PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

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

Duke Energy Convention Center
Cincinnati, Ohio

August 29 & September 1, 2016

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PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

PRE-CONVENTION MEETING

Monday, August 29, 2016

At 9:00 a.m., August 29, 2016, the Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Dale Barnett, Georgia, and the following proceedings were had.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: The Colors of our country being in place. Hand salute.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: Two! Please uncover. I call on our acting national chaplain, Randy Cash from North Carolina, for the invocation. Remain uncovered through the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony.

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

Good morning. Let us pray. God our Father, as we face a new day, give us faith to believe that You make all things work together for the good for them that love You. Strengthen our conviction that Your hand is upon us, to lead us and to use us in working out Your purposes in this world.

Even though we may not see the distant future, let us be willing to take one step at a time and trust in You for the rest. Give us boldest of faith that has conviction as well as sentiment. And take away from us all fear except the fear of doing Your will. In Your holy name, amen.

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

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I now call upon National Sergeant-at-Arms Daniel Zimmerman from the Department of Georgia for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion
Daniel L. Zimmermann, Georgia, National Sergeant-at-Arms

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: Thank you. And at this time I call on National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler from the Department of Virginia for the purposes of our roll call.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander
Harold D. Barnett, Georgia

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
George E. Cushing, Arizona
Jimmy F. Lane, Arkansas
Alan A. Davis, Sr., Minnesota
David L. Gough, Wisconsin
John W. Hargreaves, Maine

Past National Commanders

Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin (Excused)
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)
John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. Conatser, Illinois (Excused)
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
David K. Rehbein, Iowa (Excused)
Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Fang A. Wong, New York
James E. Koutz, Indiana
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska

National Executive Committeemen

Department	Committeeman	Alternate
Alabama	Willis Frazier	
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Richard W. Perry	
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman	
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	Wayne Wagner	
Indiana	Paul I. Steward	
Iowa	Bruce C. Feuerbach	
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Ramona A. Naragon	
Maryland	Elbert D. White	
Massachusetts	Francis J. MacDonald, Jr.	
Mexico	Michael D. Wood	
Michigan	Roger H. Webster	
Minnesota	Marland A. Ronning	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Charles W. Goodin	
Montana	Mervin G. Gunderson (Excused)	David A. Driver
Nebraska	Jerry Landkamer	
Nevada	Ronald L. Michalski	
New Hampshire	William R. Roy	
New Jersey	Daniel E. McCole	
New Mexico	Felix M. Trujillo	
New York	William H. Burnett	
North Carolina	Bill G. Richard	
North Dakota	Robert L. Krause	
Ohio	Robert J. Kimball	
Oklahoma	William M. Teel	
Oregon	Charles E. Schmidt	
Pennsylvania	Robert C. Miller, Jr.	
Philippines	Herbert J. Scholten (Excused)	Richard L. Perry (Excused)
Puerto Rico	Ildefonso Colon, Jr. (Excused)	Luis A. Ayala
Rhode Island	Robert D. Winston	
South Carolina	Cecil F. Hennis	
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson	
Tennessee	Gary R. Drennon	
Texas	James E. Prendergast	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	

Department	Committeeman	Alternate
Vermont	Francis J. Killay	
Virginia	Thomas E. Saunders	
Washington	William R. 'Bob' Wallace	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Steve Krueger	
Wyoming	William R. Wright, III	

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: We have a quorum.

Opening Remarks
Dale Barnett, Georgia, National Commander

It's absolutely an honor to be your commander this year. The memories have been so great, your friendship. As I've gone around the globe, and especially something that I wanted to do this year, I wanted to walk on awareness walks to bring awareness of all the things that we do in The American Legion.

I went on 43 walks in 34 different states. But you know what really made me so proud as I've been here at the 98th National Convention? I found out that a lot of you did some walks without me. And that's exactly what I wanted you to do, is to get your folks out into the community and telling the story of The American Legion.

I had a great opportunity this year, and the last few weeks, I've seen the capstone of many of our hardworking American Legion efforts. You know, to go to oratorical contests, meeting people; to go to junior shooting sports and see kids that were going to make Olympians in the future; to go to the World Series. What a great experience, and, of course, Boys Nation and Girls Nation.

I can't tell you how much it meant to me to be able to share The American Legion with those young people. But then the last week I was out on the Legacy Run, and I was able to experience in seven states what it means to be part of The American Legion family and to help veterans and their children. They've collected about $555,000 on that phase of the Legacy Fund, and I know there's more that's coming in the next few days.

We do so much, and I hope we can all capture that. I hope we can turn that spirit of what we do and who we are and turn it into membership, because we've got to tell people about what a great organization we are.

I thank each and every one of you for your dedication to this organization. That dedication means a lot. Your leadership means a lot to the future of this organization. I hope you have had as great a time this year as being a NECman as I have being your commander.

God bless each and every one of you and thank you for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime to be your national commander. Thank you. *(Standing applause)*

Minutes of the Previous National Executive Committee Meeting

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: Mr. Wheeler has given me the proceedings of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion that is in written and printed in digest form and distributed.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: Is there any discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion carries. All right. Thank you, Dave.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: All right. At this time we're going to have the reports of our commissions, and understand that we are only bringing forth emergency matters that must be considered by the convention will be considered at this meeting. Complete written reports will be submitted to the national adjutant and then printed in digest form. But before we do that, I would call on Dave Warnken from the Department of Kansas for a report of the Resolutions Subcommittee.

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

Commander, I'm happy to report that we have zero resolutions of emergency nature coming before the National Executive Committee this morning. Commander, I ask that you prepare the National Executive Committee for memorializing resolutions.

We will read the memorial resolutions for Past National Commanders Cadmus and Gierke this morning. Eulogies will be given at the October National Executive Committee meeting. The national commander will have remarks tomorrow during the convention opening.

Memorial Resolutions
Thomas P. Cadmus, Michigan

WHEREAS, It has pleased the almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Thomas P. Cadmus, Department Vice Commander, 1985 to 1986; Department Commander, 1988 to 1989; National Vice Commander, 1991 to 1992; National Commander 2004 to 2005; and

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

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this 29th Day of August in the year of our Lord 2016, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Thomas P. Cadmus, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

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

Memorial Resolution
Honorable H. F. 'Sparky' Gierke, III, North Dakota

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, the Hon. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke, III, Department Vice Commander, 1982 to 1983; Department Commander, 1983 to 1984; National Vice Commander, 1985 to 1986; National Commander, 1988 to 1989; 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 contribution to The American Legion comradeship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this 29th day of August in the year of our Lord 2016, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Hon. H. F. 'Sparky' Gierke, III, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

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

Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of the following.

Edgar J. Carney, Jr. Connecticut; Kent S. Webber, District of Columbia; Ernest R. Sohns, District of Columbia; Benny M. Bailey, Florida; William F. Taylor, Kentucky; H. Dean Geddes, Mexico; George Johnson, Michigan; Lawrence Freeman, Mississippi; Randall W. Busch, Nebraska; Tony Vaughn, Nevada; Donald G. Duncan, Sr., New York; George T. Kessler, New York; Richard J. Cherry, Ohio; Barry J. Snyder, Oregon; John J. Gasper, Pennsylvania; Pete Wasco, Pennsylvania; Richard E. Walsh, Sr., South Carolina; Jim Young, Texas; Avan W. Probasco, Utah; Eugene T. Billmeyer, West Virginia; Ervin F. Van Dyke, Wisconsin; Barbara P. 'Bobbe' Stuvengen, Wisconsin.

Finis

When earth's last picture is painted
and the tubes are twisted and dried,
When the oldest colors have faded,
and the youngest critic has died,
We shall rest and faith we shall need it –
Till the Master of All Good Workmen
shall set us to work anew!

-Rudyard Kipling

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: Recover. At this time we will have the reports of our commissions. We will begin with the Finance Commission. Gaither Keener from the Department of North Carolina, chairman.

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

Commander, members of the National Executive Committee and guests, you have my written report. All members of the commission were in attendance and all members of the NEC liaison committee were also present.

We received reports from the national adjutant, the national treasurer, the finance director, executive directors of our two national headquarters offices, the Media & Communication Commission, and the Marketing Commission.

We also received written reports from Internal Affairs Commission, Membership & Post Activities Committee, and the national judge advocate.

The commission approved $35,733 in emergency purchases and budget overruns made since the spring meeting; authorized personnel strength to remain still at 293.

Mr. Commander, NEC, it's been my pleasure to serve, and thank you very much.

Report: Finance Commission
August 27, 2016
Gaither M. Kenner, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

The Finance Commission convened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 27, 2016, in Ballroom G of the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati. Present were Gaither M. Keener, Jr. (NC), Carl E. Levi (TN), John D. Monahan (CT), Myron D. Kirby (IL), Kevin J. Bartlett (MI), Denis J. McEneaney (NY) and George C. Lussier, Jr. (VA). David O. Warnken (KS), Thomas E. Mattice (ID), Robert L. Krause (ND,) Robert D. Winston (RI), and Thomas E. Saunders (VA), NEC Liaison Committee members, were also present, as were guests from several departments.

The following reported to the commission: the National Adjutant, National Treasurer, finance director, the executive directors of our two National Headquarters offices, the

Media & Communications Commission and the Marketing Commission. We received written reports from the Internal Affairs Commission, the Membership & Post Activities Committee, and the National Judge Advocate.

The commission approved $35,733 in emergency purchases and budget overruns made since its spring meeting. Authorized personnel strength remains at 293.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Motion to approve the report of the Finance Commission. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I have a motion and a second to approve. Any discussion? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carries.

I now call upon Michael Walton, Department of Illinois, chairman of the Convention Commission, for purposes of a report.

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

Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Commander, and thank you. The Convention Commission met on Saturday morning, and we reviewed all of the assignments for our members of the Convention Commission during the convention.

Our Color Guard contest was well attended. We had eight color guards competing in four categories, with Newport Beach Harbor Post 291 of Newport Beach, California, being crowned as the national champions.

Additionally, two bands participated in the Competitive Concert Band Contest with The American Legion Band of Greater Kansas City from Independence, Missouri, being crowned national champions.

We believe the parade was a great success yesterday. The shuttles going well. Distinguished guests are going well.

I'll be meeting later this morning with the president of the Ohio Convention Corporation and also from the bureau here in Cincinnati to go over some issues that we have. But all seems to be going fairly well here at the convention.

We have four departments bidding on the 2022 National Convention. Those cities are: Birmingham, Alabama; Detroit, Michigan; Houston, Texas; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

We have our future convention locations: Reno, Nevada, for our 99th; Minneapolis for our 100th; Indianapolis for our 101st; Louisville for our 102nd; and Phoenix for our 103rd National Convention.

We have no items that require action by the National Executive Committee. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Commander.

Report: Convention Commission
August 27, 2016
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael E. Walton (IL) at 8:00 A.M., August 27, 2016. Roll call was taken and all members were present.

Chairman Walton reviewed the convention assignments for each commission member and reminded them that a detailed convention report should be provided to the commission at the 2016 Fall Meeting. The Color Guard contests were well attended by contestants and observers. Eight color guards competed in four categories with Newport Beach Harbor Post 291 from Newport Beach, California, being crowned as National Champions. Additionally, two bands participated in the Competitive Concert Band Contest with American Legion Band of Greater Kansas City from Independence, Missouri, being crowned National

Champions. We had one band participate in the Exhibition Concert Band Class which was the 9th District American Legion Band from Minnesota.

We have four Departments bidding on the 2022 National Convention which are the following: Birmingham Alabama; Detroit, Michigan; Houston, Texas; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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

Dates for future Conventions are:

Reno, Nevada	Aug. 18 – 24, 2017
Minneapolis, Minnesota	Aug. 24 – 30, 2018
Indianapolis, Indiana	Aug. 23 – 29, 2019
Louisville, Kentucky	Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 2020
Phoenix, Arizona	Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 2021

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: Motion to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission. Any discussion? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carries.

Mike, thank you so much for your service; and, Gaither, I forgot to say that with you, but you know that goes unsaid because you're a great guy. Thank you all for your hard work on the Finance Commission and Convention Commission. At this time I call on Marketing Commission Chairman Ken Danilson from the Department of Iowa for the purposes of a report.

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

Thank you, Commander. Members of the National Executive Committee, you have my report. There are no matters of urgency to report to you today, nor resolutions to consider. Thank you, commander. That concludes my report.

Report: Marketing Commission
August 27, 2016
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman

The American Legion Marketing Commission met Saturday, Aug. 27, to review year-to-date progress and performance in membership marketing, fundraising, corporate relationships, digital media development, Emblem Sales merchandising, centennial initiatives, Legacy Run promotions, the Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball and other topics relevant to the commission's mission. Also discussed were preliminary draft strategic plans for review and consideration. Here are some highlights:

Membership Marketing

The national direct mail solicitation (DMS) program completed the 2016 membership year slightly ahead of budget with 111,105 new and re-enlisted members acquired, almost equally split. The budget for DMS acquisition was 110,000. The 2017 DMS cycle is now under way. Slightly more than 2.1 million mailings went out in July and another campaign of similar volume is scheduled for October. The 2017 budget for DMS acquisition is 122,000 which will not prevent overall membership decline without significant improvement in traditional recruitment.

New and improved packages and premiums, as well as a continuation of digital media testing, are in development for the fall DMS campaign.

Marketing, Media & Communications Division staff members are working closely with Membership & Post Activities personnel to develop, promote and deliver a new portfolio of traditional membership acquisition tools for local use, including branded door hangers, web tutorials, flyers, posters, ads, videos and other materials housed in a new platform at legion.org/membership on the national website. Some of these resources were introduced at the summer Membership Workshop in August and received positive reviews.

Fundraising

Fundraising efforts into specific funds and accounts for the period between August 2015 and July 2016 generated $2,928,716 came out as follows:

American Legion Charities	$192,384
Legacy Scholarship	$1,130,563
National Emergency Fund	$323,040
Operation Comfort Warriors	$532,872
Child Welfare Foundation	$633,110
American Legion Endowment	$99,333
Soldiers Wish	$17,414

The national non-member fundraising program finished the year with net revenues of over $1.4 million on gross contributions of $6.25 million, continuing a trend of increasing returns and a growing donor file. The national non-member donor database now stands at more than 340,000 files. Among those donors are approximately 85,000 (25 percent) who are American Legion members and represented about 34 percent of the gross contribution revenue for the year.

The Department Fundraising program likewise continued its upward trend in contributions, recording nearly $2 million in gross income last year (a 61 percent increase since its initial year, 2010), with 22 full participants among the departments and 13 ad hoc (or partial) participants. The Department Fundraising program is based on an agreed-upon guarantee that is paid regardless of contribution totals. While some departments were paid guarantees that were higher than the donations received, the overall program produced a net of $191,000 (9 percent) to national. In most cases, revenues above and beyond the targeted goal are split between the participating department and national. The previous year's program produced a $36,684 loss to national, by comparison.

A new national planned giving web platform has been soft-launched and will be promoted vigorously in the fall - and beyond - rekindling The American Legion's memorial bequest and estate donation program. This comes after the production of a new planned giving print brochure that is now being distributed to attorneys and funeral homes.

The Direct Response TV program has been idled until later in 2016 as our marketing agency, First Degree, and national staff work to find the right story to tell about American Legion advocacy that will appeal to national donors.

Corporate Relationships

The national strategic alliances team, including ResourceOne personnel, are now negotiating refreshed relationships with AbbVie and Walgreen's that are projected to produce $240,000 in annual revenue. Other strategic relationships in negotiations include AAFES (online shopping through post exchanges), Mohawk Carpet, Concierge Benefit Services, Empower Credit Card Processing and Stanley Black & Decker.

One strategic alliance, Defense Mobile, has gone out of business after having made an initial $50,000 promotional payment. Marketing staff and ResourceOne are now pursuing a different mobile phone service provider.

In addition, Indianapolis-area Harley-Davidson shops actively promoted the Legacy Run kickoff event, which featured a preview of the Discovery Channel's "Harley & the Davidsons" series, which debuts in September. Legion Riders at Post 64 in Indianapolis participated in some of the promotional filming on the night before the Legacy Run at a "Motorcycle Cruise-In." First Degree is leading the publicity and promotions for the Cruise-In as well as the 1,300-mile run itself, sending out media alerts and arranging interviews.

The First Degree/ResourceOne team is also leading sales plans for the Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball in January. So far, the team has sold reservations for 26 tables at the event and has arranged to get Drew Carey as the celebrity host. First Degree and national marketing staff are working with national executive leadership in Washington on arrangements and coordination. The program is on track to hit its $350,000 revenue goal.

Infrastructure

The American Legion Marketing, Media & Communications team has reconditioned the legion.org website to make it more mobile-friendly and focused on membership, fundraising, merchandising and participation. The responsive design and conversion strategy, executed by staff working with Sudden Industries in consultation with CDR, have produced substantial increases in visitation and online transactions, including:

- A 73.4 percent increase in page views over the same period in 2015
- A 34.5 percent increase in unique visitors over the same period in 2015
- A jump from 7 percent to 34 percent in mobile access to the website since July 2015
- July 2016 DMS transaction traffic of 4,349 and $128,805 compared to 1,178 and $29,622 in July 2015
- July 2016 online renewal traffic of 66,300 and $2,621,486 compared to 62,169 and $2,111,167 in July 2015

Division staff and agencies are now working with Lansa to develop MyLegion.org according to the same strategy in order to increase use of that platform, which historically leads to greater retention and higher membership performance.

Also, more than 200,000 web data files have been loaded into the cloud to create one comprehensive database from more than 20 previous databases that did not communicate with each other. The new Gigya data management program will allow specific target marketing and cross pollination, visitor behavior tracking and allow single sign-on for users of legion.org and mylegion.org.

Strategic Planning

National staff, national leadership, support agencies and commission members are now working out draft strategic plans for the marketing program that will be built on the one-year, three-year and five-year time frames. The target date for completion of a long-term marketing strategy for national review is Oct. 1, 2016.

Report: Emblem Committee
August 27, 2016
Alvan T. Fuller, Massachusetts, Chairman

The Emblem Sales division provides patriotic and American Legion emblematic merchandise to the organization's members, posts and departments. Each year over 100,000 orders are processed via mail, fax, call center and website. Annual net profit contributes to The American Legion's "general fund". The Emblem Sales division has 30 full-time employees and operates with a distribution center, call center, marketing department and finance department at the Geiger Operations Center.

The American Legion Emblem Sales had YTD revenue of $8.59 million in the first seven months of 2016 vs. $8.66 million in the first seven months of 2015. Net YTD profit for the first seven months of 2016 was $1.40 million vs. $1.58 million in the first seven months of 2015.

In August of 2010, American Legion Emblem Sales introduced its "Flag Rewards" program. As of June 30, 2016 Emblem Sales has recorded $1,514,000 in flag sales, which is a 3% increase over last year's flag sales. After six years in existence, over 1,520 posts are registered for the program and over 12,866 businesses, schools, churches and individuals have signed on to sponsor a local post.

Emblem Sales has developed, and now offers, over 30 new items since our 2016 catalog was mailed in November of 2015. Additionally, Emblem Sales has aggressively marketed our special orders department, Flag Rewards program and seasonal driven merchandise. Emblem Sales continues to market items to members and patriotic Americans electronically and in print. In 2016, we have sent out over 496,000 emails at a cost of only $1,488. These marketing emails have resulted in $109,400 revenue.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission. Any discussion? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carries.

Ken, thank you. Thank you for your friendship, but thank you for having a great short report. At this time I call on Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson, from the Department of Connecticut.

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

Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee and guests, there are currently no matters of an emergency nature to present to the National Executive Committee. The Americanism Commission met on Saturday, August 27, 2016, at the Millennium Hotel, Grand Ballroom A.

The commission welcomed the 2016 Youth Champion delegation and heard remarks from the 2015 American Legion All-Academic Team captain; 2016 Boys Nation president; 2016 Precision and Sporter Champions; and the 2016 National Oratorical Champion. Tomorrow morning you'll have the pleasure of listening to these fine young adults speak to you.

Dr. Sidney Ellington was recognized as the recipient of the 2016 American Legion National Education Award for his service to fellow veterans and as the executive director of the Warrior-Scholar Project, which conducts immersive academic workshops that are provided free of charge for enlisted veterans who have decided to pursue a college degree

after leaving the military. Other presentations include the Young Marines and World War I Centennial Commission.

On behalf of the Americanism Commission, I extend our deepest gratitude to you, Mr. Commander, and all the members of the National Executive Committee for the advocacy and support extended this past year.

Commander, that concludes my report. And thank you so much for giving me the honor of serving.

Report: Americanism Commission
August 27, 2016
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

The Americanism Commission met on Saturday, August 27, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. in the Millennium, Grand Ballroom A, Second Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio. One hundred twenty-three members of the Americanism Commission, Americanism Council, Committee on Children & Youth and Committee on Youth Education, were in attendance. An update on the activities of the Americanism Commission and its committees was presented.

Harold D. Barnett (GA), National Commander of The American Legion brought greetings. Also bringing greetings from the American Legion Auxiliary was Brenda Collins (SC), Chairman, Americanism Committee; Sue Britton (NY), Chairman, Education Committee and incoming chairman Norma Tramm (MN); Kathy Dungan (MS), Chairman, Children & Youth Committee and incoming chairman Nicole Clapp (IA). Greetings from the Sons of The American Legion included remarks by Greg K. Gibbs (NY), Chairman, Americanism Commission and Randall L. Eicher (OH), Chairman, Children & Youth Committee.

The Americanism Commission welcomed the 2016 Youth Champion Delegation and heard remarks from each of the young champions. In attendance were: Joshua Wasilewski, 2015 American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team Captain of Belmont, Vermont; Anighya Crocker, 2016 Boys Nation President of Springfield, Tennessee; Taylor Gibson, 2016 Precision Champion of Salem, Oregon; Emma Thompson, 2016 Sporter Shooting Champion of Freeport, Illinois; Benjamin Crosby, 2016 National Oratorical Contest winner of Burlington, Washington. Jacob Kelley, 2016 Eagle Scout of the Year of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, was unable to attend as he begins his first year at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Dr. Sidney Ellington was recognized as the recipient of the 2016 American Legion National Education Award for his service to his fellow veterans as the executive director of the Warrior-Scholar Project (WSP), which conducts immersive academic workshops or "boot camps," that are provided free of charge for enlisted veterans who have decided to pursue a college degree after leaving the military. WSP boot camps are held at some of America's top-tier universities.

Prior to joining Warrior-Scholar Project, Dr. Ellington spent 10 years in the field of education, at both the secondary and higher education levels. He has taught everything from special education in an alternative high school in New Orleans, Political Science and International Relations at the University of Oklahoma, and Special Operations and Small Wars as a part of the faculty of the Joint Special Operations University. Before entering the field of education, Dr. Ellington spent 20 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring in 2005 as a combat veteran and senior Naval Special Warfare (SEAL) Officer.

Joseph Lusignan, Deputy Director, West Coast Operations and Drug Demand Reduction Resource Officer, Young Marines, briefed the commission on his organization's "Young Marines Drug Demand Reduction" program funded by $50,000 grant from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Young Marines have developed standardized anti-drug education curriculum that is taught to its youth members. In addition, information

packages, that include literature and promotional products to appeal to young people, are available to all Young Marines and they are encouraged to deploy this initiative into their communities to reach out to their peers. Early education efforts, coupled with the use of peers communicating directly with peers and others about the dangers associated with using drugs, are critical in educating the youth population and increasing community awareness about the drug problem facing our nation.

Daniel Dayton, Executive Director, United States World War I Centennial Commission, informed the commission about his organization's mission to help Americans understand the importance and the impact of "The Great War"; to honor those who served; and to plan, develop and execute programs, projects and activities to commemorate the Centennial of World War I. A five year plan includes: developing educational programs targeted at a variety of audiences and delivered through a variety of broadcast, print and digital media; organize activities, events and symposia; establish a National World War I Memorial in Washington, DC, and bring attention to the thousands of World War I memorials in communities across the country that honor Americans who served in the war; and serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of information about events and activities related to the Centennial Commemoration.

Members of the Americanism Commission, Americanism Council, Committee on Children & Youth and Committee on Youth Education received information on the Patriotic Memorial Service from Assistant Director Timothy Lankford (IN).

Chairman Anderson concluded by expressing appreciation to all volunteers for the fine support and advocacy that Americanism and Children & Youth programs have received this past year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: Motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion carries.

Thank you, Richie. And thank you for allowing me to take part in many of those events as your national commander. They are fantastic. Thank you for the hard work of your commission.

At this time I call on Legislative Commission Chairman Brett Reistad from the Department of Virginia for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia, Chairman

Good morning. Commander Barnett, members of the National Executive Committee and guests, there are currently no matters of an emergency nature to present to the National Executive Committee. You've been provided with copies of our complete report. So I will not read it to you. As required by resolution, the Annual Report of the National Legislative Council was attached to that report.

On behalf of all the members of the National Legislative Commission, I wish to extend to all members of this body my appreciation for your support and encouragement during this past year. A special thanks to National Commander Dale Barnett for his active support and positive approach to our programs. Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: Legislative Commission
August 27, 2016
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia, Chairman

The National Legislative Commission met on Saturday, August 27, 2016 in the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sixteen (16) members of the Commission, nine (9) members of the NEC Liaison, and twelve (12) visitors were present. Others in attendance included Past National Commander Alan Lance. Also in attendance was National Commander Dale Barnett. The meeting was devoted primarily to a detailed discussion of recent congressional activities involving legislative mandates of The American Legion.

National Legislative Commission Chairman Brett Reistad (VA) offered opening remarks before introducing the National Legislative Council Chairman Jeff Joyner (NC) for a report. Chairman Joyner discussed the grassroots lobbying activities and gave a brief summary of the Annual Consolidated Activities Report.

Louis Celli, interim National Legislative Director, provided the commission a discussion of the 114th Congressional activities as they relate to veterans issues and concerns. He also provided a preview of the remainder of the 2016 congressional session.

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

AMERICANISM

Since its introduction last year, House Joint Resolution (HJ Res) 9 – flag protection legislation – has failed to garner a great deal of support in the 114th Congress. Since being assigned to the House Judiciary Committee, no hearings have been held. The measure has 40 cosponsors. A companion measure, Senate Joint Resolution (SJ Res) 21, was introduced late in July, 2015. That measure currently boasts 8 cosponsors. The American Legion will continue to seek passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag because it is the right thing to do. Let "We the People" decide.

On April 21, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved S 2837, legislation to fund Department of Justice (DOJ) programs for FY 2017. The House Appropriations Committee approved its draft version of the bill on May 24. Both measure would provide $29 billion for DOJ programs. DOJ programs which concern The American Legion include:

- *Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)*: The FBI will receive $9.4 billion for FY 2017 in the Senate bill, $9.1 billion in the House version;
- *U.S. Marshals Service*: This agency would receive $2.71 billion for FY 2017 in the Senate bill, $2.73 billion in the House version;
- *Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)*: $2.49 billion is tabbed for this agency in the Senate measure, $2.1 billion from the House;
- *Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)*: The legislation contains $1.26 billion for ATF in the Senate version, $1.3 billion in the House bill;
- *Juvenile Justice Grants*: One program area that has been a primary Legion concern since 1974 is the account for juvenile justice grants, which the Senate measure pegged at $272 million for FY 2017, but only $184 million in the House bill. These grants address such concerns as child abuse, youth gangs and violence against children, missing / exploited children, and underage drinking;
- *Immigration Courts*: The legislation sets funding for Immigration Courts at $426 million in the Senate bill. The funds will support the hiring of additional immigration judge teams to expedite removal proceedings; and,

- *Drug Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts*: Both measures would fund these innovative panels at $49 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

NATIONAL SECURITY

On June 23 the House of Representatives by a vote of 239-171 approved the conference report to HR 2577, the FY 2017 Military Construction and Department of Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies spending bill. The full Senate has not yet considered the measure. A total of $7.9 billion in overall military construction is contained in the measure, $282 million more than the administration's request. Some highlights include:

- *Military Family Housing*: Both bills provides $1.27 billion to fund construction, operation and maintenance of military family housing for FY 2017. This is $44 million below the budget request. The funding will ensure quality housing is sustained for all 1.4 million military families currently served by the program.
- *Military Medical Facilities*: The bill includes $304 million for construction and alterations for new or existing military medical facilities, a decrease of $303 million above the FY 2016 enacted level. This funding will allow for continued support and care for 9.8 million eligible beneficiaries, including our wounded troops abroad.
- *DOD Education Facilities*: The legislation includes $246 million for essential safety improvements and infrastructure work at four DOD Education Activities facilities located within the U.S.
- *Guard and Reserve*: The measure includes $673 million for construction or alteration of Guard and Reserve facilities, an increase of $122 million over the FY 2016 enacted level.
- *NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP)*: The bill provides $178 million – $43 million above FY 2016 – for infrastructure necessary for wartime, crisis, and peace support and deterrence operations, and training requirements. The funds will support responses to the challenges posed by Russia and to the risks and threats emanating from the Middle East and North Africa.

On May 17 the House Appropriations Committee approved by a voice vote HR 5293, legislation to fund Department of Defense (DOD) programs for FY 2017 at $517.1 billion, an increase of $3 billion over current year funding. On May 26, the Senate Appropriations Committee – by a vote of 30-0 – passed its version of the same measure, S 3000. The Senate bill would fund DOD programs at $515.9 billion. Among the programs addressed were:

- $173.7 billion for *Operation and Maintenance* in the House version, $170.7 billion in the Senate bill. This funding supports key readiness programs to prepare our troops for combat and peacetime missions, including flight time and battle training, equipment and facility maintenance, and base operations;
- $128.2 billion for *Military Personnel* and pay in the House bill, $127.9 billion in the Senate-version. This would provide for 1.31 million Active Duty and 826,000 National Guard and Reserve personnel in the House measure, 1.28 million Active Duty and 801,000 National Guard and Reserve personnel in the Senate bill;
- $104.2 billion for *Equipment Procurement* in the House measure, while the Senate bill would provide $105.2 billion. These funds support our nation's military readiness by providing the necessary platforms, weapons, and other equipment our military needs to train, maintain the force, and conduct successful operations;

- $70.3 billion for *Research and Development* in the House bill, $70.8 billion in the Senate measure, for research, development, testing, and evaluation of new defense technologies;
- $58.6 billion for *Overseas Contingency Operations* in both versions, and,
- $33.6 billion for *Defense Health and Military Family Programs* in the House bill, $34 billion in the Senate version, to provide care for our troops, military families, and retirees.

On May 26, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved S 3001, the FY 2017 funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by a vote of 30-0. A total of $48.07 billion would be assigned to the various programs of this agency, $245 million above the FY 2016 funding level. The House Appropriations Committee passed its draft version of the bill on June 22, providing $41.1 billion for DHS programs, $432 million more than the President's funding request. Some of the major accounts which interest The American Legion are:

- *Customs & Border Protection (CBP)*: $11.2 billion, about $125 million above this year's amount, in both bills. This funding will allow nearly 21,370 Border Patrol agents and 23,775 CBP officers.
- *Coast Guard*: $10.4 billion, which was nearly $292 million above current year's funding in the Senate measure, $10.3 billion in the House bill.
- *Disaster Relief*: Funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) totals $11.39 billion in the Senate measure, $7.3 billion in the House version. This includes $2.57 billion for first responder grants.
- *Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE)*: Both measures provide $5.96 billion for ICE, $132 million above FY 2016 levels. Among ICE's areas of responsibility are human trafficking, child exploitation, cyber-crime, and drug smuggling. The bill also fully funds E-Verify, a program that helps companies check if their employees may legally work in this country.
- *Transportation Security Agency (TSA)*: $5.08 billion in the Senate measure, $7.6 in the House bill. Included is funding for security enforcement, cargo inspections, intelligence, increases for canine detention teams, and privatized screening operations. It also includes funding for an additional 1,344 TSA personnel.
- *Secret Service*: $1.9 billion in both bills. These bills increase funding for cybersecurity investigations, rejects the President's proposed cuts to critical Secret Service staffing, and continues funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children which the President proposed to zero out.

Neither chamber has acted on its funding measure for DHS.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

On June 23, the House of Representatives, by a 239-171 recorded vote, approved the conference report to HR 2577, a bill to fund VA operations for FY 2017 at $176.9 billion, $14.2 billion above the current year's funding amounts. Discretionary programs will receive $74.4 billion, including $63.3 billion in advance appropriations for VA medical care accounts approved last year. Major funding areas include:

- *VA Medical Services*: These accounts will be funded at $52.8 billion, allowing about 7 million patients to be treated. Specific programs and funding include: $7.9 billion in mental health care services; $7.3 billion in homeless veterans treatment, services, housing, and job training; $173 million in suicide prevention activities; and $250 million in rural health initiatives. The bill also provides an additional $1.1 billion in FY 2017 funding to address health care needs like

hepatitis C long-term care for veterans, support care for caregivers of veterans, and to fight homelessness among veterans and their families.

- *FY 2018 Advance Appropriations:* The measure contains $66.4 billion in advance appropriations for VA medical care in FY 2018. It also includes $103.9 billion in advance funding for VA mandatory benefits programs.
- *Disability Claims Processing Backlog*: A total of $2.9 billion is earmarked for the processing of claims, which is a $148 million increase over the current fiscal year. The Board of Veterans Appeals would receive $156 million – a $46 million increase – will support 242 new staff to tackle claims appeals
- *VA Electronic Health Record*: HR 2577 contains $260 million for the modernization of the VA electronic health record system. It also contains language restricting funding until VA has certified interoperability of the system with DOD.

Other accounts in the measure which interest The American Legion include:

- $75 million for the American Battle Monument Commission (ABMC);
- $31 million for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims;
- $71 million for Arlington National Cemetery; and,
- $64 million for operations, maintenance, and the capital plan for the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

On June 30, the President enacted the *Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act* (PL 114-188), after the bill passed the House of Representatives by unanimous consent on June 21. VA researchers found women veterans are six times as likely as non-veteran women to commit suicide. Women veterans ages 18-29, many of whom served in Iraq and Afghanistan, are twelve times as likely. Congress acted to address this crisis. The bill directs the department to identify VA mental health care and suicide prevention programs that are most effective for women veterans, and such programs with the highest satisfaction rates among women veterans.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

On March 31, the President enacted PL 114-142, the Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Servicemembers Act of 2015. This new law extends one of the provisions of PL 112-154, the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. It would extend through 2017 the one-year period after a service member's military service during which: (1) a court may stay proceedings to enforce an obligation on real or personal property owned by the service member before such military service; and (2) any sale, foreclosure, or seizure of such property shall be invalid without a court order or waiver agreement signed by the service member. The extended one-year period under PL 112-154 expired on December 31, 2015, and returned to a nine-month period under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

On June 9 the Senate Appropriations Committee approved S 3040, a bill to fund the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) programs for FY 2017. Under this measure, VETS would receive $274.5 million, an increase of $3.4 million over current year funding amounts. The House Appropriations Committee approved its draft bill, on July 7, allocating $285.5 million for VETS programs. Funding for individual accounts includes:

- $175 million for Jobs for Veterans state grants, which fund DVOP and LVER personnel in both versions;
- $41 million for federal administrative costs in the Senate bill, $42.5 million in the House version;
- $40.5 million in the Senate measure to fund the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs, $50 million in the House version;

- $14.6 million in both bills to carry out the Transition Assistance Program (TAP); and,
- $3.4 million to fund the operations of the National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute (NVTI) are contained in both measures.

President Obama on July 6 signed PL 114-189. This legislation provides funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist that agency with curation and historic preservation activities.

The Army Corps of Engineers, among its other responsibilities, is to preserve and catalogue artifacts and other items of national historical significance that are uncovered during the course of their work. In 2009, the Corps of Engineers, initiated the Veterans' Curation Program to employ and train Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in archaeological processing.

The Veterans' Curation Program employs veterans and members of the Armed Forces in the sorting, cleaning, and cataloguing of artifacts managed by the Corps of Engineers. Employees of the Veterans' Curation Program gain valuable work skills, including computer database management, records management, photographic and scanning techniques, computer software proficiency, vocabulary and writing skills, and interpersonal communication skills, as well as knowledge and training in archaeology and history.

Since 2009, a total of 241 veterans have participated in the Veterans' Curation Program, including the current class of 38 participants. Of the 203 graduates of the program, 87 percent have received permanent employment in a field related to training received under the program or chosen to continue their education.

ANNUAL NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015-2016

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

In accordance with NEC Resolution No. 28 (October 1994), I am pleased to submit the following Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council Activities Report for 2015-2016.

1. Legislative Alerts sent out in the past year

1.	Fully Repeal Disabled Veterans' Tax	03/24/2016
2.	Fully Repeal Disabled Veterans' Tax	05/12/2016
3.	VA funding vote next week in Senate	06/24/2016
4.	Reform VA's Broken Disability Benefits Appeals Process	08/24/2016

2. Grassroots Lobbying Activities in Washington, DC

Washington Conference – February 22 – February 24, 2016
National Commander's Testimony – February 24, 2016

3. National Legislative Council Meetings Held

National Legislative Council Meetings are held by the individual states at appropriate times throughout the year. Nationally, no meetings are held, save for those who receive call-ins to the Washington Conference and the National

Commander's testimony. Most Department meetings are held in conjunction with existing events such as the Mid-Winter Conferences, Department Conventions, On-The-Hill Days or similar events. Most Departments held between two to four meetings of the Council throughout the year, although there were many informal meetings of the Council.

4. Chairman's Oral Report to the National Legislative Commission (August 27, 2016)

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

This report details the legislative alerts sent out, and any other activities of a grassroots nature. I am pleased to announce the report is completed and will be submitted in a timely manner. After reviewing the many fine reports I received from the Legislative Council Vice-Chairs, I can honestly say we have an excellent cadre of Legionnaires willing to dedicate their time, knowledge and passion to work on issues of importance to the Legion and our nation's veterans at the local, state, and national levels.

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

In this reporting period, four Action Alerts have been sent out using the mailing list generated through the Legion's Capwiz website which includes our Council members. We now reach over 15,000 individuals directly, and untold more through forwarding of such messages. This year our activists have sent almost 200,000 emails to Members of Congress through this web site. This is a tremendous number of advocacy messages and demonstrates that users of our Capwiz website find it useful and important.

The Action Alerts called for full repeal of the Disabled Veterans' Tax, full funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and reform of VA's broken disability benefits appeals process.

As you've already heard, the Legion has begun a major campaign to get Congress to pass appeals reform this year. Last Monday, the campaign formally began when the National Commander sent out a Commander's Message email. If you haven't already seen it, copies are available from the staff. Please pick one up and read it. Commander Barnett's message contained a link to the last action alert I just mentioned. Like a blizzard, over 10,000 emails were then delivered to Congress echoing the commander's call. Be assured, many more are to come.

Today, as the Chairman of the National Legislative Council, I'm echoing the commander's call to action. I am activating the entire Council to deliver this same message to each and every lawmaker our Council-members liaison to. I ask you as members of the National Legislative Commission to assist me in this endeavor by getting this message out to your departments immediately. Please assist our Council-members in their efforts.

The Legion Family is here in bulk for our 98th National Convention. Take this opportunity to spread the call to action far and wide while you're here. And when you return home, please continue to do so. I know I will. And I know I can

count on you to do so also. You will hear more about this effort shortly, so I'll leave it there for now. I thank you in advance for your efforts.

Turning to another matter, we are coming to the end of the 114th Congress. Now, with every new Congress, the National Legislative Council must be rebuilt. Therefore, each Department must be mindful of finding new liaisons for their Councils in those cases where there is a new Member of Congress or the current liaison is not available for reappointment.

I know that filling these spots isn't always easy. It doesn't just take a strong Legionnaire. It takes someone willing to share the views of The American Legion with his or her Congressman, and it takes someone who either has the respect of his or her Congressman. This relationship should not be confrontational, but rather, educational. It should help strengthen the relationship between the Legionnaire and the lawmaker. We need to have a strong Council in place as we move forward in the 115th Congress.

As Chairman of the National Legislative Council I will work diligently to ensure we have the strongest council possible so that we are at the forefront of efforts to protect the benefits military veterans have earned. We owe it to veterans, current service-members, and their families to make absolutely certain that we are heard. Therefore, I ask you to help me amplify our voice, by keeping the Council as a vibrant grassroots organization.

Finally, I want to thank the entire National Legislative Council for their dedication and hard work during the past year. I also would like to extend a special thanks to those vice chairs who submitted their department annual reports. These reports keep us informed of the great work they and the department councils are doing to advance our legislative priorities. I found them to be very helpful.

I thank you all for listening to my comments and I look forward to working with everyone in advancing The American Legion's legislative agenda. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my remarks and I move for adoption of this report.

5. The American Legion Auxiliary

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

6. National Legislative Council Award

I am pleased to announce that one National Legislative Council Vice Chairman was selected for his outstanding contributions in advancing the legislative portfolio of The American Legion during this past reporting period: David Patch (ME). The award was presented during the 2016 Washington Conference.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the Report of the Legislative Commission. Any discussion? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carried.

Brett, thank you again for a great job this year and a great legislative rally at Washington D.C. I appreciate the support and the work of your commission.

At this time I call on the Media and Communications Commission, Walter Ivie, from the Department of Texas, chairman.

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

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

Staff members have modernized, enhanced the Legion's website, which has resulted in record numbers of page views, visitors and mobile growth. Meanwhile, an independent audit named *The American Legion Magazine* the best read magazine out of nearly 180 surveyed.

Staff members have been active getting represented in national media and working with membership staff to help in the recruitment and retention efforts. Thanks to savings in postage, printing and paper, the division is in a budget surplus position of roughly $400,000 as of the August magazine.

That concludes my report, commander, and thank you for your support and allowing me to serve.

Report: Media & Communications Commission
August 29, 2016
Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman

The American Legion Marketing, Media & Communications Commission expanded its internal and external outreach with a significantly improved website, sophisticated branding messages and innovative social media campaigns in 2016.

At the same time, American Legion Magazine retained its spot as the No. 1 U.S. magazine in terms of reader frequency, according to an independent audit. In the independent audit — called GfK MRI Doublebase 2016 — The American Legion remained in first, while Costco Connection took second place from VFW. The American Legion and Costco Connection are the only magazines among the 179 evaluated in the GfK MRI Doublebase study that have 4/4 readership over 70 percent. American Legion Magazine placed first with 77.5 percent of subscribers reading at least the past three out of four issues (and 74.4 percent who read four of the four most recent).

Media & Communications staff members have developed print and electronic content in support of American Legion programs and initiatives, promoted the message and brand awareness to key external and internal stakeholders, developed brochures and other materials to departments and posts, and pursued other print and digital initiatives that promote the Legion.

On Veterans Day last year, a new home page greeted visitors to legion.org. While it had been months in the making, it was the first noticeable step of a multi-pronged strategy to modernize the Legion's main web portal and make it easier for mobile users to navigate. In the spring and early summer, staff members rolled out a new home page along with section pages and subhubs that utilized a new web design and approach to helping visitors navigate the content.

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

- The number of page views visited grew 159 percent, comparing July 2016 to July 2015.
- The number of unique visitors increased 46.3 percent, comparing July 2016 to July 2015.

- The percentage of page views on mobile rose sharply. In the first six months of 2015, about 7 percent of all page views were on mobile devices. In the same time period in 2016, the percentage was 34 percent.

Additionally, Media & Communications Division staff members are working closely with Membership Division staff to develop, promote and deliver a new portfolio of traditional membership acquisition tools for local use, including branded door hangers, web tutorials, flyers, posters, ads, videos and other materials housed in a new platform at legion.org/membership on the national website. Some of these resources were introduced at the summer Membership Workshop and received positive reviews.

Some additional highlights from the past year:

Staff members have worked on branding messages – website, videos, stories and brochures – that promote the Legion and its programs. Areas of focus included membership recruitment and Commander Dale Barnett's Walk for Veterans events. Staff members also engaged with leaders from the National American Legion Press Association to use NALPA's resources to help promote the Legion brand with ad slicks, videos, posters, etc. Staff redesigned the NALPA newsletter, updated its logo and helped recruit new members at the NALPA booth during Washington Conference. Thanks to those and other efforts, the re-energized NALPA has shown an increase in members.

The Media and Communications e-mail newsletter area is growing rapidly. As of the end of July, the number of subscribers year over year has grown from 1.31 million to 1.43 million. Meanwhile, the open rates for each of the dozen e-newsletters fall between 20 and 40 percent – far above the industry standard rate of 14 percent.

During the Washington Conference, the Legion worked with marketing group First Degree on a Thunderclap campaign to promote Commander Barnett's congressional testimony. As the commander addressed Congress on VA accountability, a social media campaign was launched with nearly 5,000 people promoting the Legion and reaching more than 1.5 million users on Facebook and Twitter.

The Legion's first bookazine – "Indivisible: The Story of Our Flag" – was a learning experience when it came to the retail side of it. We sold out of the copies at Emblem Sales but did not succeed as well at retail outlets. Due to continued demand, the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee is exploring whether to reprint the flag bookazine as well as publishing a new one dedicated to honor and remembrance.

Financially, the division now stands with an actual budget surplus of $394,711, driven by savings in postage, paper and printing. Altogether, the division is $60,335 behind budget in advertising revenue through the August magazine and July for electronic media. For the magazine, we are $126,362 behind budget for ad sales through the August magazine. Advertising has been hit hard by the membership decrease and will continue to be a challenge until the membership numbers improve.

Through the August issue of the magazine, production and distribution costs were $288,664 below budget, led by $182,920 in postage, $71,800 in printing savings and $89,000 in paper costs.

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

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

... Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I have a motion and a second to receive and file the Report of the Media and Communications Commission. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion carries.

Walter, I've got to tell you, you have really hit the road running, and I will tell you that the PR this year has been incredible. The Media & Communications Commission has done a superb job. Thank you.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATION CHAIRMAN IVIE: I give staff the credit for that; they're doing an outstanding job.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: Thank you, Walter. At this time I call upon Membership & Post Activities Chairman Kenneth Orrock from the Department of South Dakota for the purposes of a report.

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

Thank you, Mr. Commander, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee. You have a copy of my written report in your materials. There are no matters of an emergent nature to come before the National Executive Committee at this time. I would just hit a few highlights.

First of all, your excellent membership staff did over 2,300 revitalizations of posts in the last year. Those successful efforts are expected to continue in the following years. Second, we just came off a very successful membership workshop held last month in Indianapolis. Universally, the reviews from the participants, those that were attending for the first time and those that were attending after attending in previous years, were that it was a successful workshop; that they gained knowledge through the breakout sections and classes, and that the meetings with the leading candidates went well.

That concludes my report, Mr. Commander. Thank you for the honor of serving as your membership chairman.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
August 27, 2016
Kenneth E. Orrock, South Dakota, Chairman

The Membership and Post Activities Committee met at 10:30 a.m. on August 27, 2016, in the Hilton Millennium, Colonnade B, 2nd Floor. There were 44 individuals in attendance.

Those in attendance received updates on the strategic plan, the DMS program, Membership Workshop and District Revitalizations.

Three departments; Georgia, Mexico and Philippines, exceeded 100% of their goal as compared to two in 2015. Four departments exceeded their 2015 membership total – which represents a culture of growth as outlined in the strategic plan.

The online renewal program continues to perform well, adding great value to the renewal process. To date the 2016 campaign has yielded 212,390 members who have renewed online. We expect 2017 results to be similar. Online renewal has been a great addition to the renewal campaign.

National Staff, working in conjunction with local volunteers, were directly involved in 2,300 posts being started or revitalized through the efforts of district revitalization teams in 2015 (staff efforts run from Jan 1 – Dec 31). We expect that number to meet or exceed 2,000 in 2017.

During the recent membership workshop in Indianapolis on July 29-30, 2016, the majority of the time was spent on training and discussion of the strategic plan and setting the 2017 membership goal. The discussions were encouraging and very upbeat. A traditional goal was set of 1,881,404 members for 2017 – 44,119 members more than their 2016 membership total. This goal was derived from their total traditional membership as

of July 10, 2016, which included a combination of the unencumbered DMS members, traditionally acquired members and DMS transfers from 2016.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our parent Commission, Internal Affairs, and this Committee for your support, vision and involvement concerning the 2017 membership campaign.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:02 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee.

... Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. Any discussion? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carries.

Thank you, Ken. And thank you for your hard work. And thank you for your vision into the future and your work on the five-year strategic plan.

At this time I call on the Internal Affairs Commission, Mr. Larry Besson, from the Department of Illinois for the purposes of a report.

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

Good morning. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, you have my written report. I would like to bring your attention to the items of the Legion Rider and the Legacy Run. We now stand at $555,300 for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

We have no resolutions to come before the Pre-NEC, and I want to thank you, Mr. Commander, and this body for the leadership and support that you have shown the Internal Affairs Commission. This concludes my report, sir.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
August 27, 2016
Larry J. Besson, Illinois, Chairman

The Internal Affairs Commission and guests totaling 45 attendees met in the Millennium Hotel, Second Floor, Colonnade A Room, on Saturday, August 27, 2016. We reviewed 17 resolutions that went before the Convention Committee on Internal Affairs. We have no resolutions to go before the National Executive Committee during this pre-convention meeting.

The American Legion Riders have continued the tradition of service to America's veterans and their families with their unwavering support of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship for the children of fallen warriors. This year we averaged 260 bikes with 50 passengers for this year's run to Cincinnati from Indianapolis. We also had 75 non-riding supporters. At this point, they have raised $555,312 and we expect more donations Tuesday August 30, 2016 on the convention floor.

From January 1, 2016 until August 26, 2016, the NEF has assisted 29 American Legion family members and 3 posts with grant money totaling $52,930. Disasters covered flooding in South Carolina, Texas, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Mississippi. Tornado damage also occurred in Alabama and wildfires in California. Plus, we are expecting grant requests from Louisiana due to the devastating flooding they have experienced.

We started the year with a balance of $4,106,751 in the NEF fund and so far this year we have donations to bring the current balance to $4,794,570.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission. Any further discussion? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carries.

Larry, thank you so very, very much for your hard work and your friendship, and continue the great work of The American Legion. Bless you.

At this time I call upon the Veterans Employment & Education Committee, James Oxford, from the Department of North Carolina, for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
James W. Oxford, North Carolina, Chairman

Good morning. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee and special guests, you have a copy of our written report. I just would like to hit a few highlights.

Members of your commission met on August 27, that's this past weekend, here in Cincinnati. Attendance, interest and participation was extremely high at those meetings. We're really proud of that. Speakers for the commission are listed in the written report. In addition, the commission handed out the employer and homeless awards and handled discussions on government and corporate sector hiring. Those were extremely well received also. The discussion included recommendations that would assist transitioning servicemembers and veterans searching and ultimately obtaining gainful employment.

There are no emergency matters due to be received before this committee.

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
August 27, 2016
James W. Oxford, North Carolina, Chairman

Members of your Committees on Employment and Veterans' Preference and Veterans Education, Other Benefits and Homelessness met at 8:30am on August 27, 2016, in Hilton, Pavilion Ballroom, Fourth Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio, to listen to presentations from a variety of subject matter experts in the area of veterans employment, education, credentialing, homelessness and small business development. In attendance were 47 members of the Commission, the NEC Liaison, and many other guests.

Speakers for the Commission meeting included: William Offutt, Vice President of Government Relations, Victory Media; Colonel Adam Rocke, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Army Director, Soldier for Life Program; The Honorable Dr. Brad Wenstrup, Chairman, House of Veterans' Affairs, Representative (OH), United States of Representative; Michael Michaud, Assistant Secretary, Veterans' Employment and Training Services, U.S. Department of Labor; David Wallace, USNR (Ret), Military Relations Project Manager, Lockheed Martin; Hakeem Basheerud-Deen, Director, Veterans Services, U.S. Office of Personnel Management; Rhett Jeppson, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Mint; Anthony Sarmiento, Executive Director, Senior Service America, Inc.; Monshi Ramdass, Veterans Employment Program Manager, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Mark Escherich, Veterans Recruitment & Hiring Programs Manager, Transportation Security Administration; Susan Fallon Brown, Vice President of Global

Strategy & Business Development, Monster Worldwide, Inc.; Rear Admiral Donald Loren, USN (Ret), National Liaison, Vets4Energy; Thomas Dawkins, Workforce Development & Education Director, Microsoft; Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, Consultant, Building Materials & Construction Trade Division, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Mark Gross, President & Chief Executive officer; Oak Grove Technologies and Keri Huntzberry, Senior Military Recruiter, First Data Corporation.

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

The Commission adjourned at 4:00 pm.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. Any discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed? The motion carried.

Bill, thank you for your hard work in the area of employment and education.

At this time I call on the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, Ralph Bozella, from the Department of Colorado, for the purposes of a report.

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

Thank you, Commander. Good morning, commander, National Executive Committee and guests. There are no matters of an emergent nature, but there are two matters of an urgent nature that I would like to place before the National Executive Committee.

The first deals with the pending legislation intended to reform the entire appeals process for veterans' claims, and the second was our opposition to privatization of VA health care.

Your VA&R commission is working on both of these issues. As required by resolution, the annual report of the national Commission on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation is filed.

Commander, VA&R never rests. On behalf of all the members of the national VA&R Commission, I wish to extend to all members of this body my appreciation for your encouragement and support for all our activities and many throughout your departments this year for the System Worth Saving program. We have our annual System Worth Saving report available for you. You should have received a copy on your way in.

A special thank you to you, Commander Dale Barnett, for your active support and positive approach to dealing with the issues and for helping with our mission to advocate for veterans and their families. Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
August 27, 2016
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

The National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission held its meeting in the Duke Energy Convention Center, Rooms 201 & 204, 2nd floor, on Saturday, August 27, 2016. The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission had a total of 104 call-ins.

There were 31 members of the Commission, 14 members of the Health Administration Committee, 15 members of the Veterans Benefits Committee and 10 members of the National Cemetery Committee, 33 VA&R Council members and 1 NEC Liaison members.

The following officials from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs addressed the Commission: Robert Reynolds, Deputy Under Secretary For Disability Assistance, Veterans Benefits Administration highlighted (VBA)'s focus to improve the timeliness of delivery of benefits. Steps include modernizing their contact information, develop a simplified process, and improving the appeals process. Mr. Reynolds also discussed the National Work Que and how The American Legion is assisting by submitting electronic claims on behalf of veterans. Ms. Diana Ohman, Executive Director, Midwest District, National Cemetery Administration (NCA). Ms. Ohman gave a brief history of how NCA was created and discussed how NCA is currently organized. She also covered the requirements for burial or internment at a federal or state cemetery. Dr. Sue Sisley, Principal Investigator, Scottsdale Research Institute discussed the need for further research on the medicinal use of marijuana as it pertains veterans dealing with PTSD and TBI.

Dale Barnett, National Commander brought greetings to The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. He recognized the good work of the Commission, the chairman and staff.

At 11:00 a.m. the Commission divided into three break-out sessions. The Benefits Panel remained in Rooms 201 and 204, 2nd floor and heard from Scott Blackburn, Executive Director, MyVA Task Force, Veterans Benefits Administration, United States Department of Veterans Affairs presented an update and overview of the MyVA Program, focusing on the core initiatives designed to wholly integrate the veteran experience. Michael Carr, Acting Director, Benefits Assistance Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs presented information pertaining to the Benefits Assistance Service's new initiatives intended to drive the touch points of how a servicemember, veteran, family member, or stakeholder interfaces with VBA; Outreach, Web Communications, Telephone Quality, Training and Site Visits, Internal and External Partnerships.

The National Cemetery Committee met on August 27, 2016 in Room 233, 2nd floor and heard from Ms. Diana Ohman, Executive Director, Midwest District, and National Cemetery Administration.

Ms. Ohman followed up from her morning presentation and discussed how NCA is looking to acquiring additional land to be able to provide a final resting place for all veterans. Ms. Renea Yates, Deputy Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery presented on the capacity challenges currently facing Arlington and how they are planning for future expansion. She highlighted that if the current pace for burial and internment continues Arlington will reach capacity by mid-century.

The Health Care Administration Panel met on August 27, 2016 in Room 232, 2nd floor and heard from Gene Migliaccio, Deputy Chief Business Office for Purchase Care; Dr. Poonam Alaigh, MD MSHCPM, FACP, MyVA Access Chair; and Dr. Jane Fitch, President of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASAO)

Mr. Migliaccio spoke about VA's Non-VA's Community Care program to include the Choice Program. Dr. Poonam spoke on the MyVA initiative. Dr. Fitch spoke about her organization concerns with the Department of Veterans Affairs Advance Practice Nurse Propose Rule Making, AP-44 and Companion Bill S2279, Veterans Health Care Staffing Improvement Act.

The full commission reconvened at 2:00 PM in Rooms 201 & 204, 2nd floor and heard from Dr. David J. Shulkin, Under Secretary for Health. Dr. Shulkin discussion covered VA's innovation and advancements through a slide presentation of 25 major medical prosthetics and how they will benefit not just veterans but all of society. Dr. Shulkin then moved onto what VA is doing to address the wait times at medical facilities by integrating

all the processes into a single delivery system. Last, the commission heard from James Ridgway, Veterans Law Judge who gave an update on BVA and proposed legislation, which will reform the veteran's appeals process.

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I have a motion to receive and file and a second. Any discussion? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carries to receive and file the Report of the VA&R Commission.

Ralph, thank you. And I'll tell you what, I've even trucked through construction sites of a VA hospital with this man. He knows the issues in his commission, those issues, and they're out there fighting for our efforts. Thank you, Ralph, for a great job.

At this time I call upon the National Security Commission, G. Michael Schlee, from the Department of Maryland, for the purposes of a report.

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

Thank you, Commander. Good morning. You have the written report of our meeting on Friday and Saturday. Both our visit to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, 445th Airlift Wing, as well as our dynamic speakers program and our POW/MIA update on Saturday morning.

There are no emergency matters before the commission at this time. I would like to thank you, National Commander Dale Barnett, and the entire National Executive Committee, for your continued support of our efforts to maintain a strong national defense.

Report: National Security Commission
August 27, 2016
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman

On Friday, August 26th, members of the National Security Commission traveled to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to visit two locations. The visit began with a tour of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The party then traveled onto Wright-Patterson Air Force to enjoy lunch before visiting the 445th Airlift Wing Headquarters. The group was provided a briefing of operations and a tour of a C-17 by the wing commander, Colonel Jeffrey McGalliard.

On Saturday, August 27th, the National Security Commission convened in the Duke Energy Convention Center Room 200, Second Level. National Security Commission Chairman Michael Schlee opened the meeting and welcomed National Commander Dale Barnett of Georgia, Past National Commander Clarence Hill of Florida, Past National Commander Alan Lance of Idaho, Past National Commander Tony Jordan of Maine, John Brieden of Texas, Tom Bock of Colorado, and Fang Wong of New York. The National Security Commission was honored by their attendance and very appreciative of their participation in the National Security Session.

The meeting was comprised of four guest presentations. The first speaker was General Ellen Pawlikowski who serves as Commander of the United States Air Force Material Commander located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. General Pawlikowski provided the Commission with an overview of the Major Command which employs some 80,000 people and manages $60 billion annually, executing the critical mission of warfighter

support through leading-edge science and technology, cradle-to-grave life cycle weapon systems management, world-class developmental test and evaluation, and world-class depot maintenance and supply chain management.

The second speaker was Ms. Marie Harf who began a new role as Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications to the Secretary of State. Marie provided the Commission with an overview of challenges the Department of State faces around the globe. She has an extensive background in National Security from her time working at the CIA and the Pentagon and provided the Commission with insight on the challenges terrorism poses on our Nation's security and the impact it is causing globally.

The third speaker was fellow Legionnaire and Director of the Selective Service System (SSS), Mr. Larry Romo. Mr. Romo was appointed by President Obama as the 12th Director of the Selective Service System. Because of his dynamic and results-oriented leadership, the Selective Service System was presented the 2011 "Most Improved Small Federal Agency" award by the private Partnership for Public Service.

Mr. Romo discussed the importance of the Selective Service System to the security of the United States and inclusion of women. He explained the system's dual missions are: to provide untrained manpower and healthcare personnel to the Armed Forces in an emergency and manage an alternative service program of men classified as conscientious objectors during a draft who would serve in the community instead of in uniform.

The Selective Service, has an annual budget of $22 million and a permanent staff of 124, oversees and trains about 11,000 stand-by volunteers who would staff boards of appeal if a draft was activated. Draftees accepted by the military could appeal to the boards if they have a religious objection to military service or other special circumstance.

Chairman Schlee transitioned the meeting to the POW/MIA update and introduced the fourth speaker and long-time friend to The American Legion, Mr. Johnie Webb. Mr. Webb serves as the Deputy to the Commander of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) for External Relations and Legislative Affairs. Mr. Webb discussed his appreciation for the work former Director Mike Linnington did for the accounting community and informed the Commission that the Department of Defense was currently reviewing potential replacements for the position. Mr. Webb provided the Commission with a report of DPAA's activities and identifications throughout fiscal year 2015. He also provided the Commission with a list of the numbers who remain missing from WWII forward. The Commission was very interested in future operations and Mr. Webb provided an overview for the upcoming year.

In the afternoon, the Commission Chairman, Committee Chairmen and Council Chairman conducted an informal courtesy review of 90 resolutions which are subsequently being acted upon by the Convention Committees on August 28th.

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission. Any discussion? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carried.

Mike, thank you so much and for your years of dedication to this great organization. I now call for Confirmation of Interim Committee Appointments.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: Yes, you may.

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

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN:: Commander, I move that the List of Interim Appointments be approved without being read. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carries.

Interim Appointments
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 29, 2016

Paul A. Morin (Massachusetts), Advisory Committee to the National Commander, Chairman (Replaces Clarence M. Bacon, resigned)

Thomas L. Bock (Colorado), Advisory Committee to the National Commander, Member (Replaces Clarence M. Bacon, resigned)

Larry L. Price (South Dakota), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, Chairman (new committee)

Richard W. Neville (North Carolina), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, Vice Chairman (new committee)

Sgt. Jerod Keyes, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, Consultant (new committee)

Elgin Wahlborg (Kansas), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, Member (new committee)

Jim Willis (Oregon), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, Member (new committee)

Lawrence O. Maggi (Pennsylvania), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, Member (new committee)

William S. Feasenmyer, Jr. (Virginia), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, Member (new committee)

William M. Teel (Oklahoma), Convention Commission Liaison Committee (Replaces Jerry A. Ball, resigned)

Clarence E. Hill (Florida), American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, 2018 Director (Replaces Thomas P. Cadmus (MI) – deceased)

Clarence E. Hill (Florida), American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, 2018 Member (Replaces Thomas P. Cadmus (MI) – deceased)

John F. DeBisschop, III (Connecticut), Internal Affairs Commission, 2016 Member (Replaces Harry Hansen, Jr. – resigned)

Fred Craigie, (Nebraska), Internal Affairs Commission, 2018 Member (Replaces Randall W. Busch – deceased)

Fang A. Wong (New York), 75th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Committee, Chairman (new committee)

Clarence M. Bacon (Maryland), 75th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Committee, Member (new committee)

Dennis M. Duggan (Maryland), 75th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Committee, Member (new committee)

Jon C. Hatfield (Virginia), 75th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Committee, Member (new committee)

Dr. E. B. Heilman (Virginia), 75th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Committee, Member (new committee)

Robert B. Sussan (Virginia), 75th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Committee, Member (new committee)

Linda M. Perham (Vermont), Constitution & By-Laws Committee, 2017 Member (Replaces Donald Tetreault – resigned)

Sid Carter (Oregon), National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee, 2017 Member (Replaces Richard D. McLaughlin – resigned)

John A. Derner (Iowa), Marketing Commission Advisory Board, Member (new committee)

Randall D. Tesdahl (Minnesota), Marketing Commission Advisory Board, Member (new committee)

Dale D. Chapman (Virginia), Marketing Commission Advisory Board, Member (new committee)

Susan B. Mason (Florida), Media & Communications Commission, 2017 Member (Replaces Shelli Romeu – resigned)

Roy Havekost (Florida), Media & Communications Council, Member (Replaces Susan B. Mason - resigned

Lara D. Chan (Oregon), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Barry J. Snyder – deceased)

Alan B. Cohen (Florida), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, 2018 Member (Replaces Kelton D. Sweet, Jr. – resigned)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, may I address the national adjutant again?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: Yes, you may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the List of Cancellation of Posts and Squadron Charters is a true and correct list and that everything has been done to try to revitalize these posts?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: We have a motion and a second to approve the List of Cancellation of Posts and/or Squadron Charters. Any further discussion? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carries.

Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 29, 2016

On May 5, 2016, at the Spring Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of eighty-two (82) 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

Seventy-two (72) Posts have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the 2016 National Executive Committee Convention Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. Seventy-one (71) Posts are recommended for cancellation.

It is recommended that the following seventy-one (71) Posts be cancelled:

Department	Post #	Name	Location
ARKANSAS	28	Myers-Willingham	Malvern
	40	Joseph Marion Davis Memorial	North Little Rock
	50	Calhoun County	Hampton
	59	Lakeview/Bull Shoals *(to merge with Lakeview-Bull Shoals Memorial Post 431)*	Bull Shoals
	85	Rash-Du Bard	Marked Tree
	117	Treadwell-Allen	Marshall
	127	Burnett-MC Catram	Eudora
	142	Kenneth Sharp	Winthrop
	159	Londagin-Hardcastle	Gentry
	167	Hartford Valley	Hartford
	189	Louis Pierce	Foreman
	209	Garrett-Day	Strong
	210	Kenneth E. Hutson	Gillham
	233	Donnell	Guy
	244	Nolan Bussell	Chidester
	256	Cochran-Simpson	St. Charles
	268	Gerald Finney	Hiwasse
	275	King-Coke	Steprock
	277	Adams-Branscum	Fox
	291	Jimmie Reaves	Bearden
	311	Casey-Yancey-Long	Mansfield
	314	John Hicks	Mountainburg
	338	William Darby	Fort Smith
	389	Kenneth Collier *(to merge with Eldridge-Barkley Post 89)*	Long Creek
	407	Scales-Barnes	Camden
	413	Percy-Royal	Eudora
	414	Eli Woodson	Marvell
	415	John M. Reed	Little Rock
	426	Collins-Perry	Warren
	432	Calhoun County	Hampton
	446	Leon Egbert	El Dorado
	448	Searcy A. Odom	Brinkley
	451	C. V. Reeves, Jr.	Dermott
	458	James Davis	Dumas
CALIFORNIA	516	Teddy's Rough Riders	Los Angeles
FLORIDA	105	Lafayette	Mayo
ILLINOIS	832	William R. Edmondson	Willow Springs
IOWA	598	Chris Christensen	Ellsworth
	637	Theodore Schindler	Rudd

Department	Post #	Name	Location
LOUISIANA	320	Hubert-Chatelain	Mansura
MASSACHUSETTS	517	Daniel Petithory	Boston
MICHIGAN	13	Quicken Loans	Detroit
	15	Harold Teeter	Eaton Rapids
	500	Martinez-Garcia-Nerio-Reyes	Saginaw
MINNESOTA	487	Jacobsen Memorial	Shoreview
	572	George Grui	St. Paul
	634	Abe Lincoln	St. Paul
NEW YORK	767	Champlain	Champlain
	1609	John W. Phelan Police and Fire	Utica
NORTH CAROLINA	25	Limer	Warrenton
	173	Marshall Pittman	Rocky Mount
PENNSYLVANIA	132	Greater Wilkes-Barre *(to merge with American Legion Post 815 Wilkes-Barre Township Post 815)*	Wilkes-Barre
	250	Lieutenant Raymond A. Nicolas	Kane
	371	J. harry Bowe	Port Carbon
	546	Rywacki	Chester
	715	Highland Park	Pittsburgh
	806	Faggioli-Flacone-Penlington	Devon
	884	Alexander	Osowiecki
	912	Meals-Hoffman	Clintonville
	914	Lemoyne	Lemoyne
TEXAS	46	Weldon R. Miller	Wake Village
	118	McDermett *(to merge with George S. Berry Post 575)*	Floydada
	386	Allen-Robinson *(to merge with George S. Berry Post 575)*	O'Donnell
VIRGINIA	19	Salem	Salem
	51	Mountain Empire Veteran's Memorial	Bristol
WASHINGTON	103	Woodland	Woodland

Department	Post #	Name	Location
WISCONSIN	23	Alonzo Cudworth *(to merge with Stenz-Griesell-Smith Post 449)*	Milwaukee
	504	Conrad Shaker *(to merge with Cleary-Miller Post 115)*	Union Center
WYOMING	48	American Legion Wright	Wright
	84	Arthur-Antelope Brown	Arapahoe
	86	Trosper-Redman-Moss	Ethete

It is the recommendation of the Membership & Post Activities Committee that the following post charter cancellation **not** be approved until additional research can be done:

VIRGINIA	255	James F. Draper	Newport News

SAL Charters of The American Legion Presented to the National Executive Committee for Cancellation Cincinnati, Ohio

On May 5, 2016, at the Spring Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of twenty-eight (28) Squadrons.

Nine (9) Squadrons have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the 2016 National Executive Committee Convention Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. Nine (9) Squadrons are recommended for cancellation.

It is recommended that the following nine (9) Squadrons be cancelled:

Department	Sqdn #	Name	Location
CALIFORNIA	516	Teddy's Rough Riders	Los Angeles
MICHIGAN	15	Harold Teeter	Eaton Rapids
MINNESOTA	487	Jacobsen Memorial	Shoreview
PENNSYLVANIA	63	Daniel W. Brooks	Swissvale
	88	Elm Tree	Philadelphia
	289	Harry A. Kase	Ringtown
	523	Cosgrove	Rural Valley
TEXAS	118	McDermett *(to merge with George S. Berry Sqdn 575)*	Floydada
WISCONSIN	23	Alonzo Cudworth *(to merge with Stenz-Griesell-Smith Sqdn 449)*	Milwaukee

Technical Motion

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: I have a motion and a second for the technical motion. Are there any further discussions? All in favor signify by aye. Opposed? Motion carries. Thank you, Dave.

At this time I call on National Adjutant Dan Wheeler from the Department of Virginia for the purposes of announcements.

Announcements
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia, National Adjutant

Mr. Commander, if any member of the National Executive Committee has not yet received his reimbursement expense check, Shawn Long is standing in the back of the room with those that have not yet been distributed. See him at the close of this meeting.

Now, concerning the presidential candidates' visit to the National Convention: Hillary Clinton, Democratic candidate, is scheduled to be here Wednesday at 12:15.

All of the information I'm about to give you is subject to change, and we will repeat it at the end of the first session on Tuesday with any updates that we may have.

The mags will be placed in front of Exhibit Hall A on the Fifth Street side Wednesday morning in preparation for Hillary Clinton's visit. Elm Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets will be closed. Attendees can obtain entry into Exhibit Hall A at 0700. Mags will be open at that time. Please don't bring anything in your pockets that the Secret Service would be alarmed about: knives, metal, tin cans, stuff like that. Shuttles start at 0600 due to the Southern Caucus breakfast and the Central States breakfast. If you leave Exhibit Hall A, you must go through the mags again. There's only one way in and out. Plastic bottles, water, soda, food may be brought into the hall. No aluminum cans may be brought into the hall. Everyone should be in Exhibit Hall A by 11:30 a.m. or risk the chance of not obtaining entry. Greeters who are going to greet Hillary Clinton as she arrives should be ready to go by 11:30. Restrooms are located in the back of the hall to the audience's left. A rope line is anticipated but that could change. And once she leaves the hall it will reopen as usual.

Donald Trump, Republican candidate, is scheduled to speak at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday morning. Mags will be placed in front of Exhibit Hall A, Fifth Street side. Not the entry to the building. So this year, as a real convenience, the whole building is not magged, just the exhibit hall is. Elm Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets will be closed. Attendees can obtain entry to Exhibit Hall A by 0630 and mags will be on at that time. Shuttles might start at 0600. If you leave Exhibit Hall A you must go through the magnetometers again. Plastic bottles, water, soda, food being brought into the hall, no aluminum cans, anything that someone can throw and hurt someone cannot be brought in. Everyone should be in Exhibit Hall A by 0830 or risk the chance of not obtaining entry. Restrooms are still located in the same hall.

I'll make additional announcements at the opening session at the General Assembly and also Wednesday of any updates. Are there any questions? That completes the announcements, sir.

Closing Remarks
Dale Barnett, Georgia, National Commander

My closing comments are going to be very short and very much pointed at what Dan just went over. Our organization is thought upon as a very professional organization across this great country. I hope each of us encourage our delegations, no matter what their political views might be, that they conduct themselves with dignity, with professionalism, and that the purposes of inviting the candidates is not for us to select, as The American Legion, the next president, but to educate our members about the key issues that affect veterans, that affect the national defense, and I would hope that the decorum shown within your individual delegation would be one that you would be proud of and all of us would be proud of regardless of our political orientations.

That is one of the instructions I gave to our sergeant-at-arms; and if we see people who conduct themselves in the way that would bring discredit upon this organization, they would be asked to be removed from the hall. I hope you share that. That is in no way partisan politics. That's the way it has to be. So I hope that you will do that and share those comments with your delegation.

Mr. Adjutant, would you have any concern with anything else?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: You've summed it up completely. We have also advised the camps that we are not a political party. This is not a political rally.

So anything to get the crowd riled up with some kind of chant, we will not participate in that. They've been informed of that. It doesn't mean that the candidate won't try it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: Okay. Thank you very much. And thank you again for your service to this great organization. Thank you to you for your service to your community and your state and to your nation. And let's have an absolute great 98th convention. I'm looking forward to the next few days. And I'm looking forward to going home on Friday. At this time, would you all rise. Uncover. And I call upon our acting national chaplain, Randy Cash from the Department of North Carolina, for the benediction.

Benediction
Tierian 'Randy' Cash, North Carolina, Acting National Chaplain

Let us pray. Father, we thank You for the leadership of Dale Barnett this past year. Thank You for his enthusiasm, his wisdom, and his willingness to go the second mile so that The American Legion and our good nation's great veterans can profit.

Thank You, Father, for these men who have come today, grant them wisdom in Your peace, depart with us now, we know that You will never leave us nor forsake us. In Your holy name, amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: Please recover. The Colors of our nation in place. Hand salute.

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

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

... The Pre-Convention National Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST-CONVENTION MEETING

Thursday, September 1, 2016

... At 1:20 p.m., September 1, 2016, the Post-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon, and the following proceedings were had.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: This meeting of the National Executive Committee will come to order. The colors of the flag of our country in place, join me with a hand salute, by the numbers, one.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Two. If you would uncover as I call forward Harvey H. Klee of Texas for the invocation.

Invocation
Harvey H. Klee, Texas, National Chaplain

Dearly beloved, merciful and loving God, as we gather for this National Executive Committee meeting, we give thanks for the grace of another day, ever mindful we are where You want us to be at this very moment doing what You want us to do. With humility in our hearts, we call upon Your presence among us to guide us in the discussions, deliberations and decisions that may follow.

Help us to remain faithful to our mission as Legionnaires, dedicated to the principles we hold most dear as reflected in the preamble to our Constitution and the four pillars upon which The American Legion was founded. Help us to bring the legacy of The American Legion forward and well into the future. We are ever mindful without You we can do nothing and it is in You we trust. Lord, bless all those here present in our mutual comradeship and love for one another. This we pray in Your most sacred name, amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Please remain standing, uncovered, as I call the national adjutant for the POW/MIA ceremony.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia, National Adjutant

With the POW/MIA flag positioned in front of me, let it serve as a reminder for all of us to spare no efforts 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 effort.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

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

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

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander
Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Paul Martel, Florida
Fae Casper, Georgia
Douglas L. Boldt, Nebraska
Paul L. Espinoza, New Mexico
Vincent James Troiola, New York

Past National Commanders

Keith Kreul, Wisconsin (Excused)
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)
John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts
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 (Excused)
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia (Excused)
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (Excused)
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. Conatser, Illinois
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Fang A. Wong, New York
James E. Koutz, Indiana
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska
Harold D. Barnett, Georgia

National Executive Committeemen

Department	Committeeman	Alternate
Alabama	Willis Frazier	
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Richard W. Perry	
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman	

Department	Committeeman	Alternate
California	Janet M. Wilson	
Colorado	Francis W. McCurdy	
Connecticut	D. Joseph Jackson	
Delaware	John A. Endres	
D.C.	Bron R. Mogenis (Excused)	George E. Roundtree (Excused)
Florida	Dennis R. Boland	
France	Nola L. Maloney	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	Marvin R. Siegfried	
Idaho	Arthur L. Gimpel	
Illinois	Wayne Wagner	
Indiana	Paul I. Steward	
Iowa	Bruce C. Feuerbach	
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Ramona A. Naragon	
Maryland	Michael L. Mooney, Jr.	
Massachusetts	Francis J. MacDonald, Jr.	
Mexico	Michael D. Wood	
Michigan	Roger H. Webster	
Minnesota	Marland A. Ronning	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Kenneth J. Goth	
Montana	Mervin G. Gunderson (Excused)	David A. Driver
Nebraska	William D. Crosier, Jr.	
Nevada	Ronald L. Michalski	
New Hampshire	William R. Roy	
New Jersey	Daniel E. McCole	
New Mexico	Felix M. Trujillo	
New York	William H. Burnett	
North Carolina	Jeff W. Joyner	
North Dakota	Robert L. Krause	
Ohio	Dennis E. Clausing	
Oklahoma	Bobby D. Bryant	
Oregon	Robert D. Liebenow	
Pennsylvania	Dennis C. Haas	
Philippines	Lawrence E. Wade	
Puerto Rico	Ildefonso Colon, Jr. (Excused)	Luis A. Ayala
Rhode Island	Robert D. Winston (Excused)	Cory D. Bates
South Carolina	Cecil F. Hennis	
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson	
Tennessee	Gary R. Drennon	
Texas	C. W. Sparks, Jr.	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Francis J. Killay	
Virginia	Thomas E. Saunders	
Washington	William R. 'Bob' Wallace	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Steve Krueger (Excused)	Kenneth J. Rynes, Jr.
Wyoming	Terry E. Miller	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll call.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: We have a quorum. I call on the national adjutant for the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting.

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I have a first and a second. Any discussion about that motion? All in favor say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it.

I now call on the national adjutant for disposition of letters or communications.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, there are no letters or communications.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: The record will show that there are no communications.

Appointments to Commissions, Committees or Subcommittees

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I now call on the national adjutant for reading of recommended appointments.

2016-17 Advisory Committee to the National Commander

Chairman:	Paul A. Morin (MA)
Vice Chairman:	Harold D. Barnett (GA)
Members:	Thomas L. Bock (CO)
	Kenneth D. Danilson (IA)
	William M. Detweiler (LA)
	John P. Comer (MA)
	Paul A. Morin (MA)
	Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
	Robert L. Morrill (NY)
	Gaither M. Keener (NC)
	Ronald F. Conley (PA)
	Daniel M. Dellinger (VA)
	William F. Schrier (WA)

Resolutions Subcommittee

Chairman:	David O. Warnken (KS)
Vice Chairman:	William Kile (WV)
Members:	James E. Pisa (AK)
	Dennis R. Boland (FL)
	Paul I. Steward (IN)
	Ramona A. Naragon (ME)
	Marland A. Ronning (MN)

Subcommittee on Committees

Chairman:	Paul A. Evenson (SD)
Vice Chairman:	Charles D. Aucoin (LA)
Members:	D. Joseph Jackson (CT)
	Randall Coffman (KY)
	Terry D. Schow (UT)
	Daniel E. McCole (NJ)

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the commander's recommendations for appointments.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I have a first and a second. Are there any discussions? If not, all in favor say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it.

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

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

National Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, once again I'm honored to make this presentation to a past national commander who just completed a year of outstanding service to our organization, The American Legion.

Recently during the convention, we met in private room with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs when he met with the commander and a few of us on leadership of the National Executive Committee. And it just tells you a little bit about this commander who, first time in my history, first time that I can remember, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs wanted to meet with The American Legion for support and to get his position across to us. It's never happened before. It tells you a little bit about our Commander Barnett and the way in which he ran his year and how he was received by the most important man in our veterans' kingdom.

So, commander, we're very proud of your year. We've all joined with you as we walked across America and you've done the job, completing $8 million. Never happened before. $8 million. *(Applause)*

From all the charities of The American Legion -- I thought I was great in my year, 29 years ago, raising a million dollars for child welfare, but $8 million. I don't know that I can go back again. But with that said, I'm honored to place this cap on your head as you go back to Georgia with an honored memory of an outstanding year. *(Applause)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARNETT: It is an honor to be a national commander, but it's a great honor to wear The American Legion cap that I just put on, the cover. It is an honor.

I look forward to the future. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the future. I look for the great 100th anniversary of this organization. I know you'll do great things. I know we will do great things. I know The American Legion is needed by America to still serve. God bless you. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Commander Barnett, again, thank you for a great year. Thank you.

Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I now call on the chairman of the National Executive Committee Resolutions Subcommittee for receipt of resolutions motions and petitions.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, we have none at this time. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Appointment of National Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I recommend the following appointments of national officers for the following year. Adjutant, Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia. Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland. Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana. Chaplain: Harvey H. Klee, Texas. Historian: Paul D. Bennett, Missouri.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I have a first and a second. Are there any discussions? If not, all in favor say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it.

As national commander, I recommend the appointment of Kevin Owens of Oregon as national sergeant-at-arms. Is there a motion?

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I have a first and a second. Do I hear any discussion? If not, all in favor say aye. Opposed? The motion stands. I ask that National Vice Commander Paul Espinoza come assume the chair while I conduct the next order of business. ... *At this time National Vice Commander Espinoza assumed the Chair.*

Installation of Officers

At this time, I call forth three distinguished Legionnaires for validation of their appointment. Harvey Klee of Texas, Paul Bennett of Missouri, and Kevin Owens of Oregon, would you three please come forward. Each of you will assist the National Executive Committee and others in the carrying out of objectives over the next 12 months. You are entrusted with important duties, and each of you shall perform essential functions throughout the year to preserve the integrity of The American Legion. As you stand before this executive body, I will remind each of you of your duties and obligations.

First, I want to present Harvey Klee of Texas, who was selected to serve as national chaplain.

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

Next is Paul Bennett of Missouri, who is appointed to the office of national historian. Mr. Bennett, I remind you that your office is an important one. To you is given the responsibility of preserving and compiling the records of this organization. The future can only be judged by the past. Your duties include collecting all records and data of value and interest for the National Headquarters of The American Legion, and you shall compile during your term of office a complete history of the year's activities. Further, you shall

assist department and post historians so as to coordinate and unify the work of these officials. Be mindful that the lamp of recorded experience may do much in guiding the footsteps of those who follow. Ever remember that without the recorded history of this organization, Legionnaires who serve after we are gone will not know of our organization's great accomplishments and policies.

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

Now, after hearing these obligations, will all three of you raise your right hands and repeat after me, giving your names. "I do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office in The American Legion which I am about to assume. And I further pledge to uphold the principles outlined in the National Constitution and the Preamble of The American Legion in service to our veterans, their families, their communities, state and nation." You may put your hands down. Would the staff directors please adorn the newly appointed officers with their new caps. *(Applause)*

Congratulations, my fellow Legionnaires. I know that each of you will justify the trust that is reposed in each of your offices. I look forward to working and sharing with you many experiences over the next 12 months as each of us continue to serve America's veterans.

To the National Executive Committee: I commend you on the selections you have approved. You have chosen them to guide the destiny of this organization, and it is our duty to assist and aid them in every way.

This is the legacy we have inherited. And we will not fail in this mission to keep The American Legion an organization of free men and women veterans that has been faithful to its principles and ideals for more than 90 years.

... At this time, National Commander Schmidt resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like for you to meet the man who is going to be traveling around with me as national commander's aide. He's been a national candidate for a long time, but now he's the real aide. Dirk Levy from the Department of Oregon. I'm honored to be traveling with Dirk. *(Applause)*

Ratification of Legislative Portfolio

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I now call on the chairman of the Resolution Subcommittee for the ratification of the legislative portfolio. Mr. Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, pursuant to Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, I move the 300 resolutions with legislative intent adopted by the 98th National Convention be ratified for distribution as part of the legislative program to the 115th Congress. *... Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I have a first and a second. Are there any discussions? All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion stands.

RESOLUTIONS 98th NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

Pursuant to Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, the following 300 resolutions, with legislative intent, were adopted at the 98th National Convention. This list of resolutions will constitute part of The American Legion's legislative program through the 115th Congress.

AMERICANISM

Res. No.	278	Financially Assist Families Faced by Catastrophic Illness of Their Children
Res. No.	279	Support Funding Comprehensive Health Care for Children & Youth
Res. No.	280	Funding For Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs
Res. No.	281	Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation
Res. No.	282	Oppose any Attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing Penalties for the Production, Sale and Distribution of Pornographic or Obscene Materials to Minors
Res. No.	283	Establish "National Family Week"
Res. No.	284	Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization
Res. No.	285	National School Lunch Program
Res. No.	286	Prevent Child Maltreatment
Res. No.	287	Programs and Organizations that Promote Child Safety
Res. No.	288	Reducing or Preventing Teenage Pregnancy
Res. No.	289	Support for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Res. No.	290	Honoring the Anniversary of "In God We Trust"
Res. No.	291	School Prayer
Res. No.	292	Return Patriotic Holidays to Traditional Dates
Res. No.	293	Oppose Importation of Foreign Manufactured American Flags
Res. No.	294	Boy Scouts of America and The Department Of Defense
Res. No.	295	Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance
Res. No.	296	Support Fairness for Immigrant Spouses
Res. No.	297	Conscientious Objectors Tax Diversion
Res. No.	298	English Language be Declared as the Official United States Language
Res. No..	299	Pledge of Allegiance
Res. No.	300	Star Spangled Banner
Res. No.	301	Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits
Res. No.	302	Oppose Flag Code Changes for Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of The Flag, The National Anthem, and The Pledge of Allegiance
Res. No.	303	Constitutional Amendment to Protect The Flag of The United States

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No.	15	Support Veteran Status for National Guard and Reserve Servicemembers
Res. No.	16	Second Amendment
Res. No.	17	Position on the Operational Reserve
Res. No.	18	Support Research and Funding for Alternative Energy Resources
Res. No.	19	Develop Defense against Electromagnetic Pulse Attack
Res. No.	20	Fully Enforce Immigration Laws
Res. No.	21	Support for Financial Anti-Terrorism
Res. No.	22	Guard and Reserve Space-A Travel
Res. No.	23	Support for the Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard
Res. No.	24	Illegal Immigration Policy
Res. No.	25	Support for the Non-Federal Roles of the National Guard
Res. No.	26	Pipeline Construction and Energy Independence
Res. No.	28	Reserves and National Guard Retirement Benefit Fairness
Res. No.	29	Commercial Shipbuilding for Defense
Res. No.	31	Buy American
Res. No.	32	Support Domestic Energy Production
Res. No.	33	Rare Earth Elements
Res. No.	34	Support Unmanned Vehicles
Res. No.	45	Policy on the Arctic Region
Res. No.	56	Protection, Preservation and Retention of Federal and Military Monuments in the United States
Res. No.	85	Support for Military Quality of Life Standards
Res. No.	86	National Defense Budget
Res. No.	88	POW/MIA Policies
Res. No.	89	Taiwan Defense Arms Sales
Res. No.	90	South China Sea Island Building
Res. No.	91	Cybersecurity and Identity Theft
Res. No.	92	Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission Positions
Res. No.	93	Codify Burial Eligibility for Arlington National Cemetery
Res. No.	94	Earned Military Benefits
Res. No.	95	Flexible Savings Accounts
Res. No.	96	Support Full Funding and Resourcing for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps
Res. No.	98	Support for the Global War on Terrorism
Res. No.	99	Support for the Jones Maritime Act and Related Cabotage Laws
Res. No.	100	Military Commissaries
Res. No.	101	Support for the Reformation of the Military Voting System
Res. No.	102	Oppose Tricare Fee Increases
Res. No.	103	Correction of Military Records
Res. No.	104	Rebuild America's Defense Industrial Base
Res. No.	105	Reference Veterans Service Organizations at Discharge
Res. No.	106	Establish a Strategic Plan for the Internal Security within the United States
Res. No.	107	Support Armed Services Retirement Homes
Res. No.	108	Support for Legislation Prohibiting Hate Speech at Military Funerals

NATIONAL SECURITY — CONTINUED

Res. No.	109	Support for Pain Management Research, Treatments and Therapies at DOD, VA and NIH
Res. No.	110	Support for Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Res. No.	111	Taiwan Straits Dialogue
Res. No.	171	Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC)
Res. No.	172	Support for World Press Freedom
Res. No.	173	Secure National Borders Against Illegal Drugs
Res. No.	174	Security of Overseas Embassies
Res. No.	175	Oppose Iran Nuclear Deal
Res. No.	176	Authorize and Fund Tricare for Reserve Components and Dependents
Res. No.	200	Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)
Res. No.	201	Enhanced Funding for USAID
Res. No.	202	Military Retiree Mail at Overseas Embassies
Res. No.	203	Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance
Res. No.	204	Policy on Latin and Central America
Res. No.	205	Foreign Policy Objectives
Res. No.	206	Middle East/Gulf States Foreign Policies
Res. No.	207	Policy on the United Nations
Res. No.	208	Prohibit Foreign Investments in U.S. Defense Industry
Res. No.	209	Space-A Travel for Unemployed and Disabled Veterans and Dependents
Res. No.	210	Support for the American Battle Monuments Commission
Res. No.	211	Securing Pakistan's Nuclear Arsenal
Res. No.	212	Vietnam Human Rights
Res. No.	213	Support for Foreign Exchange Education Program
Res. No.	214	Global Trade Policies
Res. No.	215	Long-Range Strike Capabilities
Res. No.	216	Support for the United States Air Force
Res. No.	217	Identifying National Interests before Committing Military Forces and Assets
Res. No.	218	Support for the Selective Service Registration Program
Res. No.	219	Support Full Funding for the Department of the Army Budget
Res. No.	220	Support for National Missile Defense System
Res. No.	221	Military Occupational Specialty Standards
Res. No.	222	Policy on Africa
Res. No.	223	Policy on Cuba
Res. No.	224	Support for Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement Pay and VA Disability
Res. No.	225	Fully Fund NASA

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Res. No.	1	Department of Veterans Quadrennial Plan for Budget
Res. No.	2	Reinstate Enrollment of Priority Group 8g Veterans into The Department of Veterans Affairs' Patient Enrollment System
Res. No.	3	Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability
Res. No.	6	Department of Veterans Affairs Construction Programs

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION — CONTINUED

Res. No.	8	Department of Veterans Affairs Preservation of National Historic Properties
Res. No.	9	Black Hills National Cemetery Expansion
Res. No.	11	Medical Marijuana Research
Res. No.	13	Fiduciary Responsibility
Res. No.	35	Agent Orange
Res. No.	37	Improvements to Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Programs
Res. No.	38	Exempt VA Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provision
Res. No.	39	Research to Develop a Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer
Res. No.	40	Exempt certain Income from VA Pension Rate Determination
Res. No.	41	State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants
Res. No.	42	Oppose any Reductions to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Budget due to Sequestration
Res. No.	43	Department of Veterans Affairs Child Care Program
Res. No.	44	Department of Veterans Affairs Rural Healthcare Program
Res. No.	51	WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Entitlements
Res. No.	52	Department of Veterans Affairs Means Test
Res. No.	53	Veterans Discounts on Federally Funded Public Transportation
Res. No.	54	Designate Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia as a Presumptive Condition for Veterans who Served in Combat Theaters
Res. No.	55	Radiation Exposure
Res. No.	57	Prevent Exploitation of Veterans and Family Members applying for benefits, to include Aid and Attendance
Res. No.	59	Stopping Non-Attorney Representatives from Charging Fees to provide Appellate Service to Veterans
Res. No.	62	Veterans Transportation System and Benefits Travel
Res. No.	63	Department of Veterans Affairs Choice Program
Res. No.	64	Department of Veterans Affairs Beneficiary Travel Program
Res. No.	83	Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record
Res. No.	112	All Veterans Receive "Wartime" Benefits for Active Military Service between February 28, 1961 and August 5, 1964
Res. No.	114	Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Agreements with Non-VA Providers
Res. No.	115	Department of Veterans Affairs Recruitment and Retention
Res. No.	117	Disability and Death Pension Program
Res. No.	118	Environmental Exposures
Res. No.	119	Exempt Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment
Res. No.	120	Extend Department of Veterans Affairs Mortgage Protection Life Insurance to Service-Connected Veterans who are Permanently and Totally Disabled
Res. No.	121	Extend the Presumptive Period for Service Connection for Gulf War Veterans with Undiagnosed Illnesses
Res. No.	122	Gulf War Illnesses
Res. No.	123	Increase the Transparency of the Veterans Benefits Administration's Claim Processing

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION — CONTINUED

Res. No.	124	Means Test for Married Veterans
Res. No.	125	Opening the Federal Supply Schedule for Pharmaceuticals to Medicare and Medicaid
Res. No.	126	Oppose any Reduction of Eligibility Criteria for Department o Veterans Affairs Per Diem Payment to State Veterans Home
Res. No.	127	Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment
Res. No.	128	Protection of Religious Rights and Ceremonies at National Cemetery Administration National and State Cemeteries
Res. No.	129	Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs the Ability to Purchase Medications Located Outside the United States
Res. No.	130	Radiation Exposure
Res. No.	131	Recognize Operations in Lebanon (1958, Grenada (1983), and Panama (1989-1990) as Periods of War for Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Purposes
Res. No.	132	Request Congress Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs Adequate Funding for Medical and Prosthetic Research
Res. No.	133	Revision of Work-Rate Standards for Department of Veterans Affairs Adjudicators
Res. No.	134	Service Dogs for Injured Service Personnel and Veterans with Mental Health Conditions
Res. No.	136	Strategic Capital Investment Planning Program
Res. No.	137	Support Legislation to Place Mariner Medal Recipients in Priority Group 3 for the Department of Veterans Affairs Healtl Care
Res. No.	138	Support Medicare Reimbursement for the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No.	139	Support Presumption of Service Connection for Hepatitis C
Res. No.	141	Department of Veterans Affairs Enhanced-Use Leasing
Res. No.	142	Department of Veterans affairs Mental Health Services
Res. No.	143	Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing Home Capacity
Res. No.	145	Veteran Treatment Courts
Res. No.	146	Veterans Receive Same Level of Benefits
Res. No.	148	Oppose Legislation Authorizing Legion-Accredited Representatives to Claims Directly on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No.	160	Complementary and Alternative Medicine
Res. No.	161	Agent Orange Presumption for Service in Southeast Asia since 1975
Res. No.	162	In Vitro Fertilization
Res. No.	163	Legislation to provide Reporting, Tracking, and Action Dealing with Sexual Assaults at Department of Veterans affairs Facilities
Res. No.	165	Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Programs
Res. No.	166	Department of Veterans Affairs Involvement in the Department of Homeland Security
Res. No.	178	Assured Funding for VA Medical Care
Res. No.	179	Extend the Filing Period of An Appeal Notice to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
Res. No.	180	Designate Hypertension as a Presumptive Condition for Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION — CONTINUED

Res. No.	181	National Cemetery Administration
Res. No.	182	Non—Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Care
Res. No.	183	Presumptive Conditions for Former Prisoners of War
Res. No.	185	State Veteran Home Per Diem Reimbursement
Res. No.	186	Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Care
Res. No.	187	Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation
Res. No.	188	Department of Veterans Affairs' Role in National Emergency Preparedness
Res. No.	194	Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Integrated Service Networks
Res. No.	230	Policy for those Serving November 4, 1979 through January 20, 1981 to be Considered Wartime Veterans
Res. No.	236	Department of Veterans Affairs to provide Interim Benefits for Pending Claims over 90 days
Res. No.	237	Authorization to Apply for a Headstone, Marker, or Medallion
Res. No.	238	Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act
Res. No.	239	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses
Res. No.	243	Compensation for Veterans Requiring Hearing Aids for Service Connected Hearing Loss
Res. No.	244	Exempt Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment
Res. No.	245	Extend Eligibility for National Cemetery Administration Medallion
Res. No.	246	Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans
Res. No.	249	Amend the Eligibility Requirements and Extend the Eligibility Time Period for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
Res. No.	250	Increase Maximum Coverage under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
Res. No.	251	Grant a 10% Rating for Veterans who must Take Daily Medication for Hypertension
Res. No.	252	Support Legislation to Pay Interest on Claims Granted by the Board of Veterans' Appeals
Res. No.	253	Eliminate the benefit Payment Loophole for certain Incarcerated Veterans
Res. No.	255	Reducing Eligibility for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Payment for 100% Disabled Veterans from 10 Years to 5 Years
Res. No.	259	Extend Caregiver Benefits to include Veterans before September 11, 2001
Res. No.	262	Department of Veterans Affairs provide Service Dog Allowance
Res. No.	263	Include World War II Veterans in Priority Group 6 for Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care
Res. No.	265	Automatic Waiver for Over-Payments of $300 or Less
Res. No.	267	Allow Beneficiaries to Retain $90of Their Benefits while in Medic Aid-Covered Nursing Homes
Res. No.	268	URN Markers provided by the National Cemetery Administration
Res. No.	271	Request Study by The Department of Veterans Affairs on the Medical Effects of Exposure to Depleted Uranium

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION — CONTINUED

Res. No.	272	Extend Dental Care to Veterans with Service Connection of 50% or More
Res. No.	360	Advance Appropriations for all of The Department of Veterans Affairs' Discretionary Accounts
Res. No.	361	Congress to provide Back Pay to Veterans and Dependents
Res. No.	362	Congressional Budget Office Scoring on Department of Veterans Affairs Leasing
Res. No.	363	Consolidation of Department of Veterans Affairs Care in the Community Program
Res. No.	364	Department of Veterans Affairs to Develop Outreach and Peer to Peer Programs for Rehabilitation
Res. No.	365	Fit to Serve Initiative
Res. No.	366	Honoring those Who have Earned the Medal of Honor
Res. No.	367	Include Korean War Veterans in Priority Group 6 for Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care
Res. No.	368	Increase the Transparency of Asbestos Claims
Res. No.	370	Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselors and Marriage Family Therapists
Res. No.	372	Oppose Closing or Privatization of Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System
Res. No.	373	Oppose Lump Sum Payments for Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation
Res. No.	374	Priority Care for Medal of Honor Recipients
Res. No.	375	Prosecution Of VA Employees Engaged in Fraudulent Practices in The Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No.	377	Support for Veteran Quality of Life
Res. No.	378	United States Census to include Veterans Information
Res. No.	379	Veteran Caretaker Stipend
Res. No.	380	Exempt Funds Related to Interment Services at Cemeteries from any Future Sequestration

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No.	58	Support Legislation that Prohibits Discrimination against Veterans in Federal Contracts
Res. No.	60	Support Full Funding of Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOPS) Positions
Res. No.	68	Support the Increased Funding of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Programs
Res. No.	69	Support the Elimination of Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service Regional Offices
Res. No.	71	Oppose Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service Hiring of Non-Veterans
Res. No.	72	Oppose Efforts to change the Residency Requirements for State Directors of the Veterans Employment and Training Service
Res. No.	73	Oppose the Transfer of Veterans' Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No.	70	Improve Transition Assistance Program

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION — CONTINUED

Res. No.	74	Oppose any Weakening of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative
Res. No.	75	Support Legislation that Ensures that all Agencies that Receive Funding from the U.S. Department of Labor or the Workforce Investment Act Meet the Mandatory Compliance Standards for Veterans Preference
Res. No.	76	Support Improvements in the Reporting Programs available to and Administered by Veterans' Employment and Training Service
Res. No.	77	Support for the Military Transition Program
Res. No.	78	Support for the Strengthening and Adequate Funding of the National Veterans' Training Institute
Res. No.	79	Support the Restoration of the Duties and Responsibilities of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative
Res. No.	80	Support Legislation that would return Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Funding to a Staffing Grant
Res. No.	81	Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops for National Guard and Reserve Members
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Res. No.	150	Expanding Post 9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship
Res. No.	151	Status of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business after the Death of the Veteran Owner
Res. No.	152	Affirm Support for Emerging-Internet-Based and Peer-Financed Alternative Capital Options for Veteran-Owned Small businesses
Res. No.	153	Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development
Res. No.	154	Support Reasonable Set-Aside of Federal Procurements and Contracts for Businesses Owned and Operated by Veterans
Res. No.	155	Improve Transition Assistance Program
Res. No.	156	Veterans Entrepreneur Training Program
Res. No.	170	Oppose the Department of Labor's Restructuring of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative Roles
Res. No.	254	Raise on VA Home Loans for Two Legally Married Eligible Veterans
Res. No.	269	Surviving Spouse Mortgage Eligibility
Res. No.	274	Support Employment Services for Spouses of Servicemembers Killed in the Line of Duty
Res. No.	304	Support Accountability for Institutions of Higher Learning
Res. No.	305	Support the Development of Veterans On-The-Job Training Opportunities
Res. No.	306	Allow Military Retirees to apply for Position in Federal Law Enforcement after Age 37

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION — CONTINUED

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Res. No.	308	Amending the Eligibility for the Transfer of The Post-9/11 GI Bill Educational Benefits
Res. No.	309	Supporting the U.S. Economy and increase U.S. Energy Security through a Canadian-American Pipeline
Res. No.	311	Federal and State Incentive for Employers to use Veterans' Preference
Res. No.	312	Eliminate Delimiting Dates for the Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill
Res. No.	313	Support Elimination Funding Fees for Government Guaranteed Loans
Res. No.	314	Support Elimination of The VA Home Loan Funding Fee
Res. No.	315	Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservist Returning from Deployment
Res. No.	316	Support Employment of Veterans in the Public and Private Workforce
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Res. No.	325	Support Funding and Changes to VA's Grant and Per Diem Program
Res. No.	326	Support Funding for Additional Housing for Homeless Veterans with Families
Res. No.	327	Support further Assessment and Evaluation of Institutions of Higher Learning to Enable Veterans to make Informed Education Choices
Res. No.	328	GI Bill Medical Transferability Rights
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Res. No.	332	Support Funding for The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Homeless Program
Res. No.	333	Support Increase in Reporting Fees for Educational Institutions

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

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

Dates of Future Meetings

Fall Meetings:
Commander and Adjutants Conference .....October 10-11, 2016
Commissions and Committees.....October 10-11, 2016
National Executive Committee .....October 12-13, 2016

Washington Conference: .....February 26-March 1, 2017

Spring Meetings:
Commission and Committees ..... May 8-9, 2017
National Executive Committee ..... May 10-11, 2017

Homecoming Information

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. At this time I'd like to just remind everybody about a homecoming that the Department of Oregon is going to have at Indianapolis during the fall meetings.

It will be on Saturday evening at Post 64. And you can get your reservations and buy your tickets through your department adjutants, who should already have that information.

Also, following this, at about 4:00 p.m. this afternoon, at the Hyatt Regency, up on the third floor, you're all invited to a reception to meet your new commander, your new American Legion Auxiliary president, and new Sons of the American Legion commander. The dress is Legion casual.

Introductions

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: At this time I will entertain the introduction of new National Executive Committeemen, people who are attending the National Executive Committee in a voting capacity for the first time. And we'll start down on this side here.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MALONEY (FR): Nola Maloney, Department of France.

FORMER NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KIMBALL (OH): Bob Kimball, I'm the outgoing NEC from the Department of Ohio. I have several guests here with me this evening. I have our newly elected NECman, Dennis Clausing, and candidate for national vice commander. I have Robert "Bob" Klostermeier, which is our newly elected alternate NECman.

I have with me our department commander, Ronald Chapman. I have past NECman and past department commander from Ohio, Carl Swisher, past state historian, Dan Watrous. I would like the body to please know that a great Legionnaire needs our prayers: Roger Hight, our former department adjutant, is in a rehabilitation center, and it's really a sad state. At this point I want to ask prayers for him and sympathy for our new department adjutant, which is replacing Roger. This is Tom Simons.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Hello, Tom. Yes, we'll keep Roger in our prayers and thoughts.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ENDRES (DE): John Endres, new NEC. My brother here, Robert Michael, the new ANEC, and my wife, Kim, who is the department budget and finance chairperson.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BRYANT (OK): Oklahoma, Bobby Bryant. And my wife, Linda. And we have our department commander, Don Kuntze, and his wife, Sue, and our new alternate, Marv Sandbek.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER (WY): Terry Miller, new NEC from Wyoming.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SPARKS (TX): C.W. "Butch" Sparks, Jr., Texas. I'm the new NEC. I'd like to introduce my alternate NEC, Ken Mueller. Up in the front row is, my wife, Lynn Sparks. I think we have Past National Commander John Brieden, III here. I have a whole bunch of new people here, commander, because you have the chaplain from our state. So congratulations. But we also have Past National Vice Commander John D. Morris; Past National Vice Commander Paul Dillard. We have our current commander, Walter Ivie; our current vice commander, Lloyd Buckmaster; Past Department Commander and Past NECman Ron Cherry; Past Vice Commander Fred Rogers; and our adjutant, Bill West.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CROSIER (NE): I'm Bill Crosier, the new NEC from Nebraska. We have with us Past National Commander Mike Helm and our newly elected National Vice Commander Doug Boldt, and Beth Linn, the first lady commander of the Department of Nebraska.

FORMER NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WHITE (MD): I have a new alternate NEC, Lewis Trott, and a new NEC, Michael Mooney.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW (OR): Commander, Robert Liebenow, new NEC, replacing our current commander. Our new alternate, Robert Millar. As you know, back home we just call him Andy.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WILSON (CA): Janet Wilson, newly elected NEC. My alternate NEC is Ed Grimsley. My department commander, Gary Leach; my brand-new adjutant, John Bart.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN, Kansas: Commander, I'd like to introduce our new Alternate NEC, Mr. Gaylord Sanneman.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER GOTH (MO): My name is Kenny Goth. I'm the new NEC. And this right here is our great adjutant, Lowry Finley-Jackson. New alternate NEC, Tom Goodin. The first woman commander for the state of Missouri, Betty Gonzales. Past NEC Charlie Goodin; Past NEC and endorsed candidate for national vice commander, Richard Heigert. And our senior vice commander Terry Killay. I'd be remiss if I did not announce our National Historian, Paul Bennett.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMPEL (ID): I'm the new NEC, Art Gimpel. New alternate NEC is Ron Adams.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER PISA (AK): Commander, our new alternate NEC is Steve Huisman from North Pole, Alaska.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER RONNING (MN): Commander, because of your visit to Minnesota, while you were out campaigning, you made a lasting impression on a lot of people, and I do have a number of individuals here that I would like to recognize. First of all, I'd like to start out with Dan Ludwig, past national commander and his wife, Mary. Our past NECman and a great tutor to the great state of Minnesota, Ray DeZurik, and his wife, Pat. Our new alternate NEC is Bill Barbknecht. And I don't see his wife with him. Dennis Henkemeyer, past department commander, and recently served as SAL national vice commander. Al Davis, outgoing. Just served as the national vice commander. I would be reluctant if I didn't get this page completed with my wife, Chris. She's here in the audience somewhere. She's also the outgoing NEC for The American Legion Auxiliary. I'm going to turn the page. We have a Legion family from Sauk Rapids in the St. Cloud area, Fernlund family, Tom Fernlund. He was the membership director for the Department of Minnesota. Veronica, his wife, is a current district commander. Kaitlin Fernlund is their daughter currently serving in the Navy; and their son,

Michael, is in the process of enlisting in the National Guard. He's going to follow the Fernlund family tradition of being in the military. Denise Milton is our current commander and second female elected to that position in the Department of Minnesota. Mark Dvorak is our current department membership director. Mike Maxa is a current district commander. Linda Dvorak is the current district adjutant; Eugene Liefeld is the current district vice commander. Jennifer Havlick is the current PR chairman and outgoing district commander. Deb Norman is our current oratorical chair and the current vice commander for the district. Brenda Syverson is the current district vice commander. And Cindy Brunk is our current district vice commander.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KRAUSE (ND): Commander, Bob Krause of North Dakota. I'd like to introduce our new alternate NEC, Mr. Don Weible.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER JOYNER (NC): Jeff Joyner, new NEC of North Carolina. I'd like to introduce our new alternate NEC, Patricia Harris.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS (PA): I'm Denny Haas, new NEC. I'd like to introduce my alternate NEC, Mike Stelacio.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KRUEGER (WI): Thank you, Commander. I'll start with Karl Stuvengen is a first district vice commander and son of former National Historian Bobbe Stuvengen. We have Roy Helms, who is handing stuff out at the door, past department vice commander and also past president of the American Legion Riders in Wisconsin. His wife, Nancy, was a current district Auxiliary president. We have proudly with us Mike Lawler, the newly elected national vice commander of the Sons of The American Legion. I think I saw his wife, Janice, in the back corner taking pictures, as she always is. We have Roger Mathison, past department commander and member of your national Convention Commission. Rick McCanna is around here taking pictures somewhere. He's our department historian. He's taking pictures for the Reverend Dan "Always High Energy" Seehafer, our department commander and past national chaplain. We have our newly elected alternate NEC and Past Department Commander Bob Shappell. We have the guy that made us really proud this past year, immediate past national vice commander and my mentor, David L. Gough, and his wife, Donna. Another guy handing stuff out, he's new to our team because we allowed him in. He's from Kentucky. He's a Marine vet, Vietnam. His last name is Rohan. So we figured we would put him on Team Wisconsin for a while. Mike's brother, Steve Rohan, is around here. The guy taking pictures, Denise's permanent historian, is Mike Rohan, past department adjutant and a good friend of mine. And last but not least, the lady that I had the privilege of introducing many times this week at different caucuses, a friend of mine for 15 years that I've been following up the chain, a lady that I describe that there are few that may be as good but none better: Our recent leading candidate for the office of national commander, Denise Rohan.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WADE (PI): Sir, Lawrence Wade, Department of the Philippines. This is my first National Convention. I'm the incoming NEC. I will be looking forward to seeing you later this year.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: At this time, I call on the national adjutant for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. National Commander, all newly appointed and elected national officers are to remain in this room at the conclusion of the Post-NEC meeting for photographs which will appear, I think, in the January issue of the magazine. We also need PNC Dale Barnett to remain for photographs in his new blue cap, as well as Dirk Levy, the aide.

The national commander, national vice commanders and aide should proceed as a group to the commander's briefing which will be in the Hyatt Cincinnati Bluegrass Room

on the third floor. So at the conclusion of photographs, go as a group to the Bluegrass Room on the third floor for a final briefing of this convention.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. Is there any unfinished business to come before this committee at this time?

Technical Motion

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I have a first and a second. Is there any discussion? If not, all in favor say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it. The motion stands.

I now call on National Chaplain Harvey Klee for the benediction.

Benediction
Harvey H. Klee, Texas, National Chaplain

Almighty God, in Whose name we pray, as we soon depart from one another, may the spirit of comradeship and the love we share with one another in a common cause remain with us, not only as we go about Legion business, but in the communities in which we live and serve.

Be with our commander, fellow officers and members of this executive committee, as they set goals for the coming year and implement the ways and means of achieving them. Strengthen our membership, not only in numbers but in active dedicated service, serving those who have served and those now serving honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States and their families.

Lord, watch over us in our travels. Protect us against any and all danger. Let no harm come to us or our loved ones on our journey home. Safeguard us in every way. And may the peace, calmness and tranquility of God almighty be a blessing in your lives today and all the days to follow. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: You may cover. Legionnaires, please join me in a salute to the flag of the United States of America. By the numbers. One.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Two. Is there a motion to adjourn the meeting?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Motion to adjourn. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: I have a first. Do I have a second? All in favor say aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

... At 2:04 p.m., the Post-Convention National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion adjourned.

Abbreviations

AAFES ..... Army & Air Force Exchange Services
ATF ..... Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

CBP ..... Customs and Border Protection
CIA ..... Central Intelligence Agency

DHS ..... Department of Homeland Security
DMS ..... Direct Mail Solicitation
DOD ..... Department of Defense
DOJ ..... Department of Justice
DPAA ..... Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
DVOP ..... Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

FACP ..... Fellow of the American College of Physicians
FBI ..... Federal Bureau of Investigation
FY ..... fiscal year

HR ..... House Resolution

ICE ..... Immigration and Customs Enforcement

LVER ..... Local Veterans Employment Representative

MIA ..... missing in action
MSHCPM ..... Master of Science in Health Care Policy and Management

NALPA ..... National American Legion Press Association
NASA ..... National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCA ..... National Cemetery Administration
NEC ..... National Executive Committee
NIH ..... National Institutes of Health

PL ..... public law

PNC ..... Past National Commander
POW ..... prisoner of war
PTSD ..... post traumatic brain disorder

SAL ..... Sons of The American Legion

TBI ..... traumatic brain injury
TSA ..... Transportation Security Agency

USAID ..... U.S. Agency for International Development
USN ..... United States Navy
USNR ..... United States Navy Reserve

VA ..... Department of Veterans Affairs
VA&R ..... Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
VBA ..... Veterans Benefits Administration
VETS ..... Veterans Employment and Training Service
VFW ..... Veterans of Foreign Wars

WSP ..... Warrior Scholar Project
WWII ..... World War II

YTD ..... year to date

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