PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

October 11-12, 2017

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PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

...At 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 11, 2017, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Denise H. Rohan.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: With the colors of our nation in place, hand salute: Two. I now call on our chaplain, Robert Vick from Florida, for invocation. Please uncover.

Invocation
Robert A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain

I have good news for you this morning. God is alive and well and still in control, He's on his throne. I know, because I talked to Him this morning. Bow your heads with me, please.

Father, today we pray for wisdom to make decisions that not only will be long lasting but will be effective for the precious souls that we represent. We play not only for wisdom, but we pray for determination to do the things that we have taken an oath to do, and we pray for strength to stand in the gap to represent those who can't represent themselves. And this is my prayer today. Amen.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Robert A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain

While you're standing, our POW/MIA flag is in position. Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention requires the designation of a POW/MIA chair or flag at the 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 to my left, let it serve as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners, the repatriation of the remains of those who have been killed in action, and a full accounting of those who are still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

I hear, occasionally, people refer to those missing in action as "presumed dead." I don't presume them dead. I presume them alive. And until I see evidence that they are dead, I'm going to believe they're alive and I'm going to work and promote finding our POWs, getting them released, recovering the remains of those who have died, and bring them home and give them their proper respect and due. Now for just a moment, bow your heads and thank God for people like these who gave us the freedoms we have and enjoy today. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion
Roy A. Helms, Wisconsin, National Sergeant-at-Arms

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I call on National Sergeant-at-Arms Roy Helms from Wisconsin to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I now declare this National Executive Committee in session, regularly convened. Mr. Adjutant, will you please do the roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Larry J. Marcouillier, Delaware
William J. Flanagan, Illinois
Bobby D. Bryant, Oklahoma
Byron I. Callies, South Dakota
Paula R. Stephenson, Utah

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 (Excused)
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana (Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (Excused)
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas 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
Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon

National Executive Committeemen

Department	Committeeman	Alternate
Alabama	Willis Frazier (Excused)	Hardwick Hall (Excused)
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Richard W. Perry	
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman	
California	Janet M. Wilson	
Colorado	Thomas Florez	
Connecticut	D. Joseph Jackson	
Delaware	John A. Endres	

D.C.	Bron R. Mogenis (Excused)	George Roundtree (Excused)
Florida	Dennis R. Boland	
France	Nola L. Maloney	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	David Carlson	
Idaho	Arthur L. Gimpel	
Illinois	Bernard Stegmueller	
Indiana	Jerry Jordon	
Iowa	Jerry Sebben	
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Fisher	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	John W. Hargreaves	
Maryland	Michael L. Mooney, Jr.	
Massachusetts	William Chisholm	
Mexico	Michael D. Wood	
Michigan	Raymond Moore	
Minnesota	Marland A. Ronning	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Kenneth J. Goth	
Montana	Mervin G. Gunderson	
Nebraska	William D. Crosier, Jr.	
Nevada	Ronald L. Michalski	
New Hampshire	William R. Roy	
New Jersey	Charles Robbins	
New Mexico	Felix M. Trujillo	
New York	Edward Bertrand (Excused)	William R. Kearsing, Jr.
North Carolina	Jeff W. Joyner	
North Dakota	Robert L. Krause	
Ohio	Dennis E. Clausing	
Oklahoma	Timothy Smith	
Oregon	Robert D. Liebenow	
Pennsylvania	Dennis C. Haas	
Philippines	Lawrence E. Wade	
Puerto Rico	Angel Narvaez-Negron	
Rhode Island	Cory Bates	
South Carolina	Cecil F. Hennis	
South Dakota	James Huls	
Tennessee	Don Mathis	
Texas	C. W. Sparks, Jr.	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Marlys Lemnah	
Virginia	Michael Mitrione	
Washington	Ken Lee	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Kenneth J. Rynes, Jr.	
Wyoming	Terry E. Miller	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: You have a quorum.
NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you very much.
...National Vice Commander Bryant assumed the chair.

Opening Remarks
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, National Commander

Good morning, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC , and all of our guests. You may have noticed in your handouts, there is this article. The photo in this article is startling, but the headline is not the least bit surprising. This is an article that was in the *New York Post* with the headline, "Hero who shields woman from Vegas carnage is a U.S. soldier." This heartbreaking image of a brave man using his entire body to comfort and shield a wounded woman from further harm is a true depiction. But this picture is also a metaphor.

Our military soldiers, sailors, airmen, marine, and coast guardsmen, protect, shield, and comfort each and every one of us every day. Since the founding of our American Legion, veterans have shielded us from the likes of Hitler, imperial Japan, Marxist tyrants, and terrorists. But this photo illustrates something a little different; it illustrates that the war is here. Now, the motive of this shooter is still not clear. But as veterans, we swore to protect our country from enemies, both foreign and domestic. Can there be any doubt that this killer is our enemy?

But I prefer not to dwell on the evil. A much more compelling aspect of this is the good. Chances are, the soldier, Matthew Cobos, did not know the woman who he was risking his life to comfort and to protect. We may not know all of the names of the more than two million active-duty reservists and guards members who are currently serving, but we do know their character. We do know the sacrifice and dedication that is expected of them because we, too, have gone through it. And just as they are protectors, like an older brother or an older sister, we, at The American Legion, need to be their mentors.

Now, as a dual member, a member of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, family is obviously very important to me, which is why my theme is Family First. I loved my time in the Army. One reason that I did not reenlist is because there was no guarantee that I would be stationed with my husband, Mike, who was also serving in the Army. The Legion Family understands that oftentimes, it is the spouse of an active-duty or deployed veteran that carries a disproportionate share of child-rearing, household chores, and family decision-making.

Today, the U.S. military is much more family-friendly, and I'd like to think part of the reason is because of the advocacy of our own American Legion Family. Even though we have taken off our uniforms, we do continue to serve. In reality, it's The American Legion Family that takes care of our nation's families. We see it along our Gulf Coast after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and now most recently, Nate. Communications in Puerto Rico are still not fully restored since Hurricane Maria hit.

But I just know, I know that our American Legion Family is making life better for those who live there and in the Virgin Islands. We are well represented within the ranks of our first responders, our military personnel, and our FEMA workers. American Legion posts, such as Post 658 in Crosby, Texas, have been lifesavers to people who have lost everything.

One such person is Leo Garcia. Leo was fleeing with his family from Port Arthur, Texas, when floodwaters surrounded his Jeep. All of his belongings, his pregnant teenage daughter, his wife, and their baby girl were in the vehicle. They were rescued, but it was The American Legion post that took them in, provided clothes, hot meals, and shelter from the storm. As soon as Leo gets back on his feet and again earns an income, he promises to join our Sons of The American Legion. He explained his desire to be part of our American Legion Family, and I quote, "These are the people that I want my children to grow up around." And who wouldn't? We are here for those impacted by hurricanes, we are here for the people affected by the western wildfires, and we are here for the Department of Mexico which had a devastating earthquake last month.

In between disasters and horrific attacks, like what happened in Las Vegas, we must continue to give blood. Because you see, it's the blood that's on the shelves when something like this happens that saves lives. We know that last year, Legionnaires donated more than 78,000 pints of blood, and that number is just what posts reported on their CPRs. We have donated more than four million hours of service to our communities, and we raised $1.2 million for the Legacy Fund during the ride to Reno.

But now getting back to that photo from Las Vegas. The best way for us to comfort, protect, and support Matthew Cobos and his brothers and sisters in arms is not just to advocate for our military, but to advocate for their families as well. I ask you to attend yellow ribbon events, get to know the Family Readiness Group leaders, fix broken water heaters for families of deployed soldiers, let them know that The American Legion Family is there for their family.

That's the main goal on Veterans Day, where I'm hoping that all posts agree to host an open house and open your doors to the public, and introduce the public, the community, to The American Legion Family. Let them know that we are America's family. I'm hoping that posts can report about their events on the Legiontown website, that's legion.org/legiontown. We will use the Veterans Day media packets on legion.org. Invite the youth to participate, your church groups, the reserve units, recruiters, active-duty military personnel, all other nonprofit organizations. We can't support our communities if people in our community don't know who we are. So basically, invite anybody who's willing to come.

We also can't grow our membership if people do not know who we are and what we do. We have lost a lot of members in recent years; we're already more than 26,000 members behind where we were at this time last year. Most of our World War II vets have long gone and they've moved on to Post Everlasting, so we can no longer use that for an excuse. But letting our younger generation of veterans know that we're there for them and we're there for their families, we will earn membership.

We've had tremendous legislative successes lately and we should all feel great pride in the recent months with the fantastic legislation that we've passed, bringing greater accountability in our VA; whistleblowers are increasingly being protected; and a better and forever GI Bill. We have seen the Appeals Modernization Act which was signed on stage at our national convention. And then most recently, Congress approved and the president signed the commemorative centennial coin for The American Legion.

These are the types of issues that will keep us in the public eye. But it's what happens in our local-level posts, it's the family level. That's what matters most in our communities. The Choice Program is still very confusing to a lot of people, but having your service officers explain it to our veterans in your area, we cannot only improve their lives, but we can introduce them to extended family members that they didn't even know that they had. Our benefit fairs, our open houses, our dinners, our blood drives; there's no limit to what our organization can do. So while we often use these meetings to focus on membership, programs, operations, legislative priorities, let us also remember the importance of keeping family first. We owe it to those who are protecting and defending us each and every day.

So thank you, and I hope we have a great meeting. Thanks. *(Standing applause)*

...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: There's been a motion and a second to receive my report. Are there any questions? All those in favor of receiving and filing the report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Jake Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, commander, for calling me out of order. I just want to remind the members of the National Executive Committee that, for many of you, I have placed a form on your desk this morning in regards to ANAVICUS dues. This is how we support the nine or ten scholarships that we have. Someone says, "What do your dues cover?" That's all it covers, is scholarship; all the money goes out.

On that list are delinquents, some of them are the perennials. But if you want to pay some of their dues, some do, go up to see Jennifer Norton on the third floor and give her $20 and she'll take their name off the list. As I said when I addressed the NEC and the commanders and adjutants, if you find someone on that list that you know now is in a nursing home or hospital, has Alzheimer's, dementia, but longtime great members of our organization, then just remind Jennifer to leave them on the list without payment, so that when the time comes to go to their great reward, we can remember them. If they're not on the list, they wouldn't be remembered, but they've been longtime dues-paying members. If you find someone on that list that is just a vagabond, you're never going to see him again, he just doesn't want to be involved, then tell Jennifer to take his name off the list. So with all that said, go out and collect that money.

Introduction of National Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I'd like to do some introductions.

Our national vice commanders for this year are Larry Marcouillier, from Delaware; William "Bill" Flanagan, from Illinois; Bobby Bryant, from Oklahoma; Byron Callies, from South Dakota; Paula Stephenson, from Utah. *(Applause)*

You've already met our national chaplain, Robert Vick, from Florida; our national historian is Richard Dubay; our national sergeant-at-arms at the back of the room is Roy Helms.; and the aide to the national commander, Mike Rohan. *(Applause)*

Reading of the minutes.

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the minutes from the last meeting, which have been distributed, be approved as written. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Announcements, Mr. Wheeler.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: In your folders you have two documents which will be of a great deal of help to you. One of them is American Legion Message Points from 2017-2018, please don't overlook that. And there's a pocket guide to our positions and programs which you can carry with you. If you need to do an off-the-cuff speech, all you have to do is pick a couple of pages in here and concentrate on them. So these are two things that should be very helpful to you.

The National Commander's dinner honoring the NEC is tonight at the Sheraton City Centre in Indianapolis. The reception will be held in the Circle Suites at 6 p.m. The dinner will be served in the Meridian Ballroom at 7 p.m.

NECmen who have not yet submitted names of attendees will find a bright yellow form on their desk. This needs to be completed and returned to Kevin Long, who is in the

back of the room smiling. The cutoff for seating requests is 10 a.m. So if you have a yellow form, please complete it and turn it in immediately. Tickets will be available in the front office for pickup after lunch.

All members of the NEC are asked to stop by the fourth floor lounge during their lunch break for your 2017-2018 official portrait sitting, which I think appears in the January issue. That completes the announcements, Madam Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I now call on Chairman Dave Warnken for resolutions.

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

Thank you, commander. Good morning. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions have been in session for the last two days. We have 21 resolutions that will be presented, coming from the commissions and committees who will make reports. Any resolution seeking National Executive Committee approval will follow the report of the commission. All resolutions which have been disposed of by other action or held for further study will be reported on an addendum. Our thanks to the commissions for their efficient and accurate handling of the resolutions during these meetings. This has had a positive impact on the work of the Subcommittee on Resolutions.

Commander, at this time I would like to present a resolution. That resolution is not in the packet but it should be on your desk in a singular form, and that is Resolution No. 21. I will read this resolution under rule 8A and note that the time is 9:27 a.m.

Resolution No. 21: Re-establish the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee reported to the National Executive Committee, October 15-16, 1997, its findings and recommendations were six resolutions being approved by the National Executive Committee in May 1998; and

WHEREAS, The 21st Century Report was developed to study the future needs of the veterans for which The American Legion could adapt its programs and activities as we entered the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has in place many programs designed to meet the basic needs of those who are currently or have recently served, and their families, through programs to include, but not limited to, Family Support Network and Temporary Financial Assistance, but there remain other challenges faced by the current generation of veterans related to multiple deployments, serious injuries incurred during combat and reintegration to civilian society; and

WHEREAS, The original 21st Century Report of The American Legion focused on those that were serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Since 1998, the United States military has been involved in the Global War on Terrorism being fought on multiple fronts simultaneously and there is currently no indication our U.S. military involvement will diminish; and

WHEREAS, Post-9/11 veterans and military servicemembers today represent a more diverse demographic group than those serving when the original 21st Century Report was developed; and

WHEREAS, This resolution establishes an ad hoc committee to determine when and what actions could be taken to ensure a productive outcome for the future of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Finance Commission has reviewed this resolution and supports not to exceed $100,000 to cover expenses for this 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That the national commander is directed to create a committee to review the 21st Century Report and update for current and future needs to move the organization forward; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the budget to support this effort will not exceed $100,000, without additional approval from the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of this ad hoc committee be made up of a diverse group of veterans of varying ages and different ethnic and gender backgrounds; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee will consist of no more than ten Legionnaires, not including the chairmen of the Internal Affairs Commission, the Membership & Post Activities Committee and the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee who will serve as ex-officio members; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That upon completion of the committee meetings, a final report will be submitted to the National Executive Committee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution will be read again and, four hours must occur before we read it again for approval. So it will come up on the floor tomorrow morning. Commander, at this time I ask that you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

Memorial Resolutions
David A. Korth, Wisconsin

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, David A. Korth — Department Vice Commander — 1993 to 1994; Department Commander — 1994 to 1995; National Executive Committee Alternate Member — 1998 to 2000; National Executive Committee Member — 2000 to 2004; National Vice Commander 2007 to 2008; and

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

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this 11th Day of October in the year of our Lord 2017, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, David A. Korth, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it further

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

Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of the following: Edward M. Alvarez, California; H. Ownby, France; Leroy P. Pulawa, Hawaii; Rickey L. Helsley, Idaho; Keith Baker, Iowa; Eugene A. Schmitz, Nebraska; Raymond B. Tanner, Sr., New York; Paul Mitras, New York; William C. Plowden, Jr.

How Beautiful To Be With God

How beautiful to be with God,
When earth is fading like a dream,
And from this mist-encircled shore
We launch upon the unknown stream

No doubt, no fear, no anxious care,
But comforted by staff and rod,
In the faith-brightened hour of Death
How beautiful to be with God.

— Wayside Altar

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Cover. You may be seated. Is there a motion to receive and file?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I make a motion to receive and file the report. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: There is a motion to receive and file the report. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. It is now my privilege to introduce to you the president of our nation's largest women's patriotic organization. From the Department of Wisconsin, Diane Duscheck. *(Standing applause)*

Greetings: Diane Duscheck
National President, American Legion Auxiliary

Thank you very much. Commander, NEC members, guests, it is so great to be here and bringing you greetings from another part of your American Legion Family, the American Legion Auxiliary. I know that NEC members are tasked with the responsibility of the health of the organization. So for you today, I wish you great deliberations. Commander, I hope you have a wonderful meeting. The American Legion Auxiliary is working to be a strong member of The American Legion Family, and we're doing that through our strategic plan and through our planning also. So have a wonderful meeting, I wish you all the best. Thank you very much. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I now call on National Judge Advocate Phil Onderdonk for his report.

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

My apologies for being a little slow. We had 114 contracts this year. I have a full list here if anyone wants me to read it, but otherwise, I'll pass. We'll go to the litigation.

Steich versus The American Legion, et al. This is a case in Pennsylvania that has been filed but nothing has ever happened. The individual suing doesn't like the fact that we didn't represent him in court. He's a prisoner. So nothing has happened. It should have been dismissed by the court automatically. It's not even worth filing a request for that, so we just keep it on the list until the court finally wakes up.

The American Humanist Association versus the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, including The American Legion. This is the cross in Maryland. It is a World War I Veterans Memorial, but because it's a cross, the American Humanist

Association wants it torn down. We won at the trial court. It's on appeal to the third circuit. Our brief has been filed, we're waiting for a schedule of argument.

I have a number of cases with Daniel Bernath in Florida, both in state and federal court, plus appeals in state and federal court. Rather than going through the details, I will just say this individual has been found to be a vexatious litigant, and we are hoping to get our fees back one of these days, whenever the court rules.

Fleming versus The American Legion. Plaintiff claims she was sexually assaulted by the post commander while a waitress at a post in New Jersey. The court has not ruled. They keep trying to settle, and they want it settled without prejudice. We're not going to settle on that basis. There's no real claim or damages from the national organization. The case is pretty well resolved, but it's still pending.

Silva versus The American Legion. Dram shop case in Wayne County, Pennsylvania, which is northeast Pennsylvania, filed in Philadelphia because the Philadelphia courts are very pro-plaintiff. The post judge advocate in the bar left to go home after one drink; an hour later, had a car crash and killed three people, including himself. The problem is, his home was only ten minutes away. We do not know what happened in that hour. But the plaintiffs have tried to proceed any way they can. They did not sue the department and they did not sue the home association. The home association has the liquor license, which is a required defendant. They didn't do it right. They deposed me, and now they have prepared an expert witness to state that The American Legion national does control the post, despite the wording of our corporate charter. They did not give the corporate charter or my deposition to this expert. So when he does testify, if and when we ever get to a hearing, we're going to have a little fun.

Richard Staab versus David Shulkin. This is an individual who had a car crash, a heart attack, and a stroke. The VA sent him to local hospitals, but full payment did not occur. So he appealed to the Court of Veterans Appeals and won. The VA wanted to take it to the circuit court. We opposed the VA with an amicus curiae brief, and the secretary of Veterans Affairs has withdrawn the appeal.

I have a number of trademarks pending. We will rewrite the trademark booklet as soon as we get the word from the government. The Poppy should be published shortly. We're getting an amendment to the Legion College emblem because they put the year of the particular class on the emblem when they award it to the class participants.

We had an individual in San Francisco who was running for office and trying to use the Legion emblem. Sent him cease-and-desist letter. He ignored it, figured San Francisco was too far from Indianapolis. So I called our lawyer in San Francisco who sent him a letter; he dropped the emblem immediately. We're just not going to put up with that. Our emblem is filed in a number of foreign countries: European Union; Russia; India; China; Australia; and New Zealand; not so much in Africa; four countries in South America. Because every now and then, there are some challenges to our emblem in various countries. In fact, we're probably going to have to send some cease-and-desist letters to Europe because people are using the emblem who are not eligible for The American Legion.

On other legal matters, there have been 362 written opinions to several departments and posts. Media and communications: I've reviewed all the articles. The retirement plan: I've attended all the meetings. There are two retirement plans, actually, now, so I've done both, salary savings committee meetings. I serve as parliamentarian and any other duties assigned.

I would also like to address another issue here. On your desks is a form, a conflict-of-interest form required by the IRS from all directors, that would include the alternates, past national commanders may file it, certainly I would recommend it, and commission chairmen. Please fill it out, give it to me or drop it off at my office, that way we won't have to pester you by mail to get it done, because it gets filed with the tax return with the IRS. Thank you. Commander, that concludes my report.

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

Contracts

The following one hundred and fourteen (114) contracts have been reviewed or prepared:

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

(2) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Enterprise Holdings (EAN Services, LLC), to cover vehicle rentals to Legion employees.

(3) A Service agreement by and between The American Legion and Communications Products, Inc. (CPI), for a maintenance agreement for one year for our phone systems.

(4) An Agreement by and between The American Legion (Emblem Sales) and Wilson Sporting Goods. This agreement replaces the previous agreement for customized baseballs and baseball uniforms bearing The American Legion emblem.

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

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

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

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

(9) Housing contract between The American Legion and Marymount University to provide for lodging and food service for American Legion Boys Nation held in July 2017.

(10) A Memorandum of Understanding by and between The American Legion and The United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC), whereby The American Legion will assist the United States Army Recruiting Command to improve the recruiting environment for Army recruiters and USAREC will provide information

regarding American Legion activities and special community events to local units, bulletins and newsletters.

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

(12) A contract by and between The American Legion and the Moore Group (Edge Direct, LLC) for direct marketing and direct response fundraising.

(13) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Samsung Electronics America, Inc. to establish a Samsung American Legion Alumni Association.

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

(15) A Memorandum of Understanding by and between The American Legion and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation for web-based information portals on TAL website.

(16) A Contract by and between The American Legion and Defense Mobile Corporation which offers wireless and mobile application products and services to its members, specifically designed and solely offered to veterans and military service members and their families.

(17) Maintenance and Sales Agreement by and between The American Legion and US Automatic Fire and Security for fire protection for the Geiger facility.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(24) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Lindenmeyr Central for the purchase of paper for national headquarters.

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

(26) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Holiday Inn Express for 2017 World Series staff and team housing.

(27) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and USA Shooting for use of their range and meal tickets for participants of the 2017 Junior Air Rifle National Championship.

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

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

(30) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and White & Company to produce two publications for the Legion.

(31) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Hedges & Associates for proposed grant-related services for TAL.

(32) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Catering for catering the 500 Festival Lanai Deck event.

(33) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and HearPO Corp. to provide discounted hearing care products and or services to Legion members.

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

(35) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Diamond Sports Co., Inc. for academic scholarships to American Legion baseball players.

(36) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and JT Packard for maintenance and break fix for the uninterrupted power supply that handles the servers in the computer room at national.

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

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

(39) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Manpower for a temporary employee.

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

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

(42) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and DoubleTree by Hilton for meeting rooms and housing during the American Legion Baseball 2017 Northeast Regional Tournament.

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

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

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

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

(47-48) Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following American Legion posts for the 2017-2018 American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Agreement: Randolph County Post 45, Asheboro, NC and Leesburg Post 34, Leesburg, VA.

(49) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Colorado American Legion Baseball Commission for the 2017-2018 American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament.

(50) Assignment of Agreement by and between The American Legion and LSC Communications US, LLC for printing and distributing the American Legion Magazine.

(51) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and GfK US, LLC, for software used by the Magazine.

(52) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and North American Van Lines, Inc. providing household moving services to American Legion members.

(53) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and LifeStation, a medical alert service for American Legion members.

(54) A Letter of Agreement by and between The American Legion and Red Bull Media House to screen the film *Blood Road* at the 2017 national convention.

(55) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and VTV Production LLC to use American Legion licensed material in a production entitled *King Of The Road 2.*

(56) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Labor Works for temporary help to assist with set-up, tear-down and operations of the Emblem Sales store at the 2017 national convention.

(57) An Agreement by and between Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc. for the use of The American Legion database for one year, July10, 2017 to July 10, 2018.

(58) A Lease Agreement by and between The American Legion and Ricoh for copying/printing equipment.

(59) An Amendment #1 to the Agreement by and between The American Legion and Wyndham Indianapolis West, housing for the Oratorical National Finals. The original agreement was for the years 2018-2022. The amendment is for one year from July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2018.

(60) An Amendment to the Agreement by and between The American Legion and Founding Fathers Products, LLC, to terminate the agreement on June 30, 2017.

(61) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Holiday Inn & Suites-Grand Junction Airport for housing for the 2017 Legacy Run.

(62) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and International Cruise & Excursion Gallery, Inc. as a member discount provider.

(63) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Veterans Campaign whereby The American Legion DC office will provide office facilities to support various veteran based activities.

(64) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Amplifon Hearing Health Care, Corp. for discounted hearing aids for American Legion members.

(65) A Maintenance Agreement by and between The American Legion and Opex to upgrade the letter-opener equipment at the Geiger facility.

(66) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Civilian Marksmanship Program for staff and set-up and maintenance for a portable electronic target scoring system for the American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championships.

(67) A Contract by and between The American Legion and Hilton, DC, for an American Legion Samsung Scholarship event.

(68) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and American Airlines, Inc. for permission to use the emblems of The American Legion in connection with the Veterans Inaugural Ball.

(69) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Callaway Transportation, Inc. to provide transportation at the 2017 national convention.

(70) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and SportsEngine, Inc. for creating and managing websites and mobile sites for the baseball program.

(71) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Directorpoint LLC, for software used by the Finance Division.

(72) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Brinks Armored Transportation Services for armored transportation services for use by the Finance Division at the 2017 national convention.

(73) A Memorandum of Understanding by and between The American Legion and Bergman & Moore, LLC, to provide training and materials for American Legion advocates at the Department Service Officer and Board Unit levels.

(74) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and A.D. Starr for baseball licensing.

Forty (40) Subcontractor Standard List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

Aberdeen American News
AGIA Insurance Services
Alliance for Audited Media
American Litho, Inc.
Amplifon
Auto Club Cellular
Acxiom
Brickmill Marketing Services
CES Mail Communications, Inc.
Crell Direct Mail
Daily Freeman Journal
Data-Mail, Inc.
DMRA
Edge Direct
Fair Isaac Corporation
Fiserv Solutions, Inc.
Forum Communications Printing

Golden Rule Publishing
HearPO Corp
JH Marketing Services
Kramers Mailing Service
Leader Printing
LifeStation, Inc.
Mainstreet Media
Moore DM Group
Moore Wallace Response Marketing
Print Mail Pro
Response Solutions, LLC
River's Edge Printing
Royle Printing Company
R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company
SeQuel Response, LLC
Signature Offset
Specialty Print Communications
The Heritage Company
TN Marketing
Torrington Telegram
TransAmerica Life Ins Co-Affinity Markets Group
US Press LLC
VP Database Systems and Services

Litigation
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL

Daniel Jeffrey Steich
Plaintiff S-2371-2005

v.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 575, ET AL

Defendants

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

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

RECORD NO. 15-2597

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION; STEVEN LOWE;
FRED EDWORDS; BISHOP McNEILL,
Plaintiffs – Appellants,
v.

MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION,
Defendant – Appellee,

THE AMERICAN LEGION; THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT
OF MARYLAND; THE AMERICAN
LEGION COLMAR MANOR POST 131
Intervenors/Defendants – Appellees

**ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
AT GREENBELT**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

American Humanist Association, Steven Lowe, Fred Edwords, and Bishop McNeill

Plaintiffs,

v.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission,

Defendant.

Case No. cv-14-550

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

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

I was deposed March 4, 2015.

Our brief was filed to seek Summary Judgement. Summary Judgement was granted.

The plaintiffs have appealed to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Our brief has been filed. The Appellants will have a chance to file a Reply Brief, then Arguments will be scheduled.

**CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, FLORIDA**

DANIEL A. BERNATH,
Plaintiff,

No.14-CA-001838
Judge: Winesett

Vs.

TERENCE B. HOEY, individually,

DAN R. HYATT, individually,
THE AMERICAN LEGION, business
form unknown,
MARK C. SEAVEY, individually
Defendants.

A case filed by the Plaintiff, Daniel A. Bernath, in the Circuit Court of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, Florida, on June 20, 2014. The case was voluntarily dismissed by the Plaintiff on October 2, 2014. This case alleged causes of action for slander, IIED and negligent infliction of emotional distress and now is over.

CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, FLORIDA

Daniel A. Bernath,	) Case No. 15 ca 003259 Judge: Krier
plaintiff,	) Appeal #2D16-3259
v.	)
YouTube LLC, Mark Seavey, LLL,	)
et al.	)

A pending case filed by the Plaintiff, Daniel A. Bernath, in the Circuit Court of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, Florida, on December 28, 2015. The case was involuntarily dismissed by the court with leave to amend, which the Plaintiff subsequently abused. A court hearing was held attended by some of the Defendants. Judge Krier issued an order that a Florida attorney currently licensed in that state must sign any further filings submitted by him. Bernath violated this order repeatedly and Judge Krier dismissed the case. Bernath then appealed to the Florida Second Court of Appeal, however the vast bulk of Bernath's appeal motion deals with a default by the Shipley's, a defendant not related to us. In fact, a cursory review doesn't show any reference at all to The American Legion or Mark Seavey. We await the Court's ruling on the appeal.

IN THE U.S. FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
FORT MYERS DIVISION

DANIEL BERNATH,
Plaintiff,
vs. CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:15-cv-358-FtM-99CM
MARK CAMERON SEAVEY
Defendant.

Plaintiff, Daniel A. Bernath sued Mark Seavey, an employee, in Florida alleging many false claims. The case was filed in the US District Ct, Middle District of Florida, on June 16, 2015.

After numerous filing of hundreds of documents by Bernath the federal Court granted Seavey's Motion for Summary Judgment for Libel and Defamation Per Se, and denied Bernath's claims of Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress (IIED) and Copyright Infringement.

Additionally, The American Legion's Verified Motion for Summary Judgment on Plaintiff's Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress and Copyright Infringement Claims,

for Declaratory Judgment on Plaintiff's Claims of Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress and Copyright Infringement Claims, and for Copyright Infringement, Cybersquatting, and Violation of Federal Statutes Regarding Emblem and Name of American Legion, and Libel and Defamation Per Se were granted.

Documents were filed for damages, attorney fees and naming Bernath a "vexatious litigant."

On August 8, 2017, the judge ruled he was a "vexatious litigant" and denied the fees and costs without prejudice.

IN THE U.S. FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
FORT MYERS DIVISION

Daniel A. Bernath	)	
		)
Plaintiff(s)	)	
v.	)	
The American Legion, Don Shipley, Diane Shipley, Extreme Seal Experience LLC, Mark Cameron Seavey, Terrence B. Hoey, Scott Hughes, Jonn Lilyea, Sparks	)	) Civil Action No.) 2:16CV-596-FLM-99MEM)
		)
Defendant(s)	)	

A case currently on appeal to the 11th Circuit, originally filed in United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida around August 1, 2016. The lower court dismissed the Plaintiff's case with finality, but without prejudice. It was dismissed both on the basis of lack of diversity of jurisdiction as well as failure to state a claim. Bernath appealed and we responded. The written appeals have been submitted to the 11th Circuit where it is now titled as the 11th CofA Case No 16-17280.

CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, FLORIDA

Daniel A. Bernath, Plaintiff, vs. John D. Mason, Copyright Counselors, the American Legion, Philip B. Onderdonk, Mark Cameron Seavey, Terrence B. Hoey, Don Shipley, Carol Diane Shipley, Extreme Seal Experience, Eric D. Molina, Pavese Law Firm, Michael F. Kayusa, Paul A. Giordano, Roetzel & Andress, Jonn Lilyea, Defendants.	17-ca-002126 Judge: Kyle, Keith R.

This Florida state case repeats all plaintiff's prior charges. It has not been served as of yet. It has been reported to the insurance company. The attorneys from Barnes and Thornberg, LLC and your staff have devised a legal strategy upon receipt of service.

LYNN FLEMING
Plaintiff(s),

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION: OCEAN COUNTY
DOCKET NO.: OCN-L-1705-15

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION;
AMERICAN LEGION POST 129
RICHARD MICHAEL GATTO;
JOHN DOES 1-5 (fictitious individuals)
and ABC CORPORATIONS 1-5
(fictitious corporations),

This case was filed in June 2015. Plaintiff claims she was sexually harassed by the post commander while a waitress at New Jersey Post No. 129 while she worked for the catering company hired by the post. She further claims a hostile work environment and retaliation and reprisal along with negligence and vicarious liability.

We filed a motion to dismiss The American Legion because we do not control the post per our corporate charter. Plaintiff's attorney has alleged our charter does not mean what it says. We have provided the legislative history to prove it does. The court has not ruled yet.

We have also filed a motion for sanctions because plaintiff's lawyer keeps trying to insist on dropping the case "without prejudice." The court has not yet ruled.

Antonio Silva and Kimberlie Silva, H/W
354 Beverly Drive
Cliffwood Beach, NJ 07735
Plaintiffs

v.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
LAW DIVISION
AUGUST TERM, 2015
NO. 02441

American Legion, District 15 Post 311 d/b/a
Wilson-Kelch Post 311
521 Church Street
Hawley, PA 18428
And
The American Legion
700 N. Pennsylvania St.
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
And
Estate of Manuel Mirailh, Deceased
2056 Easton Turnpike
Lake Ariel, PA 18436
Defendants

This is a dram shop case involving a car accident in Wayne County, Pennsylvania. The case was brought in Philadelphia because the plaintiffs' belief the judges are more plaintiff prone and Philadelphia juries award larger judgments.

The plaintiffs have named as defendants "American Legion, District 15 Post 311" and The American Legion. They clearly do not understand the structure of The American Legion. We have filed a motion to send the case back to Wayne County and to correct a number of other defects in the complaint.

For example, the accident occurred a full 45 minutes after the defendant left the post on his 10-12-minute drive home. We do not know why the delay occurred.

The National Judge Advocate was deposed on venue and The American Legion's Corporate Charter on January 28, 2016.

The American Legion is also filing for removal of the case to Wayne County,

Pennsylvania. This was denied. We have asked the court to reconsider. Plaintiff has filed for new deadlines, which will probably not be final.

The American Legion will be filing for dismissal and/or summary judgement once the procedural defects are corrected. We are also filing for removal of the case to Wayne County, Pennsylvania. This was denied. We have asked the court to reconsider. Plaintiff has filed for new deadlines, which will probably not be final.

Plaintiffs did not sue the "Home Association" which holds the liquor license as is required under Pennsylvania Law. The court of common pleas in Philadelphia is so pro plaintiff we have to wait until discovery closes for any satisfaction.

No. 16-2671
IN THE US COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

RICHARD W. STAAB,
Claimant-Appellee,

v.

DAVID J. SHULKIN,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Respondent-Appellant,

Appeal from the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
Case No. 14-0957

We were asked by the National Veterans Legal Services Programs (NVLSP) if we would be an amicus in the Richard W. Staab v. David J. Shulkin case. Jones Day is appearing pro se as our counsel.

In this case, the Appellee, Richard W. Staab, had a heart attack and stroke and was treated at a non-Veterans Administration medical facility. Apparently, $48,000 was not covered by his Medicare Plan. The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ruled in his favor pursuant to 38 U.S.C. §1725. The Veterans Administration appealed despite the well-reasoned decision in the court below and legal precedent. Briefs have been filed. The case should be argued next fall.

The American Legion convinced the government to drop its appeal. The veterans won. The case is over.

Trademark Report and Use of
The American Legion Emblem by Political Candidates

As you know, The American Legion does not participate in political campaigns for office. This last election year we had a large number of candidates use the emblem to

campaign. Every time we learned of one we sent a "Cease and Desist" letter which normally resolved the problem.

However, one candidate in San Francisco took the position he did not have to comply because Indianapolis was too far away. I referred the matter to Winston and Strawn in San Francisco who sent a two-sentence letter which told the candidate to follow the "Cease and Desist" letter. He promptly backed down. At the election, he lost.

In addition, trademarking the mark: "National Poppy Day" and the class year to the Legion College scroll is in progress.

Other Legal Matters

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

The National Judge Advocate has rendered 362 written opinions on questions which have been submitted by the several Departments and/or Posts of The American Legion, National Officers, staff members and individual members of our organization. These opinions involved matters legal, such as contracts, probate matters, federal tax questions, torts, insurance matters, Articles of Incorporation, civil rights statutes, retirement benefits under the law and other matters of a legal nature; problems concerning the interpretation and construction of the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, policy matters, many of which matters required a great deal of legal research.

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

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

There were 8 written opinions rendered during the year to the National Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, in response to queries submitted to her for determination by me.

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

Media & Communications

The American Legion Magazine

The National Judge Advocate in accordance with established policy, has reviewed manuscripts of articles destined for future publication in *The American Legion Magazine* and the *Dispatch,* for the purpose of expunging statements or materials questionable in character, contained therein which might subject The American Legion to a suit in libel. To date 818 manuscripts have been reviewed and appropriate comments in connection therewith were transmitted, when necessary, to the Publisher or Editor of *The American Legion Magazine*. The National Judge Advocate also reviews videos posted on The American Legion website.

Starting in July, the National Judge Advocate and the Assistant National Judge Advocate have reviewed 252 articles and 30 videos for posting on the computer site under the title "Legiontown" and others and 67 identifications of veterans memorials.

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

In accordance with the requirements of law, The American Legion has filed all necessary returns, reports and allied documents for the calendar year 2016 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with The American Legion Retirement Plan.

The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters

The draft of the Plan approved at the May 2017 National Executive Committee Meeting has been completed and arrangements are being made for the distribution thereof, as required by law, as soon as execution is completed.

Employees' Salary Savings (401(K)) Plan

In accordance with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) The American Legion has filed all of the necessary Annual Return Reports and allied documents for the calendar year 2016 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with the American Legion Employees' Salary Savings 401(k) Plan. The office of the National Judge Advocate also reviewed the Summary Annual Report for the Employees' Salary Savings Plan and arranged for the distribution thereof as required by law.

Parliamentary Duties

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

Other Duties

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

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

Meetings of the National Retirement Committee and Salary Savings Committee

The National Judge Advocate is a member of The National Retirement Committee of National Headquarters and has attended all meetings.

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to accept the report from Judge Onderdonk. Are there any questions? Past National Commander Comer?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I didn't hear it clearly, I'm a little concerned. Could you explain more about the Carolina one, about the gentleman using the seal to run for office?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: Okay. That was in California, sir. He lost the election. He was using it on his pamphlets and pictures. We sent him a cease-and-desist letter and he ignored it, kept right on doing it. I send those out certified mail, return receipt requested, so we had the receipt and could prove he had gotten the letter. He didn't stop.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I don't understand. You mean he's running for office, he's a Legionnaire, he sends out a letter for his campaign?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: Yes, sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Why can't he use the seal if he gets permission from the national?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: Because he did not have permission, sir. And when you're running for partisan office, we're not allowed to get into partisan politics.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought he was running for Legion office.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: Oh, no, sir. This was public office.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Case closed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Are there any other questions? On the motion to receive and file the judge's report, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: Commander, with your permission, I'd like to address one other issue.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Go ahead.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: Members of the NEC, Legion staff, Legionnaires, I will be retiring as national judge advocate at the end of this year and continuing as a consultant until after the Minneapolis convention. I just want to thank you all for your kindness, friendship, and support. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: First of all, on behalf of the body and Legionnaires everywhere, I want to thank National Judge Advocate Phil Onderdonk for his 35 years of service to this great organization. So thank you again. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Inasmuch as he is retiring as our national judge advocate on December 31, 2017, in order to accept the position of legal consultant, I recommend Kevin Bartlett from Michigan to be the national judge advocate, effective January 1, 2018.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I so move for that appointment. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded, that appointment. Are there any questions? Is Kevin Bartlett in the room?

ASSISTANT NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: Commander, I'm here.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: So everyone knows who Kevin Bartlett is. Now that you know who he is, are there any questions? All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Congratulations, Kevin. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Are there any other questions? On the motion to receive and file the judge's report, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. I now call on Chairman Ken Danilson from Iowa for the Marketing Commission report.

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

Good morning. Madam Commander, members of the NEC, and guests, you all have my written report, but I have some key topics that I will be going through. First, I want to thank James Baca and everyone in the Marketing Division for the outstanding job they are doing in this new role and continue their efforts. So thanks, James, and everybody, thank you.

Your Marketing Commission met October 9 and 10, 2017, at the Sheraton Panorama Ballroom in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Marketing Commission continues to work diligently with the Marketing Division, using all marketing tactics available to raise public awareness of The American Legion emblem, brand, and our efforts on behalf of veterans' issues.

First, I would like to cover with you some information on the recently passed coin bill, and I know down the road you'll be getting a lot more information. Commemorative coin legislation generally has a specific format. Once a coin is authorized, it follows a specific process for design and minting. Following the conclusion of a coin program, designated recipient organizations may receive surcharge payments once the U.S. Mint has recouped all costs associated with producing the coin.

Now that Congress has authorized the coin, the U.S. Treasury begins the coin-design process. After receiving advice from the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee and the Commission on Fine Arts, the secretary-treasurer, through the U.S. Mint, finalizes the coin design and schedules it for production at the appropriate time. From authorization to coin launch, it is estimated that a commemorative coin takes a minimum of 56 to 60 weeks. Disbursement of surcharges, this is the money that The American Legion will receive. Each authorizing statute sets this amount. The American Legion surcharge amounts are, it's $35 for the $5 coin, $10 for the $1 coin, and $5 for the half-dollar coin.

Just as an FYI , the amount of coins that will be minted; the half-dollar coin, 750,000 is the production amount; the silver coin, 400,000; and the gold coin, 50,000. That's 1.2 million coins. If we sell all those, we'll realize $9.5 million. So that's the goal. You will be receiving much more information in the future on this and how you can purchase the coins. The Marketing Division is working on different ways that we work with the mint to market these, there are certain rules we have to follow. So those will be upcoming.

Changing gears a little bit, membership acquisition test. The Marketing and Finance Commissions approved the development and testing a supplement new-member recruitment model where like-minded organizations have the ability to raise money for their own organization while recruiting members to The American Legion. The new supplement recruitment model would pay the organization amount as negotiated for each new member that they recruit into The American Legion. The American Legion benefits by saving money and forging new and strengthening current relationships with other veteran-centric organizations, and the organizations benefit by getting a new revenue stream. This will be a pilot project that you'll hear more on later.

DMS membership acquisition. The 2018 DMS membership cycle started in July as planned with the first three to four campaigns. Year-to-date, it has acquired more than 36,000 members and is on pace to meet the projected goals. A new communications plan is being developed to standardize the communication flow to these new members for the first 24 months of their membership.

The department fundraising program continues the transition process from national headquarters to Patriot Fundraising Group. At this time, 17 departments have signed on and three more departments are waiting on approval from their DEC to go into this program. More to come later.

National fundraising, nonmember. Year-to-date, the national fundraising program is on pace to finish as planned. We are expecting gross revenue to finish at about $11 million and net income at 1.8 million. The active donor has grown to about 340,000 donors who have made one gift in the past 12 months.

DMS fundraising will finish the year with net income of about $200,000. This is the result of ten campaigns mailed this year. This fundraising campaign will change to support the new member communication plan being developed for the 2019 membership year. Details will follow on that later at, I think, the Washington meeting.

A presentation was made to the Marketing Commission on the Legacy Ride and much work has been done in the last two years by the Marketing Division to promote the ride, which in turn raises awareness of The American Legion. The Marketing Commission seeks to have more input in the routing and planning of the Legacy ride to ensure we can maximize our capital in further promotion of The American Legion and attract potential new members and increased donations.

Finally, I want to touch upon the alumni program. We have discussed reenergizing our efforts to create an effective alumni association through the Marketing Division for the purposes of fundraising and recognizing our youth program participants who may achieve success in their lives after their participation in our programs. For these reasons, it is recommended that the coordination of the alumni association be centered in the Marketing Division. This will enable us to maximize our efforts to engage past participants in our many youth programs.

Madam Commander, this concludes my report. On behalf of the Marketing Commission and myself, I thank you and everyone else who has and continues to support our efforts. Thank you.

Report: Marketing Commission
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman
October 11, 2017

The Marketing Commission met October 9th and 10th, 2017 at the Sheraton Panoramic ball room in Indianapolis Indiana.

The Marketing Commission continues to work diligently using all marketing tactics available to raise public awareness of The American Legion emblem, brand and our efforts on behalf of veteran issues. The intent of this report is to outline next steps following the president's signature of the coin bill. In addition, a report from the National Emblem Committee to the Marketing Commission has been included. Also information on other marketing initiatives are summarized.

Coin Bill Information

Commemorative Coins: Background: Process following signature of the President

Commemorative coin legislation generally has a specific format. Once a coin is authorized, it follows a specific process for design and minting (see "Design of Coins" below). This process includes consultation and recommendations by the Citizens Coin Advisory Commission (CCAC) and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), pursuant to any statutory instructions, before the Secretary of the Treasury makes the final decision on a coin's design. Following the conclusion of a coin program, designated recipient organizations may receive surcharge payments, once the U.S. Mint has recouped all costs associated with producing the coin.

Design of Coins

After Congress has authorized a commemorative coin, the U.S. Treasury begins the coin design process. This process involves consultation with the CCAC and a design recommendation by the CFA. The final decision on a coin's design is made by the Secretary of the Treasury.[1]

Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC)

Established by P.L. 108-15,[2] the CCAC advises the Secretary of the Treasury on theme and design of all U.S. coins and medals. For commemorative coins, the CCAC advises the Secretary with regard to events, persons, or places to be commemorated, the

mintage level of coins, and commemorative coin designs. The CCAC consists of 11 members appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, with four persons appointed upon the recommendation of the congressional leadership (one each by the Speaker of the House, the House minority leader, the Senate majority leader, and the Senate minority leader).[3] The CCAC meets several times each year to consider design suggestions for coins and medals. For each coin considered, the CCAC provides advice to the Secretary "on thematic, technical, and design issues related to the production of coins."[4] Recommendations are then published to the committee's website, at http://www.ccac.gov.

Current Members of the CCAC

Appointee	Service Period	Qualification
Erik Jansen	2011 – 2019	Representative of General Public
Donald Scarinci	2012 – 2020	Person recommended by Senate Majority Leader
Heidi Wastweet	2014 – 2018	Specially qualified in sculpture or medallic arts
Mike Moran	2011 – 2020	Person recommended by Senate Minority Leader
Jeanne Stevens-Sollman	2012 – 2020	Representative of General Public
Robert Hoge	2012 – 2020	Specially qualified as a Numismatic Curator
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	2017 – 2020	Representative of General Public
Thomas J. Uram	2012 – 2021	Recommended by Speaker of the House of Representatives
Mary Lannin	2014 – 2018	Person recommended by House Minority Leader
Dr. Herman Viola	2014 – 2019	Specially qualified in American History
Dennis Tucker	2016 – 2020	Specially qualified in numismatics

Design Aspects the CCAC Looks For:

- Texture and pattern
- Thoughtfully Balanced Negative Spaces
- Stylization
- Ethnic Diversity
- Allegory
- Symbolism
- Details yes, overcrowding no
- Creative Perspective & Atmospheric Perspective
- Integrated Text
- Clear Typestyles
- Clarity of Message
- Subtlety; Not Literalism or Storyboard
- Relevancy of Obverse to Reverse
- Designs, Not Pictures
- Fluidity of Line
- Edge Variety

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

Once the CCAC has recommended a commemorative coin design, the U.S. Mint makes a formal presentation of CCAC's recommendation and other design options to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). Established in 1910, the CFA advises "upon the location of statues, fountains, and monuments in the public squares, streets, and parks in the District of Columbia, the selection of models for statues, fountains, and monuments erected under the authority of the Federal Government; the selection of artists; and questions of art generally when required to do so by the President or a committee of Congress."5 This includes review of commemorative coins when they are presented by the U.S. Mint and the issuance of recommendations for a coin's design.

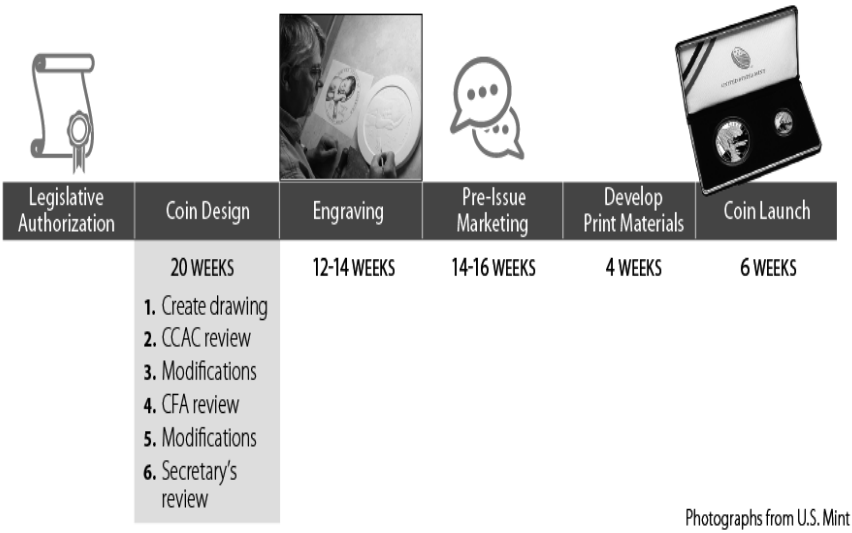
U.S. Mint

After receiving advice from the CCAC and the CFA, the Secretary of the Treasury, through the U.S. Mint, finalizes the coin's design and schedules it for production at the appropriate time. In some cases, the U.S. Mint holds a competition for coin designs.

Commemorative Coin Timeline

From authorization to coin launch, the CCAC has estimated that a commemorative coin takes a minimum of between 56 and 60 weeks. This includes the coin design process, engraving, marketing, printing materials, and coin launch. This timeline, however, does not account for coin programs that might be authorized years in advance of the coins' scheduled release. In those circumstances, the process from authorization to coin launch will be considerably longer. The process, as described by the CCAC, is shown in Figure 1 (below).

Figure 1. Commemorative Coin Process



Disbursement of Surcharges

Each authorizing statute sets a surcharge amount per coin and designates one or more recipient organizations to receive the surcharges. A designated recipient organization is "any organization designated, under any provision of law, as the recipient of any surcharge imposed on the sale of any numismatic item."[6]

"The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act" bill as it has been passed calls for the following surcharges.

(a) In General.—All sales of coins minted under this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

(1) A surcharge of $35 per coin for the $5 coin.
(2) A surcharge of $10 per coin for the $1 coin.
(3) A surcharge of $5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

Further the bill directs the distribution of surcharges as follows:

(b) Distribution.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to The American Legion for costs related to—

(1) promoting the importance of and caring for those who have served in uniform, ensuring they receive proper health care and disability benefits earned through military service;

(2) promoting the importance of, and caring for, those who are still serving in the Armed Forces;

(3) promoting the importance of maintaining the patriotic values, morals, culture, and citizenship of the United States; and

(4) promoting the importance of maintaining strong families, assistance for at-risk children, and activities that promote their healthy and wholesome development.

As an organization, we have a few requirements we will have to meet.

Once a commemorative coin has been authorized, the CCRA requires that certain standards be met before surcharge payments can be distributed to designated recipient organizations:7

1. The recipient organization must raise funds from private sources "in an amount that is equal to or greater than the total amount of the proceeds of such surcharge derived from the sale of such numismatic item."[8]
2. The qualifying funds raised from private sources must be for the purposes specified by the enabling legislation.
3. The U.S. Mint must recover "all numismatic operation and program costs allocable to the program."[9]
4. The recipient organization must submit an audited financial statement and submit the results of annual audits to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, that it has qualified for surcharge proceeds and is properly expending them.[10]

Guidance provided by the U.S. Mint in *Surcharge Recipient Organization's Compliance Procedures for Surcharge Eligibility & Payments* includes further details of the requirements placed on designated recipient groups before surcharge payments can be made. These include requirements for documentation on the amount of money raised from private sources and the period of fund raising. To document these requirements, designated recipient groups must fill out a "Schedule of Funds Raised From Private Sources," which is provided in an appendix to the *Surcharge Recipient Organization's Compliance Procedures for Surcharge Eligibility & Payments* publication.[11]

Following completion of these tasks, and after the Mint has recouped any expenses related to minting the commemorative coin, surcharges are then disbursed to the designated recipient organization.[12] Production costs for each commemorative coin can differ based on design, administrative costs, and metals used.

The following is specific in the bill language for design

(a) In General.— The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of The American Legion.

(b) Designations And Inscriptions.— On each coin minted under this Act there shall be —

(1) a designation of the denomination of the coin;

(2) an inscription of the year "2019"; and

(3) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

Quantity of Coins.

As outlined in the legislation is as follows:

(1) $5 Gold Coins.—Not more than 50,000 $5 coins,

(2) $1 Silver Coins.—Not more than 400,000 $1 coins,

(3) Half-Dollar Clad Coins.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins

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[1] U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Mint, "Design Selection Process," at http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb/?action=designselection.

[2] 31 U.S.C. §5135.

[3] For a list of current members of the CCAC, see Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, "Members," at http://ccac.gov/aboutUs/members.cfm.

[4] CFA, *Civic Art*, p. 480.

[5] 40 U.S.C. §9102.

[6] P.L. 104-208, §529, 110 Stat. 3009-349, September 30, 1996.

[7] To guide designated recipient groups, the U.S. Mint has published guidance on surcharge disbursement. U.S. Mint, *Surcharge Recipient Organization's Compliance Procedures for Surcharge Eligibility & Payments*, at https://www.usmint.gov/downloads/mint_programs/080615_RO_Handbook_Final_ConsolidatedwthAppens_Columns.pdf. [Hereinafter, *Surcharge Recipient Manual*].

[8] The CCRA requires that designated recipient organizations demonstrate that funds have been raised from private sources for the project designated to receive the surcharges from the commemorative coin program. In order to receive surcharge payments, "the total of qualifying private funds raised must be greater than or equal to the total amount of the proceeds of such surcharge derived from the sale of such numismatic item." Further, "private funds are funds raised from non-governmental sources," and can include cash contribution and other assets that can be readily converted to cash. Other assets that can be readily converted to cash might include "donations of common stock or marketable real estate." In-kind donations are not considered "funds," and are not included in calculations for the purpose of surcharge disbursement. Fundraising time limits are also placed on designated recipient organizations. All eligible private funds must be raised "during the period between the inception of the recipient organization and the date two years after the last day any coin in the respective program is issued by the Secretary" (*Surcharge Recipient Manual*, pp. 4-5).

[9] Further, payments are not generally made until "the recipient organization satisfactorily demonstrates that it has raised qualifying funds from private sources in an amount equal to or greater than the maximum amount the organization may receive from the proceeds of surcharges under the respective [commemorative coin] program" (*Surcharge Recipient Manual*, p. 14). If the recipient organization has demonstrated that qualifying funds have been raised, "the United States Mint will consider accommodating the recipient organization by making interim surcharge payments at the United States Mint's discretion," although "any interim surcharge payment will depend on the financial performance of the program and the risk of loss to which the United States Mint may be exposed by releasing surcharge funds before the termination of the program" (*Surcharge Recipient Manual*, p. 12). Interim payments may be made starting six months after the start of the commemorative coin program with payments up to 50% of surcharges collected by the U.S. Mint. Further payments of up to 25% may be made nine months after the start of the program, with the remainder paid upon program close out.

[10] *Surcharge Recipient Manual*, p. 1. Additionally, audits are required for privately raised funds. "The auditor's report shall cover the period necessary to demonstrate that required funds from private sources have been raised by the recipient organization. The period reported should be by fiscal year of the recipient organization and must correspond with the period covered by the recipient organization's assertion. The auditor should submit its report promptly to the recipient organization upon completion" (*Surcharge Recipient Manual*, p. 6).

[11] *Surcharge Recipient Manual*, p. 1. The "Schedule of Funds Raised From Private Sources," documentation must be audited pursuant to U.S. Mint guidelines and be accompanied by "a written assertion by its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Chief Financial Officer (CFO) that it has met the compliance requirements of the CCRA and specific enabling legislation." The assertion must include the amount of qualifying funds received; that private funds raised are "for the purposes described in the enabling legislation"; and that "none of the qualifying funds raised from private sources have been used to compensate, directly or indirectly, any agent or attorney for services rendered to support or influence in any way legislative actions of Congress relating to numismatic coin activity [pursuant to

P.L. 104-208, §529]." For more information, see *Surcharge Recipient Manual*, p. 5. The Mint's *Surcharge Recipient Manual* does not specify whether or not a recipient organization may include borrowed money in its demonstration of qualified matching funds (p. 4).

[12] 31 U.S.C. 5134 (f)(1)(A)(i). The provision reads: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amount derived from the proceeds of any surcharge imposed on the sale of any numismatic item shall be paid from the fund to any designated recipient organization unless- (i) all numismatic operation and program costs allocable to the program under which such numismatic item is produced and sold have been recovered.... "

Membership Acquisition Test

The Marketing & Finance Commissions approved the development and testing a supplement new-member recruitment model where like-minded organizations have the ability to raise money for their own organization while recruiting members to The American Legion. The new supplement recruitment model would pay the organization amount as negotiated for each new member that they recruit into The American Legion. The American Legion benefits by saving money and forging new or strengthening current relationships with other veteran-centric organizations and the organizations benefit by gaining a new revenue stream.

DMS Membership Acquisition

The 2018 DMS membership cycle started in July as planned with the first of 3-4 campaigns. Year-to-date the program has acquired more than 36,000 members and is on pace to meet the projected goals. This membership year's focus is to concentrate on acquiring new never before members over their expired counterparts.

A new communications plan is being developed to standardize the communication flow to the at risk members for the first 24 months of their membership. The ultimate goal of this plan is to increase the renewal rate of this group. The plan will be phased in as appropriate but will be an integral part of the 2019 DMS budget that will be presented at the DC conference next year.

Department Fundraising

The department fundraising program continues the transition process from national headquarters to Patriot Fundraising Group (PFG). The department fundraising data has been moved to Patriot for the departments that have signed up with PFG.

National Fundraising (Non-member)

Year-to-date, the national fundraising program is on pace to finish as planned. We are expecting gross revenue to finish at about $11,000,000 and net income at about $1,800,000. The active donor file has grown to about 340,000 donors who have made at least one gift in the past 12 months. The last of the donor acquisition campaigns are mailing in October and donor campaigns continue into December.

DMS Fundraising

DMS Fundraising will finish the year with net income of about $200,000. This is the result of 10 campaigns mailed this year. This fundraising campaign will change to support the new member communications plan being developed for the 2019 membership year. Details will be presented as part of the 2019 DMS Membership Budget.

Legacy Ride

A presentation was made on the Legacy ride and much work has been done in the last two years by the marketing division to promote the ride, which in turn raises awareness of The American Legion. The Marketing Commission seeks to have more input in the routing

and planning of the Legacy ride to ensure we can maximize our capital in further promotion of The American Legion and attract potential new members and increased donations.

Programs Alumni

We also discussed reenergizing our efforts in creating an effective Alumni association through marketing division for the purposes of fund raising and recognizing our youth program participants who may achieve success in their lives after their participation in our programs.

Report: Emblem Committee
Alvan T. Fuller, Massachusetts, Chairman
October 8, 2017

As of the August 2017 profit and loss statement, The American Legion Emblem Sales Division had year-to-date revenue of $10.335 million vs. $9.808 million in 2016. Net year-to-date profit was $1.777 million vs. $1.608 million in 2016.

2017 flag sales continue to be strong. Through September 2017, Emblem Sales has sold $2,032,000 in flags, which is a 12% increase over last year. Currently, 1,692 posts are registered in the "Flag Rewards" program and 16,517 schools, businesses, churches and individuals have signed up to sponsor a post.

Emblem Sales continues to market items strategically to members and patriotic Americans, both electronically and in print. In 2017, 670,900 marketing emails have been sent at a cost of only $2,012. These marketing emails have resulted in $125,400 in revenue. In addition, the 2018 Flag & Emblem Catalog will be mailed in November 2017 to active Emblem Sales customers, as well as to every Commander and Adjutant at every level.

New Centennial merchandise continues to be developed in conjunction with the Legion's 100th Anniversary celebration, with 17 different items now available. Orders for custom Centennial items are also being taken from Posts and Departments.

Flag Rewards

- Flag Rewards is a program where Posts can earn free merchandise credit to spend in Emblem Sales by purchasing American flags.
- Posts can earn a 10% rebate on their flag purchases by either buying flags from Emblem Sales, or encouraging others in their community to buy flags from Emblem Sales.
- Almost 1,700 posts are signed up in the Flag Rewards program.
- Last year, 59 posts earned over $150 in free merchandise credit simply by buying flags from Emblem Sales.
- Our top post (Post 42 in Ankeny, IA) has earned over $1,000 in free merchandise credit EVERY YEAR for the past 5 years. That's over $5,000 in free merchandise.
- Our top-performing posts buy flags from Emblem Sales, and then re-sell them to the community.
- There are also over 16,000 individuals, schools, towns, and businesses who buy flags from Emblem Sales, and have designated their local post to receive credit for their purchases.
- Who benefits?
    - Posts earn credit for free Emblem Sales merchandise.
    - They can spend this credit on items such as School Award medals, Boys State shirts, Oratorical awards, Baseball supplies, color guard uniforms, or flags for Memorial Day.
    - Departments receive royalties for each flag purchased in their state.

  - National receives revenue to help fund its programs & activities.
  - The customer feels good about supporting veterans and the work the Legion does.
- The Flag Rewards program gets posts out into the community by selling flags. This increases the Legion's visibility in the community, and is a perfect opening for membership recruitment.
- Emblem Sales flags are priced low, and are all made in the USA.
- To participate, the Post Adjutant must register his Post with a user name & password. It takes 30 seconds to register, and can be done online on the Emblem Sales web site (www.Emblem.Legion.org)

Permission to Use the Emblem

- The names and emblems of The American Legion Family are federally protected trademarks.
- Posts or Departments are only permitted to use the names or emblems for communication purposes, such as stationary, publications, newsletters, notices, posters, flyers, etc.
- All other uses of the names or emblems, including merchandise, must be approved by the National Adjutant or his designated representative (American Legion Emblem Sales).
- Departments do not have the legal authority to grant the right to manufacture items bearing the names or emblems.
- Screen printers, embroidery shops, pin and coin producers, or any other manufacturer are in violation of federal trademark law if they reproduce the names or emblems without permission from Emblem Sales.
- Emblem Sales will grant permission to have merchandise produced upon receipt of an approved "permission form" from a Department Adjutant.
- A permission form can be found on the Legion's web site (www.legion.org) or Emblem Sales web site (www.Emblem.Legion.org).
  - The form must be filled out by a member (not the manufacturer).
  - The form must be sent to the Department Adjutant for approval.
  - The approved form is then sent to Emblem Sales for consideration.
  - If approved, Emblem Sales will send the approval to the manufacturer.
  - Approvals usually occur in less than 24 hours.
  - The approval is a one-time permission, and is only for the quantity requested.
  - Repeat orders require repeat approvals.

Emblem Sales – Special Orders

  - Permission requests may also initiate a request from Emblem Sales to bid on the project.
  - Special Orders thru Emblem Sales keeps the money in the Legion, and helps to fund its programs and activities.
  - Emblem Sales works with hundreds of suppliers.
  - Emblem Sales does close to 1,000 Special Orders each year, and is very competitively priced.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission. There are no resolutions, no addendums. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the Marketing report. Are there any questions? Commander Brieden?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: Not a question but a comment, Madam Commander. As you heard when he was talking about using marketing in the alumni, I think I want to emphasize the point of using marketing in the Legacy Run.

As the Legacy Run has developed, it was initially a fundraising opportunity, and it became also an awareness of The American Legion. Most of the fundraising occurs outside of the actual run and then it is consolidated there. But the fact that it's awareness of The American Legion sometimes gets lost. When we went to Reno and the route was chosen, the Riders called it "the road to nowhere" because there wasn't much there and there wasn't much attention as a result. We squandered the PR of that moment, we squandered the ability and the awareness of The American Legion because of it.

I believe that marketing should be a major part of choosing the routes, and that is not the way it happens currently, and should happen in the future. So my recommendation is, in fact, when whomever it is chooses the route, that marketing is a major part of the discussion, a major part of what's happening, because we do not want to squander any opportunity to make awareness of The American Legion and what we do.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Past National Commander Spanogle.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: National Commander, my good friend John Brieden. I've had some experience with the Legacy Ride, both as a rider and with your former national adjutant.

When we formed the Legion Riders Committee, the most important thing of the people being on that committee was that they were certified, most of them, by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. That ride, ever since the convention in Salt Lake City, we have been one of the safest rides in the United States. No one has been injured except for, I think, one that I remember, but it wasn't a fatality. When you plan these Legacy Runs, I'm listening to John about the press and all of that sort of thing, I would think that you'd want to keep that Legacy Run and the mapping of that run with the Riders Committee who are riders, who believe in safety, and safety first on that run. This is not a PR stunt. I know that they seek input of Marketing Commission and Membership Committee and all that, but safety has got to be the number one objective of that ride. So sometimes when you're going nowhere, you're going nowhere for safety. Coordination with police agencies, coordination with the towns, with the posts, running that run two or three times. I'm going to tell you right now, it's about safety first. I think the Legion Riders ought to design the run and seek the assistance of all the other commissions, including Marketing. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Any other comments? And so noted on both issues. All those in favor of receiving and filing the Marketing report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried, thank you. Before I call on our Finance chairman, Gaither Keener from North Carolina, the chairman of the Finance Commission has resigned his appointment to the board of directors of Soldier's Wish, and I recommend the appointment of Denis J. McEneaney from New York, member of the Finance Commission, as his replacement.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to approve that appointment. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve that appointment. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Gaither, Finance report, please.

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

Thank you, Madam Commander. Madam Commander, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and guests, you have my written report. The Finance Committee met Monday and Tuesday, October 9 and 10. All the commission members were present except Paul A. Evenson who was excused. Paul's father-in-law died right before he was traveling to our conference. George Lussier attended by conference call. All present were Dan S. Wheeler, national adjutant; George A. Buskirk, national treasurer; Verna Jones, Washington office executive director; Jeffrey O. Brown, Indianapolis office executive director; Shawn Long, finance director; David Warnken; Kenneth Goth; Robert Krause, the Finance NEC Liaison Committee; and numerous guests also came in and out and attended our meeting.

Reports were received from the national adjutant, the national treasurer, the finance director, national judge advocate, executive directors, the Marketing, Internal Affairs, and Media & Communications Commissions, the Membership & Post Activities Committee, the Information Technology Division, and the financial institutions which manage our investments.

Jimmy A. Luther was named agent of record for the health and life coverage of the national headquarters employees. With the addition of the machine operator that we acquired from Xerox when we changed contractors, our authorized strength is still currently 294.

The commission approved the following: $20,000 in emergency purchases for future repairs of the exterior of the Washington office; $80,000 emergency purchases so the Marketing Division can complete a second round of data appends to our membership and nonmember donor files; 2018 capital expenditures of $107,865, you see there's a resolution for IT; and 2018 furniture and fixtures of $17,950; $38,996.90 in the accounts receivable write-offs since our August meeting.

The commission approved a recommendation that Crowe Horwath, certified public accountants, be employed to prepare The American Legion 2017 fiscal year audits and our tax return reviewed.

The commission recommends that the 2018 dues be allocated as follows: $3 to *The American Legion Magazine* and $15 to the general fund.

An engineering study of the Washington office HVAC system was authorized. The current system is 32 years old and does not function correctly and may not function on certain floors. Future upgrades to the system will come from previously funded depreciated funds in escrow and not the budget.

The commission was briefed on a proposed new 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee and indicated that the 2018 budget was sufficient to handle up to $100,000 for travel and other expenses.

A resolution is recommended for the NEC approval which restructures the TFA program for enhanced fiscal administration and efficiency of the program. The amount of the TFA expenditures increases each year, and currently more than $600,000 of our money is taken annually from the general fund. In order to place some controls on this Temporary Financial Assistance, The Americanism Commission recommends, and the Finance Commission concurs, with that recommendation that the cap of the TFA per recipient be placed at $1,500 with a maximum expenditure per year of $750,000. The only people eligible to receive TFA will be military active under Title 10, that includes your reservists and national guards orders and veterans who are members of The American Legion.

Attached is a report that provides a breakdown of payments to or for the benefit of all our departments paid by national through your dues.

The Finance Commission unanimously approved a resolution for NEC approval which we believe is very important to the future financial stability of both The American Legion National Headquarters and our departments.

We expect to end the 2017 budget year with a net operating surplus of $4,445,952 compared to the budget surplus we had planned of $3,641,581. The reason for the difference? We did not spend all the money in marketing that we were working on DMS.

The 2018 budget request is based on membership of 1,900,000. The request calls for revenues of $78,170,921 and expenses of $77,920,932, for an operating surplus of 2018 of only $249,989.

If the NEC approves the fundraising resolution that is attached to your documentation, that would change the surplus from $249,989 to $1.7 million plus. In your document, it will show you that departments would receive a minimum of $800,000 going forward and it grows.

A list of resolutions recommended for your approval follows the report. Madam Commander, that's my report.

Report: Finance Commission
Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman
October 11, 2017

The Finance Commission met Monday and Tuesday, October 9-10. All commission members were present except Paul A. Evenson, who was excused. George Lussier attended by conference call. Also present were: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant; George A. Buskirk, Jr., National Treasurer; Verna Jones, Washington Office Executive Director; Jeffrey O. Brown, Indianapolis Office Executive Director; Shawn Long, Finance Director; and David Warnken, Kenneth Goth, and Robert Krause of the Finance NEC Liaison Committee. Several guests joined us throughout the course of the meeting.

Reports were received from the National Adjutant; National Treasurer; Finance Director; National Judge Advocate; the Executive Directors; the Marketing, Internal Affairs and Media & Communications Commission; the Membership & Post Activities Committee; the Information Technology Division, and the financial institutions which manage our investments.

Jimmy A. Luther was named agent-of-record for the health and life coverage of National Headquarters employees. With the addition of the machine operator that we acquired from Xerox when we changed contractors, our authorized strength is currently 294.

The commission approved the following:

- $20,000 in emergency purchases for future repairs to the exterior of the Washington Office.
- $80,000 emergency purchase so the marketing division can complete a second round of data appends to our membership and nonmember donor files.
- 2018 capital expenditures of $107,865.
- 2018 furniture and fixtures of $17,950.
- $38,996.90 in accounts receivable write-offs since its August meeting.

The commission approved a recommendation that Crowe Horwath LLP, certified public accountants, be employed to prepare The American Legion’s 2017 fiscal year audit.

The commission recommends that 2018 dues be allocated as follows: $3 to The American Legion Magazine and $15.50 to the general fund.

An engineering study of the Washington Office HVAC system was authorized. The current system is 32 years old and does not function correctly. Future upgrades to the system will come from a previously-funded depreciation fund and not the budget.

The commission was briefed on a proposed new 21st century ad hoc committee and indicated that the 2018 budget was sufficient to handle up to $100,000 for travel and other expenses.

A resolution is recommended for NEC approval which restructures the TFA program for enhanced fiscal administration and efficiency of the program. The amount of TFA expenditures increase each year, and currently more than $600,000 is taken annually from the general fund. In order to place some controls on this temporary financial assistance fund, the Americanism Commission recommends, and the Finance Commission concurs with that recommendation, that the cap on TFA per recipient be placed at $1,500 with the maximum expended per year being $750,000. The only people eligible to receive TFA would be military activated under Title 10 orders and veterans who are members of The American Legion.

Attached is a report that provides a breakdown of payments to, or for the benefit of, all departments. The Finance Commission unanimously approved a resolution for NEC approval which we believe is very important to the future financial stability of both The American Legion's national headquarters and departments.

We expect to end the 2017 budget year with a net operating surplus of $4,445,950 compared to a budgeted surplus of $3,641,581. The 2018 budget request is based on a membership of 1,900,000. The request calls for revenues of $78,170,921 and expenses of $77,920,932 for an operating surplus of $249,989. If the NEC approves the fundraising resolution, that will change the surplus from $249,989 to $1.7 million.

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

Resolutions

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

- Resolution #2: Second Amendment to The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof. The retirement plan is hereby amended by the addition of a last paragraph which grants a 6 percent COLA.
- Resolution #3: Contribution in Support of the Construction of the World War One Memorial at Pershing Park, Washington, DC. The American Legion pledges a $300,000 contribution toward construction of the World War One Memorial at Pershing Park.
- Resolution #4: Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund. Establishes a ceiling of $750,000 with +/- 1.5% for the Sons of The American Legion reserve fund for each budget year ending in the month of December, to be annually reviewed by Internal Affairs and the Finance Commission for adequacy from a fiscal management viewpoint, and if the fund exceeds the ceiling, a transfer be made to an approved American Legion charity for America's veterans or youth with the consent of the SAL.
- Resolution #5: National History Contests Per Diem. The resolution covers the reimbursement policy for national history contests.
- Resolution #6: 2018 Enhancements to National Headquarters Computing Environment. Authorizes The American Legion National Headquarters to acquire hardware, software and installation services to improve reliability and

meet the present and foreseeable capacity needs of the National Headquarters computer environment at a cost not to exceed $107,865.

- Resolution #7: National Fundraising. The national organization shall continue to conduct nationwide fundraising as approved in 2015.
- Resolution #8: Restructure of Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy. The statement of policy governing the TFA program will be restructured for enhanced fiscal administration and efficiency of the program. The updated statement of policy is attached to the resolution as Exhibit A.

The American Legion
Payments to Departments
September 1, 2016 - August 31, 2017

Department		Direct Mail Fundraising (dept. share)	USAA Affinity	Emblem Sales Royalty	Fundraising for Department	Online Renewal & new PUFL costs absorbed by National	Call-In Travel Expense paid by National	Total
Alabama	*	10,494.00	13,122.72	1,706.34	25,000.00	6,935.26	17,148.38	74,406.70
Alaska		2,302.00	7,504.96	922.16		4,274.98	18,204.65	33,208.75
Arizona	*	21,667.00	23,572.63	3,168.54	120,000.00	21,435.44	18,593.64	208,437.25
Arkansas	*	5,944.00	17,841.81	1,086.96	40,000.00	3,564.16	18,170.37	86,607.30
California		59,251.00	53,135.04	7,936.40		50,733.67	36,866.04	207,922.15
Colorado	*	12,862.00	13,759.28	2,585.77	94,000.00	12,191.27	25,424.66	160,822.98
Connecticut		9,926.00	11,390.30	2,158.02		5,565.97	20,542.05	49,582.34
Delaware		686.00	15,434.29	71.53	19,869.48	4,347.36	12,110.30	52,518.96
DC		3,089.00	5,409.52	793.60		780.61	4,596.61	14,669.34
Florida		39,537.00	67,219.58	6,738.41		54,165.16	34,871.82	202,531.97
France			2,000.00			3,089.42	7,859.28	12,948.70
Georgia	*	20,112.00	24,617.85	3,364.28	120,000.00	14,091.18	39,069.19	221,254.50
Hawaii		2,846.00	7,118.09	144.03		1,143.83	21,033.46	32,285.41
Idaho		6,874.00	10,244.04	1,261.27	36,296.80	3,266.55	18,034.92	75,977.58
Illinois		31,370.00	47,451.16	9,510.38		19,088.42	54,459.56	161,879.52
Indiana		22,926.00	45,271.33	9,087.31		21,756.25	39,624.96	138,665.85
Iowa	*	17,001.00	26,320.97	6,625.26	105,750.00	9,206.07	39,192.47	204,095.77
Kansas	*	9,926.00	18,385.01	3,824.87	32,500.00	8,402.56	22,113.79	95,152.23
Kentucky	*	9,082.00	13,389.68	2,001.11	60,000.00	5,370.22	17,267.34	107,110.35
Louisiana	*	8,849.00	15,512.76	2,060.13	41,000.00	4,819.77	24,650.12	96,891.78
Maine		5,056.00	12,912.03	1,831.64		4,286.84	17,539.52	41,626.03
Maryland		17,591.00	32,745.18	2,868.73		19,944.53	39,874.36	113,023.80
Massachusetts		15,732.00	23,408.67	3,862.58		10,744.70	46,763.02	100,510.97
Mexico			2,000.00			565.50	8,147.22	10,712.72
Michigan		25,150.00	38,325.63	7,336.65		24,366.41	42,157.63	137,336.32
Minnesota		22,740.00	43,554.32	6,887.81	108,000.00	18,546.92	48,543.65	248,272.70
Mississippi		5,249.00	8,386.17	1,215.11		2,853.56	21,061.10	38,764.94
Missouri		15,403.00	23,410.60	4,074.92		10,143.42	35,949.07	88,981.01
Montana		4,698.00	7,260.07	1,432.87	24,267.93	3,087.98	13,525.15	54,272.00
Nebraska	*	10,673.00	17,822.49	4,206.39	85,002.00	8,090.00	26,970.96	152,764.84
Nevada		7,494.00	8,548.93	864.17		3,893.03	11,533.04	32,333.17
New Hampshire		6,050.00	10,033.87	1,827.77		4,736.61	16,735.06	39,383.31
New Jersey		20,974.00	33,335.16	4,176.55	48,054.26	14,732.52	26,925.90	148,198.39
New Mexico		4,462.00	10,331.30	995.94		4,046.95	11,180.05	31,016.24
New York	*	47,937.00	58,176.00	12,327.07	340,000.00	34,215.84	74,295.33	566,951.24
North Carolina	*	23,642.00	27,684.28	4,092.42	133,333.00	13,993.67	26,876.82	229,622.19
North Dakota	*	4,425.00	10,086.53	2,164.75	53,750.00	4,309.39	14,253.98	88,989.65
Ohio		27,917.00	52,316.26	8,137.28		20,652.61	46,966.56	155,989.71
Oklahoma	*	13,068.00	19,454.46	1,986.27	45,000.00	5,038.51	22,187.30	106,734.54
Oregon	*	11,495.00	10,382.57	1,534.39	55,000.00	7,617.45	20,919.39	106,948.80
Pennsylvania		45,744.00	84,573.74	3,189.96		33,375.65	50,280.12	217,163.47
Philippines			2,000.00			319.41	3,565.94	5,885.35
Puerto Rico	*	36.00	2,000.00	210.00	20,000.00	586.55	8,064.67	30,897.22
Rhode Island		2,746.00	3,841.42	492.58		1,208.62	10,562.46	18,851.08
South Carolina		10,905.00	14,536.37	2,287.45		8,174.36	23,115.37	59,018.55
South Dakota	*	5,390.00	22,444.41	2,508.72	51,250.00	4,274.55	23,714.90	109,582.58
Tennessee		11,434.00	14,484.27	2,473.99		8,750.61	25,197.13	62,340.00
Texas	*	42,860.00	38,337.00	6,939.17	200,000.00	27,749.96	44,683.93	360,570.06
Utah	*	3,969.00	8,448.42	1,163.35	18,860.26	2,960.68	16,044.95	51,446.66
Vermont	*	2,905.00	8,503.41	1,215.63	46,800.00	3,234.82	15,343.38	78,002.24
Virginia	*	21,710.00	25,687.35	3,621.50		21,738.98	42,900.13	115,657.96
Washington	*	15,110.00	19,163.26	2,442.73		16,711.94	21,725.78	75,153.71
West Virginia		5,534.00	9,407.65	1,557.48		3,403.23	18,514.12	38,416.48
Wisconsin		19,400.00	29,919.15	7,720.84		15,372.95	38,623.06	111,036.00
Wyoming		3,082.00	3,852.06	1,098.25		1,825.46	10,827.45	20,685.22
		775,325.00	1,176,074.05	173,791.33	1,923,733.73	619,782.39	1,415,402.11	6,084,108.61

* denotes Departments that were in the fundraising program for 2017.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to approve the Finance Commission report with the exception of seven resolutions. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve the Finance Commission report with the exception of seven resolutions. Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving the Finance Commission report say aye. Opposed, same sign, carried.

Resolution No. 2: Second Amendment to The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof (hereinafter referred to as "Plan") was established by The American Legion, Indianapolis, Indiana (hereinafter referred to as "Employer" or "Sponsoring Employer"), effective as of January 1, 1944; as amended by an entireties amendment effective January 1, 2012; and as last amended by a First Amendment effective as of the dates indicated therein; and

WHEREAS, By Section 7.01 of the Plan, the Sponsoring Employer reserved the right to amend the Plan by action of The National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, The Sponsoring Employer has empowered the officers of this Sponsoring Employer to execute amendments to the Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Sponsoring Employer desires to amend the Plan in certain respects heretofore considered and discussed; and

WHEREAS, The National Retirement Committee of The American Legion, after consultation with the Plan's actuaries and due the Plan's overfunding status, has recommended to the National Finance Commission that an increase in benefits should be granted to all employees retired under The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups thereof by reason of the fact that there has been no increase for such retirees since January 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The National Finance Commission recommends to the National Executive Committee that all persons in The American Legion Retirement Plan and currently receiving a pension check as of December 31, 2017 be granted an increase in their individual pension annuity benefits effective January 1, 2018 based upon the following formula: "Any individual who is receiving a retirement check as of December 31, 2017 will receive a six percent (6%) increase in their pension"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That Section 5.15 of The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof is hereby amended by the addition of a new last paragraph as follows: "Effective January 1, 2018, there will be a one-time six percent (6%) ad hoc increase for all retirees (including deferred vested participants who are currently receiving monthly benefits) and beneficiaries receiving monthly benefits as of December 31, 2017. However, if a monthly benefit ceased at some point during 2017 (either to the Participant or the Beneficiary under a joint and survivor annuity or period certain option), no ad hoc increase will be applicable for these individuals. Further, this ad hoc increase does NOT apply to an Alternate Payee who is receiving monthly benefits pursuant to a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO)"; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national commander be is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents presented by the national judge advocate in

connection with the revision of the Plan and the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 2 has the approval of the Finance Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee, and we recommend its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Resolution 2 is carried.

Resolution No. 3: Contribution in Support of the Construction of the World War One Memorial at Pershing Park, Washington, D.C.
Origin: 100th Anniversary Observance Committee
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion, wherein the mission and guiding principles of The American Legion are articulated, states, in part, "to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars"; and

WHEREAS, The combat experiences of the founders of The American Legion during World War One shaped their attitudes, values and sensibilities and were paramount in their aspirations regarding what The American Legion should be and what it might become; and

WHEREAS, The United States World War One Centennial Commission is responsible for planning, developing, and executing programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of World War One; encouraging private organizations and state and local governments to organize activities commemorating the centennial of World War I; facilitating and coordinating activities throughout the United States relating to the centennial of World War One; serving as a clearinghouse for information about events and plans for the centennial of World War One; and developing recommendations for Congress and the president for commemorating the centennial of World War One; and

WHEREAS, The most essential mission of the World War One Centennial Commission is the construction in our nation's capital of a fitting memorial to the service and sacrifice of the "Doughboys," among whom were the founders of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The construction of the World War One Memorial is also of importance in commemorating of the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion, as the war and the "Doughboy Spirit" shaped The American Legion and informed its enduring values, and support of its construction will accrue to the lasting benefit of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The United States World War One Centennial Commission may, by law, receive no appropriation of federal funds for use in design and construction of the World War One Memorial and must rely solely on the support of the public for financing of the project; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a Commemorative Sponsor of the World War One Centennial Commission, and appoints one member of the commission; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion has previously expressed its support of the work of the World War One Centennial Commission in Resolution 15 of the National Executive Committee of October, 2010, Resolution 13 of the National Executive Committee of October, 2015, and Resolution 4 of the National Executive Committee of May, 2017; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been recommended for approval by the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, and the NEC Subcommittee on Resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That

The American Legion pledges a contribution of $300,000 (three hundred thousand dollars) toward the construction of the World War One Memorial at Pershing Park, to be disbursed by the national treasurer in three (3) increments of $100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars), the first of which shall be paid to the World War One Centennial Commission's 501(c)3 foundation, the United States Foundation for the Commemoration of the World Wars, in November, 2017, the second of which shall be paid in 2018, and the third and last of which shall be paid in 2019.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 3 has the approval of the Finance Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee, and we recommend its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 3. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Resolution 3 is carried.

Resolution No. 4: Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission
(As amended)

WHEREAS, In the 1970s a Sons of The American Legion Liability Account, now called the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund, was established as a restricted fund for use in the event of emergency such as membership decline, etc. and/or funds were needed to meet expenses; and

WHEREAS, In 2005 (NEC Resolution No. 6, October 2005), there was a ceiling of $500,000 (+/- 1.5%) established for the fund which was the approximate yearly operating budget at that time and no specific withdrawal procedures except for emergency purposes once the fund exceeds the ceiling; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion membership has been one of continual growth and their yearly operating budget now has grown to over $750,000; and

WHEREAS, It has been the practice when the fund exceeds the established ceiling (+/- 1.5%) that the Sons of The American Legion may request permission to transfer funds to any The American Legion approved charity that supports America's veterans and youth with the approval and consent of both the Internal Affairs Commission and the Finance Commission; and

WHEREAS, This fund will be reviewed on an annual basis by Internal Affairs and the National Finance Commission for adequacy of the revised ceiling amount of $750,000 as far as good financial management and subsequent recommendations for any transfer over the ceiling to the National Executive Committee for approval at the Spring Meetings each year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11 - 12, 2017, That a ceiling of $750,000 with +/- 1.5% be established for the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund for each budget year ending in the month of December and be reviewed annually by Internal Affairs Commission and the Finance Commission for adequacy from a fiscal management viewpoint and if the fund exceeds the ceiling a transfer be made to an approved American Legion charity for America's veterans or youth; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 6 (NEC, May 2005), Subject: Sons of The American Legion Restricted Account be rescinded with the passing of this resolution.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 4 has the approval of the Finance Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee, and we recommend its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 4. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Approved.

Resolution No. 5: National History Contests Per Diem
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, It is a well-established policy of The American Legion to encourage the preparation of department and post level histories for the purpose of preserving valuable information for present and future Legionnaires and the public at large; and

WHEREAS, History contests have been conducted by the national historian since 1930; and

WHEREAS, National Executive Committee Resolution No. 9 approved at the October 17-18, 2012 meeting reaffirmed support for annual history contests; and

WHEREAS, National Executive Committee Resolution No. 27 (October 18-19, 1989) Per Diem for Department Historian for Annual Conference & Workshop reimburses all department historians two days per diem if they attend the fall historians conference and workshop; and

WHEREAS, National Executive Committee Resolution No. 14 (October 16-17, 1991) Per Diem for Judges and Instructors of National Histories Contests and the National Sponsored Department Historians Conference and Workshop; and National Executive Committee Resolution No. 32 (October 20-21, 1993) Appointment of Judges to Assist the National Historian provided assistance for the national historian to conduct the national history contests; and

WHEREAS, It is important to ensure suitable and sufficient judges and instructors for the history contests from the pool of past and/or present department historians and past national historians; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That to further the goals of The American Legion to maintain and encourage interest in recording the history of the organization the national historian, with the advice and consent of the national commander, shall select fifteen (15) judges and/or instructors from among past department historians and past national historians who will be notified of the appointment via letter and authorized two days per diem to assist the national historian in conducting the annual history contests; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 14 (October 16-17, 1991) Per Diem for Judges and Instructors of National Histories Contests and the National Sponsored Department Historians Conference and Workshop; and National Executive Committee Resolution No. 32 (October 20-21, 1993) Appointment of Judges to Assist the National Historian are hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 5 has the approval of the Finance Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee, and we recommend its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 5. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Resolution 5 is approved.

Resolution No. 6: 2018 Enhancements to the National Headquarters Computing Environment
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Finance Commission has reviewed the detailed listing of products ("2018 IT CAPITAL EXPENDITURES") proposed to accomplish these needed enhancements and has recommended approval by the National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion National Headquarters acquire during the 2018 calendar year at a purchase price not to exceed $107,865 (or enter into leases where it is determined more prudent to do so) the necessary hardware, software and installation services to improve reliability and to meet the present and foreseeable capacity needs of the National Headquarters computer environment; and, be it further

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

RESOLVED, That the national commander, after review and approval by the national judge advocate, is hereby authorized and directed to execute appropriate purchase contracts and/or lease agreements to acquire the aforementioned and the national adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 6 has the approval of the Finance Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee, and we recommend its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Resolution No. 6 has been moved and seconded for approval. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Resolution 6 carried.

Resolution No. 7: National Fundraising
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The national Finance Commission recommended in 2015 that the national organization continue to mail to members of The American Legion whose names were purchased on "lists of known donors"; and

WHEREAS, The national organization was also instructed to distribute to each department the net proceeds received from the members of each department as a result of national fundraising efforts; and

WHEREAS, The national organization was at that time engaged in the "guaranteed fundraising program" with some departments; and

WHEREAS, The national organization was instructed to distribute net fundraising proceeds for each department on the basis of 100 percent to those departments that were in the guaranteed fundraising program, and to distribute 80 percent to those not in the program; and

WHEREAS, In January 2017, the national organization distributed $775,325 to American Legion departments, and netted about $2,000,000 for the national organization; and

WHEREAS, These revenues are very important to both the national organization and the department organizations, and should continue; and

WHEREAS, It is more expensive and possibly cost prohibitive to conduct a nonmember-only fundraising program because of the higher cost of acquiring nonmember donors, because of the loss of current revenue while building the nonmember donor list, because the sustainability of nonmember donors is significantly less than member donors, and because it is disadvantageous for departments if the national organization were to cease distribution of net member fundraising proceeds to the department organizations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That the national organization shall continue to conduct nationwide fundraising as approved in 2015; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each department organization will receive 100 percent of the net proceeds raised by the national organization from current members of their department through direct mail fundraising, and the net proceeds distributed shall be based on actual costs incurred in each year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national organization is permitted to mail to members of the national organization whose names have been acquired on rented lists of known donors or other lists that are likely to produce a fundraising profit, provided that national may not mail to members taken directly off of the national membership roster; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national organization may continue to fundraise from members and non-members who have donated directly to the national organization either as a result of direct mail fundraising, donations through the web site, and/or by any other means that causes the donor to contribute directly to the national organization; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this resolution does not prevent the department organizations from conducting their own fundraising efforts, nor does it permit departments to opt out of the national organization's fundraising efforts.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 7 has the approval of the Finance Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee, and we recommend its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 7. Are there any questions? All those in favor of Resolution 7, please signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Resolution 7 carries.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that the national adjutant be authorized to adjust the 2018 budget to reflect the changes necessitated by the passage of the fundraising resolution, Resolution No. 7. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the national adjutant adjust the 2018 budget to reflect these resolutions. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 8: Restructure of Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The purpose of The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program is to ensure the integrity of the American family home, health and well-being for children of eligible veterans through cash grants that provide direct maintenance to those children; and

WHEREAS, Temporary Financial Assistance has successively grown over the years to issuing an average of $820,000 in assistance grants each year; and

WHEREAS, In as much as low interest rates has allowed The American Legion Endowment Fund to provide an annual contribution of approximately $120,000 to the Temporary Financial Assistance program each year, the general fund of The American Legion National Headquarters contributes an annual average of $700,000; and

WHEREAS, Steadily declining membership of The American Legion adversely impacts operational program budgets; and

WHEREAS, A great majority of current Temporary Financial Assistance requests appear to be coming from households having previously received a substantial amount of assistance from the program; and

WHEREAS, There is concern that other sources of financial assistance are not first being sought prior to application for Temporary Financial Assistance; and

WHEREAS, The Temporary Financial Assistance program was designed to give a lift to children adversely affected by a temporary circumstance in the home, and isn't intended as a social services resource for seeking a solution to sustained financial stability; and

WHEREAS, The restructure of the Statement of Policy under which the Temporary Financial Assistance program is administered is recommended by the Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That the statement of policy governing the Temporary Financial Assistance hereby be restructured as follows for enhanced fiscal administration and efficiency of the program:

- **A single onetime non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to $1,500 will be permitted in accordance with the conditions set forth in Exhibit A for the minor child(ren) of a qualifying veteran**
- **A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the United States Armed Forces serving on federal orders current under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components, or any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion**
- **Formal documentation is required as part of the Temporary Financial Assistance investigation process and application packet for verification that all other forms of financial assistance available have been sought and applied for, or have already been denied**
- **Annual cumulative expenditure of Temporary Financial Assistance grants may not exceed $700,000 without prior approval of each chairman of the Americanism and Finance Commissions and the national commander; and, be it further**

RESOLVED, That the statement of policy governing the Temporary Financial Assistance program found in Exhibit A incorporate the above new criteria and the following additions previously authorized by Resolution No. 38 of the National Executive Committee, May 2000, titled Addition to Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy:

e. A child (not included in 1(a-d) above) in custody of the veteran, or spouse of the veteran, living in the household of the veteran or surviving spouse, provided:

(1) The veteran or spouse of the veteran is legally responsible for the child and has the legal right to exercise parental control and responsibility for the welfare and care of the child as stipulated by court order, or other legal documentation, transferring custody of the child to the veteran or spouse of the veteran, or

f. A child in joint physical custody of a veteran and/or veteran's spouse, except that:

(1) Resources of both households must be considered in determining the needs of the child, without regard to the present location of the child.

RESOLVED, That Exhibit A, updated as attached, be adopted in its entirety for governing the Temporary Financial Assistance program; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 27 of the National Executive Committee, May 1990, titled Statement of Policy Regarding Temporary Financial Assistance Program and Resolution No. 38 of the National Executive Committee, May 2000, titled *Addition to Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy* are both hereby superseded and rescinded.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE STATEMENT OF POLICY
Exhibit A

I. GENERAL PURPOSE

The Temporary Financial Assistance program of The American Legion shall have as its purpose:

A. "To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy".

B. "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship; by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." The insurance of the integrity of the American family home and the health and well-being of future generations are essentials to the purposes stated above. Funds made available for Temporary Financial Assistance shall accordingly be expended to provide direct maintenance of family homes and/or to contribute directly to the welfare and health of individual children.

C. Temporary Financial Assistance grants may be made in such amounts as required to meet, or to help meet, the maintenance and/or health needs of eligible children from the time such need becomes known until such time as the family local community, state and/or Federal Governments have had a reasonable opportunity to provide or develop the resources necessary to meet the full extent of the need.

II. GRANTS

A. A single onetime non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to $1,500 will be permitted in accordance with qualifications set forth in this document for the minor children of a qualifying veteran.

B. Annual cumulative expenditure of Temporary Financial Assistance grants may not exceed $700,000 without prior approval of each chairman of the Americanism and Finance Commissions and the national commander.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Eligibility and Qualification

1. A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the United States Armed Forces serving on federal orders current under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components, or any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion.
2. The child of a veteran, as defined above, is deemed eligible for Temporary Financial Assistance provided:

    a. Such child is in need as determined by an investigation.
    b. That there are no other resources available, or that those available are inadequate to meet the needs of the child.

B. Need

Need is defined as the condition which exists when sufficient resources are not immediately available to meet the requirements of an eligible child as hereinbefore defined. Since no two individuals are identical and since their circumstances, their requirements and their resources will differ, no two persons are likely to present the same exact need. The need of any person, however, may ordinarily be measured by relating his available resources to his total requirements and circumstances. Need for the purposes of this program shall be limited to maintenance needs and health needs.

1. Maintenance

    a. Maintenance shall be deemed to include, but not limited to: (1) Food; (2) Shelter; (3) Clothing; (4) Educational Expenses; (5) Household supplies; (6) Insurance; (7) Fuel; (8) Incidental (9) Other needs as specified.
    b. In no case shall maintenance be defined to include debts incurred prior to date of application; except that: (1) An allowance may be made to reinstate utilities; (2) Provision may be made for the continued occupancy of a residence if such residence is being purchased and would otherwise be lost.

2. Health Needs

    a. Health needs shall be defined as: (1) Medical care; (2) Surgery; (3) Dental Care; (4) Pharmaceuticals; (5) Special Diet; (6) Hospitalization; (7) Nursing and convalescent care; (8) Other professional medical services.
    b. Provided that competent medical authority determines such services as heretofore listed are necessary for the preventions, alleviation, or cure, of sickness or physical defect.
    c. In no case shall health needs be defined to include services rendered prior to date of application, except that: (1) Preliminary approval for emergency care may be obtained by the quickest means of communication with final approval contingent upon a subsequent application being filed which shows the child to be in all respects eligible.

d. In no case shall health needs be interpreted to include any treatment or care solely for cosmetic purposes, except that: (1) Treatment or care for physical appearance purposes is permissible; provided, there is evidence that such care or treatment will contribute to the mental or emotional health of the individual.

C. Child

The word "child" shall be defined in line with present Veterans Administration and practices as:

1. A person who is unmarried and under the age of 18 years, however, if the person remains in an approved school and unmarried, Temporary Financial Assistance may be granted until the completion of education or training (high school), but not after the child reaches the age of 21 years, who:

a. A legitimate child, or;
b. A child legally adopted, or;
c. A step-child, if living in the household of the step-parent, or;
d. An illegitimate child, provided: (1) The father acknowledges parenthood in writing, signed by him, or (2) The father has been judicially ordered to decreed to contribute to such child's support, or (3) The father, prior to date of death, has been judicially decreed the putative father, or (4) The father, if dead, is otherwise shown by evidence satisfactory to The American Legion Americanism division to be the putative father in lieu of any of the other provisions of 1-d of this definition, or (5) The mother of such child, when qualified by virtue of her own military service, furnishes satisfactory evidence of birth of the child.
e. A child (not included in 1(a-d) above) in custody of the veteran, or spouse of the veteran, living in the household of the veteran or surviving spouse, provided: (1) The veteran or spouse of the veteran is legally responsible for the child and has the legal right to exercise parental control and responsibility for the welfare and care of the child as stipulated by court order, or other legal documentation, transferring custody of the child to the veteran or spouse of the veteran, or
f. A child in joint physical custody of a veteran and/or veteran's spouse, except that: (1) Resources of both households must be considered in determining the needs of the child, without regard to the present location of the child. (2) A person who over the age of 18, but under the age of 21 and, who meets all of the other requirements under 1 above, except age, and who is physically handicapped.

D. Investigation

The word "investigation" shall mean:

1. A personal visitation to the home or other whereabouts of such child by an official of an American Legion post or by a duly authorized person acting for him, and
2. An inquiry into and, when possible, verification of the need and cause of need, the probable duration of need, the resources and the development of plans for care of child at the cessation of Legion assistance, and

3. The recording upon an approved application blank of the facts ascertained together with investigator's evaluation of those facts through the statements of the applicant, statements of other interested persons and the investigator's own observations, and
4. Formal documentation is required as part of the Temporary Financial Assistance investigation process and application packet for verification that all other forms of financial assistance available have been sought and applied for, or have already been denied.

E. Resources

The word "resources" is defined as:

1. Finances and property within the family of the child which shall be deemed to include, but not limited to:
   a. Earnings and other income.
   b. Real and personal property: (1) The sale of essential real and personal property shall not be required.
   c. Intangible property such as stocks, bonds, savings, insurance, etc.

2. The temporary assistance that can be made available through The American Legion post and American Legion Auxiliary unit from their finances. (Funds from the sale of the poppy must be used for child welfare and rehabilitation).
3. Facilities, provisions and benefits established by law and supported with public funds for children of veterans and/or for all children which shall be deemed to include, but not limited to:
   a. Benefits from United States Veterans Administration for Veterans and their dependents: (1) Widow's and orphan's pension; (2) Compensations; (3) Pension; (4) National Service Life or Government Life Insurance; (5) Readjustment allowances; (6) Burial allowances and other benefits.
   b. Federal Social Security provisions and/or cooperative state and local provisions: (1) Old Age and Survivor's Insurance; (2) Unemployment Insurance; (3) Aid to Dependent Children; (4) General Assistance; (5) Other specialized services and aid including, but not limited to, local medical assistance, public health clinics, state resources for soldier's relief, vocation rehabilitation, workmen's compensation, etc.
4. Financial assistance provided through the departments of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.
5. Any other voluntary help that may come to the child.

IV. AMERICAN LEGION POSTS

A. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of posts of The American Legion to:
1. Appoint, elect or otherwise designate, a qualified member as Post Children & Youth chairman or officer.
2. Provide such funds as are possible to aid in meeting the needs of children.

3. Enlist the interest and participation, financially and otherwise, of units of the American Legion Auxiliary, and other like-minded and affiliated groups organized in their communities.
4. Cooperate with existing social welfare agencies of the community to improve services for children and to represent to such agencies the special needs of minor children whose parents served in the military forces during periods of conflict.
5. Originate applications for Temporary Financial Assistance, as previously set forth, when the needs of eligible children cannot be adequately after all other sources of assistance have been sought, and forward such applications promptly to the Department Children & Youth Chairman.

V. DEPARTMENTS

A. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of departments of the American Legion to:

1. Appoint or otherwise designate a qualified Department Children & Youth Chairman whose responsibilities, insofar as Temporary Financial Assistance is concerned, shall be:

    a. To receive applications for Temporary Financial Assistance from posts.
    b. Review such applications in the light of policies established herein and administrative procedures established by the National Organization.
    c. Satisfy him/herself that the post is making full use of all available resources.
    d. To secure financial help from department funds or from other state-wide sources when available.
    e. To forward promptly to the Americanism Division applications approved by him/her with recommendation as to amount of aid needed monthly and number of months needed.
    f. To maintain, supervise the maintenance of, or cooperate with the department adjutant or other department officials in the maintenance of necessary files, books, records, case histories, or other papers relating to Temporary Financial Assistance in such a manner as to prevent the release of confidential matters to unauthorized persons and to provide continuity of records from year to year.
    g. To forward to the Americanism Division an annual report of child expenditures and activities within his department and the posts thereof and such other reports as may be required.
    h. To stimulate posts of their state, department officials, and officials of affiliated groups when it appears that the needs of children are not being adequately met and to represent within his state the special needs of the children of that state whose parents served in the military forces during World War I and/or World War II and/or Korea and/or Vietnam and/or Persian Gulf/Global War on Terrorism.
2. Make available such funds and facilities as are possible and necessary to discharge the responsibilities outlined previously.
3. Ensure the delivery of two-party Temporary Financial Assistance check(s) issued by National Headquarters to the parent or legal guardian of the eligible minor children.

VI. AMERICANISM DIRECTOR

A. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Americanism Director of The American Legion to:

1. Receive applications from Department Children & Youth Chairman and review such supplications.
2. Interpret policies as set forth herein and determine eligibility for payment of Temporary Financial Assistance upon the merits of individual applications.
3. In the light of information presented in the application and in accordance with good child welfare practice determine amount of payment needed, and so recommend to the National Adjutant. Upon National Adjutant approval, two-party check(s) will be made out to the creditor(s) and to the parent or legal guardian of the minor children.
4. Carry on correspondence with department Children & Youth Chairmen and other to clarify eligibility, ascertain needed service and rehabilitation work in addition to financial assistance, aid in development of permanent plans for children aided, recommended needed improvements in child welfare services within the state, etc.
5. Make such reports concerning Temporary Financial Assistance as may be required by the National Commander and the National Adjutant.
6. With the advice of, and subject to, the approval of the National Adjutant, devise and distribute application forms and such other forms as may be necessary to carry out the provisions herein stated.
7. Maintain all records, files, statistics, and other papers, except finance records which shall be the primary responsibility of the comptroller.
8. Annually, or more frequently if necessary, determine and recommend to the National Adjutant the amount of money necessary to carry out the Temporary Financial Assistance program of the National Organization for the ensuring year or other period.
9. As director of the Americanism Division, advise the Committee on Children & Youth of the operation of the Temporary Financial Assistance program, recommend such changes in existing policies as are deemed necessary from time to time, and secure from the committee its advice and counsel.
10. Maintain continuous check on applications received and expenditures for Temporary Financial Assistance, and at such time as future need for Temporary Financial Assistance appears to exceed probable available funds, inform the National Adjutant and the national Committee on Children & Youth and in cooperation with them take such steps as are necessary and proper.
11. Maintain cooperative relationships, with other agencies in the interest of improved services to children and represent to such agencies the special needs of children whose parents served in the military forces in World War I and/or World War II and/or Korea and/or Vietnam and/or Persian Gulf/War on Terrorism.

VII. NATIONAL ADJUTANT

A. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the National Adjutant of The American Legion to:

1. Receive the recommendations for Temporary Financial Assistance from the Americanism Director and authorize payment in those cases which appear proper.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 8 has the approval of the Finance Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee, and we recommend its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 8. Are there questions?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Commander, I need a clarification, if I may ask, of the Resolution Subcommittee or the chairman. In the report, it states that "the cap on the TFA per recipient be placed at $1,500." I see that in the resolution. But that sentence goes on to say that "the maximum expended per year be $750." I don't see that $750 in the resolution.

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: It's not in the resolution, correct. It is part of the policy, my understanding from Americanism. Is that right, Rich?

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Yes.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: Yes, it is.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: The second definition that I would like to have clarified, when we talk about a TFA recipient, are we talking about the veteran or the child? Because $1,500, if the recipient is the child, we could be writing multiple checks for the family. So who is the recipient?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: The recipient is that of the veteran or the Legion member for the benefit of the child. That's the policy that has been for numerous years, commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: So the recipient is the veteran?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: I had two questions, now I have three. Under current policy, if the mother is a veteran and the father is a veteran, the child can only receive one TFA grant. The recipient is determined to be the child, not the veteran, in a situation like that. The answer you just gave changes that policy; correct?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: No, I don't think so. But Jill, since you're the expert on this, and Rich, can you assist me on this, since I look at the finance part? Thank you. I could be wrong on my answer, but I thought I was right based upon the information I got from Americanism. I'll let the expert answer it since she's here.

AMERICANISM DIVISION DIRECTOR DRUSKIS: Good morning, everyone. For those who may not know me, I am Jill Druskis, I am the director of the Americanism Division here at national headquarters. It's my division that helps oversee the Temporary Financial Assistance program. You both are right to a certain degree, how is that? It is the child who the grant is truly for. It's the veteran who gives that child the qualification to be eligible. So you're absolutely right, commander, in that it is the child who is the benefactor, who is receiving the benefit of it. Even though they may have two veteran parents, the child would only get the one-time grant. It would be one of the veteran parents that would have to make them eligible to receive consideration for a grant. Now, when the payment is made, the payment is made to the veteran, it's a two-party check, and to the vendor. So that's how that works.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Second question, under the current policy, a veteran must have served during one of the periods that would make them eligible for Legion membership, but they don't have to be a member. The changed policy, the way I read it, removes that prohibition requirement.

DIVISION DIRECTOR DRUSKIS: Well, the dates before aligned with the dates of Legion membership anyway, so that part really has not changed.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: One more time?

DIVISION DIRECTOR DRUSKIS: The dates on the current policy, the dates that a veteran would need to serve to qualify their child for a TFA, align with the current dates of membership.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Last question. What about those TFA, when is this taking effect? There are TFA application currently in the pipeline. I know for the fact Indiana has two right now. When will this take effect? And will it affect those currently in the pipeline?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: The Finance Commission discussed that. We've given the national adjutant the laxity to go three to four months if the information comes in that time frame.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you very much.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: You're welcome.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: By the way, Jill and her folks do an outstanding job on TFA.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: They surely do. Thank you very much, great questions. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I believe the chairman has a clarification on TFA.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: Clarification. On my report I may have said $750. It's $750,000; my apologies. We've already spent 496,000 through September. If I only spent 750, I made a mistake. Thank you very much. Lawyers can make a mistake when they read. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED NEC MEMBER: Chairman, please tell me when the effective date for this will be. Will it be the first of the year?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: The question is the effective date of this resolution.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: The effective date is the day you approve it. The national adjutant has permission, and those are coming in in the three- to four-month period to extend it to individuals who are not Legionnaires. I will tell you, if you are involved in this program as I have been and numerous adjutants, there are concerns and issues with people coming back one, two, three times. That's not a temporary assistance program, and they never join the post. So the national adjutant has authority to go up to three months. We gave him that authority after we talked with the team and the leadership.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Are there any other questions on the Resolution No. 8? It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 8. All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

The American Legion is currently in the process of studying our information technology needs for the future. It is a complex procedure and, in order to ensure the best possible outcome, I am recommending the appointment of an Information Technology Oversight Ad Hoc Committee which would include the following people by position: Gaither Keener from North Carolina, Finance Commission chairman and chairman of the committee; Dave Warnken from Kansas, chairman of the NEC Liaison Committee to Finance and the vice chairman of the committee; Ken Danilson from Iowa, Marketing Commission chairman; Randy Goodman from Georgia, the Membership & Post Activities chairman; and Paul Evenson from South Dakota, member of the Finance Commission. I ask for your approval on those recommendations.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to approve those appointments. *…Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve these appointments. Are there any questions? All those in favor of these appointments, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried, thank you. I now call on the the

president of the Nevada Convention Corporation, John F. Warden, Jr., for a report on the 2017 National Convention.

Report of the 2017 National Convention
John F. Warden, Jr., President, Convention Corporation of Nevada

Before I start, commander, if I may, I would like to have a moment of silence to remember those who lost their lives and were injured in the recent tragedy in Las Vegas, Nevada. ...*The NEC observed a moment of silence.*

Commander and fellow Legionnaires and guests, good morning. This is the report on The American Legion 99th Annual National Convention, Reno, Nevada, August 18 through the 24, 2017. Before I go any further, I would like to thank Mike Walton, your Convention Commission Chairman, the convention and meetings office, and Bridget Robinson, director for the same, and her staff for the guidance and assistance provided before and during this venture.

The feedback I received from many Legionnaires was that this was a great convention and most said that they were having a good time. If you didn't, it was your own fault. I have heard that the attendance was up overall over the previous years. This statement is being held true by the fact that we had to add an additional shuttle bus to accommodate the additional registrants at the hotels. There were some hiccups, but the bottom line was to provide a venue for a memorable experience, and I hope you had one.

I understand from Destination Reno that they had a great response to the tours that were made available. Nevada has a lot to offer in history and in natural beauty. I learned a long time ago that it is not the quantity and the men and women who volunteer, but the quality. There were 56 Nevada Legionnaire volunteers in total. My main worker bees were Lionel Motta, the secretary of the corporation, and Past Department Commander Mitch Roach who organized the volunteers, was chairman for the badges and packets committee, and organized the water distribution for the parade. The post-parade party chaired by Jim Stewart was well attended. From what I could gather, the bars did very well. As a side note, we did not have a after-parade party or post-parade party in 2007, so that was an addition this year.

The parade, I was told by Mr. Walton, was a good parade. I have to thank the parade marshal, Marco Manor, for staging and moving the participants down the parade route. The excess water from the parade was donated to the Boys and Girls Club; they were very appreciative.

To assist in planning for future conventions and to inform the members of the NEC so they can pass it on to their departments, I would like to address the parade in further depth. I know as servicemen and women, we were taught always to arrive early, but arrival time does not mean start time. Division 1 arrival time was scheduled for 3:15 p.m., and it was mostly made up of our distinguished guests. There were 12 to 15 buses that arrived before 3 p.m., and many buses and vehicles arrived as much as an hour and a half early. Since the staging area was a small venue, this really gummed things up, especially for receiving and staging our distinguished guests. The two Legionnaires assigned to greet the buses, God bless them, could not adjust and adapt to the changing situation. But thanks to Mike, Bridget, and David Garnish who is a member of Capital Post 4 in Carson City, and myself, we were able to get things untangled and move the participants along down the parade route.

One thing I learned from this exercise was that there was a clear lack of communication between the parade chairmen and the members of their departments. I guess I did not make myself clear at the parade meeting, or the participants did not pay attention, listen, or understand my verbal and written instructions. Many of the participants and vehicles accompanying them had no idea where their staging areas were and how to

get there. As stated before, there was a lack of communication between the departments and their parade chairmen which made for a very dangerous situation that could have resulted in serious injuries. You might consider in subsequent years limiting the number of vehicles that accompany the departments. Vehicle are harder to move around than people.

It must be remembered the Department of Nevada's original proposal was a convention in 2020, so the department put this together in a little over a year and a half. The final financial transactions will be presented in May 2018 after they have been reviewed and approved by the national finance office. Hopefully, we will make more than the $10,856.61 that was made in 2007. Right now the projection is between 70 and 80,000, which is a 50/50 split between national organization and the department.

Commander, this concludes my report.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the 2017 National Convention. Are there any comments or questions? All those in favor of receiving and filing the report of the 2017 National Convention, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Received. I now call on Chairman Michael Walton from Illinois for the Convention Commission report.

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

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

Mr. David Priester, the chief judge of contests, gave an excellent report and updated the commission on the contests that were conducted at the national convention this year. He also provided a video and conducted an extensive briefing on the judging process, and made recommendations on how we can improve our contests in the coming years. A question-and-answer period was held with Mr. Priester by the commission and at the end he was reappointed as chief judge of contests, and he has accepted his reappointment. We look forward to working our continued professional relationship with him and his judges.

John Warden, president of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Nevada, gave a preliminary report on the 2017 National Convention in Reno, and his final report will be at the spring 2018 meeting. We believe that Reno was another very successful national convention.

The members of the commission each submitted a written and then verbal report regarding all of their assignments at the Reno National Convention. Jeff Olson, president of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, gave an initial report regarding our upcoming 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, which will be August 24 through 30, 2018. We're all looking forward to another outstanding convention in Minneapolis.

In your packet you will find Addendum A, which includes a resolution that was referred to us and subsequently rejected by the commission regarding sanctuary cities.

Two cities have sent in their requests for proposals to host the 2023 National Convention. Those cities are Charlotte, North Carolina; and New Orleans, Louisiana. Site visits for those locations will be conducted after January 1 of 2018.

Commander Rohan and members of the NEC, that concludes my report. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Thank you.

Report: Convention Commission
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman
October 9, 2017

Chairman Michael E. Walton, Illinois, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.,

Monday, October 9, 2017. Roll call was taken with all members either excused or present.

There were items which required action by the National Executive Committee discussed during the meeting:

Resolution No. 34 – Sanctuary Cities (2017 National Convention) - Rejected

Chief Judge David Priester spoke to the Convention Commission regarding the National Color Guard Contests, which was held on Friday evening, the first day of convention. The Color Guard contests were well attended by contestants and observers. Six color guards competed in three categories with Newport Beach Harbor Post 291 from Newport Beach, California, being crowned again as National Champions. The Chief Judge provided video of the judging process and recommendations on how to improve the Contests. Questions were then entertained by the Convention Commission.

The Convention Commission reappointed Mr. Priester (SAL – VA) as Chief Judge of Contests to serve through the 2018 Fall Meetings. Mr. Priester informed the Commission that he proudly accepts the reappointment to serve as the Chief Judge of Contests for The American Legion.

President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Nevada, Inc., John Warden, gave a preliminary report on the 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

Mr. Warden thanked the Convention Commission for their support and reported that, in his opinion, the 2017 National Convention was a huge success. He reported that invoices are being paid. At this time, none of the five hotels have sent in their rebates. Mr. Warden will provide a final report at the 2018 Spring Meetings, but he projects a profit of approximately $35,000-$40,000 for the Corporation and the National Organization each. Chairman Walton thanked John Warden and his 56 volunteers for conducting the 2017 National Convention.

Convention Commission members reported on their assignments during the 2017 National Convention. Reports indicated that the local Convention Corporation conducted their duties in outstanding fashion and greatly contributed to the overall success of the National Convention. Chairman Walton and Commission members thanked John Warden and his entire Nevada team for their support to make the Reno Convention a success.

Jeff Olson, President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, gave an initial report on the planning process for the 2018 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, MN, August 24 – 30, 2018. Planning for the 100th National Convention of The American Legion is on schedule. The headquarters hotel for The American Legion is the Hilton. The American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters will be the Hyatt. The Sons of The American Legion will be at the Hilton. Mr. Olson informed the Convention Commission that almost all contracts between the hotels and the assigned Departments of The American Legion have been completed. Chairman Walton, Convention Corporation personnel, the convention and meetings planning staff and our convention technical companies will conduct a site visit to Minneapolis in November.

We have two Departments of The American Legion that have submitted the proper resolution expressing their interest in bidding on the 2023 National Convention. The cities being supported by the appropriate resolution are Charlotte, North Carolina; New Orleans, Louisiana. Site visits will be conducted after the first of the year.

Dates for future Conventions are the following:

Minneapolis, Minnesota	Aug. 24 – 30, 2018 (100th)
Indianapolis, Indiana	Aug. 23 – 29, 2019
Louisville, Kentucky	Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 2020
Phoenix, Arizona	Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 2021
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Aug. 26 – Sept. 1, 2022

Addendum A

Resolutions Rejected

Resolution No. 34 (CO) **Sanctuary Cities**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission with the exception of Addendum A. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the Convention Commission report with one exception. Are there questions? Commander Comer?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I'm a little concerned when you have something as important as Mr. Priester directing the judging. Don't we have any Legionnaires that can do the same? Do we have to go to the Sons for that program?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WALTON: We did have a Legionnaire previously, several years ago. Mr. Priester, he is a member of the Sons of The American Legion, he's one of the most well-respected judges in the country that's really brought our program quite forward. Quite honestly, no, we haven't been able to find another person. He does have Legionnaires that work with him from around the country that are judges, but he's one of the most well-respected chief judges in the country, so we've been very fortunate. If anybody knows of someone that they would like us to reach out to, we'd be glad to do that, that's a Legionnaire.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Is he paid?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WALTON: He receives call-ins. He doesn't receive a stipend. Call-in, that's it, he receives call-in.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: You ought to keep looking.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you, we can do that. If anybody has thoughts on that, please get those to us through the convention office or myself. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Any other questions? All those in favor of receiving and filing the Convention Commission report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, attached to the Convention Commission report is Addendum A. I move the actions of the Convention Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the actions on Addendum A of the commission be the actions of the NEC. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you. I now call on James "Bill" Oxford from North Carolina, chairman of the Legislative Commission.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
James W. Oxford, North Carolina, Chairman

Commander Rohan, members of the National Executive Committee, Adjutant Wheeler, and guests, good morning. Each of you should have a copy of the commission's

written report. Addendum 1 lists the resolutions with legislative intent that were approved at this NEC and the national convention. The American Legion legislative program is in accordance with Rule 8B of the rules of the National Executive Committee.

Since my report to you at the national convention, the Legislative Commission has testified before Congress four times, adding another today. We've attended four congressional roundtables and have been hard at work on The American Legion coin bill. So hard, in fact, that the coin bill, much to the thanks and hard work and dedicated work of our members and those in this room, it passed the House and Senate and has been signed into law by the president. Passing this coin bill is a true testament to the thunderous power of The American Legion. This bill was passed faster than most coin bills. We broke and established a new record for cosponsors, and in the end, I look forward to carrying that coin in my pocket.

As a quick reminder, this Congress has been particularly active, as we have been instrumental in creating and passing appeals modernization, VA accountability, the Harry W. Colmery GI Bill, and Choice Extension, and others. That said, none of this is even slightly possible without the help of our Legionnaires. The absolute core of our power resonates not in the work ethic of the national staff, but with the fine men and women who love this organization, engage their elected officials, and make them hear the loud voice of The American Legion.

Lastly, I ask you to contact your members of Congress more, encourage those in your state to engage them, your neighbors, friends, family, everyone. If you need contact information or advice on how to engage the representatives, please feel free to contact me or our Legislative Division in Washington.

Commander Rohan, members of the NEC, on behalf of the Legislative Commission, I'd like to thank you for your outstanding leadership and entrusting me with the leadership of this commission. It's been my privilege and honor to serve The American Legion as your chairman. Commander, this concludes my report. Thank you.

Report: Legislative Commission
James W. Oxford, North Carolina, Chairman

The National Legislative Commission did not meet during this time.

Attached to this report is Addendum I listing resolutions with Legislative Intent that were approved at this NEC and National Convention. The American Legion's legislative program is in accordance with Rule 8-b of the Rules of the National Executive Committee.

The remainder of this report provides a summary of congressional actions since the National Convention on issues of particular concern to The American Legion.

115th Congress, First Session

The fiscal year (FY) 2018 appropriations process has once more ground to a halt. On September 8, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 601, a measure amended and passed by the Senate with three main components:

$15.25 billion in disaster relief aid to areas of the country devastated by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma;

- A temporary increase in the national debt limit; and,
- A continuing resolution for funding the federal government – at FY 2017 levels – until December 8, 2017. This would give both congressional chambers additional time to develop final funding for FY 2018, which began on October 1.

This measure was enacted by President Trump on September 8 as **Public Law (PL) 115-56**.

Internal Affairs

The Legislative Division focused much of the past few months gathering support and co-sponsors for HR 2519 and S 1182, The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, which were introduced on May 18. These bills would require the U.S. Mint to produce a centennial coin in celebration of The American Legion turning 100 and proudly representing and supporting millions of veterans.

The Senate version – S 1182, sponsored by Sen. Todd Young (IN) – was introduced with 28 co-sponsors and currently has 75. The Senate measure passed that chamber on August 3 by a voice vote. The House bill – HR 2519, sponsored by Rep. Tim Walz (MN) – was introduced with 102 co-sponsors and currently has 385. On September 25, HR 2519 passed the House by a voice vote. On September 27, the Senate approved H.R. 2519 by unanimous consent. President Trump signed the measure into law on October 6.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

On August 12, the President enacted **PL 115-46**, the *VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017*. This legislation – a compromise created and supported by both sides of the aisle – will provide $2.1 billion to the Veterans Choice Program, which allows veterans to seek health care outside of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) if the needed care is not available through VA. It will also invest $1.8 billion into hiring more health-care providers (VA currently has about 49,000 vacancies) and authorizes leases for 28 new VA clinics, many of which are badly needed for local care in rural areas.

Without congressional action, the Choice program was expected to run out of money by mid-August, which VA leaders said would have led to layoffs and interrupted medical care for thousands of veterans.

A second measure, **PL 115-55**, the *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017*, was signed into law by the President on August 23 at The American Legion's 99th National Convention in Reno, NV. The new law creates three "lanes" for veterans' appeals, including: a) the "Local Higher Level Review Lane" in which an adjudicator reviews the same evidence considered by the original claims processor; b) the "New Evidence Lane," in which the veteran could submit new evidence for review and have a hearing; and, c) the "Board Lane," in which jurisdiction for the appeal would transfer immediately to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

PL 115-55 was cosponsored by every member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and passed the House 418-0 on May 23. The Senate amended and passed the measure on August 1. The Senate's substitute amendment clarifies that in certain circumstances VA must correct duty to assist errors unless VA can grant the maximum benefit; provides for a limited duty to assist in connection to a supplement claim when veterans identify additional evidence needed to decide a claim; clarifies the difference between an "issue" and "claim"; and, includes some changes to the reports and reporting requirements included in the House version.

Both the House and the Senate this week approved legislation, **HR 3819**, the *Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017*, to extend VA authorities in a number of areas. The House approved the measure on September 25 by a voice vote. On September 27 the Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent, clearing H.R. 3819 for the White House. President Trump signed the measure on September 29, as **PL 115-62.**

Among the provisions is a five-month extension of the assisted living pilot program for veterans with traumatic brain injuries. This will enable the VA to transition currently participating veterans into other existing programs for ongoing support and rehabilitation. The bill also extends caregiver support payments, a pilot program for newly separated

women veterans to receive counseling in retreat settings, and a temporary increase in payments for travel to Vet Centers. The legislation extends several other healthcare-related provisions, such as collection of copayments and recovery from third parties for care provided in some instances for non-service connected care.

Authorities in both benefits and homeless veteran programs were also extended. The measure also included some technical corrections to the recently-enacted "Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017" (**PL 115-48**) which were requested by the Trump Administration.

Veterans Employment & Education

President Trump on August 16 enacted **PL 115-48**, the *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017* – familiarly known as the "Forever GI Bill" – would make significant changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. These changes include:

- Eliminating a requirement that veterans use their benefits within 15 years of leaving active-duty service;
- Expanding benefits for reservists, Purple Heart recipients and surviving dependents;
- Retroactively restoring benefits to veterans affected by school closures, and;
- Providing additional funds to GI Bill users pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and math.

Many of the provisions of this law do not go into effect until next year, with others becoming effective in 2-4 years. This legislation received expedited action; it was introduced on July 13, approved by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on July 19, and received final House approval on July 24 by a vote of 405-0. The bill then went to the Senate, where it was passed by unanimous consent five days later.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission's Report to the National Executive Committee.

Addendum I

In compliance with Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, the following resolutions with legislative intent are submitted for approval of the National Executive Committee.

The following resolutions with legislative reference were passed at the Fall NEC Meetings, October 11-12, 2017. This list of resolutions will constitute part of The American Legion's legislative program through the 115th Congress.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 9 Award Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II

Res. No. 11 National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for Honorably Discharged Veterans

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Res. No. 12 Department of Veterans Affairs Drug Pricing Policy

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 19 Expanding Employment Services to Non-Service Connected Disabled Veterans

Res. No. 20 Support of An Acting Operator for Deployed Servicemember's Small Business

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 99th NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 22, 23, 24, 2017

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 88 National Veterans Memorial and Museum

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 17 Counter Transnational Organized Crime
Res. No. 19 Homeland Security and the Opioid Epidemic
Res. No. 20 National Cybersecurity Strategy
Res. No. 21 National Defense Budget
Res. No. 22 POW/MIA Policies
Res. No. 23 Prohibition on Wrongful Broadcast or Distribution of Intimate Visual Images
Res. No. 40 USS Liberty
Res. No. 70 Medal of Honor for E. Royce Williams

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Res. No. 3 WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility
Res. No. 8 Expand the Presumptive Period for Veterans Who served in South Korea
Res. No. 13 Improve VA Communication with Service Officers
Res. No. 14 Extend Allotted Time for Claims Review by Service Officers
Res. No. 16 Department of Veterans Affairs Automobile Allowance Program
Res. No. 28 Permit VA Providers to Discuss the use of Medical Marijuana in those States that have Legalized Marijuana
Res. No. 41 Radiation-Exposed Veterans
Res. No. 47 Research into Hearing Loss Due to Loud or Constant Noise Exposure in the Military
Res. No. 74 Air Carrier Access
Res. No. 75 Department of Veterans Affairs Rural Health Care Program
Res. No. 76 Veterans Emergency Room or Urgent Care Facility Relief

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 26 Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development and Veterans Business Outreach Centers
Res. No. 78 Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole
Res. No. 81 Military Spouse Employment
Res. No. 82 Preserve Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Protections
Res. No. 83 Protect Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Fair Consumer Arbitration
Res. No. 84 Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
Res. No. 85 Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservists Returning from Deployment

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED IN THE SPRING MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 8-9, 2017

FINANCE

Res. No. 3 100th Anniversary Commemorative American Legion Coin

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 16 National Global War On Terrorism Memorial

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Res. No. 23 Department of Veterans Affairs Provide Mental Health Services for Veterans with other than Honorable and General Discharges
Res. No. 25 Department of Veterans Affairs Maintained Medical and Dental School
Res. No. 26 Compliance With Public Law 114-31 Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015
Res. No. 27 Amend Title 38, United States Code, To Clarify The Treatment of A Veteran as Adjudicated Mentally Incompetent for Certain Purposes
Res. No. 29 Department of Veterans Affairs Establish An Opioid Treatment Program to include An Opioid Detox Unit at every VA Medical Center

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 20 GI Bill Fairness for Wounded Servicemembers and Activated National Guard and Reservists
Res. No. 21 Support State and National Funding for Troops to Teachers Program

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE FALL MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 12-13, 2016

AMERICANISM

Res. No. 19 Flag Code Amendment

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 9 Transfer Custodianship of Pershing Hall Building and Artifacts to the American Battle Monuments Commission
Res. No. 11 Support and Defend Veteran and Military Memorials

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Res. No. 22 Surviving Families Benefits
Res. No. 23 Add Agent Orange Component to Code of Federal Regulations 4.16
Res. No. 24 Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 20 Oppose Efforts to Downgrade Low-Level Wage Positions within the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No. 21 Education Benefit Forgiveness and Relief for Displaced Student-Veterans

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 98TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI, OHIO AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

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
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 AND 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
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
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 of 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 Health 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
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
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
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
Res. No.	149	Support "Buy American" Policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs to Create Jobs and Opportunities for Veterans
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

Res. No.	307	Support Legislation to Amend Title 38 United States Code, to Prohibit Discrimination and Acts of Reprisal by Employers against Veterans that Seek Treatment for Their Service-Connected Disabilities
Res. No.	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
Res. No.	317	Enforcing Veterans' Preference Hiring Practices in Federal Civil Service
Res. No.	318	Ensuring the Quality of Servicemember and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education
Res. No.	319	Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within The Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No.	320	Support for Expansion of Oil Refineries
Res. No.	321	Support Extended Time for Mortgage Payments for Servicemembers
Res. No.	322	Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active –Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel
Res. No.	324	Support Funding for Homeless Veterans
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
Res. No.	329	Support Home Loan Guaranty Program
Res. No.	330	Homeless Veterans Assistance
Res. No.	331	Support Housing Preference for Low-Income Veterans in The Department of Housing and Urban Development
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
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
Res. No.	347	Veterans Education Debt Forgiveness
Res. No.	348	Support Legislation that Bolsters the Hiring of Veterans in the Public and Private Sectors
Res. No.	349	Support Legislation to improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill
Res. No.	351	Support Tax Credit for certain Employers
Res. No.	352	Transitional Housing Allotments for returning Combat Veterans
Res. No.	353	Support a Veteran-Centric Website for Employment
Res. No.	354	Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program
Res. No.	355	Veterans Employment Initiative
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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission with the exception of Addendum I. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive the report of the Legislative Commission with exception of Addendum I. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, attached to the Legislative Commission report is Addendum I. I move the actions of the Legislative Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to accept Addendum I. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried. I'd now like to recognize the NEC from Texas, Butch Sparks.

NEC MEMBER SPARKS (TX): Good morning. Why am I here? You know why I'm in front of you this morning? Have you ever heard of Harvey? Have you ever heard of Irma? Have you ever heard of Maria? Mother Nature, in the last month or so, has played havoc on our country and Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and others.

You know, when a storm hits, everybody gets in a panic mode, what we do and whatever. But in the last month or so in Texas, I have seen something that I had never witnessed before. You know, when you get involved in a hurricane, you wonder where help is going to come from.

You know, we look up after Hurricane Harvey hit us with up to 60 inches of rain, up to 140-mile-an-hour winds, covering an area about 385 miles from Louisiana to Corpus Christi and 30 and 40 miles inland. Everybody was wondering, where are we going to get food? Where are we going to get this, and where are we going to get clothing, and whatever?

All of a sudden, on the fifth day after the hurricane, all these tractor-trailers showed up, tractors and trailers from all over the country. Were they from FEMA? No. Were they from the Red Cross? No. Where did these tractors and trailers, all those supplies come from? The American Legion Family. Everywhere from New York, Pennsylvania, I could go on and on and on.

You know what? We help people, we, The American Legion, help people that most likely would not have gotten any help at all. When you see a four-year-old kid with no clothes or a four-year-old kid with no shoes and you give him something, you give him something to eat or give her something to eat or get clothes or a blanket to keep them warm, it makes you feel very honored and good to be a member of The American Legion.

On behalf of the thousands and thousands of people that all of you from all over this country sent supplies and money to help the people who were devastated by Hurricane Harvey, let me give you a little example of what Hurricane Harvey did to Texas.

It came onshore near north of Corpus Christi with 145 mile-an-hour winds. It came onshore and went up to a town called Victoria and it stopped. Most hurricanes come in and leave; Hurricane Harvey came in over Victoria and sat there for a day and a half. Then it decided it wasn't finished with Texas yet, so it went back into the Gulf of Mexico, then came ashore again. Then it dumped rain and more rain.

In the local area of Houston, Texas, there's over 100,000 homes gone. Can you imagine that? 100,000 homes gone. For lack of a lot of other things, big cities like Houston, New York, get all the news and whatever. But there's a lot of smaller communities surrounding south, east, north, and west of Houston that are gone, that are basically devastated.

But on behalf of all those people, I want you to go back to your departments and tell them "Thank you, thank you, thank you for what you do to make sure The American Legion Family comes first." Thank you, commander. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Commander Comer?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, I rise to ask that we reconsider Resolution No. 4 as it relates to the Sons of The American Legion reserve fund. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that we reconsider Resolution No. 4 in regard to the Sons of The American Legion reserve fund. Are there any questions about reconsidering Resolution No. 4? All those in favor of reconsidering, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Commander Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Commander, we constantly refer to the Sons of The American Legion as a program of The American Legion. In the first "Resolved" clause, in terms of the excess of $750,000 to go to charitable endeavors from The American Legion, and it says, the last sentence, "With the consent of the Sons of The American Legion." If the Sons of The American Legion should not consent, then we can't give the money to a various charity. It's our program, it's our money. So I would ask that the Resolution No. 4 be passed and amended with the striking of "with the consent of the Sons of The American Legion." ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded in Resolution No. 4, in the first "Resolved" clause at the very end, to strike "with the consent of the Sons of The American Legion." Are there any questions? Commander Brieden?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: I just comment. With all due respect, I agree with the fact that the Sons of The American Legion is a program. When they raise money, when they say, "We have this amount of money set aside for our emergencies" or whatever, you know, it's money they raised.

I know that there was an event a few years ago here, where we decided we didn't like where they were giving money and so, therefore, we were going to put it somewhere else. We discussed that on the floor and, in fact, reconsidered and decided that maybe we ought to give it for what they raised it for.

I definitely feel the same way here. This is a resolution that in the past has said they can accumulate no more than $500,000 reserve. All that's changed is we're changing that to $750,000 instead, because times have changed and they made need a little more reserve. But if money they raised and you say, "You get a cap and therefore we're not going to let

you hold any more than that, it has to go to a charitable thing," it should go to what they raised the money or what they want the money to go to. I don't like the idea that we tell them, "We want you to be part of the family. Oh, by the way, you'll do what the hell we tell you."

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS: If the people that we work with are opposed to this in the department versus the detachments, we control those funds, they raise them in the name of The American Legion. We should maintain the opportunity to direct those funds where we feel necessary. Because if we allow that squadron to direct those funds without consent of the post and they can do it on their own anyway, I think we're setting a bad precedent. So I rise and agree with Past National Commander Comer.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Any other discussion on this? The motion on the floor is regarding Resolution No. 4, the first "Resolved" clause, the last sentence, to strike "with the consent of the Sons of The American Legion." All those in favor of striking that part, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. The ayes have it, motion carried. I now call on Chairman Robert Newman from Indiana for the report of the Internal Affairs Commission.

Oral Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman

Thank you very much, Commander Rohan. Members of the National Executive Committee, my fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen. You have a detailed report of our actions and deliberations. I draw your attention to the great work that the Sons of The American Legion, the Legion Riders, and the 100th Anniversary Committee are doing, and I commend every department for supporting these great programs. Past National Commander Rehbein's very detailed report on the 100th Anniversary is attached to my written report. He's done a great job.

Our NEF is in good shape. We currently have over $4.3 million available in the trust fund to help our members and families impacted by the recent hurricanes. We still have families struggling after they returned to their homes. The people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are facing a long recovery period. Because of the devastating impact of the four recent hurricanes, many in our Legion Family are still not settled so that their lives can return to normal. Therefore, for these four hurricanes, the 90-day processing period is waived; so as the families return, they can assess the impact on their lives and have time to collect and submit the necessary documentation for out-of-pocket expenses while displaced from their homes. Also, there are many who may not know of the National Emergency Fund. We need to get the word out to our Legion Family and assist them in their time of need.

From the recent visits of the national vice commanders and the national staff members to the foreign departments, we discovered some interesting occurrences. For example, local foreign businesses are referring veterans to the post because of the work being done to serve the local communities in support of neighborhood outreach centers in very depressed sections of the cities. Also, the posts are sponsoring and managing orphanages and, in one case, a school. Are these core programs of The American Legion? No, but these Legionnaires wanted to make a difference in their community they reside in.

Another example, a post was instrumental in establishing a fire station in the local community to include obtaining excess salvageable fire equipment from stateside fire stations. One last example: Our veterans living overseas experience a difficult time getting medical care and needed prescriptions. In one community, a post service officer created a relationship with local physicians where they accept and have been approved for TRICARE and VA benefits.

Bottom line, the posts and veterans in the foreign departments are providing a needed service to their communities in which they reside. Common in all visits was the need for training, not only in the core programs of The American Legion, but in such essential tools as myLegion.org. The training is just not being done for the new members and those going into leadership positions. In summary, will they ever be as large as the stateside posts? Probably not. But the potential for membership still exists and they are performing a service to their communities. The need for training is essential for them to continue to function as a post and uphold The American Legion's basic principles in an isolated area. The training program development proposed and being worked on by Internal Affairs would be exactly what the foreign departments need to assist the remote posts.

In regards to the recommended rejection of Resolution No. 42 from the Department of Washington on free admission to national parks for veterans, the commission felt that Congress would not support a free pass. Therefore, a compromised solution was developed to ask for $20 annual pass for honorably discharged veterans. This is in line with the recent national park pass increase for senior passes. It is our opinion that this stands a better chance of being accepted by both the National Park Service and Congress.

Commander, at this point I ask for permission for Past National Commander Rehbein to briefly address the National Executive Committee on the 100th Anniversary and expand on his written report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Commander Rehbein.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Thank you, commander. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have our written report in front of you. I simply want to hit a few highlights out of that report. Before I do that, the chairman talked about what a great job I've done. That great job is only because of the foundation that was laid by my predecessor as chairman, Bob Spanogle, past national commander, and the outstanding work of the staff that has spent their time working on the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion.

I want to talk to you for just a minute this morning about some things that have been developed here that, while they were developed for the 100th Anniversary, will go on to serve as tools of this organization, to make this organization better down the road.

We operated under the theme of Legacy & Vision. As part of that legacy theme, we developed a website where posts could go online and post their history. That will continue to serve us down the road. We have 2,600 posts that have posted history on that website. That website right now is internal, aimed at us. It will be turned around and become a public-facing website for those posts to tell their history to their local communities and help educate their local communities on what the legacy of that American Legion post is. It has also served, for many of our posts, mine included, to relearn pieces of our history that had been forgotten. And so as we make those electronic records of those histories, we are less apt to forget the bits and pieces and important parts of our history that have made up our legacy.

Another tool that the departments will be able to use is what's called "Every Department Has a Story." It's a placemat-sized paper on both sides that is a summary of the history and the legacy of that department, the important parts that have been pulled out. Yes, once you print one, it seems to end right there. But that electronic record will be available to the department to update as they go down the road. So that's a tool that the departments can use to build pride in their posts and their Legionnaires in their state as to what The American Legion has accomplished in that state. So these are the kinds of things we're developing for the centennial, but we don't want them to go away once we get to 101 years. We want to use them to continue to tell the story of The American Legion.

There is a third one that I want to mention specifically. Thanks to a grant from Legion Charities, there is now a traveling exhibit that The American Legion owns, to tell the story of the GI Bill: where it came from, how it was originally passed, how it's been improved over the years, where it stands right now, and The American Legion's primary role in all

of those things happening. It's at the World War II Museum in New Orleans right now, it will be there into December; that was a six-month tour. We opened it with a moderated panel talking about the GI Bill and The American Legion's role, but also The American Legion's role in the Forever GI Bill, because we had one young man from Student Veterans of America as part of that panel.

It will go from the World War II Museum to the Student Veterans of America National Convention and be there throughout their convention for their delegates, who we very much want to be members of our organization, to see the role that we played in the benefit that they now enjoy. From there it will go to Patriotic Hall in L.A. for a three-month run there in Patriotic Hall, which gets a lot of veteran traffic because there are many veteran services there, but it's also a tourism center in Los Angeles.

We will put it at the Minneapolis National Convention, you will see it there. We hope to put it in the World War I Museum with the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City to highlight the role that The American Legion played in creating that Liberty Memorial. Like I said, that's all due to a grant from Legion Charities. That's our property; we own it. From now on, we can put that wherever we can get agreement for that to go. That's a tool that will continue to tell the story of The American Legion, that we developed during our centennial.

Last thing, and actually, there's one more, the memorials database that's being created right now. We fought the problems around veterans memorials and crosses for a long time, but we never knew just how many memorials were out there. Thanks to the work of Jeff Stoffer and his people, we now have a database of memorials and we're seeing ten to a dozen memorials a week added into that database. Well over a thousand memorials now, and it will continue to grow.

We're seeing a number of our posts that applied to the Pritzker Museum & Library for their matching grant money to help restore memorials. Fifty of those grants have been awarded; approximately half of them had an American Legion post involved.

The last thing we're asking departments and posts to do, we did this with one of our founders in Reno, we visited the grave of Tom Miller, vice chairman of the Paris caucus, department commander and NEC from Delaware, department commander and NEC from Nevada. We all have a founding commander, whether it be of our post, of our department. We need to find those graves, we need to honor those individuals.

All of us that served as commander had a model ahead of us, somebody who served ahead of us that showed us the way. They did not. They had to be commander based out of their vision, and that vision that they provided us deserves to be honored as part of our centennial. So find your founding department commander, find that grave. Find that grave of your founding post commander. We have posts that have already done that, departments that have already done that. Take that home and let's make that a way to honor the posts not just that were founded under that founding commander, but the next year, there was a second department commander and posts were founded under that commander's leadership. Let's make that a way that we can continue to honor the founders once the centennial is past.

We thank you for all the support you've given to the 100th Anniversary. We look forward to a great convention in Minneapolis, we look forward to a great convention in Indianapolis, and we look forward to the next century of The American Legion. Thank you, chairman. *(Applause)*

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: Thank you, Past National Commander Rehbein, for your remarks and the great job you and your committee are doing for the departments to prepare us for the 100th Anniversary.

Commander, I submit my report and our resolutions for the action of the National Executive Committee with my deepest respect and appreciation for the support and encouragement we enjoy from this body. Thank you.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman
October 9-10, 2017

Chairman Robert E. Newman, Indiana called the Internal Affairs Commission to order at 9:00 a.m., October 9, and at 8:30 a.m., October 10, in 314A, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. We had thirteen members present and several guests.

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

I. Standing Committee Reports

Membership and Post Activities Committee
Randy Goodman, Georgia, Chairman

The Internal Affairs Commission was updated on the 2018 Membership Year. A detailed update is provided in Chairman Goodman's Membership and Post Activities Report to the National Executive Committee.

We are entering the fifth year of The American Legion Strategic Plan. The plan is good but to perform at full potential it requires leaders and members, at all levels, to execute the tasks. The strategic plan and its implementation will be the main topic of discussion at the January 2018 planning session.

The online renewal program continues to perform well. The 2017 campaign resulted in 245,824 members renewing online, an increase of 33,263 members over 2016. To date, 143,612 members have renewed online for 2018. We expect these totals to continue to increase every year.

There are 21 district revitalizations planned October - December 2017. Several of the departments continue to deliver the program successfully without the support of National staff. The program does more than just transfer members, it also signs new members up and provides great membership training.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee
Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan, Illinois, Chairman

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana at 8:30 A.M. on October 9, 2017. Present were Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan (IL), Chairman and Charles G. Mills, Esq. (NY), Vice Chairman. The Chairman noted there were no resolutions before the Committee.

American Legion Riders Advisory Committee
Robert B. Sussan (VA), Chairman

Changes made to the qualification criteria of the Legacy Scholarship Fund proved to be effectual as the number of recipients this past year increased dramatically and we were able to award an amount just under $700,000.

2017 Legacy Run: A few changes made this year which proved to be very efficient and widely accepted. Lunches were optional but suggested and if selected were paid with registration. Gas was required and paid with registration.

Legacy Run Financials: Donations received for Legacy Fund during National Commander Schmidt's year (actual dates: 10/1/2016 - 9/30/2017): $1,270,830

Legacy Run + Onstage Collections at National Convention: $931,733

Legacy Fund balance as of 8/31/17: $13,121,849

A concern was raised about future plans to acknowledge donations in excess of $500. Internal Affairs will work with the committee to find a resolution. A committee member questioned the scholarship amount and new criteria. The following explanation was

provided: Needs based scholarship – Awards up to $20,000 (arbitrary amount currently set.) Children of 50% or higher disability rating are eligible after the primary class of recipients (children of the fallen) are provided for. Awards can be for six years and cover trade schools, colleges, university, and graduate study.

American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee
PNC David K. Rehbein, Iowa, Chairman

PNC Rehbein updated the commission on the work of the committee. The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee continues to follow its five-year strategic plan toward August 2018 when the centennial window officially opens. The celebration period extends through to Nov. 11, 2019. As such, the committee and support staff are now focused primarily on projects, programs and promotions already planned and under way. The over-arching goal is to use the centennial as an opportunity to celebrate The American Legion's legacy and vision and, in so doing, build membership, brand awareness, corporate relationships and appreciation for the organization's identity, a century in the making.

The committee met Oct. 7-8, 2017, at the Sheraton in Indianapolis. Topics included:

Organizational:

- Every department and thousands of posts now have centennial committees and chairpersons, as reflected by over 2,600 posts profiles launched on the centennial website at legion.org/centennial, along with over 10,000 subscribers of the monthly centennial e-newsletter, and personal correspondences with centennial volunteers across the country and beyond.
- Centennial workshops at the national convention are extremely well-attended and lively in recent years. Some departments have invited staff to mid-winter and summer conventions to discuss the anniversary and ways to commemorate it at the state and local levels. These events are helpful in the delivery of centennial promotional materials, such as media toolkits.
- The 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee, chaired by Theodore Roosevelt IV, will not meet in early 2018 in order to preserve funds for honorary committee attendance and participation at the 100th American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis. Honorary committee member, Diane Carlson Evans, will receive the Patriot Award at the Washington Conference in February.

Post and Department Activities:

- American Legion Media & Communications Division staff have worked with the national commander to develop promotional materials elevating the centennial message around her Family First Veterans Day Dinner. Sample press releases and media guidance encourage posts to use Veterans Day 2017 to launch centennial awareness in local communities.
- The Memorials Database, a key feature of the forthcoming new centennial website, now has nearly 1,400 submissions from 54 states or countries.
- Certificates to acknowledge centennial posts – those chartered for 100 years or more – are in development to be distributed in 2018 and 2019.
- The Every Department Has a Story program continues to grow and so far consists of: Alaska, Wyoming, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, South Dakota, Connecticut, Indiana, Colorado and Washington with many more in process. Each of these placemats is a separate downloadable centennial media piece, and it contributes to a growing national chronology of The American Legion for the forthcoming centennial website.

- Media & Communications staff members are at work developing a multi-element wall display for post presentation including such features as the four pillars. From their origins to their continuing activities and vision going forward; "Voices of Values" from founders and other prominent members, past and present; wall chronologies of important events and accomplishments in American Legion history; displays to show the establishment dates of key programs and reasons they were created; to name a few. Staff members are working with the Detroit-based Fathead Co., Emblem Sales and the National Judge Advocate to establish a licensee agreement/relationship on the wall displays, with a percentage of sales revenue back to National Headquarters.

Media & Communications:

- The Media & Communications Division is now working to add a public-facing landing page – "Legacy and Vision" to tell the organization's story and historical identity in chronologies, words, daily push notifications, graphics, videos, links and more. The division is also reconfiguring the existing centennial workshop website, which has been highly successful, as a resource for post historians and centennial committees.
- The November 2018 issue of The American Legion Magazine is expected to be more than double the size of a regular issue, dedicated to the centennial, and kicking off a 12-month series on the history of the organization.
- A script is now in development for a new American Legion history video, scheduled for completion in time for the 2018 National Convention, which will be used on the new centennial website and in the new Basic Training education module.
- A national centennial media kit – topic by topic – has been outlined for presentation to national media outlets during the centennial.

Museum Outreach

- The centennial program received a $100,000 American Legion Charities grant during the Spring 2017 meetings in Indianapolis. These funds were used to complete the "Greatest Legislation" exhibit at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans in such a way as to make it a traveling exhibit. It is now scheduled to be on display in San Antonio Jan. 4-6 and in Los Angeles Jan. 18 – March 31, 2018. Additional locations in negotiation include Kansas City, Minneapolis and New York.

Coins, Medallions and Other Merchandise

- With passage of legislation authorizing an American Legion centennial coin by the U.S. Mint, work is now under way to identify the next steps to promote and ensure strong sales. This effort is led by the Marketing Commission with promotions by Media & Communications and the Centennial team.
- Emblem Sales plans to begin taking orders for a high-quality silver medallion commemorating the centennial to begin in March 2018 with fulfillment no later than December 2018.
- Emblem Sales reports nearly $150,000 in centennial merchandise sales so far, with polo shirts leading the way. As more merchandise rolls out, the Media & Communications Division will promote heavily.

- In addition to those sales, Emblem Sales reports having sold 3,592 copies of the second edition of "Indivisible: The Story of Our Flag" through late September. Coupled with the sales from the first edition, more than 25,000 copies have now been purchased.

National WWI Centennial

- The 100th Anniversary Observance Committee, Media & Communications and Internal Affairs Commissions continue to work closely with the United States WWI Centennial Commission, which includes as a member American Legion representative Jack Monahan of Connecticut. Among the efforts to collaborate include promotion and involvement with the 100 Cities/100 Memorials grant project with Pritzker Military Library and Museum, which recently released the first 50 recipients, a large percentage of whom were American Legion posts; ongoing editorial support in print and digital media of the WWI centennial; and other forms of media sharing to get the Legion story into WWI Centennial media channels.
- The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee has reviewed and offers to the Internal Affairs Commission its recommendation on a resolution of financial support for the construction of the World War One Memorial at Pershing Park. It is hereby advanced to the Internal Affairs Commission.
- Also on the World War I centennial front, several Legionnaires, including Mr. Monahan, took time at the 99th National Convention to care for the grave of Thomas W. Miller, a Legion founder who is laid to rest in Reno, NV. The 100th anniversary committee plans to launch a campaign in 2018 and 2019 to encourage posts to find the graves of their founders and ensure that they are properly maintained, decorated and, where appropriate, conduct ceremonies inviting the public and media.

Special Events

- The 100th Anniversary Observance Committee is working closely with the Department of Minnesota Convention Corporation, Department Headquarters, the national Convention and Meetings Division and others to strategize a first-class 100th Anniversary National Convention in Minneapolis in August 2018. Among the features in development are:
  - Military vehicles and vintage aircraft involvement
  - War-era re-enactors
  - Special speakers and entertainers
  - A vintage quilt show
  - Historical film debut
- American Legion Riders National Chairman Bob Sussan is working with the 100th Anniversary Committee to promote early the 2018 Legacy Run to include new centennial-themed features. A similar approach will be strategized for the 2019 Legacy Run. The committee heard a report on those plans during the Oct. 7-8 meeting.
- Plans are also in process to thematically promote the 2019 National Convention around "vision" while the 2018 National Convention will be more about "legacy." Plans are also in development by the Department of Missouri to recognize the 100th anniversary of the St. Louis Caucus in May 2019.

Also on the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee agenda:

- The committee is working with the Marketing Commission team to find opportunities to collaborate on activities like National Poppy Day 2018, corporate relationships, centennial travel programs in Europe and a 2019 Tournament of Roses Parade float in Pasadena, Calif.
- The committee is working with the Legislative Division to set up milestones to request congressional and/or White House recognition of the Legion's 100th anniversary.
- Membership promotions also will be developed around the centennial theme, specifically leading candidate for National Commander Brett Reistad's "Team 100" vision.

Conclusion

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee extends its deepest gratitude to all the posts, counties, districts and departments took this opportunity and plans to celebrate the organization's Legacy and Vision. National workshops and department conferences have shown that the Legion is truly buzzing about the centennial, from pillar to post, across the country and around the world, which was the original intent of forming this committee.

Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee
George V. West, New Hampshire, Chairman

The Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee of the Internal Affairs Commission met at 9:57 a.m. on October 9, 2017. Members present were George V. West (NH), Chairman, Larry D. Sheets (FL), James F. Army (MA), Herbert W. Odell (TX), Don Hayden (MN); Michael K. Seaton (CA), Consultant; and Paul M. Brown (CA), Headquarters Staff.

There were five resolutions brought forward to the sub-committee that require action from the Internal Affairs Commission and the National Executive Committee of The American Legion. They are listed along with their recommendations on Addendum B (attached). Motions were made and duly seconded by the SAL Sub-Committee recommendation on all of the resolutions requiring action of the Internal Affairs Commission.

The Internal Affairs Commission approved the resolution actions taken by the Sub-Committee on both Convention and NEC resolutions.

The Sub-Committee discussed the recent establishment of the Past Commanders Panel to increase the voice and input of the program on decisions overseen by the Internal Affairs Commission such as appointments to the Committee on Committees and Commander's Advisory Committee as well as to serve as mentors in the development of committee members and potential candidates for National Commander. SAL PNC Michael Seaton (CA), SAL Consultant to the Internal Affairs Commission, agreed this panel would provide a much desired opportunity for the past national commanders to provide input to the Internal Affairs Commission.

American Legion Training Sub-Committee
Alton R. Ford, Michigan, Chairman

The Training Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Alton R. Ford (MI) at 9:45 a.m. on Monday, October 9, 2017, at National Headquarters, Conference Room 311. Additional members present were James Bojanowski (NY), Timothy J. Collmer (NY), Richard Sullivan (SC), Carl Swisher (OH), and Jim Van Horn (AK).

The subcommittee first received a report from national staff regarding the national program training initiatives underway. The American Legion Extension Institute, a training module in existence since the 1950's, is being re-branded as "Basic Training" under the

expanded American Legion Education Institute. All on-line courses will be made available without charge to members of The American Legion family. Further training courses will include P.R.I.M.E. training modules as advanced material instruction on post operations following the initial "Basic Training." Online YouTube video training, District training, Department Legion College training, and a new training newsletter were other training initiatives presented.

The committee supports the new training initiatives and recommends strongly that national staff obtain input from the committee, commission, and the department adjutants and department American Legion Colleges. The committee requested and received the new Training Newsletters being published by the Internal Affairs Division, and will be kept informed of progress and the timeline of each of the new training initiatives.

The recommendation of the Sub-committee was approved by the Internal Affairs Commission.

II. Program Reports

Sons of The American Legion (SAL)

The past year the Sons of The American Legion strengthened our commitment to the Legion Family and achieved positive gains in all areas.

As of October 5, 2017 we have a total reported membership of 367,260 members for 2017. We are currently at 61,834 members for 2018, which is 15.46% of our goal of 400,000 for 2018.

The S.A.L. was the single largest contributor to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in 2017 raising $594,414. At the National Executive Committee Fall meeting this past weekend over $17,967 was donated to the Foundation. This gives us a total to date of over $76,074, which is 18% of our goal. In addition to the CWF donations, the Sons of The American Legion also presented $28,603 for NEF, $670 for the Legion's Endowment Fund, $1,376 to Operation Comfort Warriors and $250 to TFA.

The Sons of The American Legion continues to support The American Legion in all aspects. Our dedication to the veterans and their families only strengthens our bond with the Legion Family. We will continue to insure productive, in-depth programs so the Sons of The American Legion will be a strong asset to The American Legion. We held our first ever Commission and Committee Forum at this NEC meeting. Over 120 members attended. It was very well received.

Establishment of a past commanders panel for the Sons of The American Legion program.

The purpose of this panel is to:

A) Nominate appointments to TAL Internal Affairs Commission for openings on Committee on Committees and Commanders Advisory Committee.

B) Function as a mentoring body, on a referral basis, for development of committee members and potential candidates for National Commander or National Vice Commander positions.

C) Other duties as assigned by TAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman.

Panel Structure: (15 members total)

Three Fixed Members – Position held due to being most recent National Commanders
Three most recent Junior Past National Commander's

Twelve Elected Members – Elected by Past National Commanders at Spring Meeting and/or Fall Meeting depending on vacancies

4 Past National Commander's (3 year term ending at Fall NEC)

4 Past National Commander's (2 year initial – replacement is a 3 year term ending at Fall NEC)

4 Past National Commander's (1 year initial – replacement is a 3 year term ending at Fall NEC)

Panel Chairman Role – Will be held by the most senior of the three junior past national commanders holding fixed positions on the panel for one year.

This panel allows for the program to project an experienced voice on those appointments which have the greatest effect on the direction of the program. It will provide for program participant input, while placing the most productive and functioning of the Past National Commanders in a role to mentor and develop the committee/commission members/chairmen and candidates for national office to increase the impact these roles have on the program. The panel size allows for a wide spectrum of input while still producing a product in a timely manner.

American Legion Riders (ALR)

In late September of 2017 the numbers of chapters reported by the posts and reported on the national chapter locator exceeded 2,175 chapters and exist in virtually every department in the United States and worldwide. We estimate 110,000 American Legion Family members now participate in the program.

The American Legion Riders continue to expand local and state fundraising activities and "Legacy Runs", raising public awareness and visibility of the Legacy Scholarship and the critical needs of these children. The Riders seek and obtain donations from posts, units, and squadrons and also from private organizations, businesses, and individuals. Moreover, of the more than $13. 5M raised from all sources from 2002 to 2017, approximately $7M (54 percent) was directly generated by ALR programs. Significantly, a major portion of the ALR donations were the result of a growing number of department organized Legacy Runs.

National American Legion College

Attending this year, we have 55 students from 38 departments. Chancellor PNC David Rehbein (IA) will be continuing the opportunity for each attendee to be challenged by real American Legion issues encountered by our leaders presented in scenarios.

The focus for this year includes:

- New Leadership Scenarios
- New Leadership Module
- How to run successful meetings
- How to effectively write resolutions
- How to implement a department level American Legion College
- Leadership style assessment (DISC) and development
- American Legion Q&A with National Commander

National Emergency Fund

Since its creation in 1989, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has awarded nearly $9,000,000 to American Legion family members and American Legion posts.

As of September 28, 2017, we have distributed over $116,500 in grants, primarily as a result of tornados in Illinois, Tennessee, and Georgia as well as hurricanes Matthew (South Carolina), Harvey (Texas and Louisiana), and Irma (Florida and South Carolina). We are expecting requests for Hurricane Maria from our members in the Caribbean (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and most recently, Hurricane Nate.

Summary:

January through August:	56 grants	$51,120.00
Hurricane Harvey:	72 grants	$42,355.00
Hurricane Irma:	56 grants	$23,090.00
Hurricanes Maria & Nate	no grant requests received to date	

In order to fast-track our assistance to members, we set up a temporary toll-free number for members to call for immediate aid from Texas and Florida. Staff contacted each caller within 24 hours and determined an appropriate grant amount (not exceeding $500) in each case. Most of the 128 Harvey/Irma grants awarded were for less than $500—but most of these members later submit the formal NEF forms and supporting documents through their departments for additional relief funds since they have returned to their communities after emergency evacuation orders were lifted.

We anticipate we will continue to receive a high number of grant applications as a result of these four storms for the remainder of 2017 and into 2018. The 90 day requirement for grant submission is waived for Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Currently there is over $5M available for grants.

Leadership, Education And Development Training

Leadership, Education, And Development (LEAD) is a block of training sessions designed to provide professional development for posts, districts and department level members. National staff subject matter experts have developed courses on topics relevant to the operations of The American Legion.

Currently the instructors, lesson plans, handouts and training materials are provided at no expense to departments. Departments are only responsible for identifying and providing the training facility and audio visual equipment. The target audience is open to anyone interested in becoming more involved in The American Legion at the post, district/county and department levels.

The concepts developed and promoted through the LEAD training vehicle will be folded over into the new training vehicles as they get developed and launched over the next few years. The intent is to get this training down to the levels it is needed the most without relying directly on National Headquarters support to provide training facilitators.

Consolidated Post Reports

Each year, American Legion posts around the world donate millions of volunteer hours, raise millions of dollars for the benefit of their community and Legion programs, and positively influence millions of lives.

Year over year the reporting numbers have continued to rise. This year the response rate was 8,880 (68%) – an increase of 94 posts reporting from last year.

The winners of 100% reporting were Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Those department commanders were recognized on stage in Reno with a plaque presented by the National Commander Charles Schmidt.

Departments receiving a certificate recognizing them for 75% or higher reporting were Arkansas, Kentucky, Maryland, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Our National Commander testifies before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs and the information provided in this report is used to prepare the testimony.

Global War on Terrorism Painting for NEC Room

Matt Hall was selected as the artist for the painting and he is a distinguished painter that specializes in "accurately depicting the stories and sacrifices of military veterans."

Being a traditionally trained artist, he draws inspiration from artistic greats like NC Wyeth and Norman Rockwell. He has contracted work from the Metal of Honor Society, Electronic Arts Company, LucasArts and The American Legion.

The Internal Affairs Commission approved both the artist and the artist's concept for the painting. As stated above, the artist has been used in the past for over a dozen pages in The American Legion Magazine and the cover of the Bookazine, a publication covering the American Flag. His web site is: http://www.matthallstudios.com/ From his website: "Matt Hall Studios is dedicated to accurately portraying historically important moments through rich detailed fine art."

The American Legion Media and Communications Division requested approval from the Internal Affairs Commission for the final design of the painting. The design was approved. The delivery of the final painting may be as early as Spring Meetings 2018.

Paid Up for Life

The campaign for new PUFL members this year has a goal of 8,000 conversions. As of 9/27/2017, we have converted 6,626. There are five email campaigns left for this year. We are projecting that we will be close to the 8,000. We are averaging 60 per week and the expectation for late November and December will be higher if history repeats itself. Our largest email campaign will be during that period.

III. Resolutions

Internal Affairs Action on Assigned Resolutions

Approved and Forwarded to the Finance Commission

Resolution No. 3 (The American Legion 100th Anniversary Committee)**: Contribution in Support of the Construction of the World War One Memorial at Pershing Park, Washington, D.C.**
Resolution No. 4 (Internal Affairs)**: Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund**
Resolution No. 5 (Internal Affairs)**: National History Contests Per Diem**

Approved and Forwarded to the Resolutions Subcommittee

Resolution No. 9 (Resolution Nos. 6, 61 & 71; 2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Award Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II**
Resolution No. 10 (Internal Affairs)**: Certification of Service Record of American Legion Officers**
Resolution No. 11 (Internal Affairs)**: National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for Honorably Discharged Veterans**

Other Resolutions

Disposition of all other resolutions is addressed in Addendum A.

Conclusion

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

Addendum A

Hold for Further Study

Resolution No. 4 (MT) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Reexamination of the Paid Up For Life Program**

Rejected

Resolution No. 29 (OH) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**:Definition of Active Duty for Membership Eligibility**
Resolution No. 42 (WA) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Free Admission to National Parks for Honorably Discharged Veterans**
Resolution No. 45 (IL) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Increase National Emergency Fund Relief Amounts**

Received and Recorded

Resolution No. 35 (CO) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Use of Gender Neutral Language in Official Documents**
Registered Resolution No. 2747 (TX) (2017 DEC)**: Endorsement of Thomas P. Skelly for National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion**
Registered Resolution No. 2748 (NM) (2017 DEC)**: Endorsement of Paul Espinoza for National Commander of The American Legion**
Registered Resolution No. 2749 (NM) (2017 DEC)**: Endorsement of James A. Mariner for National Historian of The American Legion**

Referred to Standing Membership Committee

Resolution No. 36 (CO) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Payment of Membership Dues for Multiple Years**

Disposed of Administratively

Resolution No. 60 (NY) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Update Funeral Honors Section of Consolidated Post Report**

ADDENDUM B

Internal Affairs Commission Report to National Executive Committee
The American Legion
October 11-12, 2017

Disposition of Action of Sons of The American Legion

In compliance with Resolution 21 "entitled", "Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees", adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee October 11-12, 2017

Approved

Resolution SAL NEC 1-17	Sons of The American Legion Trophy and Awards Manual and Review Authority
Resolution SAL NEC 3-17	Creation of Triple Nickel Ribbon
Resolution SAL NEC 1-17	Bestow Upon Brian J. O'Hearne the Title of Past National Commander
Resolution SAL NEC 2-F17	Re-Alignment of National Update and Website/Social Media Tools

Received and Recorded

Resolution SAL NEC 1-F17 Endorsement of Peter J. Sierminski, Colorado, for National Vice Commander

No.: SAL Res 1 – Pre-Convention NEC 2017
Title: Sons of The American Legion Trophy and Awards Manual and Review Authority
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

***WHEREAS*,** The Sons of The American Legion program has demonstrated a need to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our detachments, squadrons, and individual members, and

***WHEREAS*,** an outlined procedure and process to maintain the integrity and uniformity of these awards does not currently exist in practice, and

***WHEREAS*,** The Sons of The American Legion general membership funds should be used in a manner which honors the intent of the principles of the program while adequately honoring the service and productivity of our members, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a Trophies, Awards and Ceremonial Manual that outlines the procedures for approving trophies/awards offered in the name of the national organization which includes the award description, who presents, approval authority, how and where awarded, conditions for the award and a historical listing of all recipients for each approved award and trophy, and

WHEREAS, this manual is updated yearly by the Internal Affairs Commission who has been delegated the authority to review all awards and trophy recommendations before they are submitted to the National Executive Committee for consideration, and

WHEREAS, the review allows for conformity, standardization and proper wording in the requesting resolution to include authorization for financial support, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular session in Reno, Nevada, August 18, 2017 that a Trophy and Awards Manual be established by the Sons of The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all requests for trophies or awards in the name of the Sons of The American Legion national organization be reviewed by the Sons of The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that oversight of the Trophy and Awards Manual be maintained by the Sons of The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission.

No.: SAL Res 3 – Pre-Convention NEC 2017
Title Creation of Triple Nickel Ribbon
Origin: Detachment of Iowa

WHEREAS, there are several distinguishing award ribbons for membership, and

WHEREAS, the awards presented for the prestigious Triple Nickel are nice they are attached to the walls of the Department office, and

WHEREAS, only the people are at the Department office do they see that the prestigious award has been awarded, and

WHEREAS, a resolution was approved by Squadron No. 29, Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Iowa, in regular meeting assembled in Washington, Iowa on October 16, 2012, a ribbon be created for the prestigious Triple Nickel Award, and

WHEREAS, it was further resolved with the Triple Nickel ribbon this would be a way of recognizing the honor when our flags are presented, and

WHEREAS, it was further resolved once the ribbon has been created it be given retroactive to all Detachments that have earned said ribbon. and

WHEREAS, it was further resolved the Sons of The American Legion National Membership Committee be directed to create the ribbon, and

***WHEREAS*,** it was finally resolved on February 2, 2013 at the Detachment of Iowa, Sons of The American Legion Mid-Winter Conference, the Detachment supports this resolution one hundred percent; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular session in Reno, Nevada, August 18, 2017 a ribbon be created for the prestigious Triple Nickel Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, once the ribbon has been created it shall be given retroactively to all Detachments that have earned the Triple Nickel Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Membership Committee be directed to design the ribbon and request funding from the National Finance Commission.

No.: SAL National Convention Resolution 1
Title: Bestow Upon Brian J. O'Hearne the title of 'Past National Commander' with all the privileges and rights pertaining to such office
Origin: National Convention Internal Affairs Committee

WHEREAS, Brian J. O'Hearne has earned the deep and broad admiration and respect from all who know him and have experienced his dedication and efforts on behalf of the Sons of The American Legion and the entire American Legion family, and

WHEREAS, for over 30 years of service on the National level, he has exhibited the highest degree of professionalism and commitment to the ideals and goals of the Sons of The American Legion serving in various offices and roles, and

WHEREAS, since 1998, Brian J. O'Hearne has served the National organization as National Adjutant, establishing new and ever improved processes and excellence for the highest administrative office during those 19 years, and

WHEREAS, National Commanders, and all other levels of the organization, have consistently recognized and utilized his insights, experience and advice to help grow and enhance the Sons of The American Legion and the entire American Legion Family, and

WHEREAS, Precedent has been established to bestow honor, as hereafter provided, upon dedicated members of the Sons of The American Legion who have performed a service or services to the Sons of The American Legion at an unusually high level, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the 46th Annual National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion in regular session in Reno, Nevada, August 20, 2017 that the title of 'Past National Commander', with all privileges and rights pertaining to such office be and hereby are

bestowed upon Brian J. O'Hearne in view of his long and noteworthy performances and contributions to the Sons of The American Legion; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the appropriate ceremonies shall be observed and that this honor be conferred upon Brian J. O'Hearne at the conclusion of his term of office.

No.: SAL Resolution 1 – Fall, 2017
Title: Endorsement of Peter J. Sierminski, Colorado, for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of male descendants of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Peter J. Sierminski has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Colorado as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 7-8, 2017, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado hereby endorses Peter J. Sierminiski for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Colorado and the Department of Colorado with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Scott Garrett and Department Adjutant Pat Smith are on the submitted resolution.

No.: SAL Resolution 2 – Fall, 2017
Title: Re-Alignment National UPDATE and Website/Social Media Tools
Origin: National Strategic Planning AD-HOC Committee

***WHEREAS*,** the National UPDATE and Website/Social Media tools are currently not under the responsibility of any committee/commission, and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable to re-align the National UPDATE and Website/Social Media Tools, to provide a path of accountability and reporting status and,

***WHEREAS*,** our National UPDATE and Webmaster/ Social Media updater is solely done by individual members and,

***WHEREAS*,** the National Sons of The American Legion, Public and Media Communication Commission is responsible for all National publications and communications to our members and the public and,

***WHEREAS*,** this re-alignment will focus to improve and enhance the level of quality and timely publications and the most current information made available to our members through our current web-page, now therefore, be it,

***RESOLVED*,** That the National UPDATE and Website and all Social Media tools be officially re-aligned under the responsibility of the National Sons of The American Legion, Public and Media Communication Commission; and be it finally,

***RESOLVED*,** That this re-alignment becomes effective during the Fall National Executive Committee Meetings held on October 7-8, 2017 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of three resolutions, Addendum A, and Addendum B. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to accept the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of Addendum A and B. Are

there any questions? All those in favor of receiving and filing the report of the Internal Affairs Commission report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 9: Award Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II

Origin: Resolution No. 6 (MA) 2017 National Convention; Resolution No. 61 (NY) 2017 National Convention; Resolution No. 71 (CA) 2017 National Convention

Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans are widely acknowledged for their role in the 14th Air Force, 23rd Fighter Group, widely known as the Flying Tigers; and

WHEREAS, The Flying Tigers eventually established United States air superiority in China and supported cargo flights from India to China over "The Hump"; and

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans assigned to the China-Burma-India Theater made transoceanic journeys through hostile territories and were subject to enemy attack while at sea and in the air; and

WHEREAS, In the Pacific Theater, Chinese Americans were in ground, air, and ocean combat and support roles throughout the Pacific including New Guinea, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Philippines, Mariana Islands, and Aleutian Islands; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the Pacific and China-Burma-India theaters, Chinese Americans performed vital functions in translating, coordinating national Chinese and United States combat operations, servicing and repairing aircraft and armaments, training National Chinese troops and sailors, delivering medical care, providing signal and communication support, gathering and analyzing intelligence, participating in ground and air combat, and securing and delivering supplies; and

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans also served in combat and support roles in the European and African theaters, serving in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, The Normandy D-Day invasion, which liberate Western Europe, and the Battle of the Bulge, occupying Western Germany while helping to liberate Central Europe; and

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans flew bomber missions, served in infantry units and combat ships in the Battle of the Atlantic, including aboard Merchant Marines convoys vulnerable to submarine and air attacks; and

WHEREAS, Chinese-American women left traditional domestic duties for patriotic service, serving as translators who interpreted Japanese documents containing military plans; and

WHEREAS, Many Chinese American women served in the Women's Army Corps, the Army Air Corps, and the United States Naval Reserve Women's reserve, and some became pilots, air traffic controllers, flight trainers, weather forecasters, occupational therapists, and nurses; and

WHEREAS, Captain Francis B. Wai who served in World War II was posthumously awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest military award given by the United States; and

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans also earned Combat Infantry Badges, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, Distinguished Service Medals, and Distinguished Flying Medals; and

WHEREAS, The United States remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II displayed; and

WHEREAS, The commitment and sacrifice of Chinese Americans demonstrates a highly uncommon and commendable sense of patriotism and honor in the face of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has a proud tradition of recognizing marginalized groups who fought in World War II with a Congressional Gold Medal.

recognized groups include Native Americans, African Americans, Japanese Americans, Filipino Americans, and women who served their country; and

WHEREAS, There are currently two bills pending in the 115th congress for the award of a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese American veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion fully supports legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American veterans of World War II.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: Commander, this has been approved by the Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I would make a motion to approve. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 9. Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution No. 9, please signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Resolution 9 is carried.

Resolution No. 10: Certification of Service Record of American Legion Officers
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion reviewed Resolution No. 591 of the Thirteenth National Convention held in Detroit, Michigan in 1931; and

WHEREAS, Said resolution recommends that before induction into office, every officer of The American Legion must provide satisfactory evidence of service record proving eligibility to membership in The American Legion as follows: (a) Eligibility of post officers to be submitted to the department adjutant; (b) Eligibility of department officers to be submitted to the national adjutant; and (c) Eligibility of national officers to be submitted to the National Executive Committee with such recommendations taking effect as of January 1, 1932; and

WHEREAS, Such recommendations should continue; and

WHEREAS, That said resolution recommends that there be submitted to department headquarters, to accompany the department card of each new member, a resume of his service record certified to by the post adjutant giving as a minimum:(a) Branch of service; (b) Dates of enlistment; (c) Serial number; and (d) Character at time of discharge with such recommendations taking effect as of October 20, 1931; and

WHEREAS, That the recommendations of service record certification should be modified to read that it is recommended that there be submitted to department headquarters a copy of the eligible member's discharge papers, or other evidence of honorable service, certified to by the post adjutant giving as a minimum;(a) Branch of service; (b) Dates of military service; and(c) Type of discharge proving American Legion membership eligibility; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 591 of 1931 be rescinded in favor of this updated resolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That Resolution No. 591 of the Thirteenth National Convention held in Detroit, Michigan in 1931 is rescinded; and, be if further

RESOLVED, That it is recommended that before induction into office, every officer of The American Legion must provide satisfactory evidence of service record proving eligibility to membership in The American Legion as follows:

(a) Eligibility of post officers to be submitted to the department adjutant;

(b) Eligibility of department officers to be submitted to the national adjutant; and

(c) Eligibility of national officers to be submitted to the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That these recommendations take effect as of January 1, 2018; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That it is recommended that there be submitted to department headquarters a copy of the eligible member's discharge papers, or other evidence of honorable service, certified to by the post adjutant giving as a minimum;

(a) Branch of service;

(b) Dates of military service; and

(c) Type of discharge proving American Legion membership eligibility; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That these recommendations take effect as of October 31, 2017.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: Commander, this has been submitted and approved by the Internal Affairs organization and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move that we accept this resolution. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 10. Question?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS: Does the transition data have to be a hard-copy form or electronic form?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: The question is, does a proof need to be in paper or electronic?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS:: Hard copy, electronic copy, or a combination thereof?

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: They can both be sent in.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Any other questions on Resolution No. 10? Past National Commander Miller?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: Since when do we have two different effective dates, January 1 on one and October 31 on the other?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Mr. Chairman? Why are there two different effective dates?

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: There's two different actions. One is for next year. Two different dates with two different actions.

The "Resolved" clause, "it is recommended that before induction into office, every officer of The American Legion," so on and so forth, and that takes effect January 1, 2018.

"It is recommended that there be submitted to department headquarters a copy of the member's discharge papers or other honorable service, certified by the post; branch of service; date of military service." That's effective October 31 of this year.

NEC MEMBER NARVAEZ-NEGRON (PR): I think it would be, the first one is for officers: commander, the adjutant, the treasurer.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: Correct.

NEC MEMBER NARVAEZ-NEGRON (PR): The other one is for members, so that's the difference on the dates. That's the way I see it; correct?

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: There's two different things that they're asking. One is eligibility for post officers and eligibility for national officers. The other one is branch of service, dates of military service, and type of discharge. I guess the easy solving of the problem would be a recommendation to change the other date to January 1, 2018, and put that date on both "Resolved" clauses. Could we do that, amend the resolution to reflect that?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: That's the recommendation. Is there a motion to that effect?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion to amend that resolution to reflect that date. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded on Resolution 10, the very last line, to change the October 31, 2017, to January 1, 2018. Is there any discussion on that? Yes.

NEC MEMBER MALONEY (FR): Ma'am, I don't have a question on the dates. I have a question on the other eligibility of honorable service. A military ID card, you can't get one of those if you don't have an honorable discharge.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: We'll deal with the amendment first. So on the amendment only to change that October 31 to January 1, 2018, only on that amendment, are there any questions? All those in favor of that amendment to January 1, 2018, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. The amendment is carried. Back to further discussion on the resolution.

NEC MEMBER MALONEY (FR): My question is "other evidence of honorable service." Retiree ID card, you can't get one of those if you don't have an honorable discharge. We have nowhere in the faces of folks that are left, the eligible Legionnaires that I know of, that there's any more than 20-year period where they would have an honorable discharge without being in some sort of meeting an eligible date to be an American Legionnaire.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: We'll refer that to the judge.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: I'm not sure what the question is. That's what the problem is.

NEC MEMBER MALONEY: The question is why wouldn't a retiree ID card also suffice as proof that a person has an honorable discharge? And the dates that we are in now of everyone who is eligible to be a Legionnaire, if you came in the military in 1982 and you retired in 2002, you're eligible. I'm just using those dates as an example. So a retiree card would be either 20 or more years of somebody in the military service. Why would that not be also acceptable as a proof of having an honorable discharge and being able to meet the dates of The American Legion criteria?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: I understand, thank you. While the retirement may be evidence of an honorable discharge, it does not necessarily reflect accurate dates. We have run into situations where an individual was retired after like a year and a half in service, probably because of wounds, but it was still a military retirement. So I would agree with you on proof of honorable discharge, but I would say we would also have to check the dates.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Past National Commander Brieden.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: Madam Commander, I'm just trying to seek a clarification of what we're doing. When I read the resolution, it says when somebody's going to be an officer, we check all this and send it in. Now what we're saying is, every time a new member is signed up, we have to have the post send to the department a copy of the discharge papers or a proof of honorable discharge and eligibility. What I'm not seeing or not hearing is we make a whole bunch of folks that's not eligible signing up. I'm not hearing you saying that, but that seems to be what's happening.

The second thing is, do you realize the logistical situation that will be with each post trying to send that in and the department handling and being a repository of that? And is that what we're trying to accomplish? I'm not sure, I need somebody to clarify what we're trying to do and what our aim is.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: Commander, I'd like to make a motion that we table this for further discussion at a later date. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: There's a motion to table this for discussion, and it's been seconded. Is there any discussion on tabling this resolution? Okay. All those in favor, say aye. Opposed? Tabled. We're on Resolution No. 11 now.

Resolution No. 11: National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for Honorably Discharged Veterans
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Currently the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands agencies has a pass system called America the Beautiful that allows holders entrance to more than 2,000 national parks and national wildlife refuges as well as standard amenity fees at national forests and grasslands and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation; and

WHEREAS, A pass covers entrance and standard amenity fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle at per vehicle fee areas (or up to four adults at sites that charge per person) and in most cases does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by private concessioners; and

WHEREAS, The five agencies that participate in the federal properties Interagency Pass Program are: the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation; and

WHEREAS, There are currently four different passes in this system: Annual Pass ($80 annual pass and available to anyone), Free Annual Pass for U.S. Military, Annual 4th Grade Pass, Senior Pass ($80 lifetime pass or $20 annual for age 62 and older), Access Pass (Free for U.S. citizens with permanent disabilities) and a Volunteer Pass; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 17 (October 2014, NEC) , Subject: Federal Properties Distinguished Veterans Pass, asked the U.S. Congress to establish a Veterans Pass for $10.00 and received no action; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 42, Subject: Free Admission to National Parks for Honorably Discharged Veterans, from the Department of Washington, was referred to the Internal Affairs Commission from the 2017 National Convention asked The American Legion to support a free pass to our National Parks for honorably discharged veterans; and

WHEREAS, The current America the Beautiful series does not have a special pass for veterans of the military service but many veterans would qualify for either the Senior Pass or Access Pass; and

WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Commission feels that The American Legion should pursue the adoption of a Veterans Pass for all honorably discharged military veterans with the same privileges of the current approved Senior Pass: $20 for an annual rate in lieu of the free pass as requested in Resolution No. 42 because the Senior Pass rate just increased on August 28, 2017 from a $10 lifetime rate to the current $80 rate because of increased costs in maintaining our beautiful natural resources; and

WHEREAS, We stand a better chance of getting this Veterans Pass for a $20 annual rate versus the free pass and this would allow access for those veterans that do not qualify for other passes to get a reasonable access to National Parks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion supports the adoption by the U.S. Congress of a Veterans Pass for all honorably discharged veterans in the amount of $20 for an annual pass; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Veterans Pass would be good for free entrance to all National Parks, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation recreational areas to include a 50%

discount on approved amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching and specialized interpretive services.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: Commander, this has been approved by the Internal Affairs Commission and was approved by your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I make a motion that we approve this resolution. *...Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 11. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Resolution 11 is carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: I would move that Addendum A and Addendum B of the Internal Affairs Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the actions of the Internal Affairs Commission be the actions of the NEC on Addendum A and B. Any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

National Emergency Fund Donations

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: At this time, if there is any department or individual who has a donation to the NEF fund, please come forward.

...National Vice Commander Flanagan assumed the chair.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Department of Massachusetts is proud to present a few checks here, commander: One from Past Department Commander John Lennote for $50; one from Post 440 in Newton, Massachusetts for $1,000; one from Post 10 in Fitchburg, Mass, $1,000; and one from Post 4 in Haverhill for $1,000. So $3,050, Massachusetts is happy to present for the emergency fund.

NEC MEMBER ENDRES (DE): Madam Commander, I am John Endres, NEC of the state of Delaware. With me is Vice Commander Michael Havel. We are presenting a donation in the amount of $4,400 from The American Legion Family of Delaware, making our total contributions to date at $6,650 from the small state of Delaware.

NEC MEMBER WADE (PI): Commander, Lawrence Wade from the Department of Philippines. With all the disasters these past few months, I thought it appropriate to donate. So on behalf of the Department of the Philippines, I have a check here for $1,000 for the National Emergency Fund.

NEC MEMBER MOORE (MI): Madam Commander, on behalf of the Department of Michigan and the many posts involved in the fundraising, it is our privilege to present to you two checks, one for $2,000 and one for $2,500, for a total of $4,500.

NEC MEMBER PISA (AK): Jim Pisa from the Department of Alaska. We'd like to donate $2,714.50, that represents 50 cents per member from last year.

NEC MEMBER ROBBINS (NJ): Chuck Robbins, NEC, New Jersey. I'd like to donate $1,000 to the NEF.

NEC MEMBER KILE (WV): Bill Kile, NECman from West Virginia. Donate $500 from the Department of West Virginia for NEF.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you all. I also thank all of the other departments who have made donations individually, or the truckloads of stuff that have gone to the different departments, so thank you to them too. *(Applause)*

...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I now call on the chairman of Membership & Post Activities Committee, Randy Goodman from Georgia.

Oral Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Randy Goodman, Georgia, Chairman

Good morning. National Commander Rohan, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers, and guests, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to address you this morning. You have a written copy of my report in front of you. You will find updated information on membership renewals, district revitalizations, and post cancellations included in this report.

We're now starting the fifth year of The American Legion strategic plan for sustained membership growth, and as we all know, there are five priorities within this plan. The mission of this plan has always been to increase membership and post development by creating a culture of growth within our organization.

There are a few departments that have had some success and saw an increase in their membership numbers. Unfortunately, as an organization, we have not been able to do this. Based on this, there are three priorities I would like to focus on today that I feel we need to place more emphasis on in getting this membership to turn around.

The first item I'd like to discuss is the fourth priority in the strategic plan: Post creation, development, and revitalization. We've done an outstanding job, I think, technically working district revitalizations. In 2016, district revitalization teams revitalized more than 2,500 posts across 36 departments. This does not even take into account districts and departments that have conducted revitalizations on their own. As you can see, we're doing a good job on this part. As far as post development, we really need to step up our efforts. Since the inception of the strategic plan, we have canceled 953 posts and have lost over 350,000 members. It is easy to see, if we continue to cancel posts, more posts than we charter, we can connect that directly to the loss of membership. Overall, we've chartered 180 posts over the same five-year period.

It is important to always be on the lookout for communities that do not have posts supporting them. Are there communities where there are high schools but no American Legion presence? A number of them. We should be aware of where veterans are moving and whether or not a post is near them to support their local community. Keep in mind, every community should have the benefit of an active American Legion post that provides service to veterans and their families through the programs of the Four Pillars of service.

The next item that I'd like to bring to your attention is the fifth priority: Membership recruiting and retention. As an organization, for the 2017 membership year, we renewed at a rate of 86 percent. I know that sounds pretty good, and it is. But take into consideration that in 2001, which is the last year that we had membership growth, we renewed at a rate of 91 percent.

Now the strategic plan states retention must be the first priority to increase membership. National Commander Rohan has also made it her priority to increase the retention rate for the 2018 membership year. And based on this, we cannot solely rely on renewal notices or wait until January or February timeframe to start contacting our members. If we're going to increase our retention rate this year, posts need to personally contact their members, and many of you already said that that is your plan. Can we achieve 91 percent renewal rate this year? Yes, we can. Yes, we can. We have to execute better.

Increasing our retention rate will only get us so far; we need to increase our new member recruiting as well. In 2015, we recruited 75,467 members traditionally; in 2016, we dropped to 71,565; and we only recruited 64,924 in 2017. From 2015 to 2017, that's a difference of 10,500 less members being recruited. And during this time, there were 20 less Legionnaires who earned the Silver or Gold Brigade award. At the very least, that equals 1,000 less new members.

We have to increase our traditional recruiting efforts if we are going to grow this organization. Plus, the capability of this organization to support and provide service to

veterans regardless of war era, hinges on us asking all eligible veterans to join us. The job is not done once we have signed up a new member; it's just the beginning. We need to start the process of integrating these new members into our organization. We want them to have a clear understanding of The American Legion, we want them to understand their role as a member, and how they can participate and become active members. I call this the onboarding process. By adding this onboarding process at all posts, we are ensuring that all members feel welcome and are invited to participate in activities at all levels.

Reconnect was a Department of Defense initiative for our country to conduct outreach with the military. As we always do, The American Legion took this to heart and developed a program to provide support to our military and their families. How many of you heard of the newly published pamphlet called "Access Granted?" That's very few. This pamphlet now is our guide to assist you and other Legionnaires across the country with reconnect opportunities within your department.

I bring this up because the strategic plan encourages all levels of our organization to develop a working relationship with our military. Educate them on The American Legion and encourage them to take part in our programs. It is vital for our success to reach out and reconnect with the military. When we build relationships with the military, we are able to educate them on what The American Legion does and how we support the military and their families. Our first priority is to provide service; second priority should be to allow for membership.

The last priority I'd like to discuss with you this morning is the third priority: Increase training, education, leadership development. The strategic plan challenges all of us to improve our knowledge of The American Legion by implementing educational tools and encouraging leadership development at all levels. This statement proves the importance of indoctrinating new members into the organization, and this is where the training and mentorship begins, but it cannot stop there. We need to look for every opportunity where training can be offered to our members. Many departments have taken advantage of conducting leadership, education, and development training conferences and conventions.

During our national convention in Reno, Nevada, we held training for newly elected district commanders and continued our subject matter expert training sessions in the expo hall. These training sessions were well received and we will continue to build upon them. The American Legion Extension Institute was recently rebranded, and many of you now know that as our Basic Training course. This is now offered for free to any Legion Family member who wants to learn more about our organization.

As you can see, the opportunities and venues are there, but we cannot limit ourselves to just these. We need to take advantage of each and every opportunity to train and mentor our members. Like I mentioned earlier, this plan has been in place for five years and we have not experienced a culture of growth yet. Why is this? This can be answered by a quote from President Theodore Roosevelt: "Dreams are a dime a dozen. It's their execution that counts."

Our success depends on executing the plan and the tactics within. Without execution, we're going to continue along the same path that we've traveled over the past five years. Does any one of you want that to happen? You raise your hand if you do.

I'd like to leave you with this one last thought: This year, National Commander Rohan has been gracious during the membership negotiations, and I think each department has a clear chance to exceed their membership goals. We can all reward her graciousness by pushing our posts, districts, and departments to attain 100 percent of their membership goal. We have to start this turnaround now and begin this culture of growth if we are to remain the premier veteran service organization we know we are.

Commander, thank you for allowing me this time to address this distinguished group. This concludes my report.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Randy Goodman, Georgia, Chairman

As of October 6, 2017, the 2018 membership total is 1,113,396 – 23,655 members behind this same time for 2017. These membership results do not include newly acquired 2018 DMS members. The total DMS members acquired to date for 2018 is 37,485 which is 11,742 ahead of 2017 totals.

During the recent 50% Target Date, 48 departments exceeded the target date – same as the 2017 membership campaign. The 55% target is the next target date, on October 12, 2017 - 38 departments have already met this goal. We hope to see all the departments meet this target.

We are entering the fifth year of The American Legion Strategic Plan. The plan is a good one but in order for it to perform at full potential it will require our leaders and members, at all levels, to begin executing the tasks. The strategic plan and where we go with it will be the main topic of discussion at the upcoming January 2018 planning session.

One area that has not received a lot of attention in recent years is the number of current active posts. There are currently, 12,922 active posts. During this meeting 54 posts have been submitted for cancellation. Over the last five years we have cancelled 953 posts and only chartered 180. There has always been a correlation between membership growth and the number of active posts – we are now seeing the effect it has on membership. The potential to build new posts is there and it needs to become a part of our long-term plan to grow.

The online renewal program continues to perform well. The 2017 campaign resulted in 245,824 members renewing online which was an increase of 33,263 over 2016. To date, 143,612 members have renewed online for 2018. We expect these totals to continue to increase.

National staff, working in conjunction with local volunteers, were directly involved in more than 2,500 posts being started or revitalized through the efforts of district revitalization teams in 2016 (staff efforts run from Jan 1 – Dec 31). We expect that number to be equal to if not greater than for 2017. It is the one program that is part of the strategic plan that seems to be working well and has been accepted by many of the departments and districts. The retention rate for members who transferred from these efforts remains higher as compared to those members who remain as DMS99 members. There are 21 district revitalizations planned between October through December 2017. Several of the departments continue to execute the program on their own without the support of National staff and are doing quite well. The program does more than just transfer members, it also signs new members up and provides great membership training.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the MP&A Committee. There are no resolutions, no addendums. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, may I have a moment?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: You've got it.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: That is in regards to Resolution 21 that was read under 8A. I indicated that we would read it again tomorrow. We will read it this afternoon, still in compliance with the four-hour interval. It will be read

this afternoon because we have some key individuals that will not be here tomorrow. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I call now on our national adjutant, Daniel S. Wheeler, for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Just a reminder that members of the NEC proper, the NECmen themselves, please stop by the fourth floor lounge and get your photo taken for publication in the magazine in a couple of months. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: We are about to have a recess for lunch. We will reconvene at 1:00 p.m. Colors of our nation in place, hand salute: One, two. We are in recess until 1:00 p.m.

...At 11:47 a.m., the National Executive Committee of the American Legion stood in recess.

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, Afternoon Session

...At 1:00 p.m. the National Executive Committee was called to order by Commander Rohan.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: The colors of our nation in place, hand salute: Two. Please be seated. I call us back to order. At this time I'd like to call the chairman of the National Security Commission, G. Michael Schlee from Maryland.

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

Thank you, commander. I guess we all survived with no Elbow Room. Is looks like you got fed somewhere today. It's always a pleasure to be with you. Your National Security Commission had not had a meeting since I reported to you in Reno. However, in the interim period, two resolutions were referred by the 99th National Convention and one was received from a department executive committee. Attached to our report you have Addendum A, which is our recommended disposition on those three resolutions. We did consultation by email and by phone with the leadership executive session of the commission and committee chairmen, and these are our recommendations. Nothing is recommended for approval, they're all for other actions.

It's a pleasure to be with you. What we do on a daily basis in Washington and my interaction with the staff is guided by the 80 resolutions in our portfolio from the 98th and 99th National Conventions. The staff has provided you an extensive update on five areas for your use and review.

The first one is just an assessment of the world situation, the threat analysis that goes country by country. Second one is TRICARE update. There's changes to TRICARE which become effective in January of 2018. The last three major areas I'd just like to talk to very briefly.

The first is resourcing or budgeting for the force. The reality is, the NDAA, the authorization act for the defense budget for fiscal year 2018 looks lovely right now. However, I hasten to point out that ghost in the closet, sequestration, is still, in fact, a fact of law. While it may be waived for one budget cycle, sequestration still exists and could rear its ugly budget axe at almost any time after this NDAA, so we have to exercise unique caution.

The second area I want to touch on briefly is readiness of the force. I'm not going to stand before you today and say we're facing a hollow army like we did in the '70s and '80s. What I am saying is the force is starting to show signs of wear. *USA TODAY*, I happened to catch it, I think Arkansas has it over on their desk there, that the Army has announced they're settling for less-qualified soldiers because of the inability to compete in the market. Additionally, equipment needs to be refitted.

As a Vietnam guy, when I talk to the servicemen and women and the active-force folks, we had career people in my era who had two, three, four, five tours in Vietnam. Almost every troop I talk to today has three, four, five, six combat tours, men and women. Additionally, unlike Vietnam, you talk to the reservists; most of the reservists and the guard people have two, three, four, five combat tours. The reality is, with this massive rotation in the combat tours, the force is starting to show signs of wear. We have to be aware of those signs of wear and address them in terms of both management issues that the Army and the services exercise, as well as budgeting issues.

The final issue I just want to give a fast update on is the POW/MIA issue, an issue which we work day in and day out and sometimes really may not be in the consciousness of our mind. But as we visualize that POW/MIA You Are Not Forgotten flag, I do want to

announce that they announced two weeks ago, after 15 months, 15 months of not having a head, they did announce a new director of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Major General, Retired, Kelly McKeague who actually ran the operation in Hawaii. We're excited that we'll have leadership with DPAA.

Freddy Gessner, our deputy, gave a good summary of where we are on the accounting issues by numbers of World War II and forward. I can report to you, it appears that on the number of identifications this year will reach 200 which is the "congressionally mandated" number for an annual basis. Funding for the POW/MIA efforts year after year struggle, something we have to continue to fight.

Before I close out, I do want to introduce the staff. Joe Sharpe is our interim director of the division. Rhonda Powell, you may not know, is on a one-year assignment over at the Pentagon in the Office of the JCS, a good assignment for her. So Joe's been around, what, a quarter of a century; I've known Joe for a good while. You know, I'm a half-century guy, so a quarter of a century, you know, you're a young guy. *(Applause)*

I want to particularly thank Freddy Gessner, our deputy. I've had the honor of being the chairman for seven years. Throughout that period of time, Freddy has consistently given me timely and professional support. I really appreciate what you do. *(Applause)*

In addition, I do want to acknowledge somebody in the back. Past National Commander Bob Spanogle sent me updates. He's still a civilian aide, I believe, to the secretary of the Army. What he sends me is valuable in what we formulate in working with the commission.

In closing, I want to thank you, National Commander, our NEC liaison, and all members of the National Executive Committee for your continued support of your commission's efforts to take care of the troops, to protect U.S. interests worldwide, and to provide for the common defense. I thank you. *(Applause)*

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

You have received a copy of the report of the meeting of the National Commission on August 19, 2017 prior to the 99th National Convention in Reno. The National Security Commission has not met since that meeting. However, two resolutions were referred to the standing Commission by the 99th National Convention. 1) Resolution No. 5: Strategic Nuclear Policy; and 2) Resolution No. 9: Support Walkway in Arlington National Cemetery on Chaplains Hill. A third resolution was received from the New Mexico Department Executive Committee, Register Resolution No. 2750: Commission the USS Los Alamos. The recommended action for Resolution No. 5 is to dispose of administratively, Resolution No. 9 is being referred to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, and Resolution No. 2750 is recommended to be held for further study (Addendum A).

The National Security Commission and its seven committees along with the council continue to review developments in the national security and foreign relations arenas. The 99th National Convention adopted nine resolutions which, when added to the more than 80 existing resolutions, comprise the Commission's policy and legislative agendas for the year ahead.

The following are brief updates on several critical areas for your review:

Current Threat Environment

Counter-ISIL coalition/counter-terrorism

On July 10, 2017, Prime Minister Abadi of Iraqi declared the liberation of Mosul, the 2nd largest city in Iraq, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) capitol in Iraq.

U.S.-backed Iraqi forces retook the city after eight months of intense urban combat that has killed and injured tens of thousands and displaced close to million Iraqi citizens. The counter-ISIL coalition continues to degrade the capabilities of the group and force them from territory, and are in the final phase of retaking ISIL's capitol in Syria, Raqqa, using U.S.-allied fighting groups.

There have been several major terrorist attacks since our last report by ISIL and al-Qaeda affiliates in the Europe, including the St. Petersburg Metro bombing in April (15 killed, 64 injured), the Manchester Arena bombing in May (22 killed, 116 injured), the London Bridge attack (8 killed, 48 injured) in June, and the Catalonia attacks in August (16 killed, 152 injured). ISIL and al-Qaeda affiliates have shown time and again the capacity and capability to execute mass-causality terrorist attacks, with security officials concerned that as the Islamic State collapses they will turn continue to turn toward targeting soft targets like civilian gatherings.

North Korea

Kim Jong Un continues to develop, refine, and threaten the use of nuclear weapons against the United States and its allies in East Asia, drawing universal condemnation and a broad array of international sanctions. Current intelligence estimates and observations of ballistic missile tests indicate that North Korea has the capability of reaching the continental United States, with the development of a reliable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and reentry vehicle estimated by early 2018. On September 3, 2017 North Korea claimed to have successfully tested a thermonuclear (hydrogen) bomb which, based on the corresponding 10 fold increase in seismic activity the day of the test compared to previous attempts, demonstrated a blast with a potential yield of 250 kilotons.

In response, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 2371 in August, banning all exports North Korean coal, iron, lead, and seafood, and Resolution 2375 in September, which limits North Korean petroleum imports, banned joint ventures, textile exports, natural gas condensate and liquid imports, and banned North Korean nationals from working abroad in other countries. Additionally, in September President Donald Trump issued an executive order allowing the U.S. to cut from its financial system and/or freeze assets of any companies, businesses, organizations and individuals trading in goods, services or technology with North Korea, as well as banning aircraft and ships who have entered North Korea in last 180 days from entering the United States. Another executive order followed banning entry of North Korean nationals to the United States.

Russia

Details have emerged about the complex and wide-ranging information operation conducted by alleged Russian government affiliated entities through social media over the course of the 2016 presidential election. In May, Facebook reported that unnamed actors exploited the social network in an attempt to influence election through a combination of tactics including false news, disinformation, or networks of fake accounts aimed at manipulating public opinion. In September 2017, Facebook told congressional investigators it had discovered that hundreds of fake accounts linked to a Russian troll farm had bought $100,000 in advertisements targeting the 2016 U.S. election audience. The ads, which ran between June 2015 and May 2017, primarily focused on divisive social issues; some were geographically targeted. Facebook has also reportedly turned over information about the Russian-related ad buys to Special Counsel Robert Mueller. Facebook had previously denied that fake news on their platform had influenced the election and had insisted it was unaware of any Russian-financed advertisements

China

Despite continuing tensions in the South China Sea between the United States, China, and other claimants like Philippines and Vietnam, current discussions between the White House and President Xi Jinping have been focused on North Korea. China remains a persistent cyber threat, however, and like Russia is interested in shifting the balance of power in what it sees as its sphere of influence. China is undergoing a concerted modernization and expansion of its maritime presence and power projection, with plans to add 100,000 Marines and the recent launching its first indigenously built air craft carrier as current examples. Whether this buildup of capability and capacity will worsen relations between China and its neighbors remains to be seen. China's critical role in the global economy, and the desire of the Chinese Communist Party leadership to continue high economic growth, constrains China's ability to act too aggressively, though it continues to test the United States.

Iran

In April 2017, the Trump administration certified that Iran had continued to comply with the JCPOA, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, who's provisions essentially dismantle Iran's capability to develop nuclear weapons. In July 2017, Xiyue Wang, an American graduate student and researcher at Princeton University, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for "infiltration" of Iran. While the International Atomic Energy Commission continues to monitor Iranian compliance with the JCPOA, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated 16 entities and individuals for what it said was "engaging in support of illicit Iranian actors or transnational criminal activity."

The U.S. and its regional allies in the Middle East have long worried about Iran's influence in Iraq; as well as its actions in Syria, where it supports President Bashar al-Assad; its backing of Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia movement; its role in the Yemeni civil war, where Tehran is engaged in a proxy war with its main rival, Saudi Arabia; and its influence over Shia minorities throughout the majority-Sunni Arab world.

TRICARE Update

Beginning in January 2018, there will be changes to the TRICARE benefit.

- Section 701 of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act will be implemented and synchronized with the Department's transition to the TRICARE 2017 contracts, beginning January 1, 2018.
- Broadened access for beneficiaries by setting the requirement that at least 85 percent of U.S. beneficiaries have ready access to network providers in TRICARE Select and gives Select beneficiaries access to no-cost preventive services from network providers.
- It expands TRICARE coverage of preventive care services, treatment of obesity, high-value care, and telehealth.
- It establishes the annual open season enrollment period that beneficiaries will participate in each year to choose their health plan, and the rules for qualifying life events that will allow for changes outside that open season. It also establishes 2018 as a transition year, during which enrollment changes will be available throughout the year as beneficiaries adjust to this new process.
- For Prime beneficiaries, it establishes new requirements for timely appointments and more access to care without the need for referrals, reinforcing standards for access to care. Prime beneficiaries will also have expanded access to urgent care without the need for a referral from their primary care manager.

- For Select beneficiaries, DOD has converted the current cost-shares, where you pay a percentage of the total cost, to a fixed dollar amount.
- It preserves benefits for active duty dependents and TRICARE-for-Life beneficiaries.
- It restructures and continues authority to update TRICARE Prime retiree copayments, which have not changed since 1995.
- TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra on January 1, 2018. TRICARE Select brings together the features of TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra in a single plan. Select enrollees may obtain care from any TRICARE authorized provider without a referral or authorization. Enrollees who obtain services from TRICARE network providers will pay lower cost sharing amounts for network care.
- All current TRICARE beneficiaries will be automatically enrolled in their respective plan on January 1, 2018. TRICARE Prime enrollees will remain in TRICARE Prime. TRICARE Standard and Extra beneficiaries will be enrolled in TRICARE Select. Appendix B outlines what actions will unfold automatically, effective January 1, 2018. Future beneficiaries, or beneficiaries wishing to change their TRICARE plan must proactively change their enrollment during enrollment eligibility periods.
- Beneficiary out-of-pocket costs will be updated.
- Beneficiaries can choose to enroll in or change their TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select coverage during an annual open enrollment period in November-December, 2018 for coverage beginning on January 1, 2019. Failure to enroll in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select results in the termination of coverage for civilian care. These beneficiaries who choose to not enroll may only receive care at a military clinic or hospital on a space available basis.
- 2018 will be a transition year with a grace period for enrollment. To allow beneficiaries to adjust to making their health care option choices during an annual open season enrollment period or to remember to elect their coverage when a QLE occurs, beneficiaries can elect to make their coverage changes anytime during 2018 to ensure they have the right coverage in place starting in 2019.

READINESS

In a June 2017 report (GAO-17-369) from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) identified five key readiness areas that are significantly affecting the Department of Defense's ability to accomplish its mission:

- Rebalancing forces and rebuilding readiness: the military services are generally smaller and less combat ready than in recent years, and DOD officials warn that the military is not strong enough to protect U.S. national security interests from worldwide threats. In particular, the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps all are facing increasing maintenance challenges for their naval and air platforms due to operational strain.
- Mitigating threats to cyberspace and expanding cyber capabilities: in 2016, the Director of National Intelligence identified cyber threats as first among strategic threats in the United States. While DOD has made progress in developing a strategy to protect its networks against cyber-attacks, it must improve planning for continuity of operations in a degraded cyber environment, and strengthen its insider threat awareness program, and improve oversight and visibility of the cyber capabilities of National Guard units.

- Controlling escalating costs and managing finances: DOD's FY16 budget accounted for nearly half of federal discretionary spending, and its costs continue to grow. DOD remains one of the few federal entities that cannot demonstrate an ability accurately account for and reliably reports its spending or assets. DOD needs to consistently implement leading acquisition practices, address improper payments to control rising costs in the military health system (which now accounts for a projected $60 billion of DOD's budget, a 217% increase over 16 years), identify underutilized space, and remediate financial management deficiencies. Since 2011, GAO has directed 79 recommendations to DOD in this area, of which 72 remain open, including 52 priority recommendations.
- Strategically managing human capital: funding for civilian and military personnel costs represented nearly half of DOD's budget, projected to be $180 billion in FY18, while it spent about $115 billion on contractor-provided services in FY15. GAO has raised questions in the past about DOD's information on its contractor workforce, as well as the need for a workforce mix assessment and comprehensive compensation strategy to meet recruiting and retention goals.
- Achieving greater efficiencies in defense business operations: DOD has emphasized the need to improve its business practices and reduce overhead and free up resources for higher priorities, but needs to take additional actions to drive business transformation efforts, implement management controls for its business systems investments, and develop guidance to manage the acquisition of contracted services.

BUDGETING

FY18 NDAA - Both the Senate and House Armed Services Committees (SASC/HASC) have passed a version of the FY18 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House Appropriations Committee – Defense (HAC-D) has released their FY18 defense appropriations bill, while the Senate Appropriations Committee – Defense (SAC-D) has not. The topline budget differences between the bills and the Presidential Budget Request (PBR) are as follows:

	FY18 PBR	FY18 HASC NDAA	FY18 SASC NDAA	FY18 HAC-D Defense Appropriations
Base budget	$574 billion	$631.5 billion	$640 billion	$584.2 billion
Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)	$65 billion	$64.6 billion	$60 billion	$73.9 billion

It is important to note that every passed FY18 defense authorization or appropriations bill exceeds the caps put into place by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and amended by the Bipartisan Budget Control Acts of 2013 and 2015. Currently, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that in FY18, defense and non-defense discretionary spending is capped at $549 billion and $516 billion respectively (money authorized in the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) budget does not count against the budget caps). That means that the PBR and every defense bill passed this session exceeds the budget cap for defense spending between $25 to $91 billion dollars.

The Senate and the House Armed Service Committees must now conference on the NDAA to harmonize the language in their bills. However, should Congress authorize and

appropriate defense funds above the current cap without legislation in place that adjusts or removes those caps, it will trigger sequestration and automatic cuts to discretionary spending.

POW/MIA UPDATE

In September, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced the appointment of its new director, Kelly McKeague, who had previously served as the DPAA's first Deputy Director.

Full funding of DPAA is something we continue to be concerned about. The effects of continuing resolutions and threats of government shutdowns are crippling to DPAA efforts. Without guaranteed funding recovery teams are threatened with having to end their mission and return stateside short of mission dates. Mission planning is impacted as well. The difficult mountains of Vietnam can only be excavated during the warm months and without guaranteed funding recovery opportunities may be missed or delayed.

The follow is the current statistical list of the unaccounted for from past conflicts:

WWII	Korean War	Vietnam War	Cold War	Iraq & Other Conflicts	Total
72,993	7,722	1,602	126	6	82,449

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Denise Rohan, our NEC Liaison and the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee for their continuing support for Commission efforts to take care of troops and "provide for the common defense"

Addendum A

Disposed of Administratively

Resolution No. 5 (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Strategic Nuclear Policy**

Referred to Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Resolution No. 9 (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Support Walkway in Arlington National Cemetery on Chaplains Hill**

Hold for Further Study

Registered Resolution No. 2750 (NM Dept. Exec. Committee)**: Commission the USS Los Alamos**

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive the report of the National Security Commission. Are there any questions? All those in favor of receiving and filing, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, attached to the National Security Commission report is Addendum A. I move the actions of the National Security Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that Addendum A be accepted by the NEC. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and staff. I now call on the chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Ralph Bozella from Colorado.

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

Thank you, commander. Good afternoon, commander, national officers, NEC, and guests. Your VA&R Commission has met twice since the national convention. We met on September 25 with the System Worth Saving program by use of telephone conference calling and Zoom computer technology, and we used the same methods to meet again as a full commission on September 29 so that we could be prepared for this meeting today.

We have a written report filed, and I would like to just brief you on a few things that we believe are of importance to you. First of all, the TBI/PTSD Committee met here in this building on Saturday, October 12. Now, according to the outline of authorization, the TBI/PTSD Committee report is to be included within the VA&R report. Now, our committee met, unfortunately, in the absence of our chairman, Past National Commander Bill Detweiler of Louisiana who, I'm really happy to report, is recovering at home. We will continue to hope and pray, and I know you join our committee in praying for Bill's quick return and healthy return back to our midst. We miss him.

The TBI/PTSD Committee received an update from Mynd Analytics from California regarding the use of big data in measuring brainwave technology through the use of EEG technology. They have the ability to take this information and apply it to the analysis of drug use within the brains of veteran patients, and to take that information and recommend further treatment options.

We also received a truly fascinating report from a TBI/PTSD Committee member, Dr. Ron Poropatich, from the University of Pittsburgh. His presentation was on the translation of TBI research and on neuroimaging breakthroughs. They're doing some incredible things in his office with returning veterans with TBI and PTSD. We were really excited to hear the news coming out of the University of Pittsburgh.

We also heard from Dusty Baxley, Boulder Crest Retreat, for a military veteran wellness out of Virginia. What the Boulder Crest Retreat does is, they take military veterans and their families, in groups or individuals, to an outdoor facility, and it's really full of alternative treatment methods. Certainly, the outdoor activities, archery and shooting, calisthenics, counseling, yoga, art, equine therapy. We find that other programs like this that we've heard from in Ohio and Georgia, Wisconsin, they're all doing good things as alternative ways to help bring veterans back from a wartime experience.

I'm very excited to report, we also heard from, again, a TBI/PTSD Committee member, Dr. Jeanne Stellman, from Columbia University. You may remember that name as Dr. Stellman and her husband, Steve, and John Summers who was at one time an executive director out of our Washington, D.C. office, worked together to conduct a study in 1983, the first study of Vietnam veterans at the time in five different states. They took a second look at those same veterans in 1998, and she has applied for a research grant and was funded for a third look of the same veterans, those that are still with us, of course, in those same states. Even those that are deceased, they're going to look into information of how those veterans died and try to apply that data to enable us to again learn more about veterans as they return from war.

So all in all, we had a very good meeting. We ended up with a strategy session and a planning session of where we want the TBI/PTSD Committee to go. One of the outcomes

will be a seminar that we're planning in Washington, D.C. in June of 2018, and we'll have more information on that later.

Those of you who may have been to the Washington conference in the VA&R room in February of 2017, you may remember a Dr. Shah who was, I believe, a White House intern working with VA at the time. She made a presentation to our group about physician burnout. First of all, she was very complimentary of The American Legion and the System Worth Saving program. She then challenged us, The American Legion, to find a way to assist with physician burnout in VA by offering an American Legion award. She thought that would be and VA thinks that would be quite prestigious for an American Legion award.

Past National Commander Comer was in the room; he stood up and supported such an idea. I know he had a private conversation with Dr. Shah after the meeting and he suggested that we work on such resolutions, which we presented here in May, and you passed a resolution for two American Legion awards, a VA Physician of the Year and a VA Healthcare Provider of the Year.

Now, we have sent information out to all your departments two months ago, asking for nominees. I'm really disappointed to say, we have only nominations from two departments. So I've extended the deadline to November 1. I'm challenging you to go home. We will resend that to you if that will help, we will send it to you directly, NECs, we will send it to your adjutant, and we'll send it to your department commanders in asking us, again, for nominations for VA Doctor of the Year and VA Physician of the Year. These American Legion awards will be presented at the Washington conference, in cooperation with VA to have them there, and The American Legion will pay all expenses to the award recipients, so please keep that in mind.

Another resolution that we passed back in May was a suicide prevention program to be developed by The American Legion, and you assigned that to the TBI/PTSD Committee. That was part of our planning session, and we are working on what that program could look like. We really feel that The American Legion should be and can be the leader of VSOs again, but in the field of suicide prevention. So we really want to develop something that we can be proud of and, more importantly, is a real tool to help veterans, military personnel with suicide prevention.

I've talked to our legislative chairman, Bill Oxford, and also to our Legislative Division, and asked that they consider putting veteran suicide prevention, military suicide prevention as a legislative priority on our legislative drop sheet for Washington this year. When Dr. Poonam Alaigh spoke to us in Reno, she mentioned that VA was starting a suicide prevention advisory council, and we have representation on that council. Roscoe Butler, our deputy director for VA health care, is representing The American Legion on that council.

In your written report, you will see, on page 2 or 3, a list of the VA leasing projects and minor construction projects. I encourage you to read those for the simple reason that there's a lot of them, and most of your departments will have those kind of projects going on, and I think it would be very good for you, our National Executive Committee, and your commander, to pay attention to those projects in your department.

The System Worth Saving program, we have a tentative schedule. We're going to visit 16 sites in 2018. That schedule is also in your written remarks.

Arlington National Cemetery was presented to us at the national convention by Mrs. Yates, the deputy superintendent. She is urging The American Legion to be more involved and to lead the conversation regarding the future of Arlington and what they can do with the capacity issues. Arlington is running out of land. Again, this is a VA entity asking The American Legion to take a leadership role. We are working on that.

Commander, VA&R never rests. On behalf of our commission members, the volunteers, and our division staff in Washington, D.C. led by Mr. Lou Celli who is, of course, here today, we want to congratulate you on your historic election, and we want you

to know we stand ready, commander, to take all actions necessary to continue to work together to improve the quality of life for veterans and our families.

Commander, that concludes my oral report.

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

There were five (5) resolutions from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission submitted to the Resolution Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee for consideration. Three (3) resolutions were referred for consideration by the 2017 National Convention. Two (2) resolutions was presented by the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

Three (3) were forwarded to the National Executive Committee for adoption:

(Origin: Resolution 72, California; 2017 National Convention)
Department of Veterans Affairs Drug Pricing Policy

(Original: VA&R)
Rescinding Non-Legislative Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

(Origin: VA&R)
Columbia University Vietnam Veterans Health Study

One (1) was received and recorded:

(Origin: Resolution 51, New York; 2017 National Convention)
Department of Veterans Affairs Numerical Rating system

One (1) was rejected:

(Origin: Resolution 57, New York; 2017 National Convention)
Increase Oversight Department of Veterans Contracted Compensation and Pension Examinations

Health Administration Update

On August 12, 2017 Congress passed and the President signed Public Law 115-46, VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017. This legislation provides $2.1 billion to continue the Choice Program for six months while Congress works on other reforms to the Choice Program. It also authorizes 28 major medical facility leases (many pending approval for two years) and included an additional $1.8 billion to enhance the recruitment, retention, and training of the VA workforce.

Following is a breakdown of the locations and amount for each medical lease.

(1) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Ann Arbor, Michigan, an amount not to exceed $4,247,000. (2) For a new outpatient mental health clinic, Birmingham, Alabama, an amount not to exceed $6,649,000. (3) For new research space, Boston, Massachusetts, an amount not to exceed $6,224,000. (4) For a replacement research space, Charleston, South Carolina, an amount not to exceed $7,274,000. (5) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Corpus Christi, Texas, an amount not to exceed $6,556,000. (6) For a replacement

outpatient clinic, Daytona Beach, Florida, an amount not to exceed $12,198,000. (7) For a replacement Chief Business Office Purchased Care office space, Denver, Colorado, an amount not to exceed $14,784,000. (8) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Fredericksburg, Virginia, an amount not to exceed $45,015,000. (9) For a new outpatient clinic, Gainesville, Florida, an amount not to exceed $7,891,000. (10) For an outpatient mental health clinic, Gainesville, Florida, an amount not to exceed $4,320,000. (11) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Hampton Roads, Virginia, an amount not to exceed $18,141,000. (12) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Indianapolis, Indiana, an amount not to exceed $7,876,000. (13) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Jacksonville, Florida, an amount not to exceed $18,623,000. (14) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Missoula, Montana, an amount not to exceed $6,942,000. (15) For a replacement outpatient mental health clinic, Northern Colorado, Colorado, an amount not to exceed $8,904,000. (16) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Ocala, Florida, an amount not to exceed $5,026,000. (17) For a new outpatient clinic, Oxnard, California, an amount not to exceed $5,274,000. (18) For a new outpatient clinic, Pike County, Georgia, an amount not to exceed $5,565,000. (19) For a new outpatient clinic, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, an amount not to exceed $6,247,000. (20) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Portland, Maine, an amount not to exceed $6,808,000. (21) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Raleigh, North Carolina, an amount not to exceed $21,870,000. (22) For a replacement outpatient clinic, phase II, Rochester, New York, an amount not to exceed $3,645,000. (23) For a replacement research space, San Diego, California, an amount not to exceed $4,852,000. (24) For a new outpatient clinic, Santa Rosa, California, an amount not to exceed $6,922,000. (25) For a replacement mental health clinic, Tampa, Florida, an amount not to exceed $13,387,000. (26) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Lakeland, Tampa, Florida, an amount not to exceed $10,760,000. (27) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Terre Haute, Indiana, an amount not to exceed $4,102,000. (28) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Rapid City, South Dakota, an amount not to exceed $4,532,000.

Legion Volunteering

The American Legion's Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program has again been proven beneficial. By the end of the 3rd quarter, 2017, there are over 4,465 regularly scheduled volunteers who serve veterans in VAMCs, clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses and State Veterans Homes across the nation.

The regularly scheduled volunteers contributed 554,143 hours and occasional volunteers contributed 43,485 hours. Their combined service contributed in excess of 597,628 hours resulting in savings to the Department of Veterans Affairs of more than $14.426 million. While the number of total volunteers and hours continues to decrease from previous years, the commitment of The American Legion's volunteers remains strong.

The VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC) Executive Committee (EC) fall meeting is scheduled for October 18-19, 2017, at the Fleet Reserve Association National Headquarters, in Alexandria VA. This meeting will be co-hosted by the Fleet Reserve Association and Blinded Veterans Association. A report from the meeting will be provided at the Spring 2018 National Executive Committee Meeting

TBI/PTSD Committee

The TBI/PTSD Committee met in Indianapolis, IN on Saturday October, 7, 2017 during the Fall NEC Meeting. The committee heard from Mr. George Carpenter, CEO, MYND, Inc. Mynd Analytics, Inc. which is a predictive analytics company. The company has developed a decision support tool to assist physicians reduce trial and error in mental treatments and provide personalized care to patients. Mynd Analytics Inc. uses a simple,

painless, non-invasive electroencephalogram (EEG) test that measures brain waves generated by electrical signals in nerve cells.

Mynd Analytics Inc. is using the Psychiatric Electroencephalogram Evaluation Registry (PEER). The online registry currently at 10,700 individuals captures real-world outcomes for specific medications and how individuals respond to different medications and what their brainwaves look like. This data allows physicians to detect new patterns for the purpose of proving the proper treatments and therapies.

Mr. Carpenter provided the committee a presentation with his company's medical research entitled *Can "Big Data" Help Physicians Improve Treatment for Psychological Trauma?"* The presentation was the results from an ongoing registry trial.

The Committee also heard from Dusty Baxley, Executive Director of Boulder Crest Retreat (BCR) presented to the TBI and PTSD Committee on how his organization is assisting veterans and their families who are suffering from mental health illnesses and disorders such as posttraumatic stress disorder. Boulder Crest Retreat is a local organization nestled near the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Bluemont, Virginia, roughly an hour from Washington, D.C.

Their mission is to assist former servicemembers and their families to successfully rehabilitate from mental health issues through education, individual and group therapy. This is accomplished by giving them "resiliency tools", and the ability to follow-up post Warrior Progressive and Alternative Training for Healing Heroes (PATHH) program at no program cost to them (minus travel and food).

They have five different programs, including couple, family, caregiver, mentoring, and PATHH. The Warrior PATHH is BCR's focal point, as a 7-day intensive therapy program designed to rehabilitate those for whom the tolls of war have had the greatest effect. Individual therapies in several of the programs include equine, meditation/yoga, culinary/gardening, counseling, art, archery, and other programs that heal the mind, body, and spirit.

BCR is currently expanding nationwide with a facility being developed near Tucson, AZ and plans to open more servicemember and veteran wellness retreats within a few years.

Following the morning presentations, the afternoon meeting consisted of additional presentations given by Medical Consultants and members of the TBI/PTSD Committee Dr. Jeanne Mager Stellman, Ph.D. who presented on her and her husband's medical research titled: *A Third Look: American Legion/Columbia University Vietnam Veterans Study* and Dr. Ron Poropatich, M.D., MS (Ret. Col), who presented on *Translation of TBI Research & Important Neuroimaging Breakthroughs.* The University of Pittsburgh is a leader in medical research and values its close affiliation with military medicine. The presentation provided an overview of the Center for Military Medicine Research at Pitt as well as the key Traumatic Brain Injury research programs that are funded by the DoD. The TBI research programs presented include translational research to improve treatment of TBI, new neuroimaging techniques, and mild TBI research programs that target an active duty military population.

National staff also led a discussion on the Committees strategies for 2017/2018 to include:

- The American Legion Suicide Prevention Program
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) usefulness to evidence-based VA treatments for TBI and PTSD
- The American Legion being represented on the VA/VSO Suicide Council
- The American Legion Caregiver Support Program
- Advances in Medical Cannabis and
- The American Legion 2018 TBI/PTSD Symposium

Claims Update

The American Legion continues to press the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) on improving their administrative processes while improving upon the quality and accuracy of claims decisions. Since 2012, The American Legion has encouraged veterans to file for VBA benefits via the fully developed claim (FDC) process. Due to the efforts of National Headquarters staff and American Legion accredited representatives, over 70 percent of claims submitted to VBA holding American Legion as power of attorney are submitted via FDC. These efforts have resulted in thousands of veterans receiving their benefits in a timelier manner. The fact that over 70 percent of claims have been submitted via FDC is staggering; at its inception, VA was hoping for only a 25 percent submission rate for FDCs and truly reflects a dedication by our accredited representatives to improving the delivery of benefits.

In February 2017, VBA introduced the Decision Ready Claim (DRC) process. DRC largely involves service officers following the same procedures as FDC; however, they also have the ability to schedule compensation and pension (C&P) examinations. Service officers electing to file claims via DRC must initially file VA's "Intent to File" form to retain the earliest effective date. Following the filing of the form, the service officer will schedule the C&P examination; after the C&P examination's conclusion, the service officer files the DRC.

American Legion service officers expressed serious concerns regarding DRC. Questions surrounding increased liability by service officers and faulty VA computer programs resulted in little interest in participating in the program. National Headquarters staff circulated a letter identifying the various concerns to the service officers for their endorsement. Responses from the service officers were significant and led National Headquarters staff to work closely with senior VBA personnel to address these concerns.

Following weeks of discussion, VBA agreed to release a statement to Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) clearly stating that VA maintains their regulatory duty to assist, and VSOs will not inherit additional liability through DRC participation. Moreover, National Headquarters staff participated in a requirements meeting with VBA information technology (IT) personnel to discuss and implement improvements to VBA IT programs to encourage a higher level of participation.

National Headquarters staff recognizes improvements in VBA IT programs will result in improved delivery of services for all types of VA claims. DRC is a microcosm of the entire claims process; improvements to one form of claims process will improve the entire system.

American Legion accredited representatives continue to struggle with the creation and implementation of National Work Queue (NWQ). NWQ is a program designed to redirect cases to VA regional offices (VAROs) throughout the nation. Conceptually, the program would seem viable; however, American Legion representatives report difficulty in reaching VA personnel to discuss case outcomes at other VAROs. The problem is compounded by time zone differences and staff availability.

A common complaint among DSOs is the lack of correspondence that is received by VA. VA will mail correspondence to veterans and indicate the veteran's DSO received a courtesy copy of the letter. DSOs are reporting they neither receive a courtesy copy nor an electronic alert within VBMS to inform them of the correspondence.

Our accredited representatives continue to work tirelessly to honor those that have served. Currently the American Legion has over 3,200 accredited representatives. With this number of professional representatives, The American Legion represents over 800,000 claimants in receipt of VA monetary benefits. Due to their efforts, claimants holding The American Legion as power of attorney receive over $9.9 billion in VA disability benefits during the past fiscal year. The awarding of the benefits permits access to other benefits,

such as access to free VA healthcare, increased federal hiring preference, and elimination of funding fees for VA mortgages.

The enactment of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act has led to rapid implementation of the new design. National Headquarters staff attended a meeting hosted by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) and VBA on September 14, 2017. VA Secretary David Shulkin has directed VA staff to begin to implement appeals modernization immediately. Individual VAROs will implement the program; VARO personnel will identify veterans that have filed appeals and invite them to "opt-in" to the improved system and reduce the inventory of appeals nationwide.

Cemetery Update

The National Cemetery Committee and staff last met on August 26th during our National Convention in Reno, Nevada. The committee heard from Ms. Renea C. Yates, Deputy Superintendent, Cemetery Administration and Major Shannon Way Arlington National Cemetery. Their discussion was on Arlington's ongoing dilemma with space availability. Ms. Yates reiterated that at the current rate Arlington would reach capacity by the middle of this century. Things that can be done to expand the availability are to change the requirements for burial and interment. Major Way also mentioned that acquiring new space poses a problem due to the geographical location of being in a highly dense populated area surrounded by major highways and roads. The takeaways are, if future land acquisition for expansion needs to be considered and what will happen when the cemetery has reached capacity. Ms. Yates urged The American Legion to participate and lead a national discussion on the future of Arlington and what to do when capacity has been reached. The Committee also heard from Mr. Ken Johnson, Program Manager, Pacific District, National Cemetery Administration. Mr. Johnson discussed NCA's structure, mission and eligibility criteria for burial or internment. Mr. Johnson also discussed the rural and urban initiatives currently underway in NCA in an effort to increase burial options for veterans. The following National Cemeteries have been awarded grants for improvements, flag assembly areas, front entry walls, signage construction, and maintenance. The cemeteries outlined for these grants are all National Veterans Cemeteries near Fort Yates North Dakota, The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery Mission, Texas, The State of Texas, East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery and The State of Tennessee.

VA Medical Center Proposed Site Visits for 2017

The American Legion through its System Worth Saving program plans to visit 16 VA hospitals between January 2018 and December 2018 to review the quality of health care, access, outpatient wait time, and other key health care outcomes.

Site selections were based on information complied throughout the year on hospital identified facing challenges with access, wait time, high rate of suicides as well as other factors.

- Memphis VAMC-Memphis, TN – Jan 10-12, 2018 (last SWS visit 2009)
- Washington, D.C. VAMC – Jan 22-24, 2018 (last SWS visit 2012)
- Eastern Oklahoma VAHCS-Muskogee, OK – Feb 21-23, 2018 (last SWS visit 2004).
- Central Arkansas VAHCS-Little Rock, AR – Mar 26-28, 2018 (last visit 2011).
- Durham VAMC-Durham, NC – Apr 2 – 4, 2018 (Last SWS visit 1/2012)
- VA Northern Indiana Healthcare System- Ft. Wayne, IN-Apr 23-25, 2018 (last SWS visit 2013)
- VA Southern Oregon Rehab & Clinics- White City, OR- May 1-3, 2018 (last SWS visit N/A).
- Miami VAHCS - Miami, FL-May 7-9, 2018 (last SWS visit 2015).

- John Dingell VAMC - Detroit, MI - Jun 4-6, 2018 (last SWS visit 2012).
- Rocky Mountain Regional VAHCS - Denver, Colorado – March 5 - 8 (last SWS visit 2014).
- Minneapolis VAHCS - Minneapolis, MN – Aug 13-15, 2018 (last SWS visit 2011).
- Atlanta, VAHCS-Atlanta, GA – Sep 17-19, 2018 (last SWS visit 2011).
- VA Central Western Massachusetts HCS-Leeds, MA – Oct 22-24, 2018 (last SWS visit N/A).
- Marion VAMC-Marion, IL – Nov 19-21, 2018 (last SWS visit 2012).
- El Paso VAHCS- El Paso, TX – Dec 3-5, 2018 (last SWS visit 2014).
- Southern Arizona VAHCS-Tucson, AZ – Dec 10-12, 2018 (last SWS visit 2011).

Addendum A

Rejected

Resolution No. 57 (NY)**: Increase Oversight of Department of Veterans Affairs Contracted Compensation and Pension Examinations**

Received and Recorded

Resolution No. 51 (NY)**: Department of Veteran Affairs Numerical Rating System**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission with the exception of three resolutions and Addendum A. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to accept the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission's report with the exception of Addendum A and three resolutions. Are there any questions? Question in the back.

NEC MEMBER RYNES (WI): Just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Could you send those applications for awards also to, like, the VA and VS offices and hospitals? Would that help? Bypass maybe headquarters?

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOZELLA: No, I think we're sending them to the right place. We're sending to our department offices. This time we're sending them to you. You've heard about it, and I really believe that you can create an action on them. Your department commanders heard the same message yesterday. Then it's up to your departments how you will facilitate that. Thank you for the question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Are there any other questions? On the motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 12: Department of Veterans Affairs Drug Pricing Policy
Origin: Resolution No. 72 (CA) 2017 National Convention
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the primary source of medication for those veterans who are eligible for and receive services from the VA based upon their military service to our country; and

WHEREAS, As a result of a combination of congressional action and other discount pricing opportunities from the pharmaceutical industry, the VA is able to negotiate with

drug manufacturers, lower pricing arrangements allowing the VA to continue to provide a wide assortment of pharmaceutical drugs to the veterans it serves; and

WHEREAS, Recently there are efforts in various states, such as Ohio, Maine, Vermont and Washington state, to require state governments to not pay more for their drug purchases for state employees and other state medical recipients than those paid by the VA; and

WHEREAS, Most recently this issue was on the November 2016 California ballot as Proposition 61 where it was opposed by over 30 veterans organizations, including The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, California voters listened to the veterans and overwhelmingly defeated Proposition 61 by a margin of 53.20% to 46.80%; and

WHEREAS, The VA stated that if Proposition 61 had passed it would have cost the VA an additional $3.8 billion per year in increased drug prices and administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, There is currently a ballot measure similar to Proposition 61 on the November 2017 ballot in Ohio by the same California proponents of Proposition 61; and

WHEREAS, The proponents of these ballot and legislative measures will continue in their efforts to require state and other governmental agencies to pay no more for drugs than what is paid by the VA; and

WHEREAS, These VA price controls were previously tried by Congress in the 1990s and after they proved to be unworkable and they were removed by Congress, and

WHEREAS, If any of these ballot or legislative measures pass, it will undoubtedly require the VA and Department of Defense to raise medication co-payments and/or reduce services based upon current budgetary constraints; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion shall oppose any effort to require any governmental agency to align its drug pricing structure with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution 12 has the approval of VA&R Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve the Resolution No. 12. Are there any questions? All those in favor of adopting Resolution 12, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Resolution 12 carries.

Resolution No. 13: Columbia University Vietnam Veterans Health Study
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, beginning in 1983 The American Legion supported, both financially and through significant volunteer and professional contributions of its staff and membership, the creation and execution of The American Legion – Columbia University Vietnam Veterans Health Study of more than 12,000 randomly selected Legionnaires in five Departments; and

WHEREAS, the first findings, published in the December 1988 issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Research* that was devoted entirely to the study, were of pivotal importance in furthering the understanding of both PTSD and Agent Orange effects in Vietnam veterans and establishing treatments and benefits for Vietnam veterans; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 The American Legion continued to provide professional and logistical support to the Columbia University team for a second wave of surveys, this time with the financial support of the US National Academy of Sciences; and

WHEREAS the new survey showed the continuing patterns of PTSD and decline in health of a portion of the American Legionnaires in the study; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia University team in 2017 obtained additional funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine the current location of the original Legionnaire survey sample, and whether they are still alive or deceased and, if deceased the cause of death, for the purpose of updating the data of Agent Orange exposure based on new methods the team has developed; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion – Columbia University Vietnam Veterans Health Study has had a profound impact on both the benefits received by Vietnam veterans and the understanding of the long-term impact on the health and well-being of stressful, possibly toxic military service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion continue to provide professional and logistical assistance and support for the Columbia University team in its continuing research and outreach to the members of the American Legion and their families who have participated in the earlier studies; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue its longstanding collaboration with Columbia University and to help ensure that the team has access to all needed records and research.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution 13 has the approval of the VA&R Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 13. Are there any questions? Hearing none, all those in favor of Resolution, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. 13 carries.

Resolution No. 14: Rescinding Non-Legislative Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission has conducted an extensive review of National Executive Committee and National Convention resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That the following resolutions be rescinded for one of the following reasons: being obsolete, accomplishment of purpose, being superseded by later resolutions, being in conflict with later resolutions, being duplicated by later resolutions, having no further value because of later changes in program, or other reasons.

No.	Year	Meeting	Title	Reason
99	1920	Convention	Pay The Proper Honors To Comrades Who Paid The Supreme Sacrifice	Accomplished
13	1920	Winter	American Legion Desires To Cooperate With All The Welfare Organizations	Accomplished
229	1921	Convention	In Each District A Committee of Consultants Be Appointed, Consisting of Professional and Leading Business Men Who are Members of The American Legion, for the Purpose of Advising and Co-Operating with the District Manager	Obsolete

231	1921	Convention	The American Legion Continue Its Interest and Active Co- Operation with the Government	Accomplished
232	1921	Convention	The Legion To Offer The Most Effective Assistance, and Have an Attitude that in no Way Embarrass the Government	Accomplished
56	1923	Convention	Creation Of V.B. Contact Divisions	Obsolete
57	1923	Convention	Assistance To Claimants In Preparation of Evidence	Accomplished
60	1923	Convention	Reorganization Of District Board of Appeals	Accomplished
77	1923	Convention	Employment Of Adequate Nursing Staff	Accomplished
179	1923	Convention	Vocation Training Administration	Accomplished
244	1923	Convention	Medical Service	Accomplished
252	1923	Convention	Decentralization Total Permanent Claims	Accomplished
262	1923	Convention	Arrangement Of Case Folders	Accomplished
269	1923	Convention	Extension Of Vocational Training	Accomplished
322	1923	Convention	American Red Cross	Accomplished
324	1923	Convention	Guardianship	Accomplished
326	1923	Convention	Decentralization Of Authority To District Managers Bureau	Obsolete
332	1923	Convention	Check Of Death Records	Accomplished
338	1923	Convention	Veterans Bureau – Administrative	Obsolete
89	1924	Convention	Reorganization Of Rehabilitation Service	Obsolete
118	1924	Convention	Permanent Total Ratings	Accomplished
158	1924	Convention	Extension Of Vocational Training Privileges	Accomplished
208	1924	Convention	Disposal Of Group Equipment	Obsolete
230	1924	Convention	Extending Privilege Of Employment Service To All Beneficiaries	Accomplished
298	1924	Convention	Removal Of Inefficient Bureau Officials	Obsolete
324	1924	Convention	Rearrangement Of Paper In Folders	Accomplished
329	1924	Convention	Information To Claimants	Accomplished
337	1924	Convention	Equipment Of Trainees	Obsolete
361	1924	Convention	Prosecutions By Veterans Bureau	Obsolete
364	1924	Convention	Sickly Deductions	Accomplished
383	1924	Convention	Bureau Physicians for Centers of Population	Obsolete
390	1924	Convention	Vocational Rehabilitation	Obsolete
391	1924	Convention	Hospitalization Procedure	Accomplished
397	1924	Convention	Vocational Training Follow-Up	Obsolete
475	1924	Convention	Medical Council, U.S.V.B.	Obsolete
476	1924	Convention	Reconstruction Aides	Obsolete
477	1924	Convention	Cure & Physical Rehabilitation of Our Comrades	Accomplished
512	1924	Convention	Creation Of Rehabilitation Trust Fund	Accomplished
60	1925	Convention	Education Program In Interest Of Government Insurance	Accomplished
75	1925	Convention	Rehabilitation Program Reaffirmed	Accomplished
113	1925	Convention	Discipline And Morale	Accomplished
266	1925	Convention	Annotations Of Orders, Regulations, Etc.	Accomplished
348	1926	Convention	Information And Cooperation Division In U.S.V.B.	Obsolete
65	1927	Convention	“Findings Of Fact” Opposed	Obsolete
90	1927	Convention	Ratings Of Statutory Award In Tuberculosis Cases	Accomplished
92	1927	Convention	Limit Deductions For Over-Payments	Accomplished
96	1927	Convention	U.S. Veterans Bureau Offices Maintain Employment Officer	Obsolete
112	1927	Convention	Contact With Mayo Clinic By U.S. Veterans Bureau Urged	Obsolete
262	1927	Convention	Service Connection In Chronic Constitutional Disease	Accomplished
311	1927	Convention	Reorganization Of U.S.V.B. Cooperation Sector	Obsolete

386	1927	Convention	Schedule Of Ratings For Students	Accomplished
494	1927	Convention	Survey Of N.P. Cases In Virginia And West Virginia	Obsolete
17	1928	Convention	Procedure In Adjudication Of Claims In Region Offices	Accomplished
33	1928	Convention	Discrimination In Rating Claims Of U.S.V.B. Employees	Obsolete
94	1928	Convention	Procedure In Adjudication Of Claims In Regional Office	Obsolete
442	1928	Convention	Cooperation Section Under Regional Manager	Obsolete
382	1928	Convention	Cost Of Printing Half-Fare RR Transportation Request Blanks	Obsolete
414	1928	Convention	Standard Burial Permit Should Include Military Record Of The Deceased	Obsolete
429	1928	Convention	Oppose To Home Treatment For T.B.	Accomplished
499	1928	Convention	Evaluation Of Evidence By Rating Boards	Accomplished
96	1929	Convention	U.S. Veterans Bureau To Establish Employment Sections	Obsolete
107	1929	Convention	U.S. Veterans Bureau Co-Operators	Obsolete
108	1929	Convention	Negative Evidence Should Be Disregarded	Accomplished
112	1929	Convention	U.S. Veterans Bureau Use Facilities Of The Mayo Clinic	Accomplished
123	1929	Convention	Major Amputation Etc. Cases	Obsolete
124	1929	Convention	Protest Tactics Of Rating Boards	Obsolete
139	1929	Convention	Discriminations Vs U.S. Veterans Bureau Employee	Obsolete
203	1929	Convention	Hospital Pay For All Cases Where Operations Are Performed	Accomplished
504	1929	Convention	Regional Claims & Rating Boards	Accomplished
106	1930	Convention	Mayo Clinic To Be Used As A United States Veterans Bureau Diagnostic Center	Obsolete
142	1930	Convention	Larger Skilled Contact Personnel In United United States Veterans Bureau Needed	Obsolete
228	1930	Convention	Rotation Of Membership On Regional Claims And Rating Boards	Obsolete
234	1930	Convention	Use Of Same Application Form For Disability Compensation or Allowance	Accomplished
281	1930	Convention	Schools, Athletics Etc. Should Be Established In Psychopathic Hospital	Obsolete
441	1930	Convention	Cooperation And Contact Service In U.S.V.B.	Obsolete
60	1931	Convention	Agency To Anticipate Hospital Needs	Obsolete
230	1931	Convention	Free Transportation To Government Homes	Obsolete
263	1931	Convention	Medical Director Of Veteran's Administration	Obsolete
269	1931	Convention	Constitutional Inferiority Or Physical Deformity Cases	Obsolete
285	1931	Convention	Protest Rulings Of Comptroller General	Accomplished
288	1931	Convention	Cancelled Check Sufficient Evidence On Adjudication Cases	Obsolete
391	1931	Convention	Make It Possible To Change Plan Of Converted Policies	Accomplished
74	1932	Convention	Further Decentralization Of Veterans Administration Urged	Obsolete
95	1932	Convention	American Medical Assn. Attitude Re-Hospitalization of Veterans	Accomplished
113	1932	Convention	Examinations Used As A Basis For Reducing Ratings	Accomplished
124	1932	Convention	Higher Classification Of Contact Personnel In Table Of Organization	Obsolete

21	**1933**	**Spring**	**Opposing Discrimination In Treatment Of Male And Female Veterans**	**Accomplished**
555	**1934**	**Convention**	**Develop All Claims Fully Before Sending Them To Rating Agencies**	**Accomplished**
615	**1934**	**Convention**	**Tobacco Ration Allowance At V.A. Facility, Milwaukee, WI**	**Obsolete**
443	**1935**	**Convention**	**V.A. To Have Area Conferences Of Field Officers**	**Obsolete**
621	**1935**	**Convention**	**Continue National And Area Rehabilitation Conferences**	**Accomplished**
685	**1935**	**Convention**	**Certification That All Evidence Is In file**	**Accomplished**
260	**1936**	**Convention**	**Rating Boards Be Permitted To Make Final Determination on New Evidence**	**Accomplished**
539	**1936**	**Convention**	**Recommend Rehabilitation Regulations And Change**	**Obsolete**
551	**1936**	**Convention**	**P.T. Ratings In Function N.P. Diseases**	**Obsolete**
575	**1936**	**Convention**	**Physical Examination Of Veterans A National Project**	**Accomplished**
229	**1937**	**Convention**	**Endorse National Field Service Of The American Legion**	**Accomplished**
253	**1937**	**Convention**	**Routine Examinations Not To Be Used As Rebuttal Evidence**	**Obsolete**
302	**1937**	**Convention**	**Facilities For Chronic Residual Cases**	**Accomplished**
489	**1937**	**Convention**	**Improvement Of Relationship Between Central Office of V.A. and Field Stations**	**Obsolete**
121	**1939**	**Convention**	**Medical Reports Needed For Ratings To Be Forwarded Promptly**	**Accomplished**
614	**1939**	**Convention**	**Rotation of Personnel on Rating Boards**	**Obsolete**
18	**1940**	**Spring**	**Women N.P. Patients**	**Obsolete**
33	**1942**	**Fall**	**Veterans Administration**	**Obsolete**
35	**1942**	**Fall**	**Central Governmental Agency**	**Obsolete**
36	**1942**	**Fall**	**Records Of Adjutant General's Office**	**Obsolete**
38	**1942**	**Fall**	**Field Service**	**Obsolete**
39	**1942**	**Fall**	**Rehabilitation Conference**	**Accomplished**
41	**1942**	**Fall**	**Waiver Of Disabilities Upon Entry Into The Service**	**Accomplished**
3	**1943**	**Convention**	**Adequate Hospitalization For Female Veterans**	**Accomplished**
13	**1943**	**Convention**	**Insurance Beneficiaries Not Required To Prove Dependency**	**Accomplished**
84	**1943**	**Convention**	**Hospitalization Of Active Pulmonary TB Veterans Of Present War**	**Accomplished Accomplished**
112	**1943**	**Convention**	**Statement That Disability Existed Prior To Service Required on Discharge**	**Accomplished**
114	**1943**	**Convention**	**Legion Service Officers In Hospitals Of Armed Forces**	**Accomplished**
118	**1943**	**Convention**	**VA Contact Representatives At Each Army and/or Navy Hospital**	**Accomplished**
119	**1943**	**Convention**	**Graduate Nurse Position Be Put In Professional And Scientific Service**	**Accomplished**
359	**1943**	**Convention**	**Investigate Cases Where Class A Dependency Allotment Not Rightfully Entitled To Such**	**Obsolete**
361	**1943**	**Convention**	**Legion Posts Sponsor Local Service Committees to Help Returning Soldiers**	**Accomplished**
561	**1943**	**Convention**	**Decentralize Insurance Claims**	**Accomplished**
579	**1943**	**Convention**	**Veterans Needing Further Hospitalization On Discharge be Held Until VA Hospital Bed Available**	**Obsolete**
580	**1943**	**Convention**	**Prepare For Increased Load For VA Hospitals**	**Obsolete**
39	**1943**	**Fall**	**Service Officers Manual**	**Obsolete**

35	**1944**	**Convention**	**Educational Opportunities For Veterans Studying Professions that Require Years of Study**	**Accomplished**
134	**1944**	**Convention**	**Better Cooperation From Dependency Claims Division**	**Accomplished**
316	**1944**	**Convention**	**Treatment Of Disability through Loss Of Hearing**	**Accomplished**
411	**1944**	**Convention**	**More Efficient Notification To Veteran When Eligible For Vocational Training**	**Obsolete**
594	**1944**	**Convention**	**Promote Campaign to Induce WWII Veterans To Retain Their Government Insurance**	**Accomplished**
606	**1944**	**Convention**	**Expand Staff Of clinical Examiners To Eliminate Delays in Ratings**	**Accomplished**
633	**1944**	**Convention**	**Liberalization Of National Life Insurance Act**	**Accomplished**
665	**1944**	**Convention**	**Vocational Training And Education**	**Obsolete**
667	**1944**	**Convention**	**Re-Establish A Medical Advisory Service Headed By Col. L.G. Rowntree**	**Accomplished**
38	**1944**	**Fall**	**Solicitation Of Large Contributions For Returning Veterans**	**Accomplished**
44	**1944**	**Spring**	**Military Records Of Veterans**	**Accomplished**
217	**1945**	**Convention**	**Additional Insurance Without A Physical Examination for Those in The Armed Forces**	**Accomplished**
249	**1945**	**Convention**	**Graduate Nurses Be Raised To C.S. Status Of Professional Group**	**Obsolete**
318	**1945**	**Convention**	**Reclassify All Medical Auxiliary Positions By Recognized Standards**	**Accomplished**
379	**1945**	**Convention**	**Payments To Beneficiary Of National Life Insurance**	**Accomplished**
22	**1945**	**Fall**	**Continue Medical Advisory Board As Presently Constituted**	**Accomplished**
21	**1945**	**Spring**	**Insurance Claims And Adjudicated Applications**	**Accomplished**
67	**1945**	**Spring**	**Determination Of financial Status Of An Application For Hospital Treatment**	**Accomplished**
4	**1946**	**Convention**	**Priority In Examinations For Rating Purposes**	**Accomplished**
6	**1946**	**Convention**	**Review All Disallowed Claims During Period "Quantity" and Not "Quality" Prevailed**	**Accomplished**
8	**1946**	**Convention**	**VA Issue Complete Sets Of All Regulations Etc. To All Offices and Organizations**	**Obsolete**
80	**1946**	**Convention**	**Decentralization Of Adjudication Of Claims**	**Accomplished**
318	**1946**	**Convention**	**Contractual Medical Programs Of VA To Be Studied**	**Obsolete**
319	**1946**	**Convention**	**Public Relations Services Of VA**	**Obsolete**
366	**1946**	**Convention**	**Return Medical Records To This country For Use By VA**	**Obsolete**
796	**1946**	**Convention**	**Evidence Received After Initial Adjudication**	**Obsolete**
797	**1946**	**Convention**	**Use Of Codes In Letters Regarding Rating Cases**	**Accomplished**
799	**1946**	**Convention**	**VA Medical Examinations For Veterans**	**Obsolete**
801	**1946**	**Convention**	**Examining Physicians reports Cover All Complaints By Veterans**	**Obsolete**
38	**1946**	**Fall**	**Additional Full Time Medical Consultants**	**Obsolete**
46	**1946**	**Fall**	**Insurance Conservation Program**	**Accomplished**
2	**1946**	**Special**	**Monthly Progress Report On The Activities Of The Veterans Administration**	**Accomplished**
95	**1947**	**Convention**	**National Service Life Insurance Program Lapses**	**Obsolete**
96	**1947**	**Convention**	**Funds To Clear Up Back Log Of Dental Treatment Now Long Overdue**	**Obsolete**
105	**1947**	**Convention**	**Economy Trend Not To Affect Medical And Adjudication Services of VA**	**Obsolete**
151	**1947**	**Convention**	**Recommends Holding Of Rehabilitation Conferences in 13 Branches Office Area**	**Obsolete**

202	**1947**	**Convention**	**National Service Life Insurance Division Be Made More Efficient**	**Obsolete**
225	**1947**	**Convention**	**No Reduction In Rating Based On A Medical Examination Les Complete Than Original One**	**Accomplished**
227	**1947**	**Convention**	**Closer Liaison Between Adjudication And Medical Divisions Of VA**	**Obsolete**
303	**1947**	**Convention**	**Rating Examinations For Veterans In School Not To Interfere With School Curricula**	**Accomplished**
394	**1947**	**Convention**	**Modification Of VA Rules With Reference To Burial In VA Cemeteries**	**Obsolete**
399	**1947**	**Convention**	**Service Connected Disabilities Be Given Due Weight As Secondary Cause of Death**	**Accomplished**
406	**1947**	**Convention**	**Provision for Automobiles For Quadriplegics (4-Limb Paralytics)**	**Accomplished**
660	**1947**	**Convention**	**Urge Complete Physical Examination Within Three Years Of Discharge**	**Accomplished**
754	**1947**	**Convention**	**Disbursement Functions On VA Payments Be Returned To The VA**	**Obsolete**
783	**1947**	**Convention**	**Liberalization Of Regulations As To Dental Treatments**	**Obsolete**
820	**1947**	**Convention**	**Recommend Holding Of Demonstrations Of Paraplegic and Handicapped Veterans At National Conventions**	**Obsolete**
824	**1947**	**Convention**	**Continue National Medical Advisory Board**	**Obsolete**
93	**1947**	**Fall**	**Reorganization Of Veterans Administration**	**Obsolete**
13	**1947**	**Pre**	**Work Of The Office Of The Quartermaster General**	**Obsolete**
8	**1947**	**Spring**	**Loose-Leaf Service Officers' Manual**	**Obsolete**
116	**1947**	**Spring**	**Re-Appraisement Of Certain Rehabilitation And Insurance Resolutions**	**Accomplished**
132	**1947**	**Spring**	**War Memorial Council**	**Obsolete**
75	**1948**	**Convention**	**Deductions From Compensation To Pay For Over-Payments and for Insurance Premiums**	**Accomplished**
104	**1948**	**Convention**	**Overpayments Be Closer Supervised By VA**	**Obsolete**
110	**1948**	**Convention**	**VA Establish Closer Liaison Relationship Between the Adjudication and Medical Division**	**Obsolete**
172	**1948**	**Convention**	**Medical Corps Veterans Be Used In VA Facilities**	**Obsolete**
285	**1948**	**Convention**	**Decentralize Death Claims And Insurance Activities To Regional Office Level**	**Accomplished**
382	**1948**	**Convention**	**Reorganization Of The Insurance Department Of The VA**	**Obsolete**
383	**1948**	**Convention**	**Coordination Of Examination To Conform To Rating Procedure**	**Accomplished**
592	**1948**	**Convention**	**VA Train Their Own Nurses And Technicians**	**Obsolete**
646	**1948**	**Convention**	**Access To Records Of Out-Treatment Patients By Accredited**	**Accomplished**
710	**1948**	**Convention**	**Abandon Use Of Discharge Summaries From Hospital For Rating Purposes**	**Accomplished**
765	**1948**	**Convention**	**Commend Director And Staff Of National Rehabilitation Commission and VA Officials in Bringing Out Liberalizing Extensions Bulletins and Procedures**	**Obsolete**
37	**1949**	**Convention**	**Dissemination Of Policy Making Information**	**Accomplished**
126	**1949**	**Convention**	**Area Rehabilitation Conferences Be Resumed**	**Obsolete**
158	**1949**	**Convention**	**Disbursing Be Returned To VA**	**Obsolete**
160	**1949**	**Convention**	**Effective For Total Disability Following 6 Months Hospitalization**	**Obsolete**
161	**1949**	**Convention**	**Use of VA Form 526**	**Obsolete**
163	**1949**	**Convention**	**Reinstatement Of National Service Life Insurance**	**Accomplished**

206	1949	Convention	Decentralize Death And Insurance Matters To Regional Office	Obsolete
235	1949	Convention	Urge Insistence Upon Submission Of Meritorious Claims For Administrative Review Under Provisions of R&PR 1142	Obsolete
237	1949	Convention	VA Decisions In Controversial Cases	Obsolete
260	1949	Convention	Request Discontinuance Of Use Of Inadequate Hospital Summaries and Medical Examinations for Rating Purposes	Accomplished
267	1949	Convention	Evidence Supporting Claims For Part III Benefits	Accomplished
322	1949	Convention	Rehabilitation News Be Forwarded To Each Accredited Representative of The American Legion	Accomplished
526	1949	Convention	Seek The Provision For Award Of Death Compensation in Non-Service Connected Deaths of Veterans Who Are Permanently and Totally Disabled as a Result of Service	Obsolete
582	1949	Convention	Extension Of Period Of Presumption Of Service Connection	Obsolete
605	1949	Convention	Immunity From Ordinary Parking Restrictions For Amputee	Obsolete
8	1949	Fall	Area Rehabilitation and Child Welfare Conferences Be Conducted at Same Time If Possible	Obsolete
11	1949	Fall	VA Nursing Service	Obsolete
12	1949	Fall	The American Legion Rehabilitation Program	Accomplished
13	1949	Fall	Income Limitations Applying To Veterans And Widows	Obsolete
2	1949	Pre	Penicillin	Accomplished
64	1949	Spring	Support Increase In Dues For Exclusive Rehabilitation Use	Obsolete
15	1949	Spring	Continuance Of VA Offices Having Functions Of Regional Offices	Obsolete
69	1949	Spring	Equal VA Rights To Permanent Non-Resident Americans in Foreign Countries	Accomplished
78	1950	Convention	Oppose Closing Any Veteran Hospitals	Obsolete
8	1950	Fall	Adequate Supply Of VA Doctors And Professional Personnel	Obsolete
12	1950	Fall	Blood Bank Programs	Accomplished
51	1950	Fall	Continuance Of Insurance During Unexplained Absence	Accomplished
6	1950	Pre	Insurance Advisory Board	Accomplished
7	1950	Pre	Medical Manpower	Accomplished
6	1950	Spring	VA Physical Medicine And Rehabilitation	Obsolete
7	1950	Spring	Members Of The Insurance Advisory Board Be Insurance Men	Obsolete
8	1950	Spring	Correction Of Military Or Naval Record	Accomplished
9	1950	Spring	Additional Beds For Veterans Needed	Obsolete
13	1950	Spring	Congenital Malformation Of The Kidneys And Ureters	Accomplished
14	1950	Spring	Adequate VA Facilities For Women Veterans	Accomplished
77	1950	Spring	Veterans Administration Insurance Advisory Board	Obsolete
87	1950	Spring	$25,000 Contribution For Mental Hygiene	Obsolete
349	1951	Convention	Early Release Of Disabled Members Of Armed Forces So they May Secure VA Benefits, if Preferred	Accomplished
6	1951	Fall	Area Rehabilitation Conference	Accomplished
7	1951	Fall	Contract Beds With Federal And State Agencies	Obsolete
7	1951	Spring	Persons Discharged From Armed	Accomplished

			Services Should Be Advised of Their Rights	
363	1952	Convention	Attempts be Made to Locate Veterans or Survivors Who Have Not Received NSLI Dividends	Obsolete
516	1952	Convention	Surplus Facilities Of Existing Armed Forces Hospitals Be Made Available to Veterans Administration	Obsolete
2	1952	Spring	Hospitalization And Out-Patient Treatment For Korean Veterans	Accomplished
49	1952	Spring	Sufficient Funds For The Veterans Administration	Obsolete
50	1952	Spring	War Claims Act Include Compensation From Time Of Escape to Return to Allied Military Control	Obsolete
53	1952	Spring	GI Bill Of Rights Benefits To Servicemen Without Discharge Therefrom	Accomplished
39	1953	Convention	Reinstatement of Lapsed Insurance and Conversion To United States Government Insurance	Accomplished
41	1953	Convention	Restore Former Insurance Rights And Benefits Of Wartime Veterans	Accomplished
166	1953	Convention	Do Not Endanger Programs For Disabled By Demanding a General Pension	Obsolete
392	1953	Convention	Armed Forces Speed Up Furnishing VA With Medical Records Necessary for Rating of Disability Claims	Accomplished
393	1953	Convention	Correction Of Mistakes In Cataloging Admissions To VA Hospitals	Accomplished
431	1953	Convention	Expedite Work Of Army And Navy Boards To Correct Military or Naval Records	Superseded
469	1953	Convention	Appeal a Remand by the Board of Veterans Appeals	Obsolete
471	1953	Convention	Entitlement To Compensation For Disability Resulting From Injury of a Veteran Engaged in a Vocational Rehabilitation Program	Accomplished
472	1953	Convention	More Liberal Interpretations of “Beyond Veterans Control” as Defined in VR&E Regulations	Accomplished
474	1953	Convention	Adequate Staffing Of The Contact Division Of All VA Hospital be Maintained	Accomplished
475	1953	Convention	More Equitable Program Of Salaries And Promotion In the VA Medical Service	Accomplished
72	1953	Spring	Clarification Of The Law Pertaining To Hospital, Domiciliary, and Medical Care of Veterans	Accomplished
399	1954	Convention	VA Funds Be Allocated So All Available Hospital Beds Are Used	Obsolete
476	1954	Convention	Oppose Withholding Of Appropriated Money Needed for Outpatient Treatment	Obsolete
546	1954	Convention	Power Of Attorney For Incompetent Veterans	Accomplished
17	1954	Fall	Area Rehabilitation Conferences	Accomplished
65	1954	Spring	Special Compensation for Disabilities Inadequately Compensation by the Rate Prescribed	Accomplished
55	1956	Convention	Compensation In Cases Where Veteran Dies While Claim is Being Processed	Accomplished
578	1957	Convention	Petition VA To Modify Regulation So Pension Will Not Be Discontinued Before The Anticipated Income is Received	Accomplished
30	1957	Fall	American Legion Policy Regarding Federal Social Security Programs	Accomplished
31	1957	Fall	Maximum Use Of Veterans Administration Hospital Beds	Obsolete
15	1958	Convention	Urge VA To Establish A Control Procedure on Potentially Entitled Children of Deceased Veterans	Accomplished
17	1958	Convention	Study be Started by VA on a Control Procedure on	Accomplished

			Potentially Entitled Children of Deceased Veterans	
317	1958	Convention	Amend VA Regulation 1001(J) Regarding Enemy Alienage Discharges	Accomplished
539	1958	Convention	Review Of Claim By VA	Obsolete
99	1958	Fall	Applications for Reviews of Discharges and Correction of Military Records	Superseded
99	1959	Convention	Payment of Social Security and Veterans Benefits	Accomplished
21	1959	Fall	Funds For VA Medical And Hospital Care	Accomplished
11	1959	Spring	Campaign For Conversion Of NSLI Term Policies	Obsolete
1	1960	Spring	Creation Of Joint Rehabilitation-Economic Subcommittee On Problems of the Aged and Aging	Obsolete
5	1960	Spring	All American Legion Posts Appoint A Post Service Officer And Maintain and Active Service Program	Accomplished
24	1961	Spring	American Legion Continue To Seek Sufficient VA Hospital Facilities	Accomplished
26	1961	Spring	Cap Insignia For The American Legion VAVS Representatives	Accomplished
33	1961	Spring	Extend Disability Income Protection Under NSLI To Age 65	Obsolete
102	1962	Convention	Oppose Closing Of VA Domiciliary Facilities	Obsolete
320	1962	Convention	Veterans Administration Field Contact Offices	Obsolete
519	1962	Convention	Veterans Administration Hospital Application Form	Obsolete
611	1962	Convention	Oppose Disposition By the Federal Government of Lands Comprising the Site of VA Hospitals, Domiciles or Centers	Obsolete
4	1962	Spring	Decentralization Of Death Claims Adjudication to the Honolulu, Juneau, San Juan and Manila Veterans Administration Regional Offices	Obsolete
25	1962	Spring	Veterans' Administration Annual Income Questionnaire	Obsolete
26	1962	Spring	Continuation And Expansion Of Day Care Centers of The Mental Hygiene Clinics in V.A. Regional Offices	Accomplished
35	1962	Spring	Adequate Floor Space Allocation For V.A. Personnel and Service Organization Representative in Veterans Administration Offices	Obsolete
322	1963	Convention	Strengthen Veteran's Benefit Programs Of The Veterans Administration	Obsolete
413	1964	Convention	Decentralize United States Government Life Insurance Claims to Regional Veterans Administration	Accomplished
572	1964	Convention	Urges The Administration Of Veterans Affairs To Provide Adequate Contact Service	Accomplished
13	1964	Spring	Computation For VA Benefits Of Income Derived From the Sale of a Personal Residence	Accomplished
14	1964	Spring	Authorize Study Of Group In-Hospital And Out- of-Hospital Insurance Plans for Aging Members of The American Legion	Obsolete
17	1964	Spring	Establishing Veterans Administration Standards of Physical Facilities and of Care in Outplacement of Veterans Administration Beneficiaries	Accomplished
67	1964	Spring	Oppose Closing VA Hospital Beds And Facilities For Economy Reasons	Obsolete
6	1965	Special	Closure Of Veterans Administration Regional Offices, Hospitals, and Domiciliaries	Obsolete

17	**1965**	**Spring**	**Amend Veterans Administration Regulations To Permit Recoupment of Severance Pay at Less than the Full Rate of Disability Compensation Payable to Ease Economic Hardship in an Individual Case**	**Obsolete**
460	**1966**	**Convention**	**Urge The Secretary Of Defense To Establish Procedures And Facilities to Assure Adequate Separation Counseling of Military, Naval, and Air Service Personnel Being Separated from Active Duty**	**Superseded**
467	**1966**	**Convention**	**Use Of United States Armed Forces Commissary and Post Exchanges by Disabled Veterans**	**Accomplished**
43	**1966**	**Fall**	**Urges That The Administrator Of Veterans' Affairs Review Existing Procedures to Assure Prompt Payment of Benefits to Incompetent Beneficiaries on Death of the Appointed Guardian, Curator or Conservator**	**Obsolete**
318	**1967**	**Convention**	**Reactivation Of Gifts To Hospitalized Veterans Program**	**Accomplished**
26	**1967**	**Fall**	**Opposes Veterans Administration Modernization Plans at Lyons and in Other VA Hospitals that Result in Elimination of Operating Beds**	**Obsolete**
203	**1968**	**Convention**	**Exclusion Of Private Nursing Homes Having a Contract With the Veterans Administration from 1968 Ruling Issued by Administrator Wage and Hour Public Contracts Division United States Department of Labor**	**Obsolete**
278	**1968**	**Convention**	**Urges The VA To Authorize The Payment of Increased Compensation for a Service-Connected Disability from the Date of Admission to a Private Hospital**	**Obsolete**
21	**1968**	**Fall**	**Authorizes The Designation Of The Director of the National Rehabilitation Commission to be The American Legion Representative on the National Kidney Foundation Trustee Dialysis and Transplantation Committee**	**Obsolete**
5	**2015**	**Fall**	**Agreement With The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) 2015-2016**	**Accomplished**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution 14 has the approval of the VA&R Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 14. Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution 14, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. 14 is carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Attached to the report is Addendum A, and I move the actions of your VA&R Commission become the actions of the NEC. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the Addendum A become the actions of the NEC. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Addendum A is carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now call on Chairman Walter Ivie from Texas, Media & Communications Commission.

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

Thank you, Commander Rohan, members of the National Executive Committee, staff, and guests. You have my written report so I will keep my comments brief.

I want to start by sharing some good news. We all recognize the quality of the articles, photos, and advertisements in *The American Legion Magazine*, but do you know how we compare to other magazines? Every year, an independent audit asks readers if they have read at least three of the previous four issues of their magazine, and if they have read each of the past four issues of their magazine. In both cases, *The American Legion Magazine* has the highest percentage of readership among roughly 200 U.S. magazines. Not only that, we are the only magazine to have at least seven out of every ten readers say they have read each of the past four magazines. *(Applause)*

At the same time, our digital audience continues to grow. We saw an explosion of growth in key metrics after the major web redesign was launched 18 months ago. Today, we are still seeing steady increases in page views, unique visitors, and mobile visitations.

Moving to the financial numbers, the Media & Communications Division is running slightly ahead of budget in advertising sales and below budget in total expenses. It's worth noting that our ad sales for the national website are ahead of last year and could break the all-time record set in 2014. Overall, the division is poised to finish 2017 in a surplus position.

Now, staff members are working hard to promote the national commander's vision for November 11, a special Family First Veterans Day dinner across the United States and beyond. Legion post, units, squadrons, and chapters are all encouraged to engage their communities on this day to honor veterans and unite as a family. I'll mention that we have the beginnings of the kit with the reference information on it on the tables out back, if you want to make sure you take one with you today. Guests could include National Guard units, police officers, firefighters, city government officials, homeless veterans, and others who share The American Legion's values. Resources, including materials to plan and hold the event, are available in the publication pages of the national website, again, referenced on the handout.

Additionally, we recently wrapped up coverage of how American Legion members and posts rallied in the wakes of Hurricane Harvey and Irma. Legionnaires led roles in the recovery after these natural disasters, offering aid and assistance, including National Emergency Fund grants.

As The American Legion continues to fight hard to keep its membership numbers up, it's important to know what the Legion means to its communities across the nation. Bob Grinnis knows what his Legion Post No. 11 in Arcadia, Florida means to local veterans and community members alike. As he surveyed his post, which was inundated by floodwaters, Grinnis proclaimed, "I'm not going to let this place close. I refuse."

Commander Rohan, I'm inspired by Mr. Grinnis' words and determination. Amid the floodwaters, he sees how important it is to work to rebuild the post to serve his community. We, too, must be able to work to rebuild our declining membership so that we can serve veterans in all communities across these great United States.

Commander, I want to again thank the staff of the Media & Communications Division for their hard work and the great results they have accomplished. That concludes my report. Thank you for your continued support of our media program, outreach, and branding.

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

The mission of The American Legion Media & Communications Commission continues to evolve in a fast-paced year of improved news coverage, revitalized digital media, increased brand awareness, expansive external outreach and promotion of the organization, its programs, stances and initiatives.

The print, electronic, social and external media channels handled by the Media & Communications team are faring extremely well in comparison with others in the industry. Most notably, American Legion Magazine continues to be the best-read magazine out of roughly 200 U.S. titles surveyed by independent auditor GfK MRI Doublebase. In fact, Legion Magazine is the only U.S. magazine that has at least 7 of every 10 readers saying they have read each of the most recent four issues.

In addition to the magazine, staff members have zeroed in on several key areas instrumental to the Legion's continued success.

Staff is working hard to promote National Commander Denise H. Rohan's vision for November 11 — a special Family First Veterans Day Dinner across the United States. Legion posts, units, squadrons and chapters are all encouraged to engage their communities on this day to honor veterans and unite as a family. Guests could include National Guard units, police officers, firefighters, city government officials, homeless veterans and others who share The American Legion's values.

The Media & Communications Division has distributed information in print and digital forms on what post leaders should know about the Family First dinner. Resources, including materials to plan and hold the event, are available at www.legion.org.

Another area of concentration for the division is The American Legion's 100th Anniversary. Division staff members are actively involved in all aspects of the planning and execution of the program. Right now, the staff is working on developing a mobile-friendly centennial website that will not only provide a better user experience but broaden the offerings available for truly celebrating the Legion's first 100 years.

Additionally, more Every Department Has a Story placemats are being wrapped up. Staff members are working with departments with the goal of finishing each department by the time the centennial celebration kicks off at next year's convention.

Staff members are also working with NALPA, other internal and external groups to solidify The American Legion's branding strategy. For example, staff members are providing stories, speeches, ad slicks, videos, PSAs and other materials for department and post public relations volunteers that can be used in their media.

Other activities and projects under way by the division include online training materials and programs, media workshops and physical displays, including The American Legion float at the New York City Veterans Day Parade.

Meanwhile, print advertising sales are slightly above the goal. For the print and digital media assets – which include The American Legion Magazine, Dispatch, the National Convention Guide, www.Legion.org and e-newsletters such as The American Legion Online Update – are over budget by $19,349, to date, at just over $8 million.

Through 10 issues, magazine advertising sales are down nearly $150,000, which is significantly better than last year at this time when sales trailed the budget by nearly $500,000. Ad sales for The American Legion national website are pacing to close the year around $240,000, which would be higher than last year and just off the 2014 total, which was the highest ever recorded. The American Legion Online Update is more than $13,500 over budget for ad sales in 2017.

The M&C area continues to benefit from reduced paper prices and from stable U.S. Postal Service rates, which are expected to continue through the end of the year. Paper

costs are significantly ($148,000) below budget for the year. Meanwhile, postage expenses ($73,700) and printing costs ($23,400) are also below budget for the year.

The division expects to end the year with a budget surplus.

Addendum A

Disposed of Administratively

Resolution No. 63 (NY) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Supply copies of The *American Legion Magazine* to Facilities That Provide Services to Veterans**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission with the exception of Addendum A. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the Media & Communications Commission's report with the exception of Addendum A. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Attached to the Media & Communications Commission report is Addendum A. I move that the actions of the Media & Communications Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the actions of the Media & Communications Commission mentioned in Addendum A be the actions of the NEC. Are there any questions? All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now call on Chairman Richard Anderson from Connecticut for the Americanism Commission report.

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

Commander Rohan, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers, and esteemed guests, good afternoon to all of you.

The Americanism Commission and its Committee on Children and Youth would like to thank the Finance Commission and this body for having previously approved the resolution titled, "Restructure of the Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy." We firmly believe that restructuring this policy will not only serve to significantly enhance fiscal administration and efficiency of the program but, more importantly, it allows a greater opportunity for touching the lives and sharing the TFA benefit among a more sizable number of children in need.

The Americanism Commission congratulates the Department of North Carolina, the City of Shelby, host American Legion Post 82, and the hundreds of volunteers who made this year's American Legion World Series another resounding success. The Americanism Commission was proud to report to the Marketing Commission, and now to this body, that total viewership of the World Series this year on ESPNU far eclipsed that of last year. Total viewership of all the games totaled 605,000. That is approaching almost double the 316,000 viewership from last year. The commission was also very pleased to learn that ESPNU elected to subsequently rebroadcast two games of the World Series, one of which was the national championship game, something that was never done before. The viewership of those two rebroadcasts totaled 107,000.

Operation Comfort Warriors, in coordination with endeavors of the VA&R Commission, has been engaged in providing grants to VA medical centers across the

country. This year's OCW has fulfilled 24 grants that provided $144,000 in comfort items to the wounded, injured, and ill veterans and servicemembers, with additional grants continuing to be developed for fulfillment before the end of the year. Those forthcoming grants will likely include support for patients in military and veteran health-care facilities located in hurricane- and fire-ravaged areas.

When it comes to fostering and perpetuating a 100 percent Americanism The American Legion is in a key position to carry that message forward. How? Simply put, lead by example. So many American principles have come under attack: Prayer has been taken from our schools; the flag of the United States remains unprotected from acts of physical desecration, and the Flag Code is, at times, set aside; references to God are challenged by the ACLU and other like-minded group, as just a very few examples.

Our challenge, to serve as steadfast and clear examples to our local communities of what it means to foster and perpetuate 100 percent Americanism: Actually bring that to life by teaching youth about American values; helping new citizens assimilate into one American culture; teaching veteran appreciation and flag etiquette in our schools; fostering patriotism; upholding respect for the rule of law; and practicing good citizenship by getting out to vote, to name only a few.

At the conclusion of my oral remarks, you will be considering resolutions from the Americanism Commission. One that I and the commission are proud to bring before this body is Resolution No. 1, "Reaffirmation for a Strong America." It calls for unity and respect. Unity and respect of this nation, unity and respect of what she stands for, and unity and respect of each other as Americans. Should this resolution receive the approval of this body, the commission urges everyone to take this back to their departments.

This is a resolution meant not to be filed away in an archive somewhere. I'm very passionate about this, I have to tell you. Somebody's got to stand up in this country sooner and later, and it's got to be The American Legion; it starts right in this room, today. As chairman of the commission, we delved into this resolution to quite some detail. Our staff, under the direction of Jill Druskis and others, put together this resolution because it stands for who we are and what we represent. As I stated in my remarks, do not bring this home and put it somewhere. Put it on your websites, get it out to the membership of our country and, above all, get it out to the citizens of our nation. Our society is being torn apart and it's time that we did something about it. *(Applause)*

It cannot be disputed that we are a nation of diverse people having diverse perspectives, but I am confident that coming together as Legionnaires and especially as proud Americans alike, that a 100 percent Americanism will prevail.

Commander Rohan and members of the National Executive Committee, this concludes my report. Thank you very much.

Report: Americanism Commission
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman
October 9-10, 2017

The Americanism Commission met at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday and Tuesday, October 9-10, 2017. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. and roll call taken. Following opening remarks, the minutes from the pre-convention commission meeting held on August 27, 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio, were approved.

AMERICANISM CONFERENCE

In September 2017 the annual national Americanism Conference included sessions for Boys State and Girls State directors; department Baseball, Oratorical, Junior Shooting Sports, and children & youth chairmen; and department chaplains. Conference sessions

were held at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over 350 program volunteers came together to share in training, brainstorming and networking within their respective conference sessions that will assist them with conducting the programs in their own departments for the coming year. The annual department Scouting chairmen's conference this year will be held at the Boy Scouts of America's Scouting U Westlake (TX) campus on October 28-29, 2017.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Committee on Children & Youth met on Monday, October 9, 2017, in the Ohio Room, 21st Floor of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. The Committee received updates on programs of The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and grants awarded by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Having been assigned the resolution entitled ***War On Drugs Poster Contest*** by the Americanism Commission, the Committee on Children & Youth reviewed, discussed, and directed staff to conduct further research for review and discussion at the next committee meeting. The committee also gave additional discussion to its favorable concurrence of the resolution entitled ***Restructure of the Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy***. The Secretary of the American Legion Endowment Fund Meagen Sweet (IN) provided an update on the fund. Earnings from the endowment provide funds for the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program and Department Service Officers (DSO) schools.

Vice President of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), Peggy Moon, provided the Children & Youth Committee with an update. Now in its 63rd year, CWF has awarded $636,467 to twenty-eight non-profit organizations for the 2018 calendar year. These grants were determined during the annual meeting of the board of directors, held at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Sunday, October 8, 2017.

The 11th annual national Children & Youth Conference was held September 15-17, 2017, at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis. This conference segment shared training, information and networking to 89 Legion family representatives of 38 departments. Attendees heard two Samsung American Legion scholarship awardees and two organizations having received a 2016 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant – each shared the positive impact that The American Legion had upon them. Presentations and updates were provided on: The American Legion Strategic Plan for Sustained Membership Growth by M&PA Chairman Randy Goodman; Legacy & Vision of The American Legion: Children & Youth by Division Director Jeff Stoffer; troop and family support programs by Assistant Director Bruce Drake; and reports were received from the national children & youth chairmen of the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion. Training on the Temporary Financial Assistance program and application process was provided by Assistant Director Meagen Sweet.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

The American Legion Baseball Committee met Sunday, September 24, 2017, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, in conjunction with the 57th annual American Legion Baseball Chairmen's Conference. During the chairman's conference, congratulations were extended to the Department of Nevada for laying claim to the championship team of the 2017 American Legion Baseball World Series when the team sponsored by Post 40 in Henderson, Nevada, took the series in Shelby, North Carolina in August.

A recap of the 2017 season was given by Assistant Director Steve Cloud, noting that although there was still an overall decline of teams in 2017, that 80% of that decline was attributed to only five departments.

Assistant Director of Baseball Promotions, Jeremy Field provided a recap of the website and social media activity during the playing season and at the World Series: the national baseball website is trending towards 3 million visits this year, with over 900,000 of those during the month of August. American Legion Baseball Facebook and Twitter accounts reach over one million views combined. Total viewership on ESPN U for the nine televised games was over 600,000, with 91,000 tuning in for Championship Tuesday. Additionally, a later replay of the championship game and a semi-final game on ESPNU had over 100,000 total viewers.

The American Legion Baseball Committee has formed a working committee to explore getting younger youth participating in the program, and assigned that as a discussion topic at one of the department chairmen's breakout caucus sessions during the baseball conference.

Upon adjournment of the Baseball Department Chairmen's Conference, the American Legion Baseball Committee convened. The Baseball Committee made recommendation to the Americanism Commission that Brian Duensing of the Chicago Cubs be awarded the 2018 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year. Duensing played Legion baseball for American Legion Millard South Post 374 in Nebraska for four seasons and contributes financially to the post's baseball program annually.

The committee made recommendation to the Americanism Commission to change Rule 1.G. Courtesy Runners so as to allow senior teams to use courtesy runners during regular season only; change Rule 1.S. Re-entry Rule so as to allow senior teams to us re-entry during regular season only; and adopt 7 inning games for state, regional and World Seriestournament play, allowing departments the option of playing 9 inning games during the regular season. The committee recommended rejection of proposed rule changes pertaining to dual participation and changing high school enrollment numbers, giving consideration to feedback from department chairman. The committee concluded with a thorough review of the 2018 American Legion Baseball rulebook and national tournament rules and policies, with all editorial changes to receive final review by the committee chairman prior to publishing.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

A total of 19,139 young men participated in the 49 American Legion Boys State programs during 2017, reflecting an overall decrease of 421 participants from the previous year; there were 583 no shows this year – although that reflects a slight decrease, still a very concerning number.

The 82nd annual conference of American Legion Boys State directors was held September 22-24, 2017, as a conference session of the annual national combined Americanism Conference. Past National Commander and Boys Nation staff member Robert Turner (GA) served as conference chairman. This conference segment shared information and provided networking opportunities for 165 Boys State directors and Legion family representatives of 40 departments. Attendees heard a panel discussion of topics that included fundraising, recruiting program participants, and membership initiatives. Attendees also received presentations on: enhancements to the online application process for the Samsung American Legion scholarship by Assistant Director Tyler Mitchell; introduction of a new Boys State media kit by Division Director James Baca; and a variety of information sharing/best practices presentations by Connecticut, Kentucky, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Missouri, South Carolina, Florida and Texas American Legion Boys State programs. Conference attendees were challenged to re-focus upon the goal of a national participation level of 20,000 delegates, and to continue to re-double their efforts to reduce the number of no-shows.

Congratulations were extended to the Department of Alabama for the election of Darius Thomas as the 2017 American Legion Boys Nation president.

YOUTH EDUCATION

The Committee on Youth Education met on October 7-8, 2017, in Panorama B, 21st floor of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. The Committee selected and recommends the following students as recipients of 2017 Samsung American Legion Scholarships as follows:

10 National Scholars - $10,000

Western Region	Midwest Region
Jack Gardner (CA) Heather Stout (UT)	Daniel O'Hara (IA) Margaret Kleiman (MN)
Central Region	**Southeast Region**
Grayson Stinger (KY) Claire Seibel (VA)	Nathan Alvarez (LA) Lindsay Fincher (AL)
Northeast Region	
Connor Wagaman (DE) Krista Flinkstrom (MA)	

10 Runners-up - $5,000

Western Region	Midwest Region
Michael Zendejas (WA) Trevor Goldsmith (NV)	Lauren Gateley (MO) Ryan Albrecht (MN)
Central Region	**Southeast Region**
Nathaniel Boerner (OH) Jerry Lacy (WV)	Alexa Lowman (FL) Luke Long (AR)
Northeast Region	
Cormac Mahoney (NH) Jennifer Magnoli (CT)	

The Committee reviewed and discussed further refinements to policies and procedures for administering scholarships, most specifically the Samsung American Legion Scholarship and American Legion Legacy Scholarship. The Committee discussed innovative ways for giving the Samsung American Legion scholarship more relevancy to the students, their parents and Legion Family by implementing a bonus point given to those applicants who show that they or their parent(s) is a member of the Legion Family.

The Committee received progress report on development of the Samsung American Legion Alumni Association (SALAA). In the past 22 months SALAA has established a mission statement, a board of directors comprised of Samsung American Legion scholarship alumni, an executive advisory committee composed of Legion Family members, a strategic plan and draft by-laws. To date SALAA has recruited 133 official members. A mentoring program continues to be developed, and a goal for engaging alumni recipients with Samsung employees throughout the nation at regional locations is being undertaken. A recognition event takes place each June in Washington D.C. honoring the top 10 national scholars awarded the year prior – during their recognition visit this year the scholars engaged in fulfilling an Operation Comfort Warriors grant as a community service project at the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Now that locating and recruiting alumni into the association is underway, it is deemed that the association is ready to begin developing and elevating to the next level, wherein member engagement opportunities become more fully developed and promoted. Discussions were given as to how best approach, staff and achieve that goal.

The Committee gave discussion and consideration to the resolution entitled ***Cursive Writing in 21st Century Schools***, and recommended to the Americanism Commission that it be approved.

YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Youth Law Enforcement Committee (YCLE) met on October 9, 2017, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. This meeting included review of the 18 August, 2017, committee meeting that took place during national convention in Reno, Nevada; review and updates to the YCLE strategic plan; and discussion of YCLE department classification. Points of emphasis during this committee meeting included: program growth in the number of participating departments; achieving department participation to a level to support achieving national-level program status, wherein development of a national capstone event can begin, akin to what Boys Nation is to Boys State; developing additional program resources; and undertaking greater awareness for the program. Three more departments have expressed interest in receiving more information and support for starting a program.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

The 3rd annual Junior Shooting Sports Chairmen's Conference was held September 15-17, 2017, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Loren Sperry (WA) served as the Junior Shooting Sports Program Conference chairman. Eleven departments were represented by either their Junior Shooting Sports chairperson or designee; there were 15 attendees present. Conference topics presented and discussed included: review of the 2017 national championships by Shayne Abrahams (IN), Assistant Director, Americanism Division; Department Spotlight and Best Practices by Loren Sperry (WA); a fundraising presentation from Patrick Myers of US Coin Boards LLC; and an update on the planning and arrangements for the 2018 national championships by Shayne Abrahams, Assistant Director, Americanism Division (IN).

The Departments of Colorado and Illinois each received congratulations for precision shooter Emily Stith (CO) and sporter shooter Hailey Smith (IL) having captured national wins in their respective categories of The American Legion's Junior 3-Position Air Rifle Championship at the Olympic Training Center's USA Shooting Range in Colorado Springs, Colorado, this past July.

ORATORICAL

The 48th annual national department Oratorical chairmen's conference was held September 23-24, 2017, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Clarence Ortega (NM) served as the department Oratorical conference chairman. Forty-two departments were represented by either their oratorical chairperson or designee; there were 56 attendees present. Oratorical conference topics included presentations from the National Christian Forensics and Communication Association and the National Speech and Debate Association, and information sharing about program fundraising from U.S. Coin Boards. Refresher training on contest procedures was provided by Assistant Director Shayne Abrahams, as well as an update on the planning and arrangements for the 2018 national contest.

The Department of Massachusetts received congratulations for Andrew Steinberg of Newton, Massachusetts, having captured first place honors at The American Legion's 80th National Oratorical Contest with his winning oration *The Constitution: A Lasting Legacy.*

TROOP & FAMILY SUPPORT

Assistant Director Bruce Drake reported that over 100,000 active duty, reserve and national guard servicemembers continue to deploy throughout the world supporting Global War on Terror missions and in response to unprecedented disaster response efforts within the United States and its territories. Family Support Network programs in departments are encouraged to be very proactive in reaching out and providing assistance to those military families at home who are affected by deployments.

During calendar year 2017 to date, Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) has achieved $514,337 in donations. During the last ten months, OCW has fulfilled 24 grants that's provided $144,000 in purchased items to wounded, injured and ill veterans and servicemembers, with additional grants continuing to be developed with expectation for fulfillment before the end of the year, including possible grants for veterans and military health care facilities in hurricane-ravaged areas.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAINS

The annual national department chaplain's conference was held September 23-24, 2017, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. National Chaplain Robert Vick (FL) led the conference segment. Twenty-three departments were represented by 36 Legion Family chaplains in attendance.

The chaplains received a presentation from The American Legion's Social Media Manager Steve Brooks about social media engagement, and discussions about how chaplains may recruit and retain members of the Legion Family, the Four Chaplain's Service, and FROG (Fully Rely On God) were led by National Chaplain Vick. Immediate Past National Chaplain Harvey Klee (TX) provided his year-end report, and the chaplains then took opportunity to review The American Legion Chaplain's Handbook for updates and revision.

SCOUTING

Congratulations to the Department of Tennessee for having Scott Moore Jr., named The American Legion's Eagle Scout of the Year for 2017. Moore is a senior at Northeast High School in Clarksville, Tennessee and is a member of Boy Scout Troop 562. The annual department Scouting chairmen's conference this year will be held at the Boy Scouts of America's Scouting U Westlake (TX) campus on October 28-29, 2017.

FLAG ETIQUETTE

During these Fall meetings, the Americanism Commission reaffirmed its position of the following:

- Once an unserviceable flag has been burned in an Unserviceable Flag Ceremony, it should no longer be considered the flag and the remaining ashes no longer considered with the same reverence and respect as an intact flag.
- Half-staffing of the United States flag should be exercised judiciously to help lessen the risk for public complacency and desensitization as to the solemn reason and meaning for its half-staff.

RESOLUTIONS

At the meeting of the Americanism Commission held at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 9-10, 2017, a total of twelve resolutions were given consideration.

The following resolution was recommended for approval by the Americanism Commission, and forwarded to the Finance Commission for consideration and concurrence:

- **Restructure Of Temporary Financial Assistance Statement Of Policy**

The Americanism Commission forwarded the following resolutions to the National Executive Committee Subcommittee on Resolutions, with **recommendation for approval**:

- **Cursive Handwriting In 21st Century Schools**
- **Amendment To Resolution No. 9 Of The National Executive Committee, May 6-7, 2009 – American Legion Baseball Program**
- **Authority For The American Legion To Enter Into Agreement With The 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard)**
- **Reaffirmation For A Strong America**

Recommendations for the remaining seven resolutions are detailed on Addendum A attached. The commission further recommends the dates for Americanism programs and conferences as outlined on Addendum B attached to this report.

Addendum A

Hold for Further Study

Resolution No. 10 (AR) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Proposed Change to the Oratorical Contest National Finals**
Resolution No. 12 (AR) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: War on Drugs Poster Contest**
Resolution No. 233 (FL) (2016 Natl. Conv.)**: Eagle Scout Lapel Pin Award**

Rejected

Resolution No. 11 (AR) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Oratorical Contest National Scholarship Awards Structure**
Resolution No. 37 (ID) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**:Ashes to Graves Flag Disposal**
Resolution No. 48 (IL) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: Recruitment of American Legion Baseball Players**
Resolution No. 69 (CA) (2017 Natl. Conv.)**: 21st Century Policy of Remembrance**

Addendum B

The Americanism Commission recommends the following dates for the events/meetings from our report, presented to the body for disposition.

Meeting Date	Event/Meeting	Conference Dates
October 9-10, 2017	American Legion Boys Nation – 2018	July 20-28, 2018
	American Legion Boys Nation – 2019	July 19-27, 2019
	American Legion Boys Nation – 2020	July 17-25, 2020
	American Legion Boys Nation – 2021	July 23-31, 2021
	Americanism Conference – 2018	September 28-30, 2018
	Americanism Conference – 2019	September 27-29, 2019
	Baseball Regionals – 2018	August 8-12, 2018
	Baseball Regionals – 2019	August 7-11, 2019
	Baseball World Series – 2018	August 16-21, 2018
	Baseball World Series – 2019	August 15-20, 2019
	Children & Youth Conference – 2018	September 21-23, 2018
	Children & Youth Conference – 2019	September 20-22, 2019
	Jr. Shooting Sports Conference – 2018	September 21-23, 2018
	Jr. Shooting Sports Conference – 2019	September 20-22, 2019
	Oratorical Contest Finals – 2018	April 13-15, 2018
	Oratorical Contest Finals – 2019	April 5-7, 2019
	Oratorical Contest Finals – 2020	April 17-19, 2020
	Oratorical Contest Finals – 2021	April 9-11, 2021
	Oratorical Contest Finals – 2022	April 22-24, 2022
	Scouting Chairman's Conference	October 27-29, 2017
	Shooting Sports Nationals – 2018	July 24-28, 2018
	Shooting Sports Nationals – 2019	July 23-27, 2019
	Shooting Sports Nationals – 2020	July 21-25, 2020
	Shooting Sports Nationals – 2021	July 20-24, 2021
	Shooting Sports Nationals – 2022	July 19-23, 2022

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of four resolutions, Addendum A, and Addendum B. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the Americanism Commission report with the exception of four resolutions and Addendum A and Addendum B. Are there any questions? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. It's carried. Thank you.

Resolution No. 1: Reaffirmation for a Strong America
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted By: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, There are forces at work within our country which threaten to fray the social fabric of our great nation and our American ideals; and

WHEREAS, That we of The American Legion associate ourselves together to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism, and by this statement deplore any actions by groups, individuals, and organizations who oppose the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, Events have taken place in our nation aimed at destroying American lives, and which attack the very basic core values of freedom, democracy and respect for human life; and

WHEREAS, We disavow those dissenters in our society who use rioting, injury to others, destruction of property, disregard of the law, and blatant disrespect to America's revered symbols of freedom and liberty as a means for expressing their views; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion remains solid upon its foundation of the four pillars and guiding principles upon which it was founded; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion remains bonded together regardless of race or creed or gender and gives wholehearted support to patriotic endeavors that are for the good of our country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion reaffirms its unwavering support for the American way of life under the Constitution of the United States of America; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion pledges support to the leaders of our government, armed forces and law enforcement agencies who have the duty and responsibility of providing an orderly process to our way of life; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges all Americans and freedom-loving peoples everywhere to stand united in their respect for officials at all levels of government; for military troops and law enforcement officers who place themselves in harm's way to protect our nation's citizenry, values and way of life; for those symbols and customs serving as tangible images of the freedom and liberties of these great United States of America; and for each other as fellow Americans; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion use whatever means at its disposal to engage whatever means possible to promote a united nation and a united American people.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This has the approval of your Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 1. Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution No. 1, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. *(Applause)*

Past National Commander Morin.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: I'd like the record to show it was a unanimous vote.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: The record will show that it was a unanimous vote. Thank you.

Resolution No. 15: Amendment to Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee, May 6 – 7, 2009 — American Legion Baseball Program
Origin: American Legion Baseball Committee
Submitted By: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, While The American Legion Baseball program is sound at its core, with the changing financial and social climates, it is to the benefit of The American Legion to closely examine policies and practices so as to ensure continued growth, accessibility and affordability of American Legion Baseball for both participants and spectators; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee adopted Resolution No. 9 American Legion Baseball Program, May 6-7, 2009, for enhancing the program at the regional and national tournament levels; and

WHEREAS, The fourth resolve clause directs that American Legion Baseball regional tournaments be sited in one location for two (2) consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, Hosting a regional tournaments can have a significant boost in the development of the American Legion Baseball program within a department; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Baseball Committee has expressed concern that during the last two bid cycles only one region out of eight received multiple competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, During the 2017 national Combined Americanism Conference, the concern for lack of receiving competitive regional bids was discussed with department baseball chairmen; and

WHEREAS, Feedback from department baseball chairmen revealed that a two year commitment creates a financial strain for many programs, thereby making them very reluctant to give consideration to submitting a multi-year regional tournament bid; and

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

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That the fourth resolved clause of Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee, May 6-7, 2009, which states:

> **"That beginning with the 2011-2012 seasons, regional tournaments of The American Legion Baseball program be sited in one location for two (2) consecutive years, based on accessibility and central location as determined by open bids using objective, weighted evaluation criteria"**

Shall be amended as follows:

> **"That beginning with the 2019-2020 seasons, regional tournaments of the American Legion Baseball program may be sited in one location for one (1) year or for two (2) consecutive years, based on accessibility and central location as determined by open bids using objective, weighted evaluation criteria."**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This has the approval of your Baseball Committee, Americanism Commission, and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 15. Are there any questions? All those in favor of adopting Resolution 15, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 16: Cursive Writing in 21st Century Schools
Origin: Committee on Youth Education
Submitted By: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The Common Core State Standards have abandoned the teaching of cursive writing; and

WHEREAS, Cursive writing promotes a stronger association of learning for memory while allowing students to create a sense of identity such as signing one's own name on legal documents; and

WHEREAS, Cursive writing is faster than printing and more likely to engage students by providing a better sense of personal style and ownership; and

WHEREAS, There is still a need to be able to read cursive, especially in the case of primary source documents; and

WHEREAS, Cursive writing is a powerful cultural and historical link to human development; and

WHEREAS, Cursive writing reinforces cognitive and motor skills; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been encouraged by the growing number of school systems that are reviving cursive writing in the classroom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion encourages school systems to maintain or re-introduce the implementation of cursive writing instruction in schools starting in third grade and reinforce the use of cursive writing through 12th grade.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This has the approval of the Committee on Youth Education, Americanism Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 16. Are there any questions? All those in favor of adopting Resolution 16, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 17: Authority for The American Legion to Enter Into Agreement with the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard)
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted By: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The 3d US Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) conducts memorial affairs to honor our fallen comrades, and ceremonies and special events to represent the Army, communicating its story to our Nation's citizens and the world; and

WHEREAS, The Old Guard has provided The American Legion with access to wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and The Old Guard feel that this assistance and access should formally continue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into an agreement by and between the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (Old Guard) and The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That said agreement will detail support provided by The Old Guard for the American Legion Boys Nation and other programs and activities of The American Legion within the national Capital region; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That said agreement should be at no cost to The American Legion; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That after review and approval by the national judge advocate of said agreement, the national commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to

execute said agreement and that the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This has the approval of the Americanism Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 17. Are there any questions? All those in favor of adopting Resolution 17, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. 17 is carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Attached are Addendum A and B. I move that the action of the Americanism Commission become the action of the NEC. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that Addendum A and B attached to the Americanism Commission report become the actions of the NEC. Are there questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Chairman Richard, thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Commander, may I have a point of privilege?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Yes.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: At this time I'd like to call Past National Commander Charles Schmidt to the podium.

Commander Schmidt, it was a pleasure last year to serve as your president of the board of directors of the Child Welfare Foundation. At our national convention you were doing your job and had one of your national vice commanders take the podium. At that time, I was giving out awards and I didn't have the honor to present you with a five-diamond lapel pin of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Thank you. Under your tutelage, we raised over $886,000, and Sunday night we gave out $636,000 to 28 children's organizations. Thank you so much. *(Applause)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMIDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this kind award, but I feel like I didn't deserve it because it wasn't me that raised the money, of course; it was all of you and all of your folks in your departments to take care of youth of America. It's fantastic that all of the new grants that you've given out that are going to help some children, the future of our country. That's what we do. By the way, taking care of children is just one of the many things that our American Legion does. Thank you so much, Dennis. *(Applause)*

Operation Comfort Warriors Donations

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: If anyone has donations for Operation Comfort Warriord or other contributions, to come forward, please.

...National Vice Commander Marcouillier assumed the chair.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, commander. The Department of Massachusetts is proud to be here to present to you one check from the Blues for Veterans Association, it's an organization in Woburn, Mass, who puts on a blues program, and I have a check for the Comfort Warriors for $3,000; the Widows Sons of Stonecutters chapter from Easthampton, Mass, for the Legacy Fund $200; the Department of Massachusetts general fund, Legacy Fund, $800; and The American Legion Riders Chapter 118 of Cohasset, Massachusetts, $1,500. So there's about $3,300 here that I'm proud to present to all of you. *(Applause)*

With me is my NEC and my alternate, it's always a pleasure to have them here to present with me. Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you, commander. As I always say, thanks for all your work you do for Operation Comfort Warriors. Let's keep this program going. I have a few donations here this afternoon. The first one is from American Legion Riders Post 500, for Zach's Ride, it's an annual ride we have every year, $12,752; American Legion Riders Post 42 in Floyds Knobs, Indiana, they had a ride for $2,500; David, Matt, and Sandra Hicks from Gary, Indiana, a $25 check. I always have a table at our fall conference that we just concluded in Indiana Sunday that I sell a few items that I get, it was $141. Streetsboro American of Streetsboro, Ohio, gave me a check for $300. They had a concert that got shortened out by rain, so that's all they made this year, but they said they'd be sure to have more than that next year. Cicero American Legion 351 Riders, they have a Battle Ride, this year is the third year for the Battle Ride. They'll have a check in the morning, because we thought it was tomorrow, for $4,500; and then a check for the Indianapolis Northside Harley-Davidson for $500. So that's a total of $20,718 for Operation Comfort Warriors. *(Applause)*

NEC MEMBER MOORE (MI): Well, Madam Commander, once again, the Great State of Michigan and Commander Brett Holt. It's my pleasure to present, on behalf of the membership in Michigan, a check for $680 to the national Legacy Scholarship Fund; and another check for $2,500 to The American Legion Endowment Fund. *(Applause)*

...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, at this time I'm going to reread Resolution No. 21 under Rule 8A. Let the record show it is 1:52 p.m., which complies with the four-hour interval.

Resolution No. 21: Re-establish the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee reported to the National Executive Committee, October 15-16, 1997, its findings and recommendations were six resolutions being approved by the National Executive Committee in May 1998; and

WHEREAS, The 21st Century Report was developed to study the future needs of the veterans for which The American Legion could adapt its programs and activities as we entered the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has in place many programs designed to meet the basic needs of those who are currently or have recently served, and their families, through programs to include, but not limited to, Family Support Network and Temporary Financial Assistance, but there remain other challenges faced by the current generation of veterans related to multiple deployments, serious injuries incurred during combat and reintegration to civilian society; and

WHEREAS, The original 21st Century Report of The American Legion focused on those that were serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Since 1998, the United States military has been involved in the Global War on Terrorism being fought on multiple fronts simultaneously and there is currently no indication our U.S. military involvement will diminish; and

WHEREAS, Post-911 veterans and military servicemembers today represent a more diverse demographic group than those serving when the original 21st Century Report was developed; and

WHEREAS, This resolution establishes an ad hoc committee to determine when and what actions could be taken to ensure a productive outcome for the future of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Finance Commission has reviewed this resolution and supports not to exceed $100,000 to cover expenses for this 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That the national commander is directed to create a committee to review the 21st Century Report and update for current and future needs to move the organization forward; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the budget to support this effort will not exceed $100,000, without additional approval from the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of this ad hoc committee be made up of a diverse group of veterans of varying ages and different ethnic and gender backgrounds; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee will consist of no more than ten Legionnaires, not including the chairmen of the Internal Affairs Commission, the Membership & Post Activities Committee and the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee who will serve as ex-officio members; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That upon completion of the committee meetings, a final report will be submitted to the National Executive Committee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 21. Are there any questions?

NEC MEMBER ROY (NH): Yes, Commander. Just on the timeline, it says the final report. What is the timeline on this ad hoc committee?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I believe it's anticipated that, hopefully by this time next year, there would be a final report. Are there any other questions? All those in favor of Resolution No. 21, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Resolution No. 21 carries. Mr. Comer?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: May I approach the podium?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Please.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Since this is going into announcements, I thought it very important that we make this announcement to the NEC. I've asked the staff to put a copy of this announcement and report on your desk for tomorrow morning. It was presented to the Commanders Advisory Committee and I was very, very impressed, and I'm sure you will be. It's about the best places to work as a nonprofit.

"Whether you're a volunteer or a paid professional, working for a nonprofit can be highly rewarding. But which of them are giving their employees the very best experience while empowering them to serve their community? Our data science team crunched the numbers in Indeed's 15 million strong reviews databases to find out. Let's take a look at the answers."

Out of the hundreds, and I mean hundreds of companies throughout the United States, the Bureau of Labor Statistics have come up with 15 companies that are the best place to work. Number 1, the Habitat for Humanity; number 2, AARP; 3, Boys and Girls Club of America; 4, Boy Scouts of America; 5, Communities in Schools; 6, YMCA; 7, The American Legion. *(Applause)*

The only veterans' organization on the list. 8, the YWCA; 9, the Salvation Army; 10, Easter Seals; 11, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.; 12, Teach for America; 13, the American Red Cross; 14, Planned Parenthood; and 15, PRIDE Industries.

Under the item for The American Legion, "The American Legion, Incorporated, is a U.S. wartime veterans organization formed in Paris on February 16, 1919, by three officers

of the American Expeditionary Forces. The American Legion was chartered by the U.S. Congress on September 16, 1919, and is headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, and has a legislative office in Washington, D.C. The Legion played the leading role in the drafting and passing of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, otherwise known as the 'GI Bill.'

"In addition to organizing commemorative events, volunteer veterans operating through The American Legion support activities and provide assistance at Veterans Administration hospitals and clinics. The Legion is active in issue-oriented United States politics. Its primary political activity is lobbying on behalf of interests of veterans and servicemembers, including support for veterans benefits such as pensions and the Veterans Health Administration."

We should be very, very proud of this article that's gone throughout the United States, and that's why I read all that other people are going to be reading about you, The American Legion. Thank you. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Mr. Adjutant for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: The national commander's banquet honoring the members of the National Executive Committee will convene in reception at 6:00 in the Sheraton hotel and dinner will be at 7:00.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Is there any other business? All right. We will recess and reconvene at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning. Colors of our nation in place, hand salute: Two. We are in recess until tomorrow.

...At 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 11, 2017, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, October 12, 2017.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 12, 2017

...At 8:30 a.m., the National Executive Committee reconvened, National Commander Rohan presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Colors of our nation in place, hand salute: One, two. I now call on Chaplain Vick for the invocation.

Invocation
Robert A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain

Before I pray this morning, I have one thing I'd like to mention to you. Please, those of you in the room who believe like I do and believe that prayer is effective, and that it's not only effective but it's necessary for us to walk closer to the Lord, please pray for the family of Texas Adjutant Bill West. His father-in-law just died. I have an address for Bill and for Petra, his wife. If you'd like to send cards, please see me sometime today when I'm free and I'll give you the address where you can contact Bill with a card or a letter of sympathy. Now bow your heads with me, please.

Father, one of the great things about these meetings is that we have the opportunity not only to do something for You and for the veterans that we represent, but we have the opportunity to get together with friends we haven't seen in a long time and renew acquaintances and make new acquaintances. Father, if everybody in this world would just pick one person that they do not know right now and go to that person and say, "I love you in the Lord and I accept responsibility for you because you are my brother," there would be peace on Earth. How wonderful that would be, because that type of thing spreads. Father, be in our midst today, guide us in our deliberations. May we do only those things that are pleasing to Thee and will praise You because You are worthy of all of our praise. I pray this in the name of my Savior and my soon-coming King. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance
Roy A. Helms, Wisconsin, National Sergeant-at-Arms

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: National Sergeant-at-Arms Roy Helms, please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you, you may be seated. Adjutant Wheeler, please do the roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders

Larry J. Marcouillier, Delaware
William J. Flanagan, Illinois
Bobby D. Bryant, Oklahoma
Byron I. Callies, South Dakota
Paula R. Stephenson, Utah

Past National Commanders

Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin (Excused)
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)
John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia (Excused)
Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana (Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia (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
Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon

National Executive Committeemen

Department	Committeeman	Alternate
Alabama	Willis Frazier (Excused)	Hardwick Hall (Excused)
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Richard W. Perry	
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman	
California	Janet M. Wilson	
Colorado	Thomas Florez	
Connecticut	D. Joseph Jackson	
Delaware	John A. Endres	
D. C.	Bron R. Mogenis (Excused)	George Roundtree (Excused)
Florida	Dennis R. Boland	
France	Nola L. Maloney	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	David Carlson	
Idaho	Arthur L. Gimpel	
Illinois	Bernard Stegmueller	
Indiana	Jerry Jordon	
Iowa	Jerry Sebben	
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Fisher	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	John W. Hargreaves	
Maryland	Michael L. Mooney, Jr.	
Massachusetts	William Chisholm	

Mexico	Michael D. Wood	
Michigan	Raymond Moore	
Minnesota	Marland A. Ronning	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Kenneth J. Goth	
Montana	Mervin G. Gunderson	
Nebraska	William Crosier	
Nevada	Ronald L. Michalski	
New Hampshire	William R. Roy	
New Jersey	Charles Robbins	
New Mexico	Felix M. Trujillo	
New York	Edward Bertrand (Excused)	William Kearsing, Jr.
North Carolina	Jeff W. Joyner	
North Dakota	Robert L. Krause	
Ohio	Dennis E. Clausing	
Oklahoma	Timothy Smith	
Oregon	Robert D. Liebenow	
Pennsylvania	Dennis C. Haas	
Philippines	Lawrence E. Wade	
Puerto Rico	Angel Narvaez-Negron	
Rhode Island	Cory Bates	
South Carolina	Cecil F. Hennis	
South Dakota	James Huls	
Tennessee	Don Mathis	
Texas	C. W. Sparks, Jr.	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Marlys Lemnah	
Virginia	Michael Mitrione	
Washington	Ken Lee	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Kenneth J. Rynes, Jr.	
Wyoming	Terry E. Miller	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: You have a quorum.
NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you very much.

Unfinished Business of Preceding Day

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: We'll now go into unfinished business from yesterday, and I'd like to recognize VA&R Chairman Ralph Bozella.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOZELLA: Thank you, commander. Good morning, everybody. As I mentioned yesterday during my report, in accordance with Resolutions 7 and 8 passed at the National Executive Committee meeting this past May, The American Legion will now recognize a VA Physician of the Year award and a VA Healthcare Provider of the Year. We will recognize this annually at our Washington conference. You were sent full nomination packets on June 12, August 7, August 31, and finally, one sent to you by Mr. Wheeler on September 6 asking for your participation in the nomination process.

At this time, it's my great pleasure to submit to this National Executive Committee the recommended winner for VA Physician of the Year, from the Department of Minnesota, Dr. Amy Candy; and the VA Healthcare Provider of the Year, from the

Department of Oklahoma Nurse Jillene Sroczynski. A copy of each of their nominations are on your desk for review.

The winning nominees were recommended by our selection committee based on a number of criteria that included the nominee's ability to make a positive impact on patient care, testaments from the patients, and the quality of the nominators' recommendation. The winning nominees will be notified by National Headquarters and invited to attend our Washington Conference at American Legion expense, where they will receive their award and be treated to a personalized tour of the VA central office in Washington, D.C. Thank you for your attention, and at this time, I submit these nominees for your consideration.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion that the nominees be accepted and approved by the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved that these nominees be accepted and approved by this committee. Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you. I'd now like to recognize Bridget Robinson, the director of our Convention Division, for an announcement.

NATIONAL CONVENTION DIRECTOR ROBINSON: Thank you, commander, I appreciate the time. Good morning, members of the National Executive Committee. My name is Bridget Robinson. As the commander stated, I'm the director of National Convention and Meetings, and I've had the opportunity to work with a young lady for nine and a half years, and that is Ms. Marti Wooden. *(Applause)*

Marti is retiring after almost 20 years of service to The American Legion, and she's going to earn a new title called "Mimi" and she's going to be taking care of her granddaughter, Sierra, who is five months old. So we wish Marti all the best and thank you, Marti, again for everything you've done. On behalf of my chairman, Chairman Mike Walton, he wanted to extend his apologies. On behalf of the Convention Commission and our entire team, thank you. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Marti, on behalf of the entire body, thank you for your 20 years of service. She's got a whole year's worth of stuff to schedule before she goes. Donations from yesterday. National Emergency Fund, $16,164.50; American Legion Charities, $350; Operation Comfort Warriors $18,718; the Legacy Fund, $3,180. Are there any other donations to be turned in?

...National Vice Commander Callies assumed the chair.

ALTERNATE NEC MEMBER BEISCHEL: I have one last donation of $500 for the Legacy Foundation from my Auxiliary at Post 58. *(Applause)*

...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I'll now call on Chairman Paul Dillard from Texas for the Veterans Employment & Education Commission report.

Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Paul E. Dillard, Texas, Chairman

Thank you, Commander. Good morning. Commander, Past National Commanders, National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee, and guests, the Veterans Employment & Education Commission met on October 10, 2017, at the Sheraton in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the purpose of considering those matters that have previously been referred for study, considering new resolutions, and a range of other matters. Your subcommittee considered three resolutions from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. That has been forwarded to you, to the National Executive Committee, for your consideration and approval. You have a copy of my written report, but I would like to highlight a few items.

The commission continues to work closely with businesses, business leaders, and government authorities to help veteran-owned small businesses with certifying opportunities within the federal government. The American Legion applauded the unanimous decision by the Supreme Court for Kingdomware Technologies Corporation, which is a victory for all service-owned small businesses and service-disabled-veteran small businesses that submit reasonable bids for VA contracts. The ruling directed to give preference to veteran small business when procuring contracts for goods and services.

In less than five years, Hiring Our Heroes, a joint venture of The American Legion and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has helped more than 31,000 veterans, servicemembers and military spouses nationwide find jobs. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has hosted over 100 hiring events at Legion posts and partnered with The American Legion on over 250 events. These events have resulted in 15 percent of all veterans being employed.

In closing, Commander, I would like to say thank you for the opportunity to serve as your commission chairman and working with the full-time staff in our DC staff office, and that being Executive Director Verna Jones, Director Joe Sharpe, Deputy Director Mark Walker, and Assistant Director John Kamin, Assistant Director Kaitlin Gray, and assistant director Ariel De Jesus, and also working with the staff in the Indianapolis office. I want to thank the Commander and Adjutant for your support for this year. Commander, that completes my report.

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Paul E. Dillard, Texas, Chairman
October 11- 12, 2017

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission met on October 10, 2017, at the Sheraton in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the purpose of considering those matters that had previously been referred for study, and to discuss a range of other current matters.

Presiding: Paul E. Dillard (TX), Chairman

Also in attendance were:
The staff member present was Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr. (DC), Director for the National Veterans Employment & Education Division, James Fratolillo, Chairman, Employment & Veterans' Preference Committee, and John Sampson, Chairman, Veterans Education, Other Benefits and Homelessness Committee.

Matters Received, Considered And Acted Upon By The Commission:

Resolutions

Your Subcommittee considered three (3) resolutions from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission has been forwarded to the National Executive Committee for approval.

The Commission then discussed the following issues:

Licensing And Certification

The American Legion has a long history of advocacy on behalf of increased civilian credentialing opportunities for servicemembers and veterans, based on our longstanding conviction that this promotes the professionalization of the military force and enhances the prospects for veterans to make a seamless transition from the military to the civilian

workforce. We conducted the first systematic study in this area in the mid-1990s, and since then have undertaken numerous initiatives to further facilitate the credentialing of servicemembers and veterans. This includes numerous credentialing roundtables held over the past ten years as well as two highly successful National Credentialing Summits held in 2012 and 2015. Legion staff members have also served on advisory committees, we have worked closely with Congressional leaders and staff to promote legislation that will facilitate the ability of servicemembers and veterans to attain civilian credentials, and we have informed numerous White House initiatives on credentialing.

One of the most compelling takeaways from our work in this area has been that facilitating the credentialing of servicemembers and veterans is a complex issue that involves a multitude of stakeholders. We've worked to bring order to this multifaceted issue by convening key groups of stakeholders, and coordinating the development of strategies to overcome the unique barriers to credentialing faced by those whose primary occupational training is gained during military service. Significant progress has been produced by the commendable efforts exerted by a variety of stakeholders. Consequently, The American Legion released a detailed report – "State of Credentialing Report" regarding findings and best practices shared during the Summits. The report summarized the major theme of the Summits to include:

- Ensuring the Quality of Credentials
- Tracking Credentialing Outcomes
- Best Practices and Lessons Learned
- Stakeholders Roles
- Next Steps/Call to Action

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission is planning on hosting a third Credentialing Summit in February 2018 during Washington Conference. Please note - the problem has always remained the same: Military members gain valuable on-the-job training and certificates during their service that align with civilian job qualifications, but experience difficulty translating them into civilian licenses and certifications. Furthermore, building on the substantive efforts that have already been undertaken to facilitate credentialing of servicemembers and veterans, The American Legion has identified eight opportunities for action. Listed below are the recommended actions:

- Improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill Licensing and Certification Benefit
- Ensure the Quality of Certification Programs
- Ensure the Quality of Non-Traditional Credential Preparation Programs
- Better Identify the Labor Market Demand for Credentials
- Track Credential Attainment Outcomes
- Reduce State Licensure Barriers
- Develop a Repository of Information on Best Practices in Facilitating the Credentialing of Servicemembers and Veterans
- Ensure Military and Veteran Credentialing Interests are Represented in Civilian Workforce Credentialing Initiatives

Cooperation among The American Legion, state governments, private sector employers, institutions of higher learning and the federal government have been crucial to effect the necessary changes in policies and practices to fully recognize the education, training, and experience provided to transitioning veterans. The American Legion will continue to work with the White House, National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, government agencies such as the Departments of

Defense, Transportation, Energy, Labor, and others, as well as congressional representatives, military training commands, credentialing boards and the private sectors.

Small Business

The American Legion views small business as the backbone of the American economy. It is the mobilizing force behind America's past economic growth and has given the United States a competitive advantage in the global economy. Small business development will continue to be a major factor in our nation's economic and national security well-being as we move further into the 21st Century. Reports show that small businesses have generated 65 percent of net new jobs over the past 25 years, and 67 percent following the 2009 recession. Furthermore, there are nearly 28 million small businesses in the U.S. and 99.7 percent of all firms are small businesses. Listed below are several facts regarding veteran business owners according to the Small Business Administration (SBA):

- Veterans are 45 percent more likely to be self-employed
- According to the U.S. census, about 2.4 million, or 1 out of 10 of all U.S. small businesses are veteran-owned
- Veteran-owned small businesses generate over $1.2 trillion in receipts

The American Legion recognizes the benefits of American entrepreneurship, not only for the overall American economy but also for the transitioning servicemember seeking to develop their own business and becoming local job-creators. The American Legion knows that giving veterans the resources they need to start businesses will assist in stimulating the nation's economic recovery. Veterans, when compared to their civilian counterparts, are more successful at creating a lasting small business. Encouraging and supporting veterans is the first step to recovering from a near 40-year low in entrepreneurship in the United States.

Many veterans channel the skills and leadership ability they develop in the military to starting a business. Having served in the military, there are a fair amount of resources one can take advantage of when establishing a business. Listed below are a few of these resources:

- Small Business Administration (SBA) Veterans Advantage Loan Program
- SBA Operation Boots to Business Training Program
- Women Veterans Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE)
- Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV)
- The Bunker – Startup Incubator

The American Legion has been working on expanding the Post-9/11 GI Bill for start-up capital. The process will take the form of a limited capacity lump-sum payment tied to an intensive SBA educational program and counseling. Please note - a longitudinal study would accompany the pilot program to validate the concept. In addition, we are committed to working with SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development to support and foster the community of veteran small business owners. The American Legion stands behind the concept that to have successful partnerships between the SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development and small businesses owned by veterans, the following three criteria are paramount:

- Ensuring all federal agencies meet the 3 percent standard Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business utilization;

- Ensuring there are effective programs in place that allow responsible access to capital; and
- Igniting the entrepreneurial spirit within the veteran's community and to educate them.

The Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (the "2006 Act," codified at 38 U.S.C. § 8127) requires the VA to establish annual goals for contracting with Veteran-Owned (VOSB) and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned (SDVOSB) small businesses. Since the passage of the 2006 Act, the VA had interpreted § 8127 (d) as freeing the Department to employ full and open competition once its VOSB and SDVOSB contracting goals for a given fiscal year had been met. This policy led to several bid protests at the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Although GAO consistently held that the VA was required to follow the Rule of Two regardless of whether it had already met its annual contracting goals, the VA declined to follow GAO's non-binding recommendations.

On June 16, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court (Kingdomware Techs. v. United States) ruled that consistent with Public Law 109-461 (38 U.S.C. 8127 and 8128), the VA shall award contracts based upon competition restricted to SDVOSBs or VOSBs when a contracting officer has a reasonable expectation, based on market research, that two or more firms listed as verified in Vendor Information Pages database are likely to submit offers and an award can be made at a fair and reasonable price that offers best value to the United States. This is known as the "VA Rule of Two."

The American Legion applauded the unanimous ruling by the Supreme Court, which is a victory to all VOSBs and SDVOSBs that submit reasonable bids for VA contracts. The ruling directs to give preference to VOSBs and SDVOSBs when procuring contracts for goods and services. The law gained exposure in 2012 when the plaintiff, Kingdomware Technologies Inc., protested a contract award, citing Public Law 109-461 as the basis. In support of the plaintiff, The American Legion filed an amicus curiae with the Supreme Court, submitting written statements addressing Kingdomware's concerns. Based upon this ruling, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division recommends that the SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development create a veterans procurement liaison position in their office to ensure that these procurement goals by the VA and other federal agencies are met consistently.

Recently, a small business bill was introduced in Congress that would close a loophole in 38 USC 8127 procurement requirement and requires VA to set aside the proper amount of contracts for VOSBs and SDVOSBs. Currently, VA obtains its office supplies, janitorial products, and other commodities through government-wide strategic sourcing contracts run by the General Services Administration (GSA). In some categories of these products, VOSBs/SDVOSBs hold few or no contracts. VA is required to work with GSA to increase VOSB/SDVOSB representation on the contracts and veterans must be given all available opportunities to actively pursue the 3 percent standard allotted to SDVOSBs. The American Legion views this bill as having the potential of producing substantial benefits for the VOSB and SDVOSB community.

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

The American Legion Small Business Task Force

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

- February 24 Washington Conference — Boots to Business Reboot
- August 22 National Convention — Boots to Business Entrepreneurship Course
- August 22 National Convention — Veterans Small Business Summit

During The American Legion's 99th National Convention in Reno, Nevada, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a successful Veteran Small Business Summit to include a ***Boots to Business: Entrepreneurship Course***, a small business development workshop, co-sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF). The sessions were open to all veterans, active-duty servicemembers and spouses of servicemembers who shared the goal of launching a sustainable business venture. Over 50 veterans and service members participated in this event. The Boots to Business curriculum included an introduction to entrepreneurship as well as detailed information on SBA resources and private sector support programs designed to aid veterans working with the federal government.

Topics included, but were not limited to:

- Cybersecurity for a Small Business,
- Government Contracting,
- Supplier Diversity,
- Five Habits to Profitability,
- Access to Capital,
- How to Qualify for VA's Vet First Program; and
- Construction Procurement Bid Opportunities.

Speakers for the Veterans Business Summit included: Representative Mark Amodei (NV); Raymond Milano, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Veterans Business Development, SBA; Chris Tande, Small Business Manager, Service Area Office SAOWest, VA; Thomas Martin, Lender Relations Specialist, Nevada SBA District Office, SBA; Kathy Carrico, State Training Director, Nevada Small Business Development Center, SBA; Robert Vermillion, CEO, RMV Technology; Ken Shoemake, President, Stay Safe Solutions; Timothy Devine, President, Aviate Enterprise; Erica Courtney, CEO, 2020vet; Lori Falkenstrom, E23, General Services Administration; Brett Vegeto, Chief of Construction Branch NCO21, National Veterans Business Development Council and Coreena Conley, Executive Director/CEO, Veterans Business Outreach Center.

Participants were able to meet and hear from service providers and industry experts regarding the utilization of SBA lending products and resources for technical assistance. After completing Boots to Business: Entrepreneurship Course, participants have a basic knowledge of how to identify a business opportunity, draft a business plan, and launch their small business. Upon completion, all participants will also be eligible for an 8-week online program sponsored by Syracuse University that will take a deeper dive into entrepreneurship theory and practice.

These events brings a wide array of medium and large businesses, universities, government agencies and veteran groups under one roof. These events provide services or employment opportunities for veterans and their families. The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission is encouraging departments and posts to host these types of events to share the Legion culture and provide tools/knowledge for service members, veterans and their spouses in order for them to succeed in establishing small businesses.

Veteran Homelessness

Current estimates put the number of homeless veterans at approximately 40,000 on any given night, a decline 46 percent (or 33,896 people) since 2009. Between 2009 and 2016, the number of unsheltered veterans decreased by 56 percent (16,891 fewer veterans), and by 39 percent (17,005) among those staying in sheltered locations. Two thirds of homeless veterans (67 percent or 26,404 veterans) were staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens, while a third (33 percent or 13,067 veterans) were found in places not suitable for human habitation. Almost all veterans were experiencing homelessness in households without children (97 percent or 38,340 veterans). About 3 percent (1,131) were veterans who were homeless as part of a family.

The number of veterans experiencing homelessness increased in seven states between 2009 and 2016. The largest absolute increases were Hawaii (171 more veterans), Utah (169), South Carolina (109), and Oregon (64). The largest percentage increases were in Utah (102 percent), Vermont (80 percent), Hawaii (34 percent), and Maine (19 percent). The number of veterans experiencing homelessness decreased in 43 states plus the District of Columbia between 2009 and 2016. The largest absolute decreases were in California (8,361 fewer veterans), New York (4,631), Florida (4,233), and Texas (3,723). The largest percentage decreases were in Louisiana (80 percent), New York (79 percent), Kansas (74 percent), and Texas (68 percent). Nationally, 9 percent of homeless adults were veterans, but the proportion varied by state.

Rental assistance and support services provided through HUD-VASH are a critical resource for local communities in ending homelessness among our nation's veterans. The HUD-VASH program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for veterans experiencing homelessness provided by HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. At the local level, the HUD-VASH program operates as a collaborative effort between VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) and local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs). The VAMC identifies veterans who are eligible for the program and refers them to the PHA to receive a HUD-VASH voucher. The PHA provides the rental subsidy, and the VAMC provides case management and clinical services. Since 2008, more than 93,000 vouchers have been awarded.

On August 21, 2017, during The American Legion's 99th National Convention in Reno, the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System – Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Facility opened its doors to members of our National Veterans Employment & Education Commission. On the site visit, the commission members met the clients and the organization's leadership team. The Reno VA has roughly 125 grant and per diem beds and 400 HUD-VASH vouchers for their catchment area. In Reno and Carson City, they hover around 98 percent utilization of the vouchers. HCHV programs serve as the hub for a myriad of housing and other services that provide VA with a way to reach and assist homeless veterans by offering them entry to VA care.

Furthermore, HCHV provides funding to local VA Medical Centers, which contract with community-based agencies, to provide short-term residential treatment to veterans who need an immediate housing placement, even as they seek permanent housing and/or additional care and services. VA personnel stated that outreach is the core of the HCHV program. The central goal is to reduce homelessness among veterans by conducting outreach to those who are the most vulnerable, and not currently receiving services and

engaging them in treatment and rehabilitative programs. The VA facility declared that without the amazing assistance from Legion Post 1 in Reno, they couldn't do all they do to help homeless veterans and their families.

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

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

Employment

The current rate of unemployment in the United States is 4.2 percent. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is 3.9 percent. The total number of unemployed veterans from the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is approximately 131,000, with a total of 309,000 unemployed veterans from all eras. The American Legion has been hosting and participating in Job Fairs since 2007. The main purpose of participation in these Job Fairs is to educate veterans of their benefits, provide veterans outlets for employment and promote The American Legion.

The American Legion participates in approximately 100 Job Fairs a year through our national partnerships. A Hiring Our Heroes Hiring Event was held on Tuesday, August 22, during the National Convention in Reno, Nevada. This event was sponsored by U.S. Chamber of Commerce, along with The American Legion Department of Nevada. The hiring event yielded 25 firm job offers. 40 employers and a total of approximately 56 registered jobseekers attended this event.

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

In less than five years, Hiring Our Heroes -- a joint initiative of The American Legion and USCC -- has helped more than 31,000 veterans, servicemembers, and military spouses nationwide find jobs. USCC has hosted over 100 hiring events at Legion Posts and partnered with the Legion on more than 250 others. These events have resulted in 15 percent of all veterans being employed. The American Legion is scheduled to participate in 20 more Career Fairs by the end of the year. Currently, The American Legion is strategizing with USCC staff to identify where the best states and cities are for these events. The location of these events occurring in 2018 will be based upon individual state unemployment rates and places where there are substantial veteran populations. Listed below are the veteran jobseeker demographics:

- 11.1% of the veterans who attended our Hiring Fairs are student-veterans about to graduate

- 55.8% are under 24 years old
- 92% are enlisted and 8 percent are officer
- 82% have been employed for under one-year
- 18% have been employed for over one-year
- 34% reported some college (15% reported a bachelor's degree and 2% reported a master's degree or higher)

Several Department Highlights:

- **Department of Illinois** – held 1 Job Fair affiliated with the DOL
- **Department of New Jersey** – held 6 Job Fairs, 3 affiliated with the state of New Jersey with U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- **Department of New Mexico** – Held 1 Job Fair affiliated with the Department of New Mexico
- **Department of Puerto Rico** – held 1 Job Fair with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- **Department of Texas** – held 1 Job Fair affiliated with Department of Labor (DOL), 1 during the state convention, 1 during Fall Conference, and 1 with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- **Department of Virginia** – Held 1 Job Fair in conjunction with their state convention

Furthermore, the unemployment rate for veterans who served on active-duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time since September 2001 – a group referred to as Gulf War-era II veterans – edged down to 5.1 percent in 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. The jobless rate for all veterans also edged down over the year to 4.3 percent. About 36 percent of Gulf War-era II veterans had a service-connected disability in August 2016, compared with 22 percent of all veterans.

Highlights from the 2016 data:

- The unemployment rate for male veterans overall was not statistically different from the rate for female veterans in 2016. The unemployment rate for male veterans (4.2 percent) edged down over the year, and the rate for female veterans (5 percent) changed little.
- Among the 453,000 unemployed veterans in 2016, 60 percent were age 45 and over, 36 percent were age 25 to 44, and 4 percent were age 18 to 24.
- Veterans with a service-connected disability had an unemployment rate of 4.8 percent in August 2016, about the same as veterans with no disability.
- Nearly 1 in 3 employed veterans with a service-connected disability worked in the public sector in August 2016, compared with about 1 in 5 veterans with no disability.
- In 2016, the unemployment rate for veterans varied across the country, ranging from 1.8 percent in Indiana to 7.6 percent in the District of Columbia.

Additionally, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division has established a new relationship with JobZone. JobZone is Career Fair organization that caters to active-duty, veterans, National Guard and Reservists. All of the Career Fairs are held on military installations or just outside these installations. JobZone operates within the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Education

On August 16, President Donald Trump signed the "Forever GI Bill" into law. The Forever GI Bill, also called the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, is named for The American Legion's past national commander who created the draft of the original GI Bill of Rights in 1944. The legislation was introduced into the House of Representatives July 13th and quickly moved through both chambers of Congress. At the time, American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt praised the legislation. "The signing of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 marks a new era for all who have honorably served in uniform. We believe that this legislation, named after a past national commander of The American Legion, will transform America as the original did following World War II."

This bill improves and extends GI Bill benefits granted to veterans, their surviving spouses and dependents. Listed below are specific improvements of the bill:

- Removes time restrictions to use the GI Bill, enabling future eligible recipients to use their GI Bill benefits for their entire lives as opposed to the current 15-year timeline.
- Simplifies the benefit for future servicemembers by consolidating the GI Bill into a single program, which would reduce the VA's administrative costs.
- Provides significant increases in GI Bill funding for Reservists and National Guardsmen, dependents, surviving spouses and surviving dependents.
- Provides 100 percent GI Bill eligibility to Post-9/11 Purple Heart recipients.
- Restores eligibility for servicemembers whose school closes in middle of a semester and creates a pilot program that would pay for veterans to take certain high technology courses.
- Corrects a Pentagon deployment authorization that has kept thousands of National Guardsmen and Reservists from accumulating earned education benefits.

The American Legion's aggressive advocacy along with other VSOs pushed the Forever GI Bill through Congress. Before the bill's passage, the Legion, in tandem with Student Veterans of America (SVA), conducted a roundtable meeting at our headquarters office in Washington, DC, to discuss how to improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill and better serve the veteran community. The roundtable was called due to publicly voiced disagreements over the past months on the GI Bill as reported by several national publications. This event led to the agreement of the eventual terms within the Forever GI Bill that President Trump signed. The American Legion continues to lead in ensuring veterans have every opportunity to obtain a quality education, and ultimately financial stability.

Conclusion

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to accept the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of three resolutions. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 18: Support the Creation of a Veteran Procurement Liaison Position within the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Submitted By: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Veteran-owned small businesses receive over $10 billion in revenue that's generated by government contracts; and

WHEREAS, A portion of the $10 billion in revenue is used by the veteran-owned business to hire more veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-50) established an annual government-wide goal of not less than 3 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, the Veterans Benefits Act (Public Law 108-183) was passed by Congress, in which section 308 of the act established a procurement program for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Concerns (SDVOSBCs), providing the federal contracting officers may restrict competition to SDVOSBCs and award a sole source or set-aside contract where certain criteria are met; and

WHEREAS, To make sure these procurement goals are being met, and to ensure that every federal agency has a veteran procurement strategy and it is being actively executed, the Small Business Administration must create a veterans procurement liaison position within the Office of Veterans Business Development; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion supports that the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development create a veteran procurement liaison position to deal specifically with advocating, implementing, and recommending policies and procedures for veteran procurement with the federal government.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER RONNING: This resolution has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I offer a motion that it be adopted. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 18. Are there any questions? Hearing none, all those in favor of Resolution 18, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 19: Expanding Employment Services to Non-Service Connected Disabled Veterans

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Submitted By: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS) should undertake a close but expedient review of the current list and definitions of 'Significant Barriers to Employment' (SBE) governing the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) Program; and

WHEREAS, While the falling unemployment rate for veterans has been a welcome development, there is still a substantial number of veterans being served within the broader

one-stop system that could certainly use the assistance of specialized JVSG services, but are currently ineligible due to SBE restrictions; and

WHEREAS, This situation may impact veterans with a non-service connected disability, veterans who never received a VA-rating, older veterans, veterans impacted by natural disasters, or other state-based economic circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Especially, as funding around one-stop systems becomes limited, DOL-VETS should adequately reconsider existing limitations on Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists customer services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion supports an administrative amendment to the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Services (DOL-VETS), Veterans Program Letter No 08-14 that would allow Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists to service all veterans with service connected and non-service connected disabilities.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER RONNING: This resolution has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 19. Are there any questions? Hearing none, all those in favor of Resolution 19, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. It's carried.

Resolution No. 20: Support of an Acting Operator for Deployed Servicemember's Small Business

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Submitted By: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, For years, members of the National Guard, reserve, and active-duty components of the United States Armed Forces have played a crucial role in preserving and protecting the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, These servicemembers help develop and promote small businesses in the United States, and play a critical role in the country's economic growth and stability; and

WHEREAS, Small business ownership, especially when coupled with membership in the National Guard, reserves, or active-duty often comes with significant challenges, such as deployments, making successful small business ownership an even tougher challenge; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion recommends that in a situation where a servicemember is absent from operating a business due to deployment, a designated manager may operate the servicemember's business without losing the veteran-owned small business characterization of the business for contracting purposes.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER RONNING: This resolution has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 20. Are there any questions? All those in favor of adopting Resolution 20, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now call on National Historian Richard Dubay for his report.

Report: National Historian
Richard T. Dubay, Michigan

National Commander Rohan, past national commanders, national vice commanders, members of the NEC, and fellow Legionnaires, good morning. It is both a privilege and an honor to address you as the national historian of the world's largest and most respected veteran's organization, The American Legion.

I thank Commander Rohan for this appointment. I'd also like to thank the Legionnaires of Michigan for their confidence by endorsing me as national historian, while also giving special thanks to Past National Commander Thomas Cadmus, deceased, past NEC and Department of Michigan Commanders Al Ford and Ken Dittenber for their mentoring. To Past National Commanders Daniel Ludwig, Dan Dellinger, and Jake Comer, I say thank you very much.

As national historian, my first task was the overseeing of the judging of the post and department history books for the year 2016-2017 in the annual national history book contest. A thank you and job well done goes out to the posts and department historians for the hard work and diligence they put into the preservation of the history of The American Legion. I also thank the members of the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion, NADHAL, for their assistance with the judging of these books. A special thanks goes out to Past National Historian and Past National Vice Commander Fae Casper, for the training of the new department historians on the dos and don'ts of history book judging, and the conduct of their department contest.

Finally, I offer special thanks to Howard Trace and his wonderful library staff, especially Lynda Lydick, for all their help in coordinating this year's contest. There is a lot of paperwork and coordination in preparing for the contest each year. As the 100th anniversary of The American Legion approaches, I challenge all departments and posts of The American Legion to enroll at the Legion's website, centennial.legion.org.

Now for the results of this year's contest:

<u>One-Year Department Narrative History Contest are:</u>
First Award, Plaque, Department of North Carolina
Second Award, Plaque, Department of Indiana
Third Award, Plaque, Department of New Hampshire

<u>One-Year Department Yearbook History Contest are:</u>
First Award, Plaque, Department of Nebraska
Second Award, Plaque, Department of North Carolina
Tie for Third Award, Plaque, Departments of Massachusetts and Georgia

<u>One-Year Post Narrative History Contest are:</u>
First Award, Plaque, Pony Express Post 359, Saint Joseph, MO
Second Award, Plaque, Harold L. Gregory Memorial Post 626, Fort Worth, TX
Third Award, Plaque, Berkeley Post 14, Martinsburg, WV

<u>One-Year Post Yearbook History Contest are:</u>
First Award, Plaque, Mukwonago Community Post 375, Mukwonago, WI
Second Award, Plaque, Frierson-Nichols Post 8, Winter Haven, FL
Third Award, Plaque, Saxton-Willis Post 64, Heber Springs, AR

The instructors, historians, and judges for the contest were:

Virgil Arling (OH); W. Frazier Brinley (CT); James Fratolillo (MA); Robert Gilmore, Jr. (AZ); Johnny B. Keel (LA); James A. Mariner (NM); Rex C. McBee (TN); N. Larry Rozier (NC); Dan Watrous (OH); Tommy Hatton (GA); Fred Doten (NV); Mike Miskell (PA); James Copher (MN); Jerry Clark (WY); George Boddie (NH); Fae Casper (GA); Deborah Davis (CO); Elizabeth Kendrick-Creech (OH); Lisa McPhee (MA); Donald Arns (IA); Howard Clewell (WI); John Wayne Yee (CA); Charemon Dunham (SD); Raymond Read (MT); Robin Shingleton (WV); Paul Garrett (IL); Jackie Evonsion (CT)

Commander, this concludes my report.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of National Historian Richard Dubay. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to accept the report of National Historian Richard Dubay. Are there any questions? All those in favor of accepting this report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried, thank you. I now call on Judge Onderdonk for eligibility of national officers.

Eligibility of National Officers

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: Commander, this is an announcement to the National Executive Committee. Dan Wheeler, national adjutant. In accordance with the action of the 13th Annual National Convention of The American Legion held in Detroit, Michigan, September 21-24, 1931, a copy of the discharge from service, certified copy of same, or other satisfactory evidence of service record providing eligibility to membership in The American Legion has been submitted to the office of the national adjutant by the following national officers:

Denise H. Rohan, national commander, Wisconsin; Bobby D. Bryant, national vice commander, Oklahoma; Byron L. Callies, national vice commander, South Dakota; William J. Flanagan, national vice commander, Illinois; Larry J. Marcouillier, national vice commander, Delaware; Paula R. Stephenson, national vice commander, Utah; Robert A. Vick, national chaplain, Florida; Richard T. Dubay, national historian, Michigan; and Roy Helms, national sergeant-at-arms Wisconsin.

The above proofs have been examined by the national judge advocate, who has certified to the eligibility of the above-named officers for membership in The American Legion. Proof of eligibility for other national officers has been submitted to the National Executive Committee on earlier occasions, and I have also signed this to attest. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of Judge Onderdonk. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive the report of Judge Onderdonk. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you. We're now going into the confirmation of interim appointments and there are none.

Confirmation of Interim Appointments
National Executive Committee Meeting
October 12-13, 2016

There have been no interim appointments since Post-Convention NEC meeting on August 24, 2017, in Reno, Nevada.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Moving on to the confirmation and cancellation of posts and squadron charters.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Yes.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of post cancellations and squadron charters are a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve the list. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters

On August 21, 2017, at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of sixty-three (63) Posts. The research done on each Post prior to any recommendation made as an attempt to see whether these Posts could be revitalized is based on the following criteria:

Community Size
Veteran Population

Fifty-five (55) Posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2017 Fall National Executive Committee Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

** See Merging Post Information Below*

Department	Post #	Name	Location
CALIFORNIA	0209	Sugar Ray Robinson	Los Angeles
	0319	Wilshire	Los Angeles
	0322	Alfred J. Spahrmann	Los Angeles
FLORIDA	0407	Avon Park Correctional Institute	Avon Park
ILLINOIS	0684*	Garnett-Foch *(to merge with Morton Grove Post 0134)*	Chicago
	0713	Kessinger	Sorento
	0743*	West Sangamon *(to merge with Chatham Post 0759)*	New Berlin
	0900	Mc Clure	Mc Clure
MICHIGAN	0100*	Hellenic, Inc. *(to merge with Cadillac Post 0333)*	Detroit
	0519*	The Detroit News *(to merge with Cadillac Post 0333)*	Detroit
NEW JERSEY	0015*	West New York, Inc. *(to merge with Secaucus Memorial Post 0118)*	West New York
	0024	Asbury Park	Asbury Park
	0046	Union City	Union City
	0052	Albert L. Quinn	Jersey City
	0064	Guttenberg	Guttenberg
	0078	Englewood, Inc.	Englewood

	0088	Highland Park Memorial	Highland Park
	0094*	Clementon *(to merge with Pine Hill, Inc. Post 0286)*	Clementon
	0097	Wood-Ridge, Inc.	Wood-Ridge
	0187	Pasquariello-Bradle	Paterson
	0200	Passaic Memorial, Inc.	Passaic
	0222	William Sumner Lewis	Jersey City
	0235	Kimble-Weatherwalks, Inc.	Pompton Lakes
	0260	Bayway, Inc.	Elizabeth
	0349	Fieldsboro, Inc.	Fieldsboro
	0353	Linwood	Linwood
	0357	East Berlin Memorial	East Berlin
	0374	Ruth Altone, Inc.	Camden
	0388*	Junction *(to merge with Bayonne Post 0019)*	Jersey City
	0409	Baker, McHale, Panzino	Newfield
	0427*	Regent Memorial *(to merge with Tom Kennedy-Hoboken Post 0107)*	Jersey City
	0479	William F. Grund	Menlo Park
	0525	Jerry Morgan	Long Branch
NEW YORK	0267	Spencer-Kelly, Inc.	Tarrytown
	0298	Elmhurst-Jackson Heights	Elmhurst
	1306	East Lovejoy	Buffalo
	1694	John Bertram Van Dunk	Hillburn
OKLAHOMA	0047	Carmen Memorial	Carmen
	0067*	Glazebrook-Truax *(to merge with Harold Bigheart Smalley Post 0198)*	Shidler
	0119	Henslee-Bryant	Boswell
	0172*	Katschor-Guthrie *(to merge with Ralph Browne-Richard Hampton Post 0071)*	Billings
	0196*	Hinson-Harmon *(to merge with Zoal Stringer Post 0226)*	Porter
	0247*	Gold Eagle *(to merge with Philip Clark Ashby Post 0125)*	Canton
	0264	Willie Stevenson	Ardmore
	0270	Jones-Kelley	Eldorado
	0275	Blair Memorial	Blair
	0398*	Boise City *(to merge with Jack Goosen Post 0137)*	Boise City

SOUTH CAROLINA	0018	John Ray Turner	Timmonsville
	0046	Richardson-Walsh	Barnwell
	0075	Williston	Williston
	0091	Patt B. Coggin	Blackville
	0118*	Floyds *(to merge with Nichols Post 0082)*	Nichols
TEXAS	0135	American Legion Riders	Ft. Worth
	0333	Longhorn	Grapevine
VIRGINIA	0774	Commonwealth	Farnham

SAL Charters of The American Legion Presented To the National Executive Committee for Cancellation at the October 12, 2017 Meeting

On August 21, 2017, at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of twelve (12) Squadrons.

Nineteen (19) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2017 Fall National Executive Committee Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

** See Merging Squadron Information Below*

Department	Sqdn #	Name	Location
ILLINOIS	0900	Mc Clure	Mc Clure
NEW JERSEY	0015*	West New York *(to merge with Secaucus Memorial Sqdn 0118)*	West New York
	0024	Asbury Park	Asbury Park
	0046	Union City	Union City
	0052	Albert L. Quinn	Jersey City
	0064	Guttenberg	Guttenberg
	0078	Englewood	Englewood
	0088	Highland Park Memorial	Highland Park
	0094*	Clementon *(to merge with Pine Hill Sqdn 0286)*	Clementon
	0222	William Sumner Lewis	Jersey City
	0235	Kimble-Weatherwalks	Pompton Lakes
	0260	Bayway	Elizabeth
	0349	Fieldsboro	Fieldsboro
	0353	Linwood	Linwood
	0357	East Berlin Memorial	East Berlin
NEW YORK	0267	Spencer-Kelly	Tarrytown
	0298	Elmhurst-Jackson Heights	Elmhurst
OKLAHOMA	0196*	Hinson-Harmon	Porter

		(to merge with Zoal Stringer Sqdn 0226)	
TEXAS	0135	American Legion Riders	Ft. Worth

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Confirmation of dates of future meetings.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: May I address the national adjutant again, commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Yes, you may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, are there dates of future meetings that require approval of the National Executive Committee?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: They have previously been approved.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Thank you.

Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings

Future Dates for NEC Consideration
Previously Approved by NEC

2018 Washington Conference	February 25-28
2018 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 7-8
National Executive Committee	May 9-10
2018 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 15-16
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 15-16
National Executive Committee	October 17-18
2019 Washington Conference	February 24-27
2019 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 6-7
National Executive Committee	May 8-9
2019 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 14-15
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 14-15
National Executive Committee	October 16-17
2020 Washington Conference	March 8-11
2020 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 4-5
National Executive Committee	May 6-7
2020 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 12-13
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 12-13
National Executive Committee	October 14-15

2021 Washington Conference	February 28-March 3
2021 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 3-4
National Executive Committee	May 5-6
2021 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 4-5
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 4-5
National Executive Committee	October 6-7

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Significant gifts to the library.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Yes, you may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify that the list of significant gifts to the library and museum are a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: I move they be approved and recorded in the digest, commander. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: There's a motion and a second to record these items in the digest. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you.

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library

Donated by the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL): *The Allure of Battle* by Cathal J. Nolan and *The Battle for Veterans' Healthcare* by Suzanne Gordon

Donated by Dr. Robert Thune: *Ignacy Jan Paderewski: Polish Pianist and Patriot; The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn; Kosciuszko and Pulaski*

Donated by author Charles C. Scott: *Account of a West Virginia Boy in the Korean War*

Donated by author Joel Houglum: *Remembering the World War II Sacrifice: Dad's Letters*

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Museum

Donated by Dr. Robert Thune: Book, *World War II Remembered;* MOH, Vietnam War (12 stamps); Service Cross Medals (12 stamps); stamp storage album; Doolittle Tokyo Raider Bronze coin with case; 1920 Rotogravure WWI General Pershing Paris Victory Parade; 1942 Into Battle stamps (sheet of 20); Abraham Lincoln stamp (sheet of 50); Korean War Veterans Memorial Stamp (sheet of 20); Alexander Hamilton stamp (sheet of 50); Gettysburg Address, 1948 (50 stamp sheet); Alexander Hamilton, 1957 (50 stamp sheet); Women Airforce Service Pilots medal with case; Tuskegee Airmen medal with case; Korean War Veterans Memorial, 2003 (20 stamp sheet); An American History Album: *The Story of the US Told Through Stamps* book; Boystown Centennial 2017 proof half dollar; Nisei Soldiers of WWII Commemorative Coin (3" bronze medal with case); Classics Forever stamp (set of 6 stamps); Army/Navy National Defense stamp (sheet of 100 stamps) (2¢ anti-aircraft gun); Newsprint page featuring 1921 National Convention in

Kansas City, Missouri – rotogravure American Legion parade Pershing and allies commanders; Fort Moultrie, 3-coin set; Fort Moultrie, 5-ounce silver coin in box; General John J. Pershing stamp (sheet of 100); 2017 Hawaii Calendar; Gettysburg Stamp (sheet of 50); US Bicentennial: Herkimer at Oriskany stamp, sheet of 40; Dwight Eisenhower stamp, plate block of 8; 1970 Disabled American Veterans stamp, sheet of 50 and 1920 Rotogravure General Pershing Military WWI Horses; 1990 US Mint Prestige Proof Set – coins in box (Eisenhower Centennial); 1971 Eisenhower Proof Set – coin in box (Brown Ike); 1987 US Mint Prestige Proof Set – coins in box (Constitution Bicentennial)

Donated by Brian C. Foster: Biographical information about Harry L. Foster of California

Donated by Brett P. Reistad: *Le Grande Tourisme* magazine from 1927 American Legion Pilgrimage to France; Squadron of Honor movie poster; *The American Legion Weekly*, September 12, 1919; Article, "The American Legion, 1919-1947"; *American Legion Magazine*, May 1943; *Life Magazine*, American Legion Issue, September 8, 1927; *The Legionnaire*, 1938 (Department of Ohio); *The American Legion and Traffic Accident Problem*, 1935 pamphlet; American Legion calendar, 1948; Elmira Post No. 443 (New York) American Legion cap; Department of Virginia National Commander campaign DVD for Brett Reistad; Cartoon "Lest We Forget", May 1928; Binder containing American Legion patches; Photographs of Legion at Armistice Day ceremonies at Arlington, 1939; American Legion program cards, 1936 - "Not Just Hats Off to the Flag" and 1937 -"Over the Top"; American Legion Rehabilitation stamps, 1948 "Let's Do the Job Together"; Arthur Poorman campaign brochure (Department of Illinois Commander); Postcards - 1950 Legion meeting postcard, 1930 and 6 scenes of The American Legion building postcards; *Songs of the Legion* songbook; Sheet music – 46 pieces

Donated by Robert L. Morrill: Convention badge-1919; Convention badge-2002; Department of New York History-1942.

Donated by Ron Abbe: Department of Mexico historical material.

Donated by Jeffery J. Kline: National Convention pocket program – 1923.

Donated by Annabelle Kelly: Two publications: *American Legion, The Veteran's Pal* and *What Does It Mean To Say, I Am An American Legionnaire.*

Donated by Donald J. Ross: Two steel dies – Founders medal.

Donated by Dawn Dubovich: Manual of Ceremonies – 1946 Edition – maroon hardcover; Manual of Ceremonies – 1960 Edition – self cover; *Know Your America* – suggested study course in Americanism; *Post Handbook of The American Legion* – 26th Edition – 1960.

Donated by Tierian Cash: Digital objects (577)

Donated by D. B. Watkins: "Hope for America" painting by D. B. Watkins

Donated by Joel Houglum: 150 feet of film taken by Edgar J. Houglum of Twin Valley, Minnesota at the 1959 American Legion National Convention parade in Minneapolis

Donated by Douglas C. Haggan: 6,455 digital files of photographs, publications, documents and correspondence related to serving as the 2014-2015 National Vice Commander

Donated by Edward C. Warfel: 1927 French postcard

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I now call on the chairman of the Subcommittee on Committees, Charles Aucoin, for his report.

Oral Report: Subcommittee on Committees
Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana, Chairman

Commander, national officers, my colleagues in the NEC, and guests, the future of this organization, The American Legion, lies in your hands, for you have the responsibility of recommending the most qualified members of your departments to serve on various commissions, committees, and councils. We stress this especially on the qualifications of a particular member to serve in the capacity for which you recommend. It's also imperative that those individuals that you appoint understand and are committed to the aims and purposes of The American Legion. It's important that when these members that represent your departments either pass or resign, that you notify the national office so that proper people can be notified.

This committee has reviewed over 1,200 recommendations in the past few days, so you can understand the importance of submitting them by the deadline issued, to give the national commander's executive assistant proper time to prepare the folders for the committee's review. I thank you for your support in this matter. I would like to stress the importance of filling out your forms in their entirety and submitting them by the deadline. I would also ask that you use the electronic template provided to you from National Headquarters. If you have any questions on these appointments, please refer to the new NEC orientation brochure.

Commander Rohan, thank you for the privilege of serving as chairman of this subcommittee and for the qualified people you have assigned to serve with me. I'm pleased at this time to present the members of your Subcommittee on Committees who have assisted all week, and would they please rise and be recognized: Our vice chairman, D. Joseph Jackson, Connecticut; Mary V. Erdman, Arkansas; James Huls, South Dakota; Terry D. Schow, Utah; and Michael Mitrione, Virginia. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for all the hard work you put in this week. *(Applause)*

Commander, your committee met at national headquarters on Sunday, October 8, 2017, and remained in session all day Monday and Tuesday. We held interviews with 55 departments and received their recommendations. On behalf of all the members of the subcommittee, I want to commend the National Executive Committeemen, department commanders and department adjutants for the courteous presentations of their recommendations. Upon completion of the interviews, this report was prepared in rough draft and submitted to the national commander's office for final approval. The report is now being circulated, being placed on your desk. We commend the staff for its excellent work in preparation of this work and especially the national commander's assistant, Debbie Andrews, for her patience and dedication throughout our deliberations. I also commend the members of the subcommittee for their hard work and thank you, commander, and all of those others who helped in the selection of these appointments.

With the list now on your desk, you have the opportunity to look it over. I recommend that we do not take time to read them, there's only about 1,200. Therefore, I move that this report be approved with the exception of any minor corrections that may be required and that the national commander be given authority to make any interim appointments as deemed necessary. Commander, this completes my report. *...Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Subcommittee on Committees. Are there any questions? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now call on the final report of the Resolutions Subcommittee.

Final Report of Subcommittee on Resolutions
David O. Warnken, Kansas, Chairman

Thank you, commander. Good morning all. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session since October 9. We've considered all resolutions that have come before the committee and have considered and acted on 21 resolutions.

I would like to stress the importance to the members of the National Executive Committee in keeping their departments informed of the actions taken by the National Executive Committee. The resolutions passed in the last two days will be available within a few days on the Digital Archive at archive.legion.org.

I would like to take this time to thank the members of the committee who have done such an outstanding job, who have attended every session and participated in discussion of these resolutions. As I introduce you please, please stand. My special thanks to Vice Chairman Bill Kile of West Virginia; Dennis Boland, Florida; Jim Pisa, Alaska; Marland Ronning, Minnesota; Dennis Haas from Pennsylvania; and our newest member, Robert Liebenow of Oregon. I thank you very much for your dedicated service this week. *(Applause)*

Our appreciation is also extended to Howard Trace and his staff who have served our committee. I want to thank the document center, directors and chairmen of the commissions and committees on this week's work in order to bring the reports and resolutions to you. During our deliberations, we have met with a number of chairmen and staff who have been very helpful to us in explaining questions we have about the resolutions.

Commander, it is a pleasure to serve as chairman of your Subcommittee on Resolutions. We would like to thank the National Executive Committee in the reporting of the various resolutions. You have been most cooperative, commander. I move that this report be received and filed….*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive the final report of the Resolutions Subcommittee. Are there any questions? All those in favor of receiving and filing the final report of the Resolutions Subcommittee, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you. Miscellaneous business and technical motions.

Miscellaneous Business and Technical Motions

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded for the adjutant to make any technical amendments. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you.

…National Vice Commander Stephenson assumed the chair.

Closing Remarks
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, National Commander

Good morning again. Yesterday I asked you all to have a great meeting, and I think that we did. So many of you, including those who are watching on the Internet, notice that I'm struggling with my voice, and I want to thank everybody for all of your suggested cures and remedies. Still working on it, though. *(Laughter)*

But you know who has not lost their voice? This great American Legion Family; we have not lost our voice. Now, last night we issued a new resolution, Resolution No. 1. A

news release was put out. It was a reaffirmation for a strong America. It was also a reaffirmation of The American Legion. It's who we are and who we have always been: Patriotic veterans who love America. We are not against anyone. We are for America and we are for Americanism, and we stand by, ready to protect the land that we love.

We have also improved our Temporary Financial Assistance programs. We discussed our legislative victories. Now that the commemorative coin bill has passed, we begin the marketing phase. I know that I can count on you to promote these historic and rare collectibles at every opportunity. Finally, I really look forward to visiting your departments. I have been inspired by so many of the departments that I've already visited, and I know that what I see is just really a snapshot of what's going on in your departments each and every day.

Let's keep those that are impacted by our natural disasters in our thoughts and our prayers, and continue to support them as we always have in the past. Please remember to open your Legion homes and invite everyone over for Veterans Day. I hope you have a safe trip home and God bless each and every one of you. Thank you. *(Standing applause)*

...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the remarks of National Commander Denise Rohan. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to accept that final report. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Is there any other business to come before this meeting? I call on National Chaplain Robert Vick for the benediction. Uncover.

Benediction
Robert A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain

Father, this has been a learning experience for some of us, and it has been a reaffirmation of our commitment to You and to our veterans for all of us. Father, we have learned many new things, met many new people. I pray that these are friendships that last, fellowships that last, and I pray that everybody here considers everyone else their brother and their sister and they commit to being their brother's keeper.

Father, I commit this audience to You and to Your grace, to Your mercy, to Your salvation. As we travel home, give us traveling mercies; protect us, Father, from the evils in this world. And God, my Savior, bless America for the sake of those people in this country who still love You and still serve You and still believe that America is the greatest country on earth, the country that was founded on the principles of Your word. And this has not changed, even though some in our midst have changed.

Forgive us our sins, father. Stay close to us, give us Your peace, and God bless our veterans, deployed and retired, and especially those who need Your help for physical and mental help. I pray this prayer in that name that's above all names. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Cover. With the colors of our nation in place, hand salute: Two. I now declare this meeting of the National Executive Committee adjourned.

...At 9:14 a.m., Thursday, October 12, 2017, the National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.

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Abbreviations

AARP ..... American Association of Retired Persons
ACLU ..... American Civil Liberties Union
ALR ..... American Legion Riders

BCR ..... Boulder Crest Retreat
BVA ..... Board of Veterans Appeals

CCAC ..... Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee
CCRA ..... Commemorative Coin Act of 1996
CEO ..... chief executive officer
CFA ..... Citizens Flag Alliance
COLA ..... cost-of-living adjustment
CPR ..... Consolidated Post Report
CWF ..... Child Welfare Foundation

DEC ..... Department Executive Committee
DMS ..... Direct Membership Solicitation
DOD ..... Department of Defense
DOL ..... Department of Labor
DOL-VETS ..... Department of Labor's Employment and Training Services
DPAA ..... Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
DRC ..... Decision Ready Claim
DSO ..... Department Service Officer

EEG ..... electroencephalogram

FDC ..... Fully Developed Claim
FEMA ..... Federal Emergency Management Agency
FY ..... fiscal year
FYI ..... for your information

GAO ..... Government Accountability Office
GSA ..... General Services Administration

HAC ..... House Appropriations Committee
HASC ..... House Armed Services Committee
HCHV ..... Healthcare for Homeless Veterans
HCS ..... Health Care System
HUD ..... Department of Housing and Urban Development

IRS ..... Internal Revenue Service
ISIL ..... Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

JCPOA.....Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
JCS ..... Joint Chiefs of Staff
JGECO .....James G. Elliott Company
JVSG ..... Jobs for Veterans Grants

LEAD .....Leadership, Education, And Development

MIA ..... missing in action
MOH..... Congressional Medal of Honor

NADHAL .....National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion
NALPA..... National American Legion Press Association
NASA .....National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCA ..... National Cemetery Administration
NDAA ..... National Defense Authorization Act
NEC..... National Executive Committee
NEF .....National Emergency Fund
NIH ..... National Institutes of Health
NSLI .....National Service Life Insurance
NWQ ..... National Work Queue

OCW..... Operation Comfort Warriors

PATHH.....Progressive and Alternative Training for Healing Heroes
PBR ..... Presidential Budget Request
PHA..... Public Housing Agencies
PL ..... Public Law
PNC .....Past National Commander
POW ..... prisoner of war
PSA ..... public service announcement
PTSD .....Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
PUFL ..... Paid Up for Life

QLE ..... quality of life event

SAL ..... Sons of The American Legion
SALAA..... Samsung American Legion Alumni Association
SASC..... Senate Armed Service Committee
SBA..... Small Business Administration
SBE .....Significant Barriers to Employment
SDVOSB .....Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
SDVOSBC.....Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Concerns
SWS.....System Worth Saving

TAL ..... The American Legion
TBD..... to be decided
TBI .....Traumatic Brain Injury
TFA ..... Temporary Financial Assistance

USAA ..... United Services Automobile Association
USAID ..... United States Agency for International Development
USAREC ..... United States Army Recruiting Command
USCC ..... United States Chamber of Commerce

VA ..... Department of Veterans Affairs
VA&R ..... Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation
VAHCS ..... Veterans Affairs Health Care System
VAMC ..... VA Medical Center
VARO ..... VA Regional Office
VASH ..... Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VAVS ..... Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service
VBA ..... Veterans Benefits Administration
VBMS ..... Veterans Benefits Management System
VOSB ..... Veteran-Owned Small Business
VSO ..... Veteran Service Organization

WWI ..... World War I
WWII ..... World War II

YCLE ..... Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee
YMCA ..... Young Men's Christian Association
YWCA ..... Young Women's Christian Association

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