Digest of Minutes

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Portland, Oregon

September 11 and September 15, 1932

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Portland, Oregon, September 11, 1932

The pre-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order in the Municipal Auditorium, Portland, Oregon, on Sunday, September 11, 1932, at 3:20 o'clock in the afternoon, by the Chairman, National Commander Henry L. Stevens, Jr., National Adjutant James F. Barton acted as Secretary of the meeting.

The committee stood in silent prayer for one minute in memory of E. R. Wren, member of the committee representing the Department of Alabama, who died recently.

Roll Call by the Secretary showed five Past National Commanders, and three National Vice-Commanders present and thirty-two Departments represented.

Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting was dispensed with.

NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

The following report of the National Finance Committee, submitted by Wilder S. Metcalf, Kansas, Chairman, was adopted:

"The National Finance Committee desires to bring to your notice the following report of certain dispositions which it has made in regard to the financial affairs of the National Organization, and to present recommendations which it deems deserving of your attention and approval.

"At its meeting in Indianapolis on May 4, 1932, the National Finance Committee created a sub-Committee, which consisted of the National Treasurer, the National Adjutant and the National Judge Advocate, and directed the said sub-committee to make a thorough survey of the detailed costs of operating the National Organization, this with a view to promoting and putting into effect all proper economies and, importantly, to arranging such revision in the salary schedule of employees as would be appropriate to the state of the times, to the lower level of compensation that is commonly current, and to any probable falling off of income that might occur in the near future in the revenues of the National Organization. In order that such a study of costs might be of most searching character and of greatest worth to the under taking, the sub-committee was authorized to engage and employ the services of competent technical advisors, experienced in the conduct of such cost studies and in cost analysis directed to economical practice without sacrifice of efficiency.

"The work thus directed has been carried forward and has been the subject of most careful review and consideration by our sub-committee. It has now been scrutinized and discussed by the entire membership of the National Finance Committee. In respect of pay roll changes, it will interest you to know that by unanimous decision of our membership, reductions in the aggregate of $21,984.18 per annum have been adopted, to take effect October 1, 1932. The savings, thus derived, will amount to $5,496.04 during the last three months of the present calender year.

"Certain changes in business administration and internal office practice under control of the National Officers have also been approved and will be instituted as soon as they can be suitably accommodated to existing procedure. From these changes it may be confidently expected that further substantial savings will ensue.

"There is, however, the possibility of reducing costs to a still greater extent through the consolidation of certain national committees and through a well considered co-relation of committee activities where overlapping now occurs. This, in our opinion, is a matter that is beyond the primary jurisdiction of the National Finance Committee since, to some extent at least, it involves revision of convention actions, or else, as in some cases, of constitutional requirements. In regard, therefore, to this phase of our broad program for achieving new and proper economies without sacrifice of efficiency, it is our recommendation that the National Executive Committee appoint a sub-committee of three of its members to review the suggestions that are before us in this regard, and to work out an orderly procedure by means of which the projects in mind can best be drawn up, presented and realized in accordance with whatever their acceptable merit may be found to be. We offer the thought that, in this connection, you may desire to invite the National Finance Committee to designate one or two of its members to be additional members of your sub-committee in order that liaison and cooperation in relation to financial aspects of this undertaking may be available.

"So much for the general subject of economy.

"Pursuant to the direction of the National Finance Committee at its last meeting, the National Judge Advocate has established contact with approximately forty-five surety companies in this country and has outlined to them a general bonding plan as hereinafter described. The great majority of the bonding companies have signified their willingness to cooperate.

"The plan as recommended and approved by the Finance Committee is as follows:

"'It having come to the attention of the National Finance Committee that compliance with Section 1 of Article 6 of the By-Laws which requires that all National, Department and Post officials handling American Legion money shall be properly bonded with a good and solvent bonding company as surety thereon, has not been complied with by Posts, except by some and except as the latter found to be convenient or desirable, and that heretofore the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company has been designated as the surety and the bond written by that company approved; that the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company has for some years expended with our hearty appreciation its energies in a campaign of education, but that it would be advisable to throw this matter open to all surety companies which will participate under the conditions proposed, writing the business upon a uniform approved bond; that the conditions to be imposed upon these companies writing the bond being (1) that the companies will only contact Posts in Departments where a compulsory bonding plan has not been adopted; (2) that they will write only the uniform approved bond; (3) that they will, on October 1 of each year, advise National Headquarters of bonds written; (4) that the companies will agree to write the bond for

a uniform rate; that the National Adjutant be authorized and directed to execute agreements with the surety companies in compliance with this plan and be directed to advise the Departments of the plan and to cause those Departments in which there is no compulsory plan adopted to advise the Posts of the plan in detail; that the National Adjutant shall be authorized to enter into contracts subsequently with any other companies which desire to participate under the plan and to cause notice to be given to the Departments under such conditions as he may deem advisable; that it is the opinion of the National Finance Committee that such plan will secure a more complete compliance with the provisions of the By-Laws than the plan now in force.'

"It is recommended that the National Executive Committee confirm the National Finance Committee in this expression of the latter's opinion and that National Headquarters publish and forward to each Department Adjutant an approved form of bond and a list of the companies which will participate at the uniform rate.

"This report is submitted with the unanimous approval of the National Finance Committee.

"Respectfully,

(Signed) Wilder S. Metcalf.
Chairman."

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE NEW MEXICO SITUATION

The following report of the special sub-committee appointed by the National Commander to consider the petition for appeal from the New Mexico Department was submitted by the Chairman, Forrest G. Cooper, Mississippi, and adopted after a general discussion:

Your sub-committee has been in session all day and just finished its report, having heard testimony and giving as full consideration as the length of time and the seriousness of the question would permit. The question submitted to us was a petition with a request for revocation or suspension of the charter of the Department of New Mexico.

"The Sub-Committee on Petition for Appeal from the Department of New Mexico reports as follows:

"Charge 1: That the constitutionality and regularity of the Department Convention of the Department of New Mexico is a matter of legal conclusion based on a construction of the constitution of the Department of New Mexico and of rules of order and procedure and this committee makes no finding thereon.

"That it is the opinion of this committee that neither the allegations of Charge 1 nor the proof offered in support thereof warrants the suspension or revocation of a charter at this time.

"Charges 2 and 3: The allegations of Charges 2 and 3 are not sufficiently definite or specific to justify suspension or revocation of charter. The proof offered in support of Charges 2 and 3, while attending to prove constitutional irregularities in administration and discipline in some past years, does not relate to incidents of sufficiently recent date or of such nature as to predicate the conclusion that the incoming administration will be guilty of breaches of the obligations of the constitution in the future.

"The sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee deny the appeal as presented; that the alleged constitutional violations complained of be called to the specific attention of the Department of New Mexico and that the observance of the Legion Constitution by the incoming Department of New Mexico be investigated by some representative of The American Legion to be appointed by the incoming National Commander and report be made to the meeting of the Executive Committee, to be held in May, 1933, and that further report be made to the meeting of the Executive Committee to be held immediately prior to the 1933 National Convenion of The American Legion.

"Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Forrest G. Cooper, Chairman
Sidney S. George
W. T. Joyner
H. H. Lark
Sub-committee."

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

The National Commander was authorized to appoint a special sub-committee of five members to make an investigation of the proposed International Bridge Tournament contract entered into by the American Legion Building Paris, Inc., (Pershing Hall), such committee to submit its report at the Post-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee. The members of the committee appointed were as follows:

Charles A. Mills, Florida, Chairman,
Sam H. Jones, Louisiana.
Dr. W. W. Yates, Wyoming.
Wm. Stern, North Dakota.
J. Monroe Johnson, South Carolina.

NATIONAL EMBLEM RESOLUTION

The following resolution, read by the National Judge Advocate, Remster A. Bingham, was adopted:

"Whereas, The Emblem Division of The American Legion was established for the purpose of retaining control of the sale of merchandise involving the official emblem, to render a service to members, Posts and Departments of The American Legion, and to provide a revenue for the purpose of carrying on the authorized activities of the National Organization; and

"Whereas, Changes in business conditions have made it evident that certain changes in the present policies of the Emblem Division are advisable and necessary; be it

"RESOLVED, That there be appointed a National Emblem Committee of three members, to be selected on the basis of merchandising knowledge and ability, one to be appointed for one year, one for two years, and one for three years, and thereafter all subsequent appointments for three years, starting November 1, 1932, which committee shall be authorized to make a thorough study of the operation and problems of the Emblem Division and to prepare and submit to the National Executive Committee its suggestions or recommendations dealing with changes and general policy to be followed and to make such further recommendations to the National Executive Committee that may be deemed best and advisable in the future."

CHARTERS PRESENTED FOR CANCELLATION

The cancellation of post charters, as recommended by the respective Departments, was authorized. The list of the posts whose charters were cancelled follows:

Department	Post Name	Number	Location
Alabama	Barbour County	14	Clayton
	Community	54	Lafayette
Delaware	Peninsula	9	Laurel
Illinois	Union Park	656	Chicago
	Royce V. Wallace	621	Chicago
	Galatia	655	Galatia
Kentucky	Martwick	154	Martwick
	Benham	182	Benham
Michigan	Francis E. Dow	349	Detroit
	Columbiaville	132	Columbiaville
	Moquin-Nichols	340	Reece
Louisiana	Howard Gay	168	Zwolle
	Fortson-Carter	169	Greenwood
Maryland	Claude A. McGee	9	Baltimore
	Capitol Heights	23	Capitol Heights
Nebraska	Stanley	253	Cortland
New York	Benjamin Franklin, Jr.	463	Ovid
	F. W. Galbraith	999	New York City
Oklahoma	John Talley	214	County Line
Chile, South America	Chuquicamata	1	Chuquicamata

Department	Post Name	Number	Location
Puerto Castilla, Honduras	Puerto Castilla	2	Puerto Castilla
Alaska	Jack Pierson	7	Juneau
Virginia	Kinley-Supthin	62	Floyd
	George Washington	94	Portsmouth
Kansas	Asa Phipps	377	McDonald
Colombia, South America	Cartagena	2	Cartagena
Ceiba, Honduras	Forgotten Comrade	1	Ceiba
China	Hankow	5	Hankow

The committee adjourned at 4:45 P. M.

JAMES F. BARTON,
National Adjutant.

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Portland, Oregon, September 15, 1932

The Post-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to order at the Municipal Auditorium, Portland, Oregon, on Thursday afternoon, September 15, 1932, at 3:05 o'clock, by Louis A. Johnson, National Commander, National Adjutant James F. Barton acted as Secretary.

Invocation by the National Chaplain, Rev. Irving Q. Wood.

Roll Call by the Secretary showed two Past National Commanders and three National Vice-Commanders present, and forty-one Departments represented.

The nomination of the National Adjutant by the National Commander and the election of a National Treasurer, National Judge Advocate and National Historian, by the National Executive Committee, were postponed until the regular meeting of the Committee in November.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT.

The following report of the sub-committee, authorized at the September 11 meeting of the National Executive Committee, was submitted by the Chairman, Charles A. Mills, Florida, and unanimously adopted:

"The committee met and had before it report of the sub-committee of the National Executive Committee at its meeting in 1928 appointed for the purpose of considering the raising of funds for the American Legion Building, Paris, Inc. as required on the authority granted that corporation at the Paris Convention in 1927.

"As a condition precedent to the incorporation of The American Legion Building, Paris, Inc. your Executive Committee demanded certain changes in the Articles, and that Plans for Raising of the necessary money outside of France meet with the approval of the Nat. Ex. Com. The only plan approved by your Committee for raising funds outside of France was one for the sale of stock other than through Legion channels.

"It is, therefore, the opinion of the committee that the present bridge tournament arrangement is in violation of the authority granted for the purposes of raising funds and that the promoters and beneficiaries of the bridge tournament are improperly using a name other than the name authorized by the Legion and that the proposed plan of raising money by means of a tournament violates the well-established national policy which forbids money raising activities without departmental consent.

"It is therefore, recommended by your committee that the Commander, with the assistance of the Judge Advocate and Adjutant, as diplomatically as possible and as firmly, require strict conformity with the authority granted as to raising funds and as to nomenclature of the enterprise.

"Further, we commend the position taken by our Commander as being in strict conformity with the previous action of this body.

"And lastly, we hereby reassure the American Legion Building, Paris, Inc. that it is our desire to cooperate with it in the final accomplishment of its aims and in that beautiful and lasting memorial, Pershing Hall.

"Charles A. Mills, Chairman

"William Stern

"J. Monroe Johnson"

PRESENTATION OF PAST NATIONAL ADJUTANT'S BADGE

Past National Commander Henry L. Stevens, Jr., presented a Past National Adjutant's badge to the retiring National Adjutant, James F. Barton.

DATES FOR NOVEMBER MEETINGS

November 14 and 15, 1932, were chosen as the dates for the next meeting of the National Executive Committee, in Indianapolis. Dates for the Annual Conference of Department Commanders and Department Adjutants, at Indianapolis, authorized by the National Convention, were set as November 16, 17 and 18, 1932.

LETTER OF SYMPATHY

The National Adjutant was directed to communicate with Robert B. McDougle, member of the National Executive Committee representing the Department of West Virginia, expressing to him the concern and sympathy of the members of the Committee over his illness and the desire for his early return to strength and health.

The Committee adjourned at 3:30 P. M. to meet November 14 and 15, in Indianapolis.

JAMES F. BARTON,
National Adjutant.