the next 12 months. You are entrusted with important duties, and each of you shall perform essential functions throughout the year to preserve the integrity of The American Legion.

As you stand before this executive body, I will remind each of your duties and obligations. First, I would present Gerald Theriot, who is selected to serve as National Chaplain.

Chaplain Theriot. To you is given the spiritual leadership of this great veterans organization. You will, I know, lend dignity and respect to your office. You should remain in close contact with the commander and other national officers of The American Legion. You should be ready upon occasion to take your part in performing such divine and nonsectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by National Headquarters from time to time. Into your keeping we place the spirit of comradeship of this organization. May harmony and unity prevail.

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

Mr. Louie, you are the sentinel or tiler, the outer guard of this organization. You will guard especially against the loss of one of The American Legion's greatest possessions – our deep and abiding spirit of comradeship. You will learn the identity of and introduce to the commander all visiting comrades and guests. You are responsible that no one shall remain a stranger in our midst. Be ready at all times to assist your commander. Into your hands is given charge of the stand of colors which you will proudly display at all national meetings and on ceremonial occasions.

Now, all three of you raise your right hand and repeat after me giving your name after mine. "I, Fang A. Wong, do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office in The American Legion which I'm about to assume. And I further pledge to uphold the principles outlined in the National Constitution and the Preamble of The American Legion in service to our veterans and their families, their communities, state and nation." Congratulations. *(Applause)*

My fellow Legionnaires, I know that each of you will justify the trust that is reposed in each of your offices. I look forward to working and sharing with you many experiences over the next 12 months as each of us continue to serve America's veterans. I commend to you on the selections you have approved. You have chosen them to guide the destiny of this organization, and it is our duty to aid and assist them in every way. This is the legacy we have inherited, and we will not fail in this mission to keep The American Legion an organization of free men and women veterans that has been faithful to its principles and ideals for more than 93 years. Let's give them a big hand. *(Applause)*

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: At this time I would like to introduce the poor guy that's going to travel with me for the next 12 months, my commander's aide. I would like to introduce Doug Malin from the Department of New York, who is the new commander's aide. *(Applause)*

Ratification of Legislative Portfolio

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: The legislative portfolio has been distributed. I ask for a motion.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, pursuant to Rule 8b of the National Executive Committee, I move the 18 resolutions with legislative intent adopted by the 93rd National Convention, become the legislative agenda of the National Executive Committee for the 112th Congress. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Motion carried.

Resolutions 93rd National Convention
August 30 – September 1, 2011

Pursuant to Rule 8b of the National Executive Committee, the following 18 resolutions, with legislative intent, were adopted at the 93rd National Convention are submitted for this Committee's consideration. If approved by the Committee, this list of resolutions will amend The American Legion's legislative program for the second session of the 112th Congress.

Economic

Resolution No. 50 (UT): **Support Legislation to Improve the Post 9/11 GI Bill**
Resolution No. 107: **Supporting the U.S. Economy and Increased U.S. Energy Security through a Canadian-American Oil Pipeline**

Foreign Relations

Resolution No. 48 (MD): **Securing Pakistan's Nuclear Arsenal**

National Security

Resolution No. 19 (OH): **Honoring the Four Chaplains**
Resolution No. 40 (MI): **Military Occupational Specialty Standards**
Resolution No. 42 (MD): **The American Legion's Position on the Operational Reserve**
Resolution No. 44 (MD): **Stolen Valor Act**
Resolution No. 47 (MD): **Support for Legislation Prohibiting Hate Speech at Military Funerals**
Resolution No. 60 (VA): **The American Legion Policy for the United States Government to provide Maintenance to Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Philippines**
Resolution No. 105: Military Commissaries

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Resolution No. 4 (ME): **The American Legion Policy on Environmental Exposures**
Resolution No. 8 (MT): **The American Legion Policy on Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans**
Resolution No. 37 (NY): **Protection of Religious Rights and Ceremonies at National Cemetery Administration (NCA) National and State Cemeteries**
Resolution No. 38 (NY): **Policy to Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs the Ability to Purchase Medications Located outside the United States**
Resolution No. 39 (NV): **Policy to Increase Transparency of the Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) Claims Processing**
Resolution No. 109: Veteran Treatment Courts
Resolution No. 110: Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Programs
Resolution No. 111: Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record

Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Yes, sir.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Adjutant, are any new dates that we have not approved on this agenda?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: No, sir.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Motion carried.

Fall Meetings
Commanders and Adjutants Conference, October 10-11, 2011
Commissions and Committees, October 10-11, 2011
National Executive Committee, October 12-13, 2011
Legislative Meeting concurrent with national commander's appearance before
Senate/House Veterans Affairs Committees, September 20-21, 2011

Washington Conference, February 26-29, 2012

Spring Meetings
Commissions and Committees, May 7-8, 2012
National Executive Committee, May 9-10, 2012

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Homecoming information, I believe Team New York in the back has already passed out many packets. So if there is anyone who has not received one, please see National PR Chairman Bob Morrill, back there and he will be glad to give you a copy on your way out. Are there any introductions to be made?

Introductions

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TURNER: Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Yes, sir

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TURNER: We just had an election in June of this year, and Charlie Wessinger is reelected our NECman, and Charlie French our Alternate NEC. We also have with us Phil Youngblood, our newly elected department commander. And of course you all know Dale Barnett, chairman of the National Economic Commission. I have a very special guest with me, sir. You all remember that she served as your First Lady, 1990-91, she also happens to be my wife, Betty.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: I'll start on this side. Yes, sir?

NEC MEMBER HEIGERT (MO): Mr. Commander, Rich Heigert, NEC from Missouri. I have with me today my Alternate NEC, Charlie Goodin; our new Department Commander Kenny Goth; Past Department Commander Honorary Jim Whitfield; Past National Commander Joe Frank, and of course our new National Vice Commander David Voyles.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK (NC): Mr. Commander, I have with me did our newly elected Department Commander Ben Lee.

Department Adjutant Frank Stancil. Department Historian Larry Rozier and some other people from our department. We're proud to have them with us.

NEC MEMBER GOUGH (WI): Commander, many of you know Denise as the chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee at the National level. Wisconsin is very proud to also have Denise as our new department commander. Alternate Steve Krueger, and next to him is Department Adjutant David Kurtz, and I'm NECman, David Gough.

NEC MEMBER DEZURIK (MN): NEC from Minnesota. I have my wife Beth. We have Magazine Commission Chairman Dennis Henekmeyer and his wife, Denise. Denise is our department membership director this year. We have Alternate NEC Marland Ronning and his wife, Chris. And we saved the best for the last, Past National Commander Dan Ludwig and his wife Mary.

NEC MEMBER AUCOIN (LA): Commander, Charles Aucoin, NEC Louisiana. I have with me this afternoon newly elected Department Commander Larry Abshire. And you just introduced the new national chaplain from Louisiana, Gerald Theriot, and also his wife.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CADMUS: Thank you Commander. I would like to present to you our newly elected National Executive Committeeman Tom Holzgen; our newly elected Alternate John Skinner; our immediate Past National Vice Commander John Mella, and our junior Past National Commander Bob Spanogle.

NEC MEMBER MITCHELL (ID): From the Department of Idaho, Commander Bill Stephan had to leave, but I've got our Department Adjutant Rickey Helsey. I've got our historian, Rand Bain. Service Officer, Milt Smith. Our Alternate Tom Mattice.

PAST NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PITKA: Past National Vice Commander Gene Pitka. I would like to introduce our newly elected NECman Normand Vadnais, and our Alternate NECman David Golde. And Senior Vice Commander Cory Bates.

NEC MEMBER SANACHEZ, (NM): Prospero Sanchez, NEC, New Mexico. Department Adjutant, Tony Navarrete, Vice Commander, Robert Jaramillo. Retired NECman, Felix Trujillo.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you Commander. I would like to introduce Department Commander Hugh Crooks and also his aide Woody Bocka, and also my wife, Graetian, who served as first lady 1993-1994.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONATSER: Past National Commander Marty Conatser from Illinois. I would like to introduce my new NECman Luis Gonzalez. His wife Darlene. Our new Alternate National Executive Committeeman Larry Moore, and our outgoing National Executive Committeeman Gene Thompson and his wife.

PAST NEC MEMBER BARBARA BUSHAW (VT): Past NEC from the Green Mountain State of Vermont. I would like to introduce to you new NECman Richard Farmer, Past Department Commander from 2008-2009, and Alternate NEC Royal Sheeley, Past Commander from 2009-2010.

NEC MEMBER PISA (AK): I would like to introduce the squeakiest clean Past National Commander Jimmie L. Foster and his wife, Rehta. Past Sergeant-at-Arms, Ernest King. Our Alternate Harry Pawson, and Past Department Commander Bill Jacobi.

NEC MEMBER ANDERSON (CT): Commander, it's an honor to introduce our first woman Commander for Connecticut, Mary Ann Roczynski. Past Department Commander Harvey Daggett; Alternate NEC Joe Jackson; Past Department Commander Dan Thurston; and Department Treasurer John Monahan, a member of the National Finance Commission; and Department Adjutant Everett Shepard.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: A couple of gentlemen you already know because they've served on the NEC. Our current NECman John Ross. Our Alternate Mr. Bruce Feuerbach. Our incoming Department Commander Mr. Dennis

Soppe. And a gentleman who I know will serve you as well as he did me, incoming National Vice Commander Mr. Milton Heifner.

NEC MEMBER PALMER (MT): I am Elmer Palmer, newly elected NEC from Montana. I have with me today, newly elected Alternate Dave McLean. Our Department Commander Ray Robison. I have Vice Commander Jim Carlisle. Our past commander who was here before, Mr. David Driver, and the most important man in our department, Adjutant Gary White, he keeps us all in line. And District Commander Shelly Harada.

NEC MEMBER PRENDERGAST (TX): Jim Prendergast, NEC Texas. I would like to introduce to you Past National Commander John Brieden, and his wife Terry. Past National Vice Commander John Morris. NECman, my partner, Paul Dillard. And new Commander Lupe Garza. And best adjutant in the world, Bill West.

NEC MEMBER EVENSON (SD): Mr. Commander, Paul Evenson, Department of South Dakota. I would like to introduce immediate Past Department Commander G.D. 'Hoot' Gibson. And newly elected Department Commander Mark Weinmann.

NEC MEMBER BOZELLA (CO): Mr. Commander, Ralph Bozella, NEC from the Department of Colorado. Past National Commander Tom Bock, also serving now as deputy adjutant, Department of Colorado. And next to Tom of course is no doubt his better half, our office manager with many other titles attached to that, Elaine Bock.
Alternate NEC Mr. Neal Thomas, been around and you know this gentleman. And Past Department Commander Frank McCurdy, 2009-2010. Thank you, sir.

NEC MEMBER NEYLON (NH): Mr. Commander, first of all I would like to offer congratulations to outgoing Commander Foster who I had the pleasure to serve with as department commander in 1999. And New Hampshire is offering its best wishes to you and the newly elected officers. Passing the baton we have our newly elected NEC Earlon Beale. Alternate Bill Roy. Department Commander Bob Blais. Department Adjutant Dave Meaney. Over my right shoulder, past national vice commander, National Americanism Commission Chairman, Joe Caouette. And Past NEC George West.

NEC MEMBER KEISER (NY): Mr. Commander, Rich Keiser, Past National Executive Committeeman. I would like to introduce our newly elected National Executive Committeeman Charles Herschlag, and our newly elected Alternate Stanley Clark.

NEC MEMBER RODRIGUEZ (PR): I would like to introduce our new Alternate NEC Carmelo Gonzalez, and his wife.

NEC MEMBER LUSSIER (VA): George Lussier, NEC from Virginia. I would like to introduce our Alternate NEC Tom Saunders. And I know everybody has a great Adjutant, our favorite son is your national adjutant. Now, Mr. Commander it's a great privilege and an honor to introduce Virginia's nominee and our candidate for national commander, Dan Dellinger.

NEC MEMBER HANSEL (IN): Mr. Commander, congratulations from the Department of Indiana. May I present Department Commander Mike Miller. Our Alternate NECman Paul Steward. Past National Vice Commander Alan Titus. And I'm very excited and proud to be able to present for the first time, past national vice commander and leading candidate for national commander, Jim Koutz.

ALTERNATE NEC MEMBER MICHALSKI (NV): Mr. Commander, our NEC Ron Gutzman had to leave so I have to introduce myself. I'm Ron Michalski newly elected Alternate NEC from the Department of Nevada.

NEC MEMBER BOLDT (NE): Mr. Commander, I'm Doug Boldt, NEC from Nebraska. With us this afternoon is our very own national staffer Jill Druskis. We have our Alternate Jerry Landkamer. District 6 Commander Mike Reimers. And of course Department Adjutant Burdette Burkhart. Past Department Commander Bill Crosier. Department Commander George Cyboron. And National Historian Bob Craig.

ALTERNATE NEC MEMBER SCHOLTEN (PI): Herbert Scholten, Alternate from the Department of the Philippines. I would like to introduce some people who are not here. My commander has requested that I make sure that we know that Joseph Carsley is the commander of the Department of the Philippines, and that our adjutant is Chris Schrauben. And he has also asked me to request to state that yes, the department is in the Philippines. Now I have done something and you know that I can follow commands.

NEC MEMBER THORNTON (MD): Commander, LeRoy Thornton, and I want to introduce our new State Commander Mel Smullen, and our Past National Commander Clarence Bacon. And our Past National Commander Rick Santos.

NEC MEMBER BRENNER (DE): Congratulations, Mr. Commander. I would like to introduce our Alternate NECman Larry Marcouillier; Immediate Past Commander Ed Feeley; new Commander Ken Whitman; 1st Vice Jim Brady; our 2nd Vice John Endres. And finally we share with Maryland, we have stolen from them, our department adjutant, Past National Commander Rick Santos.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: The Department of Massachusetts, our new National Executive Committeeman Mike Cassidy, who will introduce the rest.

NEC MEMBER CASSIDY (MA): Well, we have several, Dan Hamre, department vice commander, and Bill Chisholm, department vice commander. We have Immediate Past NECman Milt Lashus. We have new Alternate NEC Steve Jimmo. A gentleman I think you would be very, very proud to serve with this year, Department Commander John Lenotte, and his lovely wife, Elaine, and the rest of the Massachusetts delegation. And the father and son team, father, Past National Commander 'Jake' Comer, part-time resident. And we have the son, a full time resident of Massachusetts, Paul A. Morin.

NEC MEMBER MACK (NJ): I would like to introduce Adjutant John Baker. Our new Alternate Danny McCole and your's truly. Thank you.

Announcements

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

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Commander. The American Legion family of New York extends to all a most cordial invitation to attend a victory celebration reception honoring National Commander Fang A. Wong, this evening from 6:00 to 8:00 o'clock at the Hilton Hotel in Ballrooms A, B and C on the third floor.

Would all national vice commanders, the national commander and the aide, please attend the meeting following the recess of this NEC in the Duluth Room at the Hilton Hotel. Also, would all national vice commanders, historian, sergeant-at-arms, chaplain and aide remain after the recess of the NEC in order to get their photographs taken for *The American Legion Magazine.*

And finally, would any NECman who has not turned in the liaison committee preferences, please leave same on the front desk. Thank you, Mr. Commander.

Technical Motion

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, before I make this technical motion, I would like to say to all the newly elected NEC and alternates, we're going to have a training session in Indianapolis at the October Meetings on Tuesday afternoon starting at four o'clock. I encourage you to be there and attend that meeting, and you can learn a lot about The American Legion that you may not know. We talk about things that come before you on the NEC floor. That meeting will be on Tuesday afternoon at the NEC Room in Indianapolis in October. So I encourage you, and I encourage any NECs that are out there, you're more than welcome to come to this setup

for new alternates and new NECmen. But anyone is welcome to come. Thank you, Mr. Commander.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: You've heard the motion. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Motion carried.

Any other unfinished business? If not, I call on National Chaplain Theriot to lead us in the benediction.

Benediction
Gerald Theriot, Louisiana
National Chaplain

Uncover please. Let us bow our heads in prayer, each according to your own faith. Heavenly Father, we are grateful for all of our blessings. We ask that as we begin this new year under new leadership, that You will continue to guide us as we endeavor to do the work of our organization. Let all of our actions be according to Your will.

As we stand in humble silence, we remember our departed comrades. We ask Your blessings on all of the members of our military. Keep them safe and in Your tender care. Bless our cherished nation, our President and our Congress. These blessings we ask in Your name. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: Salute to the Colors.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG: I will entertain a motion to adjourn. *...Moved and seconded.* All in favor? Opposed? Motion carried. Meeting is adjourned.

...At 2:05 p.m., the Post-Convention National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion adjourned.

Abbreviations

ANEC ..... Assistant National Executive Committeeman
ASVET ..... Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training
ATF ..... Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

CBOC ..... Community-Based Outpatient Clinic
CFA ..... Citizens Flag Alliance
CMS ..... Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CNN ..... Cable Network News
COLA ..... cost-of-living adjustment

DADT ..... Don't Ask, Don't Tell
DEA ..... Drug Enforcement Agency
DHS ..... Department of Homeland Security
DIC ..... dependency and indemnity compensation
DMS ..... Direct Membership Solicitation
DOD ..... Department of Defense
DOE ..... Department of Energy
DOJ ..... Department of Justice
DOL ..... Department of Labor

FBI ..... Federal Bureau of Investigation
FY ..... Fiscal Year

HIV/AIDS .... Human Immuno-deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

IED ..... improvised explosive device
IRS ..... Internal Revenue Service

MAVO ..... Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations
MIA ..... Missing in Action

NALPA ..... National American Legion Press Association
NCCS ..... National Children's Cancer Society
NCO ..... non-commissioned officer
NDAA ..... National Defense Authorization Act
NEC ..... National Executive Committee
NVTI ..... National Veterans Training Institute

OCO ..... overseas contingency operations
OJJDP ..... Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

PNC ..... Past National Commander
POW ..... Prisoner of War
PSA ..... Public Service Announcement
PTSD ..... Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

RDTE ..... research, development, testing and evaluation

SAL ..... Sons of The American Legion
SBA ..... Small Business Administration

TAP ..... transition assistance programs
TBI ..... traumatic brain injury

UCMJ ..... Uniform Code of Military Justice
USAA ..... United Services Automobile Association
USDA ..... U.S. Department of Agriculture
UVC ..... United Veterans Committee

VA. ..... Department of Veterans Affairs
VA&R ..... Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
VBA ..... Veterans Benefits Administration
VETS ..... Veterans Employment and Training Service
VSO ..... Veterans Service Organization

YMVAW ..... Young Marines Veterans Appreciation Week

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