PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

October 15-16, 2014

Table of Contents

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Invocation 1
POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony 1
Pledge of Allegiance 1
Roll Call 2
Opening Remarks: National Commander Michael D. Helm, Nebraska 4
Greetings: Mrs. Nancy Brown-Park, National President, American Legion Auxiliary 6
Introduction of National Officers 8
Announcements 8
Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions 9
Memorial Resolutions 9
    Jerry L. Hedrick, North Carolina 9
Eulogies for Jerry L. Hedrick 9
Reports:
    National Judge Advocate 13
    Finance Commission 38
     Revenue Enhancement Committee 41
Resolutions:
    No. 2: 2015 Enhancements to the National Headquarters Computing Environment 43
    No. 3: Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) 2014-2015 44
    No. 4: Extend Agreement with R. R. Donnelley & Sons 44
    No. 5: Authorization to Purchase Paper from Lindenmeyr Central 45
    No. 6: Corporate Relationships 46
    No. 7: Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Diamond Sports Co., Inc. as Scholarship Sponsor of The American Legion All-Academic Team 47
    No. 8: The National Speech & Debate Association Sponsorship 48
    No. 9: Mandatory Exclusive Insurance Coverage for American Legion Baseball Teams 49
    No. 10: Authorization for The American Legion to Enter into a Relationship to Promote a Vehicle Donation Program 51
    No. 11: Creation of the new Marketing Committee 51
Reports:
    National Convention Corporation of North Carolina 53
    Convention Commission 54
    Veterans Employment & Education Commission 56
Resolutions:
    No. 12: Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel 67
    No. 13: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs 68
Report: Internal Affairs Commission 69
Resolutions:
    No. 14: Veteran of the Month 82
    No. 15: Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post 82
    No. 16: Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post 83
    No. 17: Federal Properties Distinguished Veterans Pass 83

No. 18: Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions 84
Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee 87

Wednesday Afternoon Session

Reports:
National Security Commission 95
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission 99
Resolutions:
No. 19: Exempt VA Benetifs and Services from Pay-Go Provision 106
No. 20: Department of Veterans Preservation of National Historic Properties 106
No. 21: Legislation to Provide Reporting, Tracking, and Action Dealing with Sexual Assaults at Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities 108
No. 22: Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission 109
Report: Media & Communications Commission 111
Resolution No. 23: Rescission of Outdated Resolutions 113
Report: Americanism Commission 115
Resolutions:
No. 24: Revised Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program 122
No. 25: The Medal of Honor Character Development Program 126
No. 26: National Flight Academy Educational Program 127
No. 27: Flag Code Amendment 128
No. 28: Rescinding of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions 130
Operation Comfort Warrior Donations 132
Report: Oklahoma Reorganization Committee 132
Resolutions:
No. 1: Reinstatement of the Charter of The American Legion Department of Oklahoma 136
No. 29: Handling of Funds on Reinstatement of the Charter of The American Legion Department of Oklahoma 136
No. 30: American Legion Department Advisory Committee 137

Thursday, October 16, 2014

Invocation 141
Pledge of Allegiance 141
Roll Call 141
Report: Legislative Commission 143
Reports:
National Historian 152
National Vice Commanders:
Douglas C. Haggan, France 154
Paul O. Sanford, Kansas 155
Richard W. Neville, North Carolina 156
William R. Bryant, Virginia 157
Gerald L. 'Jake' Jacobs, Wyoming 157
Eligibility of National Officers 158
Confirmation of Interim Appointments 159

Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters 159
Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings 162
Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library and Museum 163
Report: Subcommittee on Committees 165
Final Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions 166
Closing Remarks: Michael D. Helm, Nebraska, National Commander 167
Benediction 167

Abbreviations 169
Index 173

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

...At 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 15, 2014, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Michael D. Helm.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Before we begin this morning, I would like to introduce two very special people, Marie Hedrick and Sarah Hedrick Styers. *(Standing ovation)* I call this meeting to order. Hand salute. Two. *...The National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: We'll have the invocation by Randy Cash, Department of North Carolina.

Invocation
Tierian 'Randy' Cash, North Carolina, National Chaplain

Let us pray. O Gracious and Heavenly Father, we pause and bow our heads before You to humbly ask Your blessings and to seek Your goodness for our lives. Lord, all men enjoy the gift of life and many enjoy the privilege of freedom. Some even enjoy the quality of courage. Freedom without courage is impossible. The courage of the past is in the hands of history. The courage of the future is in our hands.

Our Father, we are mindful of our missing Legionnaire this morning, our brother and friend, Jerry Hedrick. We pray Your blessings upon Marie and Sarah and all the family. May You continue to comfort them in these times.

And now, O Lord, give us a deep sense of reverence for life and a passionate desire for freedom, and continue in us the courage of those who have woven this tradition into the history of our country. Amen.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Tierian 'Randy' Cash, North Carolina, National Chaplain

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.

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

Pledge of Allegiance and
Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion
Rawlin E. 'Leon' Hagan, Jr., Nebraska, National Sergeant-at-Arms

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Please face the colors, and Leon Hagan, national sergeant-at-arms from Nebraska, will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I now call on Dan Wheeler, the national adjutant, to call the roll.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Paul O. Sanford, Kansas
Douglas C. Haggan, France
Richard W. Neville, North Carolina
William Robert Bryant, Virginia
Gerald L. Jacobs, Wyoming

Past National Commanders

Keith Kreul, Wisconsin (Excused)
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts
Hon. H.F. 'Sparky' Gierke, North Dakota (Excused)
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana (Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (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. Conatser, Illinois
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Fang A. Wong, New York
James E. Koutz, Indiana
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia

National Executive Committeemen

Department	Committeeman	Alternate
Alabama	Willis Frazier	
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Richard W. Perry	
Arkansas	James V. Bynum	
California	Hugh E. Crooks, Jr.	
Colorado	Francis W. McCurdy	
Connecticut	D. Joseph Jackson	
Delaware	Kenneth G. Whitman	
D. C.	Warren N. Cuffee	
Florida	Dennis R. Boland	
France	John H. Miller	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	

Hawaii	Marvin R. Siegfried	
Idaho	Thomas E. Mattice	
Illinois	Larry W. Moore	
Indiana	Paul I. Steward	
Iowa	Bruce C. Feuerbach	
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	John W. Hargreaves	
Maryland	Elbert D. White	
Massachusetts	Steven M. Jimmo	
Mexico	Michael D. Wood	
Michigan	John H. Skinner	
Minnesota	Raymond DeZurik	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Charles W. Goodin	
Montana	Mervin G. Gunderson	
Nebraska	Jerry Landkamer	
Nevada	Ronald L. Michalski	
New Hampshire	Earlon L. Beale	
New Jersey	Daniel E. McCole	
New Mexico	Felix M. Trujillo	
New York	Stanley H. Clark	
North Carolina	Bill G. Richard	
North Dakota	Robert L. Krause	
Ohio	Robert J. Kimball	
Oklahoma		
Oregon	Charles E. Schmidt	
Pennsylvania		Wendall J. Sandell
Philippines	Herbert J. Scholten	
Puerto Rico	Ildefonso Colon, Jr. (Excused)	Edwin Vargas
Rhode Island	David A. Golde	
South Carolina	Mickey C. Taylor	
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson	
Tennessee	Alvin R. Brown (Excused)	Gary R. Drennon
Texas	James E. Prendergast	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Royal E. Sheeley	
Virginia	Thomas E. Saunders	
Washington	William R. 'Bob' Wallace	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Steve Krueger	
Wyoming	William R. Wright, III	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I declare a quorum. I would like to make some opening remarks. *...National Vice Commander Bryant assumed the chair.*

Opening Remarks
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska, National Commander

Before I start, I don't know if they do this normally, I don't remember, but I would just like to take this opportunity to introduce my wife, Debbie. Come over where they can see you. *(Applause)*

And I've got an aide, Don, that you see running around, and his wife, Marge. *(Applause)*

Good morning, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and all of our guests. I've got a speech here that somebody worked pretty hard writing for me, and I'm going to go off here, so bear with me. *(Laughter)*

First of all, and I said it when we were at the National Convention and I started off with "We're a God and country organization and we're not going to apologize for that and we're not going to step back from that." I think it's so important for us as an organization to remember that and move forward in that direction. We just started off our meeting today with a prayer and with saluting the Colors and with the Pledge, what a wonderful preamble we have. I was at the FODPAL meeting this morning and the exact very same thing. No matter where we are or what we do, we always set ourselves off in that right direction. I think we need to continue to do that.

I just want to touch on the Four Pillars of the organization and how we got to where we are and some ways that I think we can go, and I want to touch on Americanism first of all. We talk about baseball and all those glorious programs. Back in the old days, we used to pay a little closer attention to our immigrants, people that come to this country. When I talk about immigration, I'm talking about legal immigration, and I think that's important. That's an important part of the building blocks of this nation. Illegal immigration continues to remain a concern of ours. That's a national security problem and we'll continue to address that.

But I think we need to reach out to those immigrants that are coming to this country and make sure that we bring them to full citizenship. In this year, through the Americanism division, we're going to reach out to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and those field offices and those posts that have posts close to them. I want those posts and your departments to be in touch with them, partner up — and I know the judge doesn't like that word "partner" — but we're going to partner up and help them bring those people to that full citizenship. I think that's so important. I call it assimilation of citizenship, and I want to move there.

We talk about our children and youth programs and how important that is: Important for those young men and women to understand where this nation came from, the heroes that you are, and what has taken place to make sure this is a great and wonderful country. And at the same time, as they understand where we come from, where the nation comes from, we continue to provide that fabric, weave that fabric that makes this nation strong by then coming to that full citizenship also.

National security, what a concern. Two ways: In the news, two different things are happening. We have ISIS, or ISIL, and how you could ever call that a state, I don't understand. There is no sitting down with that type of people, with those people who believe the way they do, the people that would lop off heads, that would strap explosives to their children and send them into populated areas to destroy more people. What negotiation, what part of our life could fit into their life? So that way must be destroyed.

We support the president on what he's doing now. We wished he'd have been there before. We think there's more that's going to have to be done, but we certainly support the president on the way we're going.

A concern is, where are all the bombs coming from? Well, we're providing those bombs through our readiness. We don't have money to wage this war. So what we're doing, we're dipping into our readiness reserves in order to do what we're doing today, which brings us to the second issue of national security. And that is those people in Washington, D.C., who believe that if we were a second-rate power, the rest of the world would like us better. It's not getting us very far. We can't go back to the days where it would be all right to bring two people together and have them hold hands. It doesn't work. We must remain a strong power, and The American Legion will continue to fight for that. Since 2010, we have reduced our military spending by 20 percent. While we're engaged in a serious war, we continue to lose that focus, and that's got to stop.

And then, of course, the last pillar of our organization, VA&R. And last year at the May meetings, Past National Commander Dan Dellinger called for the resignation of the secretary, also for a couple of other secretaries. One of those happened. The other one hasn't happened yet, but it becomes more and more clear all the time that we're going to have to continue to push for her resignation also, because she's not on the same page that we are. We will continue to work on that.

But when it first came out, we were concerned about what was going on in Phoenix, that 40 veterans may have died. Turned out they did die. But then as that all unfolded, not only was it Phoenix, it was all across the United States of America, at all of our VA facilities. There was an entrenchment within the VA that said it was all right to juggle the books and make everybody look good, like the VA was running good, and who cared about healthcare? Not the VA.

And so it was up to us as an organization to step forward and say, "Stop." And they certainly have and we've done an excellent job in getting some of those things cured. Where is that Verna at? The workhorse of the organization in this whole effort, and I'd like to just recognize Verna. *(Applause)*

When I was in Washington, D.C. the last time, I mentioned to Peter, I said, "We might have to just lock her up for a while because we can't slow her down any other way." She's done a wonderful job. The Veterans Crisis Centers that they operated reached out to over 3,000 veterans, got claims processed through, back money, a million dollars. Isn't a million dollars a lot of money? Yes, it is, but that was money that those people were owed and had been owed for a long time, and there will be more money that goes forward. But those people were not being taken care of. And now because of the American Legion, they are, and I think that's important.

Now, I've talked to the secretary, wrote the letter to the president, secretary called me, I was on his speed dial. So anyway, I've talked to the secretary. I think the secretary is earnest taking care of this problem. I think he may not understand Washington, D.C. as well as he might think he does, and we'll see how that works out.

I feel that we're headed in the right direction with that now, and now our Veterans Crisis Centers are going to be known as Veterans Outreach Centers. We're going to continue to work — not partnership — *(Laughter)* — with the VA and the Red Cross and get those things done.

An issue for us is TBI and PTSD, and Past National Commander Detweiler has chaired a task force to address that and look at that. When I was talking to the secretary, he also has a large concern about that and would like to have a summit on that, and we'll certainly support him on that and be a part of it. While we were in Louisiana at the VA facility in New Orleans, the doctor there, Dr. Foreman, really seems to have a good direction to go with TBI and PTSD and counseling and suicide, and we're certainly going to be more in touch with her as we go along.

So those are all the pillars. And I haven't mentioned membership, and I haven't mentioned fundraising. You've heard all those things before. We've got some new ideas, and we're going to move forward with both of those.

But I do want to close up with one thing. You'll probably hear me say it more and more all the time. Last year we got started with 13,500 posts. More than Starbucks, right, commander? So this year, a little thing happened to me and Don early, we were headed home from here to Nebraska for a little private homecoming, and we got stuck out at the Indianapolis airport for eight hours. By the time we got to Dallas/Fort Worth it was getting dark, and by the time we flew out of there and into Grand Island, Nebraska, it really was dark. We flew over that midsection of the United States. And as we flew over there and we looked out, it's pretty dark out there for the most part, there's not a lot of people out there. But as we flew along and as I looked out the window, I saw little clusters of light out there, and I knew that all those clusters of light were individual Legion posts, individual American Legion Auxiliary units, and Sons of the American Legion in each one of those communities, that were reaching out and serving their people in those communities. And so as I flew along, I got to calling them little campfires of freedom, little campfires of service, campfires of community, campfires of reaching out.

So they're out there, guys, gals. We need them. We need each one of those little campfires to burn just a little stronger this year, and it's going to be up to you as the great leaders of the organization to take that message back and move this organization forward.

I think we're going to have a good meeting today. I just want to end with God bless America, God bless our American fighting men and women, and I guess most of all, for the next couple of days, God bless this NEC. Thank you very much. *(Standing ovation)*

...National Commander Helm resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I now would like you all to give a warm American Legion welcome to our national president of the Auxiliary, Janet Jefford from Connecticut. *(Standing ovation)*

Greetings: National President, American Legion Auxiliary
Mrs. Janet L. Jefford, Connecticut

Thank you. Please be seated. Good morning, everybody. This is exciting. You know, I can remember the first time I came into this room with my father, and he brought me over to that chair where Joe Jackson is sitting, and I got to carve my initials in there. And he told me about all the things that happened in this room, and how awed I was. And to think that I'm here this morning standing before all of you is quite an unbelievable thing and something I never thought would happen, so I'm very grateful.

My theme this year, what I've asked our auxiliary members to do, is to celebrate faith, family, and freedom. For me, those three words kind of exemplify what the American Legion Auxiliary is all about.

Faith. You heard the commander say, "For God and country." Faith. Faith also means the faith and trust we need in each other and those that we put in leadership roles. You know, we're so quick to criticize and complain, where we should be mentoring and educating our new members on how to be good leaders and how to work the programs of The American Legion Auxiliary.

That brings us to some of the goals of our own strategic plan. I know you have a strategic plan, and we have five new goals in our five-year strategic plan, and they're intertwined with those words of faith, family, and freedom. We're trying to build leadership at all levels. We're looking to strengthen our units and departments, and most

of all, we're looking to have a culture of good will, not just being nice to each other. So that's a little bit about what faith means.

Family, The American Legion family. I think that says it all. I know you've heard Commander Mike Helm and Commander Moss talk about that this year, and you'll be hearing it a lot, that separately our organizations could do quite a bit, but together the possibilities are endless. To me also, family means the families that we call communities.

Commander, I heard you talk about your beacons of light, of service at my installation, and I asked my members to close their eyes and think about what their communities would be like if there was not an American Legion post or an American Legion Auxiliary there. What would be missing in the lives of those people? Chances to go to Girls State, Boys State, Veterans in the Classroom programs, learning about patriotism, Americanism. So we need to be present in our communities. We need to be good community partners, and I understand we don't like that word, but I still think good community partnership is what it's all about. We need to let people know who we are and what we do. But more important for me, it's about the why. It's about why we do what we do.

So I'd like to just share a little story with you. When I first came back to Connecticut in the early '90s and I got active in the American Legion Auxiliary, actually bringing my mom around. She didn't drive, my father said, "It's your turn to take her." So I would drive her around, and I learned more about the Auxiliary. At the same time, I was teaching adults in a medical assisting program how to become medical assistants.

Somehow, during one of the classes, I must have talked about my activity with The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. And after class, a mother of one of the women came up and she said to me, "You know, if it wasn't for The American Legion and American Legion Baseball, my son would be dead." And I kind of looked at her. And she said, "All of his friends in high school are either dead or in jail. But because of The American Legion Baseball program and the support he has received from the Legionnaires and his coaches, my son is going to college in September.

So that's my "why" story. It's my "why" story. It's when the work I was doing with the Auxiliary became my passion. And I think each of you have those "why" stories, and it's so important that we share them, that we share them with the people in our communities, our friends, let them know why we do what we do, and then they'll want to join us. And hopefully by joining us, we will meet the commander's goal of his 4X4, four million members strong raising $4 million to support our programs.

I wish you all the luck this year. I thank you, first of all, for your service in uniform, for fighting for the freedoms that we enjoy, and I thank you for your continued service to The American Legion family. Thank you. *(Standing ovation)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Commander Comer?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: May I approach the podium?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I asked to speak on this issue now because, in the interest of time, I don't know where individuals have to go once they come and sit in this room, this beautiful room.

The reason I want to take the podium is very important. Throughout The American Legion, both in Washington and Indianapolis, I think you'll all agree with me, there is no organization that has greater staff than The American Legion, and I don't think we thank them enough for all they do for us.

I know it's done upstairs on the third floor with Mary and Jennifer and Debbie and so many others. But you come to the NEC and to Indianapolis each year and you never

know the changes that are being made. And there is a change being made at this time that I know saddens us all.

So I think it's important that we recognize an individual that has certainly represented us, with the highest, highest expression of gratitude we owe to him. He's leaving us, and I want this NEC to stand and recognize an outstanding Legionnaire that we owe so very much. And I speak of our executive director of the Washington office, Peter Gaytan. *(Standing ovation)*

For those that do not know, Peter is leaving us to become the executive vice president of Wounded Warriors. That's the bad news. The good news is he's going to be stationed in Florida.

Finally, his replacement will be second to none. The new executive director of the Washington office, Verna Jones. *(Standing ovation)* Thank you all very much.

Introduction of National Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I'd like to introduce the national officers. Doug Haggan from France. Paul Sanford from Kansas. Richard Neville from North Carolina. William 'Bill' Bryant from Virginia. Gerald L. 'Jake' Jacobs from Wyoming.

Randy Cash, our national chaplain, from North Carolina. Susan B. Mason, national historian, from Florida. Leading us in the Pledge this morning was Rawlin E. 'Leon' Hagan Jr., national sergeant-at-arms, from Nebraska. *(Applause)*

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meetings

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: We'll have the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor? Approved. Announcements from the national adjutant.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Would all NECmen stop by the lounge on the fourth floor sometime during your break to get your photograph taken. I think they appear in the magazine in the January issue.

The national commander's dinner honoring the NEC is tonight as the Sheraton City Centre, Indianapolis. The reception will be held at the Circle Suites at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served in the Meridian Ballroom at 7 p.m. NECmen who have not yet submitted names of attendees will find a bright yellow form on their desk. This needs to be completed and returned to Kevin Long who is in the back of the room. The cutoff for seating requests is very shortly this morning. So if you have a yellow form, please complete it and return it immediately. Tickets will be available for pickup after lunch in the third floor at the front offices. That completes the announcements.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I now call on Dave Warnken from Kansas for resolutions.

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

Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session for the last two days, carefully going through the resolutions. We have 30 resolutions that will be presented, coming through the commissions and committees who will make the reports. Any resolution seeking National Executive Committee approval will follow the report of the commission. All resolutions which have been disposed of by other action or held for further study will be reported on an addendum. Mr. Commander, I ask that you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Please uncover.

Memorial Resolutions
Jerry L. Hedrick

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Jerry L. Hedrick, North Carolina Department Commander 1987 to 1988; National Executive Committee Member 1994 to 2014, and National Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman 2005 to 2008 and 2009 to 2014; and

WHEREAS, During his 45 years in The American Legion, Jerry L. Hedrick served as a mentor and leader to fellow Legionnaires inside North Carolina and throughout The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Fellow Legionnaires praised Jerry L. Hedrick for having a big heart and being a problem solver and a statesman who could bring everyone together for the good of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, In serving as National Resolutions Subcommittee Chairman, Jerry L. Hedrick was a stalwart in the process that drives all American Legion policies and positions, and

WHEREAS, Jerry L. Hedrick was instrumental in making Shelby, N.C., the permanent home of The American Legion Baseball World Series; and

WHEREAS, Jerry L. Hedrick was honored on the floor of the U.S. Senate by Sen. Richard Burr for being a "leader for veterans, and a role model for those committed to community and national service"; 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 15th Day of October in the year of our Lord 2014, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Jerry L. Hedrick, and we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally**

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

Eulogies for Jerry L. Hedrick

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: The Chair recognizes Past National Commander Dan Ludwig.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LUDWIG: National Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, good morning.

On behalf of all here assembled, I'd like to extend my warm welcome and greetings to Marie Hedrick and to Jerry's sister, Sarah. We are pleased that you are with us here today. Know that our thoughts and our prayers are with you today and always.

Jerry, you left us so soon. We miss you. However, you have also left us wonderful memories. I'd like to recall when Lib Stewart was president. She was a cancer survivor, and cancer awareness was one of her showcases. And at the Washington Conference that year, at the Auxiliary Awareness assembly, in order to showcase, if you will, cancer awareness, five of us were invited to dress in drag: Bob Turner, Jim Mareschal, Tony Jordan, Jerry Hedrick, and me. Now, Turner was kind of cute. *(Laughter)* But I can assure you that Jerry Hedrick and Ludwig were pretty ugly. *(Laughter)*

But we raised a lot of money. I don't recall how much, but I think it was in the $10- to $15,000 range. Because as we circulated amongst the audience of that awareness assembly, people were anxious to give us 20s and 50s just so we would keep moving. *(Laughter)* And we had a lot of fun, and it was a great memory.

And also I used to love to give Jerry a bad time about grits, and I would continuously tell him about where I thought grits came from. *(Laughter)* And I would also continue to tell him about all the wonderful uses of grits besides eating. And he would always act like he was wounded right to the core. Then he'd always invite me to the Southern Bloc Grits Gathering, and he would always offer me a free ticket. And I used to say, "Jerry, I don't think I can afford that free ticket." *(Laughter)*

But on a serious side, he was an amazing leader. He was an amazing leader in North Carolina. He was an amazing leader for the Southern Bloc. And he was an amazing leader who served so well on the Subcommittee on Resolutions for this body. He was a team builder. He tried to encourage everyone to participate, to be a part of what we stand for. He did all these things with a stout heart and a firm belief in the mission of The American Legion.

I know each of you have a copy of what was entered into the *Congressional Record* on September 18th, but I'd like to quote just two paragraphs from it, because I think it expresses Jerry well.

It says, "While he devoted much of his life's work to the Legion and to veterans' issues, Jerry Hedrick was devoted to his wife Marie and to his family, and he was a prominent figure in his community through volunteerism for the Moose, Masonic, and Elks Lodges."

This letter went on to say, "When I reflect on the sum total of Jerry's life, I see a man who knew the calling of service and the value of fellowship were essential elements of the American experience, and what truly binds us together. As an advocate for veterans, his legacy is typified in the old saying that the measure of a man is not what he does, but what he gives. And Jerry lived those words until his last day."

Jerry, you left us so soon, and we miss you. But your memory of service and sacrifice, your memory of love and loyalty will inspire us to go on. You were a good soldier, but your work is done. May you rest in peace.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Past National Commander Clarence Bacon.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you, Commander. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, Marie.

I first became acquainted with Jerry Hedrick in the mid 1980s when I was national commander and made a visit to my good friend Roy Stone who resided in Greenville, South Carolina. During that visit, Roy showed me around the state, including a visit to the state legislature and with the governor.

The next day I attended a department meeting in North Carolina and was introduced to Jerry Hedrick who was then serving as a department vice commander. I was

immediately impressed with Jerry's booming voice and his charge of leadership, the qualities that he possessed as long as I knew him.

Jerry ended up replacing Roy Stone as chairman of the great Southern Bloc. And the humor from that man on the Grits Gathering breakfasts, and everybody that came had to eat grits. I came from the South, I loved them. Many people, they came from the North, had a little trouble. And when they did not eat their grits, guess what? Jerry collected a few bucks from them, and those dollars went to charitable programs for The American Legion.

From the day I first met Jerry, we became close friends. Most of you probably are familiar with Jerry Hedrick's leadership record beginning in mid-1994 when he was first elected as National Executive Committeeman, and served on that committee with honor and distinction until the great Lord called him to his side on August 25, 2014.

As chairman of the National Resolutions Subcommittee, Jerry demonstrated his deep and compassionate understanding of service to God and country when a fellow Legionnaire or loved one is called to Post Everlasting. Jerry Hedrick had a big heart and a compassion for serving America and her veterans who willingly sacrificed their lives so that others could live free and independent.

Marie, we know and understand that your life has been changed forever, but we will never forget the tremendous loss of your husband, our friend and your loved one. However, we also know that, by the grace of God, you will find a way to just get through these stressful and difficult times.

Remember, too, that you have a loving American Legion family that will always be by your side. And I want to close by saying may God bless you, your family, and Jerry's sister, Sarah.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I now call upon John P. 'Jake' Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Comrade Commander, Marie, Sarah. I hope I can get through this. Jerry and I go back to 1987 when he served as department commander of North Carolina under my year, along with Billy Bryant, Ron Conley, Paul Morin, Joe Frank, and Mike Helm. We remember Jerry, as many department commanders. There are certain special ones that stay with you as a family through the years when we have our Comer Clan parties, and Jerry was number one.

When I was called to the hospital that morning, it was very difficult, when I was by Marie's side and the doctor came in to give us the sad news. And we had an opportunity to go next door and say our goodbyes and view him. It was tough.

Jerry would be in the suite with me, and at that convention we chaired as the national chairmen of the North Carolina convention. He was a big teddy bear. They had no children, but their children were their grandnephew and niece, and they were there with him in the room upon his lap. Boy, they loved him.

And there were many differences in our lives, to see how we could get along as one. Jerry was from the South, me from the North. Jerry Protestant, me Catholic. He Yankee, me Red Sox, and boy, did we have our fights on that one. *(Laughter)*

I'll never forget, I don't know where we were at, but we were somewhere and it was a Sunday and I had to go to church. He said, "I'll go along with you." I said, "All right." So he went off with me. He said he would never do it again because we have too many collections. *(Laughter)*

The one thing we had in common was that we were Legionnaires. And different than most guys and gals from the North, I love grits. That surprised him, so he didn't have to fine me. I go to Florida every year. When I pass into North Carolina, I invariably would give him a call and ask permission for me to travel through North Carolina. *(Laughter)*

He was always happy to give me that privilege. But we served together on very important committees, as I said. He was our team man, he was my go-to guy. And I certainly am going to miss him for as long as I can look at that seat every year, the seat that Marie is sitting in, that he so proudly served us.

You can't serve on this body without thinking of guys like Jerry Hedrick. I don't want to say too much. I have a lot more I could say, but I just can't get through it. So thank you very much.

If we would all stand. Would you cover? In the state of remembrance, hand salute.

...The National Executive Committee stood for the playing of "Taps."

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Two.

...National Vice Commander Jacobs assumed the chair.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: You can be seated. Marie and Sarah, would you please come forward? The memorial resolution that was read by our Resolutions Subcommittee chairman, this is the full copy of it. And so Marie, we certainly present the first one to you. And we have one for Sarah. We also have another one to present it to whoever you may like in your family, so someone else that may have this.

This is a copy of the *Congressional Record* and the letter from Mr. Burr with the United States Senate.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LUDWIG: Marie, on behalf of The American Legion, we would like to present this copy of the *Congressional Record* honoring your beloved Jerry. God bless. Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: These are the five copies of the same *Congressional Record* that you may wish to present to members of your family.

MRS. MARIE HEDRICK: First of all, I'd like to say thank you for serving this great country and for, most of all, being Jerry's friend. And I'll let you in on a little secret, I do not eat grits even though I was raised in the South. *(Laughter)*

But just one time I ate them at lunch when I went to the Southern Bloc so I wouldn't have to pay money. But thanks, and stay in touch with me. I'll never forget you. Thank you. *(Standing ovation)*

SARAH STYERS: Thank each of you for remembering our beloved Jerry in such an honorable way. I will never forget anybody in this room. And Dan, thank you for inviting us to this service. It will be a memorable thing to tell my children. Thank each of you and God bless you. *(Standing ovation) ...Commander Helm resumed the chair.*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I now turn it back to our chairman, NEC Warnken.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Please uncover.

Similar memorializing resolutions will be presented to the following: William J. Thomas, Colorado; Neal L. Thomas, Jr., Colorado; Charles E. French, Georgia; Thomas C. Tsareff, Jr., Indiana; Ivan E. Torkelson, Iowa; Douglas W. Henley, Maryland; Donald P. Pemberton, Montana; Richard W. Clark, Oregon; Jennings B. "JB" Loring, Tennessee; Frederick C. Manske, Wisconsin.

Broken Chain
We little knew the day that
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone.
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories.
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you
You are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken
and nothing seems the same,
but as God calls us one by one
the chain will link again.

Ron Tranmer

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Cover. I now call on National Judge Advocate Phil Onderdonk for a report.

Oral Report: National Judge Advocate
Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

Thank you, commander. I'm counting the days to get the left hip fixed. Seven to go. The report is 43 pages, but I'm not going to read it all. *(Applause)*

235 contracts, I won't mention them again. We'll get straight to the litigation, and we have a lot of cases. The first one is the case in Pennsylvania which is still sitting there. They have filed a Praecipe for Summons, but there's never really been a complaint, nothing else has happened. It should have been dismissed years ago. Nothing has happened. I guess the clerk forgot it. But there's no use wasting any money trying to push for it, so we'll just let it sit there.

The next one is the Soledad cross case. This is out of southern California. This case has gone up to Supreme Court and sent back to California with instructions for the Ninth Circuit to hear it again. Eventually it will go to the Supreme Court. The Ninth Circuit keeps saying the cross should come down. It's a veterans memorial. We keep defending it. We've won all the others; we hope to win this one, but we're just going to keep going.

There are a number of cases in here with the American Humanist Association, with the ACLU. They're attacking crosses in veterans memorials. They said they wouldn't do that in the last big case we had about 15 years ago, but they're after it state by state now.

The next case is against Prudential Insurance. This involves the VA and the soldier's insurance, I think it's SGLI, for all the services. When a serviceperson dies in combat, Congress appropriates the $400,000. It doesn't come from the insurance company. They give it to the VA to give it to the insurance company to give it to the family. The one problem is the insurance company is not giving it to the family. They're giving them a checkbook on which they pay a half a percent interest per year, while earning 5 percent or more per year. We think that's unconscionable, harming to the veteran's family, and we have joined a number of groups and individuals to sue them. We made our petition to the court. The court agreed, the case will go forward. They're trying to hide the fact that the VA authorized this procedure. It's another one of their scams.

Guerra vs. Shinseki. This is a case involving the rating percentage. The individual has got a 70 percent rating twice, two 40 percent ratings, a 30 percent rating, and none of them total a hundred percent. But the grand total is well over a hundred percent, and the

VA would not give him a full disability. So, again, we're suing on his behalf to get the principle established that this is nonsense and he should get a hundred percent. It's based on another case we were amicus in, *Henderson vs. Shinseki*, which we won. They don't seem to like to follow the court orders.

The Curtis Hamm case is a case here in Indiana, this is a trademark case. The post commissioned a collage of photographs based on an American Legion Riders ride. It has The American Legion emblem right in the middle. The Hamms, who apparently produced the photograph for the post, he was a member of the SAL, had a falling out, and now they're demanding that the picture be returned to them because the post never paid for it, although I believe it was supposed to be a donation. In any event, we are standing by. If and when the court does order the return of the picture, we're going to cut the Legion emblem out of the center because, since the Hamms are no longer associated with The American Legion and, as SAL members, had to have permission from the national adjutant to use The American Legion emblem, we're going to protect it. This is part of the constant and continuous control of our emblem, which is required by trademark law.

American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion vs. Colorado Columbine Girls State. Another trademark case. The Colorado Columbine Girls State was trying to act independently and not as a program of the American Legion Auxiliary. They were using the Auxiliary emblem, which The American Legion owns because it's so close to The American Legion emblem, but is licensed to the Auxiliary, and then they have the right to further license it. We won the case when they finally caved in, and got everything we asked for. The corporation was dissolved. Under Colorado law, apparently, though, you can reestablish a corporation. One of the directors did. There's approximately $67,000 in the treasury for that corporation and has not been returned to the American Legion Auxiliary. A demand letter from the Auxiliary, Department of Colorado, should be sent to this new corporation, which is known by initials, demanding return of the money. And if they don't return it, sue them. But that is a department issue, not a national issue. We have protected the trademark. And I will get to that a little bit more when I talk about, if I may, commander, the trademark pamphlet which was handed out here.

Hewett vs. City of King, North Carolina. This is another veterans memorial case. The city had a memorial on a plaza with a number of flagpoles and they allowed religious flags to be flown there. The Humanist Association and the ACLU are suing to ban that. There is also a statue next to this plaza of flags with a kneeling soldier in front of a cross. They want to ban that, too. We're in this case to protect the kneeling soldier and the cross, which is the way veterans salute those who have gone before. We are proceeding with a pro bono counsel there. In a lot of these cases we have pro bono counsel for local counsel.

Kingdomware Technologies vs. United States, it's another VA case. Kingdomware Technologies is a computer company on the West Coast. They bid on a VA contract; they spent years getting established and getting qualified to bid. They were the low bidder. They also have veterans preference. The VA canceled the procurement and kept their old contractor because they wanted the old contractor to win. They totally violated the veterans preference, and this is the VA doing it to a veteran. So we have counsel and are joining them to say this should be reversed and they should get the contract. This is just, again, one of the cases for the VA.

Case in Massachusetts, I won't go through the long name, this was a case to remove the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance. As I said, they lost in the Supreme Court so now they're going state by state. The Massachusetts court ruled in favor of keeping the words in the Pledge of Allegiance. Again, we had an amicus brief and pro bono counsel.

Angela Capizzi-Mullan, this was a very dangerous case in Philadelphia. This is a young ballerina who was run down at about four in the morning by a driver that was alleged to have been drinking at The American Legion post which then had a party after hours. They've got a number of problems with the liquor board in Pennsylvania. When he went to deposition, the driver said no, he had not been at the Legion post, so the family dropped us. Otherwise we would probably still be in the case, even though we were not responsible. We have language in our corporate charter that gets us out of a lot of these cases very quickly. But the family from Hungary said, "Well, if he didn't drink at the Legion post, the Legion should not be a defendant," and they were right.

We have another case here, a car crash, at an American Legion post. He drank in Columbia, Pennsylvania. The court granted our motion to dismiss, saying we do not have the power to control the posts. This was in Philadelphia also.

Another case in Philadelphia where the judge ruled, I'll get to that one later, but the judge ruled that he wasn't going to grant the motion to dismiss. We had to wait for summary judgment. That judge happens to be a former plaintiffs' attorney. So we will fight that case too.

American Legion is an amicus in the *Middleton vs. Shinseki* case because the VA again has not applied the proper rating. The veteran falls in between two levels, but he's closer to the higher level. Of course, the VA gave him the lower level. They want to save money. The law says in this situation the higher one should be awarded. We are supporting the veteran with pro bono counsel.

The Rodkey case was the one I mentioned out of line earlier.

American Humanist Association vs. the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. This is about the Bladensburg cross which was erected by an American Legion post and has The American Legion emblem where the two arms of the cross cross. It was on private property. The property was condemned to enlarge the intersection, so it's now on capital planning property. They want the cross torn down. There's another post that has taken over responsibility for the cross. The Department of Maryland and National are all in the case to protect this veterans memorial from the nonsense of the Humanist Association who claim this is a religious memorial, not a veterans memorial.

Oklahoma American Legion, George Nonamaker, and Frederick Speir is a state case and a federal case involving the reorganization of the Department of Oklahoma. The judge ruled in our favor saying we had no course but to go forward.

Roberta O'Dowd. This is a slip-and-fall case at a post in New Jersey. Plaintiff has been named as American Legion National Headquarters, they're correcting that. Motion to dismiss has been filed, we're waiting for the court to act.

American Humanist Association vs. Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District in New Jersey. They want to take the words "under God" out of the Pledge of Allegiance. We've been allowed to join as a defendant to help defend the Pledge. And The American Legion was very instrumental in getting the words "under God" placed in the Pledge.

Purcell and Irita Williams vs. The American Legion and William Powell. Sued by former employees against the Department of Washington. They named the national organization but have since dropped the national organization because of the wording of our corporate charter.

Freedom From Religion Foundation vs. U.S. Forest Service. It's a federal case in Montana, against the memorial for the 10th Mountain Division, which happens to be a statue of Jesus in a little area in the mountain. It's very similar to the shrines in the mountains in Italy where the 10th Mountain Division fought in World War II. It's a veterans memorial. What the plaintiffs keep claiming is that a statue of Jesus has to be

religious, ignoring the fact that Jesus is also an historical figure. So we're in that case with a pro bono counsel.

Michael McKinney vs. the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. This is a case where they have misconstrued the spraying of Agent Orange around the Korean DMZ. They had a period and it should have been longer. Congress changed the dates to lengthen it, so the VA cut it shorter and went with only the new dates instead of the longer period. Don't ask me why, but that's why we're in suing on that one.

Hyatt vs. Daniel Bernath. This is the case in both Oregon which we've won and got fees, and in Florida. He's also threatening to sue us here in Indiana, and I hope he does because I'd love to get this guy under a deposition. He was an attorney in Oregon, got thrown out for unethical conduct, so he joined the bar in California. Sued us in Oregon in a really screwed-up mess, but he lost. We have a judgment for fees. We're number 20 out of about 30 defendants.

But he sued us in Florida. He's never served us, but he says he has. To serve us in Florida, he has to get a summons from the court clerk. He made up his own, didn't want to spend money. He claims he's broke, but he manages to travel back and forth from Florida to Oregon repeatedly, and that costs a little money. So we're going to investigate that. He's also gone to a friend in West Virginia to have the friend go to his wife to attack The American Legion tax-exempt status because he says we're not allowed to lobby. Obviously, doesn't know what the tax law says. But he's totally nuts, posts things on the internet libeling The American Legion, and then quotes them the next day saying somebody else put them up. But he owns the website. He doesn't know we know that.

So this case is going to go forward, and I've already been authorized, as soon as we can get him in a proper case where we can serve him, we're going to sue him, depose him, and then when he lies under oath, which he will do, we will go for his license. He's going to learn you don't want to tangle with The American Legion.

I should mention also that this individual has violated Stolen Valor. He was a photographer's mate in the Navy, but he claims to be a chief petty officer. When they pointed out the Navy didn't do it, he said, "Oh, the photographers did it." They deny it. He said, "Oh, some round house group did it." There's only two entities in the world that can create a chief petty officer: The United States Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard, at least in this country, and neither one did.

His wife's worried about him because he's totally nuts. In fact, our outside attorneys have both recommended, and I have passed on as well, be careful of any packages from him. *(Laughter)*

Mr. Commander, I have also attended the meetings, written 529 opinions, reviewed 172 manuscripts, 11 opinions to the American Legion Auxiliary. But I think I will stop there instead of going through this whole report.

That completes this report, sir, and, with your permission, I'll get into two other matters if I may.

The *Name and Emblem Protection Guide*. This is the new trademark pamphlet. It has color representations of all our trademarks. On page 19 it also has the five rules for control of subsidiaries, the Riders, and the SAL. This is not to take over and run the programs. This is to protect the trademark for constant and continuous control.

Now, the five rules have not been approved by any court, because every time we get ready to have a court case and the judge approves it, the other side folds and settles. But three very prominent trademark attorneys have reviewed it and say that that's the way to do it.

It's very easy to tell who a subsidiary is when you have a stock corporation: Who owns the stock? When you get a membership organization, it's a little more difficult. A lot of Americans like to be independent. But if you're going to use The American Legion

trademark, you will do what The American Legion says, because we're going to protect our trademark. If we don't, we can lose it.

The other item is the conflict of interest disclosure form required by the IRS for members of the NEC, alternates, the five vice commanders, the national commander. Past National Commanders should fill it out because they're members of the NEC, but do not have to yet. You can disclose too little, you cannot disclose too much.

I'm reminded by a senator from Alaska who had a similar form in the Senate about his campaign contribution fund. He didn't put everything down. They used it against him to get him thrown him out of office, and then later admitted he'd done it right. But if he put a little more down, it wouldn't have been a problem; he probably would have won his reelection. But anyway, he died on a plane crash on a fishing trip because he was not in Congress as a senator. So it can get very, very serious.

If your wife is a secretary for the Auxiliary, put it down. If you're an adjutant at the post or she's secretary to the department, put it down. That's not a conflict. But you can't be charged if you put it down; you can be charged if you leave it alone. This would not be by the Legion, this would be by the IRS.

So if you would fill the forms out, please, and turn them in to me, I would appreciate it. We'll collect them, get them to finance. If we don't get them, we'll have to send you a letter of harassment until we get it. It's required by the IRS through our accounting firm.

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

Report: National Judge Advocate
P. B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

Contracts

The following two hundred thirty-five (235) contracts have been reviewed or prepared:

(1) Articles of Agreement by and between The American Legion and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Kentucky, Inc., covering the convocation of the 2017 Convention of The American Legion in the City of Louisville, State of Kentucky, have been executed.

(2) A Memorandum of Agreement by and between The American Legion and National Veterans Legal Services Program, whereby National Veterans Legal Services will provide consultations, informal training of Department Service Officers, BVA staff and claims/representatives, case work review, briefings on proposed changes in law and regulations and assistance in methods for prompt adjudication of veterans' appeal cases.

(3) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and AdoptaPlatoon (AAP), whereby a link has been established to Operation Crayon referring to AAP which provides morale-lifting mail and care package support to service members deployed overseas.

(4) A Service agreement by and between The American Legion and First Degree, LLC, to develop a marketing and fundraising campaign.

(5) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Data Processing Services, Inc., whereby Data Processing Services will add 15 disc drives to the computer system and create and add drives to the computer system storage capacity.

(6) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Neighborhood E-mail, whereby Neighborhood E-mail will assist in cleaning of in-house data base and E-mail files.

(7) A Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Fuller Engineering Service Corporation, whereby Fuller Engineering will provide maintenance on the Liebert Equipment in the computer room.

(8) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Dell Marketing L.P., whereby The American Legion will market the Dell Federal Member Computer Discount Purchase Program to its various associations, employees, members and affiliates.

(9) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and KBM (KnowledgeBase Marketing-Mutual of Omaha) for marketing of insurance products for Legion members.

(10) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Norlight Telecommunications, Inc., whereby Norlight Telecommunications, Inc. will provide a dedicated internet port and service of same for The American Legion's computer system.

(11) Housing contract between The American Legion and Marymount University to provide for lodging and food service for American Legion Boys Nation held in July 2014.

(12) A Memorandum of Understanding by and between The American Legion and The United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC), whereby The American Legion will assist the United States Army Recruiting Command to improve the recruiting environment for Army recruiters and USAREC will provide information regarding American Legion activities and special community events to local units, bulletins and newsletters.

(13) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and the James G. Elliott Co., Inc. for integration into the JGECO M-PANEL Services software.

(14) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and ProSidian Consulting, LLC, for research services to assess perceptions of and satisfaction with Women Veterans health care.

(15) A contract by and between The American Legion and Office Max to provide office supplies, office furniture, technology and similar products.

(16-17) Two (2) List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

Resource One

Association Group Insurance Administrators (AGIA)

(18) A Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Sigma Micro Corporation for The American Legion's Technical Services Rate Retainer (TSRR) subscription for hardware, operating system and environment support.

(19) A Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Budget Truck Rental, LLC for truck rental discount program.

(20) Maintenance Agreement by and between The American Legion and Comtech Group for the IBM Software subscription for the AS400 and RS6000 computer software.

(21) Maintenance Agreement by and between The American Legion and Quality Concepts for structural and environmental services (cleaning) at the Geiger facility.

(22) A Contract by and between The American Legion and Communications Products, Inc. for software upgrade for the existing server running Windows Server.

(23) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Voice Data Systems, LLC, for Nortel CS1000 Telephone System.

(24) Maintenance and Sales Agreement by and between The American Legion and Ikon Office Solutions, Inc. for equipment maintenance.

(25) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Dydacomp Development Corporation for an updated version of mail order manager software used by Emblem Sales.

(26) Annual Maintenance agreement by and between The American Legion and Eaton Power Quality Corporation to provide maintenance and perform preventative maintenance checks on the Uninterruptible Power System (UPS) which regulates the power spikes to the AS400 and is the battery backup in case of a power outage.

(27) A License Agreement, by and between The American Legion and Lansa Inc. for software.

(28) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Caremark Pharmacy Discount Prescription for discount prescription program.

(29) A Purchase Agreement by and between The American Legion and Managing Editor, Inc. (MEI) for K4 Publishing System software to be used by the Magazine Division.

(30) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and The Seven Company, LLC, a consulting service to obtain and present sponsorships, marketing agreements and marketing loyalty program agreement for The American Legion.

(31) A Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Koorsen Fire & Security for fire alarm and detection systems.

(32) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Hotel Elegante, Colorado Springs, Colorado, housing for 2015-2017 Junior Shooting Sports National Championships.

(33) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Pitney Bowes Software, Inc. for software products.

(34) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Vanguard Car Rental USA Inc. (Alamo and National), which offers car rental discount programs to Legion members.

(35) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Wyndham Indianapolis West, housing for 2015-2017 Oratorical National Finals.

(36) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Bulkley Dunton Publishing Group for the purchase of paper to The American Legion.

(37) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Time Warner telephone and data lines services which includes firewall management, internet "pipe," main voice lines, data line to DC office and data line to the Geiger facility.

(38) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Swift Trip, LLC, Legion Family Travel. Discount travel services for Legion members and their families.

(39) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Mid America Marketing Cancer Care Plus Insurance Program, underwritten by Family Heritage Life available to Legion members.

(40) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Fans 4 Truckers to use the American Legion Legacy Run for "JCCR" and "Driven to Honor" message (recognition for female veterans).

(41) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and the Civilian Marksmanship Program for a portable electronic target scoring system for use during the 2014 American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championships

(42) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and OfficeMax for discounted office supplies and print and document services for Legion and SAL members.

(43) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and RoadCare Plus for a discount, full-service roadside assistance program for Legion members.

(44) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Honeywell Building Solutions for integrator and/or digital video manager software products.

(45) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and USAA to provide financial products and services to members of the U.S. military and their families.

(46) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Bowe Bell and Howell, the service provider for the cutters in the Geiger facility lettershop.

(47) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Michael Peterson for his CD/DVD developed for The American Legion Family.

(48) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Ski Landscape Ground Maintenance Renewal which provides grounds maintenance and snow removal for the Geiger facility.

(49) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Mapsys System & Solution to renew the IBM Maintenance Agreement for peripheral equipment attached to the AS400.

(50) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Anchor Software, LLC, software used for mass mailings.

(51) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Travel Leaders provides travel management services and travel reservation fulfillment.

(52) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Mid-America Elevator Co., Inc. for maintenance of the elevators at 700 N. Pennsylvania Street building.

(53) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and VDS, an upgrade and maintenance support to the Avaya phone system.

(54) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and TWTelecom for internet circuit upgrades.

(55) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Xerox for CF 495 Printer and maintenance services and deliverables of their products.

(56) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and AT&T for mobile device and service plan discounts.

(57) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Founding Fathers Products, LLC, an American beer manufacturer donating 50% of all net profits to participating posts.

(58) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and @mire, inc. for work on the Digital Archive used by the Legion Library.

(59) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Source2 for temporary staff used by Emblem Sales at the 2014 national convention.

(60) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and West Point Association of Graduates United States Military Academy for advertising in their newsletter.

(61) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and CAMMO, an American Military Spouses Choir performing at the national convention.

(62) A Licensing Agreement by and between The American Legion and Dr. Pepper/Seven Up, Inc. to support Operation Comfort Warriors.

(63) An Agreement by and between The America Legion and AdMate Software System for software for the magazine division.

(64) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and SIRVA Worldwide, Inc. for a market plan to promote Legion programs on the Legion website.

(65) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Motel 6 LLC to promote a member discount program on the Legion website.

(66) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Blackline for software used by the Finance Division.

(67) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Cleveland County ALWS Baseball, Inc. for the baseball tournaments.

(68) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and International Cruise and Excursions Gallery, Inc. d/b/a Government Vacations Rewards for a discount travel service for our members.

(69) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Fifth Estate Communications to inform young men about the legal requirement to register with the US Selective Service. They will be speaking to Boys State/Nation Directors and to American Legion Baseball State Directors at the Americanism and Children and Youth Conference.

(70) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Military Advantage, Inc. (Military.com) for exchanging editorial content for mutual postings on respective websites.

(71) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Old Jim Customs, LLC, for permission to use The American Legion name and emblem on their merchandise.

(72) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Hilton Supply Management to supply US flags and state flags for their properties.

(73) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and USA Shooting, a range facility for contest participants during the 2014 Junior Air Rifle National Championship.

(74) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and LifeStation as a member discount provider for home health-safety services.

(75) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Valley River Inn for meeting rooms and housing during the American Legion Baseball 2014 Regional.

(76) A Rental Agreement by and between The American Legion and Cintas Facility Services which supply janitorial supplies to the Geiger Operations Center.

(77) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and National Forensic League for one year of logo and link placement on its website, ads in its magazine, booth space at its tournament and promotion of the Oratorical Contest.

(78) A Leasing Agreement by and between The American Legion and Gordon Flesch Company, Inc. for GFC equipment for the mail room.

(79) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and The Westin Charlotte for guest room accommodations during the 2014 national convention.

(80) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and AnswerNet for call center services.

(81) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Preferred Asphalt, Inc. for repaving and maintenance of the parking lot at the Geiger Operations Center.

(82) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Picrow, Inc. for permission to use the name and emblem of The American Legion in a television production.

(83) A Rental Agreement by and between The American Legion and Reliable Water Services for the rental of a water heater for the national headquarters building.

(84) A Licensing Agreement by and between The American Legion and Vermont Teddy Bear for use of the name and emblem as a national corporate sponsor.

(85) A Member Agreement by and between The American Legion and Gigya, Inc. for website software.

One hundred-fifty (150) Subcontractor Standard List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

4 Warranty
A.M. Mailing Services, LLC
Aberdeen American News
Able Card, LLC
Acxiom
AEGON Direct Marketing
ALG Worldwide Logistics, Inc.
Alliance for Audited Media
Analytics IQ. Inc.
ASC (The College Board)
Asendia USA
Audit Bureau of Circulations
Avis and Budget Car Rental
Bankers Life & Casualty Company
Bell and Howell, LLC
Beta Graphics
Brickmill Marketing Services
Brown Printing Company
Business Mailing Center
Careington International
Caremark, LLC Confidentiality
CD-COM Systems Midwest, Inc.
CES Mail Communications, Inc.
Class B, Inc.
Colonial Penn Life Insurance Company
Commander Printed Products
Commercial Letter, Inc.
Cooperative Print Solutions
Corporate Express Document & Print Mgmt.
Creative Marketing Concepts
Crell Direct Mail
Cross Country Lending, Inc.
Daily Freeman Journal
Database 101
Datagraphic
Data-Mail, Inc.
Dayton Technologies
DMRA
E H Direct
Easy Purl, Inc.
Edge Direct
Entiera
Epsilon
Equifax Direct Marketing Solutions, LLC
E-Target Media
Fahlgren Mortine
Fair Isaac Corporation
First National Bank of Omaha
Fiserv Solutions, Inc.
Focus USA
Forum Communications Printing
Freedom Graphic Systems
Fry Communications, Inc.
Fulfillment Xcellence, Inc.
FXI
G E Financial Assurance
Gallagher Benefit Services
Global Card Services
GMAC
Golden Rule Publishing
Goldleaf Data Corporation
HearPO Corp
HNE Printers/Daily Reporter
Hutchinson Company
info USA, Inc.
Instant Web, Inc. DBA (IWCO)
International Cruise & Excursions, Inc.
International Data Management
Itasca Marketing
Jano Graphics
JH Marketing Services
KDM
Knowledge Base Marketing, GP
Konik and Company
Kramers Mailing Service
Life Line Screening
Lighthouse List Company
Long Term Care Associates, Inc.
LTC Affinity Direct
LTCR Analytics IQ, Inc.
Magnet Direct
Mail Computer Services Direct
Mail Manager
Mailing Services of Pittsburgh
Mainstreet Media
MCS Direct
Media 1, LLC
Merkle, Inc.
Metropolitan Technologies, Inc.
Midwest Direct Mailers
Military Advantage
MMP Direct and Printing
Moore Wallace Response Marketing
Morgan Printing, Inc.
Mutual of Omaha
Name-Finders List, Inc.
National General Insurance
Nfocus Consulting, Inc.
North Mail, Inc.
On line Insurance Services, LLC
PacifiCare
Peachtree Data, Inc.
PEP Direct, Inc.
Perma-Graphics, Inc.
PipMail
Print Communications, Inc.
Printing Partners, Inc.
Production Services Associates, LLC
Propco Marketing
PSA
Quadriga Art, Inc.
R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company
Response Solutions, LLC
Richardson Sports
Ripon Printers
River's Edge Printing

Royle Printing Company
SB MailWorks
SCI Management, LLP
Signature Offset
SIRVA Affinity Group Services
Specialty Print Communications
Stephens Direct
Strategic Marketing and Mailing
The Heritage Company
The Hertz Corporation
The JAY Group, Inc.
The Mailing House
The Willow Group
TN Marketing
Torrington Telegram
Transamerica
TransAmerica Affinity Services, Inc.
Transcom
TransContinental Direct
Travalution, LLC
True North Companies
TXEN Partners, LLC
US Monitor
V12 Group
Valid UDA, Inc.
Valley Printworks
Ventura Printing
VERTIS
Veterans Online, LLC
Virtual DBS
Vision Printing & Graphics, LLC
Wiland Direct
Wilson Sporting Goods Co.
Woodward Communications, Inc.

Litigation

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL

Daniel Jeffrey Steich
Plaintiff S-2371-2005

v.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 575, ET AL
Defendants

The case was filed in Pennsylvania by filing a Praecipe for Summons.

Under Pennsylvania law, a complaint need not be filed for several years unless the defendant insists. We see no reason to start spending the money. Accordingly, we are keeping an eye on the case. It cannot go forward until the plaintiff does file his complaint. The court has sent notice it intends to terminate this case unless a party fills out a Statement of Intention to Proceed before October 1, 2008. Despite this, the case is still pending.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Philip K. Paulson,
Petitioner Case No. GC 849667

v.

Charles Abdelnour, in his
Official capacity as the City
Clerk of the City of San Diego;
Mikal Haas, In his Official
Capacity as Registrar
of Voters for the County

of San Diego;
And Does 1 to 10, Inclusive,
Respondents

This case involves the Mount Soledad War Memorial which contains a cross. Plaintiffs have sued in an attempt to have the cross removed and destroyed. A judge ordered the cross removed or the city would pay penalties of five thousand dollars ($5,000) per day. The matter is currently both in the Federal courts and in the California Supreme Court. American Legion was instrumental in obtaining a stay of the penalty order in the US Supreme Court. American Legion has filed its amicus brief in conjunction with the Department of California in the California Supreme Court. The United States Congress has enacted and the president signed a statute which would turn the memorial over to the federal government. Hopefully, this will put an end to the state litigation. Nonetheless, we will proceed until we know the veteran's memorial is secure. A Federal Judge ruled the cross did not violate the constitution. The plaintiffs have appealed. We are assisting in opposing the appeal as an amicus. The Supreme Court ruled the case was not yet ripe and remanded. We are continuing to support the memorial. The trial court has ruled the parties must consult about a settlement. Department of Defense now wants to sell the monument to the highest bidder. An emergency appeal to the Supreme Court was filed to prevent destruction until the final decision. The matter has been referred back to the Ninth Circuit for action. The Supreme Court will review after the circuit court decision.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
WESTERN SECTION

Kevin Lucey, et at

Civil No. 10-30163-Map

v.

Prudential Insurance Co.

The American Legion is an amicus on the side of the plaintiffs against Prudential Insurance, which has the contract to underwrite the SGLI. When a service member dies on active duty, Prudential does not give a check to the beneficiary, usually the wife, as required by the law establishing the program. Prudential gives the beneficiary a checkbook with no guidance. Hence, the insurance company gets to keep all or part of the money ($400,000.00) for many months. It adds approximately ½ of 1 % interest per year to the account, but earns considerably more than 5% on the money. Plaintiffs want Prudential to follow the law, as we do. The VA objected to our joining the case. As a result, we discovered the VA had authorized the deviation from the requirements of the law.

Prudential has essentially admitted all the relevant facts. Hence, we expected a settlement. It did not happen. The judge, without briefing, totally reversed his position, so the case continues. We, like the plaintiffs and the other amici are filing further briefs. We have petitioned the judge to unseal the file and are negotiating with Prudential on this.

The judge ruled in our favor on preliminary motion. The case will proceed.

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Lionel Guerra,
Petitioner,
v. No. 11-773
Eric K. Shinseki,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
Respondent.

This case involves The American Legion proceeding as an amicus curiae with pro bono counsel on behalf of a veteran. The veteran has a number of disabilities from his combat injuries. These are: A 70% rating for an upper-extremity gunshot wound; a 70% rating for post-traumatic stress disorder; a 40% rating for injuries to his left leg and thigh; a 40% rating for injuries to his right leg and thigh; and a 30% rating for neuropathy. While none of his disabilities was individually rated at 100%, the total of the individual disabilities is 100%.

The VA would not give Mr. Guerra 100%. The Federal Circuit determined that he was not entitled to 100% disability because it was giving deference to the administrative decision of the VA.

This decision violates the pro-veteran canon of the U.S. law and the veterans' law. The Federal Circuit relied upon the *Chevron* case, which under the administrative procedure law would give deference to the administrative agency where the matter was ambiguous.

In this case, the Supreme Court has already ruled in the number of cases that in an ambiguous situation involving a veteran that the court should rule in favor of the veteran. This is based upon, inter alia, *Henderson v. Shinseki*, another case in which The American Legion appeared as an amicus.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

THE AMERICAN LEGION,

Plaintiff,

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Vs.

CURTIS HAMM and CAROLYN HAMM,

Defendants.

We have not yet joined this case. It grows out of a situation at Post No. 117 in Pendleton, Indiana. The Riders of the post sponsored a motorcycle run to raise funds for those motorcycle riders killed and injured in an auto accident by an intoxicated police officer. A series of pictures were taken of the ride and they were put together in one poster with a picture of the American Legion Riders Emblem in the center. This poster was hung in Post No. 117. At a later time, Curtis Hamm, an SAL member of the post, and his wife got into a dispute with the post and the post commander and Mr. Hamm was expelled.

The Hamm's then filed suit in Hamilton County, Indiana, claiming the poster was theirs because they claimed they paid to have it made. There is evidence he donated the poster to the post.

The post and post commander defaulted in the case because they did not believe the Hamm's were serious. The court ordered the poster turned over to the Hamm's.

At this point the National Headquarters learned of the situation and referred the matter to outside counsel for trademark action, because the Hamm's have no right to the American Legion Riders emblem. This is not a "first sale" situation because the picture of the Riders emblem was not purchased from the Legion; a picture was made and copied without permission.

The post and post commander obtained counsel and opposed the default which was lifted by the Hamilton County Court. The court further ordered for the parties to resolve the situation by April 30, 2013. All counsel had been furnished with the draft of our complaint. At this point, the court ordered the case transferred to Madison County, Indiana, where the post is located and venue is proper.

The hearing was scheduled for August 20, 2013, but was postponed. If necessary, we will file to protect the emblems of The American Legion and the American Legion Riders.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil Action No. 1:13-cv-01606-WYD-KLM

THE AMERICAN LEGION and
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY,

Plaintiffs,

v.

COLORADO COLUMBINE GIRLS STATE, INC.,

Defendant.

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have sued Columbine Girls State Corporation in Colorado for misuse of the name and emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary and Girls State. The defendant is supposed to be a subsidiary of the department, but was trying to become a rival corporation and acting independently in violation of trademark law. The complaint has been served. The Girls State Corporation is defending on the basis that they have the "right" to use the emblems. At the most recent meeting of counsel, it appeared that the Girls State Corporation's position was weakening.

The case was settled by the defendant giving the plaintiffs everything they asked for. The Department of the Auxiliary is now trying to get its money, back from the independent, renamed corporation.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

STEVEN HEWETT,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF KING, NORTH CAROLINA,

Defendant.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AND
AMERICAN LEGION POST 290
OF KING, NORTH CAROLINA,

Intervenors.

This is another veteran's memorial case. The City of King, NC, built a flag plaza and flew the Christian flag. The plaintiff wants this stopped and to destroy the statue of the veteran kneeling next to a cross.

The American Legion is an amicus on behalf of the kneeling veteran statue only. Discovery is proceeding.

The court allowed The American Legion to intervene to protect the statue.

No. 2013-5042
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

Kingdomware Technologies, Inc.,

Plaintiff-Appellant

v. Case No. 12-CV-0173

United States,

Defendant-Appellee

The American Legion has filed an amicus brief supporting Kingdomware's claim that the Veteran's Administration violated the law when it denied the company the Veteran Owned Small Business status which would have caused a procurement contract to be awarded to it. VA claims it has met the 3% threshold and therefore the veteran's preference does not apply. VA wishes to use a non veteran owned company.

The case will be scheduled for reargument.

Supreme Judicial Court
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
NO. SJC-11317

JANE DOE AND JOHN DOE,
INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PARENTS
AND NEXT FRIENDS OF DOECHILD-1,
DOECHILD-2, AND DOECHILD-3,
AND THE AMERICAN HUMANIST
ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiffs-Appellants, No. SJC-11317

v.

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE TOWN
OF ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND DR. STEPHEN E. MILLS,
AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,
Defendants-Appellees,
AND

DANIEL JOYCE AND INGRID
JOYCE, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS
PARENTS AND NEXT FRIENDS OF
D. JOYCE AND C. JOYCE, AND THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, A
CONNECTICUT TAX-EXEMPT
CORPORATION,
Defendants/Interveners-Appellees.

Plaintiffs have sued to remove the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, despite the fact that the language has been upheld consistently. The lower court correctly rejected plaintiff's claim. The American Legion filed its brief at the appellate level.

The plaintiffs lost.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

ANGELA CAPIZZI-MULLAN, Administratrix of
the Estate of POLINA KADIYSKA, deceased
Plaintiffs

v.

DEANDRE BARNES

and

AMERICAN LEGION POST 153 HOME
ASSOCIATION a.k.a. or d/b/a American Legion
Post 153 and/or Frantic Nightclub

and

THE AMERICAN LEGION

and

KELBAR, Inc. a.k.a. or d/b/a T-Barr's Bar

And/or T-Barr

Defendants

In this case, Plaintiff has sued the Post and National, bypassing the Department of Pennsylvania.

On March 18, 2012, Polina Kadiyska, a ballet student, was injured by a car driven by Deandre Barnes, an eighteen year old at the time. It is alleged that he had been drinking at the American Legion Post No. 153 Frantic Nightclub after hours. He was allegedly driving on S. Broad after the accident which allegedly involved hitting a number of cars; the driver fled on foot. He is now in the state correctional institution at Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. He may face additional charges.

The injured student was placed on life support which was discontinued March 19, 2012, when she died.

Counsel has been retained by our insurance company and preliminary objections filed under Pennsylvania law, because national has no control over departments and posts (36 USC §21704 (5)). Plaintiff's attorney didn't bother to check the law.

The driver testified at his deposition that he had never been to any Post of The American Legion and his insurance offered the policy limits which were accepted by the family which dropped the case. It is closed.

DEIDRA M. WILLIAMS	: PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
	: COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
and	:
CURTIS R. BROWN	: OCTOBER TERM, 2013
	:
	: NO.: 01398
v.	:
	:
AMOY ARCHER	:
	:
and	:
	:
AMERICAN LEGION	:
	:
and	:
	:
VETERANS HOME ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD POST NO 204	:
	:
	:
and	:
	:
VETERANS HOME ASSOCIATION OF PENN CENTRAL POST 204	:
	:
	:
and	:
	:
HENRY MCILHENNY	:

This is a claim for damages because the defendant, Amoy Archer, allegedly drank in a Legion post and then was involved in a car crash. The court granted our Motion to Dismiss based on our corporate charter's provision that we do not control departments and posts.

IN THE
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

BIRDEYE L. MIDDLETON,
Claimant-Appellant,

v. No. 2013-07014

ERIC K. SHINSEKI, Secretary
of Veterans Affairs,
Respondent-Appelle.

Appeal from the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
In Case No. 10-4222, Judge Alan G. Lance, Sr.

In this case, The American Legion is an amicus because the Veterans Administration has not been properly applying the proper rating. The veteran does not clearly meet the higher rating, but is significantly more disabled than the lower rating he was given. Since the veteran more nearly approximates the higher rating, the law says that is the one that should be awarded.

RICHARD RODKEY

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY COURT

OF COMMON PLEAS

v.

SEPTEMBER TERM, 2013
NO.: 004046

AMERICAN LEGION d/b/a THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILLARY UNIT 372and SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 372 and AMERICAN LEGION, INC. PAUL REVERE LEBER POST 372
and
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.
and
AMVETS 153 HOME ASSOCIATES
and
PAUL REVERE LEBER POST NUMBER THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
and
LEBER, PAUL REVERE POST NO 372 OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OF COLUMBIA

PENNSYLVANIA

This is a slip and fall case in Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The case was brought in Philadelphia because of apparently higher awards. Plaintiff did this by alleging The American Legion did business in Philadelphia. The court refused our motion and preliminary objections without an opinion despite the wording in the charter. We have to wait for Summary Judgment.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

American Humanist Association, Steven Lowe, Fred Edwords, and Bishop McNeill — Case No. cv-14-550

Plaintiffs,

v.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission,

Defendant.

The American Humanist Association sued to compel destruction of the "Bladensburg Cross" which is on state land. It was erected on private property that was taken to enlarge a road intersection. It was erected by The American Legion in 1925 as a veteran's memorial. One of the plaintiffs is "upset" to see it. National, the Department of Maryland and the Bladensburg post are amici and will file to protect the cross.

On September 18, 2014, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland allowed The American Legion, the Department of Maryland and Colmar Manor Post No. 131 were admitted as intervening defendants.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA AMERICAN LEGION CORPORATION, GEORGE T. NONAMAKER, and FREDRICK L. SPEIR,

Plaintiffs, — CJ-2014-1834

v.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,

Defendant.

The case was filed in the Oklahoma County Court, State of Oklahoma. The American Legion has removed it from the state court to the federal district for the Western District of Oklahoma.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA CITY DIVISION

OKLAHOMA AMERICAN LEGION CORPORATION, GEORGE T. NONAMAKER, and FREDRICK L. SPEIR,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,

Defendant.

The status hearing was set for June 3, 2014, 2:30 p.m. Status and Discovery was scheduled. Plaintiffs are claiming the national organization had no right to suspend charter.

The court ruled in favor of the national organization because of the emergency nature of the violation in Oklahoma.

Plaintiff(s),	SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY
ROBERTA O'DOWD,	*CIVIL ACTION*
vs.	DOCKET NO. BER-LL4339-14

Defendant(s)
AMERICAN LEGION POST 170 a/k/a AMERICAN LEGION ROCHELLE PARK POST 170, THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS (sic), JOHN DOE I-X (said names being fictitious and unknown), JANE DOE I-X (said names being fictitious and unknown), ABC COMPANY (said names being fictitious and unknown) and XYZ CORP. (said names being fictitious and unknown),

This is a slip and fall case from a post kitchen at Post 170 Rochelle Park, New Jersey. The plaintiff named us as The American Legion National Headquarters. This is being corrected and more time was given to answer, which was accomplished. The matter was referred to our insurance company. A Motion to dismiss has been filed.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION
MONMOUTH COUNTY

American Humanist Association, and John Doe and Jane Doe, individually and as parents and next friends of Doechild,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District and David M. Healy, in his capacity as Superintendent of Schools,

Defendants.

Docket No. L-1317-14

Plaintiffs have sued to remove the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, despite the fact that the language has been upheld consistently.

The American Legion has intervened and filed its brief. The court allowed The American Legion to join as a defendant.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF SPOKANE

DAN PURCELL & IRITA WILLIAMS
Plaintiffs,

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, a non-profit Corporation doing business in Washington, and WILLIAM POWELL, et UX, a marital community in Washington State.
Defendants

NO. 13202356-8

This case is a suit by former employees against the Department of Washington. Nevertheless, they named the national organization. This has been cancelled and the case is now named:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

DAN PURCELL AND IRITA WILLIAMS,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

NO. CV-13-0285-JLQ

DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON,
a non-profit Corporation doing
business in Washington State, AND
WILLIAM POWELL, et UX, a marital
community in Washington state,

Defendants

No. 13-35770

IN THE
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION
FOUNDATION, INC.,
Plaintiff-Appellant,

v.

CHIP WEBER

and

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE,
Defendants-Appellees,

and

WILLLIAM GLIDDEN, RAYMOND
LEOPOLD, NORMAN DEFOREST,
EUGENE THOMAS, and the
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
(Kalispeill Council No. 1328),
Intervenors-Appellees.

Appeal from the United States
District Court For the District of
Montana

Veterans of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division established a veteran's memorial at the Whitefish Mountain Ski Resort. The memorial consists of a statue similar to memorials in the mountains of Europe where they fought. The plaintiff seeks to have the memorial destroyed. The American Legion has joined as an amicus to assist in the defense of the memorial.

2014-_____

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

Michael L. McKinney, et al.

Petitioners,

v.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
Respondent.

The American Legion has joined the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP), the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Vietnam Veterans of America to petition for a review of the Korean DMZ Agent Orange Regulation to correct an erroneous effective date that serves to bar benefits. It should be moved back from February 24, 2011, to November 1, 2004. The Veterans Administration has refused to allow benefits prior to February 24, 2011, as that was the date of the liberalized regulation even though the spraying was done in 1968 and 1969. An earlier regulation allowed a presumptive period of July 31, 1969 to August 31, 1971. We also desire a stay as to all claims filed before February 24, 2011, pending the appeal.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF MULTNOMAH

DAN R. HYATT Plaintiff,	No. 1401-00633
v.	FIRST AMENDED COUNTER CLAIM FOR DAMAGES
DANIEL A. BERNATH Defendant	$15,000,000 DEMANDED
DANIEL A. BERNATH Cross-Complainant,	RACKEERING, UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES, INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, DEFAMATION, COPYRIGHT INFRINGMENT,
v.	NEGLIGENT HIRING, SUPERVISION, TRAINING
Dan R. Hyatt, The American Legion, Lars Larson, Alpha Media, Terence B. Hoey, NASA, aka National Aeronautics and Space Administration, The Social Security Administration, Brian Denson, The Oregonian, Advance Publications, Oregon Media Group Jason Ellenberg, Frank Bolden, Administrator National Aeronautics and Space Administration Mark C. seavey, HMCS(FMF) aka Dan Thomas, Randy Ryder, Jonn Lilyea, Guy H. Power, Don Shipley, Frank E. Caryl, Café Press, John W. White, Michael Davis aka Mike Hammer Gravel, Bellarmine College Preparatory	BREACH OF CONTRACT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LEE, FLORIDA

DANIEL A. BERNATH,

Plaintiff,

Vs.

TERENCE B. HOEY, individually,
DAN R. HYATT, individually,
THE AMERICAN LEGION, business form unknown,
MARK C. SEAVEY, individually,

Defendants.

No.14-CA-001838
Judge: Winesett, Sherra

SUMMONS

This individual has not served the national organization, but claims he served an employee which is good enough. We are watching both cases and have local counsel. We will move to dismiss the Oregon case at the proper time and do the same to the Florida case if it is ever served. Bernath has repeatedly libeled The American Legion on his website and in court filings. We will sue for an injunction and damages at the appropriate time.

The Oregon case was essentially dismissed and fees were awarded to a number of defendants including The American Legion.

On September 18, 2014, The American Legion was served with the nonsensical 165 page purported complaint with no summons, but a one page demand to appear in 30 days by a private investigator.

Other Legal Matters

There are a number of other legal proceedings in which The American Legion has been contacted for discovery purposes, which are not part of or named in the particular cause and a number of cases are in the beginning stages but not yet filed.

The National Judge Advocate has rendered 529 written opinions on questions which have been submitted by the several Departments and/or Posts of The American Legion, National Officers, staff members and individual members of our organization. These opinions involved matters legal, such as contracts, probate matters, federal tax questions, torts, insurance matters, Articles of Incorporation, civil rights statutes, retirement benefits under the law and other matters of a legal nature; problems concerning the interpretation and construction of the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, policy matters, many of which matters required a great deal of legal research.

In each instance, when appropriate, a copy of the opinion rendered was furnished to each of the following so that they would be acquainted with the decision affecting their Department; National Executive Committeeman, Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and the Department Judge Advocate of the Department involved.

Many oral opinions were also rendered to the National Officers, National Commission Chairmen, to Department Officers, and to staff Directors of the national organization upon subjects involving matters legal, financial, administrative and policy.

There were 11 written opinions rendered during the year to the National Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, in response to queries submitted to her for determination by me.

The National Judge Advocate has also rendered oral advice on matters legal and administrative to the National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary on many occasions during the past year.

The American Legion Magazine

The National Judge Advocate in accordance with established policy, has reviewed manuscripts of articles destined for future publication in The American Legion Magazine and The Dispatch, for the purpose of expunging statements or materials questionable in character, contained therein which might subject The American Legion to a suit in libel. To date 172 manuscripts have been reviewed and appropriate comments in connection therewith were transmitted, when necessary, to the Publisher or Editor of The American Legion Magazine.

The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof

In accordance with the requirements of law, The American Legion has filed all necessary returns, reports and allied documents for the calendar year 2013 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with The American Legion Retirement Plan. The office of the National Judge Advocate also reviewed the Summary Annual Report for The American Legion Retirement Plan and arranged for the distribution thereof as required by law.

Employees' Salary Savings (401(K)) Plan

In accordance with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) The American Legion has filed all of the necessary Annual Return Reports and allied documents for the calendar year 2013 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with the American Legion Employees' Salary Savings 401(k) Plan. The office of the National Judge Advocate also reviewed the Summary Annual Report for the Employees' Salary Savings Plan and arranged for the distribution thereof as required by law.

Parliamentary Duties

The National Judge Advocate attended the past National Convention of The American Legion and meetings of the National Executive Committee and has served both bodies in the capacity of National Parliamentarian.

Other Duties

The National Judge Advocate also functions as counsel on matters involving labor issues, real estate law, postal regulations, corporate organizations and insurance.

In addition, the National Judge Advocate functions as counsel for and a director of The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. and American Legion Charities. In these capacities, the National Judge Advocate attends board meetings.

Meetings of the National Retirement Committee and Salary Savings Committee

The National Judge Advocate is a member of The National Retirement Committee of National Headquarters.

I have also, in response to requests, drafted legal and other documents for the use of National Officers of the American Legion and Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary.

In conclusion, the National Judge Advocate wishes to thank all National Officers, Department Officials, and members of the National Executive Committee for the valuable assistance and cooperation extended to him during the past year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the national judge advocate. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

I now call upon Kenneth Danilson from Iowa, chairman of the Finance Commission, for the purposes of a report.

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

Thank you, Mr. Commander. Members of the NEC and guests, your Finance Commission met Monday and Tuesday, October 13-14, 2014. All commission members were present with the exception of Carl Levi from Tennessee who was excused. Also others are noted in my written report that attended our meeting, and also many reports received, which also is mentioned in my written report.

The commission approved the removal of items that are outdated, duplicated, or otherwise no longer significant to the library's archives.

Jimmy A. Luther was named agent of record for the health and life coverage of employees of The American Legion.

The commission approved $79,068 for furniture and fixtures for this next year, $31,461 in budget overruns and emergency purchases since the commission's last meeting.

The commission approved a recommendation that Crowe Horwath LLP, certified public accountants, be employed to prepare The American Legion's 2014 fiscal year audit.

The commission recommends that 2015 dues be allocated as follows: $3 to *The American Legion Magazine*, and $10.50 to the general fund, which is the same as it is now.

Eddie Holbrook reported on the great success of the 2014 American Legion Baseball World Series held in Shelby, and the excellent job done by the North Carolina volunteers who organized the event.

DMS is on track to hit its year-end goal.

The commission authorized the increase of National Emergency Fund grants to posts from $5,000 to $10,000, and NEF grants to individuals were increased from $1,500 to $3,000.

The commission authorized the monetary increase of awards given under the National Convention uniformed group competition, effective with the 2015 year.

The 2014 budget is projected to finish with a surplus of approximately $2.7 million. Several items contributed to this surplus which are noted in my report.

For 2015, the Finance Commission recommends the NEC approve a budget based on revenues of $78,958,967, expenses of $81,443,612, for a net deficit of $2,484,645. This budget is based on a 2015 membership at 2,175,000 members. Membership services, digital marketing, direct response, television fundraising, and employee health insurance contributed to this deficit.

A list of resolutions will be read and recommended for your approval following this report. Prior to that, I would ask the national commander that we show a couple of

videos. One is on our fundraiser that we're going to start advertising on television later this month, and once is a promotional information video concerning the Oak Ridge Boys.

Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

...Two videos were presented to the National Executive Committee. (Applause)

Report: Finance Commission
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman
October 13-14, 2014

The Finance Commission met Monday and Tuesday, October 13-14, 2014. All commission members were present with the exception of Carl Levi, who was excused.

Also present were: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant; George A. Buskirk, Jr., National Treasurer; Jeffrey O. Brown, Indianapolis Office Executive Director; Peter Gaytan, Washington Office Executive Director; Dick Holmes, Geiger Operations Center Executive Director; Shawn Long, Finance Director; and David Warnken, Tom Mattice and Tom Saunders of the Finance NEC Liaison Committee. Several guests joined us throughout the course of the meeting.

Reports were received from the National Adjutant; National Treasurer; Finance Director; National Judge Advocate; the three executive directors; the Marketing Committee; the Revenue Enhancement Committee; the Americanism Commission; the Information Technology Division; the Internal Affairs Commission; and the Membership & Post Activities Committee. The commission was given a status update on the Oklahoma Department.

The commission approved the removal of items that are outdated, duplicated or otherwise no longer significant to the Library's archives.

Jimmy A. Luther was named agent-of-record for the health and life coverage of employees of The American Legion.

The commission approved $79,068 in furniture & fixtures for 2015; $31,461 in budget overruns and emergency purchases since the commission's last meeting; and $853.69 in Emblem Sales write-offs.

The commission approved a recommendation that Crowe Horwath LLP, certified public accountants, be employed to prepare The American Legion's 2014 fiscal year audit.

The commission recommends that 2015 dues be allocated as follows: $3 to The American Legion Magazine and $10.50 to the general fund.

Eddie Holbrook reported on the great success of the 2014 American Legion Baseball World Series held in Shelby, and the excellent job done by the North Carolina volunteers who organized the event.

DMS is on track to hit its end-of-year goal.

The commission authorized the increase of National Emergency Fund grants to Posts from $5,000 to $10,000, and NEF grants to individuals were increased from $1,500 to $3,000.

The commission authorized the monetary increase of awards given under the national convention uniformed group competition, effective with the 2015 year.

The 2014 budget is projected to finish with a surplus of approximately $2,688,406. Several items contributed to this surplus, including DMS revenues above projection, employee health insurance and wages below projection, Legacy Fund contributions, and direct response television fundraising set-up expenses.

For 2015, the Finance Commission recommends the NEC approve a budget based on revenues of $78,958,967, expenses of $81,443,612, for an net deficit of $2,484,645. This budget is based on a 2015 membership of 2,175,000. Membership services digital

marketing, direct response television fundraising, and employee health insurance contribute to this deficit.

A list of resolutions recommended for your approval follows this report.

Resolutions

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

Resolution No. 2: 2015 Enhancements to National Headquarters Computing Environment. Authorizes The American Legion National Headquarters to acquire hardware, software and installation services to improve reliability and meet the present and foreseeable capacity needs of the National Headquarters computer environment at a cost not to exceed $433,300.

Resolution No. 3: Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) – 2014-2015. Authorizes The American Legion to enter into an agreement with the NVLSP to provide court representation, one national training session for Department Service Officers and others, as well as research services and other services as set forth in the contract, at a cost not to exceed $450,000.

Resolution No. 4: Extend Agreement with R. R. Donnelley & Sons. Authorizes a five-year contract (three years continuous, followed by two one-year contracts) with R. R. Donnelley for printing The American Legion Magazine, commencing 1/1/15 and terminating on 12/31/19.

Resolution No. 5: Authorization to Purchase Paper from Lindenmeyr Central. The American Legion will negotiate a contract to purchase either body or cover paper stock, or both, with Lindenmeyr Central, for printing of The American Legion Magazine.

Resolution No. 6: Corporate Relationships. Gives National Adjutant authority, with consent of National Commander and Finance Commission Chairman, to expeditiously pursue, negotiate and execute strategic business alliances to gain financial support to enhance, sustain and develop programs, events and projects to benefit veterans, their families and their communities in the name of The American Legion. All alliances will be reviewed and approved by the Chairmen of Marketing and Finance, the National Judge Advocate and National Commander and reported to the NEC at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Resolution No. 7: Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Diamond Sports Co., Inc. as Scholarship Sponsor of the American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team. Authorizes The American Legion to enter into agreement so that Diamond Sports Company furnishes scholarships for American Legion Baseball all-academic team members. Approval of this resolution will rescind Resolution 8, May 2012 NEC.

Resolution No. 8: The National Speech & Debate Association Sponsorship. Authorizes The American Legion to sponsor the National Speech & Debate Association's high school speech and debate activities in the amount of $10,000 for the period October 2014 to October 2015. Approval of this resolution will rescind Resolution 11, October 2013 NEC.

Resolution No. 9: Mandatory Exclusive Insurance Coverage for American Legion Baseball Teams. To ensure the health, safety and protection of youth participants, volunteers and spectators, all American Legion Baseball teams must purchase insurance policies from exclusive insurance carriers designated by The American Legion each season in order to participate in the junior or senior program of American Legion Baseball. Approval of this resolution will rescind Resolution 15, October 2012 NEC.

Resolution No. 10: Authorization for The American Legion to Enter Into a Relationship to Promote a Vehicle Donation Program. The American Legion may enter into an agreement with a national company, as recommended by the Revenue Enhancement Committee and approved by the Finance Commission, to offer and provide vehicle donation services.

Report: Revenue Enhancement Committee
Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman
October 13, 2014

Assigned to the Finance Commission, the purpose of the Revenue Enhancement Committee is to explore and recommend various activities, strategies and opportunities for bringing revenue into The American Legion in order to enhance the organization's ability to achieve its mission.

Members of the Revenue Enhancement Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Hotel City Centre on Monday, October 13, 2014. Chairman Ivie called the meeting to order. The following updates were received and recorded.

Department Fundraising

The ultimate goal for the Department Fundraising Cooperative Program is to provide a comprehensive program that mails all member fundraising campaigns for all departments. Departments receive a negotiated amount of income from these campaigns, to be paid out in quarterly installments. Departments also receive any income generated from their campaigns in excess of the negotiated amount. This program maximizes those funds raised for departments while achieving a breakeven for the national organization.

- Benefits of this program include:
- Guaranteed minimum income for departments
- Consistent message to members
- Protection of member lists & data
- Efficiencies of scale (as quantities go up, costs go down and net income increases)

Compared to the same period last year (January 1 through June 30), participation in the Department Fundraising Program continues to rise. To date, 19 departments have opted into the Cooperative program, as compared to 13 departments one year ago.

Non-member Fundraising

As of September 1, 2014, our active donor file is giving approximately 2 times per year with an average gift of $15. This year, The American Legion has mailed 3.6 million acquisition appeals, resulting in the acquisition of 109,500 new donors and 88,300 non-donor prospect names. Our cost to acquire is about $5.00 per donor. This is $3.20 per donor less than last year's cost to acquire and represents an improvement of more than 39%.

Our acquisition plan for the remainder of the year has The American Legion mailing through November. The end result will be a grand total of 4.5 million pieces being mailed in 2014. Our donor campaigns continue to perform as expected. House mailings have shown a 105% return on investment; or $2.05 for every dollar spent.

Currently, the non-member donor program is ahead of budget and is expected to finish the year ahead of the budgeted pace. The program has moved into the black and should finish with cumulative net revenue between $650,000 and $800,000 (July 2010 through December 2014).

Major Gifts & Planned Giving

Major and planned giving prospects are receiving the Year-End issue of "The Pillars" newsletter this month. This issue will focus on the tax benefits of giving before year's end. A reminder card will be mailed in November to reinforce the urgency of making a gift in 2014.

Staff continues to contact and meet personally with donors. Trips to Illinois and Ohio are in the immediate future; with Tennessee and Georgia following close behind.

As of August 31st, 2014, $148,045 has been received in major gifts; and $34,626 has been received in bequests. Based on notification letters received from estate executors and attorneys, over $173,000 in pending gifts and bequests are still in Probate. In accordance with established policy, The National Treasurer is copied on all correspondence.

The 2014 American Legion Charities Warrior Classic was held June 13th at The Fort Golf Course in Indianapolis and netted $30,000 to benefit Operation Comfort Warriors. New this year was an event held the evening before the golf outing - Warrior Appreciation Night. Sponsored by Fifth Third, this reception and dinner recognized service members from several Warrior Transition Units.

Combined Federal Campaign

The Committee continues the process to include American Legion Charities, Inc. as one of the nonprofit organizations listed in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Staff will prepare and submit the application to include American Legion Charities in the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign. The completed application must be filed by January 15, 2015.

Gift Acceptance Policy & Procedures

The American Legion solicits current and deferred gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations to secure our future growth and missions. To promote both consistency and transparency, the Gift Acceptance Policy & Procedures guide was drafted and approved by both the Revenue Enhancement Committee and the Finance Commission last May. This policy governs the acceptance of all gifts received by The American Legion and is reviewed annually by the Revenue Enhancement Committee.

Other Fundraising Opportunities

Vehicle Donation Program As requested by the Revenue Enhancement Committee, staff compiled information on three (3) vehicle donation programs (v-dac; IAA; and CARS) and provided a comprehensive report for member review. All listed companies delivered presentations to the Committee during the May meetings. Following careful review and discussion, a national company was selected and will be recommended to the Finance Commission for their approval.

A related resolution **("Authorization For The American Legion To Enter Into A Relationship To Promote A Vehicle Donation Program")** has been approved by the Revenue Enhancement Committee and is recommended to the Finance Commission for consideration and approval.

Funding Research & Grant Cultivation Philanthropic funding research was conducted by Hedges & Associates. They examined a wide variety of online and printed information sources to determine the independent, family, corporate, and community giving programs that offer the best prospective matches for American Legion programs. Six-hundred and fifty-three (653) were viewed and analyzed. After considering geographic area served, field(s) of interest, types of giving and funding limitations, twenty-four (24) prospects were deemed appropriate for further study and were included in the report's Funding Chart and Trustee List for The American Legion to consider pursuing. In addition, the report listed information on "Using the Information Provided"

and "Key Program Messages for Prospective Funder Cultivations." Copies of this report are available to the Commission at their request.

American Legion Charities State Registrations The final piece required to register the American Legion Charities in all states is our hard copy of the determination letter. Forms are with Mr. Onderdonk to obtain signatures for Legion Charities. The registration checks have been cut and are awaiting the signed forms.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, motion to approve the Finance Commission report with the exception of ten resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Do I have a second? ...*Second.* All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2: 2015 Enhancements to the National Headquarters Computing Environment

Origin: Finance Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Many job functions, production processes and communications within the National Headquarters rely heavily on electronic equipment and computerization; and

WHEREAS, The technology related to the equipment used in performing these functions changes at a rapid rate, forcing replacement every three to five years; and

WHEREAS, New equipment and software must be implemented each year to enhance the performance and expand the capabilities of our various computer systems and production equipment; and

WHEREAS, The National Finance Commission has reviewed the detailed listing of products ("2015 IT Capital Expenditures") proposed to accomplish these needed enhancements and has recommended approval by The National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion National Headquarters acquire during the 2015 calendar year at a purchase price not to exceed $433,300 (or enter into leases where it is determined more prudent to do so) the necessary hardware, software and installation services to improve reliability and to meet the present and foreseeable capacity needs of the National Headquarters computer environment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion negotiates and enters into appropriate maintenance agreements for all equipment and applicable software; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, is hereby authorized and directed to execute appropriate purchase contracts and/or lease agreements to acquire the aforementioned and the National Adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has been approved by the Finance Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 3: Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP)- 2014-2015
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) has provided The American Legion with excellent representation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and excellent training courses in the past; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and NVLSP feel that this representation and training should continue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion enter into an agreement, contract, or memorandum of understanding with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) to provide The American Legion court representation on cases of precedential nature, at least one (1) national training session annually for department service officers and others, as well as research services and other services as set forth in the contract; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the costs for such services shall not exceed Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($450,000.00); and, be it finally

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has been approved by your Finance Commission, your NEC Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 4: Extend Agreement with R. R. Donnelley & Sons
Origin: Media & Communications Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion currently has a contract with R. R. Donnelley & Sons to print The American Legion Magazine and said contract expires November 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Donnelley desires to negotiate a new five-year contract, three years continuous and two one-year automatic renewals subject to performance review each of those years, which would commence on January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Donnelley is offering price concessions that amount to about $200,000 per annum for the duration of the contract(s); and

WHEREAS, The staff of the Media & Communications Division has checked the current pricing of other major printers and finds Donnelley's contract offer to be very competitive with any pricing that might be offered by other printers; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Media & Communications Commission, meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the 2014 Fall Meetings, concurs that a five-year contract (three years continuous, followed by two one-year contracts, after review) be negotiated with Donnelley for the printing of The American Legion Magazine; and

WHEREAS, The Finance Commission concurs with The American Legion Media & Communications Commission's recommendation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That the National Commander is directed to have a five-year contract (three years continuous, followed by two one-year contracts) for the printing of The American Legion Magazine with R. R. Donnelley & Sons negotiated and prepared, which shall commence on January 1, 2015, and shall terminate on December 31, 2019; and, be it finally

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution is approved by your Finance Commission, your Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 5: Authorization to Purchase Paper from Lindenmeyr Central
Origin: Media & Communications Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion purchases in excess of 250 tons of publication-grade body paper and 28 tons of publication-grade cover paper per month on which to print The American Legion Magazine; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable that The American Legion obtain the best possible pricing on publication-grade paper, and as much stability in that pricing as financially prudent; and

WHEREAS, Lindenmeyr Central, a business of Central National-Gottesman, Inc., submitted a proposal to provide publication-grade body and cover stock at prices fixed within a range favorable to The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Media & Communications Commission, after reviewing requests for proposals from two other national suppliers, in addition to Lindenmeyr Central, has voted unanimously to recommend that a contract with Lindenmeyr Central be negotiated with The American Legion to supply paper for The American Legion Magazine; and

WHEREAS, The staff of the Media & Communications Division has checked the current pricing of other major paper brokers, suppliers, and mills and finds the Lindenmeyr Central contract proposal to be very competitive with any pricing that might be offered by other vendors, as well as those who responded to The American Legion's Request for Proposal; and

WHEREAS, Said contract would be for a period of three years starting on the 1st day of December 2014, with the option of renewing the contract for an additional two years; and

WHEREAS, The Media & Communications Commission has reviewed said proposal and recommends its approval to the National Finance Commission, and the National Finance Commission concurs with The Media & Communications Commission and recommends its approval to the National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion negotiate a contract for the purchase of either body or cover paper stock, or both, with Lindenmeyr Central, a business of Central National

Gottesman, Inc., for a period not to exceed three years, starting on the 1st day of December 2014, with appropriate provisions for optional extension or renewal for an additional two years; and, be it finally

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution is approved by your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 6: Corporate Relationships
Origin: Marketing Committee
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion prides itself on the delivery of unparalleled service to veterans, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, One way The American Legion can expand these services to meet the demands of a growing veteran population is by forming alliances with corporate entities that share similar values; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, through such alliances, can elevate its message and build awareness of its identity throughout the nation, as well as offset costs of programs, services and events that help veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is competing with thousands of other nonprofit organizations across the nation for support from corporate entities but cannot effectively pursue these business relationships without the ability to act in an expeditious manner; and

WHEREAS, The staff and volunteer leadership of The American Legion, in conjunction with a marketing agency, has developed a national corporate alliances platform that provides opportunities to engage multiple audiences through public relations, print, online, social media, national convention, national programs, direct mail and events of all types; and

WHEREAS, The opportunities within this platform will provide The American Legion with financial and in-kind support from corporate allies to enhance, sustain and develop programs, events and projects to benefit veterans, families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the approval of the Marketing Committee, the Finance Commission, and the Subcommittee on Resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That outside regularly scheduled meetings of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, the National Adjutant, with consent of the National Commander and National Finance Chairman, shall have the authority to expeditiously pursue and negotiate strategic business alliances and execute same, to gain financial support to enhance, sustain and develop programs, events and projects to benefit veterans, their families and their communities in the name of The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all such potential strategic business alliances must be reviewed and approved by the Chairman of the Marketing Committee and the

Chairman of the Finance Commission and the National Judge Advocate and the National Commander to ensure that they are consistent with the mission of The American Legion and in the best interest of the organization; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That any such agreements shall be reported to the appropriate commission and/or committee, the Finance Commission and the National Executive Committee at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER GUNDERSON: Mr. Commander, this resolution has been approved by the Finance Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 7: Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Diamond Sports Co., Inc. as Scholarship Sponsor of The American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Diamond Sports Co., Inc., is a leading sports manufacturer specializing in baseball, softball and football products; and

WHEREAS, Diamond Sports Co., Inc. has had a longstanding and successful corporate relationship with American Legion Baseball and American Legion Emblem Sales; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 8 of the National Executive Committee, May 2012 titled "Authorization To Enter Into Agreement With Diamond Sports Co., Inc. as Scholarship Sponsor of The American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team" established the said scholarship program; and

WHEREAS, Diamond Sports Co, Inc., wishes to continue to endow an annual scholarship fund of $25,000 in U.S. dollars in sponsorship of an All-Academic Team of American Legion Baseball for the 2015 and 2016 seasons; and

WHEREAS, The National Organization hosts an annual tournament for its baseball program consisting of eight (8) regional playoffs followed by a 15-game national championship playoff known as "The American Legion World Series" that is live webcast throughout the nation; and

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

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion enter into an agreement with Diamond Sports Co., Inc., whereby the latter organization shall furnish $25,000 in scholarship funds per year to The American Legion Baseball program for two consecutive years continuing with the 2015 season; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each year the Americanism Commission shall appoint and convene an official scholarship selection committee annually at The American Legion Baseball World Series tournament in order to select nine (9) American Legion Baseball scholarship recipients:

An overall top academic baseball player shall be selected from all nominations submitted by American Legion departments and that player be officially designated as the "All-Academic Team Captain"; and

A top academic player from each of the eight (8) American Legion Baseball regions as nominated by their respective departments shall be selected as the remaining members comprising the "All-Academic Team"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a $5,000 scholarship sponsored by Diamond Sports Co., Inc., shall be awarded annually to the All-Academic Team Captain; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a $2,500 scholarship sponsored by Diamond Sports Co., Inc., shall be awarded annually to each of the eight (8) All-Academic Team members; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Commander be and is hereby authorized to negotiate the terms and conditions of any formal agreement necessary with Diamond Sports Co., Inc.; and, be it further

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

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 8 of the National Executive Committee, May 2012 titled "Authorization To Enter Into Agreement With Diamond Sports Co., Inc. as Scholarship Sponsor of The American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER GUNDERSON: Mr. Commander, this resolution has the approval of your Finance Commission, and it has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 8: The National Speech & Debate Association Sponsorship
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Speech & Debate Association has a vibrant eighty-nine (89) year tradition as the premier high school speech and debate organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The National Speech & Debate Association is 501(c)3 not-for-profit honorary society created to recognize high school students in speech and debate; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, through its High School Oratorical Contest "A Constitutional Speech Contest," and the National Speech & Debate Association share the same vision that every participant will be empowered to become an effective communicator, ethical individual, critical thinker, and leader in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, The National Speech & Debate Association recognizes that The American Legion is an organization whose mission promotes Americanism, is directly aligned with the goals and mission of the National Speech & Debate Association; and

WHEREAS, Through sponsorship of the National Speech & Debate Association in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 The American Legion has reached a target audience of elite level competitors, coaches, and parents; and

WHEREAS, In 2013-2014, more than 150,000 high school and middle school students, representing nearly 3,200 high schools and 500 middle schools nationwide, built their communication, leadership, cognitive, and presentational skills as members of the National Speech & Debate Association; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its eighty-nine years, the National Speech & Debate Association has consistently provided outstanding infrastructure and support services for high school speech and debate programs and support for other organizations and contests that promote forensics activities; and

WHEREAS, The National Speech & Debate Association annually hosts the largest forensics competition in the world, the National Speech & Debate Association National Speech Tournament, in which approximately 3,500 high school students from over 1,000 high schools qualify and attend this most prestigious event; and

WHEREAS, The National Speech & Debate Association provides unique event and award sponsorship opportunities as well as support programs to those entities that wish to receive higher levels of exposure to America's top forensics students and the 2,000 coaches and judges that accompany them; and

WHEREAS, NEC Resolution No. 5, October 13-14, 2010 established the relationship with the National Forensic League and The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest "A Constitutional Speech Contest"; and

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

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement to be a national sponsor of the National Speech & Debate Association in the amount of $10,000 for the period of October 2014 to October 2015; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That when the agreement has been drafted and finalized, the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest same; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 11 of the National Executive Committee, October 2013 titled, "National Forensic League (NFL) Sponsorship" is hereby superseded, and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER GUNDERSON: Mr. Commander, this resolution has the approval of your Finance Commission, and it has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 9: Mandatory Exclusive Insurance Coverage for American Legion Baseball Teams
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The December 2011 change to the charter of The American Legion created the need to examine and edit language within certain resolutions of the organization in order to bring a resolution into compliance with the Charter, and gave opportunity to correct deficiencies in other resolutions, the subject herein being one as originally set out in Res. No. 25, NEC, May 1994 and Res. No. 33, NEC, October 1994 and Res. No. 15, NEC, October 2012; and

WHEREAS, The Americanism Commission has oversight for The American Legion Baseball program to include establishing rules and regulations for the program, both on and off the field of play; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion endeavors to protect the health and safety of its American Legion Baseball participants, volunteers and spectators; and

WHEREAS, The aftermath of numerous cases of child sexual molestation across the nation has demonstrated the importance for diligent protection of vulnerable populations, such as children and youth; and

WHEREAS, It is paramount The American Legion meet its moral and ethical responsibility to parents and guardians by protecting their children from abuse and harm when participating in youth programs under the Legion brand; and

WHEREAS, The nature of today's litigious society requires the organization to also impart vigorous protection of The American Legion's emblem and trademark; and

WHEREAS, Use of an exclusive insurance carrier providing consistency in mandatory insurance coverage for American Legion Baseball is not a matter of corporate policy, but instead an issue of striving to ensure the health, safety and protection of participants, volunteers and spectators; and

WHEREAS, Since 1994, the Insurance Agent of Record has provided Commercial General Liability and Special Risk Accident insurance coverage for American Legion Baseball; and

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

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That in order to ensure the health, safety and protection of youth participants, volunteers and spectators, all American Legion Baseball teams must purchase insurance policies from exclusive insurance carriers designated by The American Legion each season through the required online baseball registration process in order to participate in the Junior or Senior program of American Legion Baseball; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That through the Insurance Agent of Record for The American Legion, a commercial general liability carrier shall be selected as the exclusive liability insurance provider for the American Legion Baseball program and a special risk accident carrier shall be selected as the exclusive special risk accident insurance provider each year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the minimum level of mandatory coverage deemed prudent that will be provided by the exclusive carriers shall be established by the Finance Commission on an annual basis during the Fall Meetings; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the cost of purchasing mandatory insurance through the required online registration process will be borne by American Legion Baseball teams; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That teams may voluntarily purchase additional insurance above and beyond that which is required during the online registration by directly contacting either the Insurance Agent of Record or another insurance carrier of choice, cost of which shall be borne by the purchasing team; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 15 of the National Executive Committee, October 2012 titled "Mandatory Exclusive Insurance Coverage for American Legion Baseball Teams" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER GUNDERSON: Mr. Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Americanism Commission, your Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 10: Authorization for The American Legion to Enter into a Relationship to Promote a Vehicle Donation Program
Origin: Revenue Enhancement Committee
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion encourages the solicitation and acceptance of gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations for purposes that help The American Legion to further and fulfill its mission; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion wishes to provide a turn-key program to its membership to facilitate the donation of any vehicle (cars, trucks, motorcycles, RV's, boats, airplanes, heavy equipment, farm machinery, etc.) to benefit American Legion Charities; and

WHEREAS, There would be no liability or fundraising expense to The American Legion for using a vehicle donation program; and

WHEREAS, There would be no costs to donors for using the services of a vehicle donation program; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the approval of your Revenue Enhancement Committee, your Finance Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into an agreement with a national company, as recommended by the Revenue Enhancement Committee and approved by the Finance Commission, to offer and provide vehicle donation services; and, be it further

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

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER GUNDERSON: Mr. Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Americanism Commission, your Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 11: Creation of the new Marketing Committee
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee created the Marketing Committee as part of the reorganization of The American Legion in May 2013; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is expending considerable funds and personnel to market The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It is foreseen that the marketing function of the national organization will take on increased importance in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, The Subcommittee on Resolutions has approved this concept; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That the National Executive Committee hereby revises the responsibilities and authorities of the Marketing Committee effective October 15, 2014; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Marketing Committee's purpose shall be to work in concert with all American Legion commissions and committees to build awareness and support for the mission and programs of The American Legion and promote same to active duty military, Guard and Reserve components, military veterans and retirees, and the general public, and such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Emblem Committee and the Revenue Enhancement Committee shall report to the Marketing Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Marketing Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and not to exceed nine members selected at large; provided, however, that the Chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the Committee, and the Vice Chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That of the nine members appointed at the Fall 2014 meeting of the National Executive Committee, three shall serve for a term of one year; three shall serve for a term of two years; and three shall serve for a term of three years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee, and such appointments shall be for terms of three years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That at its Fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the National Commander, a Chairman and a Vice Chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Commander may appoint such Consultants and National Commander's Representatives as he may deem appropriate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the "Outline of Authorization: Membership and Purpose for Commissions and Committees" shall be updated to reflect the above; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee shall recommend the elevation of the Marketing Committee to be the Marketing Commission to the 2015 National Convention and upon the adoption of such change, the National Adjutant shall cause the amendment of all relevant documents.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER GUNDERSON: Mr. Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Mr. Commander, if I might.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: PNC Miller.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: The commercials that were shown, they were very effective, but nowhere has anything been said about the $19 that's going to be collected every month. Is there a plan afoot to share that with the departments? Because surely those commercials are going to drive people to contact their departments for assistance, and yet the departments are not going to be getting any resources to provide that assistance other than what they have now. Is there a plan afoot to share that down to the department level?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I call on the finance chairman.

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DANILSON: That's a good question. The plan afoot, if they want to call it that, is similar to what we did with USAA when we got into an agreement with them. We do not know how much money it's going to raise and how much money we're going to have to use for continued advertising. We're looking at a breakeven probably four to five years down the road, and at that time the amount of revenue that we have in excessive expenses we'll look at, and we'll come up with what we think is a proper amount to share with the departments.

I encourage all the NECmen here to talk to everybody in your department to tell them these commercials are going to come out, so they won't be surprised when they start seeing these advertisements. Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I now call on W. Frank Stancil, vice president The American Legion Convention Corporation of North Carolina, to report on the 2014 National Convention.

Report of the 2014 National Convention
W. Frank Stancil, Vice President, Convention Corporation of North Carolina

Good morning, Mr. Commander, national officers, distinguished members of the NEC, and guests.

It's hard to explain the impact on all of us in North Carolina at the beginning of the National Convention with the loss of our Jerry Hedrick. We managed to get through the following days with the tasks that we were assigned. Jerry was so much involved in our lives and with all of our expectations, that it was difficult not to think about him constantly with one question: What would Jerry do? So with that, I consider it an honor to give you a report for National Convention President Jerry Hedrick.

As most of you know, Jerry poured his heart and soul into every aspect of the 2014 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, and all of his efforts paid off. Jerry was in constant contact with all seven of his chairmen and provided each one of them a listing of volunteers to work in their areas. There were a total of over 80 volunteers for the convention. I am sure that a lot of the volunteers did so just for Jerry.

He was not only a leader, but he was also a worker. He has been, is, and will be sorely missed in the Department of North Carolina. He was a giant in many ways, yet humble in his successes and accomplishments.

We, the North Carolina Convention Corporation, want to thank the national Convention Commission for all of your time, energy, and efforts in putting on this convention and making sure all the pieces fit together, and ensure they were working.

A special thank you to Bridget, Andrea, and Ellen for their professionalism and dedication to detail, and for being available at all times. I think all of us should give them a big hand. *(Applause)*

Thank you, ladies, very much. As normal, ladies always make us guys look good.

From our viewpoint, we had a successful convention with great cooperation with Beth Butler from the Charlotte Convention Bureau, the mayor's office, and the convention center. We received very good feedback from many areas including the food at the Charlotte Convention Center, the national commander's banquet, the parade, distinguished guests and the badges and packets, and for the many local restaurants and bars that did not close when the sun went down. *(Laughter)*

We did have a challenge with the shuttle system on Saturday morning. This was addressed by our wonderful staff, and the next morning, everything was right back on track.

The post-parade party was a tremendous success. As we realized that, with the influx of patrons and the amount of beer flowing, we understood the need for more Port-O-Lets. Even with two in the parking lot, coupled with two at the reviewing stand which was right across the street, the proximity of the Westin and nearby restaurants, it was still a challenge. Nevertheless, we think everyone who attended the post-parade party was refreshed, ate well, and danced the night away with the Hickabillies. It was a good time had by all.

Additionally, the parade ran very smoothly with the cooperation of the City of Charlotte and the notable efforts of the parade committee. Nice job by everyone; of course, some of us had a special hand in the weather for Sunday because we prayed a lot.

After all is said and done, I do know that our convention corporation president, Jerry Hedrick, would have been very proud of the overall success of the 96th National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

As close as we can figure at this time, the department and national should receive between $40- and $50,000 when the final financial report is given. It was truly a pleasure and honor to host the 96th National Convention.

I thank all of you very much for allowing me to give this report, and may God bless each and every one of you in a special way. Thank you, Commander.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, we move to receive and file the report of the Convention Corporation of North Carolina. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried. I now call on Mike Walton, Illinois, chairman of the Convention Commission, for the purpose of a report.

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

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

Mr. David Priester, the chief judge of contests, gave an excellent report and updated the commission on the contests that were conducted at our National Convention this year. As you know, we did not have a band competition in Charlotte, but the color guard competitions were very well-attended on Friday evening.

Mr. Priester updated the commission on his meetings with the judges and the contestants, and made several recommendations to our commission on how to improve our contests. A question-and-answer period was then conducted with the commission and Mr. Priester.

He was reappointed as chief judge of contests, and I'm pleased to report he has accepted his reappointment. We look forward to our continued professional involvement with Mr. Priester and his judges.

North Carolina Department Adjutant Frank Stancil gave an initial report regarding the Charlotte convention which was held August 22 through 28. His final report will be made at the spring 2015 meetings. We do believe that Charlotte was another successful National Convention.

Past National Commander and president of The American Legion Maryland National Convention Corporation, Inc., Mr. Clarence Bacon, gave a preliminary report regarding the upcoming National Convention in Baltimore which will be August 28 to September 3, 2015. We're all looking forward to another outstanding convention in Baltimore as we had last time.

The members of the commission each submitted a written and then a verbal report regarding their assignments at the Charlotte National Convention.

Four cities have sent in their request for proposals to host the 2020 National Convention. Those cities are Phoenix, Arizona; Tampa, Florida; Reno, Nevada; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Site visits for those cities will be conducted after January 1, 2015.

We had no resolutions to come before this Commission, and Mr. Commander and members of the NEC, that concludes my report. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Report: Convention Commission
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman
October 13, 2014

Chairman Michael E. Walton, Illinois, at 9:00AM, October 13, 2014, called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken with all members either excused or present.

The Convention Commission appointed a Chief Judge of Contests to serve through the 2015 Fall Meetings. The Chief Judge of Contests for 2014 – 2015 is Mr. David Priester (SAL – VA). Mr. Priester has informed the Commission that he proudly accepts the appointment to serve as the Chief Judge of Contests for The American Legion.

Mr. Priester spoke to the Convention Commission regarding the National Color Guard Contest, which was held on Friday evening, the first day of convention. The number of color guard units increased this year from 5 performances in 2013 to 7 performances in 2014. The Chief Judge of Contests provided recommendations to improve the Contests and questions were entertained by the Convention Commission. The Convention Commission discussed future improvements for the Concert Band Contests and Color Guard Competitions. Specific rule changes will be communicated to the entire Nation and to American Legion leadership on or before January 12, 2015.

W. Frank Stancil, Vice-President of the National Convention Corporation of North Carolina of The American Legion, gave a preliminary report on the 2014 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Mr. Stancil thanked the Convention Commission for their support and reported that, in his opinion, the 2014 National Convention was a huge success. He reported that all known invoices have been received and paid. Mr. Stancil also reported that he has received all of the registration income. Six of the sixteen convention hotels have paid their rebates as of the Fall Meetings. Mr. Stancil will provide a final report at the 2015 Spring Meeting, but he projects a profit of approximately $40-$50k for the Corporation and the National Organization. Chairman

Walton thanked Mr. Stancil and his nearly 100 volunteers for conducting the 2014 National Convention.

Clarence Bacon, President of The American Legion Maryland National Convention Corporation, gave an initial report on the planning process for the 2015 National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, August 28 – September 3, 2015. Planning for the 97th National Convention of The American Legion is on schedule. The headquarters hotel for The American Legion will be the Hilton. The American Legion Auxiliary will be headquartered at the Hyatt Regency and the Sons of The American Legion will be at the Sheraton Inner Harbor. Mr. Bacon informed the Convention Commission that almost all contracts between the hotels and the assigned Departments of The American Legion have been completed. Chairman Walton, Convention Corporation personnel, the convention and meetings planning staff and our convention technical companies will conduct a site visit to Baltimore, Maryland, November 30 - December 3, 2014.

Convention Commission members reported on their assignments during the 2014 National Convention. Reports indicated that the local Convention Corporation conducted their duties in outstanding fashion and greatly contributed to the overall success of the National Convention. A thank you from the commission was provided to Mr. Frank Stancil, Vice-President of the 2014 National Convention Corporation of North Carolina for the support provided to the convention by The American Legion family of North Carolina.

We have four Departments of The American Legion that have submitted the proper resolution expressing their interest in bidding on the 2020 National Convention. The cities being supported by the appropriate resolution are Phoenix, Arizona; Tampa, Florida; Reno, Nevada, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Site visits will be conducted the first of the year.

Dates for future National Conventions are the following:

Baltimore, Maryland	August 28 – September 3, 2015
Cincinnati, Ohio	August 26 – September 1, 2016
Louisville, Kentucky	August 25 – 31, 2017
Minneapolis, Minnesota	August 24 – 30, 2018
Indianapolis, Indiana	August 23 – 29, 2019

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, move to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

I now call on Denise Rohan from Wisconsin, chairman of the Veterans Education & Employment Commission, for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman

Thank you, commander. National officers, members of the NEC, and guests, you have a copy of my report in your folders. I would like to touch on some of the great work that our Veterans Employment & Education Commission staff and commission are doing.

How many of you remember when you entered the military and you talked to your recruiter? They promised you not just an adventure if you joined; you would leave the military with a career. You spent your time getting some of the best training the government had to offer, only to get out and have to spend more time being retrained in

the same field, so that you could get your state license or certificate, which then allowed you to do the same job that you were trained in the military to do.

When our staff was telling me about the work that they were doing to get military training converted to state licensing and certificates, I said, "That surely makes sense. It seems like it should be really simple to do. If you're a nurse in the Army, you should be able to be a nurse in Anytown, U.S.A." Well, I forgot I was talking about the government. *(Laughter)*

I quickly learned from a briefing from our staff, and later with a briefing from our Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, that it's not that easy. Every state agency has their own standards that must be met. But as every Legionnaire in this room knows, just because it's not easy doesn't mean that we are not going to solve the problem.

The Veterans Employment & Education Division is working with the White House, the National Governors Association, the National Conference on State Legislators, government agencies such as the Departments of Defense, Transportation, Energy, Labor, and others, as well as military training commands, credentialing boards and the private sector, to achieve the necessary changes to policies and practices to fully recognize the education, training, and experience of our transitioning veterans.

To that end, we have begun to plan for our credentialing summit to take place in February of 2015. The American Legion has been and continues to be a leading voice to help servicemembers receive licenses and academic credit for the military education, training, and experiences that they have.

After The American Legion won passage of several important credentialing bills on the federal level, we turned our focus to state legislators to consider similar measures to allow military training and skills to fulfill requirements for professional certifications. Your efforts on the individual state levels has had great results. In all, 45 credentialing bills have been signed into law, and another 85 at various stages of consideration around the nation. We thank you for your continued support in your home states.

Now, many of our veterans getting their licensing and credentials are then opening their own small businesses. We believe that veterans are natural entrepreneurs. They are disciplined, goal-oriented self-starters, and they are accustomed to be accountable for their work. According the U.S. Census, 2.4 million or nine percent of all small businesses in the United States are owned by veterans. Last year they generated over a trillion dollars in sales.

We feel that the only reliable entrepreneurship program available for veterans are the training and assistance programs that are offered through the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development. Any discussion to seek a reduction in funding or inhibit their operations would be met with opposition from The American Legion.

During the National Convention, we hosted over 50 veterans and servicemembers in a successful two-day "Boots 2 Business" reboot, a small business development workshop which was co-sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration and Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families.

Boots 2 Business is a three-step training program developed to introduce and train transitioning servicemembers into business ownership. The topics of that training include the transferring of military skills, franchising, estimating start-up funds, estimating customer demands, and business feasibility tools. And once our veterans have successfully opened their own businesses, they tend to pay it forward by hiring other veterans.

The current unemployment rate in the United States is 5.9 percent. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans is 6.2 percent. The American Legion recently signed two memorandums of understandings

to help veterans who are seeking jobs. One of these MOUs was with military.com, and the other was with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Now, by going to legion.org, a veteran can link to the military.com's powerful military skill translators, get help with and upload their resumes, and then be matched with military-friendly job opportunities in their selected area anywhere in the United States. And right next to that on that website, legion.org, is a link to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hiring our Heroes site, which also helps veterans and their spouses find meaningful employment opportunities. It also lists upcoming veteran job fairs.

Over the next year, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will sponsor 100 to 150 hiring events for veterans. In less than three years, Hiring Our Heroes, a joint initiative of The American Legion and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has helped more than 24,000 veterans, servicemembers, and military spouses nationwide find jobs.

With our division's assistance, American Legion posts are successfully holding job fairs, small business development workshops, and employment training services throughout America. And in turn, we are changing the tide of the high unemployment rate amongst our nation's veterans.

The American Legion has been a strong advocate for changes within the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Services. The reorganization of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, DVOPs, specialist, and the Local Veterans Employment Representatives, the LVERs, under the Jobs for Veterans State Grants, requires a drastic reduction of LVERs and restricts DVOPs to case-managing those veterans with significant barriers to employment and who need intensive employment services.

Under the current plan, LVERs no longer meet or manage the cases of unemployed veterans, and they are tasked to work with employers outreach only. This means that 80 percent of the unemployed veterans will be served by the regular employment service staff.

We support legislation that calls for the VA and the state workforce agencies to share responsibility for Title 38 veterans employment services. We also request that the VA be adequately funded to administer the Jobs for Veterans state grants, establish standards, and collect performance data, while the Department of Labor and state workforce agencies administer the programs and then report back to the VA.

Now, for our veterans who decide to go back to school, we are forever proud of the work that we did on the original GI Bill and what we did for our World War II veterans. But we don't stop with that 70-year-old piece of legislation. We continue to modernize it for today's veterans to make sure that it covers the fast-rising tuition costs across the nation.

We listened to the plight of over 40,000 veterans who did not go back to their home of record when they got out of the military, and then returned to or started college. These veterans were being forced to pay out of pocket the difference between the cost of in-state tuition, which is paid by the GI Bill, and the expense of the out-of-state tuition cost.

Thanks to your boots-on-the-ground efforts, The American Legion led a state-by-state initiative to introduce, advocate for, and support state legislation that would waive the residency requirements for separating veterans, and give them access to in-state tuition at public colleges and universities, regardless of what their residency status was.

The American Legion efforts were further rewarded this past August when President Obama signed H.R. 3230, the VA Reform Bill, which has provisions regarding in-state tuition for student veterans. The provision requires public universities that want to continue to receive the GI Bill benefits to offer recently separated veterans in-state tuition, and our veteran spouses and dependents would also be eligible for this benefit.

Remember that career that your military recruiter promised you? Well, we want to make sure that the taxpayers get a good return on our investment. And for those transitioning servicemembers going back to school, we want to make sure that they are given proper college credit for the training and experience that they received from Uncle Sam. The American Legion supports continuing efforts of the academic credit evaluation by colleges, universities, and vocational/technical schools via the Joint Service Transcript System for military experience. The Joint Service Transcript documents professional military education, training, and occupational experiences of the servicemember and the veteran. We ask that the Joint Service Transcript of veterans, active-duty military, National Guard, and reservists be treated just like any other transcript from any other institute of prior learning.

Finally, we can't forget about our less fortunate homeless veterans. We continue to call on Congress to pledge the resources needed to achieve the goal of ending veterans homelessness by 2015. And this includes medical, rehabilitation, and employment assistance. The current estimate puts the number of homeless veterans at approximately 50,000 at any given night, a decline of 33 percent since 2010.

Since 2008, more than 59,000 vouchers have been awarded, and over 74,000 homeless veterans have been served through the HUD-VASH program. At the local level, the HUD-VASH program operates as a collaborative effort between the VA medical facility and your local housing agencies. The VA medical center identifies veterans who are eligible for the program and they refer them to the public housing agencies, and then they receive a HUD-VASH voucher. The public housing agency provides the rental subsidy, and then the VA medical center provides case management and clinical services.

The American Legion understands that homeless veterans need a sustained, coordinated effort to provide secure housing, nutritious meals, essential healthcare, substance abuse aftercare, and mental health counseling, as well as personal development and empowerment. Veterans also need job assessment, training, and placement assistance. The American Legion believes all programs to assist homeless veterans must focus on helping the veteran reach their highest level of self-management.

Our commission is fully aware that every community has different needs, which is why we need our local American Legion families to step forward and provide our services whenever and wherever they are needed. We have a great staff in Washington, D.C. which includes Director Joseph Sharpe, Deputy Director Mark Walker, Assistant Directors Steve Gonzalez, Davy Leghorn, Samuel Jung, Administrative Assistants Jasmine Davis, and Doris Grooms. They are all very knowledgeable and they are all ready to assist you to assure that our country's veterans are taken care of.

We deeply appreciate your continued support and your involvement. The American Legion was there when our World War II veterans came home, giving them a choice of going to school, getting a job, buying a home, planning their future. We did this through our creation and support of the original GI Bill and all that came with this. We made sure that our brave veterans had choices when they returned from war. Now it's time for us to continue to hold our legislators' feet to the fire and make sure that, as they downsize our military and they bring our troops home, they, too, have choices for a financially sound future.

You should all be very proud to be a part of the team that helps our veterans and their families sleep well at night, knowing that The American Legion, their fellow veterans, and our country, cares about them. Thank you, commander, and members of the NEC for your support and the opportunity to serve.

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman
October 14, 2014

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission met on October 14, 2014, at the Sheraton in Indianapolis, Indiana for the purpose of considering those matters that had previously been referred for study, and to discuss a range of other current matters.

Presiding: Denise H. Rohan (WI), Chairman
Also in attendance was:
The staff member present was Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr. (DC), Director, for the National Veterans Employment & Education Division

Matters Received, Considered and Acted Upon by the Commission:

Resolutions

Your Subcommittee considered two (2) resolutions. One (1) was referred from the Department of Michigan 2014 Executive Committee meetings and one (1) resolution from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission; all were forwarded to the National Executive Committee for approval.

The Commission then discussed the following issues:

Licensing and Certification

The civilian workforce increasingly relies upon credentialing as a way to regulate entry into certain occupations and to promote accountability for performance and public safety. Credentialing also offers benefits to the military, and can be used to promote recruiting, retention, and professional development. Promoting civilian credentialing of service members and veterans will enable them to demonstrate to employers the comparability and value of their military education, training, and experience. Returning veterans face a lengthy credentialing and licensing process that is required for them to transition their skills, training, and experience from the military to civilian workforce. Many industry areas require specific federal and state licenses and credentials, but do not recognize military training or experience. When civilian credentialing boards and employers fail to fully recognize military education, training, and experience, the service member, veteran, and America lose out. Veterans face reduced chances of obtaining a job on par with their skills and the civilian workforce cannot take full advantage of the extensive skills training in which our nation has so greatly invested.

The American Legion, in collaboration with the Department of Defense (DOD), National Governors Association (NGA), and National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), has undertaken an initiative to address this challenge to ease the transition into the civilian workforce for veterans and their families. The initiative's aim is to help service members receive licensure and academic credit for military education, training and experience. This initiative created strategies to accelerate credentialing processes for separating service members and veterans in high demand. The purpose was to increase credential attainment that leads to employment by veterans – especially Gulf War II veterans, who are experiencing the highest levels of unemployment – and reduce the number of Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service Members (UCX) claims and duration of time spent on UCX benefits.

The American Legion has been and continues to be a leading voice in advocacy for the unique job skills veterans bring to the table. In 1997, The American Legion commissioned the report "Study of Civilian Licensure and Certification for Veterans," which detailed the problem while focusing on the areas of aircraft maintenance and healthcare. The American Legion continues to fight for a major overhaul of the licensure and certification policies as they relate to military job skills, on the national and state levels alike. The American Legion is working with credentialing and licensing agencies to help veterans receive credit for their experiences maximize their abilities and move quickly into productive careers. The American Legion help shape and support the VOW to Hire Heroes Act and the Veterans Skills to Jobs Act of 2012; however, work remains in a long march to improve career opportunities for those who have served in uniform.

After winning passage of several important credentialing bills on the federal level, The American Legion turned its focus on state legislatures, pushing for states to consider similar measures that allow military training and skills to fulfill requirements for professional certifications. Largely, the efforts have yielded great results, as 45 states have either passed credentialing legislation or are currently considering it. In all, 45 credentialing bills have been signed into law, and another 85 are in various stages of consideration in state legislatures around the nation.

Cooperation among The American Legion, state governments, private sector employers, institutions of higher learning and the federal government have been crucial to effect the necessary changes in policies and practices to fully recognize the education, training, and experience provided to transitioning veterans. The American Legion will continue to work with the White House, National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, government agencies such as the departments of Defense, Transportation, Energy, Labor, and others, as well as congressional representatives, military training commands, credentialing boards and the private sectors. Lastly, The American Legion has begun planning for a Credentialing Summit in February 2015. The Summit will discuss improving credentialing opportunities for transitioning service members and veterans, while also sharing best practices within public and private sector initiatives.

Small Business

The American Legion views small business as the backbone of the American economy. It is the mobilizing force behind America's past economic growth and will continue to be a major factor as we move through the current recession. Reports show that small businesses have generated 65 percent of net new jobs over the past 17 years, and 67 percent following the 2009 recession. Furthermore, there are nearly 28 million small businesses in the U.S. and 99.7 percent of all firms are small businesses. Listed below are several facts regarding veteran business owners:

- Veterans are 45 percent more likely to be self-employed
- According to the U.S. census, about 2.4 million, or 9 percent of all U.S. small businesses are veteran-owned
- Veteran-owned small businesses generate over $1 trillion in sales

Small business outreach and training programs offered through prime federal contractors only work with established businesses, and rely on proceeds from federal contracts in order to support their programs. Entrepreneurship assistance programs funded purely through philanthropic support rarely last more than a couple of years before they start to falter and begin looking for alternative revenue streams, such as federal funding. The only reliable entrepreneurship programs available for veterans are the training and assistance programs offered through the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD).

Furthermore, small business assistance requires the kind of expertise that can only be gained through experience. A formal business education teaches the fundamentals, but experience teaches the stark realities an entrepreneur must brace for when starting a business. Veterans need small business counselors who understand their culture and experience. Veteran Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs) fill a critical void that provides unique mentorship and veteran specific assistance to aspiring veteran business owners that cannot be duplicated through any other existing program within SBA or the Department of Veterans Affairs. Ideally, The American Legion would prefer that the VBOCs would deliver 'Boots 2 Business' curriculum to transitioning service members, but unfortunately, the network is still too small and underfunded to sufficiently support that task. Boots 2 Business is a three-step training program developed to introduce and train transitioning service members to business ownership. Any discussion that seeks to reduce funding or inhibit the operations of the OVBD would be met with opposition from The American Legion.

In addition, The American Legion seeks and supports legislation to require a 5 percent goal, with set-asides and sole-source authority for federal procurements and contracts for businesses owned and operated by service-disabled veterans, and businesses owned and controlled by veterans. This includes small businesses owned by Reserve component members who have been, or may be, called to active-duty, or may be affected by base closings and reductions in our military forces.

The American Legion continues to work closely with business leaders and government authorities to help veteran-owned small business and increase the role of veteran-owned businesses in communities around the nation. Veterans are natural entrepreneurs. They are disciplined, goal-oriented self-starters. Accustomed to accountability, they know the value of being decisive and flexible. Leveraging the talents of veterans will promote self-employment and will help stimulate the economy. Lastly, veterans know the value of veteran employees better than anyone else, and veteran-owned small businesses are one among the best employers of veterans.

The American Legion Small Business Task Force

The American Legion Small Business Task Force sponsored a number of events this year to assist veterans, disabled veterans, Reservists and active-duty military members in obtaining employment, to include starting and growing their own businesses.

- February 25 Washington Conference Business Development Workshop
- August 25-26 National Convention Employment & Entrepreneurship Summit
- August 26 National Convention Transition and Benefits Career Fair

During The American Legion's 96th National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a successful two-day Boots to Business: Reboot, a small business development workshop, co-sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF). The sessions were open to all veterans, active-duty service members and spouses of service members who shared the goal of launching a sustainable business venture. Over 50 veterans and service members participated in this event. The Boots to Business curriculum included an introduction to entrepreneurship and skills training, as well as detailed information on resources and support programs designed specifically to aid veterans working with the federal government. Business conceptualization, business plan formulation, financial planning, start-up funding, marketing and related topics were explored as well. Topics included, but not limited to:

- Transferring military skills to entrepreneurship
- Franchising

- Estimating start-up funds
- Estimating customer demand
- Business feasibility tools

Participants were also introduced to SBA resources available to help access start-up capital and additional technical assistance. After completing Boots to Business, participants have the tools and knowledge they need to identify a business opportunity, draft a business plan, and launch their enterprise.

Veteran Homelessness

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking decisive action toward its goal of ending homelessness among our nation's veterans. To achieve this goal, VA has developed a Five-Year Plan to assist every homeless veteran willing to accept services retain or acquire: safe housing; needed treatment services; opportunities to retain or return to employment; and benefits assistance. VA stated that they will continue to partner with the community, national and local service providers, and other state and federal agencies to provide comprehensive care to homeless veterans and veterans at-risk for homelessness. The American Legion supports the VA's Five-Year Plan that will provide supportive services and physical and mental care to homeless veterans.

Current estimates put the number of homeless veterans at approximately 50,000 on any given night, a decline 33 percent (or 24,837 people) since 2010. This includes a nearly 40 percent drop in number of veterans sleeping on the street. Since 2008, more than 59,000 vouchers have been awarded and over 74,000 homeless veterans have been served through the HUD-VASH program. Rental assistance and support services provided through HUD-VASH are a critical resource for local communities in ending homelessness among our nation's veterans. The HUD-VASH program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for veterans experiencing homelessness provided by HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. At the local level, the HUD-VASH program operates as a collaborative effort between VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) and local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs). The VAMC identifies veterans who are eligible for the program and refers them to the PHA to receive a HUD-VASH voucher. The PHA provides the rental subsidy, and the VAMC provides case management and clinical services.

In order to fully implement VA's pledge to end homelessness among veterans by 2015, Congress must continue making responsible investments in affordable housing and supportive services programs that move veterans and their families off the streets and into stable housing. These homeless assistance programs should be intended to serve all groups of low-income veterans – veterans at risk of becoming homeless, veterans who are homeless for a short time, and veterans and their families who have spent years without a place to call home. To make this seamless system of care work, funding must be provided for a broad range of appropriate and effective interventions. Funding that prevent veterans from becoming homeless or quickly re-house veterans who need nothing more than short-term rental assistance and limited case management in order to get back on their feet could be used effectively by community organizations and other stakeholders. These funds could also be used to pay for employment services, utility assistance, child care costs, legal services, and other housing-related expenses. Additionally, there is still a need for more funding that can provide short-term housing to help homeless veterans get stabilized, along with allowing them to get connecting with jobs, supportive services, permanent housing, and ultimately to become self-sufficient.

With the affects of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is widely known the psychological stress, such as PTSD, TBI and other mental illnesses play a significant role in pushing a certain population of veterans into homelessness. Funding, along with grants

that goes to homeless veterans programs and organizations that assist this vulnerable demographic are needed more than ever. Due to our work with homeless veterans and their families, The American Legion understands that homeless veterans need a sustained coordinated effort that provides secure housing and nutritious meals; essential physical healthcare, substance abuse aftercare and mental health counseling; as well as personal development and empowerment. Veterans also need job assessment, training and placement assistance. The American Legion believes all programs to assist homeless veterans must focus on helping veterans reach their highest level of self-management.

Furthermore, The American Legion directly provides housing for homeless veterans and their families, including facilities in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Connecticut. One of the goals of The American Legion is to help bring federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith-based institutions and other stakeholders to the table to discuss best practices, along with funding opportunities, so homeless veterans and their families can obtain the necessary care and help in order for them to properly transition from the streets and shelters into gainful employment and/or independent living.

Employment

The current rate of unemployment in the United States is 5.9 percent. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is 6.2 percent. The total number of unemployed veterans from the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is approximately 159,000, with a total of 511,000 unemployed veterans from all eras. The American Legion has a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Military.com that will allow The American Legion to have a presence in all of their Job Fairs around the country. The main purpose of participation in these Job Fairs is to educate veterans of their benefits, provide veterans outlets for employment and promote The American Legion. The American Legion participates in 100 Job Fairs a year through our national partnerships.

In addition, The American Legion has collaborated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (USCC), Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS), Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), various State Workforce Agencies and various corporate sponsors, in hosting numerous veteran specific Job Fairs across the nation. The 'Hiring our Heroes' Initiative seeks to drastically lower the rising unemployment rate amongst our nation's veterans by bringing Job Fairs to many of the nation's underserved communities.

Since January 2014, The American Legion has hosted and participated in more than 70 Job Fairs with USCC under the 'Hiring our Heroes' Initiative. Going into 2014-15, the USCC will be sponsoring 100 to 150 hiring events for veterans. Hence, The American Legion is strategizing with USCC staff to identify where the best states and cities are for these events. The location of these events will occur in 2014-15 will be based upon individual state unemployment rates and places where there are substantial veteran populations. In less than three years, Hiring Our Heroes -- a joint initiative of The American Legion and USCC — has helped more than 24,000 veterans, service members, and military spouses nationwide find jobs. USCC has hosted over 90 hiring events at Legion Posts and partnered with the Legion on more than 200 others.

Furthermore, a Hiring Our Heroes Hiring Event was held on Tuesday, August 26, during the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. This event was sponsored by USCC, with The American Legion Department of North Carolina, DOL, VA, and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR). The hiring event yielded more than 585 resumes accepted, 124 interviews conducted, and 8 firm job offers. 87 employers and a total of approximately 150 registered jobseekers attended this event.

The American Legion's National Veterans Employment & Education Division, through its relationships, continues to play a vital role in assisting American Legion Posts to produce successful Job Fairs, small business development workshops, and employment training services throughout America and, in turn, will change the tide of the high unemployment rate among veterans.

Also, The American Legion has been strongly advocating for changes within the Department of Labor's, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS) program. DOL-VETS reorganizing of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs), under the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG), requires a drastic reduction of LVERs and restricting DVOPs to case manage those veterans with the significant barriers to employment and who need intensive employment services (20 percent of veterans coming into career one-stops). Under this plan, LVERs no longer meet or manage the cases of unemployed veterans and are tasked with employer outreach only. This means 80 percent of the unemployed veterans will be serviced by the regular employment staff funded under the WIA/Wagner-Peyser Act. The American Legion is strongly opposed against the restructuring and redefining of the job description and responsibilities of DVOPs and LVERs staff. Furthermore, there is a Senate amendment attached to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) — if enacted, it will undo parts of DOL-VETS restructuring that are detrimental to federal veterans employment services.

Lastly, The American Legion supports legislation that calls for the VA and the state workforce agencies to share responsibilities for all Title 38 veterans employment services. We also request that VA be adequately funded to administer the JVSG, establish standards and collect performance data, while the Department of Labor and state workforce agencies administer the programs and report directly to VA. The goal is to ensure that transitioning service members and veterans are provided with the best possible transitioning services available to them. Consequently, that can only be accomplished between the joint efforts of the Departments of Labor, Defense, Veterans Affairs and the state workforce agencies to include the public and private sectors.

Education

The American Legion is synonymous with veteran's education, being instrumental in the first and most recent GI Bill's passage and helping the modern-day veteran navigate the confusing world of education benefits. The main reason for the Post-9/11 GI Bill was that VA education benefits were no longer covering fast-rising tuition costs. Working with Congress, we stressed the need for a "21st century GI Bill" that would provide benefits worthy of our veterans and offer the same opportunities afforded to those who fought in World War II.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill only pays in-state tuition and eligible fees. Veterans who settle in states other than their state of residence upon separating from the service are initially charged "out-of-state" tuition, which means they must pay the difference between the resident and non-resident charges of that states tuition. Service members are not given the option to move to any state and establish residency prior to their separation from the armed forces, which can lead to financial burdens. State policies have adjusted in the last decade to allow active and reserve members to access in-state tuition rates, but separating service members (future veterans) must fulfill established residency time requirements to establish state residency and access in-state tuition rates.

Over the last couple of years, we have heard from countless veterans who, because of the nature of military service, often have a difficult time establishing residency for purposes of obtaining in-state tuition rates. Under current rules 40,000 student-veterans have to pay the difference between in-state tuition, which is covered by the Post-9/11 GI

Bill, and out-of-state tuition if they are attending school as a nonresident. Because of this, many of our student-veterans are unable to use their GI Bill benefits at an institution of higher education of their choice or are required to pay thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses in nonresidential tuition rates. Furthermore, public colleges and universities have significantly raised the costs of out-of-state tuition to offset decreasing revenues due to state budget cuts. Circumstances such as these pose significant challenges to using this important benefit.

Therefore, The American Legion has led a state-by-state initiative to introduce, advocate for and support state legislation that would waive the residency requirements for separating veteran's access to in-state tuition at public colleges and universities, regardless of their residency status. Veterans should not have to go into deep debt for their education just because their permanent residence is in another state or assume tremendous financial burdens due to the recent change in law which often capped GI Bill benefits far short of high out-of-state rates. Lastly, The American Legion has advocated for and testified in support of federal legislation to grant in-state tuition, specifically, H.R. 357 and S. 257.

Furthermore, The American Legion advocacy efforts were rewarded on August 7, 2014, when President Obama signed H.R. 3230, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 (also known as the VA Reform Bill), which has provisions regarding in-state tuition for student-veterans. The provision would require public universities that want to continue receiving GI Bill benefits to offer recently separated veterans in-state tuition. Veterans' spouses and dependents would also be eligible for the benefit. Due to The American Legion's strong advocacy efforts some 30 states or university systems have already changed their laws or policies to recognize returning veterans as in-state students for tuition purposes.

Lastly, The American Legion support continued efforts of academic credit evaluation by colleges, universities and vocational technical schools via the Joint Services Transcript system for military experience as evaluated college, university and vocational technical school credit. The Joint Service Transcript (JST) documents professional military education, training and occupation experiences of service members and veterans. Under contract with the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), the American Council on Education (ACE) conducts and facilitates the rigorous academic review of military courses and occupations. JST is an official transcript tool that validates and documents those courses and occupations for service members and veterans. More than 2,300 colleges and universities recognize these transcripts as official documentation of military training and experience and applicable ACE credit recommendations.

Conclusion

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission is fully aware that it would be impossible to carry out its mandates without the active involvement of Posts, Districts, Counties, Departments and individual Legionnaires. We deeply appreciate their continued support and involvement. Chairman Rohan also thanks the National Commander, the National Adjutant, the National Executive Committee, and the staff of both the Washington and Indianapolis offices for the outstanding support and cooperation they have provided during the past year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of two resolutions. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 12: Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2704 (MI) Department Executive Committee

Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Veterans are in need of academic post-military degree and certificate credentials universally recognizable by employers for employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DOD) has already spared no expense to provide our military personnel with some of the best vocational training in the nation paid for by past federal budgets of the United States; and

WHEREAS, DOD establishes, measures and evaluates performance standards for every occupation within the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, The American Council on Education (ACE) has evaluated most of the training for these military occupations and provided guidelines for awarding college-level credit for such training; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 1,900 institutions of higher learning formed the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC), which was created in 1972 to provide educational opportunities to servicemembers who, because they frequently moved from place to place, had trouble completing college degrees; and

WHEREAS, SOC functions in cooperation with 15 higher education associations, DOD, and the Active and Reserve Components of the Military Services to expand and improve voluntary post-secondary education opportunities for servicemembers worldwide; and

WHEREAS, SOC is funded by the DOD through a contract with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the contract is managed for DOD by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES); and

WHEREAS, There are many occupational career fields in the Armed Forces that have been evaluated by ACE using the Joint Services Transcript System into recommended Vocational Certificate, Lower Division Baccalaureate/Associate Degree, Upper Division Baccalaureate and Graduate University, Community College and Technical School academic credit; and

WHEREAS, There are many occupations in the civilian workforce that require a civilian college/university degree, or vocational certificate; and

WHEREAS, In the Armed Forces, these unique occupations are performed to approved military standards that may meet or exceed the civilian college/university or vocational academic coursework criteria; and

WHEREAS, Upon separation from military service, many former military personnel, certified as proficient in their military occupational career, have recommended college/university and vocational academic credit based on the ACE Military Evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, Since 1945, ACE has evaluated military training and experience to gauge eligibility for university, college and vocational credit recommendations; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, ACE Military Programs began the assessment of military occupational specialties; and

WHEREAS, More than 2,200 higher education institutions consider the ACE Military Programs course credit recommendations and these credit recommendations can also assist in the servicemember's career advancement; and

WHEREAS, In March, 2013, the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard combined their individual transcript systems into one system called the Joint Services Transcript System; and

WHEREAS, DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) require colleges, universities, vocational and technical schools, both public and private, to evaluate prior learning and previous academic transcripts and credit, prior to a veteran, active-duty, Reserve or National Guard to be in receipt of funds for training or education at civilian institutions of higher learning to include colleges, universities and vocational technical schools; and

WHEREAS, DOD has already paid for the training of its personnel for their military occupations and the taxpayers of the United States should not be burdened by paying for the training again in the form of the GI Bill or any federally-funded training program; and

WHEREAS, DOD Tuition Assistance, VA Education or any form of the GI Bill requires this evaluation, and a fully completed degree or certificate plan to ensure compliance with DOD and VA regulations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion support efforts of academic credit evaluation by colleges, universities and vocational technical schools via the Joint Services Transcript system for military experience as evaluated college, university and vocational technical school credit; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support efforts to increase the understanding that without this required evaluation of Joint Services Transcripts that the Department of Veterans Affairs education funding through the GI Bill oftentimes duplicates funding for military training already received by the Department of Defense (DOD); and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) change the current required degree plan used by colleges, universities and vocational technical institutions of higher learning to be in receipt of DOD Tuition Assistance or VA GI Bill funds be required to evaluate and report the Joint Services Transcript of veterans, active-duty military, Reserve and National Guard just as they would for any other transcript from an institution of prior learning.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Mr. Commander, Resolution 12 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee. Therefore, I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 13: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services Within the Department of Veterans Affairs

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, It has been the finding of numerous Government Accountability Office reports that, for a variety of reasons, the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) program has not been adequately administered by the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, The issue of veterans unemployment remains a non-priority to the Secretary of Labor whose priorities lie with the overall employment of the general population and other minority groups; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that such program for veterans be fully funded and subject to complete oversight by the congressional veterans affairs committees to ensure

that all veterans are administered services in a uniform manner, and that the priority of service is preserved; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 107-288 has severely crippled the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service's (DOL-VETS) ability to maintain oversight and control of the JVSG program and;

WHEREAS, The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program within DOL-VETS funding has been flat lined at $38 million for several years – authorized at $50 million; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) homeless veterans programs have proved to be successful in rehabilitation of the veteran in assisting him/her to become a productive citizen; and

WHEREAS, The VA has begun to invest in more employment services for veterans and is gaining critical knowledge in administering employment services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, The VA is exempt from sequestration, has the singular focus of administering services to veterans and has one singular priority – the well-being of the veteran community; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor has expertise in job placement, job development, vocational counseling, vocational testing, job search training, and any other area of employment services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion support legislation that calls for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the state workforce agencies to share responsibilities for all Title 38 veterans employment services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA be fully funded to administer the Job for Veterans State Grants (JVSG), establish standards and collect performance data, and the state workforce agencies administer the programs and report directly to VA; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That there would be sufficient funding to allow one Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative for each fully functioning workforce center; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Department of Labor programs continue to provide priority services to veterans and that JVSG staff remain in the workforce centers.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Mr. Commander, resolution No. 13 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee. Therefore, I call for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried. Thank you, Denise.

Larry Besson, chairman of the Internal Affairs, had some health issues related to a fall he experienced yesterday morning. He is in Methodist Hospital and making progress in recovery. I call on Kenneth Orrock, South Dakota, chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee, to give the Internal Affairs Commission report.

Oral Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Kenneth E. Orrock, South Dakota
Chairman, Membership & Post Activities Committee

Thank you very much. Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, my fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen, I respectfully present this

report on behalf of Chairman Besson on the actions and deliberations of the Internal Affairs Commission.

I first draw your attention to the great work of the Sons of The American Legion and what they've accomplished this year. I commend every department for supporting this great program and for a job well done.

You're all aware of what The American Legion Riders do in developing awareness for the Legacy Scholarship throughout the year. I want to highlight the tremendous year they had in 2014 in raising money on the ride to Charlotte. In the nine years of the ride, the $1 million they raised this year was an all-time high. Our Riders deserve a round of applause. *(Applause)*

The LEAD training program is really off to a great start in this, its second year. I thank all the departments that participated in this training, hopefully this program complements your department training and supports your five-year membership plan. The focus of this program is not only to train our members and provide information to Legionnaires on our programs, but also to train the trainers so that this training may be presented and taken to posts and districts so that blue cap Legionnaires in each and every one of our communities has the opportunity to participate in these programs.

Our National Emergency Fund is in good shape. We currently have over $2.8 million available in the fund. During and after natural disasters, this is available to help our fellow Legionnaires. We thank those departments who put the NEF toolkit in the hands of your NEF coordinator who then ensured that grant applications were in the hands of members in need immediately after their disaster, so that assistance could be quickly distributed.

You will be acting on Register Resolution No. 2706 after my report, but I want to give you a little more background on why the commission has amended the California submission.

They had requested in their resolution at convention to adopt a "distinguished veteran pass to all national parks and federal recreation areas for all disabled veterans 50 percent or more disabled, which would be good for free admittance to include overnight camping at national parks and other recreation facilities." The National Parks Service has in existence the America the Beautiful pass series. A handout outlining the different categories is available on the back table for your review. As you will see, there is already a military annual pass, a senior pass, both of which would cover some of our veterans, and the access pass which covers all permanently disabled veterans.

Several of the camping concessions are run by private vendors or concessionaires. The commission felt it was inappropriate to ask for discounts greater than those already established, since these are private vendors providing a service. Since there is no comprehensive veterans pass in existence to cover all veterans, the commission felt that the proposed amendment is appropriate in order to cover all veterans. Our disabled veterans can also qualify for the free access pass vis-a-vis the proposed veterans $10 lifetime pass. This is left for your action after my report.

Mr. Commander, the national staff brought an issue to the commission's attention while doing research on foreign posts and departments. They discovered that, in 1994 when the NEC canceled the charters of the Departments of Italy, Canada, and Panama, that the resolution also directed the Internal Affairs Commission to develop a policy by which all future decisions concerning the assignment of foreign posts and outlying posts to the departments which will be used. This was never accomplished.

Therefore, Mr. Commander, the commission recommends that an ad hoc committee to study departments and posts located outside the continental United States be established at this meeting to report back at the 2015 spring NEC meeting. Their purpose would be to develop a policy by which all future decisions will be based concerning the

establishment and assignment of foreign and outlying posts, to departments, as well as the cancellation of departments outside the continental United States.

Mr. Commander, I've been told that there may be some donations for the National Emergency Fund here after my report has been concluded.

Mr. Commander, I submit this report on behalf of Chairman Besson, and the resolutions for the action of the National Executive Committee with my deepest respect and appreciation for the support this body gives the Internal Affairs Commission.

I would ask each of you, on behalf of the Internal Affairs Commission, that you keep Larry and Jane in your thoughts and prayers. Larry sends his best wishes to each and every one of you as he convalesces at Methodist Hospital.

Mr. Commander, that concludes the report of the Internal Affairs Commission.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Larry J. Besson, Illinois, Chairman
October 13-14, 2014

Chairman Larry J. Besson (IL), called an assembly of the Internal Affairs Commission to order at 9:00 a.m., October 13, and at 8:30 a.m., October 14, in 314A, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. We had eleven members present and several guests.

The report consists of the following sections: Standing Committee Reports; Program and Internal Action Reports; and Actions on Assigned Resolutions.

I. Standing Committee Reports

Membership and Post Activities Committee

Kenneth E. Orrock (SD), Chairman, Membership and Post Activities updated the Commission on the 2015 Membership Year as well the update on the Five-Year Strategic Plan. A more detailed update is contained in Chairman Orrock's Membership and Post Activities Report to the National Executive Committee.

The Commission had two concerns—the recruitment of new members by posts and departments and the renewal behavior of those 14,000 DMS members transferred early into local posts. It was emphasized that all levels of leadership need to get engaged in the membership program.

If there is a membership event, the leadership is expected to be involved and leading the way. Membership is everyone's job. The Membership teams are there to set the plans, goals, provide direction and be the experts in membership but everyone needs to be involved to ensure all members are contacted and the post is a positive influence in the community.

The Commission was excited about the District Revitalization Visits to the departments who utilize this service. It is dynamic and exciting. Results are very positive. It gets more volunteers involved and a wider area is covered. For those departments who have not experienced it yet, they should start planning one and they too will see the benefits. It was said that we don't have a membership problem once we get the leadership involved and excited about membership. The challenge has been given by National Commander Helm. It is our time as leaders to respond to the challenge.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana at 8:30am on October 13, 2014. Present were Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan (IL), Chairman and Charles G. Mills (NY), Vice Chairman.

The Chairman noted there were no resolutions before the Committee. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Committee adjourned.

Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee

The Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee of Internal Affairs Commission convened at 10:50 a.m. on Monday, October 13, 2014. Members present were Mr. George V. West (NH), Chairman; Mr. Herbert W. Odell (TX), member; Mr. James L. Van Horn (AK), Mr. Larry Sheets (FL), member; and John W. Kerestan (IN), Headquarters Staff. Special guests in attendance were Mr. Larry Besson (IL), Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission, and Mr. John Querfeld (IL), Director, Internal Affairs Commission. National Commander Mike Helm attended this meeting for a short period and provided some comments.

There were seven resolutions that came before the Sub-Committee that required action from the Internal Affairs Commission and the National Executive Committee of The American Legion. They are listed along with their recommendations on Addendum B (attached).

Motions were made and duly seconded by the SAL Sub-Committee recommending approval on all of the above resolutions requiring action of the Internal Affairs Commission. The Internal Affairs Commission approved the resolution actions taken by the Sub-Committee on both Convention and NEC resolutions.

II. Program Reports

Membership Support Services

Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) Program - The DMS Program is our direct mail program used to solicit new members. Our plan and budget for the DMS program was approved this year at the Washington Conference. At that time a plan was approved to expand slightly the efforts for this year's DMS Program. After a successful program in 2014, our efforts to continue acquiring members was approved. Again this year we will focus more heavily on recapturing Expired members, but we are also continuing to seek new members from the best sources available. A goal for the 2015 Membership Year was established by the Finance Commission at 110,000 new members. A budget of slightly more than $4.6 Million dollars was allocated.

We have successfully enrolled about 39,000 new members with our first mailing campaign which was completed in July. This is an indication that we are our way to a completing the membership year at or above our goal. We will be conducting two more mailings of our traditional DMS mailing- one in November and one in January. In addition to the traditional mail efforts, we are using email to encourage expired members to re-join. These emails will go to expired members with email addresses. These emails are staged between traditional mailings. We have been successful at encouraging expired members to re-join.

Direct Renewal Program - One of the other major responsibilities the Membership Support Services Division is to manage the Direct Renewal Program. This is the program that mails renewal notices to active members. We are now receiving and processing the responses to the Direct Renewal mailings for this membership year. Last year we tested sending six renewal notices to of traditional members who are affiliated at a post or department headquarters. The effort was successful and will be continued this year. This notice will be mailed near the end of November which is about mid-way between the October and January renewal notices.

We are continuing to send seven notices to DMS members. This is an attempt to encourage more members to renew. We know that the increased mailing will push the

Renewal numbers up. Under the existing resolution, once these DMS members have renewed twice, the names are released to the Departments. It is our hope that these renewed members, who are the best prospects for continued membership, will be actively recruited for transfer to the local posts.

On-Line Renewal - The online renewal program allows members to renew their membership using their computer from the comfort of their home. This program is an optional program to be used by members who prefer on-line. For the 2014 membership year over 220,000 members renewed online. So far this year, since July 1, over 110,000 members have chosen to respond on-line. We are on track for a comparable volume for 2015.

It is important to remember that these payments are posted daily. This information is then made available to Posts and Departments daily on myLegion.org and via monthly hard copy reports. There is a cost for credit card processing that is absorbed currently by National Headquarters. In the upcoming year there are plans to enhance the process further with additional security. As this process grows more widely accepted we want to assure even greater security for our members.

Two other options have been added to the online process over the last year. The first was the paperless renewal option that allows members to opt to receiving the first two notices as emails rather than paper notices - over 107,000 members have opted for this feature. The second was implemented earlier this year. This feature is automatic credit card payment for future year's dues. This feature has been accepted by about 15,000 members. We are living in a world in which the option for on-line transactions is desired by many people.

Another example of this is the DMS program. We have tried to offer ease in joining to the process and also have the option for on-line joining. More than 8,200 people have joined on-line since July 1. This is about 21% of all our new DMS members. This option offers another easy way to facilitate membership in The American Legion. On July 30, we launched a Digital Marketing Campaign utilizing extensive internet advertising to promote The American Legion and to educate individuals on our many programs and efforts to help veterans and communities. This campaign is designed to raise awareness of The American Legion and will hopefully raise interest in our organization. We are closely tracking activity related to this program and we should have response data to report at our next meetings. The goal is that this online effort coupled with other promotional efforts will help impact membership and participation. In closing, the DMS Program has added almost 40,000 new members since July 1. We will continue our efforts with the DMS Program this year with a goal of bringing in 101,500 new members in the 2014 membership year. In addition, the Direct Renewal process and On-line Renewal process are in place to continue effectively renewing existing members.

American Legion Riders (ALR)

We have eight members on the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee to Internal Affairs. Six of the committee members will also serve as regional points of contact for national vice commanders, department commanders, and department ALR programs in six regions of the country. The committee will meet in early 2015 to provide guidance for The American Legion Legacy Run, the ALR program in general, and for any issues before the Internal Affairs Commission.

The American Legion has a long history of service to America’s veterans and their families. The American Legion Riders have continued this tradition with their unwavering support of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship for the children of fallen warriors.

Since 2006, The American Legion Riders have met this challenge by raising awareness throughout the year and by conducting the nation's largest multistate, multi-day motorcycle fundraising tour. The American Legion Legacy Run raised a record $1M in donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund in 2014.

In August, 2015, The American Legion Legacy Run will travel from Indianapolis to Baltimore, site of the 98th annual American Legion National Convention.

National American Legion College

We have a record number of students attending (57 from 31 different departments) and the college has undergone only its second version since its inception some 15 years ago. Training will be conducted from Sunday, October 26th through Friday, October 31st.

This year's college will be different from past colleges. The focus will be on the following items:

How to be an effective leader in The American Legion

- How to be an effective mentor in The American Legion
- How to develop a department level American Legion College
- Parliamentary procedures (how to run a district meeting)
- The communication process (brand awareness, marketing, etc …..)
- The resolution process
- Three train-the-trainer classes covering "Getting AC&Y Programs in your Community; myLegion.org; ALEI"

National Emergency Fund

From January 1, 2014 till September 1, 2014, the NEF has assisted 48 veterans and six posts with grant money totaling $62,950. Spring tornados in the south and Midwest, along with flooding in Iowa have been the main protagonists so far this year.

We started the year with a balance of $2,838,668 in the NEF fund and so far this year we have received almost $550,000. The current balance is $3,372,878 on hand. Past National Commander Dan Dellinger's campaign was to supply the NEF with monies to assist Legion family members when needed. Through his campaigning along with his five National Vice Commanders, they raised almost $750,000.

The American Legion has created an NEF response kit to assist department and post leaders on best practices before, during and after emergencies. The kit contains brochures that explain how to set up an NEF response team, locate affected Legion Family members, assist victims in filling out NEF applications and generate good public relations. All material featured in the NEF response kit can be found under Internal Affairs on the Legion's publication's web page and downloaded.

Leadership, Education And Development Training

Leadership, **E**ducation **A**nd **D**evelopment, (LEAD) is a block of training sessions designed to provide professional development for posts, districts and department level members. National staff subject matter experts have developed 25 classes covering a wide range of topics relevant to the operations of The American Legion. Currently the instructors, lesson plans, handouts and training materials are provided at no expense to departments. Departments are only responsible for identifying and providing the training facility and audio visual equipment. For 2015, the training budged has been increased to $75,000.

Any combination of 25 offered classes may be selected. If eight hours of instruction is provided, whether over a weekend or to include multiple visits, those who have attended eight hours will receive a LEAD pin representing the training they have received. One classroom is needed for each eight hour session. If department desires a

repeat of sessions or selects more than eight hours training, additional classrooms and equipment may be required.

Since LEAD's inception over 32 departments have participated in the LEAD training program with just over 3,000 Legion family members trained by national subject matter experts. The top three most requested classes are: "Post Operations," Developing an Effective Post Membership Team," and "myLegion.org."

Starting with the 2014 National American Legion College, attendees will be receiving Train-the-Trainer instruction on at least three LEAD courses and will also be receiving materials to assist them in developing or augmenting department/district level colleges. This will help initiate the next stage of the LEAD training program which is the development of department run colleges for training.

Consideration of Register Resolution #2688
Subject: Renaming Department of Puerto Rico

When the Departments of Mexico, France and the Philippines were authorized in 1921, the National Executive Committee required the department headquarters to be in the named country.

Today, Article III, Section 1 of the National Constitution provides: *"The American Legion shall be organized in Departments and these in turn in Posts. There shall be one Department in each state, in the District of Columbia, and there may be one Department in each territory and insular possessions of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish Posts in the territorial and insular possessions of the United States and foreign countries, and shall designate the Department under whose jurisdiction they shall function, but this shall in no way affect the status of Departments already established."*

Hence, there can be only one department per territory and posts are assigned by the National Executive Committee. There cannot be a department of more than one territory or insular possession. In addition, there is no longer any authority to create foreign departments in the national constitution.

The Commission also discussed action required by Resolution 33 (NEC, May 1994) to establish a policy on future decisions concerning assignment of foreign and outlying posts to departments about the possibility of a committee being appointed to outline the policy.

III. Resolutions

Internal Affairs Action on Assigned Resolutions

Approved and Forwarded to the Resolutions Subcommittee

Resolution No. 15 (M&PA Committee) **Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post (BA01)**

Resolution No. 16 (M&PA Committee) **Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post (GR02)**

Resolution No. 18 (Internal Affairs) **Rescinding Resolution**

Approved as Amended and Forwarded to the Resolutions Subcommittee

Resolution No. 17 Federal Properties Distinguished Veteran Pass (Register Res. 2706-CA)

Other Resolutions

Disposition of all other resolutions is addressed in Addendum A.

Conclusion

Thank you for your assistance and for giving us the opportunity to appear before you. Our commission is "Still Serving America."

Addendum A

Report to Subcommittee on Resolutions

The Internal Affairs Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

Rejected

Resolution No. 100 (TX) (2014 Natl. Conv.) **Revise Cost of Paid-Up-For-Life Membership**
Register Resolution No. 2688 (PR) (2012 DC) **Rename Department of Puerto Rico**

Hold for Further Study

Resolution No. 28 (MT) (2014 Natl. Conv.) **Release of Direct Membership Solicitation Members to Departments**
Resolution No. 38 (NE) (2014 Natl. Conv.) **Increase National Emergency Fund Relief Amounts**
Resolution No. 111 (MN) (2014 Natl. Conv.) **Recognize Members of National Guard and Reserve at National Convention**
Resolution No. 269 (CT) (2014 Natl. Conv.) **Membership Credit be Given to Departments for Transferring First and Second Year Direct Membership Solicitation Members Into Local Posts**

Addendum B

Internal Affairs Commission Report to National Executive Committee
The American Legion
October 15-16, 2014

Disposition of Actions of Sons of The American Legion

In compliance with Resolution 21 "entitled", "Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees", adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal

Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee October 11-12, 2014.

Approved

Resolution SAL NC 1-14	Homeland Security Border Patrol
Resolution SAL NC 2-14	Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
Resolution SAL NC 3-14	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Resolution SAL NC 3-F14	Judging Criteria for VA&R, Americanism and Children & Youth National Awards
Resolution SAL NC 8-13	Children and Youth Organizations

Received and Recorded

Resolution SAL NEC 1-F14	Endorsement of Kenneth L. Yanke (CO) for National Vice Commander
Resolution SAL NC 2-F14	Endorsement of Steve Ward (KS) for National Vice Commander
Resolution SAL NC 4-14	Endorsement of Steve Curry (KY) for National Vice Commander

No.: SAL Res 1 – Convention 2014
Title: Homeland Security Border Patrol
Origin: Homeland Security Committee

WHEREAS, America shares 7,000 miles of land border with Canada and Mexico, as well as rivers, lakes and coastal waters around the country. These borders are vital economic gateways that account for trillions of dollars in trade and travel each year. They are also home to some of our nation's largest – and safest – cities and communities. Protecting our borders from the illegal movement of weapons, drugs, contraband, and people, while promoting lawful entry and exit, is essential to homeland security, economic prosperity, and national sovereignty. and;

WHEREAS, The Federal Department of Homeland Security Border Patrol works to secure our borders through the deployment of personnel, technology, and infrastructure; as well as working closely with our neighbors in Canada and Mexico, and our many federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners. and;

WHEREAS, Border Patrol agents, agriculture specialists, Air and Marine agents, and officers guard America's front lines. These men and women prevent terrorists and their weapons from entering the United States while continuing their mission of seizing contraband and apprehending criminals and others who illegally attempt to enter the United States. and;

WHEREAS, Through increases in Border Patrol staffing; construction of new infrastructure and fencing; use of advanced technology—including sensors, radar, and aerial assets –investments to modernize the ports of entry; and stronger partnerships and information sharing, we are creating a safer, more secure, and more efficient border environment, and;

WHEREAS, Protecting the nation's borders—land, air, and sea—from the illegal entry of people, weapons, drugs, and contraband is vital to our homeland security, as well as economic prosperity. The Federal Department of Homeland Security Border Patrol has deployed unprecedented levels of personnel, technology, and resources and made has made critical security improvements to secure and manage our borders, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22-24, 2014 that we express our respect, admiration and thanks to the Department of Homeland Security Border patrol for all of their efforts to secure our nation's safety as an example of a true National Defense as outlined in the Four Pillars on which The American Legion Family stands.

No.: SAL Res 2 – Fall 2013
Title: Commendation of Fisher House for Assisting our Veterans Families
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Fisher House Foundation continues to support the military families in their time of greatest need through a network of comfort homes built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher Houses are located in close proximity to the medical center or hospital it serves; and

WHEREAS, Due to the government shutdown, The Department of Defense was unable to pay the death gratuities to the families of service members killed in combat; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher House Foundation has generously agreed to offer the families an advance grant until the government can make the reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher House Foundation will also cover flights, hotels and other incidentals for the family members; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED**,** That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12 - 13, 2013, That the Sons of The American Legion hereby commends the Fisher House Foundation for ensuring that our nations veterans families are taken care of by providing an advance grant to the families of service members killed during the government shutdown.

No.: SAL Res 2 – Convention 2014
Title: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
Origin: Homeland Security Committee

WHEREAS, The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985 because the Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs. As a result, the LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division with the purpose of training citizens and private and government employees and;

WHEREAS, Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs. And;

WHEREAS, One also expects that under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training. And;

WHEREAS, The CERT training program makes good sense and furthers the process of citizens understanding their responsibility in preparing for disaster; also increasing their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the importance of preparing citizens. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the National Fire Academy adopted and expanded the CERT materials believing them applicable to all hazards, and;

WHEREAS, The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster that, in essence, make them auxiliary responders. Since 1993 when this training was made available nationally by FEMA, communities in 28 states and Puerto Rico have conducted CERT training. Training them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22-24, 2014 that we express our respect, admiration and thanks to the Community Emergency Response Team concept as an example of true Community Service as outlined in the Four Pillars on which The American Legion Family stands and that the Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness Committee urges all Sons of The American Legion members take part in CERT training in their local communities as a way to be better prepared in the event of a disaster.

No.: SAL Res 3 – Convention 2014
Title: Federal Emergency Management Agency
Origin: Homeland Security Committee

WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency recognizes that it takes all aspects of a community (volunteer, faith, and community-based organizations, the private sector, and the public, including survivors themselves) – not just the government – to effectively prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against any disaster. And;

WHEREAS, It is therefore critical that we work together to enable communities to develop collective, mutually supporting local capabilities to withstand the potential initial impacts of these events, respond quickly, and recover in a way that sustains or improves the community's overall well-being, and;

WHEREAS, Over the last two years, FEMA has made significant progress in fostering a whole community approach to emergency management. Through the Maximum of Maximums initiative, national dialogue and outreach efforts, the whole community approach is now prevalent in the emergency management community. Across the country, we are seeing FEMA and others begin to exercise and implement the whole community approach and principles in their day-to-day activities, and;

WHEREAS, The FEMA Mitigation and Insurance Strategic Plan for 2012–2013, embodies the concept of whole community engagement. The plan identifies specific goals, objectives, and strategies to help them better engage federal, state, tribal, territorial, and community partners in advancing mitigation activities. It embraces the reality that it takes all aspects of a community, not just the government, to truly reduce the devastating impact of disasters, and;

WHEREAS, To encourage a whole community approach at the state, local, tribal and territorial levels, FEMA wrote explicit language into the 2011 Homeland Security, Emergency Management, and tribal grant programs referencing the use of funds for private sector engagement. And;

WHEREAS, From 2011-2013, FEMA responded to more disasters than any year in its history. The variety and magnitude of each event testing their capabilities, as well as the capabilities of communities across this country, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22-24, 2014 that we express our respect, admiration and thanks to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for all of their efforts to minimize the affect of all disasters to the communities and citizens of these

Untied States of America as an example of true Community Service as outlined in the Four Pillars on which The American Legion Family stands.

No.: SAL Res 4 – Convention 2014
Title: Endorsement of Steve Curry (KY) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Detachment of Kentucky

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendents of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Steve Curry has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Kentucky as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22-24, 2014, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Kentucky hereby endorses Steve Curry for the high office of National Vice Commander South at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Kentucky and the Department of Kentucky with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Bob Fulkerson and Department Adjutant Ted Austin are on the submitted resolution.

No.: SAL Res 1 – Fall 2014
Title: Endorsement of Kenneth L. Yanke (CO) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendents of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth L. Yanke has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Colorado as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 11-12, 2014, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado hereby endorses Kenneth L. Yanke for the high office of National Vice Commander Midwest at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Colorado and the Department of Colorado with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Mark Kilstrom and Department Adjutant Charles “Pat” Smith are on the submitted resolution.

No.: SAL Res 2 – Fall 2014
Title: Endorsement of Steve Ward (KS) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendents of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Steve Ward has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Kansas as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 11-12, 2014, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Kansas hereby endorses Steve Ward for the high office of National Vice Commander Midwest at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Kansas and the Department of Kansas with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Sam Sparks and Department Adjutant Charles Yunker are on the submitted resolution.

No.: SAL Res 3 – Fall 2014

Title: Judging Criteria for VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth National Awards

Origin: VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth Commissions

WHEREAS, the National organization of the Sons of The American Legion presents annual awards to Detachments, Districts and Squadrons that perform outstanding service to the Sons The American Legion programs; and

WHEREAS, the Americanism, Children and Youth and VA&R Commissions annually presents the awards to Squadrons, Districts and Detachments; and

WHEREAS, the selection of these recipients is based on the information submitted on the Consolidated Squadron Report forms as submitted by the various Squadrons; and

WHEREAS, the data on these report forms, to qualify for District or Detachment awards, a consolidated report has to be physically submitted must be reviewed and selections made based on a process which will be impartial and objective; and

WHEREAS , there are currently no adopted guidelines recorded to facilitate the selection process; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular session, assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana October 11-12, 2014, that the guidelines for selection of awards herein contained be the standard for the VA&R, Americanism and Children & Youth Commissions until amended by the National Executive Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the selection be based upon a well-rounded report that contains service in the majority of standing listed programs of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the criteria be calculated on per capita, of membership as recorded by the National organization, for dollars invested and hours of service for each column heading, reflecting such, in the respective sections of the consolidated report form; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a point value be assigned to the top 40, per capita reports, with the top report receiving 40 points and descending in order to the 40th report receiving 1 point, with any one showing any service receiving 1 point, with the exception of those that have recorded no service receiving no points; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these point values are then totaled after all columns have been calculated, to determine a squadron, district and detachment with a highest grand total point value; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that in event of a tie only the two that have the same highest total point value be subjected to further review and selection made by a simple majority vote of those members present at the respective convention committee meeting held immediately prior to the convention at which the award is to be presented.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, move to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of five resolutions, one Addendum A, one Addendum B. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 14: Veteran of the Month
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of wartime veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has basic programs that contribute to the health and welfare of veterans, their families, the widowed and the orphaned; and

WHEREAS, There prevails a universal tendency to forget the deceased veteran except for special observances such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Pearl Harbor Day, etc; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 159 was adopted at the Seventy-Fifth National Convention in 1993, supporting the Veteran Of The Month program developed and carried out by The Tyler-Seward-Kubish Post 44 American Legion of Bantam, Connecticut, that honors individual deceased veterans by flying their burial flag in a month-long tribute; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognizes that the Veteran Of The Month program will have increased awareness through post ceremonies and recognition programs and therefore should transfer under the auspices of the Internal Affairs Commission; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the concurrence of the Internal Affairs Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That responsibility for the Veteran of the Month program be transferred from the Americanism Commission to the Internal Affairs Commission as an Internal Affairs program; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts of The American Legion increase awareness and continue support of the Veteran Of The Month program.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: This resolution has the approval of the Americanism Commission, the Internal Affairs Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 15: Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post
Origin: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Application for the issuance of a charter to a Post outside of the United States has been received, properly endorsed by officers of the Department which will

accept responsibility for supervision, and all in conformity with Resolution No. 42, adopted by the National Executive Committee at its Meeting of April 29-30, May 1, 1959; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That the National Adjutant is authorized to issue a temporary charter to the following Post to be affiliated with the named Department.

1. **Buenos Aires Post BA01, located in Buenos Aires, Argentina and affiliated with the Department of Mexico.**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: This resolution has the approval of the Membership and Post Activities Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 16: Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post
Origin: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Application for the issuance of a charter to a Post outside of the United States has been received, properly endorsed by officers of the Department which will accept responsibility for supervision, and all in conformity with Resolution No. 42, adopted by the National Executive Committee at its Meeting of April 29-30, May 1, 1959; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That the National Adjutant is authorized to issue a temporary charter to the following Post to be affiliated with the named Department.

1. **Ramstein Post GR02, located on the Ramstein Air Base in Ramstein, Germany, and affiliated with the Department of France.**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: This resolution has the approval of your Membership and Post Activities Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 17: Federal Properties Distinguished Veterans Pass
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2706 (CA) Department Convention
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Currently the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands agencies has a pass system called America the Beautiful that allows holders entrance to more than 2,000 national parks and national wildlife refuges as well as standard amenity fees at national forests and grasslands and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation; and

WHEREAS, A pass covers entrance and standard amenity fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle at per vehicle fee areas (or up to four adults at sites that

charge per person) and in most cases does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by private concessioners; and

WHEREAS, The five agencies that participate in the federal properties Interagency Pass Program are: the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation; and

WHEREAS, There are currently four different passes in this system: Annual Pass ($80 annual pass and available to anyone), Free Annual Pass for U.S. Military, Senior Pass ($10 lifetime pass for age 62 and older), Access Pass (Free for U.S. citizens with permanent disabilities) and a Volunteer Pass; and

WHEREAS, California Resolution Register No. 2706 asked The American Legion to support adoption of a "Distinguished Veteran Pass" for all disabled veterans, fifty percent (50%) or more disabled and the "Distinguished Veterans Pass" would be good for all five agencies recreational lands in the America Beautiful system; and

WHEREAS, The current America the Beautiful series does not have a special pass for veterans of the military service but many veterans would qualify for either the Senior Pass or Access Pass; and

WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Commission feels that the American Legion should pursue the adoption of a Veterans Pass for all honorably discharged military veterans, not just disabled, with the same privileges of the current approved Senior Pass: $10 for a lifetime pass; and

WHEREAS, This Veterans Pass would allow access for those veterans that do not qualify for other passes to get a reasonable access to National Parks; and

WHEREAS, The disabled veteran with a permanent disability is also qualified for the free Access Pass which is for those citizens with a permanent disability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion supports the adoption by the U.S. Congress of a Veterans Pass for all honorably discharged veterans in the amount of $10 for a lifetime pass; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Veterans Pass would be good for free entrance to all National Parks, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation recreational areas to include a 50% discount on approved amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching and specialized interpretive services.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: This resolution has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 18: Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Commission reviewed its resolutions in accordance with the suggested review practices recommended by the National Conventions and the 1961 Report of the Program Study Committee by the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, This review took place during the Internal Affairs Commission meeting held October 13, 2014, in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, This study has found that resolutions should be rescinded because they have been superseded, accomplished, duplicated and/or are obsolete; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That the following resolutions are rescinded for the reasons indicated below.

No.	Year	Meeting	Title (Brief)	Reason
30	1919	Convention	Memorial To American Soldier Dead In France	Accomplished
38	1919	Convention	Support United States Roosevelt Memorial Fund Movement	Obsolete
92	1919	Convention	Propose Memorial In France	Obsolete
68	1920	Convention	Urge The Co-Operation Of The American Legion With The Red Cross In A National "Clean Up" Campaign To Reach All Disabled Persons	Obsolete
11	1920	Spring NEC	Cooperation With Public Health Service	Obsolete
196	1921	Convention	Great War Veterans' Association Of Canada And Establishment Of Additional Post Of The American Legion In Canada	Obsolete
54	1922	Convention	Mutual Aid And Benefit Division	Obsolete
133	1922	Convention	The American Legion Weekly	Obsolete
339	1923	Convention	Colorado Camp Site	Obsolete
24	1923	Spring NEC	Erection Of Memorial At Yorktown	Obsolete
1	1924	Pre-NEC	Operating Profits From The Publication Of Stars And Stripes In France	Obsolete
443	1929	Convention	Superior National Park To Be Conserved As A Memorial	Obsolete
485	1929	Convention	American Legion Monthly Liaison Officers	Obsolete
3	1929	Winter	National Memorial In City Of Cleveland, Ohio For John R. McQuigg	Accomplished
2	1934	Post-NEC	Rescinded Resolution Reference Revocation Of Charter Of Post 842	Accomplished
4	1939	Fall NEC	"Token Of Peace And Union" Memorial At Andersonville, GA	Obsolete
1	1941	Post-NEC	Affiliation Of Aruba Esso Post No. 1	Accomplished
437	1945	Convention	Suitable Shrines Throughout The U.S. In Memory Of Those Lost At Sea Or Reported Missing	Obsolete
63	1945	Fall NEC	Employment Of Five Collegiate Field Representatives	Obsolete
1	1946	Post-NEC	Rescind Cancellation Of Charter Of Duncan-Paris Post No. 1422	Accomplished
144	1946	Spring NEC	Manhattanville Post Appeal	Accomplished
4	1947	Fall NEC	Affiliation Of Stockholm Post Number 1 With Department Of France	Accomplished
1	1947	Pre-NEC	Affiliation Of Aruba Esso Post Number 1	Accomplished
159	1947	Spring NEC	Appeal Of Duncan-Paris Post (Ref Back To Sub-Committee)	Accomplished
8	1948	Fall NEC	Pacific War Memorial	Accomplished
59	1948	Spring NEC	Revocation Of South China Post Number 784, Canton, China	Accomplished
86	1951	Spring NEC	Re-Vocation Of Duncan-Paris Post Charter	Accomplished
4	1953	Pre-NEC	Antwerp Post No. 1	Accomplished
314	1955	Convention	Judge Advocate Or Counsel Argue The Robert J Toth Case Orally Before Supreme Court	Obsolete
16	1955	Spring NEC	Reinstate Wendell O. Pruitt Post No. 399, St. Louis, Mo	Accomplished
214	1956	Convention	American Legion Memorial Of The Pacific	Obsolete

27	**1956**	**Spring NEC**	**Affiliation Of Ernie Pyle Post No. 2, Agana, Guam, With The Department Of Hawaii**	**Accomplished**
12	**1957**	**Spring NEC**	**Approve Affiliation Of John J. Pershing Post, Agana, Guam With Department Of Hawaii**	**Accomplished**
72	**1961**	**Spring NEC**	**Transfer The National Field Service To The National Rehabilitation**	**Accomplished**
19	**1963**	**Fall NEC**	**Authorizing A Temporary Charter For Paddy Flint Post No. 5, Department Of France, Located At Bad Toelz, Germany**	**Accomplished**
3	**1965**	**Special**	**Schweinfurt Post No. 3**	**Accomplished**
21	**1967**	**Spring NEC**	**Asking That American Legion Publish GI Bill History**	**Accomplished**
8	**1968**	**Fall NEC**	**American Legion Membership Recruitment Literature Include Emphasis Designed To Attract Women War Veterans**	**Accomplished**
32	**1971**	**Spring NEC**	**Strengthen American Legion Programs To Provide Assistance And Information To Vietnam Era Veterans**	**Accomplished**
12	**2011**	**Spring NEC**	**Label The Four Pillars On The National Headquarters Building In Indianapolis**	**Accomplished**
249	**2012**	**Convention**	**Appreciation To Host City**	**Accomplished**
61	**2013**	**Convention**	**Appreciation To Host City**	**Accomplished**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK Resolution 18, rescinding of Internal Affairs resolutions. Without reading this resolution, this resolution has the approval of Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK This report has Addendums A and B. I move the action of the Internal Affairs Commission and the SAL Subcommittee become the action of the NEC. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Are there any NEF donations to come forward, other than the two phones that went off for 20 bucks apiece? *(Laughter)*

...*National Vice Commander Neville assumed the chair.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: No? Okay, I would like to appoint the following to the ad hoc committee to study departments and posts located outside of the continental United States: Clarence M. Bacon, past national commander from Maryland; Doug Haggan, national vice commander from France; The chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission; The chairman of the NEC Liaison Committee to Internal Affairs Commission; Charles E. Schmidt, NECman from Oregon; William W. Kile, NECman from West Virginia.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that your appointments be approved. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor? Opposed, no. Motion carried. ...*Commander Helm resumed the chair.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I now call on Ken Orrock to continue with the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee.

Oral Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Kenneth E. Orrock, South Dakota, Chairman

Thank you again. Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, guests, and friends, with the indulgence of the Chair, I'd like to utilize the screen to present a presentation to the National Executive Committee on our current membership year.

Thank you, again, ladies and gentlemen, for having the opportunity to address you about membership. You have my written report in front of you. Also attached to that report is a copy of this slide presentation which will serve as an update on our strategic plan.

Ladies and gentlemen, at this point in time, only 21 departments are ahead year-to-date to their membership for last membership year. That means that 34 departments are performing at a slower rate than they did in our last membership year.

The 21 departments that are performing ahead are denoted in green on the map, but also included would be the Departments of the District of Columbia, Mexico, and the Philippines. The departments denoted in red and blue run somewhere between one and 500 members behind year-to-date. Some of these departments, within just the past several days, dropped below their year-to-date from last year and went from green to yellow, so I'm very confident that those departments are performing well and will be back in the green in our very near future.

The departments denoted in the following colors range from between 500 and 5,000 behind year-to-date. Of concern, specifically, are two departments that are running over 5,000 behind year-to-date in their membership. I'm confident that those issues have been addressed, and some of them relate to the transmittal of permanent members, and we will have those departments back where they need to be. But I will tell you that, year-to-date, we are running over 20,000 members behind where we were at this time last year, and fully 50 percent of that is on the two departments that are behind by over 5,000 each.

Overall, our current membership trend, if it does not change the glide path that we are on, will put us in a position to finish approximately in excess of 100,000 members behind where we were last year. As I've talked to you previously, part of what the Membership & Post Activities Committee has been doing is gathering best practices from the field from those departments that are being successful in their membership efforts, so that we can pull those together and share them with the other departments so that they have an opportunity to find which of those best practices is working for them, and employ them within their own departments. I've loosely grouped these into three categories of the ones we've collected so far, starting with the importance of having a membership team.

Members of the NEC, there are certain departments out there that have extremely excelled in this, and I'd like to call attention specifically to the Department of Alabama who has put together a membership team that appears to represent each and every one of these individual tactics we've identified. Clearly, the most important portion of this is there has to be a command-driven and command-focused membership team and plan in place. You and the members out in those individual posts are going to find what's important, what the commanders find important, and what you, as their national representatives, find important. So we can't underestimate the importance from the top down, membership being a priority.

We found that those departments that are succeeding in their membership programs and in implementation of their five-year membership plans have a broad representation on their membership teams. Not just relying on members that have worked their way through different positions in the department, but anyone that has the passion and energy

to work on membership programs in The American Legion. Inclusive membership teams are outperforming exclusive membership teams.

Several departments have stated that the utilization of the chain of command in such instances as the distribution of membership cards has proven very successful. Again going back to a commander-driven and commander-focused program, when that department commander hands off membership cards to his or her vice commanders who, in turn, hand them off to district commanders, county commanders, and finally to post commanders, everyone in that chain understands that the person above them has placed a priority on membership, and it also fosters a better communication level. An emphasis on communication is also key and accentuated by the use of the chain of command.

Flexibility has been proven to be an important factor. Your membership teams need to have the ability to adapt to changing circumstances and to exploit circumstances that come to their attention, without having to wait to the next meeting to do so. Those teams employing email lists, videoconferencing, and conference telephone calls, have been able to have the flexibility to adapt to changes in the membership plan or membership environment and be more successful.

Finally, I can't stress enough the importance of accountability. Each successive member of the chain of command needs to work to be able to fulfill those promises or obligations they made to the higher commands as far as what they were going to do for membership. If we only speak about it once to our membership workers and never hold them accountable or discuss it again to either offer assistance in what they're struggling with or to praise them when they show success, membership ceases to be a priority.

The next broad group of practices can best be described as sticking to the basics. These are the things The American Legion has always done to be successful in membership, and these are the things that we need to continue to do. An active post will call for an active membership and show growth. Active posts are those posts that participate in the American Legion programs and publicize them and are out in the community, working and doing what we do best at the grass-roots level to promote Americanism, programs for children and youth, our national defense, and service to our fellow veterans. Active posts show an increase in retention, because when individual members are able to participate in these programs or see the good works they're doing in their individual communities, they want to continue to be a member of that association and continue in helping with the good works.

And finally, as every membership worker will tell you, the only way we're going to get a new member is to ask a qualified veteran to become a member of this organization. Many of us that do not come from a sales background have to retrain ourselves to ask that final question, "Will you sign on the line? Will you give me a check today?" Or for our savvy next generation of membership workers, "Let me pull out my smartphone and swipe your credit card. We can close this deal now."

We have to be willing to do this, ladies and gentlemen. We have to make sure that everybody participating in our membership program is willing to ask to close the sale. They're willing to ask that person, "Will you be a member?" And when they come up with a reason why they can't do it today, offer them ways that they can do it today, because, "I have my smart phone," "I take checks or cash," or, "Can I have somebody call you first thing tomorrow to make arrangements to get you signed up in the American Legion?"

Finally, we have to identify and exploit target-rich environment. Ladies and gentlemen, no longer will the veteran necessarily walk into our local post and ask to join. We have to go to the veteran, which means we have to get the most bang for our buck and go to the locations where those veterans are. These would include things such as career fairs. These would include things such as military or National Guard pre-

deployment screenings, or annual trainings, the Association of the United States Army meeting, or any of the many meetings throughout the United States where groups of military and former military members might gather together.

We also want to look at events where the programs of The American Legion can be marketed and utilized: children and youth fairs or centers, school career days, sports and athletic associations meetings. We will grow our membership by increasing awareness of our program and by placing us in a position where that qualified veteran comes up and says, "Hey, I also served. Thanks for what you're doing." And we, in turn, say, "Thank you for your service. Are you a member of our organization?"

We have to remember that at many of these events, membership has to be an add-on program. It should not be the emphasis of what you're doing there. But I would task all those involved in participating to make sure that at least one person is designated to be the person ready with applications; ready with lists that show the dues for the various departments or the various posts in that immediate area; people that have telephone lists, and a pen and paper ready to take down names and numbers.

We don't want to ever be seen as using membership to override the good works and programs we do in the community. But it can be as simple as designating that blue cap Legionnaire that's handing out the water bottles in the corner to be the person that you're going to direct somebody to. And after the good works that we do and the money we're able to get to those veterans and get them into programs, get them signed up, get them the appointments they need and deserve, when they want to thank us by saying, "I'd like to be part of your organization," we can direct them to that Legionnaire over in the corner handing out water bottles who also has applications in his pocket.

Finally, in those areas that cross over between areas of posts, districts, or even in some of those areas where you have a metropolitan or urban area that crosses over between departments, work collaboratively between those areas and work as a team to get it. A new member for the Department of Indiana is just as important as a new member in the Department of South Dakota, and we should never turn away a qualified veteran because they're not from our department but want to join.

Finally, the most proven, the most successful, and the solid track record of the revitalization programs for our districts and counties has proven the single-most effective tool in growing our membership. You've all heard about this multidisciplinary approach which brings together our service officers, our program chairs, and members of the community into a post to reenergize and revitalize the post, district, and county. This is proven to work across the spectrum, whether we're talking about an individual post in a rural small town, or a large former mega-post in a large urban area, and everything in between. The template that has been developed by the membership staff and the Membership division can be placed down on any of these, and it has worked successfully in every case.

We also increase the retention of our DMS members who have joined through one of our direct marketing campaigns, because suddenly they're being communicated with by the post, they're being made to feel a member of that larger Legion community, and they're much more likely to renew when they have a face-to-face contact or at least a kind word on the telephone from a fellow Legionnaire that appreciates them being a member of this organization. And also, it fosters and, in a lot of ways, has saved lives. As the national adjutant pointed out in his letter to the Convention, the success of the revitalization in the Bronx County can be directly attributed to at least two instances in which I can honestly say lives were probably saved.

As you might remember, one lapsed veteran was found after 20 years of membership, bedridden in his home, being cared for by an elderly wife, and not receiving any of the services that he was entitled to from his service in the Korean War. Within

mere moments, we were able to have a service officer talking to him on the phone, and within the next week he had appointments and transportation arranged and started to begin to receive those services.

In another instance when an elderly veteran was literally being held hostage by his granddaughter's boyfriend and his veteran benefits collected and used to support them, he took off running out the door when they saw The American Legion come knocking. And those veterans were able to get not only medical assistance, but law enforcement involved, and provide for that veteran in his waning years. I cannot stress enough the importance of utilization of district and county revitalization.

But membership shouldn't always be a downer. Membership should be fun. We should participate in programs. You've all received a P-38 can opener as a gift of the No. 2 recruiter last year, Ken Teunissen from Post 15 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This is one thing that Ken does when he's out talking to individuals, and he can bet when he hands one of those to somebody and they can look at it and tell him what they are, he or she is probably a qualified veteran that should be a member. It works, make it fun.

On the screen behind me, you will see a young lady by the name of Pinocchio. It might be sort of hard to see from there, but Pinocchio is the goat that travels around with the South Dakota membership chairman. And you'll see our leading candidate up there holding Pinocchio at a district meeting versus at one of his visits into the state of South Dakota.

Now, this is directly out of the *Membership Public Relations Guide* that all of you have seen that was distributed and approved earlier this year. Pinocchio goes to the district commander who has the lowest membership. That commander, in turn, can get it down to the post commander with the lowest membership who, in turn, can give it to the last person on the list that hasn't renewed, and it stays with them until they sign up, and Pinocchio works her way around. By the way, the name "Pinocchio" is you can't lie to her about membership. She knows what your numbers are. *(Laughter)*

In the *Membership Public Relations Guide*, it says back in the '50s when this was utilized, I believe their goat changed hands 65 times in the first day. Everyone wants to renew when the goat comes knocking on their door. *(Laughter)*

Also, Pinocchio has helped the Auxiliary in their opportunities, and I will tell you that we raised money for programs by auctioning off a kiss to the district commander at just about every one of the district meetings. Finally, a group of us have formed a group called the Goatbusters because we're not afraid of no goat. We're going to do our job at membership, and we'll pet Pinocchio at the meetings, but she's not going to come to our doorstep because we're going to do our job and get it done. Membership doesn't have to be a downer. Membership doesn't have to be something built on numbers. We can have fun with membership. And I'll tell you, Pinocchio's had a good life.

As a disclaimer I've been told to say that no goats were harmed in the production of this membership program, and Pinocchio has traveled throughout the state of South Dakota in luxury in her padded kennel in the back of the membership chairman's pickup truck, and she's enjoyed every district meeting, including the time she decided to start chewing on the POW/MIA table, but that was quickly remedied. *(Laughter)*

Ladies and gentlemen, you truly are the man in the arena, as Teddy Roosevelt said back in 1910. Each and every one of you can end up being marred, bloodied up, muddied up if you get out there and work membership in your departments. You are the leaders in your department. Those red caps are recognized, and when you place an emphasis on membership, they will too.

At the end of the day, when we stand up before Commander Helm at the end of the year, I hope we can say that we succeeded and gave him what those goals are and made a hundred percent. But if we don't, I certainly hope each of us can look in the mirror and

say, "I did everything I could. I was in the fight, I was in the arena. I worked membership to the best of my ability, so I'll never be standing back wondering, 'What if I had just done that? What if I had just gone to that event? What if I had just carried that membership application with me that time I met the veteran at Walmart and started talking to him about The American Legion?'"

Be the man or woman in the arena. Be the one out there making those efforts, so at the end of the day, you can look the commander in the eye and say, "Commander, I did my best for you, we made it." And if not, "I did everything I could."

Mr. Commander, that concludes my report. I'd like to thank you for allowing me to serve as the chairman of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. And I'm available for any questions that might be posed by the members of the NEC.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Kenneth E. Orrock, South Dakota, Chairman
October 14, 0214

As of October 14, 2014, the total 2015 membership is 1,236,346 – 43,699 members behind this same time for 2014. These membership results do not include newly acquired 2015 DMS members. The total DMS members acquired to date for 2015 is 39,145.

During the recent 55% Target Date, 21 departments membership totals were ahead of this same time last year. We need to see this type of increase from more of the department's in the upcoming months, if we expect the 2015 membership goal of 1,992,682 to be achieved. Based on current projections, if nothing changes in the way the departments are performing, we will end the 2015 membership campaign in traditional membership with 1,875,000 – 117,682 less than the goal we set for ourselves! This will affect how we move forward with the strategic plan. Attached to this written report are slides which reflect the results from the October target date as well as best practices learned.

We are entering the second year of the 5-year strategic plan. It kicked off with the 2015 renewal campaign which began the end of June. One area of interest will be the renewal behavior of the more than 14,000 DMS members transferred into local posts since the plan was instituted. The goal is to get a higher retention rate due to early movement into local posts – the first report from these efforts will be available January 2015. The second concern is the recruitment of new members. Our projection for the year is 69,000 new traditional members signed up – 10,000 less than last year.

The online renewal program continues to perform well adding great value to the renewal process. The 2014 campaign resulted in 219,837 members renewing online. To date, 113,368 have renewed online. We expect those totals to continue to increase. Online renewal has been a great addition to the renewal campaign.

National Staff, working in conjunction with local volunteers, were directly involved in more than 700 posts being started or revitalized through the efforts of District Revitalization teams in 2013 (staff efforts run from Jan 1 – Dec 31). We expect that number to be more than 1,000 for 2014. There are more than 30 District Revitalizations planned between October and December 2014. The program does more than just transfer members it also gets new members signed up. The two year total for new members signed up is 667.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. *…Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried. We now have a guest speaker this morning, Stuart Parker, executive vice president and chief executive officer-elect, USAA. *(Applause)*

Stuart Parker
Executive Vice President and CEO-Elect, USAA

Well, I'm very impressed with the group here because, when I realized that I had the opportunity to come to Indianapolis, I started thinking about my childhood and how The American Legion impacted me. So I am proud to let you know that, as a 15-year-old and a 16-year-old boy in Valdosta, Georgia, I was the recipient of many American Legion charities and endowments.

So I was in the ROTC unit in my high school, and I remember getting The American Legion medal and thinking about, wow, what an organization that really cares about us. Then later on, in my junior year, I served on our debate team, but also had the opportunity to compete in the oratory competition at our local post.

But here's what I thought was really remarkable about that experience. My mom had to work during the day. I could not go to the district competition, I didn't have a way to get there. So one of the ladies from the Auxiliary volunteered to pick me up from my home and drive me two hours to that competition. I remember speaking with her and talking about the commitment that she had not only for me, not only for The American Legion, but just for youth in general. I just want to say thank you. Thank you for being a part of my life and for all the youth that haven't had this opportunity to come and speak to you. *(Applause)*

You are making a difference. You are absolutely making a difference in our country and in the youth, but also for the military veterans. So I have the responsibility starting in January to be the CEO of USAA, and I will tell you that USAA is committed to serving the military community. We believe in our mission. Our mission is to absolutely improve the financial security of the military community.

So I had a few minutes a little while ago to talk to Jeff Stoffer about how our mission and the mission of the American Legion really are very, very similar, that we care about these veterans and we want to help them. Over the next five years, one and a half million men and women who serve on active duty will be transitioning to civilian life. They are going to be looking towards you, they'll be looking towards our company for help, and I believe we can stand together and help them.

When I finished college, I joined the United States Air Force and became an Air Force pilot. But also in my young days as a military pilot, I met my wife who was an Air Force nurse. So not only am I a proud military veteran, I'm a proud military spouse. What I'll tell you about that is that it takes a family. During Desert Shield and Desert Storm when I was flying missions and my wife was getting called up in the Reserves, I soon realized and recognized the sacrifices that everyone is expected to make.

But it is that core of making sure that those veterans are taken care of not only when they are on active duty, but when they leave the military service. So my commitment to you is that USAA will stand strong with The American Legion to make sure that we offer them the very best products and services that are right for them. Are they making sure that they're getting the proper advice? So one of the things we stand for is making sure that our military veterans understand how they could take just a few small steps to ensure their financial security.

It may not surprise you that, through our surveys, we have found that the enlisted veteran, that we have almost 50 percent of them living paycheck to paycheck, and there's no reason that that should be the case. One of our big missions is that we're going to

make sure that those veterans learn how to build a budget, take small steps so that they can achieve the financial security that not only they deserve, but their families deserve as well.

I'm really optimistic about our partnership not only over the last four years, where we've had over 100,000 American Legion members join USAA. But what I'm proud to report is that those American Legion members are in a better financial state because of that. And I want to say thank you for your partnership.

I hope to have the opportunity to come back and spend time with you in the future. I will tell you that we remain committed, and definitely, I remain committed to you. So thank you again for everything you've done for me personally, but also what you've done for this country. God bless. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: That concludes this morning's session. There are no announcements. We're going to recess for lunch, but we will come back at the regular time, 1:30. Have a good lunch.

...At 11:58 a.m., the National Executive Committee of the American Legion stood in recess.

Wednesday, October 15, 2014, Afternoon Session

... At 1:30 p.m. the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Michael D. Helm.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: The colors of our country being in place. Hand salute. Two. *...The National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I now call on Mike Schlee of Maryland, the chairman of the National Security Commission, for the purpose of a report.

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

Thank you, Mr. Commander, and good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It's a pleasure to be with you. You have a full report in front of you of about four pages in length. I'd just like to emphasize a few of the bullet points which I think are the most important and cogent points.

First and foremost, at the 96th National Convention in the national security and foreign relations arena, about 87 resolutions were adopted, which cover the full gamut of the defense and foreign policy issues. I can assure you that we do have adequate resolutions to cover almost every contingency. I've outlined four of the key issues that I think we'll be facing in the 114th Congress.

I'd also like to talk about defense resourcing. When I was talking to the department commanders, I had the opportunity to talk with them Monday afternoon; I kind of reverted to some Washington lingo. But for the last four or five or six months, we've seen the disappearance of two of the Washington words: The D word and the S word, the D word being the deficit word, the S word being the sequestration word.

However, my friends, once this off-year election is over, I can assure you when that 114th Congress returns, there will be a marked return of both the D word and the S word. And the chief of staff of the Army, General Odierno, has said very clearly: If sequestration returns for any period of time, the United States Army will not be able to accomplish its mission. Think that through. The United States Army will not be able to accomplish its mission. So the work on defense resourcing is cut out for us, gentlemen, and the challenge is truly there.

ISIS conflict, don't have a lot of input. We did a little, brief discussion for you, though. All I see as your chairman is this conflict is going to be long and it's going to be costly. And this is a time when we're still looking again of the return of the S word and sequestration.

The fourth issue I want to touch on very briefly, as most of you know, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced in March a relooking and a reorganization of the entire government accounting process for our prisoners and missing in action. That is well under way at this stage in the game. I know the staff has been on a series of continuing conversations with Alisa Stack and some of the people that are doing this consolidation. But basically, it's going to be a single command for DPMO, which is based in Washington, the Defense POW/MIA Office; JPAC, which is out in Hawaii, which is the Joint POW/MIA command in Hawaii; and, of course, the earth sciences and all the science folks.

Tentative setup time for operation and functioning is January of 2015, so we'll be out of the box. The staff prepares periodic updates on what they know about the developments. If you're not on their weekly activity report, get on it: nsfr@legion.org, and they'll be happy to stick you on that weekly update report.

I've hit the issues that I think are most important, that I wanted to give some emphasis to today. In closing, let me personally and on behalf of the commission thank National Commander Michael Helm, our national executive liaison folks as well as the entire executive committee for your continuing support of our efforts to ensure strong national defense and protect U.S. interests worldwide. Thank you.

Report: National Security Commission
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman
October 15-16, 2014

The National Security Commission has not met since our report to the National Executive Committee on August 25, 2014 prior to the 96th National Convention and we have no emergency matters to address at this time. However, we want to bring to your attention a number of very important issues which we will be tracking and working on in the months ahead.

96th National Convention Resolution Highlights

The Convention Committee on National Security considered 104 resolutions and nearly 90 were subsequently approved by the 96th National Convention. Those adopted positions address a multitude of national security and foreign policy issues including:

National Defense Budget

- The effects of sequestration and its additional impending spending cuts in the DoD FY 2015 budget would reduce the army to its smallest size since before World War II while significantly reducing the size and capabilities of the other branches of the armed services.
- Not only do the spending cuts downsize the force structure, but also reduce service members pay and benefits, which could potentially have a discouraging effect on highly trained men and women in terms of recruiting and reenlistment.
- While the DoD shrinks the size and scope of the military, our major adversaries, Russia and China, along with rouge nations such as North Korea and Iran are ramping up their military stocks and capabilities at the same time as terrorist threats and acts continue.

War Powers/ Identifying National Interests before Committing Military Forces and Assets

- There is no greater responsibility of a government than to protect its population and infrastructure.
- The War Powers Resolution of 1973 requires the President to advise the Congress and American people what national security interest is served by committing us forces to combat in a sovereign nation.
- The United States is currently under significant economic and budgetary constraints which have the potential to negatively impact the ability of the military to protect the nation.
- It has been shown repeatedly an uninformed and uninvolved public will quickly lose confidence, and deny military operations they do not understand.

Military Occupational Specialty Standards

1. There are approximately 205,000 women serving on active duty in the military comprising 14.5% of the total active force, and approximately 130,000 women

serving in the National Guard and Reserves comprising 18% of the total guard and reserve all serving with distinction, honor, and valor.

2. In 2013, the DoD issued an order mandating that women have the same opportunities as men in combat jobs.
3. The Armed Services have been developing plans to update physical standards, training, education, and other programs for thousands of military occupational specialties that must be made available to female service members by January 1, 2016.
4. In accordance with this mandate, if some military occupational specialties remain closed to women that the DoD must explain why.
5. There are valid concerns about the physical demands required of soldiers to qualify and service in the combat arms; army and Marine Corps infantry, armor, artillery, Army Special Forces and Navy Seals.
6. The American Legion has called on Congress to conduct open hearings to ensure proper oversight of this issue in order to maintain the highest standards of readiness.

Department of Defense Military Retirement and Compensation

- In the attempt to slow the growth in military personnel costs, the DoD 2013 budget request called for the creation of an independent commission to study the military retirement system.
- The Murray-Ryan Bill and the Bipartisan Budget Act 2013 were passed with the devastating cut to military COLA included, though no input was received from the DoD.
- On February 12, 2014, under tremendous pressure from the military community, Congress overwhelmingly voted 95-3 to repeal the COLA cut for all military members who joined prior to January 1, 2014 and President Obama signed the repeal into law.
- The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission continue review the military compensation and retirement programs in preparation of their recommendations for financial sustainability to the President and Congress due February of 2015.
- Any changes to the existing military retirement system may violate contracts made with military retirees and currently serving military personnel, and would undermine morale and readiness.

Defense Resourcing

Americans should be braced for a long battle against the brutal terrorist group Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Again, U.S. resolve will be tested. A number of defense experts are estimating that we will be conducting military actions in the Middle East for another 30 years.

This is at a time when the defense budget faces even more cuts if sequestration returns in fiscal year 2016. In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee this month, Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he would recommend sending U.S. ground troops to Iraq if airstrikes weren't enough.

The U.S. has committed about 1,600 troops in support roles in Iraq in recent months after U.S. troops withdrew in 2011. President Obama has ordered ongoing air strikes in Iraq and Syria against terrorist targets.

As you well know, sequestration will continue to cut about $500 billion out of the defense budget over the next nine years in addition to the nearly $500 billion cut in spending as a result of the 2011 Budget Control Act.

Our military is facing constant pressure with new missions, from military strikes in the Middle East to responding to the Ebola epidemic in Africa. You can't cut the military while we keep asking them to do more.

ISIS Conflict

In light of these severe budget cuts, U.S. airstrikes against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) will cost tens of billions of dollars per year, further straining the DoD's budget as it still adjusts to mandatory budget cuts put in place.

The strikes will cost up to $10 million a day and could cost between $2.4 billion and $8.6 billion a year. Lawmakers are relying on a pool of extra wartime funding the U.S. has used for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan but leaders in the Pentagon say it's time to get rid of the budget caps.

Efforts to eliminate sequestration have always been met by partisanship on Capitol Hill because of differences in how to make up for the higher spending. Generally, Republicans want to look for deeper, permanent cuts in domestic programs, while Democrats think that higher taxes should make up for it.

New "DPMO"

The consolidation of Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) is underway. The work that is being led by senior DoD civilian, Alisa Stack, who is the head of a transition team: the Personnel Accounting Consolidation Taskforce (PACT). Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Assistant Secretary Michael Lumpkin have both stated that communication with the families will be among their highest priorities.

The first among many adjustments will apply to budget and to communications. More details will soon follow regarding those areas of concern. The instructions from PACT are now to begin acting as one agency, with initial operational capability set for January 15, 2015. Full operational capability is set to occur on January 15, 2016. Until the start-up date early next year, DPMO and JPAC plus all other active elements of the accounting community, have been directed to continue their work at hand. PACT is promising that the mission will not be interrupted by this reorganization plan.

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Michael D. Helm, our NEC Liaison and the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee for their continuing support of our efforts to "provide for the common defense" and protect U.S. national interests worldwide.

Addendum A

Received and Recorded

Resolution No. 2708 (MI) (2014 DEC)**: Military Occupational Specialty Standards**
Resolution No. 2709 (PA) (2014 DEC)**: Two Percent Pay Increase for Military Personnel**

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Attached to the National Security Commission report is Addendum A. I move that the action of the

National Security Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried. I now call on Ralph Bozella from Colorado, chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, for the purpose of a report.

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

Thank you, Mr. Commander. Good afternoon, everybody. As chairman of the VA&R Commission, I submitted ten resolutions to the National Executive Committee Subcommittee for Resolutions for consideration.

I want to thank National Commander Mike Helm for his comments this morning on the VA&R Commission and Division work, and for his efforts to keep the focus and the work that was begun last year and focused by Past National Commander Dan Dellinger, for keeping that focus on veterans affairs. Absolutely the environment where we need to just keep moving ahead for changes in the VA.

To that effect, the System Worth Saving Task Force completed its year from November of this past year up and through May, and I told you that at the pre-NEC meeting before the National Convention. I showed you a booklet with Past National Commander Ron Conley on the cover. Of course, after ten years of the System Worth Saving Task Force in that form, we were continuing to work in that way, and I told you that the reports were online. Well, now all the reports from that have been submitted for clearance so that they should be online in the very near future.

This summer we started something new, it was called the Veteran Crisis Command Center. Even as I reported to you at the pre-Convention NEC meeting, we still had a couple of more of those to go. So we have completed 11 of those to this date. And that's where we had hospital visits, that's an element of the System Worth Saving; we had claims help; and we had counseling for veterans; and where we still have also the ability to do our ROAR visits as well. All that was part of that. And to this end, what we're doing is combining all of that in something called Veteran Outreach Centers. Now, that's a new term, a new word for us, and it's the Veteran Outreach Centers.

Now, there should be a publication on your desk that will wrap up for you what happened at the 11 Veteran Crisis Command Centers, and then it also displays the first Veteran Outreach Center. So what we're doing now is combining the elements of the System Worth Saving and the elements that we've learned at the Veteran Crisis Command Center and also our Regional Office Action Review teams where we can review the claims process at a regional office.

So we're combining those three things for the Veterans Outreach Centers, giving us the ability to respond to issues at local VAs in the manner in which we need to. If we need to do more time in a hospital visit, we will. If we needed to spend more time there on claims, we will. If we need to spend more time reviewing their claims process, we will.

Our veterans outreach meetings will all start with a town hall meeting, because that's where we hear the issues from veterans. We invite the VA to be part of that. Whenever we're working at these events, we're really working hand-in-hand and shoulder-to-shoulder with VA to approve the quality of life for our veterans.

At the Washington, D.C. first Veteran Outreach Center, we helped 386 veterans and their family. This summer, with all of the crisis centers and the one VOC, we've helped over 2,700 veterans and bringing in nearly a million dollars in claims to deserving veterans and their families.

We don't have a schedule for a year. Instead, we want to be more responsive to issues. To that end, we may be calling your department and emailing your department saying we would like to come to visit a VA hospital near you and we may need the help of your local Legion post and your department. We'll do the best job that we can. We're learning some things in order to communicate better, so that you may be able to work with us.

The Legion volunteering, the VAVS, the fourth quarter of the year is over, as October 1 began the new federal year, and we have over 7,857 regularly scheduled volunteers who have put in 802,396 hours plus 54,564 occasional volunteers for another 856,960 hours. Altogether it's over $19 million worth of savings in volunteer time to the VA hospitals. And we still need representatives and deputy representatives, reps and deps, from our department to help out with that program, an area also where the Sons of The American Legion have proved vitally important.

In our claims update, our claims representatives, over 3,000 of those from The American Legion, continue to work with VA monetary claims. This past year, we were able to work with 735,000 claimants. Over $758 million on a monthly level were brought in for last year's total of $72.7 billion in claims to veterans that are represented by The American Legion.

In the National Cemetery side, the NCA's Rural Initiative that will assist 1.8 million veterans is being reviewed and monitored closely by us, and this has to do with the states that do not have a national veterans cemetery.

I want to recognize some of the people that have done a really good job of working with us this year. I want to recognize Phil Youngblood as our commission vice chairman from the Department of Georgia. They're doing a tremendous job with us in continuing that spirit of getting things done in a hurry, fast, with the right attitude. Sometimes we don't have a whole lot of time to mobilize things this summer. And, of course, Verna Jones for outstanding work as our previous director at the division. *(Applause)*

And very pleased to announce that Louis Celli who is moving over from the Legislative Division now to be our director for the VA&R division. Really pleased to have a man with Lou's expertise coming over to help with the VA&R. *(Applause)*

The last thing that we're going to be doing, we are planning now for our next commission meeting which will be at the Washington Conference and where we will be divided into our three subcommittees of Health Administration, Benefits, and National Cemeteries. Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman
October 15-16, 2014

There were ten (10) resolutions of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission submitted to the Resolution Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee for consideration. Seven (7) resolutions were referred for consideration by the 2014 National Convention. Two (2) resolutions were presented by the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. One (1) resolution was presented by the Department of Michigan.

Resolutions

Five (5) were forwarded to the National Executive Committee for adoption

(Origin: VA&R): **Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP)-2014-2015**

(Origin: Michigan 27022014MI): **Exempt VA Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provisions**

Origin: South Dakota 732014SD): **Department of Veterans Affairs Preservation of National Historic Properties**

(Origin: Pennsylvania 2902014PA): **Legislation to provide Reporting, Tracking, and Action Dealing with Sexual Assaults at Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities**

(Origin: VA&R): **Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

Two (2) were received and recorded

(Origin: Minnesota 1092014MN): **The Department of Veterans Affairs Work Force be Comprised of 50 % or More Veterans**

(Origin: Ohio 2292014OH): **Department of Veterans Affairs to Provide Chiropractic Services**

Two (2) were rejected

(Origin: California 322014CA): **Patriot Outreach Program**

(Origin: Michigan 2372014MI): **Tobacco-Related Disabilities**

One (1) was held for further study

(Origin: Arizona 2672014AZ): **Change the Manner in Which Veteran Claims are Determined**

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

System Worth Saving

Past, Present and Future of VA Health Care

From November 2013 to May 2014, the System Worth Saving Task Force accompanied by American Legion national staff, conducted site visits to randomly selected healthcare systems and conducted veteran town hall meetings in nearby American Legion posts. At the town hall meetings, task force members facilitated discussions to identify issues and concerns on the quality of care in order to assess the evolution of care for veterans since the establishment of the program.

During the site visits the task force conducted interviews with staff responsible for the budget, human resources, enrollment, outreach, mental health, the intensive care unit, long-term care, homeless programs, information technology, patient advocate and construction. For each of the program areas, we wanted to understand what progress has been made over the last 10 years, the current situation, and five-year plan and goals. The following challenges were cited as nationwide trends:

1. Several VAMCs continues to struggles to fill critical leadership positions across multiple departments. These gaps have caused communication breakdowns between medical center leadership and staff that work within these departments. Veterans Health Administration (VHA) conducts a rural analysis for hard to recruit areas and look into different options to support the VAMC in getting the talent they need to better serve veterans. Flexibility is a must in

these scenarios to ensure that veteran health care is consistent across each Veterans Integrated Support Network (VISN).

2. Most facilities see the Strategic Capital Investment Plan (SCIP) as being an excellent planning tool for the near future; however, it creates major issues in the short term when a certain medical center is forced to put priority construction projects into it. Each facility needs flexibility to adjust the priority level of projects within the SCIP program to ensure that long-awaited construction needs are being met.
3. Broken communication between the medical centers and the veterans in the medical centers' catchment area is an issue. Several VAMCs need to increase transparency, provide crisis information immediately and provide general health care information on a regular basis. They also need improved communications with the local community, including media representatives, potential hires, current employees, veterans service organizations, family members and patients.
4. There is an increasing risk of closure for several intensive care units (ICU). VHA should consider the following alternatives: fully reinstating intensive care units at facilities that have closed them, standing down all surgical procedures that could cause a need for an ICU, or strengthening their memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the civilian medical center to ensure that an intensive care unit bed will be available in case of emergency. This includes remaining without an ICU but continuing to perform ambulatory procedures that meet the strict criteria established by the VA as appropriate for facilities without an ICU.
5. Fully implement and using the Primary Aligned Care Team (PACT) model as it was designed. Several VAMCs have had a slow roll out with the introduction of the PACT model to their veterans. By not fully implementing the model, several VAMCs are missing the mark when it comes to delivering patient centered care, a fairly new practice that allows veterans to have say in the decisions that are being made about their health.

VETERANS CRISIS COMMAND CENTERS

Veterans Crisis Command Centers

The American Legion's National headquarters staff, National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) personnel, accredited representatives, grief counselors, and VA personnel, to include Vet Centers have been setting up various Veterans Crisis Command Centers (VCCCs) around the nation to respond to the needs of veterans and family members affected by the extensive VA wait times. As the nation's largest veteran's service organization, it has been essential that The American Legion provide the tools and resources necessary to assist affected veterans and family members.

Upon arrival, a town hall meeting was conducted at a local American Legion Post. The forum was designed to discuss how the VA is attempting to correct its failures and how to ensure these failures are never repeated. Additionally, national headquarters staff have asked veterans and family members how VA is attempting to rectify their mistakes.

Services provided at the VCCCs included: assistance with VA Healthcare, VA Benefits, and Counseling. Accredited representatives have been available to assist veterans with enrolling in VA healthcare, and scheduling appointments. American Legion and National Veterans Legal Services Program accredited representatives collaborated with Veterans Benefits Administration representatives to assist veterans in filing claims for compensation and veterans have been awarded more than $880,000 in retroactive payments as of September 2014.

Since June 2014, The American Legion's collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs at VCCCs have assisted more than 2,700 veterans in Phoenix, AZ; Fayetteville, NC; El Paso, TX; Fort Collins, CO; St. Louis, MO; Baltimore, MD; Clarksburg, WV; Charlotte, NC; Honolulu; and Harlingen, TX. The American Legion concluded the last VCCC in White City, OR.

MOVING BEYOND THE CRISIS

On Monday, August 25, 2014 at The American Legion 96th National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, Verna Jones, Director Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division and Ralph Bozella, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission made a presentation to the National Commander Advisory Committee regarding proposed changes in the System Worth Saving (SWS) program. While the SWS Task Force has been The American Legion's primary tool used over the past 10 years to evaluate the quality of health care services provided by the VA and has been used to gage veterans ability to access VA health care services, Ms. Jones and Chairman Bozella reported that it is time to elevate this program to the next level.

Since June 2014, The American Legion's National Headquarter Staff has traveled across the country setting-up 11 VCCCs working with VA to defuse the wait-time crisis and claims backlog. While there is still a lot of work to be done, it is time to shift from crisis mode and continue to provide the same level of services to our nation's veterans. Therefore, the proposal submitted to the National Commander Advisory Committee proposed to combine elements of the SWS program with the VCCC and the Regional Action Review Teams (ROAR) visits under the umbrella of the "Veterans Outreach Centers."

The Veterans Outreach Centers will include on-site American Legion staff working hand-in-hand with VA to help veterans and their families with claims issues and VA health care issues. The VOC's will include site visits to VA hospitals as part of our work, staffed by VA&R staff, representatives from US Congressional and Senatorial offices by request, and the VA&R Commission chairman, when necessary.

The proposal called for establishing a new committee from the existing VA&R Commission subcommittees on health administration and benefits. These committee members will not conduct site visits, but they will review the work and reporting of the VOC teams, determine the effectiveness and value of the VOC teams, and make recommendations for future process development.

The chairmen of the subcommittees on health, benefits and cemetery will be part of the new committee. Scheduling of the VOCs will be in response to VA issues as they occur, instead of a set schedule. Another key component is that we want to involve state departments and local Legion leadership at the VOC sites, allowing more local participation and leadership development in local problems with VA health care and claims.

The proposal was approved with minor changes by the National Commander Advisory Committee and have been approved to set-up twelve (12) VOCs, with one occurring each month. The first Town Hall meeting and VOC was held at the Washington, DC VA Medical Center. The second town hall meeting and VOC will be held at American Legion Post 496, at 5938 East Parkcrest St., Long Beach, CA. in Los Angeles, California. The town hall meeting will be held on October 27, 2014 and the VOC from October 28-30, 2014. The remaining sites are to be determined.

Washington DC Veterans Outreach Center

On September 30, 2014, The American Legion launched the first Veterans Outreach Center (VOC) at the Washington DC VA Medical Center, which provided the same

services that were provided during the VCCCs, yet the name change signifies VA moving out of crisis mode.

The event was very well attended with 386 veterans and family members of veterans seeking help at the VOC from September 30-October 2, 2014. The American Legion will continue to schedule VOCs around the country in order to continue assisting veterans with the healthcare concerns, claims assistance, and counseling.

LEGION VOLUNTEERING

This year again has been a productive year for The American Legion's Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program. As of the end of the 4th quarter, there are over 7,857 regularly scheduled volunteers and who serve veterans in VA Medical Centers, Clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses and State Veterans Homes across the nation.

The regularly scheduled volunteers contributed 802,396 hours and occasional volunteers contributed 54,564 hours at the end of FY 2014. Their combined service adds up to over 856,960 hours which is valued at over $19,324,448 in savings to the federal government.

This year's VA Voluntary Service National Executive Committee meeting is scheduled to meet in Washington, DC from October 22 – 23, 2014. A report from the meeting will be provided at the Spring 2015 National Executive Committee Meeting.

CLAIMS UPDATE

The American Legion continues to press the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) on speeding up their process while continually improving upon the quality and accuracy of claims decision. During the year, we have given the VBA many ideas to improve their process and image. Some ideas were well received and it shows. First, with the Fully Developed Claims initiative, we found that by allowing VA employees to focus on one initiative, the claims were being processed in the shortest amount of time and veterans receive their benefits quicker. Secondly, we greatly assisted the VBA by identifying ambiguity in their policy letters to the VA employees giving them. A third example of The American Legion assisting VBA are with the Stakeholders Enterprise Portal (SEP) and Veterans Benefits Management System. Both of these computer software systems are new to the VBA and have come a long way since their birth. The American Legion pushed for additions such as the Veteran Service Organization (VSO) work queue in SEP which is in the final stages. The VSO work queue allows everyone to communicate within the program and review work being submitted and finalized ensuring the veteran receives the highest quality decision by the VA Regional Office. Another concern of SEP is the registration process with Norton. It was The American Legion that introduced issuance of the Personal Identification Verification badge to all accredited representatives to avoid using a personal credit card over the internet to register. VA officials now will issue the PIV badge to all accredited representatives and fund the required background check.

The American Legion continues to work with the VBMS development team to ensure that all scanned documents are complete, scanned in the proper order, scanned "right side up," and labeled properly. VSOs and VA employees continue to open empty documents or upside down documents, or documents labeled incorrectly. All this wastes valuable time in the process as the veteran or surviving loved one waits for a decision. It was also The American Legion that identified the VA overlooked other VA benefit programs while developing VBMS, such as the Board of Veterans Appeals; in the beginning the VA Regional Office would have had to print a paper file to certify to the

Board. Thanks to the American Legion, the Appeals Management Center and the Board of Veterans Appeals have VBMS installed.

Our Accredited Representatives continue to work endless hours to honor those that have served. Currently the American Legion has over 3,000 accredited representatives. With this number of professional representatives, The American Legion represents over 735,000 claimants in receipt of VA monetary benefits. These claimants receive over $758 million on a monthly basis that greatly assist them make ends meet in today's economy. Thanks to The American Legion the VA issued over $72.7 billion in Fiscal Year 2014!

CEMETERY UPDATE

The National Cemetery Committee last met at the National Convention and held a panel on "Ensuring Veterans and their Families have a Final Resting Place that Commemorates their Service" with Glenn R. Powers, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs from the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). During the Convention, Mr. Powers discussed NCA's transition for the next Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, NCA's Rural Initiative that will assist the 1.8 million veterans that live in states with no National Cemetery, and further discussion on a suitable replacement for lithochrome to accent the engravings on marble headstones.

The National Cemetery Committee also conducted a brief business meeting to discuss the purpose of the Committee of formulating and recommending to the National Executive Committee, through the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, policies, plans and programs as they relate to Department of Veterans Affairs' national cemeteries, and the internment of veterans, military and their dependents. This includes Arlington National Cemetery administered by the Department of the Army.

Addendum A

Report to Subcommittee on Resolutions

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

Rejected

Resolution No. 32 (CA) (2014 Natl. Conv.) **Patriot Outreach Program**
Resolution No. 237 (MI) (2014 Natl. Conv.) **Tobacco-Related Disabilities**

Received and Recorded

Resolution No. 109 (MN) (2014 Natl. Conv.) **The Department of Veterans Affairs Work Force be Comprised of 50% or More Veterans**
Resolution No. 229 (OH) (2014 Natl. Conv.) **Department of Veterans Affairs to Provide Chiropractic Services**

Hold for Further Study

Resolution No. 267 (AZ) (2014 Natl. Conv.) **Change the Manner in Which Veteran Claims are Determined**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission with the exception of four resolutions and one Addendum A. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 19: Exempt VA Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provision
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2707 (MI) DEC
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Budget Enforcement Act (BEA) significantly amended the laws pertaining to the budget process by constraining direct spending through a Pay-As-You-Go (PAY-GO) requirement for all legislation affecting the direct spending of all federal agencies and departments; and

WHEREAS, Under this statute, as an example, if Congress wishes to establish a new entitlement or expand an existing program for veterans, it must find the money to fund such change within existing budget limits; and

WHEREAS, Wartime disabled veterans have earned the benefits and services they, their dependents and survivors receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a result of the injuries sustained during their period of wartime service; and

WHEREAS, The benefits and services received by wartime-disabled veterans as a result of their service-connected disabilities are an extension of the cost of war; and

WHEREAS, This country has a moral obligation to continue to care for these citizen-soldiers who have risen in defense and support of the ideals of this great nation and who have returned to civilian life with service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Since BEA PAY-GO requires Congress to fund new benefits or services within existing spending limits this, in effect, requires one group of disabled veterans to give up benefits or services, so that another group of wartime disabled veterans can receive benefits or services to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, The budget implications of PAY-GO are often a deterrent to favorable congressional action on major changes in veterans legislation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion support legislation to exempt the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services provided to service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors from the Pay-As-You-Go (PAY-GO) provision of the Budget Enforcement Act.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: This resolution has been approved by the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee. I would so move that it be approved for adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 20: Department of Veterans Affairs Preservation of National Historic Properties
Origin: Resolution No. 73 (SD) 2014 National Convention
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The mission statement of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan' by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans; and

WHEREAS, In furtherance of this mission, the VA stewards more than 2,000 historic buildings and landscapes in its portfolio of 5,800 structures, including some of

the Nation's most significant buildings and campuses related to the medical care and treatment of America's veterans; and

WHEREAS, Dozens of the VA's historic buildings and landscapes have been designated by the Department of the Interior as historically and architecturally significant through listing in the National Register of Historic Places, including five campuses and one building recognized as National Historic Landmarks, the Nation's highest and most prestigious historic designation; and

WHEREAS, These historic buildings and landscapes have consistently provided high-quality medical care to veterans—some for more than a century; and

WHEREAS, Many of the VA's historic medical facilities and the communities that they serve, such as Hot Springs, South Dakota, known as 'The Veterans Town,' provide a sense of heritage and continuity for generations of America's veterans; and

WHEREAS, Some high-performing historic medical facilities, such as the Hot Springs VA Medical Center in South Dakota, a National Historic Landmark which received a 2013 Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval, are currently proposed by the VA for closure; and

WHEREAS, Under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the VA is legally obligated to preserve the historic properties under its care and consider the impacts of agency programs and projects on historic properties and evaluate alternatives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate these impacts; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2013 National Trust for Historic Preservation report, titled "Honoring Our Nation's Veterans: Saving Their Places of Health Care and Healing," the VA routinely neglects, or circumvents, its responsibilities pursuant to NHPA; and

WHEREAS, This lack of compliance with NHPA and other federal law places hundreds of historic buildings that provide quality medical care to veterans at risk of demolition, neglect and abandonment and removes meaningful stakeholder input, including that of veterans, from the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, Many of the historic VA medical centers in the VA's portfolio were authorized by Congress to honor America's veterans with monumental buildings that incorporated design elements that were conducive to healing like ample daylight, fresh air and serene landscapes, a concept promoted in current health-care facility planning; and

WHEREAS Historic hospital buildings have been rehabilitated and used for high-quality, modern medical care, often at a fraction of the cost for new construction; and

WHEREAS, America's veterans would benefit from the VA committing to improved stewardship of the historic properties within its portfolio, thereby providing continued access to medical center campuses conducive to healing and 21st Century medical care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion urge that the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to comply with all laws that pertain to the National Historic Preservation Act; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to use Section 111 of the National Historic Preservation Act to provide additional leasing opportunities for the continued use of the VA's historic medical facilities for veterans care; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to establish a new construction funding account within the VA that is dedicated to the maintenance of VA's historic medical facilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to enact legislation that would require the VA to establish an office within the department that would be responsible for the oversight and improvements of all VA's historic medical facilities; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to include in such legislation annual reporting requirements, that would require the VA to report how the federal agency is meeting the requirements of National Historic Preservation Act, any action VA is taking to bring the department into compliance and the amount of funding VA has allocated toward each VA's historic medical facility.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: This has been approved by the VA&R Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee. I move that it be adopted. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: The national adjutant reminded me that there may be people that want to discuss these resolutions, but I said, "Not on my watch." *(Laughter)*

So feel free to get in there. Just because I don't ask for one, doesn't mean you can't come in and have a discussion. All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 21: Legislation to Provide Reporting, Tracking, and Action Dealing with Sexual Assaults at Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities
Origin: Resolution No. 290 (PA) 2014 National Convention
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Our men and women returning home from military service and all veterans deserve the highest level of health care, which includes both quality and safety; and

WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does have a policy on sexual assault prevention; however, with the influx of an increasing women veterans population, the policy should be updated and refined; and

WHEREAS, There is a report issued by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), GAO-11-736T, dated June 13, 2011 calling for "Improvements Needed for Monitoring and Preventing Sexual Assaults and Other Safety Incidents," which detailed serious security lapses in VA's reporting system for such incidents delivered earlier in 2011; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for legislation to increase the safety of patients and staff and improve upon inconsistencies in tracking, reporting, and action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion encourage Congress to pass legislation in order to ensure reporting, tracking, and actions taken upon incidents of sexual assaults at each Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility including:

- **Tools to assess the risk of individual veterans**
- **Mandatory security training**
- **Physical security precautions (surveillance cameras, panic alarm systems)**
- **Criteria and guidance for employees communicating and reporting incidents to specified supervisory personnel, VA law enforcement officials and the VA Office of Inspector General**
- **An oversight system within the Veterans Health Administration**
- **Procedures for VA law enforcement officials investigating, tracking and closing reported incidents.**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: This resolution has been approved by the VA&R Commission and the subcommittee. I move for approval. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 22: Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission has conducted an extensive review of National Executive Committee and National Convention resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That the following resolutions be rescinded, for the reason listed below.

No.	Year	Meeting	Title	Reason
2	1994	Spring	AMERICAN LEGION PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE VETERANS AFFAIRS CLAIMS AND APPEALS PROCESS	Superseded
3	1994	Spring	DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON CLAIMS PROCESSING	Superseded
83	1997	Convention	DVA ALLOWS CLAIMS FOLDERS RESIDE IN VETERANS STATE OF RESIDENCE	Accomplished
5	1998	Fall	THE AMERICAN LEGION PARTICIPATION IN COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY PILOT PROGRAM	Obsolete
106	1999	Convention	URGE VA TO MAKE ORGANIZATION-SPECIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS	Accomplished
153	1999	Convention	REQUEST DVA ESTABLISH POLICY OF ENROLLMENT IN DVA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AT TIME OF SEPARATION FROM ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE	Superseded
2	2000	Fall	THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY ON VA CONTRACT HEALTH CARE SERVICES	Superseded
432	2004	Convention	THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY ON VA'S CAPITAL ASSET REALIGNMENT FOR ENHANCED SERVICES (CARES) PROGRAM	Superseded
433	2004	Convention	THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY ON VA'S PHARMACY BENEFITS PROGRAM	Superseded
25	2006	Spring	THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY ON TO ADDRESS THE CHANGING NEEDS OF WOMEN VETERANS	Superseded
220	2006	Convention	SUPPORT FOR ENHANCED DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RURAL HEALTH CARE	Superseded
25	2007	Spring	THE HEROES TO HOMETOWN PROGRAM COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS)	Obsolete
26	2007	Fall	AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM (NVLSP) – 2007	Accomplished
14	2008	Spring	VA CLAIMS DECISION LETTERS	Accomplished
131	2008	Convention	THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY REGARDING COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS (CBOCS)	Superseded

25	**2010**	**Convention**	**INDIANA-OHIO CENTER FOR TRAUMATIC AMPUTATION REHABILITATION RESEARCH**	**Superseded**
89	**2010**	**Convention**	**THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY REGARDING COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS (CBOCS)**	**Superseded**
135	**2008**	**Convention**	**THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY ON GULF WAR ILLNESSES**	**Superseded**
53	**2009**	**Convention**	**THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY ON ACCREDITATION OF REPRESENTATIVES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**	**Accomplished**
241	**2010**	**Convention**	**SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS' VET CENTERS EXPANSION TO RURAL COMMUNITIES**	**Superseded**
299	**2010**	**Convention**	**INCREASE BENEFICIARY TRAVEL PAY FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS**	**Superseded**
6	**2010**	**Fall**	**THE AMERICAN LEGION CONDUCTS A NEEDS AND ISSUES SURVEY OF WOMEN VETERANS**	**Accomplished**
7	**2010**	**Fall**	**AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM (NVLSP) 2010-2011**	**Accomplished**
52	**2011**	**Convention**	**POLICY TO PREVENT ANY ORGANIZATION OR PERSON FROM CHARGING FOR CLAIMS ASSISTANCE**	**Superseded**
40	**2011**	**Fall**	**AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM (NVLSP) 2011-2012**	**Accomplished**
42	**2011**	**Fall**	**COMPENSATION BENEFITS INFORMATION DISSEMINATED AT ALL TRANSITION AND ACCESS POINTS**	**Accomplished**
235	**2012**	**Convention**	**ADD AGENT ORANGE COMPONENT TO CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS 4.16**	**Superseded**
7	**2012**	**Fall**	**AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM (NVLSP) 2012-2013**	**Accomplished**
12	**2013**	**Fall**	**AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM (NVLSP) 2013-2014**	**Accomplished**
13	**2014**	**Spring**	**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CEASE USING SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS ON VETERAN IDENTIFICATION CARDS**	**Accomplished**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 22. Without reading the entire resolution, this resolution has the approval of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitations Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee and I move for approval. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Mr. Commander, attached to this resolution is Addendum A. I move that the actions of the VA&R Commission become the action of the NEC. ... *Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried. Thank you. I now call on Benedict A. Lee from North Carolina, chairman of the Media & Communications Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Media & Communications Commission
Benedict A. Lee, North Carolina, Chairman

Good afternoon, Commander Helm, Adjutant Wheeler, members of the American Legion National Executive Committee, my fellow Legionnaires and friends.

The American Legion Media & Communications Division continues to evolve in its first year of integration, bringing together the former *American Legion Magazine* Division and the former National Public Relations Division.

Some responsibilities in support of The American Legion's marketing program have also been added this year to the division services. Those responsibilities include active participation in the direct response TV program, along with development of corporate relationships and strategic alliances. The division is also deeply involved with plans to help the Legion celebrate its 100th birthday.

First and foremost, the core media channels of the division are running ahead of budget so far in 2014, thanks to solid advertising sales and recent reductions in paper products. Heading into the fourth quarter, the division's advertising sales stand at just under $9 million, which is about $275,000 ahead of budget, and on a pace to beat total sales for 2013.

The national website is really exceeding expectations with $215,000 already booked through September. The website had a total of $164,101 in ad sales in all of 2013.

Advertising in The American Legion Online Update e-newsletter has dropped off in 2014 and stands at $36,094 below budget.

Paper, printing, and distribution costs are below budget due largely to paper prices.

Altogether, the division is positioned to finish 2014 in a budget surplus of approximately $250,000 or more. Cost reductions for paper and printing can be expected to continue in 2015.

The Media & Communications Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Finance Commission the change in paper broker, after International Paper spun off *The American Legion Magazine*'s supplier, Bulkley Dunton, and created a new company. The commission voted to recommend Lindenmyer Central be offered the paper supply contract after sealed bids were requested from three companies, including Bulkley Dunton under its new parent corporation. The competitive bids, along with lower prices, generally, in the market, are expected to control paper costs under the new contract.

Also, R.R. Donnelley & Sons offered price concessions that amount to approximately $200,000 per year in return for an early renewal of its printing contract with *The American Legion Magazine*. The Media & Communications Commission voted to recommend the early renewal, and advanced a resolution to that effect to the Finance Commission.

Mr. Commander, Mr. Adjutant, and members of the NEC, I want to share with you just one more point about the realigned Media & Communications Division. Long gone are the days when a magazine could be managed from just one desk drawer. The division now works in no fewer than eight different media platforms. There are printed publications, websites, e-newsletters, social media, mobile media, ham radio, physical displays, and marketing and strategic relationships.

Beneath those categories, there are at least 48 distinct media products and services, from an interactive website for American Legion posts to tell their centennial stories, to mobile apps, parade floats, sample speeches, and Twitter feeds and, of course, the nation's most widely circulated veterans magazine. Through the integration effort this year, these various media channels are working in harmony like never before, to deliver The American Legion message and brand to audiences of all ages and war eras.

Mr. Commander, members of the NEC, I thank you for your support throughout this transition which continues. I am extremely proud of the staff of this division and its enthusiasm to embrace change for the good of our organization. And Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: Media & Communications Commission
Benedict A. Lee, North Carolina, Chairman
October 15, 2014

The mission of The American Legion Media & Communications Division continues to evolve in a fast-paced year of coverage, promotion, change and realignment, including the integration of the former American Legion Public Relations Division and selected responsibilities of marketing that had previously been managed in the Fundraising Division. The Media & Communications Division is also deeply involved in the planning and execution of a five-year plan to help The American Legion celebrate its 100th anniversary.

First and foremost, the core media channels of the division are stable and performing well against the 2014 budget, and in terms of audience numbers and engagement. The division is poised to finish 2014 in a budget surplus position of between $250,000 and $400,000.

Advertising sales for print and digital media assets – which include *The American Legion Magazine*, *Dispatch*, the National Convention Guide, Legion.org and The American Legion Online Update – stand at $274,935 ahead of budget, to date, at nearly $9 million. Advertising is also on pace to finish 2014 ahead of 2013 in total sales. The 2013 year-end total was $10.9 million for all advertising in the division.

Ad sales for The American Legion national website are double expectations for this point in the year with $215,362 booked through the end of September, far outperforming 2013, when website ad sales for the entire year amounted to $164,101. Magazine advertising sales are solid through 10 issues, at $208,824 ahead of budget and on track to break $10 million for the year. The American Legion Online Update, however, is $36,094 below budget for ad sales so far in 2014, due to fewer placements by USAA.

The magazine's bottom line continues to benefit from reduced paper prices, which took effect in the third quarter, and from stable U.S. Postal Service rates which are expected to continue through the end of the year. Lower-than-budgeted circulation is also a factor. Paper costs stand $66,500 below budget for the year, through seven issues. Printing and postage costs are also below budget for the year, $32,760 and $41,023 respectively, through seven booked months.

The Media & Communications Commission, upon reviewing sealed bids from three competitors for *The American Legion Magazine's* paper brokerage business, voted unanimously during its meeting at the National Convention to negotiate a contract with Lindenmyer Central. That recommendation was advanced to the Finance Commission in the form of a resolution at these Fall Meetings, and the previous contract resolution with Bulkley-Dunton Publishing Group is included in a resolution rescinding outdated resolutions of the former Magazine Division and former Public Relations Division.

Another resolution advanced to the Finance Commission is an early renewal of *The American Legion Magazine's* printing contract with R.R. Donnelley & Sons. The existing contract is set to expire in 2016. Cost reductions estimated at $200,000 per year have been offered by Donnelley in return for an early renewal that would extend the contract through 2019. The Media & Communications Commission recommends the offer be accepted.

The division has also been working diligently on a number of non-traditional initiatives, including support for The American Legion's entry into the Direct Response TV advertising domain, including guidance and execution of media messages and call-center scripts, as well as media treatment in support of the Oak Ridge Boys relationship, the Home Depot Foundation relationship, Founding Fathers Brewing and other strategic relationships.

Another area of concentration for the division is The American Legion's 100th Anniversary. Division staff is actively involved in all aspects of the planning and execution of the program, including logo design for polo shirts, the interactive centennial website, support for the 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee and other initiatives.

The national VA crisis has been an important part of the division's work since the end of April. The American Legion's estimated number of national outside media impressions in the second quarter is 74 million, including all major national broadcast channels and print publications. A summarized report of The American Legion's Veterans Crisis Command Center and Town Hall program, from June to October, has been designed and printed for the National Executive Committee and other interested parties.

The division is also actively involved in the development of promotional materials, including American Legion National Commander Mike Helm's 4x4 Project, to raise membership and increase donations in The American Legion Family throughout the year.

Additional activities and projects under way by the division include live webstreaming, online training materials and programs, media workshops and physical displays, including The American Legion float at the New York City Veterans Day Parade.

Addendum A

Hold for Further Study

Register Resolution No. 2683 (NC) (2012 DEC)**: Place the Emblem of The American Legion on the Cover of *The American Legion Magazine***

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications. Attached to this report is one resolution and one addendum. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 23: Rescission of Outdated Resolutions
Origin: Media & Communication Commission
Submitted by: Media & Communication Commission

WHEREAS, In accordance with resolutions of the 1959 and 1960 National Conventions, the National Executive Committee, through its Program Study Committee, has caused to be made a review of all non-legislative policy resolutions, and such action has been taken in further conference with the action of the 1936 National Convention, which established policy on the life of such resolutions; and

WHEREAS, The Media & Communications Commission has concluded an extensive review of National Executive Committee and National Convention resolutions relating to the Media & Communications Division from 1946 -2009; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That

the following resolutions be, and they are being, rescinded by reason of (1) being obsolete, (2) accomplishment of purpose, (3) having been superseded by later resolutions, (4) being in conflict with later resolutions, (5) having been duplicated by later resolutions, (6) having no value because of later changes in programs, and (7) for other reasons.

PROPOSED MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS RESOLUTIONS TO BE RESCINDED

RES. NO./ORIGIN	TITLE (BRIEF)	REASON
Res. 98 NEC May 1946	All Publicity to Clear through The National Public Relations Division	#1-Obsolete
Res. 88 NEC May 1954	Lease for New York Offices of The American Legion Magazine	#2-Accomplished
Res. 22 NEC May 1957	Procedure for Handling Paper Contracts of The American Legion Magazine	#3-Superseded
Res. 23 NEC May 1957	Ratification of Contract with the Perkins-Goodwin Co.	#2-Accomplished
Res. 6 PRE NEC 1965	Contract to Convert The American Legion Magazine Subscription List	#2-Accomplished
Res. 4 NEC Oct 1966	Agreement Modification Contract to Purchase or Lease Electronic Data Processing Equipment for The American Legion Magazine Operation	#2-Accomplished
Res. 28 NEC May 1984	Supplemental Agreement between The American Legion and Robert Redden Associates, Inc.	#2-Accomplished
Res. 36 NEC May 1986	Contract for Printing American Legion Magazine	#2-Accomplished
Res. 28 NEC May 1989	The American Legion Magazine Printing Contract 1990	#2-Accomplished
Res. 20 NEC May 1991	American Legion Paper Contract with R.R. Donnelley	#2-Accomplished
Res. 28 NEC Oct 1991	Interactive Telecommunications Programs	#2-Accomplished
Res. 27 NEC Oct 1992	American Legion Magazine Contract with Fox Assoc.	#2-Accomplished
Res. 32 NEC May 1993	American Legion Paper Contract with RR Donnelley	#2-Accomplished
Res. 20 NEC Oct 1993	American Legion International Golf Tournament	#2-Accomplished
Res. 31 NEC Oct 1993	Publish Korean War and Vietnam War Books	#2-Accomplished
Res. 3 NEC Oct 1998	American Legion Magazine Paper/Printing Contract with R.R. Donnelley & Sons	#3-Superseded
Res. 33 NEC May 1998	Grants from Pfizer Inc. for Health-Related Research and Reporting	#1-Obsolete
Res. 34 NEC May 1998	American Legion Magazine Printing Service Contract with R.R. Donnelley & Sons	#2-Accomplished
Res. 28 NEC May 2000	Geotel (Vets) Service	#2-Accomplished
Res. 24 NEC Oct 2001	Authorization for Magazine to Purchase Paper from International Paper, Inc.	#2-Accomplished
Res. 21 NEC May 2002	American Legion Magazine Printing Contract with R.R. Donnelley & Sons	#2-Accomplished
Res. 21 NEC May 2004	American Legion Magazine Advertising Contract	#2-Accomplished

Res. 22 NEC May 2004	**American Legion Magazine Paper Contract**	**#2-Accomplished**
Res. 21 NEC May 2007	**Paper Contract for The American Legion Magazine**	**#2-Accomplished**
Res. 8 NEC Oct 2007	**Contract -Printing of The American Legion Magazine**	**#2-Accomplished**
Res. 13 NEC Oct 2008	**The American Legion Magazine Contract with James G. Elliott Co., Inc.**	**#3-Superseded**
Res. 10 NEC May 2009	**Authorization for an Enhanced American Legion Web Presence**	**#2-Accomplished**
Res. 29 NEC May 2009	**The American Legion Contract with Mars**	**#2-Accomplished**
Res. 30 NEC May 2009	**The American Legion Magazine Contract with J.D. Power and Associates**	**#2-Accomplished**
Res. 31 NEC May 2009	**Authorization to Negotiate Agreements to Live Video Stream the 2009 American Legion Baseball World Series**	**#2-Accomplished**
Res. 4 NEC Oct 2012	**Authorization to Purchase Paper from Bulkley Dunton Publishing Group**	**#1-Obsolete**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Without reading the entire list, this resolution has the approval of the Media & Communications Commission, and the Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore, I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Attached to this report is Addendum A. I move that the actions of the American Legion Media & Communications Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried. I now call on Richard W. Anderson from Connecticut, chairman of the Americanism Commission, for the purpose of a report.

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

National Commander Helm and all national officers, members of the National Executive Committee, before I give my report, I want to thank you this morning for your support of the finance resolutions that the Americanism Commission had submitted to them, and I thank you for that.

The Americanism Commission met August 23, 2014, in Charlotte, North Carolina, prior to the opening of the 96th National Convention of the American Legion. An executive session of the commission met in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 13-14, 2014. This report will cover both meetings.

The Americanism Commission met jointly with the Commission on Children and Youth at its pre-convention meeting. Appearing at this session were four national youth champions. They were: The 2014 Eagle Scout of the Year, Joseph Blaisse from Newtown Square, Pennsylvania; The 2014 Junior Air Rifle Precision Champion, Michael Steinel of New Philadelphia, Ohio; The 2014 Legion Boys Nation President, Matthew Ellow of Lacey's Spring, Alabama; and the 2014 Junior Air Rifle Sporter Champion, Antonio Gross of Webster, New York.

The joint session also received remarks from Rick Lofgren, President and CEO of Children's Organ Transplant Association; Nathan Stiefel, Chief of Staff of the Office of Citizenship, United States Citizenship & Immigration Services; and Mrs. Marla Cothren,

daughter of a World War II POW and teacher at Joe T. Robinson High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was the recipient of The American Legion 2014 National Education Award for her creative approach to educating youth about the value of veterans service through the use of World War II and Vietnam veterans in her classroom as an integral part of the military history curriculum.

The 16th annual National Americanism Conference, which included meetings of Boys State directors, Girls State directors, department baseball chairmen, department oratorical contest chairpersons and department chaplains, was held September 26 through 28, 2014, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over 500 program volunteers came together in training, brainstorming, and networking with the respective conference sessions that will assist them with conducting the programs in their own departments for the coming year.

The Committee on Youth Education named the following nine students as 2014 Samsung Legion Scholars. Each will receive a $20,000 scholarship for their undergraduate studies. Heidi Bau, Slayton, Minnesota; Samantha Goerger, Wyndmere, North Dakota; Sean Greiner, Bluffton, South Carolina; Matthew Hanisch, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Kyle Kozlowski, Washington, Pennsylvania; Jonathan Mullen, Andover, Minnesota; Colter Norick, Columbia Falls, Montana; Mason Pearcy, Slidell, Louisiana; and Delaney Tevis, Columbia, Missouri.

The committee and your commission recommends approval of the following resolutions: Revised Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program; National Flight Academy Educational Program; and the Medal of Honor Character Development Program.

National Treasurer George A. Buskirk, Jr. and Steven L. Gonzalez, Assistant Director, Veterans Employment & Education Division, briefed the committee regarding ongoing strategic planning to expand The American Legion Legacy Scholarship applicant pool to include post-9/11 veterans and their children. Your committee and commission enthusiastically recommends that this planning continue.

The Americanism Commission congratulates the Department of North Carolina, the City of Shelby, host American Legion Post 82, and the hundreds of volunteers who made the 2014 American Legion Baseball World Series once again an overwhelming and resounding success. The World Series ended the 15-game tournament with 110,036 paid admissions, shattering the attendance record of 104,726 set last year. The 7,907 fans in attendance at the championship game also broke last year's record of 6,936.

The commission also extends congratulations to the Brooklawn, New Jersey team, sponsored by Brooklawn Memorial Post No. 72, who emerged as a 2014 American Legion Baseball World Series championship team, repeating from last year. Brooklawn defeated Midland, Michigan, in the last game, and Midland, Michigan post was sponsored by Berryhill Post 165.

Your baseball subcommittee and your commission recommends that the pool format continue to maximize the potential for the live telecast of The American Legion Baseball World Series. Your commission is looking forward to the 2015 World Series, August 13 through 18.

The baseball subcommittee and your commission recommends that Alex Gordon be named the 2015 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year. Gordon is an outfielder/third baseman for the Kansas City Royals. Gordon began playing American Legion Baseball at the age of 15 for the J.C. Brager team sponsored by Post 3 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The 2014 season showed 3,768 teams registered for play. Since 2009, the program has experienced a net loss of approximately 1,200 teams. Your commission continues to be seriously concerned with the annual decline in the number of registered teams.

A total of 19,317 young men participated in the 49 American Legion Boys State programs during 2014; unfortunately, reflecting an overall decrease of 795 participants from the previous year. There were 641 no-shows this year. Conference attendees were challenged to refocus upon the goal of a national participation level of 20,000 delegates in 2015 and to again redouble their efforts to reduce the number of no-shows.

Operation Comfort Warriors was a host to a few wounded warriors and their families at the National Convention held in Charlotte, North Carolina. These wounded warriors were in Charlotte as honored guests at the Past Department Commanders luncheon, but were also able to spend the weekend being escorted by assistant director James Ellison to see the great attractions of the city. The VA hospital in Charlotte was really appreciative to receive various comfort items for their wounded warriors.

There was an urgent need at the VA in Shreveport, Louisiana, so in response, National Commander Helm immediately mobilized OCW, and OCW delivered nearly $5,000 in comfort items, which included clothes, toiletries, and other necessities.

The 8th Annual National Children and Youth Conference was held on September 19 through 21, 2014, at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis. This conference educated 84 Legion families, representatives, and guests from 48 departments on current children's issues and the programs of the Committee on Children & Youth.

Conference participants learned practical implementation strategies for the programs presented, and are now equipped with the resources for conducting children and youth programs and conferences within their respective departments. As our children and youth programs work best due to concerted effort from all members of the Legion family, please encourage the children and youth representative from your American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion to consider joining us next year for what promises to be another informative weekend.

The Committee on Children & Youth met on Monday and reported to the commission the following day. Of note, for the 2013-2014 children and youth program year, including contributions to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, posts, squadrons, and units, and departments of The American Legion and affiliated organizations, a grand total of $17,989,388 was reported in expenditures and contributions.

The Americanism programs of The American Legion reflect an unfailing love of country, a loyalty to its institutions and ideals, an eagerness to defend this nation against all enemies, individual allegiance to the flag of our nation, and to work at guaranteeing the blessings of liberty for ourselves and future generations. Our challenges remain great, but I am confident that The American Legion is up to the task.

Mr. Commander, before I conclude my report, I would like to recognize those folks who are on the Americanism staff under Director Jill Druskis: Mr. Michael Buss; Tim Lankford is new to our group; Richard Smith; James Ellison; Steve Cloud; Shayne Abrahams; and Jason Kees. Please thank them for their efforts. *(Applause)*

Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: Americanism Commission
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman
October 15, 2014

Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee:

The Americanism Commission met August 23, 2014 in Charlotte, North Carolina prior to the opening of the 96th National Convention of The American Legion. An executive section of the Commission met in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 13-14, 2014. This report will cover both meetings.

The Americanism Commission met jointly with the Committee on Children & Youth at its pre-convention meeting. Appearing at this session were four national youth champions. They were:

- 2014 Eagle Scout of the Year – Joseph Blaisse of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania
- 2014 Junior Air Rifle Precision Champion – Michael Steinel of New Philadelphia, Ohio
- 2014 American Legion Boys Nation President - Matthew Ellow of Lacey's Spring, Alabama
- 2014 Junior Air Rifle Sporter Champion - Antonio Gross of Webster, New York

National Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson (CT) and Chairman of the Committee on Children & Youth, Herbert Petit, Jr. (LA) exchanged updates regarding programs. The Joint Session also received remarks from Rick Lofgren, President & CEO, Children Organ Transplant Association; and Nathan Stiefel, Chief of Staff of the Office of Citizenship, United States Citizenship & Immigration Services. Mrs. Martha Cothren, daughter of a World War II POW and teacher at Joe T. Robinson High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, is the recipient of The American Legion 2014 National Education Award for her creative approach to educating youth about the value of our veterans' service through the use of World War II and Vietnam War veterans in the classroom as an integral part of her military history curriculum. John Beltzer, CEO & Founder of the nonprofit organization that creates personalized songs for seriously ill children; "Songs of Love Foundation", enlisted the voices of all in attendance to create a personalized song for a child who recently had undergone a heart transplant and who had come directly from a hospital stay to be with everyone during the recording.

On October 13-14, 2014, seventy members of the Americanism Commission, the Americanism Council and Committee on Children & Youth met at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The following is an overview of committee reports and program information that was discussed by those members in attendance.

We were privileged to have with us National Commander Michael Helm (NE); several Past National Commanders; Danny J. Smith (NE), Chairman, Sons of The American Legion (SAL) National Americanism Commission; Janet Jefford (CT), American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) National President; Sharon Conatser (IL), ALA National Vice-President; and other distinguished guests representing The American Legion family.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

Resolution No. 159 Veteran of the Month Origin: (CT): This resolution calls for superseding current resolution by transferring oversight of Veteran of the Month program from Americanism to Internal Affairs. The Americanism Commission recognizes that the Veteran of the Month Program will have increased awareness through post ceremonies and recognition programs and therefore should transfer under the auspices of the Internal Affairs Commission. The Americanism Commission approved this resolution with the concurrence of the Internal Affairs Commission

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

Temporary Financial Assistance

Committee members received a report on the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program illustrating the positive impact the Legion has on veterans and their families. During the 2013 – 2014 program year, the national organization approved cash

grants totaling over $881,805. These funds were used to help maintain the basic (shelter, utilities, food, and clothing) and medical needs of 1,899 children of eligible veterans located in communities throughout this nation.

For the first three quarters of the 2014 calendar year, grants totaling $485,882 have been awarded to 464 families, benefitting 1,037 veterans' children.

Children & Youth Expenditures & Contributions

Annually, as for the past 91 years, the Committee on Children & Youth records activities from the more than 14,000 posts of The American Legion, 9,500 units of the American Legion Auxiliary and 5,000 Sons of The American Legion squadrons. In addition, the expenditures of departments and of the national organization are obtained for the 12-month period of June 1, through May 31, and combined with these reports.

NATIONAL AMERICANISM CONFERENCE

The 16th annual National Americanism Conference, which included meetings of Boys State Directors, Girls State Directors, Department Baseball Chairmen, Department Oratorical Contest Chairpersons and Department Chaplains, was held September 26-28, 2014, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over five hundred (500) program volunteers came together to share in training, brainstorming, and networking within their respective conference sessions that will assist with conducting the programs in their own departments for the coming year.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION

The Committee on Youth Education met October 11-12, 2014, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Samsung American Legion National Selection Committee named the following nine students as 2014 Samsung American Legion Scholars; each will receive a $20,000 scholarship for their undergraduate studies:

- Heidi Bau - Slayton, Minnesota
- Samantha Goerger - Wyndmere, North Dakota
- Sean Greiner - Bluffton, South Carolina
- Matthew Hanisch - Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Kyle Kozlowski - Washington, Pennsylvania
- Jonathan Mullen - Andover, Minnesota
- Colter Norick - Columbia Falls, Montana
- Mason Pearcy - Slidell, Louisiana
- Delaney Tevis - Columbia, Missouri

The remaining 89 "National Finalists" in the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program will each receive a $1,100 scholarship for their undergraduate studies.

The Committee and your Commission recommends approval of the following resolutions:

- Revised Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program
- National Flight Academy Educational Program
- The Medal of Honor Character Development Program

National Treasurer George A. Buskirk, Jr. (IN) and Steven L. Gonzalez (MD), Assistant Director, Veterans Employment and Education Division, briefed the Committee regarding ongoing strategic planning to expand The American Legion Legacy Scholarship applicant pool to include post 9-11 veterans and their children. Your Committee and Commission enthusiastically recommends that this planning continue.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

The Baseball Subcommittee met Sunday, September 28, 2014 in conjunction with 54th Annual American Legion Baseball Chairmen's Conference and Monday, October 13, 2014. Both meetings were held at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel.

The National Americanism Commission congratulates the Department of North Carolina, the city of Shelby, host American Legion Post 82, and the hundreds of volunteers who made the 2014 American Legion Baseball World Series (ALBWS) once again an overwhelming and resounding success. The World Series ended the 15-game tournament with 110,036 paid admissions, shattering the attendance record of 104,726 set last year. The 7,907 fans in attendance at the championship game also broke last year's record of 6,936.

The Commission also extends congratulations to the Brooklawn, New Jersey team, sponsored by Brooklawn Memorial Post 72, who emerged as the 2014 American Legion Baseball World Series championship team, repeating from last year. Brooklawn defeated Midland, Michigan, sponsored by Berryhill Post 165, 18-0 in seven innings.

This year's World Series tournament featured pool play with the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and Great Lakes regions comprising the East and the Mid-South, Central Plains, Northwest, and Western regions making up the West. Brooklawn, New Jersey was the East pool champion with a 3-0 record and Midland, Michigan the pool runner-up with a 2-1 record. In the West pool, Omaha, Nebraska was the champion with a 3-0 record with Waipahu, Hawaii the runner-up with a 2-1 record. In the semi-final games, Brooklawn, New Jersey defeated Waipahu, Hawaii 7-6 and Midland, Michigan defeated Omaha, Nebraska 4-3.

Mr. Eddie Holbrook, Co-Chairman, Cleveland County ALWS Baseball World, Inc., reported to your Commission the excitement expressed by ESPN regarding the live telecast of the 2014 ALBWS "Championship Tuesday" game on ESPNU and the potential to include the semi-final games in the near future for live telecast on ESPNU.

Your Baseball Subcommittee and your Commission recommends that the pool play format continue to maximize the potential for the live telecast of the ALBWS. Your Commission is looking forward to the 2015 World Series, August 13-18.

The other 14 games of The American Legion Baseball World Series were webcast live on ESPN3. Former Wichita State University coach, Gene Stephenson, provided the commentary during the games.

The Baseball Subcommittee recommends that Alex Gordon be named the 2015 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year. Gordon is an outfielder/third baseman for the Kansas City Royals. Gordon began playing American Legion Baseball at the age of 15 for the J.C. Brager team sponsored by Post 3, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The 2014 season showed 3,768 teams registered for play. Since 2009, the program has experienced a net loss of approximately 1,200 teams. Your Commission continues to be seriously concerned with the annual decline in the number of registered teams.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

A total of 19,317 young men participated in the 49 American Legion Boys State programs during 2014, unfortunately reflecting an overall **decrease** of **795 participants** from the previous year. There were 641 no shows this year. Conference attendees were challenged to re-focus upon the goal of a national participation level of 20,000 delegates in 2015 and to again re-double their efforts to reduce the number of no-shows.

ORATORICAL CONFERENCE

The 45th annual Oratorical Chairperson Conference was held September 27 – 28, 2014, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana, as a program

segment of the 16th annual National Americanism Conference. David King (KY) served as the Oratorical Conference chairman. Forty-four departments were represented by either their Oratorical chairperson or designee; there were sixty attendees present of which twelve were new appointees.

National Commander Mike Helm (NE), Sons of the American Legion National Commander Mike Moss (CO), Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson (CT), Sons of the American Legion Americanism Commission Chairman Danny Smith (NE), Executive Director Jeffrey Brown (IN) and Americanism Division Director Jill Druskis (NE) brought welcome and greetings.

Conference topics presented and discussed included a review of the 2014 national final contests, "Oratorical 101" - a refresher course on conducting the contest by Tony Paternostro (NY), tabulation and tie-breaking procedures by Jan Scott (AK), a session on "How to Promote Your Contest" by Duane Benton (MO), and an update on the planning and arrangements for the 2015 National Finals contests by David King (KY).

Conference recommendations included:

- Rule changes should be considered for the national contest, to allow for a greater number of contest participants opportunity to advance from the first round.
- National Headquarters should continue the sponsorship of the National Speech & Debate Association.
- Medical release forms should be utilized for all national contest contestants.

A Post Everlasting Ceremony was led by Victor DeSloover (IA), which recognized and remembered comrades who passed away in the past year.

The 46th annual American Legion Oratorical Chairpersons Conference will be held in conjunction with the 17th Annual National Americanism Conference on September 25–27, 2015, in Indianapolis.

TROOP & FAMILY SUPPORT

Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW) was a host to a few wounded warriors and their families during the National Convention held in Charlotte, North Carolina. These wounded warriors were in Charlotte as honored guests at the Past Department Commanders Club (PDCC) luncheon, but were also able to spend the weekend being escorted by James Ellison to see the great attractions of the city. The VA hospital in Charlotte was very appreciative to receive various comfort items for their wounded warriors.

OCW provided opportunity for classes for six wounded warriors at Fort Drum so that they could become certified divers.

There was an urgent need at the VA in Shreveport, Louisiana, so OCW delivered nearly $5,000 in comfort items, which included clothes, toiletries and other necessities. All of those items will go into a special clothing closet for the wounded warriors.

ANNUAL CHILDREN & YOUTH CONFERENCE

The eighth annual national Children & Youth Conference was held on September 19 – 21, 2014, at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis. This conference educated 84 Legion family representatives and guests from 48 departments on current children's issues and the programs of the Committee on Children & Youth. Conference participants learned practical implementation strategies for the programs presented and are now equipped with the resources for conducting children & youth programs and conferences within their own respective departments. As our children & youth programs work best due to a concerted effort from all members of the Legion family, please encourage the

children & youth representatives from your American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion to consider joining us next year for what promises to be another informative weekend.

At the meeting of the National Americanism Commission held at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 13-14, 2014, **the following three resolutions were recommended for favorable action by the Americanism Commission, and forwarded to the Finance Commission for its concurrence to the National Executive Committee:**

- Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Diamond Sports Co., Inc.
- National Speech and Debate Association Sponsorship
- Mandatory Exclusion Insurance Coverage for American Legion Baseball

At the meeting of the Americanism Commission held at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 13-14, 2014, 17 resolutions were considered and their recommended disposition forwarded to the National Executive Committee Subcommittee on Resolutions with nine (9) recommended for approval and the remaining eight (8) reflected on the separate appendage for your consideration. (See addendum A)

Addendum A

Hold for Further Study

Resolution No. 193 (NY) (2014 Natl. Conv.)**: Uniform Eligibility Requirements for Boys State**
Resolution No. 224 (OH) (2014 Natl. Conv.)**: Revise Eligibility Requirements for The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year**
Resolution No. 268 (CT) (2014 Natl. Conv.)**: Certificate of Recognition for all Senior Ranks of Scouting**
Register Resolution No. 2705 (ID) (2014 DEC)**: Amend National High School Oratorical Contest Rules to Allow American Sign Language Interpreters**

Disposed of Administratively

Resolution No. 33 (CA) (2014 Natl. Conv.)**: 21st Century Policy of Remembrance**
Resolution No. 64 (SC) (2014 Natl. Conv.)**: National Vietnam Veterans Day**
Resolution No. 124 (DC) (2014 Natl. Conv.)**: Voter Eligibility and Identification**
Resolution No. 210 (VA) (2014 Natl. Conv.)**: Information Authorized for Background Screening Checks**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission, with the exception of five resolutions and one addendum. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 24: Revised Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program
Origin: Committee on Youth Education
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, In 1995 The American Legion was honored to receive a $5 million scholarship endowment from Samsung Group as a gesture of appreciation for the

sacrifices of U.S. service men and women who helped maintain security of the Korean peninsula during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 1 of the National Executive Committee, September 3, 1995, titled "Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" authorized The American Legion to create a scholarship program by the same name; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, October 18-19, 2000, titled "Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" established criteria for awarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program from an applicant pool of representatives from The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 19, National Executive Committee, October 9-10, 2002, incorporated changes in eligibility criteria for students from Hawaii as recommended by the National Committee on Education with subsequent concurrence by the National Americanism Commission; and

WHEREAS, In 2013 The American Legion was pleased to honor its longstanding relationship with Samsung through presentation of its prestigious Patriot Award, followed by a visit to Samsung Global Headquarters in Seoul, Korea, by the National Commander; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and Samsung Electronics located at the North America Headquarters in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, have reinvigorated discussions of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program to enhance the application process for benefit of the applicants, and publicly promote and elevate prominence of the Samsung American Legion Scholars; and

WHEREAS, Changes to the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded is recommended by the Committee on Youth Education with subsequent concurrence by the Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That effective in 2015 the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded shall be:

1. **As previously established, one representative from each American Legion Boys State program, one representative from each American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and one high school junior boy and one high school junior girl from the Department of Hawaii will comprise the pool of "Samsung American Legion State Finalists"**
2. **The pool of Samsung American Legion State Finalists will be divided into five (5) geographic regions:**
   - **Western Region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington**
   - **Midwest Region: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming**
   - **Central Region: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin**
   - **Southeast Region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas**
   - **Northeast Region: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont**
3. **Two (2) "Samsung American Legion Scholars" will be selected by the Committee on Youth Education from each regional pool of State Finalists; and, be it further**

RESOLVED, That all other Rules and Conditions regarding eligibility and administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program shall remain unchanged:

1. **Those eligible to apply for the scholarships shall be students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as such by the United States government:**
    - **World War I: April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918**
    - **World War II: December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946**
    - **Korean War: June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955**
    - **Vietnam War: February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975**
    - **Lebanon and Grenada: August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984**
    - **Panama: December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990**
    - **Gulf War/War on Terrorism: August 2, 1990 to cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States government**
2. **Samsung American Legion Scholars will have six (6) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission**
3. **Samsung American Legion State Finalists will have two (2) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission**
4. **The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is for undergraduate study at an accredited U.S. college or university**
5. **Scholarship recipients must be enrolled as a full-time student to request his/her scholarship funds**
6. **The number and amount of the scholarship awards will be determined by the income derived from the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Trust**
7. **The scholarship funds may only be used to defray necessary costs of the student's education (i.e. tuition, room & board, books & supplies, fees and equipment required by the student's particular course of study or school)**
8. **A student may request any amount up to and including his/her total scholarship award at one time**
9. **The amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education**
10. **Students may make only one (1) request for funds per semester or quarter**
11. **Scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a "Request for Funds" form**
12. **A scholarship check will be issued in the normal and customary procedure of a two-party check made payable to the student and school**
13. **Students who have not requested their award will receive one (1) written notice reminding them of their award and the time limits remaining to receive their award**
14. **State finalists will receive their notice prior to their last year of eligibility**
15. **Samsung American Legion Scholars will receive their notice with two years of eligibility remaining**
16. **Unused scholarship funds will be returned to the scholarship trust fund for future awards; and, be it further**

RESOLVED, That all Rules and Conditions shall be included on each Samsung American Legion Scholarship application; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 19 of the National Executive Committee, October 9–10, 2002, titled "Rules and Conditions for Administration of the

Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This has the approval of the Committee on Youth Education, the Americanism Commission, and the Subcommittee on Resolutions. I therefore move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no.

NEC MEMBER KRAUSE (ND): Discussion?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Yes.

NEC MEMBER KRAUSE: What was the purpose of designating the areas, the regions?

DIRECTOR OF AMERICANISM DRUSKIS: Mr. Chairman, if I could, I would like to call on Deputy Director Mike Buss. He has served as the liaison for the Committee on Youth Education.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Call on Mike Buss.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AMERICANISM BUSS: Good afternoon, members of the NEC. The question was the purpose of coming up with the regions. Earlier this year, members of your staff had a visit with Samsung Corporation at their North American headquarters in New Jersey, and part of that was to brief them on the status of the scholarship that they endowed to us back in 1995, and to also plant seeds as to hopefully some additional compensation that might come forward here in the near future.

But one of the questions that they had was, would there be a vehicle that would be available in order for their regional areas to be able to work with The American Legion in honoring these Samsung winners?

So that's how, then, we moved forward with putting these regions together. We tried to correlate them as much as possible with where the national vice commanders are assigned each year. Of course, there's some differences each year with that as well. But again, the entire intent was for us to be able to work more hand-in-hand with that company which endowed us that $5 million back in 1995. We want to take this forward.

If I may, I did some homework here. Since I did it, I want to share it with you here. This is from 1996, the first year that the scholarships were awarded. Since 1996, 177 Samsung American Legion National Scholars have been named and awarded the large amount of money. And I'll just give you a little breakdown, and this is based on the regions that are proposed in the resolution.

The Western Region, there have been 30 that were winners, so for a tune of about 17 percent. The Midwest has done very, very well, 55 young people, for 31 percent. The Central Region was 38 for 21 percent. Southeast Region did very well with 41. And, unfortunately, the Northeast Region, since 1996, has had 13 Samsung American Legion Scholars. So again, the intent is to try and be able to look at offering the opportunity for some more young people to have an equal chance to get the scholarship. Right now we're looking at a pool of 98, and from time-to-time Hawaii provides us two applications, a pool of 100, of which then we look at the top nine.

This weekend when your Committee on Youth Education did their selection process, it's interesting to see the variety of that selection. There were probably four or five of the candidates that had gotten a vote from each of the 11 members of the committee. But I can tell you, for one that might have gave it a 19 or a 20, meaning that was their top candidate, someone else might have gave it a zero or a one or a two.

So this is going to be a precursor that next year, if this resolution were to pass, that now we're going to break it down into five groups of 20, and therefore allowing two young people from each of those areas the opportunity to have a scholarship. That's to

say, these 98 young people, they are the cream of the crop and they're great. Again, then, we have an opportunity to honor additional folks.

The bigger thing is that Samsung will be able to continue to work with us. This past June we had a Samsung American Legion Scholar Recognition Dinner. Past National Commander Detweiler was with us and sort of emceed that meeting. But we had eight of the nine winners from last year along with a young lady who was one of our first Samsung American Legion Scholars. Does that answer your question, sir?

NEC MEMBER KRAUSE: Yes, that's part of the point. But being from the upper Midwest and having most of the recipients come from our area, it's a bit of a concern that our kids are going to basically lose out.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR BUSS: I'm surprised Commander Comer hasn't stood up here and said the Northeast Region has sort of gotten the short end of the stick here lately, huh? Anything else for me, gentlemen?

NEC MEMBER CUFFEE (DC): What about the District of Columbia?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR BUSS: The District of Columbia does not have a Boys State or a Girls State program. Let me expand that to also delegates that might come from France or even beyond the borders of Hawaii. For the District of Columbia, some delegates that have desired to attend a Boys State program will work with either Maryland or Virginia to go to that Boys State Program. France, they have made arrangements as well with Maryland to come to their Boys State program.

I know this year, due to personal email correspondence, a young man from Guam, his father's stationed in the United States Navy over there, and wanted to go to Boys State. Unfortunately, Hawaii does not have a Boys State program, but we were able to work with the Department of California. And that young man was then able to go to California American Legion Boys State this summer.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 25: The Medal of Honor Character Development Program
Origin: Committee on Youth Education
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, founded by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society that consists exclusively of living Medal of Honor recipients, is a foundation whose role is dedicated to inspiring successive generations of Americans to commit to the ideals of courage, sacrifice and patriotism through a lifetime of service above self to family, to community and to our nation; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation has undertaken a broad range of education initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of the Medal of Honor and what it represents; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor Character Development Program is a major initiative of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation that’s made available free of charge to schools nationwide that incorporates the ideals of courage and selfless service into middle and high school curricula so as to build character and promote responsible citizenship; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor Character Development program offers a teaching resource designed by teachers with lesson plans that use best practices based on national standards and core values and may be further enhanced by the addition of video vignettes, classroom visit or video teleconferencing with a Medal of Honor recipient interacting with students, drawing upon the ideals they embody and the application of those ideals within their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Medal of Honor Character Development Program is not to glorify or glamorize war, but rather to provide Medal of Honor-related "living histories" and instructional activities that encourage students to consider the concepts of courage, commitment, sacrifice, patriotism, integrity and citizenship from their own perspective and explore how those may be exemplified in daily life; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor Character Development Program is the flagship education initiative of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation and is the legacy of Medal of Honor recipients who view this program as a way that they can inspire the youth of America to be great citizens of their communities, their country and the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion commends the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation for its Medal of Honor Character Development Program using living history to provide educational curricula and instructional activities to instill in youth a sense of citizenship and patriotism that is epitomized by Medal of Honor recipients; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts of The American Legion are urged to assist in and promote the Medal of Honor Character Development Program to schools and community organizations and encourage youth participation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this commendation is done at no cost to The American Legion and withholds all grants of authority to use The American Legion's name and/or trademark without specific authority, except in fair-use reporting of this resolution.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This resolution has the approval of the Committee on Youth Education, the Americanism Commission, and the Resolutions Subcommittee. I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 26: National Flight Academy Educational Program
Origin: Resolution No. 4 (FL) 2014 National Convention
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization that supports the mentoring of America's youth through nationally recognized educational programs dedicated to the development of our nation's future leaders by focusing on engaging children in educational programs, building Americanism, commitment, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, The National Flight Academy (NFA) located in Pensacola, Florida, is a subsidiary of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation; and

WHEREAS, The NFA is an educational activity authorized but not endorsed or financially supported by the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, The NFA is a self-supporting, tuition-based educational program; and

WHEREAS, The NFA is designed to address the serious concerns of the declining Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) skills and standards in our country; and

WHEREAS, The NFA's mission is to inspire students through immersive aviation themed learning objectives, who subsequently return to their parent schools and seek out the more challenging STEM courses; and

WHEREAS, The National Flight Academy teaches important 21st century skills including critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork and communication through 6-day "Deployment" and 3-day "Cruise" programs designed to utilize these principles to excite children about STEM related careers; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and the National Flight Academy have the same common goal in supporting the mentoring and development of our nation's youth by engaging, inspiring and educating them on the importance of expanding their educational potential to be ready to embrace their futures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion National Organization proudly commends the National Flight Academy for its noteworthy, creative and engaging educational program; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That a commendation is done at no cost to The American Legion and withholds all grants of authority to use The American Legion's name and/or trademark without specific authority, except in fair-use reporting of this resolution.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Resolution No. 26 has the approval of the Americanism Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee. I therefore move for its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 27: Flag Code Amendment
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The United States Flag Code, Title 4, United States Code, Chapter 1, Subsections 1-10, is a codification of existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Practices and customs have been modified in the past few years regarding certain display procedures; and

WHEREAS, Previous changes and modifications to the Flag Code did not clearly state the intent of some display procedures; and

WHEREAS, The Flag Code needs to reflect current, accepted patriotic practices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion seek the appropriate legislation or Presidential proclamation to alter, amend, or modify the following provisions of the United States Flag Code, Title 4, United States Code, Chapter 1:

SS6. Time and occasions for display

(d) The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the third Monday in January; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, February 22; Presidents Day, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday (variable); Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, April 13; Loyalty Day - Law Day U.S.A., May 1; Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; National Maritime Day, May 22; Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Flag Week, week of June 14; Father's Day, third Sunday in June; Independence Day, July 4; National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27; Aviation Day, August 19; Labor Day, first

Monday in September; Citizenship Day, September 17; POW/MIA Recognition Day, third Friday in September; American Gold Star Mothers Day, last Sunday in September; Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Navy Day, October 27; Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Pearl Harbor Day (half-staff), December 7; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States(date of admission); and on State holidays.

(h) The flag should be displayed during public meetings, at cemeteries, and other public gatherings such as sporting events.

SS7. Position and manner of display

(f) When flags or pennants of States, cities, localities, societies, or corporations are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right, which is the observer's left. The flags or pennants of States, cities, localities, societies, or corporations may be of approximately equal size as the flag of the United States but not larger.

(g) When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace. The flag of the United States should be on its own right, the observer's left. The flags of other nations are displayed on the observer's right and in alphabetical order from left to right.

(m) The flag displayed at half-staff is a sign of national mourning and a mark of respect to the memory of principal figures of the U.S. or State Government and should not be so displayed, except as provided herein, or in special proclamation by the President of the United States or the Governor of any state, territory or possession. No other official may designate the United States Flag to be displayed at half-staff. The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States or the death of a member of the Armed Forces from any State, territory, or possession who dies while serving on active duty, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff and the same authority is provided to the Mayor of the District of Columbia with respect to present or former officials of the District of Columbia and members of the Armed Forces from the District of Columbia. When the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia, issues a proclamation under the preceding sentence that the National flag be flown at half-staff in that State, territory, or possession or in the District of Columbia because of the death of a member of the Armed Forces, the National flag flown at any Federal installation or facility in the area covered by that proclamation shall be flown at half-staff consistent with that proclamation.

The flag shall be flown at half-staff thirty days from the death of the President or a former President; ten days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a state, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. The flag shall be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day, unless that day is also Armed Forces Day and Pearl Harbor Day, December 7. As used in this subsection -

(1) The term "half-staff" means the position of the flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff;

(2) the term "executive or military department" means any agency listed under sections 101 and 102 of title 5 United States Code; and

(3) the term "Member of Congress" means a Senator, a Representative, a Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico.

SS8. Respect for flag

(c) The flag may be carried flat or horizontally when a patriotic effect is desired and when it is of such size that it cannot be carried aloft and free.

(i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

(j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, postal workers, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This has the approval of the Americanism Commission and the approval of your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I therefore move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 28: Rescinding of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, In accordance with resolutions of the 1959 and 1960 National Convention, the National Executive Committee, through its Program Study Committee, has caused to be made a review of all non-legislative policy resolutions, and such action has been taken in further conference with the action of the 1936 National Convention which established policy on the life of such resolutions; and

WHEREAS, The Americanism Commission has concluded an extensive review of 23 National Executive Committee and National Convention resolutions relating to the Americanism Program from the year 1919 through 2011; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That the following resolutions be and they are being rescinded by reason for (1) being obsolete, (2) accomplishment of purpose, (3) being superseded by later resolutions, (4) being in conflict with later resolutions, (5) being duplicated by later resolutions, (6) having no value because of later changes in program, and (7) for other reasons.

Res No.	Year	Meeting	Title	Reason For Rescinding
515	1925	Convention	Vigilance Against Radical Teaching	1
691	1944	Convention	Volunteer Workers of Early Treatment of Infantile Paralysis	1
809	1946	Convention	Reaffirm "Children's Charter" of White House Conference in 1930	1
21	1949	Spring	Government Employees with Proved Subversive Leanings	1
410	1950	Convention	Refuse Permits to Subversive Groups to Hold Meetings in Public Buildings or to Parade	1
257	1951	Convention	Intensify Opposition to Communism	1
12	1954	Spring	Distribution of Subversive Propaganda	1
514	1956	Convention	Memorial Fund of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation	2
537	1961	Convention	Support the National Foundation and the March of Dimes	1
31	1964	Spring	Community Recreation	1
57	1964	Convention	Textbooks Study to Safeguard Youth Against Subversive Material	1
131	1964	Convention	Appearance of Communist Speakers at High Schools & Universities	1
3	1966	Fall	Expanded Research & Educational Program on Genetic Diseases	1
33	1968	Spring	Expelling of College and University Students Involved in Un-American Protest Demonstrations	1
16	1969	Fall	Campus Disorders	1
15	1970	Fall	Oppose Use of Tax-Supported School and College Buildings for Purpose of Raising Funds to Support Un-American Activities	1
11	1973	Convention	Anti-War Acts by Individuals or Groups	1
303	1976	Convention	The American Civil Liberties Union	1
63	1978	Convention	American Nazi Party	1
714	1980	Convention	Support Legislation to Place a Seven-Year Moratorium on Releasing Investigative Information & Foreign Counter-Intelligence of the FBI	7
35	1981	Spring	Adoptive Children with Special Needs	2
106	1985	Convention	World Communism	1
32	1986	Fall	Oppose Commending Anti-Vietnam Activities	1

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This resolution has the approval of the Americanism Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I therefore move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Attached to this report is Addendum A. I move that the actions of the Americanism Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Operation Comfort Warriors Donations

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I will now come down and accept any contributions to Operation Comfort Warriors and any other contributions that you may want to make at this time. *...National Vice Commander Neville assumed the chair.*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Commander, our post in our department, the Dedham Post 18, who have their own bicycle run, to The American Legion Scholarship fund for $4,100, and we had already presented this at convention, but there's an additional $100 to the Legacy Fund from Post 338 in Southwick, Mass. $4,200, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Thank you.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN MASON: On behalf of the officers and members of the NADHAL, the National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion, we present $100 to Operation Comfort Warriors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Thank you.

NEC ALTERNATE MEMBER KENNEDY: Mr. Commander, compliments of my husband who is also a Legionnaire, $20 to Operation Comfort Warriors for my morning phone call.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: I'm going to be here a little while. I love working Operation Comfort Warriors. I've got a lot of checks: Speedway Post 500 of the American Legion Riders, $12,537. Speedway Squadron 500, $5,052. Newburgh Unit 44, from the Julie Percy Memorial, $665. New Albany American Legion Riders, Post 28, $500. Warrick County Democratic Central Committee, $200. And the Committee to Elect Marlin Weisheit County Commissioner, $100. Private donation, Reba Torres, $20. Post 66, Griffith, in the 1st District, $300. Post 44, Newburgh, in the 8th District, $500. Post 34 in the 11th District, $300. Sons of The American Legion 2nd District, $200. Sons of The American Legion 8th District, $100. Sons of The American Legion Squadron 66 $414. Sons of The American Legion 7th District, $1,000. Auxiliary Unit 64, $300. American Legion 11th District, $300. American Legion 11th District, $250. Total donations from Indiana, $22,488. *(Applause)*

...National Commander Helm resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: The Auxiliary has asked us to recommend someone to serve on their foundation board, and I recommend Past National Commander David K. Rehbein of Iowa.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that your appointment be approved. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Carried. Thank you. Let's give all those donations a big hand, too. Thank you. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I now call on Dave Warnken from Kansas to give a report on the Oklahoma Reorganization Committee.

Oral Report: Oklahoma Reorganization Committee
David O. Warnken, Kansas, Vice Chairman

Good afternoon. In March 2014 in an emergency session held during the Washington Conference, the National Executive Committee approved the suspension of the charter of the Department of Oklahoma, and appointed the Oklahoma Reorganization Committee which consisted of the following: William M. Detweiler, Louisiana, past national commander, chairman; David O. Warnken, Kansas, National Executive Committeeman, vice chairman; Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts, past national commander,

member; Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Finance Commission chairman, member; Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon, National Executive Committeeman, member.

The reorganization committee approved naming Thomas L. Davis of Maryland, past department adjutant, to serve as interim administrator of the Department of Oklahoma, assigning him all duties and authority necessary in order to revive the functionality of the department. Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska, past national commander, acted in the capacity of interim department commander since he was familiar with the Department of Oklahoma, and provided valuable intelligence.

A Department Convention was planned in July 2014 at which time the department would either agree or defeat a department constitution and by-laws and rules of the DEC. That was drafted by Interim Administrator Davis with the assistance of various other people.

In July 2014, the Oklahoma department did approve a constitution, by-laws, and rules of the DEC, and it elected officers. Since then they have submitted to the national commander the names of people they recommend for appointment to national commissions and/or committees. The national commander has agreed to consider those appointments with the proviso that none will go into effect until the Oklahoma department charter has been restored.

The Oklahoma Reorganization Committee now recommends that The American Legion of Oklahoma charter be restored effective January 1, 2015, at which time The American Legion of Oklahoma will resume its status of being an independent corporation operating under its own rules and by-laws with no national involvement outside that is authorized by the national constitution and by-laws.

That will settle Phase 1, in that personnel demonstrated to be incapable of operating the department in a manner acceptable to the national organization have been removed from office. New personnel have been put into these offices, and those new personnel understand what is required of them.

Another issue is the national organization has currently expended about $540,000 on behalf of the Oklahoma department. And by December 31, 2014, we expect that amount to be $600,000. These moneys are expended to lease a department office since, due to the neglect of the previous administration, they lost a large portion of the previous office in the state building they were occupying. The moneys owed national also include legal fees involving several lawsuits precipitated by mismanagement of the Oklahoma department.

The moneys owed national also include paying employee back-taxes, past due bills for facilities rented for department programs which were never paid. You name it, they did it, or they didn't do it.

During the course of the previous seven months, we collected approximately $265,000 in revenues which rightfully belonged to the Department of Oklahoma. Those moneys represent dues, LIT income, and fees collected for American Legion Baseball and various other programs which Tom Davis and Jimmie Foster ensured took place in a timely manner.

The Oklahoma Reorganization Committee proposes that the Department of Oklahoma's debt incurred by National Headquarters be treated as if the department was put into something akin to a receivership. It will be handled by a separate note which will have various conditions attached to it, to ensure that national's interest in the repayment of this money is satisfied.

One resolution for your consideration will reinstate the Oklahoma department charter effective January 1, 2015. Another will grant permission to draft a contract with the Department of Oklahoma for a repayment of debt incurred by the national organization on its behalf, and release to the Department of Oklahoma effective January

1, 2015, the $265,000 or thereabouts national is holding in escrow, so they will have operating funds when their charter is reinstated.

This has been a very trying exercise for your Oklahoma Reorganization Committee, because it is ground that no one still living has previously had to trod. The last time a charter was suspended was nearly 90 years ago. During this experience, it has come to light that other departments may be experiencing irregularities which they have no idea how to correct. Just recently, for instance, a department sent a collection of documents to National Headquarters citing irregularities, yet none were violations of the national constitution and by-laws. They violated the department constitution and by-laws. So the national adjutant consulted with the national judge advocate and returned the complaint to the department, indicating that it was an internal matter they should take up with their DEC or hire a private legal counsel.

This type of thing happens more and more frequently. Therefore, we present a third resolution for your consideration: Formation of a department advisory committee consisting of several NEC members. Then when such questions come to national, instead of the standing answer, "This is a department matter, take it up with your DEC" or, "This is a legal matter, hire private counsel," we will refer it to the Department Advisory Committee, a group of seasoned people with experience in running a department. They can give advice as to which steps to take to avoid the conflict of interest issues our national judge advocate faces whenever he receives legal or operational questions. Your Oklahoma Reorganization Committee suggests that you approve that resolution.

Mr. Commander, I'm not yet recommending that the Oklahoma Reorganization Committee be dissolved, because the Department of Oklahoma's charter, if these resolutions are approved, will not be reinstated until January 1, 2015.

In addition, there are several issues we must deal with prior to reinstatement of Oklahoma's charter. One is a lawsuit filed by the Department of Oklahoma prior to the suspension of its charter. This lawsuit is still pending. The other lawsuit involves National Headquarters being sued by former Oklahoma department officers for back pay and supposedly illegal confiscating of property that belonged to them. We are working with our attorneys now to get both suits resolved prior to the reinstatement of Oklahoma's charter. We are optimistic that this will happen. So I think this committee will still have work to do between now and January 1, 2015.

Commander, if I may, as a point of privilege, I would like all members of the Oklahoma Reorganization Committee to stand so the NEC may express its thanks for a job well done. *(Applause)*

Next, commander, if I may, I would like to call Interim Administrator Tom Davis and PNC Jimmie Foster to the lectern for the purpose of a presentation.

...National Vice Commander Bryant assumed the chair.

I have a couple of citations I will read and then I will let the commander present these to you.

"Certificate of Meritorious Service. This certificate is presented to Tom L. Davis for dedicating your service and leadership to the Department of Oklahoma from March 2014 through December of 2014 as our interim administrator. Your accomplishments demonstrate the abiding strength of the spirit that is one of our nation's hallmarks, and your dedication to this mission has been a true and cognizant declaration and affirmation of placing service to others above self. In witness thereof, this testimony of wholehearted admiration of your support to our veterans in Oklahoma is duly attested this day, October the 11th, 2014."

And this is signed by National Commander Michael D. Helm and attested to by Daniel S. Wheeler, national adjutant. And I think there's something in an envelope that's got your name on it as well. *(Applause)*

"Certificate of Meritorious Service. This is certificate is presented to PNC Jimmie L. Foster for dedicating your service and leadership to the Department of Oklahoma from March 2014 to July 2014 as interim department commander. Your accomplishments demonstrate the abiding strength of spirit that is one of our nation's hallmarks, and your dedication to this mission has been a true and cognizant declaration and affirmation of placing service to others above self. In witness thereof, this testimony of wholehearted admiration of your support to our veterans in Oklahoma is duly attested this day, October 11, 2014."

Signed by National Commander Michael D. Helm, attested to by Daniel S. Wheeler, national adjutant. *(Applause)*

INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR DAVIS: Dave, Mr. Commander, Mr. Adjutant, we didn't do this for this. You don't thank me; you thank the guys sitting back there. They're the ones that stood up. You have no idea, none, of how much they've gone through, period. Thank you, guys. *(Applause)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOSTER: I want to echo what Tom said. You know, when we arrived there, we got a nickname pretty quick. It was Thelma and Louise. *(Laughter)* And you come in there, have an idea, a little bit about it, being an Okie and being around the area, and then you come in and guys come in with badges and guns and they say, "We want to go to your storage unit." And we say, "What storage unit?" And they say, "We know where it's at. Let's roll." So, I mean, that's the kind of the environment and atmosphere it was.

And everything just snowballed. We lost over half of the meeting space and the office space. We had to go find stuff. Department service officers had no copiers, zero. They'd beg, borrow and steal from the other DSOs, and it was not an easy deal. Tom needs to be commended. Just give him a hand. *(Applause)*

And they elected a new set of officers after a little dilemma in trying to get some of the rabble-rousers under control. We got some new officers there and, in the back of the room, we elected a new National Executive Committeeman from Oklahoma, and if he'll stand up, Mr. Jerry Ball, just give him a hand. *(Applause)*

They elected a young, hard-charging fresh-out-of-the-box department commander, a son of a minister, so he hopefully has some little ethical values built in there. *(Laughter)* And let's give a young man that's got a great desire, Mr. Tim Smith, a hand. *(Applause)*

Both of us are still in the mode of assisting them. Tom is going to fly back and forth. I want to thank Idaho for being very liberal to let me go. You're good people, thank you. *(Applause) ...National Commander Helm resumed the chair.*

OKLAHOMA REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, that completes my report. I move that it be received and filed. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. PNC Comer?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I just want to make a statement for the record that, when tomorrow you receive your appointments, and you all can see in that book about 24 to 25 appointments to the Department of Oklahoma, that we have met with the leadership of Oklahoma and we're very, very pleased with who we had to meet with. You can be assured that every member that's in there from the Department of Oklahoma are all the good guys. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye? Opposed, no. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, attached to that report I have three resolutions that I would like to present at this time.

Resolution No. 1: Reinstatement of the Charter of The American Legion Department of Oklahoma
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The charter of the American Legion Department of Oklahoma was suspended on March 12, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Oklahoma has worked exhaustively to cure the violation that caused the suspension; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That the charter of the American Legion Department of Oklahoma shall be reinstated on January 1, 2015, and upon the reinstatement of the charter of the American Legion Department of Oklahoma will be completely reinstated subject to a separate loan administration agreement as security for funds owed to The American Legion.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Therefore, I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 29: Handling of Funds on Reinstatement of the Charter of the American Legion Department of Oklahoma
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The charter of the American Legion Department of Oklahoma will be reinstated effective January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the suspension of its charter, The American Legion will return to the American Legion Department of Oklahoma the funds it has received that belong to the American Legion Department of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Oklahoma will owe The American Legion an amount expected to be in excess of $600,000; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is willing to give the American Legion Department of Oklahoma a reasonable time to raise the appropriate funds by allowing the American Legion Department of Oklahoma to execute a note for the actual amount due which shall be secured by a receivership agreement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That effective January 1, 2015, The American Legion shall return the funds belonging to the American Legion Department of Oklahoma to the Department of Oklahoma and the American Legion Department of Oklahoma shall execute a note and loan administration agreement which shall cover the total amount of its indebtedness to The American Legion as determined on January 1, 2015 at the applicable federal rate published by the Internal Revenue Service for long term obligations (currently 2.89%); and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the American Legion Department of Oklahoma authorize its commander and adjutant to execute the appropriate documents at its next Department Executive Committee meeting.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Dave, I want to make an appointment here. I ask the following to continue serving on the Oklahoma Reorganization Committee as an oversight during the receivership period: William M. Detweiler, Louisiana, past national commander, chairman; David O. Warnken, Kansas, National Executive Committeeman, vice chairman; Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts, past national commander, member; Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Finance Commission chairman, member; Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon, National Executive Committeeman, member.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. commander, I'd like to make a motion to approve your recommendation. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 30: American Legion Department Advisory Committee
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, From time to time Departments have made requests to the National Headquarters for advice and guidance on a variety of issues; and

WHEREAS, The National Headquarters staff does not have a protocol in place to consider and respond to some issues for which Departments seek advice and guidance; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for the National Executive Committee to establish a subcommittee to be known as the "Department Advisory Committee" to consider and make recommendations to the requesting Department; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee should authorize the National Commander to annually appoint a "Department Advisory Committee" composed of 3-5 members of the National Executive Committee to meet this need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That the National Executive Committee does hereby create The American Legion Department Advisory Committee comprising such members as the National Commander shall recommend and the National Executive Committee approve; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That appointments to The American Legion Department Advisory Committee shall be for one year commencing in October.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Subcommittee on Resolutions. Therefore, I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

I nominate the following people to comprise the Department Advisory Committee until October 15th, 2015: Past National Commander William Detweiler; NECman David Warnken; NECman Charles Schmidt; Past National Commander Paul Morin; Past National Commander Dave Rehbein.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion for approval of your appointments. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried. We're about to come to the end of the day, but I saw Jack come in. Do you have an update on Larry, Jack?

INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR QUERFELD: I just visited with Chairman Besson. He looks a little tired today because they've been pushing and pulling him all night, and this morning been going through some more CAT scans and so forth.

But the prognosis is good. The bleeding has not increased, and it looks like the medication that they put him on is working. He has no more seizures on the right arm, so that medication is working.

So it looks like, Larry says maybe he might be able to go home tomorrow. But his son says probably Friday or Saturday, and I think that's what the doctors told me this morning, that was probably about when it would be.

But very good care over at Methodist Hospital, as you know. Methodist is where your Indy drivers are taken over there and cared for, so they've got neurosurgeons that are in and out of his room all the time.

Jane is with him, his son Brad is with him, and Shelly, the daughter-in-law, is with him. So he's doing well. If you want to visit him, there's no restrictions to going in to see him.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Thank you, Jack. PNC Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Comrade Commander, I don't know whether anyone's going to give a report on this. Do you know of that?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I've seen it, yes, I have.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Well, this has been in the hands of every member of the National Executive Committee, and I certainly want to make a report on it because, as you read it, if you understand what this report is all about, there's only one word to describe it: Disgraceful. Disgraceful that our organization has to be run like this. And I'm certainly going to take notice of many of the individuals that failed to do their duty at the National Convention in Charlotte. We'll see what happens at the convention in Baltimore.

I can understand what the yellows mean when it says, "Vacant," because many times you don't have as many individuals that go to the convention anymore that you can fill those positions. I understand that.

But I don't understand how you can put a name of a man to serve on the Sunday committee at the National Convention, and he does not show up. That's absent. There's one in my department. I've already taken care of him. *(Laughter)*

When you go to your meetings on Saturday as the call-in appointments, all of the resolutions that are handled are then referred to the Sunday meeting where there's one representative of every department. And the reason is that they find out what The American Legion has done on Saturday, because we're an organization by resolution. Nothing happens in The American Legion unless there's a resolution.

Then you take it back on your Sunday meetings, and you go back to your caucuses and report as to what's going on for that convention, and then it's referred to the convention floor, and all of you know what's going on when you finally vote on it on the convention floor. It starts with the Sunday meeting of your representatives.

And if you look at some of these departments that have so many reds, all I can say, it's disgraceful. I hope you understand what this report is all about. If you don't, see me and I'll certainly explain it. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Thank you, Jake. Going back to the membership report that Ken gave us this morning, he mentioned two departments, and one of them was over in that minus 5,000. He was nice and he didn't say it was Nebraska,

but I'll tell you it was. One of those two was Nebraska. So thank you for covering me up, but I don't want to be covered. We'll do better. Don't worry about it.

The other announcement is that we have the reception tonight and a dinner. The National Commander's Dinner for members of the NEC and visiting Legionnaires at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre. If you don't have your tickets yet, go up and see Patty before you leave, to distribute to your people. And I believe that's it. The colors of our nation being in place, right-hand salute. Two.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: This meeting is now recessed.

...At 2:55 p.m., Wednesday, October 15, 2014, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, October 16, 2014.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 16, 2014

...At 8:00 a.m., the National Executive Committee of The American Legion reconvened, National Commander Helm presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: The colors of our country being in place, right-hand salute. Two.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Please uncover, and Chaplain Randy Cash will give the invocation.

Invocation
Tierian 'Randy' Cash, North Carolina, National Chaplain

Let us pray. Eternal God, our Father, You have bestowed upon The American Legion a sacred trust to support our nation's veterans and armed forces, and we pray this morning, Lord, that You would give strength to those who are standing watch around the world to guard our freedom. May our great American Legion always stand as a bulwark and never lose sight of our primary mission.

Father, we remember those this morning who could not be with us and those of the Legion family who are ill. We remember this morning especially Pete Wheeler from Georgia, and we pray that You would give him comfort and heal his body, Father.

We pray now that You would lead us and guide us in this meeting. May we always give You honor, praise, and glory, for I pray in Your most holy name. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance and
Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion
Rawlin E. 'Leon' Hagan, Jr., Nebraska, National Sergeant-at-Arms

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: National Sergeant-at-Arms Leon Hagan from Nebraska will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Cover. I now call on the National Adjutant Dan Wheeler from Virginia for roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders

Paul O. Sanford, Kansas
Douglas C. Haggan, France
Richard W. Neville, North Carolina
William Robert Bryant, Virginia
Gerald L. Jacobs, Wyoming

Past National Commanders

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

National Executive Committeemen

Department	Committeeman	Alternate
Alabama	Willis Frazier	
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Richard W. Perry	
Arkansas	James V. Bynum	
California	Hugh E. Crooks, Jr.	
Colorado	Francis W. McCurdy	
Connecticut	D. Joseph Jackson	
Delaware	Kenneth G. Whitman	
D. C.	Warren N. Cuffee	
Florida	Dennis R. Boland	
France	John H. Miller	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	Marvin R. Siegfried	
Idaho	Thomas E. Mattice	
Illinois	Larry W. Moore	
Indiana	Paul I. Steward	
Iowa	Bruce C. Feuerbach	
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	John W. Hargreaves	
Maryland	Elbert D. White	
Massachusetts	Steven M. Jimmo	
Mexico	Michael D. Wood	

Michigan	John H. Skinner	
Minnesota	Raymond DeZurik	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Charles W. Goodin	
Montana	Mervin G. Gunderson	
Nebraska	Jerry Landkamer	
Nevada	Ronald L. Michalski	
New Hampshire	Earlon L. Beale	
New Jersey	Daniel E. McCole	
New Mexico	Felix M. Trujillo	
New York	Stanley H. Clark	
North Carolina	Bill G. Richard	
North Dakota	Robert L. Krause	
Ohio	Robert J. Kimball	
Oklahoma		
Oregon	Charles E. Schmidt	
Pennsylvania		Wendall J. Sandell
Philippines	Herbert J. Scholten	
Puerto Rico	Ildefonso Colon, Jr. (Excused)	Edwin Vargas
Rhode Island	David A. Golde	
South Carolina	Mickey C. Taylor	
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson	
Tennessee	Alvin R. Brown (Excused)	Gary R. Drennon
Texas	James E. Prendergast	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Royal E. Sheeley	
Virginia	Thomas E. Saunders	
Washington	William R. 'Bob' Wallace	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Steve Krueger	
Wyoming	William R. Wright, III	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll call, Mr. Commander. We have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: We have a quorum, and yesterday I think we finished all of our business, so there's no unfinished business from yesterday. We'll move on to the Legislative Commission report by Brett Reistad from Virginia.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Brett Reistad, Virginia, Chairman

Commander Helm and members of the National Executive Committee, good morning. Each of you should have a copy of the commission's written report. Attached to the report is Addendum I listing resolutions with legislative intent that were approved at this NEC. I'd like to give you a brief update on several items from the second session of the 113th Congress.

The fiscal year 2015 appropriations process has ground to a halt since none of the 12 appropriations bills were enacted by the end of September. House Joint Resolution 59, a continuing resolution, contains stopgap funding for the federal government until December 11.

On September 26, President Obama signed into law H.R. 5404, "The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014." It is now Public Law 113-175. The law provided for extensions of several Department of Veterans Affairs programs due to expire this year, including programs related to health care, veterans benefits, and to help homeless veterans. The law also made technical corrections to smooth the implementation of Public Law 113-146. That's entitled, "The Veterans Access Choice and Accountability Act of 2014."

Also on September 26, the president signed into law S. 2258 titled, "The Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Act of 2014." This annual bill authorizes a cost-of-living increase for veterans benefits as determined by consultation with the Consumer Price Index. This bill is now Public Law 113-181.

Commander Helm, on behalf of the commission, I'd like to thank you for your outstanding leadership. I would like to thank the commander and the National Executive Committee for entrusting me with the leadership of the Legislative Commission. It has been my honor and my privilege to serve The American Legion as chairman.

I would also like to take a moment of personal privilege to introduce Louis Celli. He is the outgoing director of the National Legislative Division. Lou has been a great collaborator over this last year. I appreciate your leadership, Lou, and I wish you Godspeed in your next assignment with the VA&R.

Gentlemen, this completes my report.

Report: Legislative Commission
October 15-16, 2014
Brett Reistad, Virginia, Chairman

The National Legislative Commission did not meet during this time.

The remainder of this report provides a summary of congressional actions since the National Convention on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. After the National Convention, Congress met only from September 9-23.

113th Congress, Second Session

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 appropriations process has ground to a halt. Since none of the twelve appropriations bills were enacted by the end of September, **House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 59**, a continuing resolution, contained stop-gap funding for the federal government until December 11.

On September 26th, President Obama signed into law **H.R. 5404**, *The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014*. It is now **Public Law (P.L.) 113-175**. The law provided for extensions of several Department of Veterans Affairs programs due to expire this year, including programs related to healthcare, veterans' benefits, and to help homeless veterans. The law also made technical corrections to smooth the implementation of **Public Law (P.L.) 113-146**, *The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014*.

Also on September 26th, the President signed into law **S. 2258**, *The Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Act of 2014*. This annual bill authorizes a cost of living increase for veterans' benefits as determined by consultation with the Consumer Price Index. This bill is now **Public Law (P.L.) 113-181**.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission's Report to the National Executive Committee.

Addendum I

The National Legislative Commission is required, under Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, to compile a list of resolutions with legislative intent adopted during meetings of The American Legion National Convention and The American Legion National Executive Committee. The following resolutions constitute an ongoing list of all resolutions that are legislative in nature. This list of resolutions will constitute part of The American Legion's legislative program through the 114th Congress.

The following resolutions were adopted at the 96th National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina August 26-28, 2014

Americanism

Res. No.	5	Financially Assist Families Faced by Catastrophic Illness of Their Children
Res. No.	6	Support Funding Comprehensive Health Care for Children & Youth Programs
Res. No.	7	Funding for Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs
Res. No.	8	Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation
Res. No.	9	Oppose any attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing Penalties for the Production, Sale and Distribution of Pornographic or Obscene Materials to Minors
Res. No.	27	School Prayer
Res. No.	63	Return Patriotic Holidays to Traditional Dates
Res. No.	69	The Purchase of American Made US Flags
Res. No.	117	The Boy Scouts of America and the Department of Defense
Res. No.	118	Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance
Res. No.	119	Support Fairness for Immigrant Spouses
Res. No.	204	Conscientious Objectors Tax Diversion
Res. No.	213	English Language be declared as the Official United States Language
Res. No.	214	Establish "National Family Week"
Res. No.	221	Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization
Res. No.	222	National School Lunch Program
Res. No.	240	Prevent Child Maltreatment
Res. No.	241	Programs and Organizations that Promote Child Safety
Res. No.	242	Reducing or Preventing Teenage Pregnancy
Res. No.	243	Support for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Res. No.	270	Pledge of Allegiance
Res. No.	357	Star Spangled Banner
Res. No.	358	Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits
Res. No.	359	Oppose Flag Code Change Conduct during Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of the Flag or during the National Anthem
Res. No.	360	Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Flag of the United States

Internal Affairs

Res. No.	192	Support and Defend Veteran and Military Memorials
Res. No.	208	POW/MIA Forever Stamp
Res. No.	356	Change Internal Revenue Rules in Counting Sons of The American Legion Membership at the Post level as outlined in Section 501 (C) (19) of the U.S. Code

National Security

Res. No.	3	Commission the USS American Legion
Res. No.	34	Name a United States Navy Ship in Honor of Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr.
Res. No.	39	Central America Democracy Promotion
Res. No.	40	Enhanced Funding for USAID
Res. No.	41	Expand Foreign Service Officer Corps
Res. No.	43	Military Retiree Mail at Overseas Embassies
Res. No.	44	Middle East/Gulf States Foreign Policies
Res. No.	45	Policy on Africa

Res. No. 47 Policy on the United Nations
Res. No. 50 Support for The American Battle Monuments Commission
Res. No. 51 Social Security Survivor Benefits for Non-Resident Alien Spouses and Dependents
Res. No. 52 Securing Pakistan's Nuclear Arsenal
Res. No. 53 POW/MIA Policies
Res. No. 54 Vietnam Human Rights
Res .No. 55 Support for Foreign Exchange Education Programs
Res. No. 57 Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC)
Res. No. 58 Support for World Press Freedom
Res. No. 59 Secure National Borders against Illegal Drugs
Res. No. 61 Security of Overseas Embassies
Res. No. 62 Ratify Disabilities Treaty
Res. No. 72 Benefits and Burial Rights for Select Surrogate Forces
Res. No. 76 Position on the Operational Reserve
Res. No. 77 Support Research and Funding for Alternative Energy Resources
Res. No. 78 Develop Defense against Electromagnetic Pulse Attack
Res. No. 79 Fully Enforce Immigration Laws
Res. No. 80 Support Financial Anti-Terrorism Law Enforcement
Res. No. 81 Fully Fund NASA
Res. No. 82 Guard and Reserve Space-A Travel
Res. No. 83 Support for the Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard
Res. No. 84 Illegal Immigration Policy
Res. No. 85 Long Range Strike Capabilities
Res. No. 86 Modify Battlefield Helmet
Res. No. 87 Support for the Non-Federal Roles of the National Guard
Res. No. 88 Pipeline Construction and Energy Independence
Res. No. 89 Protection, Preservation and Retention of Federal and Military Monuments in the United States
Res. No. 90 Reclassify Fort Hood Shooting
Res. No. 91 Reserves and National Guard Retirement Benefit Fairness
Res. No. 92 Second Amendment
Res. No. 93 Commercial Shipbuilding for Defense
Res. No. 94 Support Full Funding for the Department of the Army Budget
Res. No. 95 Support for the United States Air Force
Res. No. 97 Support for NASA and Advancements in Aeronautical and Space Research
Res. No. 98 Support for Research and Development of Air Breathing Scramjet
Res. No. 99 Support for National Missile Defense System
Res. No. 162 Amend the "Temporary Protected Status" Portion of the Immigration Act of 1990
Res. No. 163 Include Chiropractic Care and Services in Tricare Coverage
Res. No. 164 Codify Burial Eligibility for Arlington National Cemetery
Res. No. 165 Support for Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement Pay and VA Disability Compensation
Res. No. 166 Support Fight against Cyberspace Threat
Res. No. 167 Earned Military Benefits
Res. No. 168 Flexible Savings Accounts
Res. No. 169 Support Full Funding and Resourcing for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps
Res. No. 170 Grant Access to all U.S. Military Facilities to Military Retirees and Their Dependents
Res. No. 171 Support for the Global War on Terrorism
Res. No. 172 Handling of Military Remains
Res. No. 173 Support for the Jones Maritime Act and Related Cabotage Laws
Res. No. 175 Military Commissaries
Res. No. 176 Department of Defense Military Retirement System
Res. No. 177 Support for the Reformation of the Military Voting System
Res. No. 179 Oppose Tricare Fee Increases
Res. No. 180 Department of Defense Personnel Policy
Res. No. 181 Correction of Military Records
Res. No. 182 Support for Military Quality of Life Standards

Res. No. 183 Rebuild America's Defense Industrial Base
Res. No. 184 Reference Veterans Service Organizations at Discharge
Res. No. 186 Establish a Strategic Plan for the Internal Security within the United States
Res. No. 188 Support Armed Services Retirement Homes
Res. No. 189 Support for Legislation Prohibiting Hate Speech at Military Funerals
Res. No. 190 Support for Pain Management Research Treatments and Therapies at DoD, VA and NIH
Res. No. 191 Support for Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Res. No. 225 National Defense Budget
Res. No. 227 Prevent a Nuclear Armed Iran
Res. No. 230 Prescription Drugs and Military Suicides
Res. No. 271 Authorize and Fund Tricare for Reserve Components and Dependents
Res. No. 272 Buy American
Res. No. 273 Support Domestic Energy Production
Res. No. 274 Identifying National Interests before Committing Military Forces and Assets
Res. No. 277 Military Occupational Specialty Standards
Res. No. 278 Rare Earth Elements
Res. No. 279 Support for the Selective Service Registration Program
Res. No. 280 Support Unmanned Vehicles

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Res. No. 16 Assured Funding for VA Medical Care
Res. No. 17 Amend Title 38, United States Code, to Increase the Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award
Res. No. 18 Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation
Res. No. 19 Extend the Filing Period of An Appeal Notice to the Court of Veterans Appeals for Veterans Claims
Res. No. 20 Presumptive Conditions for Former Prisoners of War
Res. No. 21 State Veteran Home Per Diem Reimbursement
Res. No. 22 National Cemetery Administration
Res. No. 23 The Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Care
Res. No. 24 The Department of Veterans Affairs' Role in National Emergency Preparedness
Res. No. 30 Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense
Res. No. 31 Prevent Exploitation of Veterans and Family Members Applying for Aid and Attendance
Res. No. 35 Oppose any Reductions to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Budget Due to Sequestration
Res. No. 36 Department of Veterans Affairs Child Care Program
Res. No. 37 Department of Veterans Affairs Rural Healthcare Program
Res. No. 65 Veterans Discounts on Federally Funded Public Transportation
Res. No. 66 Department of Veterans Affairs Means Test
Res. No. 68 WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Entitlements
Res. No. 70 Include Korean War Veterans in Priority Group 6 for Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care
Res. No. 105 Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record
Res. No. 106 Veterans Transportation System & Benefits Travel
Res. No. 107 Prosecution of VA Employees Engaged in Fraudulent Practices in the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No. 114 Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Integrated Service Networks
Res. No. 125 Environmental Exposures
Res. No. 126 Extend Department of Veterans Affairs Mortgage Protection Life Insurance to Service-Connected Veterans who are Permanently and Totally Disabled
Res. No. 127 Gulf War Illnesses
Res. No. 128 Increase the Transparency of the Veterans Benefits Administration's Claims Processing
Res. No. 129 All Veterans Receive "Wartime" benefits for Active Military Service between February 28, 1961 and August 5, 1964

Res. No. 130 Amend the Eligibility Requirements and Extend the Eligibility Time Period for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
Res. No. 133 Designate United States Air Force C-123K Transport Aircraft as Agent Orange Exposure Sites
Res. No. 134 Disability and Death Pension Program
Res. No. 135 Extend the Presumptive Period for Service Connection for Gulf War Veterans with Undiagnosed Illness
Res. No. 136 Oppose Legislation authorizing Legion-Accredited Representatives to Develop Claims Directly on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No. 137 Radiation Exposure
Res. No. 138 Recognize Operations in Lebanon (1958), Grenada (1983), and Panama (1989-1990) as Periods of War for Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Purposes
Res. No. 139 Revision of Work-Rate Standards for Department of Veterans Affairs Adjudications
Res. No. 140 Support Presumption of Service Connection for Hepatitis C
Res. No. 141 Means Test for Married Veterans
Res. No. 142 Opening the Federal Supply Schedule for Pharmaceuticals to Medicare and Medicaid
Res. No. 143 Oppose any Reduction of Eligibility Criteria for Department of Veterans Affairs Per Diem
Res. No. 144 Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment
Res. No. 145 Protection of Religious Rights and Ceremonies at National Cemetery Administration National and State Cemeteries
Res. No. 146 Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs the Ability to Purchase Medication Located outside the United States
Res. No. 147 Exempt Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment
Res. No. 148 Request Congress Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs Adequate Funding for Medical and Prosthetic Research
Res. No. 149 Service Dogs for Injured Service Personnel and Veterans with Mental Health Conditions
Res. No. 150 Strategic Capital Investment Planning Program
Res. No. 151 Support Legislation to Place Mariner Medal Recipients in Priority Group 3 for the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care
Res. No. 152 Support Medicare Reimbursement for the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No. 153 Policy on State Veteran Homes Inspections
Res. No. 154 Department of Veterans Affairs Enhanced-Use Leasing
Res. No. 155 Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services
Res. No. 156 Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing Home Capacity
Res. No. 157 Department of Veterans Affairs Pharmacy Benefits
Res. No. 158 State Veteran Homes' Extended Care Facilities Grant Program
Res. No. 159 Veteran Treatment Courts
Res. No. 160 Veterans Receive Same Level of Benefits
Res. No. 194 Authorization to Apply for a Headstone, Marker, or Medallion
Res. No. 196 Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act
Res. No. 200 Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses
Res. No. 202 Department of Veterans Affairs to Provide Interim Benefits for Pending Claims over 90 days
Res. No. 212 Designate Hypertension as a Presumptive Condition for Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange
Res. No. 215 Extend Eligibility for National Cemetery Administration Medallion
Res. No. 216 Automatic Waiver for Over-payments of $300 or Less
Res. No. 219 Increase Maximum Coverage under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
Res. No. 220 Oppose Lump Sum Payments for Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation
Res. No. 233 Agent Orange
Res. No. 234 Co-Payments and Enrollment Fees for Priority Groups 7 & 8
Res. No. 235 Improvements to Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Programs

Res. No. 236 Exempt Certain Income from VA Pension Rate Determination
Res. No. 238 State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants
Res. No. 239 Research to Develop a Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer
Res. No. 245 Exempt Funds Related to Interment Services at VA National Cemeteries from any Future Sequestration
Res. No. 246 United States Census to include Veterans Information
Res. No. 250 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans
Res. No. 251 Extended Hours and Weekends for Veterans' Health Care
Res. No. 255 Allow Beneficiaries to Retain $90 of their Benefits while in Medicaid-Covered Nursing Homes
Res. No. 257 Exempt certain Income from VA Pension Rate Determination
Res. No. 262 Grant a Ten Percent Rating for Veterans who must take Daily Medication for Hypertension
Res. No. 264 Timely Processing of Overpayments for Reserve Components and/or Active Duty Pay
Res. No. 281 Advance Appropriations for all of the Department of Veterans Affairs Discretionary Accounts
Res. No. 282 Congressional Budget Office Scoring on Department of Veterans Affairs Leasing
Res. No. 283 Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists
Res. No. 284 Department of Veterans Affairs to Develop Outreach and Peer Programs for Rehabilitation
Res. No. 285 Congress to provide Back Pay to Veterans and Dependents
Res. No. 287 Agent Orange Presumption for Service in Southeast Asia since 1975
Res. No. 288 Department of Veterans Affairs Involvement in the Department of Homeland Security
Res. No. 291 Oppose Lowering of Cost-of-Living Adjustments
Res. No. 292 Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Programs

Veterans Employment & Education

Res. No. 101 Oppose the Department of Labor's Restructuring of Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Roles
Res. No. 102 Support the Increased Funding of Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Programs
Res. No. 103 Support the Elimination of Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service Regional Offices
Res. No. 223 Support for Expansion of Oil Refineries
Res. No. 263 Support Employment Services for Spouses of Servicemembers Killed in the Line of Duty
Res. No. 293 Support Accountability for Institutions of Higher Learning
Res. No. 294 Allow Military Retirees to apply for Position in Federal Law Enforcement after Age 37
Res. No. 295 Amending the Eligibility for the Transfer of the Post 9/11 GI Bill Education Benefits
Res. No. 296 Support "Buy American" Policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs to Create Jobs and Opportunities for Veterans
Res. No. 297 Support the Development of Veterans on-The-Job Training Opportunities
Res. No. 298 Veteran Education Debt Forgiveness
Res. No. 299 Eliminating Dates for the Montgomery GI Bill and Post 9/11 GI Bill
Res. No. 300 Support Elimination of the VA Home Loan Funding Fee
Res. No. 301 Enforcing Veterans' Preference Hiring Practices in Federal Civil Service
Res. No. 302 Support Major Enhancements for the Montgomery GI Bill
Res. No. 303 Expanding Post 9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship
Res. No. 304 Federal and State Incentive for Employers to use Veterans' Preference
Res. No. 305 Support Funding for Additional Housing for Homeless Veterans with Families
Res. No. 306 Support Funding for Homeless Veterans
Res. No. 307 Support Home Loan Guaranty Program

Res. No. 308 Homeless Veterans Assistance
Res. No. 309 Support Housing Preference for Low-Income Veterans in the Department of Housing and Urban Development
Res. No. 310 Improve Transition Assistance Program
Res. No. 311 Support Legislation to Improve the Post 9/11 GI Bill
Res. No. 312 Ensuring the Quality of Servicemembers and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Learning
Res. No. 313 Support Licensure and Certification of Servicemembers, Veterans and Spouses
Res. No. 314 Support Extended Time for Mortgage Payments for Servicemembers
Res. No. 315 Oppose Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service Hiring of Non-Veterans
Res. No. 316 Oppose Efforts to change the Residency Requirements for State Directors of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS
Res. No. 317 Oppose the Transfer of Veterans' Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No. 318 Oppose any Weakening of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative
Res. No. 319 Support Increase in Reporting Fees for Educational Institutions
Res. No. 320 The Status of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business after the Death of the Veteran Owner
Res. No. 321 Support Student-Veteran-Return-On-Investment Education Outcomes
Res. No. 322 Support an Investigation of Hiring Practices in the Federal Government
Res .No. 323 Support Legislation that Ensures that all Agencies that Receive Funding from the U.S. Department of Labor or the Workforce Investment Act Meet the Mandatory Compliance Standards for Veterans' Preference
Res. No. 324 Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
Res. No. 325 Supporting the U.S. Economy and Increase U.S. Energy Security Through a Canadian-American Oil Pipeline
Res. No. 326 Support Legislation that would change the 12 Years Delimiting Date for Eligibility for Chapter 31 benefits (VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program)
Res. No. 327 Affirm Support for Emerging Internet-Based and Peer-Financed Alternative Capital Options for Veteran Owned Small Businesses
Res. No. 329 Support Legislation that Bolsters the Hiring of Veterans in the Public and Private Sectors
Res. No. 330 Support Funding for the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Homeless Program
Res. No. 331 Support Improvements in the Reporting Programs Available to and Administered by Veterans' Employment and Training Service
Res. No. 332 Support Federal Legislation that Protects the Employment of Veterans in the U.S. Postal Service Mail Processing Facilities that are Slated for Closure
Res. No. 333 Support Recognition of Military and Pay when Calculating Starting Federal Civilian Salaries
Res. No. 334 Support for the Military Transition Program
Res. No. 335 Support for the Strengthening and Adequate Funding of the National Veterans' Training Institute (NVIT)
Res. No. 336 Support the Restoration of the Duties and Responsibilities of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER)
Res. No. 337 Support the Rollover of IRA Account Penalty of Tax Liability of Permanent and Total 100 Percent Service-Disabled Veteran with Individual Unemployability
Res. No. 338 Support effort of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development
Res. No. 339 Support Reasonable Set-Aside of Federal Procurements and Contracts for Business Owned and Operated by Veterans
Res. No. 340 Support Legislation that would return Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) Funding to a Staffing Grant

Res. No.	341	Support Legislation to Amend Title 38 United States Code, to Prohibit Discrimination and Acts of Reprisal by Employers against Veterans that seek Treatment for their Service-Connected Disabilities
Res. No.	342	Support Veterans' Preference in Public Employment
Res. No.	343	Support for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program Hiring more Counselors and Employment Coordinators
Res. No.	344	Surviving Spouse Mortgage Eligibility
Res. No.	345	Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops for National Guard and Reserve Members
Res. No.	346	Support Tax Credit for certain Employers
Res. No.	347	Support Legislation to increase Telework (Telecommuting) Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veterans and Military Spouses
Res. No.	348	Transitional Housing Allotments for Returning Combat Veterans
Res. No.	349	Support Verification Improvements for Veterans' Business within the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense
Res. No.	350	Veterans Employment Initiative
Res. No.	351	Veterans Entrepreneur Training Program
Res. No.	352	Support Licensure and Certification Standards for Veterans Health Administration
Res. No.	353	Veterans Home Loans
Res. No.	354	Support Veterans Housing Repair and Modification for Pilot Program
Res. No.	355	Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program

The following resolutions were adopted in the fall meetings of the National Executive Committee, October 15-16, 2014

Americanism

Res. No.	27	Flag Code Amendment

Internal Affairs

Res. No.	17	Federal Properties Distinguished Veterans Pass

Veterans Employment & Education

Res. No.	13	Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services Within the Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Res. No.	19	Exempt VA Benefits And Services From Pay-Go Provisions
Res. No.	20	Department Of Veterans Affairs Preservation Of National Historic Properties
Res. No.	21	Legislation to Provide Reporting, Tracking, and Action Dealing with Sexual Assaults at Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the Legislative Commission report with the exception of one addendum. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Pursuant to Rule 8B of the National Executive Committee, I move the resolutions on Addendum I with the legislative intent be ratified for distribution as part of the legislative program to the 114th Congress. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried. I now recognize Tom Cadmus for a point of personal privilege and for the good of The American Legion.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CADMUS: Thank you, Commander, and members of the NEC.

Yesterday you went through a, I call it, historic event with the Department of Oklahoma. They're going through some real growing pains, and Tom Davis and Jimmie Foster and the national staff has helped them to come back and be part of this great organization again.

They have a tremendous burden in front of them. They have a tremendous financial burden. And you know, like we always talk about a fallen comrade, we always want to help them. We have a lot of programs: National Emergency Fund, TFA, and so on.

I'm not asking for any action from this body, but I wish, if you could, go back to your departments, and if you have a fund — I know all departments are different. Not all of us have a lot of money. But if you have a fund, how better can you help your fellow veteran than maybe send them a little donation to help them dig out of this monumental debt that they've got in front of them.

So I have a plea for you to go back to your departments and see if you can find some money and forward it to the Department of Oklahoma. If you can, I'm sure they'd appreciate it, and really, it stands for mutual helpfulness. Thank you. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Thank you, Tom. That's a good thought, and I encourage you all, all your departments to consider that. I now call on Susan B. Mason from Florida, the national historian, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: National Historian
Susan B. Mason, Florida

Commander Helm, national vice commanders, members of the National Executive Committee and fellow Legionnaires. It is a privilege and great honor to serve as the national historian for the world's largest and most respected veterans organization.

I would like to thank Commander Helm for this appointment. I would like to give special thanks to Florida's late National Executive Committeeman Bob Proctor for presenting my name for consideration. I would also like to thank Past National Commanders Jake Comer and Dan Ludwig, as well as the late National Executive Committeeman Jerry Hedrick, for recommending me to Commander Helm. It is with much sadness that Bob Proctor and Jerry Hedrick could not witness my appointment. Finally, I would like to thank the six department commanders who I served as department historian, and the headquarters staff of the Department of Florida for their assistance.

My first task as national historian was to oversee the judging of the post and department histories in the national contest. I commend all of the historians who have devoted so much of their personal time compiling the histories of their post or department. You do not realize how much time it takes to record these histories until you do one yourself. Being a department historian for the past six years and a national judge for five years gives me a great appreciation for the time and effort needed to produce a finished product.

The members of the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion, or NADHAL, once again did a magnificent job judging the entries. I thank them all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Past National Historians Charemon Dunham of South Dakota and Larry Rozier of North Carolina, two members of NADHAL who conducted the training seminar for new department historians.

I would also like to thank Past National Historian Frazier Brinley of Connecticut for his help as a final judge. Finally, I would like to thank National Librarian Howard Trace who has been a wealth of knowledge, and Linda Lydick who managed all the books as they arrived at the library.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask that you encourage the historians of your respective departments and posts to record events for future Legionnaires. Memories can fade, and Legionnaires do transfer to Post Everlasting. If we do not record our history as it happens, it will be lost, and that would be a tragedy. Thank you.

Now for the results of this year's contest winners:

The results of the One-Year Department Narrative History Contest are:

First Award, Plaque, Department of North Carolina
Second Award, Plaque, Department of Indiana
Third Award, Plaque, Department of Georgia

There were no other entries.

The results of the One-Year Department Yearbook History Contest are:

First Award, Plaque, Department of Florida
Second Award, Plaque, Department of Ohio
Third Award, Plaque, Department of North Carolina
Honorable Mention, Department of Missouri
Honorable Mention, Department of North Dakota

Certificates of Participation are awarded to Departments:

Department of Oregon
Department of Pennsylvania
Department of Washington

The results of the One-Year Post Narrative History Contest are:

First Award, Plaque, Pony Express Post 359, St. Joseph, MO
Second Award, Plaque, The Woodlands Post 305, The Woodlands, TX
Third Award, Plaque, John D. Combo Post 120, Disputanta, VA
Honorable Mention, Berkeley Post 14, Martinsburg, WV

Certificates of Participation are awarded to Posts:

Banks Post 90, Banks, OR
Joseph P. Chaisson Post 41, Milo, ME
Lewis & Clark Post 2, Helena, MT
Poulsbo Post 245, Poulsbo, WA
Glen Pedersen Post 1, Spencer, IA

The results of the One-Year Post Yearbook History Contest are:

First Award, Plaque, Alois-Dreikosen Post 469, Marathon, WI
Second Award, Plaque, Julius L. Shryer Post 430, Durant, IA
Third Award, Plaque, **TIE:** Veterans Memorial Post 347, Lady Lake, FL
and Adams Township Post 553, Toledo, OH
Honorable Mention, Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Berwick, ME
Honorable Mention, Earl Graham Post 159, Bryan, TX

Certificates of Participation are awarded to Posts:

Florence-Lauderdale Post 11, Florence AL
Henderson County Post 77, Lexington, TN
Clark Post 328, Clark, NJ
Rosedale Post 180, Rosedale, MD
Berkeley Post 14, Martinsburg, WV
Henry Meldrum Post 114, Sikeston, MO
Criswell-Robinson Post 71, Cabot, AR
Williston Post 144, Williston Park, NY
Abbeville Post 2, Abbeville, SC
Veterans Memorial Post 347, Lady Lake, FL
John P. Burns Post 36, Tucson, AZ
Fuquay-Varina Post 116, Fuquay-Varina, NC

Furniture City Post 258, Grand Rapids, MI
Vincennes Post 73, Vincennes, IN
Clatsop Post 12, Astoria, OR
John Bridges Post 15, Detroit Lakes, MN
Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, Vienna, VA

The instructors and judges for the contest were:

Virgil Arling (OH); George Boddie (NH); W. Frazier Brinley (CT); Fae Casper (GA); Nellie P. DeBaker (WI); Richard T. DuBay (MI); Charemon Dunham (SD); Greg Eirich (WI); Art Ellison (MT); Jackie Evonsion (CT); James Fratolillo (MA); Ruth Higgins (MD); Joseph Hovish (IN); Joseph Johnston (KS); Johnny B. Keel (LA); Ken Lee (WA); James 'Jim' Mariner (NM); Susan Mason (FL); Mike Miskell (PA); Peter Perez (IL); Lynne Rollins (GA); N. Larry Rozier (NC); Dan Watrous (OH); Don Weber (OR); Roy White (AZ); Ben Wilcoxen (MA); Robert F. Woodruff (GA); Charles 'Chuck' Zelinsky (IL)

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of Susan B. Mason, national historian. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

It's time for the national vice commanders. We always look forward to this, don't we. *(Laughter)* I call on Doug C. Haggan from France for the purpose of a good report.

Report: National Vice Commander
Doug C. Haggan, France

Commander Helm, members of the NEC, and guests. My name is Doug Haggan. I've been a member of the American Legion for 39 years. My first post was Rhein Main Post No. 5, Waldorf, Germany. Thirty-nine years later I'm standing proudly in front of you in a room that is filled with mentors, friends, and hard-working veterans, all of whom have the same mindset that I have, and that is dedicated work for the betterment of our American veterans and their families.

My eligibility comes to 21 years in the United States Air Force. At the department level, I have held elected and appointed positions as department adjutant, department vice commander, department vice commander-at-large, and in 1990-1992, department commander.

At the national level, I served as National Executive Committeeman, as a chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, and a chairman of Unconventional Forces and Intelligence.

I am active in FODPAL, Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion. I was a past president of FODPAL, 1998-1999, and currently serving as a long-standing FODPAL secretary, 1999 to present.

Affiliated memberships: I am a charter member and past president of the Department of France Past Commanders Club; I am a member of the National Past Commanders club; a member of ANAVICUS; and a member of Ye Steivos.

Civic duties: I am a member of the Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis, Indiana.

I have two goals this year. Goal No. 1 is to get 90 percent of the posts in the Northeast Region signed on to mylegion.org. Now, this may sound like a lofty goal, but with the district commanders and the department adjutants working as one, I think this is a very obtainable number.

Goal No. 2 will take a lot of work by every post, district, and department in the great Northeast, and this goal will have every department in the Northeast Region collecting all

the membership awards. That means at a minimum, every post of every department in the Northeast will have to have a minimum of 100 percent-plus in membership, and I think this is a very obtainable goal.

I have a motto for the Northeast Region which appears on most of my correspondence that I send out to my departments and districts: "12 Northeast Departments on the Stage in Baltimore Collecting all the Membership Awards."

I want to thank you for your time. May God bless you. May God bless The American Legion, and may God bless the United States of America. Thank you. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Douglas C. Haggan. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried. I now call on Paul O. Sanford from Kansas for the purpose of remarks.

Report: National Vice Commander
Paul O. Sanford, Kansas

Thank you, Commander. When I got the notice to do this, I told my wife I had two minutes to talk and she started laughing because she said I'd never be able to finish in two minutes.

My name is Paul Sanford. I'm an 18-year life member of Copeland, Kansas Post 369. I served in the United States Army from 1963 to 1969. During that time, I spent 14 months in Korea as a radar specialist. We spent two weeks at a time in the DMZ to monitor North Korean ground troops action. So during the 14 months that I was there, I was actually in the DMZ for seven full months.

I first got involved in my district when I attended a District Convention in Garden City, Kansas. I had never been to any district meetings and not done very much other than my post. After attending the first District Convention, I left that District Convention as district vice commander. *(Laughter)*

During my time as district vice commander and district commander, my district was a hundred percent in membership for two consecutive years. This had not been done in Kansas before. During my year as department commander, Kansas organized a Centennial Membership Committee in which, following my term, I became chairman.

In the past year and a half, Kansas has completed 24 full district revitalizations and six individual post revitalizations with still four more district revitalizations to go this year. We will be completing at least eight revitalizations every year, that's one per district. Kansas' goal this year is to be number one with over a hundred percent by our Department Convention, and that's in May. We always have an early convention.

My goal as your national vice commander for the Midwest Region this year is to keep the Midwest region in first place the entire year, not just the first three quarters of the year. We're going to stay in first place the entire year. I will also encourage each state in the Midwest Region to host a full district revitalization with national involvement. I'll be available to help any of the Midwest Region states in getting them set up with national, if they need help. Our goal is to be number one and to have all the states in the Midwest Region at least in the top 15 in the nation by the end of the year.

I want to thank all of you for allowing me to represent the Midwest Region as your national vice commander. God bless The American Legion and God bless each of you and the United States of America. Thank you. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Paul O. Sanford. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

I now call on Richard W. Neville, North Carolina, for the purpose of remarks.

Report: National Vice Commander
Richard W. Neville, North Carolina

Good morning, national commander, national adjutant, and members of the NEC. I am Richard Neville from North Carolina. I served in the United States Army from 1964 to 1966. I joined The American Legion in 1975 and, at the post level, served second and first vice commanders and post commander, district membership chairman, district vice commander, district commander, and department vice commander, and then on to department commander. I also served on numerous committees at the post, district, department, and national levels.

What I hope to accomplish this year as your national vice commander is to unite the Southeast District and join forces with the national commander's theme to ensure that it becomes a reality. We can have four million members at the end of the term. We can also donate $4 million to charities of the American Legion family. I strongly believe that the district revitalization program should be utilized by every department.

We need to impress upon our younger generation of veterans the importance of The American Legion. By being part of this great organization, we ensure the benefits that they receive stay intact. Members of The American Legion have supported the ideas that formed this organization for almost a hundred years. The comradeship that our organization offers gives us the opportunity to give back to the veterans and their families. I also know that the Southeast District does not stand before you and dream of being first place. We're just going to do that. We will do it.

I'd also like to take a moment of personal privilege, if I may. I'd like to thank the national commander, members of the NEC, and especially Past National Commander Jake Comer. As we go through our career in the Legion, I have had many mentors. One of my mentors was recognized again yesterday, he was my advisor, my director, and my friend, and more importantly, my real friend. That was Jerry Hedrick. I want to thank you for recognizing him again. There's not a day that goes by that I do not miss him, but I do feel his spirit here.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving you as your national vice commander, which would not have been possible without the help of certain people, and Jerry was one of them. Thank you. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of Richard W. Neville, national vice commander. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

I now call on William R. Bryant from Virginia for the purpose of remarks.

Report: National Vice Commander
William R. Bryant, Virginia

Good morning. Commander Helm, fellow officers, distinguished members of the NEC, friends and guests. I was asked to give a brief history of my military service and what I'd like to do this year and tell you about my Legion accomplishments.

Forty-nine years, one month, and 27 days ago I raised my right hand and swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States, keep up the honor and integrity of the United States Marine Corps, and I believe I've lived up to that oath and promise.

I was ordered to basic training in Parris Island, South Carolina; Advanced Infantry Training at Camp Geiger, and assigned permanent duty at Camp Lejune in Jacksonville, North Carolina. My MOS was that of mechanic and driver. On two occasions I was stationed at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base in Norfolk, Virginia. I was never deployed overseas, spent all my time stateside. I was honorably discharged at the rank of sergeant (E5) on August 19, 1971.

I joined the Culpeper American Legion Post 330 in 1974, where I served on the oratorical committee, membership committee, as assistant adjutant, vice commander, and commander from '84 to '86.

I served the 16th District in the American Legion in Virginia as chairman of membership, adjutant, judge advocate, two terms as vice commander, and as commander for Legion year '83 to '84. Yes, I served as district commander before I served as post commander.

I served the department as a member of the Legislative Commission, chairman of the Redistricting Committee in '83-'84, assistant director of American Legion College for two years, and was director for five years, Northern Zone vice commander from '86 to '87, and department commander from '87 to '88.

I served as alternate NEC for two terms May '93 to '97, and NEC for two terms, '97 to 2001. I served at the national level as a member and vice chairman of the Public Relations Commission, a member of the National Legislative Commission, and currently a member and vice chairman of the National Aerospace Committee.

As national vice commander, my goal this year is to do all I can to see that the commander's 4x4 program is a success. In addition, my own goal is to encourage all my departments to strive for 100 percent consolidated reporting. It's only by telling our true story that we reach our full potential.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve in this position, and in that capacity to serve this great American Legion. May God bless each of you and may God bless The American Legion. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander William R. Bryant. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

I now call on Gerald L. 'Jake' Jacobs from Wyoming for the purpose of remarks.

Report: National Vice Commander
Gerald L. 'Jake' Jacobs, Wyoming

Thank you, commander. Good morning all. I don't understand how all these people can stand up here and tell you they're all going to be number one, because we know how it's really going to turn out. *(Laughter)*

I am Gerald L. 'Jake' Jacobs. I am from Torrington, Wyoming. I served in the United States Army as an 05C2P, radio telephone and teletype operator, parachute qualified from 1971 to 1974. I was a member of the ARFOR jump team and stationed at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, with the Joint Communication Support Element, under the United States Readiness Command. Spent a lot of time TDY, both stateside and overseas, working mainly with satellite communications. Being Army, stationed on an Air Force base, it's a good duty. Nobody knows what to do with you. *(Laughter)*

I'm a 41-year member of The American Legion. Understand that's kind of hard to believe because I do look far younger than that. *(Laughter)*

I was a Post 5 commander for two years, 1995-1997. I held offices at the district level as vice commander, commander, and adjutant. Held department offices from chaplain to department commander in 2002-2003. I sat for eight years in the back corner of this room as an alternate National Executive Committeeman and a National Executive Committeeman from Wyoming. And Bob, they do have faces. *(Laughter)*

I served on many department committees, including Ways and Means, Commanders Advisory Committee, E.A. Blackmore Scholarship Committee, and I'm still a member of the Boys State Committee. Nationally, I was on the Public Relations Commission for many years. I was a liaison to the Public Relations Commission as well as chairman of the Liaison Committee.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as national vice commander for the West. I look forward to working with Commander Helm, the other national vice commanders, and the other national officers, as we strive to meet the commander's theme, and we'll stay the course. We'll work hard to meet his 4x4 challenge. But the real thing I look forward to is to again prove that the West is the best. Thank you all. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Gerald L. 'Jake' Jacobs. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

You know, yesterday one of the national vice commanders asked me if it was all right to wear traveling clothes today, and I told him sure, we're going to get out of here at a pretty good time. Then last night all of a sudden it dawned on me that they had their reports today, so I made sure I went back and said they certainly could wear their traveling clothes, but don't forget they've got remarks this morning. I see they've all worn their traveling clothes, so we're going to look good all year long. *(Laughter)*

Then when everybody talked about being in first place, first place is the only place to be. My brother, who is a retired Special Forces and attended a lot of military schools, always considered second "first last." So first place is definitely the place you want to be, because after that, he never accepted those others. So thank you for moving forward and choosing that position, because that's the way we're all going to end up in a better place.

Give the national vice commanders another round of applause please. *(Applause)*

I now call on Phil Onderdonk, National Judge Advocate, for eligibility of national officers.

Eligibility of National Officers

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: Thank you. Mr. Commander, members of the NEC. The following national officers have had their eligibility reviewed and are certified as eligible: Michael D. Helm, National Commander, Nebraska; William R. Bryant, Virginia, National Vice Commander; Paul O. Sanford, Kansas, National Vice

Commander; Douglas C. Haggan, France, National Vice Commander; Richard W. Neville, North Carolina, National Vice Commander; Gerald L. Jacobs, Wyoming, National Vice Commander; Tierian Cash, North Carolina, National Chaplain; Susan Mason, Florida, National Historian; Rawlin E. Hagan, Nebraska, National Sergeant-at-Arms.

The proofs have been examined and certified by both me, as national judge advocate, and the national adjutant. The proof of eligibility of other national officers has been submitted to the NEC at an earlier time. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Now we'll have confirmation of interim appointments.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Yes.

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

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Confirmation of Interim Appointments
National Executive Committee Meeting
October 15-16, 2014

William H. Lienhop, Jr. (Georgia), Internal Affairs Commission, 2016 Member (Replaces Charles E. French – deceased)

Dennis McKinny (Georgia), Conventional Armed Forces Committee, 2016 Member (Replaces William H. Lienhop, Jr. – resigned)

Shelli Romeu (Florida), Media & Communications Commission, 2014 Member (Replaces Susan B. Mason – resigned)

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: We'll have confirmation and cancellation of post and/or squadron charters.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant again?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Yes.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify that the list of post cancellations and squadron charters are a true and correct list, and everything has been done to try to revitalize those posts?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters

On August 25, 2014, at National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of ninety-five (95) 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

Fifty-two (52) posts have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the Fall NEC Meeting in Indianapolis, IN.

It is recommended the fifty-two (52) posts listed below be approved for cancellation:

Department	Post #	Name	Location
ALABAMA	13	J. A. Tucker	Union Springs
	27	James R. Crowe	Sheffield
	77	Andrew Jackson	Florala
	92	Russellville	Russellville
	125	Lackey-McGough	Cordova
	128	Ross F. Gray	Centreville
	169	North Huntsville	Huntsville
	197	Camden	Camden
	207	Goshen	Goshen
	249	Weogufka Memorial	Weogufka
	315	Quincy Jefferson	Brewton
	2008	Lee-Chambers	Valley
ALASKA	19	Nome	Nome
CALIFORNIA	5	Irwindale	Irwindale
	589	Cecil M. Anderson	Salinas
FLORIDA	288	Leroy Parker (to merge with Cyber Post 208)	Boynton Beach
GEORGIA	19	Putnam (to merge with Wesley Lee Farley Post 583)	Eatonton
	62	Bainbridge (to merge with Burns-Shivers Post 502)	Bainbridge
	533	Dr. George Washington Carver (to merge with Moultrie Post 324)	Moultrie
	574	Charles R. Milton (to merge with Atlanta Post 1)	Atlanta
ILLINOIS	62	Bridgeport	Bridgeport
IOWA	258	John J. Pavik, Jr.	Plover
	344	Scranton	Scranton
	462	Soldier Valley	Soldier
	516	Dewey	Tingley
	525	Afton	Afton
	568	Harris-Flowers	Coin
	726	Numa	Numa

	1981	Duane M. Nelson (to merge with Edward H. Monahan Post 64)	Sioux City
LOUISIANA	159	Reserve	Reserve
MASSACHUSETTS	21	Springfield	Springfield
	243	Lillian M. Jennings	Lynn
MICHIGAN	134	Kalamazoo (to merge with Kalamazoo Post 118)	Kalamazoo
	210	Legion Villa	Springfield
	262	Hutton-Avery-Sherry	Jones
	332	Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo
NEVADA	38	Moapa Valley	Overton
NEW JERSEY	90	General George W. Goethals	Bergenfield
	130	Hugh E. Connelly	Midland Park
	144	James Harvey	Ventnor City
	244	Fort Lee Memorial	Fort Lee
	255	Garfield Memorial	Garfield
	491	Thomas Talmadge	Sparta
NEW YORK	1369	Livingston	Livingston, S. I.
	1857	Five Star	Staten Island
	1945	Con Thien Memorial	Staten Island
OHIO	224	Wiley Croswell	Felicity
RHODE ISLAND	103	American Legion United Veterans	Pawtucket
TEXAS	123	Hollingsworth-Moore (to merge with James A. Edmond Post 121)	Hewitt
	400	Roy P. Benavidez (to merge with Arthur Gembler Post 375)	San Antonio
	440	James E. Robinson (to merge with James A. Edmond Post 121)	Waco
	543	Kornegay-Threadaway	Miles

SAL Charters of The American Legion Presented to The National Executive Committee for Cancellation at the October 16, 2014 Meeting

On August 25, 2014 at National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of seventeen (17) Squadrons.

Twelve (12) Squadrons have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the Fall NEC Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

It is recommended that the following twelve (12) Squadrons be cancelled:

Department	Sqdn #	Name	Location
ALABAMA	169	North Huntsville	Huntsville
	249	Weogufka Memorial	Weogufka
CALIFORNIA	589	Cecil M. Anderson	Salinas
ILLINOIS	62	Bridgeport	Bridgeport
IOWA	1981	Duane M. Nelson (to merge with Edward H. Monahan Sqdn 64)	Sioux City
LOUISIANA	159	Reserve	Reserve
MASSACHUSETTS	21	Springfield	Springfield
MICHIGAN	134	Kalamazoo (to merge with Kalamazoo Sqdn 118)	Kalamazoo
NEW JERSEY	255	Garfield Memorial	Garfield
NEW YORK	1369	Livingston	Livingston, S. I.
	1857	Five Star	Staten Island
	1945	Con Thien Memorial	Staten Island

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Confirmation of dates of future meetings.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant again?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Yes.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, are there dates of future meetings that require the approval of the National Executive Committee?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: There are no dates that require the approval of the National Executive Committee.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move they be reported in the digest. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings

2015 Washington Conference	February 22-25
2015 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 4-5
National Executive Committee	May 6-7
2015 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 12-13
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 12-13
National Executive Committee	October 14-15
2016 Washington Conference	February 21-24
2016 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 2-3
National Executive Committee	May 4-5
2016 Fall Meetings	

Commissions and Committees	October 10-11
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 10-11
National Executive Committee	October 12-13
2017 Washington Conference	February 26-March 1
2017 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 8-9
National Executive Committee	May 10-11
2017 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 9-10
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 9-10
National Executive Committee	October 11-12
2018 Washington Conference	February 25-28
2018 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 7-8
National Executive Committee	May 9-10
2018 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 15-16
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 15-16
National Executive Committee	October 17-18
2019 Washington Conference	February 24-27
2019 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 6-7
National Executive Committee	May 8-9
2019 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 14-15
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 14-15
National Executive Committee	October 16-17

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Do we have any significant gifts to the library?

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant again?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Yes.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify that the list of significant gifts to the library and museum are a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: I move they be approved without the list being read. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library

Donated by the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL): *MacArthur's War* by Bevin Alexander; *Swinging for the Fences* by Carl Paul Maggio; *Sergeant Stubby* by Ann Bausum; *Enduring Courage* by John F. Ross; *Toxic War* by Peter Sills; and *Single Handed* by James A. Drain, Sr.

Donated by Michael J. Knudson and Ann G. Knudson: *Ransom County's Loyal Defenders* and *Warriors in Khaki: Native American Doughboys from North Dakota*

Donated by Stephen A. Banks: *DRAFTED and SERVED: Edward "Skip" Swain – One Citizen Soldier's Experience in Vietnam*

Donated by Paula Stephenson: *Utah Vietnam War Stories*, a three part television series by the KUED-TV and PBS

Donated by Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, Republic of Poland: *1st Polish Armoured Division*

Donated by Ron Darrah: *Roster of 62nd Engineers (4th Ry. Div. 13th G.D.Z. of A.) American Ex. Forces France 1918 – 1919*

Donated by Jim Whitfield: *National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial* by R. Eli Paul

Donated by Dr. Robert Thune: *The Military 100, A Ranking of the Most Influential Military Leaders of All Time* by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Michael Lee Lanning; and *Lemay: The Life and Wars of General Curtis Lamay* by Warren Kozak

Donated by Arthur Wilson: 1932 National Convention Program

Donated by RJ. 'Buzz' Blevins: Department of New York Narrative History

Donated by Harry P. Cirli, Jr.: George C. Evans Post 103 (CO) Post History

Donated by Dr. Robert Thune: *Eisenhower: In War and Peace* by Jean Edward Smith

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Museum

Donated by Dr. Robert Thune: Reproductions of the Emancipation Proclamation; Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address; Lincoln Chronology; Grant's Letter to Lee; Washington's Inaugural Address; Definitive Treaty Between Great Britain and the United States; and United States presidents coin collection, Volume I of II (7 U.S. presidents)

Donated by Ron W. Wood: American Legion baseball signed by Joe DiMaggio; 1975 Region 7 miniature baseball bat; and 1975 Region 7 Tournament Program

Donated by John T. Dietz: *Kentucky Progress Magazine*, American Legion Edition, October 1929

Donated by Everett J. Pfile: American Legion School Award Medal, ca. between 1925 and 1951

Donated by J. R. Stillwell: Framed copy of the application for the first Sons of The American Legion Charter

Donated by Brett Reistad: 4 American Legion Posters: Buddies – Proud of it, 1919; Remember Poppy Day, 1945; Legionnaire, 1939; Welcome Buddy!, 1929 and 1 Newspaper page: Facts about The American Legion, August 7, 1919

Donated by Eugene R. Pytka: 1933 Auxiliary Emblem Catalog

Donated by Leah Bazarian Greene: American Legion cap, Post 336; Post card photo of Martin Safarian; Certificate signed by President Johnson and three poll tax receipts

Donated by Elizabeth Bladel: Minutes from the 1919 Paris Caucus of The American Legion

Donated by Betty J. Otto-Kretzer: Materials related to Page T. Otto and Betty Otto-Kretzer's participation in The American Legion and Auxiliary at Antietam Post No. 236; includes Legion cap and 40/8 caps, medals and badges; programs and reports

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I now call on Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota, chairman of the Subcommittee on Committees, for the purpose of a report.

Report: Subcommittee on Committees
Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota Chairman

Mr. Commander, national officers, my colleagues on the National Executive Committee and guests. The future of The American Legion lies in your hands, for you have the responsibility of recommending the most qualified members of your department to serve on our various commissions, committees, and councils. We stress this, especially on the qualification of the particular member to serve in the capacity that you recommend.

It is also imperative that those individuals you appoint understand and are committed to the aims and purposes of The American Legion. Also, it is important that when members from your respective departments who are listed to serve become deceased, that you notify the national adjutant's office so that changes can be properly addressed and the appropriate people notified.

This committee has reviewed over 1,200 recommendations over the past two days, so you can understand the importance of submitting them by the deadline issued, to give the national commander's executive assistant the proper time to prepare your folders for this committee's review. I thank you for your support in this matter.

I would stress the importance of filling out your appointment forms in their entirety and submitting them by the deadline. I would also ask that you use the revised template provided to you from the National Headquarters office. If you have any questions about appointments, please refer to the new NEC orientation brochure. If anyone needs one, I have placed a few of them at the back of the NEC room, or they can be obtained by asking for them at our headquarters office.

Commander Helm, thank you for the privilege of serving as the chairman of the subcommittee and for the qualified people you have assigned to serve with me. I am pleased to present the following members from the Subcommittee on Committees who have assisted me this week, and would they please rise and be recognized:

Vice Chairman Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana; D. Joseph Jackson, Connecticut; Randall Coffman, Kentucky; Jerry Landkamer, Nebraska; and Daniel E. McCole, New Jersey. Thank you, gentlemen. Give them a hand, please. *(Applause)*

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the years that I have served with my good friend and mentor and comrade, Rich Anderson, from the Department of Connecticut.

Commander Helm your committee met at National Headquarters Sunday, October 12, 2014, and remained in session all day Monday and Tuesday. We held interviews with 55 departments and received their recommendations. On behalf of all the members of the subcommittee, I want to commend the National Executive Committeemen, department commanders, and department adjutants for their courteous presentations of their recommendations.

Upon completion of the interviews, this report was prepared in rough draft and submitted to the national commander's office for his final approval. The report is in its final form and is going to be on your desk. We commend the staff on its excellent work in preparation of this report, and especially the national commander's assistant, Debbie Andrews, for her patience and dedication throughout our deliberations.

I also commend the members of my subcommittee for their hard work, and thank you, Mr. Commander, and all those who helped in the selection of these appointments. With the list on your desk, you have the opportunity to look it over. I recommend that we do not take the time to read it aloud at this time.

Therefore, I move that the report be approved with the exception of whatever minor corrections may be required, and that the national commander be given the authority to

make any interim appointments as deemed necessary. Mr. Commander, this completes my report.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried. Thank you. We now have the final report of the Resolutions Subcommittee.

Final Report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions
David O. Warnken, Kansas, Chairman

Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions have been in session since October 13. We've considered all resolutions that have come before the committee, and have considered and acted on 30 resolutions.

I would like to stress the importance to the members of the National Executive Committee in keeping their departments informed of the actions taken by your National Executive Committee. The resolutions passed the last two days will be available within a few days on the Digital Archive at archive.legion.org.

I would like to take this time to thank the members of the subcommittee who have done an outstanding job, who have attended every session and participated in the discussion of these resolutions. And as I read your names please stand and remain standing.

My special thanks go to Vice Commander Bill Kile of West Virginia; Charles Schmidt of Oregon; Ray DeZurik of Minnesota; Mervin Gunderson of Montana; Dennis Boland of Florida; and Jim Pisa from Alaska. I thank you all very much for your dedicated service and your help. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Also, I want to point out that the resolutions came into our room for our determination in very good shape this year. I want to commend the directors and the chairmen of the various committees and commissions. You did an outstanding job on the resolutions. That makes our job so much easier, and we certainly appreciate it.

Appreciation is also extended to Howard Trace. We appreciate Howard. He's done an outstanding job, and his staff who serve our committee. I also want to thank the document center, directors, and chairman of the commissions and committees on this week's work in order to bring the reports and resolutions to you.

During our deliberations, we have met with a number of chairmen and staff who have been very helpful to us in explaining questions we had about the resolutions.

Mr. Commander, it is a pleasure to serve as chairman of your Subcommittee on Resolutions. We would like to thank the National Executive Committee in reporting out of the various resolutions. You have been most cooperative.

Mr. Commander, I move that this report be received and filed.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Technical Motion

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I have a technical motion. I would like to make a motion that the national adjutant be

instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting and make any necessary corrections without changing the intent of the NEC meeting, and to proceed and edit and distribute these minutes. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Thank you, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: The American Legion Auxiliary has requested that we allow a consultant to serve on our 100th Anniversary Committee. I hereby recommend approval of Mary 'Dubbie' Buckler, national secretary, to serve as consultant to the 100th Anniversary Committee, until such time as another consultant might be approved.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Motion to approve. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion carried.

Closing Remarks
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska, National Commander

Well, we made it through two days of me being up here and you being down there. *(Laughter)* I think we had a good party last night. *(Applause)*

I think we've done a lot of good things over the last several days, and I think we're headed forward in the right direction. I just encourage all of you to stay involved in what we're doing in the organization and make sure that what you have here, you take back to your departments. A lot of times, you know, we get the red hats and we forget that we actually have a post at home. But you've all got posts, you've all got departments, you've all got districts. That's where all this information has to get down to, is to that post level. So let's move forward. Stay on course, and get that old 4x4 going.

I now call on the national chaplain for the purpose of a benediction. All rise, please. Remove your caps.

Benediction
Tierian 'Randy' Cash, North Carolina, National Chaplain

Our benediction comes from the last few verses of Psalm 48, and it's a challenge to each of us.

"Walk about Zion, go all around it, count the towers, consider well its ramparts, go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will be our guide forever."

As you depart today, know that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He will never leave us, nor forsake us.

May God grant His blessings upon each of you with His peace, mercy, and grace, until we meet again. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Cover. Face our national colors. Hand salute. Two. ... *The National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: I now declare this meeting adjourned.

... At 9:17 a.m., Thursday, October 16, 2014, the National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine Die.

Abbreviations

AAP ..... AdoptaPlatoon
ACE ..... American Council on Education
ACLU ..... American Civil Liberties Union
ALA ..... American Legion Auxiliary
ALBWS ..... American Legion Baseball World Series
ALEI ..... American Legion Extension Institute
ALR ..... American Legion Riders
ALWS ..... American Legion World Series
ANAVICUS ..... Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans in Canada Association - United States
ARFOR ..... Army Forces

BEA ..... Budget Enforcement Act
BVA ..... Board of Veterans Appeals

CEO ..... Chief Executive Officer
CERT ..... Community Emergency Response Team
COLA ..... cost of living adjustment

DEC ..... Department Executive Committee
DMS ..... Direct Membership Solicitation
DMZ ..... demilitarized zone
DOD ..... Department of Defense
DOL ..... Department of Labor
DPMO ..... Defense Prisoner of War Missing Personnel Office
DSO ..... Department Service Officer
DVOP ..... Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

FBI ..... Federal Bureau of Investigation
FEMA ..... Federal Emergency Management Agency
FODPAL ..... Foreign and Outlying Department and Posts of The American Legion
FY ..... fiscal year

HUD ..... Department of Housing and Urban Development

IAA ..... Insurance Auto Actions
ICU ..... intensive care unit
IRA ..... Individual Retirement Account
IRS ..... Internal Revenue Service
ISIL ..... Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
ISIS ..... Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

JPAC ..... Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
JST ..... Joint Service Transcript
JVSG ..... Jobs for Veterans State Grants

LAFD ..... Los Angeles City Fire Department
LEAD ..... Leadership, Education and Development
LIT ..... Legionnaire Insurance Trust
LVER ..... Local Veterans Employment Representative

MIA ..... missing in action
MOS .....Military Occupational Specialty
MOU .....memorandum of understanding

NADHAL .....National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion
NASA .....National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCA ..... National Cemetery Administration
NEC ..... National Executive Committee
NEF .....National Emergency Fund
NFA ..... National Flight Academy
NHPA ..... National Historic Preservation Act
NIH ..... National Institutes of Health
NVLSP .....National Veterans Legal Services Program

OCW..... Operation Comfort Warriors
OVBD .....Office of Veterans Business Development

PACT ..... Personnel Accounting Consolidation Taskforce
PAY-GO ..... pay-as-you-go
PHA ..... Public Housing Agencies
PIV ..... Personal Identification Verification
PNC .....Past National Commander
POW..... prisoner of war
PTSD ..... post traumatic stress disorder

ROAR ..... Regional Office Action Review
ROTC ..... Reserve Officer Training Corps

SAL ..... Sons of The American Legion
SBA ..... Small Business Administration
SCIP ..... Strategic Capital Investment Plan
SEP ..... Stakeholders Enterprise Portal
SGLI..... Servicemembers Group Life Insurance
SOC .....Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges
STEM .....Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
SWS .....System Worth Saving

TBI .....traumatic brain injury
TDY .....temporary duty
TFA ..... Temporary Financial Assistance

UCX .....Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service Members
USAA .....United Services Automobile Association
USAID .....U.S. Agency for International Development
USAREC .....United States Army Recruiting Command
USCC ..... U.S. Chamber of Commerce

VA ..... Department of Veterans Affairs
VA&R .....Veterans Affairs and Rehabilition
VAMC ..... VA Medical Center

VASH ..... Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VAVS ..... Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service
VBA ..... Veterans Benefits Administration
VBMS ..... Veterans Benefits Management System
VBOC ..... Veteran Business Outreach Centers
VCCC ..... Veterans Crisis Command Center
VETS ..... Veterans Employment and Training Services
VHA ..... Veterans Health Administration
VOC ..... Veterans Outreach Center
VSO ..... Veteran Service Organization

WIA ..... Work Investment Act
WWII ..... World War II

Index

2015 Enhancements to the National Headquarters Computing Environment 43

A

Afghanistan 63, 64, 98
Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) 2014-2015 44
American Legion Baseball 7, 21, 47, 50, 120
American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year 116, 120
American Legion College 74, 75
American Legion Department Advisory Committee 137
American Legion High School Oratorical Contest, The 48
American Legion World Series 38, 39, 47, 116, 120
Americanism Commission report 115
Announcements 8
Authorization for The American Legion to Enter into a Relationship to Promote a Vehicle Donation Program 51
Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Diamond Sports Co., Inc. as Scholarship Sponsor of The American Legion All-Academic Team 47
Authorization to Purchase Paper from Lindenmeyr Central 45
Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post 82, 83

B

Benediction 167
Boys Nation 18
Boys State 7, 21, 117, 120, 126
Brown-Park, Nancy 6
Bryant, William R. National Vice Commander report 157

C

Child Welfare Foundation 117
Citizens Flag Alliance 37
Closing Remarks, National Commander 167
College Board 22
Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters 159
Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings 162
Confirmation of Interim Appointments 159
Convention Commission 54
Corporate Relationships 46
Creation of the New Marketing Committee 51

D

Davis, Tom L. 134
defense budget 96
Department of Homeland Security 77
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 144

Department of Veterans Affairs Preservation of National Historic Properties..... 106
Direct Membership Solicitation.....38, 39, 71, 72, 73, 76, 89, 91
disabled veterans 106
Disabled Veterans Outreach Program..... 65

E

Eligibility of National Officers..... 158
Exempt VA Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provision 106
Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs..... 68
Extend Agreement with R. R. Donnelley & Sons..... 44

F

Federal Emergency Management Agency 78, 79
Federal Properties Distinguished Veterans Pass..... 83
female servicemembers 96
Finance Commission report..... 38
Flag Code Amendment..... 128
Foster, Jimmie L. 135

G

Greetings:
Mrs. Nancy Brown-Park, National President, American Legion Auxiliary..... 6

H

Haggan, Douglas C., National Vice Commander report..... 154
Handling of Funds on Reinstatement of the Charter of The American Legion Department of Oklahoma 136
Hedrick, Jerry L. 9
Hedrick, Marie..... 12
Hiring our Heroes..... 58, 64
homeland security..... 77
homeless veterans.....59, 63, 68, 69, 144

I

Internal Affairs Commission report..... 69
Invocation..... 1, 141
Iraq 63, 64, 97, 98
ISIS 4, 95, 98

J

Jacobs, Gerald L. 'Jake', National Vice Commander report..... 157
Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command..... 95, 98

L

Leadership, Education And Development (LEAD) training 74
Legacy Scholarship Fund 74
legal immigration 4
Legion Riders 14, 25, 70, 73, 74, 132
Legislation to Provide Reporting, Tracking, and Action Dealing with Sexual Assaults at Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities 108
Legislative Commission report 143
licensing and credentialing 57, 60

M

Mandatory Exclusive Insurance Coverage for American Legion Baseball Teams 49
Mason, Susan B., National Historian report 152
Media & Communications Commission report 111
Membership & Post Activities Committee report 87
membership program 87, 90, 91, 154, 155
Memorial Resolutions 9
military benefits 97
Minutes of Previous Meetings 8
Mount Soledad War Memorial 13, 24

N

National Committee on Education 123
National Convention Corporation of North Carolina 53
National Emergency Fund 38, 39, 70, 74, 76
National Flight Academy Educational Program 127
National High School Oratorical Contest 121
National Historian report 152
National Historic Preservation Act 107
National History Book Contest 153
National Judge Advocate report 13
National Officers, Introduction 8
National Security Commission report 95
National Veterans Legal Services Program 17, 35, 44, 102
naturalization 4
Neville, Richard W., National Vice Commander report 156

O

Oklahoma Reorganization Committee report 132
Operation Comfort Warriors 20, 42, 117, 121, 132

P

Parker, Stuart, USAA 92
Peterson, Michael 20
Pledge of Allegiance 15, 28, 33
Post 9/11 GI Bill 65

Bold typeface indicates the title of a resolution

post traumatic stress disorder..... 5, 63
POW/MIA 95

R

Reinstatement of the Charter of The American Legion Department of Oklahoma 136
Reports:
Americanism Commission..... 115
Convention Commission 54
Finance Commission 38
Internal Affairs Commission 69
Legislative Commission 143
Media & Communications Commission..... 111
Membership & Post Activities Committee 87
National Convention Corporation of North Carolina..... 53
National Historian..... 152
National Judge Advocate 13
National Security Commission 95
National Vice Commanders..... 154
Oklahoma Reorganization Committee..... 132
Revenue Enhancement Committee 41
Subcommittee on Committees 165
Subcommittee on Resolutions 9, 166
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission 99
Veterans Employment & Education Commission 56
Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions..... 84
Rescinding of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions 130
Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission 109
Rescission of Outdated Resolutions..... 113
Resolutions:
No. 1: Reinstatement of the Charter of The American Legion Department of Oklahoma..... 136
No. 2: 2015 Enhancements to the National Headquarters Computing Environment 43
No. 3: Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) 2014-2015..... 44
No. 4: Extend Agreement with R. R. Donnelley & Sons..... 44
No. 5: Authorization to Purchase Paper from Lindenmeyr Central 45
No. 6: Corporate Relationships..... 46
No. 7:Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Diamond Sports Co., Inc. as Scholarship Sponsor of The American Legion All-Academic Team..... 47
No. 8: The National Speech & Debate Association Sponsorship..... 48
No. 9: Mandatory Exclusive Insurance Coverage for American Legion Baseball Teams 49
No. 10: Authorization for The American Legion to Enter into a Relationship to Promote a Vehicle Donation Program 51
No. 11: Creation of the new Marketing Committee..... 51
No. 12: Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel67

Bold typeface indicates the title of a resolution

No. 13: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs 68
No. 14: Veteran of the Month 82
No. 15: Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post 82
No. 16: Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post 83
No. 17: Federal Properties Distinguished Veterans Pass 83
No. 18: Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions 84
No. 19: Exempt VA Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provision 106
No. 20: Department of Veterans Affairs Preservation of National Historic Properties 106
No. 21: Legislation to Provide Reporting, Tracking, and Action Dealing with Sexual Assaults at Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities 108
No. 22: Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission 109
No. 23: Rescission of Outdated Resolutions 113
No. 24: Revised Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program 122
No. 25: The Medal of Honor Character Development Program 126
No. 26: National Flight Academy Educational Program 127
No. 27: Flag Code Amendment 128
No. 28: Rescinding of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions 130
No. 29: Handling of Funds on Reinstatement of the Charter of The American Legion Department of Oklahoma 136
No. 30: American Legion Department Advisory Committee 137
Revenue Enhancement Committee report 41
Revised Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program 122

S

Samsung Legion Scholars 116, 119, 125
Sanford, Paul O., National Vice Commander report 155
sexual assault 108
Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library and Museum 163
Small Business Administration 57, 61, 62
Sons of The American Legion 77, 78
Styers, Sarah 12
Subcommittee on Committees report 165
Subcommittee on Resolutions report 9, 166
Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel 67
System Worth Saving Task Force 99, 101, 103

T

Temporary Financial Assistance 118
terrorism 4, 97, 98
The Medal of Honor Character Development Program 126
The National Speech & Debate Association Sponsorship 48

Bold typeface indicates the title of a resolution

traumatic brain injury 5, 63

U

USAA 92

V

VA Medical Centers 101
vehicle donation program 51
veteran benefits 83, 106, 144
veteran claims 100, 104
veteran education 58, 65, 67
veteran employment 64
veteran memorial 24, 27, 31, 34
Veteran of the Month 82
veteran-owned businesses 57, 61, 62
Veterans Access Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 144
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission report 99
Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service 100, 104, 109
Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Act of 2014 144
Veterans Crisis Command Center 5, 102
Veterans Employment & Education Commission report 56
Veterans Employment and Training Services 64, 65, 69
Veterans Health Administration 101, 102, 108, 151
Veterans Outreach Centers 5, 99, 103

W

WIA/Wagner-Peyser Act 65

Y

Youth Champions 115, 118