PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

May 8 – 9, 2019

Table of Contents

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Invocation 1
POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony 1
Pledge of Allegiance 1
Roll Call 2
Announcements 4
Opening Remarks: National Commander Brett P. Reistad, Virginia 4
Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions 6
Memorial Resolutions 6
    Eulogies for Past National Commander William M. Detweiler 8
    Eulogy for Joseph E. Caouette 11
    Eulogy for Randall Coffman 12
Greetings: Kathy Dungan, National President, American Legion Auxiliary 12
Guest Speaker: Micheal P. Barrett 14
Reports: Legislative Commission 16
    Convention Commission 33
    2018 National Convention Corporation 36
    Marketing Commission 37
Resolution No. 8: Rescinding of Emblem Committee Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions 45
Report: Finance Commission 46
Resolutions:
    No. 2: Extend Agreement with LSC Communications US, LLC 49
    No. 3: Authorization to Purchase Paper from Lindenmeyr Central 50
    No. 4: National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion 51
    No. 5: National American Legion College Tuition Change 51
    No. 6: 2022 National Convention Contract 52
    No. 7: Acceptance of Financial Grants from Organizations that Align with the Purposes and Policies of The American Legion 53
Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission 53
Resolutions:
    No. 10: Allow Updates to the Burn Pit Registry With Additional Veterans Information As Needed 68
    No. 11: Oppose VA Charging Veterans Co-Payments for Treatment of Service-Connected Disabilities 68
    No. 12: Establish New Eligibility Criteria for Burial and Interment at Arlington National Cemetery 69
Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee 70

Wednesday Afternoon Session

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission 75
Resolution No. 13: Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act 94
Report: TBI/PTSD Committee 95
Report: Internal Affairs Commission 96
Resolutions:
    No. 1: Recommend Amendments to The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws 126
    No. 14: Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions 138
    No. 15: Commendation for Statues of Liberation in Normandy 141
    No. 16: Community Level Academic Program Engagement 142

No. 17: American Legion Sponsored Veterans Service Days 143
No. 18: Buddy Check 144
No. 19: Sports 145
No. 20: Promotion of Family Play Day Events at Posts 145
No. 21: Procedures for The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal 146
Report: 100th Anniversary Observance Committee 149
Report: Americanism Commission 152
Resolutions:
No. 22: Rescinding of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions 160
No. 23: Constitution Day 161
No. 24: Commending The Joe Foss Institute 162
No. 25: Commending Girl Scouts Of The USA 163
No. 26: April As Official Children & Youth Month 164
No. 27: Addendum To American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites for 2020 164
No. 28: Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program 165
No. 30: 2019 Distinguished Service Medal 168
Announcements 169

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Invocation 171
Roll Call 171
Remarks of the National Vice Commanders
James E. Pisa, Alaska 173
Paul I. Spedaliere, Connecticut 173
John F. 'Jack' Milburn, Maryland 175
James E. Wallace, Michigan 176
Steve Sweet, Mississippi 177
Reports: Media & Communications Commission 177
National Historian 179
National Security Commission 180
Resolution No. 9: Support for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau 192
Confirmation of Interim Appointments 193
Cancellation of Post and Squadron Charters 195
Confirmation of Dates of Future Meetings 199
Resolution No. 29: Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions 200
Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions 201
Announcements 202
Closing Remarks: National Commander Brett P. Reistad 203
Benediction 204

Abbreviations 205
Index 209

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

...At 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 8, 2019, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Brett Reistad.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Good Morning. At this time, I call the spring meeting of the National Executive Committee to order. Please join me in a salute to the colors by the numbers: One. Two. Please remain standing and uncover. I call on Past National Chaplain Randy Cash to deliver the invocation.

Invocation
Tierian "Randy" Cash, Past National Chaplain, North Carolina

Fellow Legionnaires, please join me as we honor our nation's legacy of faith. The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?

Eternal Father, with these powerful words of scripture, we assemble today as men and women of faith, hope, and charity. We are most thankful for the blessings of life, for family, for friends, and for freedom. We are mindful as we are here today of the men and women of our armed forces standing watch around the world. May all who wear the cloth of our nation know Your presence and peace.

Finally, Lord, we pray that You would lead and guide our American Legion, that we may fulfill the mission You have set before us. We remember particularly today Terry Miller of Wyoming and Father Phil. We pray that You would bless them as they recover.

Now Lord, bless our nation. For this I pray in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

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

Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention requires the designation of a POW/MIA chair at all official meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of American 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 us all to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners, the repatriation of the remains of those who have been killed in action, and a full accounting of those who are still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion
Willie Ransom, Virginia, National Sergeant-at-Arms

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Please remain uncovered. At this time I call on our national sergeant-at-arms, Willie Ransom, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS RANSOM: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I call on National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler to conduct the roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Paul I. Spedaliere, Connecticut
James E. Wallace, Michigan
James E. Pisa, Alaska
John F. Milburn, Maryland
Steve Sweet, Mississippi

Past National Commanders

Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)
John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DeFrancesco, Pennsylvania
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota (Excused)
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. Conatser, Illinois
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan (Excused)
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
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin

National Executive Committeemen

Department	**Committeeman**	**Alternate**
Alabama	Willis Frazier	
Alaska	Steven L. Huisman	
Arizona	Judith S. Beischel	
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman (Excused)	C. Jacob Greeling
California	Lawrence Van Kuran	
Colorado	Thomas J. Florez	
Connecticut	D. Joseph Jackson	
Delaware	Robert L. Michael	
D.C.	George E. Roundtree	
Florida	Dennis R. Boland	
France	James M. Settle	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	David R. Carlson	
Idaho	Robert L. Skinner	
Illinois	Bernard A. Stegmueller	
Indiana	Jerry L. Jordon	
Iowa	Jerry D. Sebben	
Kansas	David O. Warnken (Excused)	Gaylord K. Sanneman
Kentucky	Joseph M. Flynn	

Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Lloyd Woods	
Maryland	Lewis E. Trott, Jr.	
Massachusetts	Louis E. Brault, Jr.	
Mexico	Michael D. Wood	
Michigan	Raymond W. Moore	
Minnesota	Marland A. Ronning	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Kenneth J. Goth	
Montana	David A. Driver	
Nebraska	William D. Crosier, Jr.	
Nevada	Ronald L. Michalski	
New Hampshire	William R. Roy	
New Jersey	Charles K. Robbins	
New Mexico	Felix Trujillo	
New York	Edward Bertrand	
North Carolina	Jeff W. Joyner	
North Dakota	Robert L. Krause	
Ohio	Robert M. Klostermeier	
Oklahoma	Timothy W. Smith	
Oregon	Robert D. Liebenow	
Pennsylvania	E. Michael Stelacio	
Philippines	Lawrence E. Wade	
Puerto Rico	Angel O. Narvaez-Negron	
Rhode Island	Cory D. Bates	
South Carolina	Michael D. Strauss	
South Dakota	James Huls (Excused)	Terry L. Hanson
Tennessee	Don E. Mathis	
Texas	C. W. Sparks, Jr.	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Marlys A. Lemnah	
Virginia	Michael F. Mitrione	
Washington	Ken C. Lee	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Robert L. Shappell	
Wyoming	Terry E. Miller (Excused)	Douglas Uhrig

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll call.
NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant.

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Our next order of business is the reading of minutes of previous meetings. They have been printed and distributed in digest form. Do I have a motion from the floor?

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I have a motion and second on the floor that the minutes be approved without being read. Is there any discussion? If not, all in favor? Any opposed? The motion is passed. I call on National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: The National Commander's dinner honoring the members of the National Executive Committee is tonight at the Sheraton Centre in Indianapolis. The reception will be held in the Circle Suites at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served in the Meridian Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. NEC members 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 in the back of the room. Cutoff for seating requests is 10:00 a.m. this morning. So if you have a yellow form, please complete it and turn it in immediately. Tickets will be available for pickup after lunch in the front office. Mr. Commander that completes the announcements.

...National Vice Commander Pisa assumed the chair.

Opening Remarks
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia, National Commander

Good morning, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and all of our guests. I know that we'll be getting to our memorializing resolutions in just a few minutes, but I would be remiss if I did not begin my remarks by acknowledging the passing of an outstanding national commander, a tremendous veterans' advocate, and a great friend.

There are some things that happen during a national commander's year that we anticipate. For instance, we've long known that 2019 is the centennial celebration of The American Legion. But then there are other big events that come from the news unexpected challenges that can define a national commander and our organization.

Such was the case of the Enola Gay exhibit that was originally planned for the Smithsonian Institute during Commander William Detweiler's year, 1994 to 1995. Heavy on anti-American propaganda, historical revisionists intended to portray the United States as the aggressors who mercilessly dropped the atomic bombs on Japan. Commander Bill would have none of it. His strong advocacy for our World War II veterans and his steadfast leadership made headlines worldwide and caused officials at the exhibit to jettison their original plans.

The final result was a much more balanced and accurate portrayal of the Enola Gay and the role that the United States played in ending the war that we did not start. Even after his year in office ended, Commander Detweiler provided strong leadership as chairman of the TBI/PTSD Committee. He is widely credited for getting the VA Medical Center in New Orleans rebuilt, and in bringing the National World War II Museum to that great city. I look forward to hearing the other tributes to Past National Commander Bill Detweiler, and I shall forever be grateful to the advice and mentorship that he's provided me in the past.

In a couple of weeks, I'll lead a delegation to the Department of France. My visit to Paris will have even greater significance than I anticipated. One hundred years ago, our wartime ally and longtime friend of our republic provided a birthplace, a light, if you will, in the City of Lights. The light, which shines brightly in this room right now, was The American Legion.

The City of Lights, however, is hurting. The flames that engulfed the Notre Dame Cathedral did more than damage a church. The fire wounded a country. It shocked the world. It broke the hearts of millions. I have expressed my condolences to the people of France on behalf of the American Legion Family.

National Commander visits to France are always a combination of triumph and sorrow. This year we will celebrate with the few remaining D-Day survivors who will make the trip to Europe to mark the 75th anniversary of their liberation of a continent. But those celebrations are always tempered by loss, as symbolized by the rows of crosses, Stars of David, and other military graves that dominate the nearby landscape.

Much has happened since our fall meetings. An entire branch of the military suffered a pay stoppage. A crisis developed on our southern border due to caravans of migrants

attempting to skirt our immigration laws. In response to Resolution No. 1 passed by this body in October, Congress is considering legislation that would expand wartime eras to cover gaps between all the previously unrecognized periods since World War II. And we turned 100! So good and bad things have happened. Allow me to address a few of them.

Congress still has not passed the Pay Our Coast Guard Act. During the shutdown, I'm proud of the way that all of our departments stepped up and gave generously to our Veterans & Children Foundation. I'm proud of the work that your departments did in quickly processing Temporary Financial Assistance applications so national headquarters could quickly award grants to Coast Guard families in need. We awarded more than $1 million of assistance to these families, which provided more than the $1 million Congress did not give them during that period.

Sadly, shutdowns, which were once unheard of, have become common in today's partisan environment. The Coast Guard and all military branches deserve the security of knowing that their pay will not be stopped no matter what goes on in Washington. So please encourage your congressional delegations to pass the Pay Our Coast Guard Act.

And while you're at it, please ask your senators and representatives to support the LEGION Act as well. This is a legislation that would allow virtually any veteran who served honorably under federal orders since World War II to join our American Legion. They also risked their lives and limbs for our nation and deserve the opportunity to be called "Legionnaires."

The bipartisan bill is Senate Bill 504, and its chief sponsors are Senator Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Senator Thom Tillis of North Carolina. In the House, it's House Resolution 1641. Congressman Lou Correa of California and Ben Cline of Virginia are the primary House sponsors. Although the LEGION Act would open eligibility to hundreds of thousands of additional veterans, it's not the solution to solving our membership deficits.

In the past you've heard me stress the importance of renewal and engagement with members who left our organization several years ago. I truly believe, and I know it to be true, that those practicing "buddy checks" will see positive results. The Department of New Hampshire membership chairman told us that he is encouraging posts to contact at least 10 percent of their members each month. Over the course of a year, that's 120 percent. I like the sound of that.

Today, I'd like to reinforce the need for us to be totally inclusive. Veterans of every demographic need to feel welcome in our American Legion Family. It goes without saying that men and women who meet our eligibility requirements need to be welcomed regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or orientation. But are we truly welcoming them? Do they have equal opportunities to advance at the post, district, department, and national levels? I'm not advocating for a quota system, but we should at least strive to match the same percentages that are seen in the United States military. In the military you're seeing more women and minorities than ever before advance to senior NCO, field grade and flag officer positions.

We must also root out ageism. Age discrimination runs two ways. We all love to see new young members, but that never excuses pushing out the experienced, loyal members who have served their country and their American Legion for many years. So you have on one hand the energy of youth, and on the other hand, the wisdom of experience. It should never be a binary choice, but rather an unbeatable combination. We will always have the common bond of military service, and we need to ensure that the bond continues in service to The American Legion.

When you hear terms such as "PTSD," "suicide," and "sacrifice," what is the first group that you think about? For most of you, it's probably veterans. Part of the reason that people so quickly associate these terms with veterans is because of the success that The American Legion has had in bringing it to the nation's attention. But there's another group of people that are hugely impacted by these issues as well. I'm speaking of law enforcement. I include the border patrol and all first responders in this group.

Just like our military members, they risk their lives for us every day that they wear their uniforms. In 2018, more law enforcement officers died by suicide than in the line of duty. The similarities between the life of a police officer and that of a servicemember are

uncanny. Our American Legion Family valued law enforcement so highly that they made "maintain law and order" the second principle in our preamble.

You will also find a much higher percentage of military veterans that are Legion eligible in law enforcement than almost any other occupation. I'm extremely impressed with posts that support first responders through volunteerism, financial assistance, recognition, and the youth law cadet program. We should see more of it. Not just because I think it will help attract new American Legion members, but because I think that it's the right thing to do.

Some of us in this room remember the turbulent '60s and '70s, when military veterans, especially those who served in Vietnam, were treated with scorn and disrespect. While the American public seems to have learned some lessons from that era, I'm afraid we're still seeing too much of that aimed at law enforcement today. Nobody is here to justify bad behavior any more than we would justify a war crime. But we're here to defend the 99 percent of law enforcement officers who do their jobs honorably and professionally.

I know that we're going to have some great ideas and resolutions over the next two days, and I can't wait to get started and continue that energy through to our National Convention here in Indianapolis. But for now, let's hear it one more time. We are...

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Team 100!

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, and let's have a great meeting. *(Standing Applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of National Commander Brett Reistad. ….*Second.*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PISA: Motions have been made and seconded to accept the national commander's remarks. All in favor? All opposed? Passed.

...National Commander Reistad resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: We're going to skip the next item on our agenda and move at this time to resolutions. I call on National Executive Committeeman Bill Kile of West Virginia, vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions.

Oral Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions
William W. Kile, West Virginia, Vice Chairman

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session for the last two days, reviewing the resolutions to be presented to the National Executive Committee. We have 29 resolutions that will be presented, coming from the commissions and the committees who will make the reports. Any resolutions dealing with that commission will follow that report. All other resolutions have been disposed of by other action or held for further study and will be reported out as an addendum. Mr. Commander, I ask that you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

Memorial Resolutions
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, William M. Detweiler - National Vice Commander - 1986 to 1987; National Commander - 1994 to 1995; National Endowment Fund Corporation President - 2001 to 2019; National Advisory Committee to the National Commander Member - 2002 to 2019; National TBI/PTSD Committee Chairman - 2013 to 2019; National Department Advisory Committee Chairman - 2014 to 2019; 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 8th day of May in the year of our Lord 2019, does mourn

the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, William M. Detweiler, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit, and, be it finally

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

Joseph E. Caouette, New Hampshire

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Joseph E. Caouette - Department Vice Commander - 1978 to 1979; Department Commander - 1979 to 1980; National Executive Committee Alternate Member - 1983 to 1987; National Executive Committee Member - 1987 to 1989; National Vice Commander - 1989 to 1990; National Americanism Commission Chairman Emeritus - 2013 to 2018; 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 8th Day of May in the year of our Lord 2019, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Joseph E. Caouette, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

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

Randall Coffman, Kentucky

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon his immortal legions our beloved comrade, Randall Coffman - Department Vice Commander - 1990 to 1991, 1992 to 1993; Department Commander - 1995 to 1996; National Executive Committee Alternate Member - 1997 to 1999; National Executive Committee Member - 1999 to 2017; National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Member - 2017 to 2019; 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 8th day of May in the year of our Lord 2019, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Randall Coffman, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of Frank M. Ortiz, California; Lawrence F. Duffany, Connecticut; James P. Schuback, District of Columbia; James C. Corner, Florida; Larry D. Sheets, Florida; Ray M. Weaver, Florida; William H. Wilsbacher, Iowa; Dorothy M. Dickson, Massachusetts; Gary W. Sammons, Michigan; Edward C. Binder, Nebraska; Gary E. Sampson, New Jersey; Franklin R. Sickle, Jr., New Jersey; Frank P. Konopka, New York; Dr. LeeRoy W. Kiesling, Oklahoma; John E. Kalmbach, Oregon; Dennis C. Haas, Pennsylvania; Victor T. Raia, Pennsylvania; Santiago Rosario, Puerto Rico; John R. Davis, South Carolina; Gary L. Mitchell, South Carolina; James T. Patterson, Tennessee; Douglas W. Ramos, Sr., Virginia.

RESIGNATION

Let us be patient! These severe afflictions,
Not from the ground arise,
But oftentimes celestial benedictions
Assume this dark disguise.

We see but dimly through the mists and vapors,
Amid these earthly damps;
What seems to us but sad, funereal tapers
May be heaven's distant lamps.

--Henry W. Longfellow.

Eulogies for Past National Commander William M. Detweiler

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I recognize NECman Charles Aucoin for the purpose of a eulogy.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AUCOIN (LA): Thank you Mr. Commander. I'm going to start out with borrowing a quote, a quote that was attributed to PNC Comer. "A gentleman personified," that was Bill Detweiler.

Bill was a 53 year member of The American Legion Post 307 in New Orleans, and he was a national commander, as you heard, '94 to '95. Bill passed away March 27 at the age of 79. Bill served as a captain in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps, performing the role of operations officer at the U.S. Army Air Defense Center in Fort Bliss, Texas. He was a Vietnam era veteran of the 1960s. He then joined U.S. Army reserves while returning back to New Orleans and beginning his law practice.

Despite a very busy law practice, Bill found time to serve on various national, state, and local veterans and military commissions and committees, including being appointed in 1973 by President Richard Nixon to serve on the Veterans Administration National Rehabilitation and Education Advisory Committee, which he also chaired two years later.

On the American Legion side, he served the Department of Louisiana in many, many capacities for many, many years. He was our judge advocate in the '70s and the '80s. In 1986, he was elected a national vice commander. He came back and chaired the Finance Commission, Convention Commission, and many other commissions in The American Legion Department of Louisiana. It was during that time that he became my friend and my mentor.

On the national level, all at the same time, he was serving on various commissions and committees, and he chaired Public Relations Commission, Foreign Relations Commission in the '80s. Seven years later, as you heard, he was elected national commander. And as commander, Bill had many, many hurdles to overcome, as all national commanders do. But with his presence, perseverance, and knowledge, he was able to do an outstanding job.

One of the main things that he felt, he's told me this many times, that was the most important thing that he did, he accomplished as a national commander, was when he called for the research into what was causing the Gulf War veterans to come home and develop health problems after they served in the war. And I'll quote him, he said, "How can we prevent the Persian Gulf illness from becoming another Agent Orange type disaster? The government must treat Gulf War veterans that are sick. The government must find out why they are ill, and The American Legion is keeping an eye on how the government deals with this problem. We don't want to see another delayed or flawed series of studies of those illnesses, reminiscent of Agent Orange." He was a veteran's veteran.

On the POW/MIA issue, Bill was the first American Legion commander to visit Vietnam since the end of the war. During that trip, he had many conferences with many people in Vietnam, including the deputy of defense and deputy of interior ministers. They talked about the POW/MIA issue, and they agreed it was a humanitarian issue. He said,

"You know, if they are really sincere, it's now time for Vietnam to act in a humane spirit and release the documentation of the missing that we know that they have."

I could go on and go on. I'm going to tell you a few things on a personal note with Bill. As young Legionnaires, we didn't always agree. In fact, we bumped heads a lot of times. But we had respect for each other. Kind of a humorous story. You know Bill was a finance guy, along with being an attorney. Bill wasn't a penny pincher but he was very frugal with your American Legion money. He made sure that all the i's were dotted and the t's crossed before he would turn loose with that dollar bill.

In 1990, I was elected department commander of Louisiana. It just so happened that my wife of 20 years at the time was the Auxiliary department president. So I took a year off, leave from work. We were having some issues at home, like most everybody does, and thought, well, you know, I'll take a year off and we'll travel together in the state and we'll do a great job for The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. Well, didn't work out that way. Maybe too much time together, you know? *(Laughter)*

So anyway, long story short, about, I guess, nine months, nearing a year, we separated, each went our own way. But every week, somewhere we went to The American Legion and the Auxiliary functions and we continued to work as a team, because it was good for the Legion, good for the Auxiliary. Came convention time, Bill was chairman of the Convention Commission in New Orleans that was hosting the department convention at the Marriott. Put in a request for the commander suite part of the contract. Of course, my wife at the time, she put in a request for the Auxiliary president's suite.

Bill called me on the phone, "What the hell is going on? How come you got to have two suites? I'm thinking I can save some money here, you know. You and your wife, can't y'all share a suite?"

I said, "Bill, we haven't been together in three months."

He said, "Oh, my God, no wonder." He said, "How did you pull that off and nobody knew about it?"

I said, "Well, you taught me to do everything for the good of the Legion, and so that's what we did."

That was my mentor, Bill Detweiler. You've heard other people speak up here this morning about his accomplishments. Can't say too much more about Bill. I remember about 25 years ago, I was in the city of New Orleans for a meeting, and Bill was really gung ho on being part of this team that's opening up a D-Day museum in the city. He said, "Jump in the car, we're going to go take a ride. I'm going to show you where we're fixing to put this museum."

He takes me down to the warehouse district not far from the river. Dilapidated looking buildings. He said, "I'm working with the city to revitalize this area." He said, "We're going to put a museum here that will outshine anything in this country."

And I looked at those buildings and I told Bill, "Good luck, my friend, 'cause I don't think that can happen." *(Laughter)*

But he was the type of guy that never gave up on anything that he believed in. Today, that National World War II Museum has been renamed, it was the D-Day Museum originally. Has about 700,000 visitors per year, and is one of the top two or three museums in the world. Bill was a big part of that.

He was also a big part of everything that had to do with veterans, advocating, working the political end of it, working in Washington, and working for you and I and every veteran in America every day. Bill was truly a veteran's veteran. Bill leaves, besides his wife, Maureen, two daughters and two sons, six grandchildren. I can say, Commander Jake, you're right. He was a gentleman personified. Thank you, Mr. Commander. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Charlie. The chair now recognizes Past National Commander Dan Dellinger of Virginia for a eulogy.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you, commander, members of the NEC. You've heard our commander and you've heard our member of the NEC Charles talk about Bill and his accomplishments. William Milton Detweiler, Jr., was a true Southern gentleman.

I'm not going to read what I had prepared because the commander and Charlie have already gone through a lot of that. But what I would like to read to you is from the Congressional Record proceedings and debates of the 116th Congress, First Session, Wednesday, May 1, 2019, Senate, "Remembering William M. Detweiler.

"Mr. Kennedy: Mr. President, today I will rise to honor the life and legacy of William. M Detweiler who passed away March 27, 2019, at the age of 79. Mr. Detweiler was a lifelong advocate for veterans and a former national commander of The American Legion. His commitment to our country stands as a shining example for every American. He leaves behind a legacy of compassion for his fellow servicemembers that touched everyone that knew him.

"Mr. Detweiler was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 28, 1940. He was a graduate of St. Aloysius High School and Loyola University, where he earned both his undergraduate and law degrees.

"Mr. Detweiler served as a captain of the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps and later as assistant chief of staff for the U.S. Army Defense Center at Fort Bliss, Texas. He joined the United States Reserve and returned home to New Orleans to practice law.

"During his law career, Mr. Detweiler served on various local, state, and national veterans committees. In 1973, President Nixon appointed him to serve on the Veterans Administration National Rehabilitation and Education Advisory Committee, which he later went on to chair.

"As a member of The American Legion, Mr. Detweiler served in a number of capacities including Department of Louisiana judge advocate, chairman of the National Public Relations Commission, chairman of the National Foreign Relations Commission, national vice commander, and the national commander.

"While serving as national commander of the American Legion, he fought for the extension of service connected disability benefits for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange. He was also involved in the planning and development of the National D-Day Museum in the heart of New Orleans, which later became the National World War II Museum.

"In his most recent leadership role with The American Legion, Mr. Detweiler served as chairman of the organization's traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) committee. He was serving as chairman of that committee on March 27, 2019, when his final battle with pancreatic cancer came to an end.

"William M. Detweiler was a tireless advocate for the veterans community, and we thank him for his lifetime of service to our country. Signed, John Kennedy."

You know, I can stand here and we can go over his accomplishments. What I remember most about Commander Detweiler was him, the man. I was a newly appointed national chairman, my first appointment in that capacity, and I was at a reception in Washington, D.C. To say I was the least most important person in the room was an understatement.

But Bill came up to me and we had a long conversation. He asked about my family, he asked about my work, he asked about the Legion, what I thought. It didn't matter that I was a young Legionnaire; he took time out of his schedule. I mean, he should have been with other people, but he took that time. At subsequent events, Bill would always come up and say, "How's your wife, Margaret? How's your children?" We would always have further discussions. It was that mentoring as I went down my road, that I remember Bill Detweiler. He was a personal man.

You know, the Bible says, "Iron sharpens iron, and a man sharpens another." Well, Bill Detweiler sharpened me and I know he sharpened all of us in this room. We were all better for knowing him and having him as our friend. May his soul rest in peace.

I would ask that the NEC please come forward and accept this Congressional Record for his family, and also from the House of Representatives, a "Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition Presented to the Family of William M. Detweiler for his Service to our nation and his veterans. This flag has been flown over the Capitol at the request of the Honorable Cedric L. Richmond, 4/26/2019."

If you would, Charlie, make sure Maureen gets this.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AUCOIN: I will, commander. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Commander Dellinger. The chair recognizes Americanism Chairman Rich Anderson for a eulogy.

Eulogy for Joseph E. Caouette

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Joseph Edward Caouette, chairman, chairman emeritus, national Americanism Commission. You have heard the accolades and the positions that Joe Caouette has held, in the resolution. Therefore, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on some personal opinions that I had of Joseph Caouette.

Let us reflect back to Christmas Eve of 2018 and the events that were taking place in our lives as we prepared to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Yes, this is a special time in our lives of peace, family, traditions, love, and preparations. Unbeknownst to us, another family member, Chairman Joe, had completed his preparations here on earth to celebrate Christ's birth in Heaven.

Today we celebrate and memorialize the life of Joseph E. Caouette in this very house that he dedicated the better part of his life in, welcoming and mentoring those who entered. No one was ever turned away. I, as many of you, were fortunate enough to be one of his students. Joe, we have graduated with high honors because of you, and we are eternally grateful and will continue your mission with the belief and dedication as to what you believed in, to the best of our ability. If we practice what you taught, we'll certainly be successful.

The many years I was honored to serve you as chairman of the American Liaison Committee, I cannot help but bring to mind another great Americanism chairman, which many of you in this room did not know, Mr. Daniel J. O'Connor. Never afraid to share your opinion on the issues of the day concerning the aims and purposes of The American Legion. I have never heard you once say anything derogative about those you served with and those you associated with, and never once heard a cuss word come out of your mouth. I assume you used them all up in the Marine Corps. *(Laughter)*

A number of years ago when the American Legion Baseball World Series was a road show, we were housed at a hotel on the outskirts of Las Vegas, Nevada. It was 3 a.m. on the day we were getting prepared to go home. Unable to sleep, I ventured downstairs into the rather small casino and saw no one in the room. Suddenly, I heard bells ringing but the place was empty. I roamed the aisles of the slot machines and I looked around the corner. There he was, with a smile on his face. Who has a reason to smile at 3 a.m. in the morning?

"Joe," I said, "I won't tell your longtime companion Lydia if you won't tell my wife, Bonnie, that I'm here."

We've been understanding friends ever since. It is said he was a very accomplished and scrappy boxer in his day. I asked him one day that, due to his height, how many times he was assessed points for hitting below the belt. The look he gave me required no answer. *(Laughter)*

Joe, while your footsteps are no longer heard in these hallways, you were a giant in this building and everywhere that life brought you. When appointed to be your replacement, many not knowing who I was, knew me only as "Joe's replacement" and addressed me as such. With deep respect to you, I had my first name badge engraved, "I'm Joe's replacement, Americanism Commission chairman." Now I feel eligible to have my own name on that badge, not to replace you, but to fulfill the chair that you so honorably served on.

Joe, I know you're looking down and listening to every word I say, as you did in the audience in the commission meetings upon your retirement, making sure that I don't screw up. No one could replace you because of who you were, but I will do my very best.

The February issue of The American Legion Magazine in which editor Jeff Stoffer so eloquently wrote defines the character and principles to which Chairman Joe lived and committed his life to his God and his country. You have left this organization and those who serve it and the lives of so many of our youth who were rewarded by your actions a better place. We will go on to serve with the dedication, respect, understanding, and love of that blessed symbol that you so humbly and proudly represented.

A job well done, Joe. You and Lydia rest in eternal peace, having our blessings, our love, and our companionship. Rest in peace; it is our duty now. Thank you. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Rich.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Commander, at this time I'd like to present Randall Fisher to read the eulogy for Randall Coffman.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Please have him come forward.

Eulogy for Randall Coffman

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN FISHER: Mr. Commander, Mr. Adjutant, head table, NEC. Randall Coffman was a very, very dear friend, a mentor to me for over 40 years. I'm sure everybody remembers Randall. He worked as the NEC for 18 years, alternate for two, 20 years on various committees.

Navy veteran, came out of the service, got involved in Russellville post, was an American Legion Baseball coach, had hair down to here *(indicating)*. Just got hooked on The American Legion, he loved The American Legion. He was an adjutant for his post for over 30 years. Proud husband, father, papaw, and loved dogs. He had a dog that he was just crazy about. He was a good friend, he was a good mentor. He kept us glued in Kentucky, kept us on track.

I'm surely going to miss him, and I'm sure Bill and Joe will, too. He was married to Ann Coffman 36 years, had two sons and a daughter and several grandchildren. He was so proud to be a family and father and grandfather. He was just amazing. He was so kind and giving, and we're surely going to miss him. I get choked up when I think about Randall.

I'm sure he's watching us up above, and I'm going to give his eulogy Friday. The main funeral is going to be Friday, 3:30 to 7 p.m. in Russellville, Kentucky. He'd sure appreciate cards, any donations to Randall, you want to make it to the animal Humane Society for the dogs. He's going to be sorely missed by the Department of Kentucky and by the NEC, because he knew a lot of you and was so proud to be a member. That concludes my eulogy. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Randy.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Fellow Legionnaires, please join me in welcoming the leader of our nation's largest women's patriotic organization, and my partner in the leadership of the American Legion Family, American Legion Auxiliary National President, Kathy Dungan. *(Standing applause)*

...National Vice Commander Milburn assumed the chair.

Greetings: Kathy Dungan, Mississippi
National President, American Legion Auxiliary

Thank you. Thank you, all. This is wonderful. I love to see all your smiling faces and all my friends that I've met during my visits. It's so good to see you.

It was great to see those who visited our new National Auxiliary headquarters building yesterday. A big thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to come and visit. Let me just take a quick moment to give a shout out to my Mississippi family: Robert Gosa, NEC, thank you, Robert; and Steve Sweet, he is our national vice commander from Mississippi. Good to see you, Steve.

When I last addressed this group, we had just uncovered some very upsetting issues that were causing a breakdown in the longstanding relationship between the Legion and the Auxiliary leadership. These issues began some time ago and, left unchecked, they

continued to grow and separate the Legion and the Auxiliary.

Well, what a difference seven months has made since we first uncovered these hidden issues. I'm happy to report that since our last meeting in October, the Auxiliary leadership and Legion leadership has been working together to rebuild our family ties. I can't thank The American Legion leadership for your openness and willingness to work together.

I can assure you the Auxiliary leadership takes our relationship with The American Legion leadership very seriously. For example, when you expressed concerns that discontinuing our D.C. conference was giving the perception that our Auxiliary was not participating in advocacy, we immediately authorized additional Auxiliary leaders to attend the 2019 D.C. conference.

Legion leadership responded in kind to our good faith gesture and invited Auxiliary attendees to sit in on their commission meetings and the national commander's testimony. This allowed the Auxiliary to participate in Legion Family advocacy in our nation's capital. It was a collaboration that reassured me that we were on the right track to rebuild our relationship. The Auxiliary is already making plans for our role in the Legion's 2020 D.C. meeting by budgeting by additional call-ins of our department legislative chairman to increase Legion Family visibility and advocacy efforts.

Legion leadership also expressed a desire to start having more open communication between a team of past national commanders and the Auxiliary. So Linda Boone and I established a leadership team of past national presidents to meet with the Legion's leadership team. The goal is to ensure open communication between the organizations, to preempt any potential issues.

Strengthening the Legion Family also means strengthening bonds between Legion and Auxiliary national headquarters staff. In March, National Adjutant Dan Wheeler brought his senior staff to the Auxiliary's new headquarters. Since this initial meeting with the staff leadership there, we've already identified opportunities for collaboration.

When Auxiliary had its community open house to showcase our new building, we were impressed that the Legion headquarters leadership attended once again, even though they had already visited there at a prior meeting. To me, it was truly a perfect example of the support we are feeling from the national headquarters.

Both organizations are taking steps to strengthen the relationship, and I am confident both organizations will benefit from these efforts. I am working hard to continue this successful endeavor and hope to remain a part of this process in the future.

So in the spirit of mutual respect and support, I come bearing gifts. I have with me today two checks: The first is a check of $7,500 to assist with the Rose Bowl cost. That was an amazing experience for me, a memory I will never forget. So I want to thank you so much and appreciate you extending the invitation for the Auxiliary to be included in that event. The second check is for $10,000 and it goes to help cover costs associated with the Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance used during the government shutdown. Providing these types of assistance is 100 percent mission delivery, and it is truly my pleasure to present these checks to you today**.** ***(****Applause)*

Now, on a personal note, so let me say, I entered my year, when I started back in September, with a worried heart, a worried mind and a troubled heart. But I stand here today with a joyful heart. I'm having such an amazing year, and it is because of the collaborative efforts between the Auxiliary and the Legion. It's because of the wonderful relationship that I have with my national commander. I debated whether to say this or not, so it's not even in my script so I just jotted down some notes, but I think I've decided I'm going to say it. Okay? *(Laughter)*

It's like last time, I was a nervous wreck and scared to death and didn't know what to say, and basically I don't know what to say, but this comes from the heart. When I spoke to you last October, that was really one of the worst days of my life. The unknowns, the not working as a Legion Family, and struggling with the question of whether I should say anything at all. I was ready to resign my position. But due to a loving, supportive husband who had more faith in me than I had in myself, he convinced me to hang in there. I can honestly say now, I have had the most wonderful year of my life. I have met many of you,

the NECs; I have been welcomed with open arms and have been given so many words of encouragement.

The thought of working as a Legion Family and me not being able to do what I dreamed about for all these years, when I first started, it was so disappointing and disheartening. But I can say, it has all turned around due to the Auxiliary leadership, the Legion leadership working together as a collaborative effort for family.

I truly believe we are a Legion Family, and I see it every day during my visits to the department. So I thank you all for your willingness to begin rebuilding the relationship with the Auxiliary, as I requested in October. For us to be a Legion Family, and for us to collaborate with you and to support the mission alongside you. I am forever grateful. Thank you, and God bless all of you. *(Standing ovation*)

...National Commander Reistad resumed the chair.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, a motion to receive and file the remarks of the National President Kathy Dungan. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: We have a motion and a second on the floor to receive the comments of the national president of the American Legion Auxiliary. Is there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Our next speaker has had a truly amazing Marine Corps career. He served eight months as a sniper in the Gulf War, completed two combat deployments in Al Anbar Province, and served as the NATO Regional Command (Southwest) sergeant major for two provinces in Afghanistan. His rise through the ranks was largely due to his gentle and nurturing leadership style. *(Laughter)*

It is a sensitive style that could only come from a Marine sniper who started his career at Parris Island, South Carolina. In 2011, he was named the 17th sergeant major of the United States Marine Corps. He served in that position until his retirement from the Corps after 34 years, in 2015. He still serves in many ways, including as ambassador at large for the Marine Corps League, is a member of American Legion Post 18 in Bloomington, Indiana. He coauthored the leadership anthology, "Breaching the Summit" with five other senior enlisted leaders from the different military branches. He is about to discuss some of these essential tips on getting results. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome retired Sergeant Major of the United States Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett. (*Standing applause)*

Guest Speaker: Micheal P. Barrett
Retired Sergeant Major, United States Marine Corps

Actually, I wanted to take the commander's chair; he told me to get off the damn stage. *(Laughter)*

Well, first, the last time I was called before a crowd of people, there was a police officer and a set of handcuffs waiting for me. But I am not here to talk about the "Five Tips of Getting Results" that's on your schedule. But if there is one tip I can give you, don't ever loan me any money**.** *(Laughter)*

There are some sounds that people just love to hear: Clapping when your name is called, so I really appreciate that warm welcome. You know, Gary Sinise, I'm a crazy reader. I just, about two and a half months ago, I spent the morning with Gary Sinise I don't know if you all know who that is**.** Lieutenant Dan; right? at a faith forum, and he released his new book. It's appropriately titled, "The Grateful American." I don't know if you've had an opportunity to see it yet, if you've bought it or if you've read it, but it's absolutely wonderful.

I bring that up because my senses tell me that this room, we are all grateful Americans. I'm a grateful American because I'm blessed with all of those wonderful freedoms and liberties that you all have. I'm blessed because of the family that I love and the family that loves me. I'm blessed that I am physically, cognitively, and morally fit. That last portion, I owe all of that fitness to my upbringing, how my father and how my 11 siblings helped

raise me. I'm number seven in the batch of 12, so I had to fight for every pork chop. *(Laughter)*

But I say that because my family taught me that anytime you finish a book, you pick up a new one. Always be stretching your brain. Always use that thing that sits on top of your shoulders. They also always taught me that if something important pops into this thing *(indicating)* and you feel compelled to share it with others, you better use the hole underneath your nose. For shame if you don't. So damn it, use your mouth if you think it's important. I was also taught and raised to use this *(indicating)* when it was appropriate, and I did many, many times in my upbringing.

But there are those sounds that everybody loves to hear: A light rain hitting the leaves; the crackling of a fire, unless it's your roof that's on fire; babies laughing; cats purring; the snapping of necks of the people who think they can be disrespectful towards us. And in the United States, we recognize more than 20 special events during the month of May: Mother's Day, Peace Officers Memorial Day, Teachers' Day, Loyalty Day, May 2 was the National Day of Prayer. And may we never forget the grateful Americans, those four chaplains from the Dorchester, Rabbi Goode and Reverend Fox, Reverend Poling, and Father Washington, for they truly lived by what is written in the Book of John, "Greater love has no man than this, than one who would lay down his life for his friends."

This month, however, this month of May is named the Military Appreciation Month. Saturday, May 18 is Armed Forces Day. Memorial Day is Monday, May 27. What I love to hear the most are those 30 words. The Pledge of Allegiance recited by the youth of America. Or a large crowd, standing rigid, with their hands pressed tightly over their heart, their eyes fixed upon the flag and, in unison, singing our nation's anthem.

I don't know, and I heard his name earlier mentioned, I don't know if Jeff Stoffer is in here or not, but I enjoy reading his multipart series, "To Strengthen a Nation: The American Legion Story." And Commander Reistad, sir, your message in May's edition perfectly syncs with Jeff's Part 9, "Honor and Remembrance." Commander Reistad, you remind us all of the giant shoulders that we stand upon, those who came before us. Specifically, you recall the Legion's first secretary, Brigadier General Eric Fisher Wood. Served in the Great War, then recalled to serve again, this time in World War II, whose son, a young lieutenant, was killed in action at the Battle of the Bulge.

And Jeff Stoffer, in his portion in "Honor and Remembrance," his article, he clearly shines a light on all of the shrines and all of the memorials, whether they're encased in glass at a local Legion hall or prominently displayed at our nation's capital, or globally, from Cuba to Europe to around the Pacific Rim.

We must all always be sharing our storied legacy. For the last 30 or 45 minutes or so, I sat in the back of the room with a couple of Legionnaires, and all you heard from the speakers were sharing storied legacies. So this just tied in perfectly to the thoughts that I had today. Because today's long war, like yesterday's wars. General John Kelly, former senior military assistant to the secretary of defense, who rose to four stars and led Southern command as the combat and commander. He, too, sacrificed greatly, losing his lieutenant son, Robert, in Afghanistan. Robert was one of my Marines.

General Kelly, he, too, was recalled to serve as a secretary for homeland security, and as White House chief of staff to our commander in chief. General Kelly is a robust patriot and a great friend to this Legion. Too many have given their blood and parts of their bodies and, in too many instances, their minds. And our Gold Star Families have endured the selfless sacrifices of their fallen heroes. And Jeff Stoffer, as he clearly articulated in his article about the shrines and memorials, today's faces and names line the hallways of our command posts on every base, station, and installation across America. Their names are etched on the marble and the granite across this globe, and it's the reminders that bear the scars and the memories of our brave fallen.

Our nation calls, and an elite class of Americans continues to emerge, knowing full well what they are getting themselves into: marching toward the sound of thunder, the cannons, the guns, the chaos, and the screams for help. The book of Isaiah sums it up perfectly when they talk about, "Then I heard the voice calling. 'Whom shall I send and

who shall go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I send me.'"

That's today's generation of warrior. Like yesterday's generations of warriors. Because it is into their hands and upon their young shoulders that we place the advancement of America and Americans' ideals. Just like when we all wore the cloth, it was those past generations who gave to us those responsibilities, and it was into our young hands, if you can go back that far. And it was upon your young shoulders that they entrusted these freedoms that we enjoyed.

So Jeff, I don't know if you are in here, but I do look forward to reading June's edition. I know what I will ask of all of my neighbors this Memorial Day as we celebrate in our backyards and at the beach or in the parks. That it's not the beer, it's not the hot dogs, nor is it the 101 days of summer that we're about to surely enjoy. We're going to enjoy it because of who now has the watch, those whom hold all those wolves at bay.

Most assuredly, I will share a story, and with great admiration, in awe, remind those whom I surround myself with, that there is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer. Then and only then I will ask them all to raise their drink and to toast to American courage, long may it endure.

So thank you for allowing me seven minutes and 34 seconds *(Laughter)* to say what was on my mind, and to say thank you for what you've done and what you are going to continue to do for this nation. So thank you, God bless you, and may we never forget. Thank you. *(Standing Applause) ...National Vice Commander Wallace assumed the chair.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Sergeant Major, thank you very much for being here with us today and for those great words. On behalf of The American Legion and the National Executive Committee, I would like to present you with a couple of tokens of our appreciation. This is the national commander's medallion, and this is one of the recently minted American Legion commemorative coins from the U.S. Mint. Thank you. *(Applause) ...National Commander Reistad resumed the chair.*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the remarks of Sergeant Major Micheal P. Barrett. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion on the floor to receive and file the remarks of Sergeant Major Barrett. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

At this time, I'm going to slightly alter the order of our commission reports and committee reports, and ask that Legislative Commission Chairman Randall Fisher of Kentucky come forward to present the Legislative Commission report, as he has to leave early to attend a funeral.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Randall A. Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Mr. Commander, NEC, past national commanders, guests and staff. It is my honor to be with you today. While the Legislative Commission did not meet at this meeting, we have prepared and submitted a report, and you already have that in advance.

National Legislative Commission met once since the NEC's last meeting in October. The meeting was held on February 26, 2019, at the Washington Conference. Thirty three members were present, and more than 60 guests were present, with standing room only. Attendance was inspirational and shows that now, more than ever, Legionnaires realize that the actions taken in the U.S. Congress are important. You all know this: We must be vigilant, attentive, and more importantly, we must be engaging with our members in Congress to ensure they know the priorities of The American Legion, and more importantly, what all veterans deserve.

I had the honor of chairing the meeting when our National Legislative Council Chairman Dewey Moss of Georgia presented his report on council activities. The commission continued its efforts to increase education about the legislative issues impacting The American Legion and to mold better understanding of the American

political process.

Guest speakers included bipartisan staff members from both the House and the Senate, veterans affairs committees; had prepared presentations; question and answers; and brought up other issues for discussion. Both sides benefited from this information exchange.

I have reviewed with our new legislative director the impact of pending legislation. We discussed priorities, including the passage of the LEGION Act, Senate Bill 504 and House Bill 1641, the United States Coast Guard Pay Act, the VA and Department of Defense budgets, the ongoing status of the Blue Water Navy bill, implementation of the MISSION Act, and accountability in the VA, the flag amendment, and the campaigns we have undertaken to correct unfair offsets.

Regarding the LEGION Act, we are anticipating a markup in the Senate as early as next week. Our D.C. staff is currently also working on two action alerts for the LEGION Act and the United States Coast Guard Pay Act.

The American Legion continues to be an active and vocal participant in the nation's legislative process. During the first five months of the 116th Congress, The American Legion has provided testimony for six congressional hearings and is currently working on others, not including congressional roundtables. The staff have been very, very busy.

Our Legislative Council puts Legionnaires in all 535 congressional offices on Capitol Hill to amplify our voice. When action alerts go out, we monitor the analytics and can see thousands of contacts with senators and representatives.

In closing, nothing is more important than our national legislative efforts, than our Legion Family, and the collective voice they carry. When the call for help is made, we need Capitol Hill, the White House, and even the VA to hear the roar of The American Legion's voice. There are many great ways to ensure Capitol Hill, the White House, and the VA hears The American Legion, but I will only highlight two.

Number one, sign up more members. More members means we have more influence and more power with elected officials. Sign up for legislative action alerts. This will guarantee you get the call to action that you can then share with your Legion Family. Our mission as the Legion Family is to protect the rights and benefits of American veterans. We can and will accomplish this mission, but we need the help of every member of The American Legion.

Commander Reistad, the Legislative Commission appreciates your continued support and involvement as well as that of the national adjutant, the NEC, past national commanders, and the staff in both Washington and Indianapolis. Thank you for the honor and privilege of chairing this critical commission. We continue to work every day to ensure that we put family first. But before I would conclude, I'd like to introduce a new staff, he's only been here a week. He took over as director of the Legislative Division, his name is Karl Cooke. Let's have a big hand. *(Applause)*

That concludes my report, commander.

Advance Report: Legislative Commission
Randall A. Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

This report provides a summary of congressional actions since the last national executive committee meeting in Fall of 2018 on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. The report is arranged by program areas.

Recent Congressional Developments

The First Session of the 116th Congress was seated on January 3, 2019. The Congress began their business in the midst of the longest government shutdown in American history. Major issues on the agenda for both chambers revolved mainly around ending the government shutdown, working with President Trump to address the border wall, and passage of FY 2020 appropriations. The American Legion has participated in three (3) congressional hearings thus far.

On January 25, 2019 President Trump signed **Public Law (PL) 116-5**, ending the 2018-2019 federal government shutdown and appropriating funding for all federal departments and agencies until February 15, 2019. Consolidated appropriations for the remainder of FY19 were enacted on February 15, 2019 under **Public Law (PL) 116-6.**

AMERICANISM

In February 2019 Representative Steve Womack (AR) began work on a **House Joint Resolution (HJ Res)**, as a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. The legislation will be assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. A Senate companion measure will be introduced on June 14, 2019 (Flag Day) as a **Senate Joint Resolution (SJ Res).** The American Legion will continue to seek passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag because it is the right thing to do. Let "We the People" decide.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Upon the passing of Past National Commander William Detweiler, Senator Cassidy (LA) and Senator Kennedy (LA) offered a statement for the congressional record. Further, Congressman Scalise (LA) as a member of leadership also offered to speak on the House floor for the record to commemorate the life and service of Commander Detweiler. Congressman Richmond (LA) flew a flag over the Capitol and gave a floor speech to commemorate the life and service of Commander Detweiler.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Since January 2019, the National Security Division has submitted four (4) letters of support.

On January 7, staff submitted a letter of support to Senator John Thune (SD) to express support for S.21 - A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act. The U.S. Coast Guard was the only military branch working without pay during the government shutdown.

On January 10, staff submitted a letter of support to Senator Richard Burr (NC) for "Gold Star Wives Day," which would recognize the work of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. and their dedication to service, support and friendship to the spouses of fallen servicemembers and veterans. The service and sacrifice of servicemembers and their families should not be forgotten, and through this proposed legislation it will not.

On February 14, Senator Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Senator Tom Tillis (NC) introduced *S. 504: The LEGION Act*, extending the membership periods of The American Legion to allow for servicemembers who did not serve during official periods of war to sign up for membership in The American Legion. Congressman Correa (CA), Congressman Cisneros (CA), and Congressman Kline (VA) introduced the companion legislation, H.R. 1641, in the House of Representatives on March 8.

On March 19, staff wrote a letter of support to Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) and on March 26 to Representative Raul Grijalva (AZ) for draft legislation *Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2019*. The legislation would enable the return of eligible veterans removed from the United States, protect veterans and servicemembers residing in the United States from removal, and facilitate naturalization through service in the Armed Forces.

On March 26, the Legislative Division in partnership with the National Security Division and the Japanese Embassy hosted a reception on Capitol Hill honoring the U.S.-Japan alliance and the future cooperation between the two nations.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

The American Legion was happy to support the *Retired Pay Restoration Act* addressing concurrent receipt. The American Legion offered letters of support to the two bipartisan cosponsors, Representative Tulsi Gabbard and Gus Bilirakis. The legislation

would remove the *tax* on veterans who receive retirement pay from their federal service as well as their service in the military.

The American Legion also offered support to Representative Hartzler on the *VA Hiring Enhancement Act*. The legislation would expedite hiring processes at VA and ensure individuals who wish to work at VA are not waiting extended periods. The legislation asks VA to focus on critical positons that provide direct and immediate healthcare to veterans and VA healthcare recipients.

Last year, the House unanimously passed a bill, the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act*, to provide benefits to affected service members. But VA Secretary Wilkie objected, saying the science does not prove that they were exposed to Agent Orange. Veterans and their advocates had argued that the ships' distilling systems used Agent Orange-tainted seawater, exposing sailors on board to concentrated levels of dioxin. However, the bill failed in the Senate when two Republicans, Sen. Michael Enzi of Wyoming and Mike Lee of Utah, said they wanted to wait for a vote pending the outcome of a current study on Agent Orange exposure.

However, the calculus changed after the January 2019 Federal Circuit decision in *Procopio v. Wilkie*. The Department of Veterans Justice will not appeal the January court ruling that ordered VA to provide health care and disability benefits for 90,000 veterans who served on Navy ships during the Vietnam War. This action will likely pave the way for "Blue Water Navy" sailors and Marines to receive Agent Orange-related compensation and VA-paid health care benefits. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie told members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on March 26, 2019 that he will recommend the Justice Department not fight the decision, handing a victory to former service members who fought for years to have their diseases recognized as related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

The American Legion has worked with Representative Brownley to introduce legislation that would address homeless veterans. Our letter extended support to the *Homeless Veterans Family Act,* which would reimburse payments to organizations providing housing for not only homeless veterans but also their dependents. Often times veterans will forego assistance rather than leave their family behind. Representative Stivers also introduced similar legislation, *Housing Our Military Servicemembers* (*HOMeS) Act,* which would also provide housing for veterans and their dependents experiencing homelessness. The American Legion has worked with both members to advance our priority of ending veteran homelessness.

Legislation was introduced to revamp the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and move towards a digital friendly program. Currently, servicemembers receive a stack of documentation that often ends up disposed. As the newer generation of servicemembers are geared towards media presented on electronic devices, Congressman Smith's office has led the charge by working with VA, DOL, and DoD to provide more information in digital format.

The new Congress has also shifted towards addressing predatory lenders, the 90/10 rule, and ensuring for-profit private universities are not targeting servicemembers and veterans for their GI Bill benefits.

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

Report: Legislative Commission
Randall A. Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

This report provides a summary of congressional actions since the last national executive committee meeting in Fall of 2018 on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. The report is arranged by program areas.

Recent Congressional Developments

The First Session of the 116th Congress was seated on January 3, 2019. The Congress began their business in the midst of the longest government shutdown in American history. Major issues on the agenda for both chambers revolved mainly around budget working with President Trump to address the border wall, and passage of FY 2020 appropriations. The American Legion has participated in six (6) congressional hearings thus far.

May 2019: House appropriators started marking up and reporting out their bills this week. The committee intends to mark up several spending bills every week this month, theoretically clearing the way for a marathon of appropriations votes on the House floor in June. The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act was reported out of its subcommittee on Wednesday, presumably paving the way for full committee consideration next week. During a hearing with Acting Defense Secretary Shanahan on Wednesday, Defense Subcommittee chair Rep. Visclosky (D-IN) revealed that his bill will be marked up on May 15.

In the Senate, lawmakers took every opportunity to emphasize that there is still no bipartisan, bicameral spending agreement that would set aside the Budget Control Act (BCA) spending caps. Without such an agreement, those caps go back into effect on October 1, bringing with them double-digit statutorily required reductions from the FY19 levels across the government. Across several hearings, DoD witnesses broke out the thesaurus to find new ways of saying that reductions that large would destroy readiness gains made in recent years, delay modernization programs, and harm quality of life programs across the military.

AMERICANISM

In February 2019 Representative Steve Womack (AR) began work on a House Joint Resolution (HJ Res), a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. The legislation will be assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. A Senate companion measure will be introduced on June 14, 2019 (Flag Day) as a Senate Joint Resolution (SJ Res). The American Legion will continue to seek passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag because it is the right thing to do. Let "We the People" decide.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Upon the passing of Past National Commander William Detweiler, Senator Cassidy (LA) and Senator Kennedy (LA) offered a statement for the congressional record. Further, Congressman Scalise (LA) as a member of leadership also offered to speak on the House floor for the record to commemorate the life and service of Commander Detweiler. Congressman Richmond (LA) flew a flag over the Capitol and gave a floor speech to commemorate the life and service of Commander Detweiler. Senator Kennedy staff provided the American Legion a certificate of Congressional Record for presentation to next of kin.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Since January 2019, the National Security Division has submitted four (4) letters of support.

On February 14, Senator Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Senator Tom Tillis (NC) introduced S. 504: *The LEGION Act*, extending the membership periods of The American Legion to allow for servicemembers who did not serve during official periods of war to sign up for membership in The American Legion. Congressman Correa (CA), Congressman Cisneros (CA), and Congressman Kline (VA) introduced the companion legislation, H.R. 1641, in the House of Representatives on March 8th. Legislative Markup in the Senate is currently scheduled for the week of 12 May.

On March 19, the staff wrote a letter of support to Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) and on March 26tto Representative Raul Grijalva (AZ) for draft *legislation Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2019*. The legislation would enable the return of eligible veterans removed from the United States, protect veterans and servicemembers residing in the

United States from removal, and facilitate naturalization through service in the Armed Forces.

On March 26, the Legislative Division in partnership with the National Security Division and the Japanese Embassy hosted a reception on Capitol Hill honoring the U.S.-Japan alliance and the future cooperation between the two nations.

On April 28 the National Security Division submitted a resolution for support for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau for Veterans Affairs benefits, resources and eligibility criteria, and to extend and renew the Compacts of Free Associations.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

The American Legion was happy to support the *Retired Pay Restoration Act* addressing concurrent receipt. The American Legion offered letters of support to the two bipartisan cosponsors, Representative Tulsi Gabbard and Gus Bilirakis. The legislation would remove the tax on veterans who receive retirement pay from their federal service as well as their service in the military.

The American Legion also support to Representative Hartzler on the *VA Hiring Enhancement Act*. The legislation would expedite hiring processes at VA and ensure individuals who wish to work at VA are not waiting extended periods. The legislation asks VA to focus on critical positons that provide direct and immediate healthcare to veterans and VA healthcare recipients.

Last year, the House unanimously passed a bill, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, to provide benefits to affected service members. But VA Secretary Wilkie objected, saying the science does not prove that they were exposed to Agent Orange. Veterans and their advocates had argued that the ships' distilling systems used Agent Orange-tainted seawater, exposing sailors on board to concentrated levels of dioxin. However, the bill failed in the Senate when two Republicans, Sen. Michael Enzi of Wyoming and Mike Lee of Utah, said they wanted to wait for a vote pending the outcome of a current study on Agent Orange exposure.

However, the calculus changed after the January 2019 Federal Circuit decision in Procopio v. Wilkie. The Department of Justice will not appeal the January court ruling that ordered VA to provide health care and disability benefits for 90,000 veterans who served on Navy ships during the Vietnam War. This action will likely pave the way for "Blue Water Navy" sailors and Marines to receive Agent Orange-related compensation and VA-paid health care benefits. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie told members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on March 26, 2019 that he will recommend the Justice Department not fight the decision, handing a victory to former service members who fought for years to have their diseases recognized as related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange.

In May, a resolution was submitted to allow updates to the burn pit registry to include the way that Occupational Environmental Health Hazards are tracked in active duty servicemembers records.

A new study was released revealing a strong relationship between wages and suicide rates. The study found that the suicide rate among non-college educated men fell in states where the minimum wage had been increased. On Thursday May 2, House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) chair Rep. Takano (D-CA) called the report's findings "alarming," and promised the committee will continue to review these issues

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

The American Legion has worked with Representative Brownley to introduce legislation that would address homeless veterans. Our letter extended support to the *Homeless Veterans Family Act*, which would reimburse payments to organizations providing housing for not only homeless veterans but also their dependents. Often times veterans will forego assistance rather than leave their family behind. Representative Stivers also introduced similar legislation, The HOMeS Act, which would also provide housing for veterans and their dependents experiencing homelessness. The American Legion has

worked with both members to advance our priority of ending veteran homelessness.

Legislation was introduced to revamp the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and move towards a digital-friendly program. Currently, servicemembers receive a stack of documentation that often ends up disposed. As the newer generation of servicemembers are geared towards media presented on electronic devices, Congressman Smith's office has led the charge by working with VA, DOL, and DoD to provide more information in digital format.

On April 9, 2019, staff testified before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity concerning H.R 95, H.R.444, H.R. 1448 and draft legislation.

On May 6, 2019, the Veterans Education and Employment Division submitted a resolution to support robust funding of the Military Lending Act. Title 10 USC 987.

The new Congress has also shifted towards addressing predatory lenders, the 90/10 rule, and ensuring for-profit private universities are not targeting servicemembers and veterans for their GI Bill benefits.

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

ADDENDUM I

The National Legislative Commission is required, under Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, to compile a list of resolutions with legislative intent adopted during meetings of The American Legion National Convention and The American Legion National Executive Committee. The following resolutions constitute an ongoing list of all resolutions that are legislative in nature. This list of resolutions will constitute part of The American Legion's legislative program through the 116th Congress.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE SPRING MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 8-9, 2019

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 9	Support for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Res. No. 10	Allow Updates to the Burn Pit Registry with Information on Additional Veterans as Needed
Res. No. 11	Oppose Charging Compensable Service–Connected veterans Co-Payments
Res. No. 12	Establish new Eligibility Criteria for burial and Internment at Arlington National Cemetery

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 13	Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE FALL MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 17-18, 2018

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 1	Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Recognition
Res. No. 2	Unrecognized Armed Hostiles Membership Date Change

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 12	Survivor Benefit Plan
Res. No. 15	Expedited Citizenship through Military Service
Res. No. 16	Recognition for Afghan and Iraqi Combat Translators

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 21	Support Reasonable Set-Aside of Federal Procurements and Contracts
Res. No. 22	Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Student Loan Repayments
Res. No. 23	Close the GI Bill Flight School Loophole
Res. No. 24	Support Funding and Changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program
Res. No. 26	Eliminate GI Bill Transferability Maximum Year Caps

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 100TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA AUGUST 28-30, 2018

AMERICANISM

Res. No. 111	English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language
Res. No. 112	Funding for Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs
Res. No. 113	Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization
Res. No. 114	Support for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 26	Award Congressional Gold Medal to the Crew of the USS Indianapolis
Res. No. 50	Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage
Res. No. 86	Award Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133rd Signal Service Company
Res. No. 108	Support for Legislation to Introduce Atomic Veterans Service Medal
Res. No. 109	Support for Review of Minority Awards of Medal Honor WWI
Res. No. 110	Support for Congressional Gold Medal for Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators of WWI

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 5	Publicize and Promote the Armed Services Retirement Homes
Res. No. 34	Support for Department of Defense Stabilization activities
Res. No. 35	National Defense Budget
Res. No. 37	Taiwan Defense Arms Sales
Res. No. 38	Taiwan Straights Dialogue
Res. No. 98	Continuation of Military Death Benefits During Government Shutdown
Res. No. 117	Japan Arms Sales
Res. No. 118	Sustaining United States Commitments in the Indo-Pacific

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Res. No. 11	Agent Orange and kidney Disease
Res. No. 18	Amend Set Dates of Agent Orange Illness
Res. No. 48	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses
Res. No. 49	Exempt Certain Income from VA Pension Rate Determination
Res. No. 53	Means Test for married Veterans
Res. No. 58	Compensation for Veterans Requiring Hearing Aids for Service Connected Hearing Loss
Res. No. 59	Automatic Waiver for Over-Payment of $300 or Less
Res. No. 64	Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Care for Rating of 50% or

More

Res. No. 73 Allow Beneficiaries to Retain $900 of their Benefits while in Medicaid-Covered Nursing Homes

Res. No. 74 Amend the Eligibility Requirements and Extend the Eligibility Time Period for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance

Res. No. 75 Increase Maximum Coverage under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance

Res. No. 79 Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award

Res. No. 85 Designate Prisoner of War, Purple heart and Medal of Honor Recipients as Priority Group I Veterans

Res. No. 93 Agent Orange

Res. No. 115 Outdoor and Adaptive Sports Programs for Veterans

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 100 Accountability of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

Res. No. 101 Support for Continuation of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

Res. No. 102 Expansion of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to include Ancillary Programs and Services

Res. No. 103 Support and Expand Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

Res. No. 104 GI Bill Fairness for Activated National Guard Service Members

Res. No. 105 Support and Expand Warrior Transition Advancement Course (WARTAC)

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED IN THE SPRING MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 9-10, 2018

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 9 Military Commissaries

Res. No. 10 Expedited Citizenship Applications for Deported Veterans

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Res. No. 16 Beneficiary Travel Philippines

Res. No. 18 Furnish Hospital Care and Medical Services to Veterans and Family Members who were Stationed at Military Installations at which the Veterans and Dependents were Exposed to Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

Res. No. 19 Burn Pits and Environmental Exposures

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 11 Support Veteran and Reserve Service Member Financial Protections

Res. No. 12 Accountability and Enhancements of Transition Assistance Program; Outcomes and Delivery for Today's Digital Transitioning Service Members

Res. No. 14 Oppose the Cessation of The Department of Defense Hiring Heroes Program

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE FALL MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 11-12, 2017

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 9 Transfer Custodianship of Pershing Hall Building and Artifacts to the American Battle Monuments Commission

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 Service Member's Small Business

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 99TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN RENO, NEVADA AUGUST 22-24, 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. 22 POW/MIA Policies

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. 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 Service Member Rights to Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Protections

Res. No. 83 Protect Veteran and Service Member Rights to Fair Consumer Arbitration

Res. No. 84 Support and Strengthen the Service Members 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

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. 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. 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 Award Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II

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

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 98TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI, OH 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. 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. 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. 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.. 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

NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 16	Second Amendment
Res. No. 17	Position on the Operational Reserve
Res. No. 20	Fully Enforce Immigration Laws
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. 28	Reserves and National Guard Retirement Benefit Fairness
Res. No. 29	Commercial Shipbuilding for Defense
Res. No. 32	Support Domestic Energy Production
Res. No. 33	Rare Earth Elements
Res. No. 45	Policy on the Arctic Region
Res. No. 85	Support for Military Quality of Life Standards
Res. No. 90	South China Sea Island Building
Res. No. 91	Cybersecurity and Identity Theft
Res. No. 93	Codify Burial Eligibility for Arlington National Cemetery
Res. No. 94	Earned Military Benefits
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. 100	Military Commissaries
Res. No. 102	Oppose Tricare Fee Increases
Res. No. 105	Reference Veterans Service Organizations at Discharge
Res. No. 107	Support Armed Services Retirement Homes
Res. No. 109	Support for Pain Management Research, Treatments and Therapies at DOD, VA and NIH
Res. No. 173	Secure National Borders Against Illegal Drugs
Res. No. 174	Security of Overseas Embassies
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. 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. 213	Support for Foreign Exchange Education Program

Res. No. 214	Global Trade Policies
Res. No. 216	Support for the United States Air Force
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. 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. 11	Medical Marijuana Research
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. 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. 125	Opening the Federal Supply Schedule for Pharmaceuticals to Medicare and Medicaid
Res. No. 126	Oppose any Reduction of Eligibility Criteria 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 Medical and Prosthetic Research
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. 238	Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act
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. 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. 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. 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. 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 Service Members 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. 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 Service Member 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 Service Members
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 Service Members, 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 Service Members 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 VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move Legislative Commission report be received and filed. ….*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to receive and file the Legislative Commission report. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye? Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, pursuant to Rule 8b of the National Executive Committee, I move the resolutions on Addendum I be ratified for distribution as part of the legislative program to the 116th Congress. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second that Addendum I be ratified for distribution as part of the legislative program to the 116th Congress. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye? Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: The chair now recognizes Michael E. Walton of Illinois, chairman of the national Convention Commission, for his report.

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

Good morning, commander and members of the NEC. Although my written report is in your packets, I would like to touch on some of the highlights of our meetings.

Randy Tesdahl, the secretary of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, gave a final report regarding our 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, which we believe was a huge success. He will be presenting a very sizable check to the NEC this morning.

Past National Commander Jim Koutz, who is president of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Indiana, gave an update on the progress for our up and coming 101st National Convention right here in Indianapolis, which will be August 23 through the 29. The Department of Indiana, the city of Indianapolis, I believe they're ready for us. The national convention parade this year in Indianapolis will be similar to 2012, and the Department of Indiana will host a post parade party on American Legion Mall right out here.

So we urge you to check the national website quite often regarding the national convention. There's a lot of different things that are happening. There are many local posts that are offering alternative parking for our attendees, in addition to offering their facilities at these local posts for functions.

There were three resolutions received by our commission. There was a resolution to approve the contract between the national organization of The American Legion and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Wisconsin. This was approved by the Convention Commission. Two resolutions were received and recorded by the commission to host the 2025 107th Annual Convention of The American Legion. One was from the Department of Florida, supporting the city of Tampa; and one from the

Department of Utah, supporting the city of Salt Lake City. We now have four cities that are bidding to host the 2025 107th National Convention: It's St. Louis, Missouri; Kansas City, Missouri; Tampa, Florida; and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Our national conventions are now set through 2024. In the written report, you'll find a little typo, and I'll correct that for you now. The 101st, of course, is here in Indianapolis, 102nd in Louisville, 103rd in Phoenix, 104th in Milwaukee, 105th in Charlotte, and 106th in New Orleans.

With the recommendation of the Convention Commission, we propose the following for the future starting in 2025 in lieu of an outdoor parade: An indoor American Legion Family event on Sunday afternoon or early evening of the National Convention. Why did we say 2025? Each year is dependent upon the already negotiated concessions, space, venue et cetera, and whether it's logistically feasible to hold such an event. An indoor event will reduce the cost, as we already have a complimentary convention center. Therefore, in 2025, the outdoor parade will no longer exist. Each year in between will remain what is best logistically and financially.

Next year, though, in Louisville, the commission recommends having the outdoor parade since the city will offset the majority of the costs, including the reviewing stand. Therefore, years '21 through '24, the outdoor parade may no longer exist, as the commission has given authority to our Convention & Meetings office to work with the respective corporations and the cities to do what is best for a Legion Family event in that particular city.

Also, as you may have heard and was in our written report, our Convention & Meetings Division here in Indianapolis was presented with an industry award for excellence, for the excellence in planning, creative design, and execution of our 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis. This award was an individual award per se, and we were lucky enough to have them here at our American Legion. The award was presented by Meeting Professionals International, which is the largest meeting and event planning industry association worldwide. The local chapter's awards banquet was held last month, and our team here in Indy won the Pinnacle Award for the best overall event, beating out two other prominent nominees in the city. This is a State of Indiana Chapter award presented to those planners or suppliers who have helped develop and deliver an event more successful than any other event. You've got to admit, that was a successful convention. I'm very proud of our team, as I know you are also.

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

Report: Convention Commission
May 6, 2019
Michael E. Walton (IL), Chairman

Chairman Michael E. Walton, Illinois, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., May 6, 2019. Roll call was taken and all members present or excused.

Items Requiring NEC Action:

2022 National Convention Contract – Approval of the recommendation by the Convention Commission that the contract between the National Organization of The American Legion and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Wisconsin for the dates of August 26 – September 1, 2022, be signed by the National Commander and the President of the Convention Corporation.

Addendum A:

Resolution No. 2761 – submitted by the Department of Utah supporting a bid for the 2025 National Convention from the city of Salt Lake City, Utah. Received and Recorded

Resolution No. 2764 – submitted by the Department of Florida supporting a bid for the 2025 National Convention from the city of Tampa, Florida. Received and Recorded

Planning for the 101st National Convention of The American Legion is on schedule. President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Indiana,

Commander Koutz, gave an update on the progress. The Indiana Convention Center will be the site of the general sessions, exhibit hall, color guard contests, band contest, the National Commander's Banquet and the Auxiliary States Dinner. The National Staff Offices for The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Distinguished Guest Registration and Badges & Packets will also be in the Indiana Convention Center. The Color Guard contest will take place on Friday, August 23, 2019, starting at 4:00PM. The Competitive Concert Band Contest will be held Saturday, August 24 at 1:00PM in the Indiana Convention Center. Sunday evening, August 25 will be the annual parade in downtown Indianapolis starting at 4:00PM. This year a Post Parade Party will be hosted by the Department of Indiana. The National Commander's Banquet, on August 27, will feature the group Fab Four.

Randy Tesdahl, Secretary of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, gave the final report to the Convention Commission for the

100th National Convention of The American Legion. Mr. Tesdahl reported the 2018 Convention Corporation generated a net profit of $203,500.76. He will present a check to the National Executive Committee for $101,750.38.

Our National Convention Request for Proposal (RFP) has been updated to reflect our current numbers and to ensure what we provide to bidding cities is properly reflected within the RFP. The RFP will be updated each year as necessary.

The Convention Commission recommends starting in 2025, in lieu of an outdoor parade, an Indoor American Legion Family Event on Sunday afternoon/early evening of the National Convention. Each year is dependent upon the already negotiated concessions, space, venue, etc., and whether it is logistically feasible to hold such event. An indoor event will reduce costs as the convention center is currently complimentary. Therefore, in 2025 the Outdoor Parade will no longer exist. Each year, in between, will remain what is best logistically and financially. Next year in Louisville the Convention Commission recommends having the outdoor parade since the city will off-set the majority of the costs, including the reviewing stand. For years 2021-2024, the outdoor parade may no longer exist, as the Convention Commission has given authority to the Convention & Meetings Office to work with the respective corporations and cities to do what is best for a Legion Family event in their city.

Chairman Walton assigned each member of the commission specific assignments to observe at the 2019 National Convention. Each commission member will report their findings to the full commission during the 2019 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Three Departments have submitted Resolutions of Support for four cities to bid on the 2025 National Convention: St. Louis and Kansas City, Department of Missouri; Salt Lake City, Department of Utah; and Tampa, Department of Florida.

The Convention & Meetings Division was presented with an industry award for their excellence in planning, creative design and execution for the 2018 National Convention. The award was presented by Meeting Professionals International, which is the largest meeting and event planning industry association worldwide. The local chapter's awards banquet was held last month and the team won the Pinnacle Award for Best Overall Event beating out two other prominent nominees in the city. This is a State of Indiana Chapter award presented to those planners or suppliers who helped develop and deliver an event more successful than any other event.

Dates for future National Conventions are the following:

Indianapolis, IN	August 23 – 29, 2019
Louisville, KY	August 28 – September 3, 2020
Phoenix, AZ	August 27 – September 2, 2021
Milwaukee, WI	August 26 – September 1, 2022
Charlotte, NC	August 25 – 31, 2023
New Orleans, LA	August 23 – 29, 2024

ADDENDUM A

Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2761 (UT)(DEC): **City of Salt Lake City offers to host the 2025 National Convention**

Register Resolution No. 2764 (FL)(DEC): **City of Tampa offers to host the 2025 National Convention**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission. There are no resolutions and one addendum. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the National Convention Commission. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Attached to the report is Addendum A. I move that the action of the Convention Commission become the action of the NEC. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second that the action of the Convention Commission become the action of the NEC. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

I now call on Randy Tesdahl, the adjutant of the Department of Minnesota, for the purpose of presenting the final report of the 2018 National Convention Corporation.

Oral Report: 2018 National Convention Corporation
Randy Tesdahl, Minnesota, Department Adjutant

Thank you, commander, national officers of our great organization, NECs, guests, and friends of The American Legion. I've at times sung before you as a Ye Steivos member, but I won't do that today. I am honored to bring to you The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Minnesota's final report.

The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, hereinafter named "corporation," began meeting in year 2016 with a review of all documents governing the corporation. It was determined that a complete revision was required to bring those documents up to date and to reinstate our tax free status as a 501(c)19 under the rules of the Internal Revenue Service, and saving, thus, the corporation thousands of dollars in taxes. This exemption was approved effectively December 7, 2016.

On November 13, 2017, during our review, we also looked at the constitution and by-laws for the corporation, and determined that these documents were also dated and would benefit from revision. The majority of the revisions were minor and only required to update the constitution and by-laws to current standards. Possibly the major revision was simply changing the name of the corporation from "The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Minneapolis" to "The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Minnesota." We believe this change would allow the Department of Minnesota to bid for future national conventions in other cities in the state of Minnesota.

Next we created an account specifically for the corporation to write checks and to deposit contributions. Funds in these accounts were entirely separate from other department accounts. The corporation was able to pay all bills on time without requesting a loan from national. The voucher system worked well, and we were able to get all vouchers to Bridget Robinson, director of the Convention & Meetings Division. She quickly replied with approvals and with any questions she had that we had were answered quickly, which were very few. The corporation and Department of Minnesota were very pleased, and we are proud to present to Commander Reistad national's share of the profits in the total of $101,750.38. *(Applause)*

Our esteemed NECman Marland Ronning, and one of my personal mentors, will do the presentation to the commander as I read for you some final statistics.

Some more numbers which were communicated from our Media & Communications Division subsequent to the closure of the convention: 42 stories were conducted over the course of the National Convention, ten videos produced, three galleries of photos collected, 3.3 million Twitter feeds, 9.6 million impressions, 900,000 Facebook posts. Total attendance, 9,268, keeping in mind, please, that everyone who participated in any facet or any venue of our National Convention are included in those numbers. Total night rooms, 16,413. Thank you, all. Thank you, Mr. Commander. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the 2018 National Convention Corporation. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to receive and file the final report of the 2018 National Convention Corporation. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

At this time, the chair recognizes James M. Rohan of the Department of Wisconsin, chairman of the national Marketing Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Marketing Commission
James M. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman

Commander, ladies and gentlemen of the National Executive Committee, national officers and guests, good morning. As your rookie commission chairman, you have my written report so I'll just hit a few highlights here.

The national fundraising program finished 2018 with a gross revenue of $11,503,285 and a net income of $2,696,147. This net income level was more than $670,000 ahead of the budgeted expectations. Year-to-date, the 2019 gross revenue has exceeded $3,826,000, which is tracking slightly behind our budgeted pace.

A special campaign was mailed in February 2019 to help replenish the Veterans & Children Foundation, due to the increased need of the Coast Guard caused by the government shutdown. The campaign was mailed to approximately 617,000 known donors, which resulted in approximately $546,000 in gross funds being raised. After expenses, this campaign raised net income at just under $400,000. This brings the total amount of revenue raised for the Veterans & Children Foundation during the national commander's year to $1,289,273.

This year, National Poppy Day is slated for Friday, May 24, 2019. The American Legion is again working in tandem with the American Legion Auxiliary to raise awareness about this special day and the historical significance of the red poppy. Specifically, content updates were made to PoppyDayUSA.org website and National Poppy Day ads and content that ran in the May issue of the Legion magazine.

News broadcasters will be encouraged to wear poppies on National Poppy Day and interviews with members of the American Legion Family will be pitched to ten major media markets. In addition, a letter about National Poppy Day and poppy stickers for staff to wear will be sent to members of the House and Senate through congressional mailings, to encourage the Hill to participate in recognizing the day.

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin program launched in March. Sales began with a strong start. An additional promotion is planned for the summer and fall months, to prompt ongoing sales. After the first seven weeks of sales, The American Legion Commemorative Coin program expenses have been paid, thus allowing The American Legion to accrue just over $936,000 in revenue to date. The American Veterans medal, which will be packaged with The American Legion silver dollar, will be available on May 20. All earned revenue through the end of 2019 program will be paid to the American Legion in quarter 1 of 2020.

Utilizing existing imagery and video content from The American Legion media library, a new broadcast PSA was created that highlights the missions, programs, and services of The American Legion. The PSA is available in 15- to 30-second links to encourage repeat airings and rotation by TV stations that download the spot, as stations provide air time at no charge to fill unfilled advertising space.

The PSAs have been well received by regional and national outlets and, since inception, the campaign has received 36,041 airings which generated 362.7 million impressions and an advertising ad value of $10.1 million. The number of monthly airings started to decline in quarter one of 2019, and new PSAs have been planned to launch in quarter two to generate additional air time, impressions, and ad value.

Outdoor media companies often have unsold space and will donate billboard placements to nonprofit organizations to ensure the creative is being changed on a regular basis. Following the creation of the "We Believe" broadcast PSA, four new billboards and bus shelter designs were developed last summer. Each design highlights an aspect of The American Legion: patriotism, advocacy, support of veterans, and the centennial.

Since inception, donated advertising space for the "We Believe" outdoor campaign has been received for 680 total placements in 26 states. Since inception, the campaign has yielded 820.3 million impressions and an advertising value of $5.2 million. The results exceeded original estimates and reflect the importance and developing creative and messaging that resonates with broad audiences.

The Emblem Sales division year-end total's revenue for 2018 was 13.95 million versus 13.69 million in 2017. Net year-end profit for 2018 was 1.99 million versus 2.03 million in 2017. 2019 first quarter revenue was 2.960 million versus 2.933 million in 2018. First quarter net profit was 402,460 versus 316,037 in 2018.

In January 2019, the Operation Comfort Warriors program transitioned from the Americanism Division to the Marketing Division. About 10,000 servicemembers, veterans, and their families were directly impacted by Operation Comfort Warriors in 2018, either by participating in Operation Comfort Warriors-sponsored events or receiving care at a grant-receiving facility. This was an increase in veterans and their family members impacted in comparison to the previous calendar year.

OCW received recognition in The American Legion's print magazine and digital website 15 times during 2018, and this approach continues in 2019. This coverage included articles in three issues of the Legion magazine, three digital Dispatch editions, nine digital website articles throughout the year. OCW was also directly mentioned in American Legion department newsletters throughout the year after delivery of grants within those departments.

Application submissions for OCW grants during quarter one of 2019 remains on track to continue to see an increase in the annual number of grants to individual veterans and medical care facilities.

The Marketing Commission reviewed four resolutions for consideration. One was referred for further study, two were approved, and the resolution regarding acceptance of financial grants from organizations that align with the purposes and policies of the American Legion was approved and forwarded to the Finance Commission for consideration.

Commander, and ladies and gentlemen of the NEC, on behalf of the national Marketing Commission, I'd like to thank you for your support as we continue to work hard to raise awareness and revenue for The American Legion.

Mr. Commander, this concludes my report. Once my report has been voted on, I would ask you to please call on Past National Commander James Koutz for a presentation to Operation Comfort Warriors.

Report: Marketing Commission
James M. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman

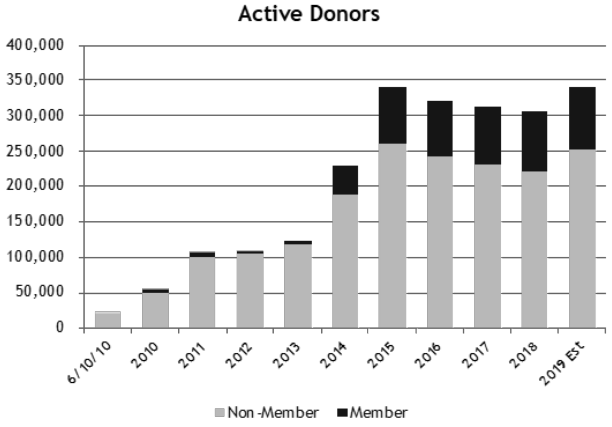
The Marketing Commission continues to work diligently using all marketing tactics available to raise awareness of The American Legion emblem, brand and our efforts on behalf of veteran issues. The intent of this report is to outline the newest marketing, strategic alliances and business development initiatives that the marketing commission and division are pursuing since the last report at National Convention.

National Fundraising (Non-member)

The national fundraising program finished 2018 with gross revenue of $11,503,285 and net income of $2,696,147. This net income level was more than $670,000 ahead of the budgeted expectations. The program continues to operate on a mailing cycle of every two to three weeks (21 times per year). Year-to-date 2019 gross revenue has exceeded 3,826,000 which is tracking slightly behind our budgeted pace.

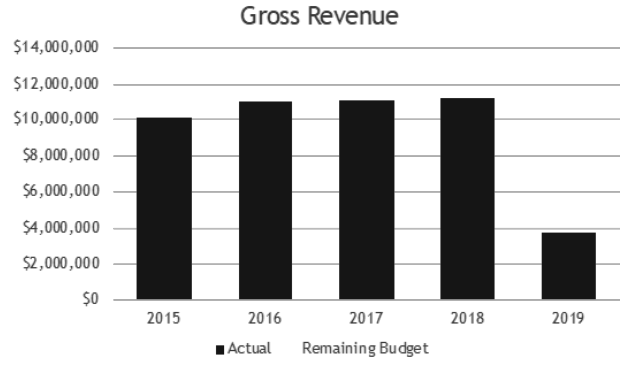
The budgeted plan for 2019 is more of the same – active donor file growth while maintaining consistent returns.

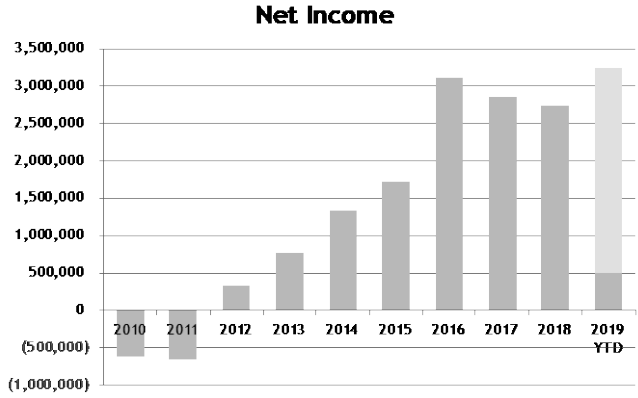
The active donor file finished 2018 having 307,725 donors - these are donors who have given at least one gift in the past 12 months. Member donors represented about 28% of that total and they generate about 34% of total gross income for the program. This is a small increase over the 2017 finish. We are projecting the active donor file will finish 2019 at about 340,000 donors.



The 2019 budget was built on a file growth strategy that allows the donor file to start back on a growth trend while continuing to provide acceptable net returns. 2018 finished with gross revenue of about $11,231,000 and 2019 we have planned for a 12.5% increase to about $12,635,000. Net income from the direct marketing program is expected to finish 2019 at $3,250,000, a 18.4% increase over the 2018 finish of $2,749,000.

Note: These figures are direct marketing results of the campaigns and not necessarily the year-end financial results and it does not include the Department revenue share distribution.





American Legion Charities

The fundraising cycle for the various American Legion Charities concludes in 4 months and the 2018/2019 results will be reported out during the fall meetings later this year.

American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation

A special campaign was mailed in February 2019 to help replenish the Veterans & Children Foundation due to the increased need of the Coast Guard caused by the government shutdown. The campaign was mailed to approximately 617,000 known donors, both member and non-member, which resulted in approximately $546,000 in gross funds being raised. After expenses, this campaign raised net income of just under $400,000. This brings the total amount of revenue raised for the Veterans and Children's Foundation during the National Commander's year to $1,289,273.

National Poppy Day® – May 24, 2019

This year, The American Legion is again working in tandem with the American Legion Auxiliary to raise awareness about this special day and the historical significance of the red poppy. A number of efforts have been made to promote The American Legion Family through internal channels to membership of both organizations. Specifically, content updates were made to the poppydayusa.org website and National Poppy Day® ads and content ran in the May issue of Legion Magazine and the February and May issues of Legion Auxiliary Magazine.

For broad, general awareness and reach, a mat release will be distributed to media and poppy patches will be sent to television stations in select markets across the country. News broadcasters will be encouraged to wear a poppy on National Poppy Day® and interviews with members of The American Legion Family will be pitched in the following media

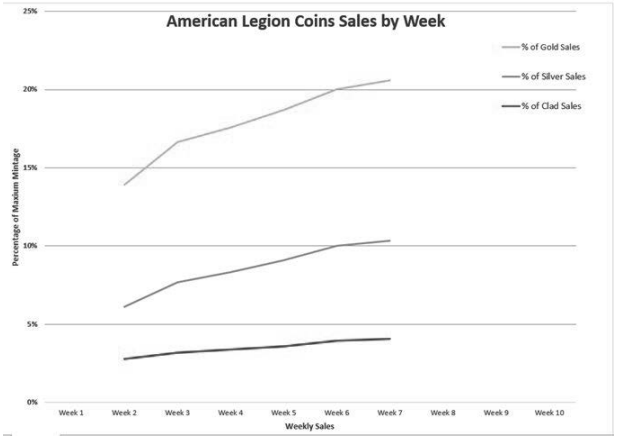
markets: Atlanta, GA, Buffalo, NY, Chicago, IL, Houston, TX, Indianapolis, IN, Jackson, MS, Pittsburgh, PA, Sacramento, CA, St. Louis, MO and Tampa, FL.

In addition, a letter about National Poppy Day® and poppy stickers for staff to wear will be sent to members of the House and Senate through a Congressional mailing to encourage the Hill to participate in recognizing the day.

U.S. Mint Commemorative Coin Update:

The United States Mint presented the designs for the 2019 American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin program last fall at National Convention. Surcharges are authorized to be paid to The American Legion to support the Legion's programs for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and other purposes specified by the authorizing legislation.

A first strike ceremony was held in January 2019 at the Philadelphia Mint to commemorate the launch of the coin program and the coins went on sale in March. Sales began with a strong start and additional promotion is planned for the summer and fall months to prompt ongoing sales. As of April 28, 2019, The American Legion Commemorative Coin program expenses have been paid, thus allowing The American Legion to accrue just over $936,000 in revenue to date. All earned revenue through the end of the 2019 program will be paid to TAL in Q1 of 2020.



USCG / TFA:

During the government shutdown that began in January 2019, The American Legion focused on providing support to active-duty servicemembers with children in the home, creating awareness with veterans and the public at large about the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, and fundraising to help replenish the Temporary Financial Assistance account. Press releases were issued, a video script was written, website content was updated, social media posts were developed, talking points and a questions and answers document were distributed. The program was administered over the course of six weeks during that time broadcast and print media delivered 3.3 million impressions which netted an ad value worth $372,000.

Broadcast PSA:

Utilizing existing imagery and video content from The American Legion media library, a new broadcast PSA was created that highlights the mission, programs and services of The American Legion. The PSA is available in 15- and 30-second lengths to encourage repeat airings and rotation by TV stations that download the spot, as the stations provide airtime at no charge to fill up unsold advertising space. The We Believe message

is referenced in the voiceover throughout the spots and the Legion.org/WeBelieve URL is included at the end of each spot as a call to action for viewers.

The PSAs have been well received by regional and national outlets. Since inception, the campaign has received 36,041 airings which generated 362.7 million impressions and an advertising value of $10.1 million. The number of monthly airings started to decline in Q1 of 2019 and a new PSA is planned to launch in Q2 to generate additional airtime, impressions and ad value.

Billboards and Bus Shelters:

Billboards are a strong platform to further awareness about The American Legion., featuring attention getting images and a brief amount of text. Outdoor media companies often have unsold space and will donate billboard placements to nonprofit organizations to ensure the creative is being changed on a regular basis. Considered 24/7 "always on" media, the Outdoor Advertising Association of America reports that 58% of people buy a product after seeing it on a billboard 5 times. In addition, a recent Nielsen study found that 8 out of 10 adults polled had seen a billboard advertisement in the past month. Of those, 22% visited the website, 26% talked about the product, and 35% searched for additional brand information.

Following the creation of the We Believe broadcast PSA, four new billboard and bus shelter designs were developed last summer. Each design highlights an aspect of The American Legion — patriotism, advocacy and support for veterans, and the centennial. The Legion.org/WeBelieve URL is included on each billboard as a call to action to drive traffic online to learn more about The American Legion and the landing page features articles and information specific to the benefits of membership.

Since inception, donated advertising space for the We Believe outdoor campaign has been received for 680 total placements in Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. Some locations are more heavily trafficked than others, though when combined, the metrics are substantial. Since inception, the campaign has yielded 820.3 million impressions and an advertising value of $5.2 million. The results exceeded original estimates and reflect the importance of developing creative and messaging that resonates with a broad audience.

Emblem Committee
Sally Nay, Massachusetts, Chairman

The Emblem Sales division's year-end total revenue for 2018 was $13.95 million vs. $13.69 million in 2017. Net year-end profit for 2018 was $1.99 million vs. $2.03 million in 2017.

2019 first quarter revenue was $2.960 million vs. $2.933 million in 2018. First quarter net profit was $402,460 vs. $316,037 in 2018.

First quarter flag sales were $496,000. While this was a 12% decrease from last year, April flag sales recovered nicely. Emblem Sales experienced the highest single-month flag sales in our history, selling over $570,000 in flags in the month of April. For the year, we have now sold over $1,060,000 in flags. This is a 5% decrease over the same time period last year.

Currently, 1,910 posts are registered in the "Flag Rewards" program and 21,673 schools, businesses, churches and individuals have signed up to sponsor a post. An additional 70 American Legion Posts have registered and 3,098 new sponsors have signed on since Spring Meetings in 2018.

Emblem Sales continues to market items to members and patriotic Americans electronically and in print. In 2019, we have sent out over 513,000 marketing emails with a cost of only $1,539. These marketing emails have resulted in $97,895 revenue.

The 2019 Catalog features over 60 new items for sale.

Operation Comfort Warriors
Report To The Finance Commission

Executive Summary

Purpose:

Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) offers activities and delivers items to wounded, injured and ill service members, veterans and their families to support, empower and provide transition assistance. This OCW report provides an end-of-year review of 2018.

Authority:

Res. No. 12, NEC, Oct 2012, Consolidate Heroes to Hometowns Program into Operation Comfort Warriors

Impact:

About 10,000 servicemembers, veterans and their families were directly impacted by Operation Comfort Warriors in 2018, either by participating in an OCW-sponsored event or receiving care at a grant-receiving facility. This was an increase in veterans and their family members impacted in comparison to the previous calendar year. Application submissions for OCW grants during the first quarter of this current year remains on track to continue to see an increase in the annual number of grants to individual veterans and federal medical care facilities.

Media & Communications:

OCW received recognition in The American Legion's print magazine and digital website 15 times during 2018, and this approach continues in 2019. This coverage included articles in 3 issues of the Legion Magazine, 3 digital Dispatch editions and 9 digital website articles throughout the year. OCW was also directly mentioned in American Legion Department newsletters throughout the year after delivery of grants within those departments.

Articles across the various means of communications in social media and traditional print media have been favorably received throughout the Legion family and is being used by our department's membership committees in their revitalization efforts as examples of Legion assistance to our fellow veterans. The OCW program manager maintains and updates the Facebook page and posts updates, in advance of and during grant fulfillment presentations. OCW staff also works closely with departments and posts to mobilize local media and provide local representatives to discuss the OCW program within their communities.

Financials:

	2017	2018	Difference
Legion Donations	$580,930.05	$332,494.08 -	($248,435.97)
SAL Donations	$31,405.33	$29,598.83 -	($1,806.50)
Total Donations	$612,335.00	$362,092.91 -	($250,242.09)

Disbursements	28 Grants	26 Grants	2 Grants
Amount Disbursed	$156,026.00	$265,469.80 +	$109,443.80

2018 grant disbursements finished higher than 2017, which allowed OCW to reach a larger number of veterans and their families.

Initiatives:

In addition to continuing to connect with these veterans in VA Hospitals by teaming up with the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division and their System Worth Saving (SWS) Task Force visits, OCW is also working directly with department headquarters and leaders across The American Legion to provide grants to Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) hospital systems and their individual veteran patients in their states.

The OCW program manager continues to develop OCW grants that will be released in conjunction with the National Headquarters Division's and with support from Department Headquarters.

OCW has developed and maintains a positive partnership with the American Legion Riders (ALR) program to coordinate ALR events with OCW grant disbursement...

The OCW Program continues to look for more ways to partner its grant deliveries in conjunction with other American Legion programs around the country as a means of achieving more veteran awareness of the grants.

With a small staff, the marketing division has relied heavily on agency support, which has helped leverage experience without having to carry a labor burden on the organization. Additionally, The American Legion marketing team continues to work closely with the Media & Communications Division.

Addendum A

Held for further study

Resolution No. 33 (MS) (2018 Natl. Conv.): **Proposed Renaming of the Oratorical Contest National Finals**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission with the exception of one resolution and one addendum. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and second on the floor to receive and file the report of the national Marketing Commission. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. At this time, I call on anyone that has Operation Comfort Warriors donations to come to the front.

...National Vice Commander Sweet assumed the chair.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: Well, thank you very much, Commander. We have some donations for Operation Comfort Warriors this morning. But first, let me introduce who is with us: Our department commander, Rodney Strong; our NEC, Jerry Jordon; alternate NEC, Ed Trice; and commission chairman, Bob Newman.

As you know, Operation Comfort Warriors is very true to Indiana and my heart, and we've had some great donations again. Most of you know that the big one we always have at Post 64, which most of you go and attend, it's always the last Sunday in March. This year was no different than any other one. We had beans and cornbread dinner, band, and lots of other amusements. We took in that day $42,602.16. Also from the post that day, we got a check for $2,500 from SAL Squadron 64; Auxiliary Unit 64, $1,050; and American Legion Riders for $1,000. So the total profit that day was $47,152.16. Very good day. *(Applause)*

Other donations: Post 97, Auburn, Indiana, $5,000; Tennyson Squadron SAL 463, $1,200; Post 44, Newburgh, Indiana, $300; and Auxiliary Unit 66 for $270. We had another donation of Delmar Gerken for $25. American Legion Unit 113, $200, that's from Kentucky. I spoke over there for their 100th Anniversary, and Past National Present Ginny Hobbs presented me that check. American Legion Elberfeld Auxiliary 351, $150; Elberfeld American Legion SAL 351, $500; Elberfeld American Legion Post 351, on an antique tractor ride that we had, $3,000. Larry Lowry, $100; Jerry and Linda Jordon, $100; American Legion SAL 276 of Beech Grove, $50; Marti and Rose Ann Dzieglowicz, $100.

The band that played at Post 64 the day of our bean and cornbread dinner, Mississippi Raglips & the River Dogs, which will be playing at our post-parade party, you'll really like them, they had a tip jar out front and took in $508, and gave us all that money and didn't charge us a dime for the band.

The next-to-last one, the one that I always like to talk about, they couldn't make it here to give their presentation, the Branchville Correctional Facility, Post 390. *(Laughter)*

They donated $2,000. They always make wooden furniture and give it to our post, which they usually give it to our post and we raffle it off and that's how much we raised, and I'll give you the check for that. The last one, I got last night at the Department of Texas hospitality room from Kimberly Biggerstaff, $20. So the total I'm turning in to you, commander, is $60,875.16. *(Applause)*

...National Commander Reistad resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I want to thank Commander Koutz, the Department of Indiana, and the Departments of Kentucky and Texas for their contributions to Operation Comfort Warriors. Thank you again. *(Applause)*

Resolution No. 8: Rescinding of Emblem Committee Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions

Origin: Emblem Committee

Submitted by: Marketing Commission

WHEREAS, In accordance with resolutions of the 1959 and 1960 National Conventions, the National Executive Committee, through its Program Study Committee, has caused to be made a review of all non-legislative policy resolutions, and such action has been taken in further conformance with the action of the 1936 National Convention which established policy on the life of such resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the following resolutions be and are hereby rescinded by reasons hereinafter indicated.

No.	Year	Meeting	Title	Reason
160	**1929**	**National Convention**	**National Headquarters to Provide Post with Pictures at Cost of All National Commanders**	**Obsolete**
8	**1937**	**Fall NEC**	**Legion Uniform Contract**	**Accomplished**
79	**1949**	**Spring NEC**	**Emblem Contracts**	**Accomplished**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Resolution 8 has the approval of your Emblem Committee, your Marketing Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its approval. *…Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a resolution on the floor to accept No. 8, "Rescinding of Emblem Committee Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Attached to this report is Addendum A. I move that the actions of the Marketing Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *…Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion on the floor. There is a second. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. The chair now recognize Gaither M. Keener, Jr., of North Carolina, chairman of the Finance Commission, for the purpose of a report.

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

Thank you, commander. National Commander, members of the NEC, past national commanders, and guests. Your Finance Commission met on Monday and Tuesday, May 6 and 7. All commission members were present. Also present were National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler, National Treasurer George Buskirk, Executive Directors James Baca and Lou Celli, Finance Director Shawn Long, Human Resource Director Rodney Rolland, and Finance NEC Liaison Committee members Lawrence Van Kuran of California, Edward Bertrand of New York, Robert Krause of North Dakota, and Michael Mitrione of Virginia. Several guests joined us throughout the meeting. Finance NEC Liaison Chairman David Warnken, as we all know, was excused.

We received reports from the national adjutant; the national treasurer; the national judge advocate; the national headquarters' executive directors; the finance director; the Convention Corporation of Minnesota; the Internal Affairs Commission; Membership & Post Activities Committee; Marketing Commission; the Americanism Commission; Crowe LLP was our auditor; S.A. Van Dyk, insurance; Media & Communication Commission, written report; Fifth Third Bank; and Hoosier Trust Company.

Net operating surplus for 2018 was $1,606,056, pending audit. Last fall, the NEC approved the 2019 budget based upon revenues of $88,613,563 and expenditures of $81,516,255, for a net operating surplus of $7,097,308.

The budget is based upon total 2019 membership of 1,850,000. As you all know, membership of March 31, 2019, is 1,694,176. We're over 70,000 behind the plan. You take 70,000, you multiply it by the 18 per capita, you can figure out where we may be.

At the Finance Commission February 25 meeting in Washington, D.C., it approved the 2020 membership solicitation budget of $7,643,000. It was also approved, $8,960.85 in write-offs and $5,242 in emergency purchases and budget overruns since our fall meeting. $50,000 was added back to the national convention budget for the reenactors and other special events at our 101st Annual National Convention.

Randy Tesdahl, the Minnesota national adjutant, reported that the 2018 Convention Corporation was a success, and he has already provided the commander a check for $101,750.38, which represented, as we all know, 50 percent of the net profit.

The Finance Commission approved the 2018 audit as presented by Crowe LLP, who also prepared the 990 tax returns to be sent to the IRS for this organization.

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, we had a special campaign that was mailed by The American Legion Charities in February of 2019 to benefit the Veterans & Children Foundation. This is our campaign we've been talking about adding $25 million to the endowment. The campaign resulted in approximately $546,000 in gross funds being raised. After expenses, this campaign raised net income of just under $400,000, which will be presented to the commander after the resolutions. This brings the total amount of revenue raised for the Veterans & Children Foundation during the commander's year to $1,289,273.

As you recall, American Legion Charities did present another check in October to this fund of a half a million dollars. So therefore, $900,000 has come from charities.

The commission received an update from S.A. Van Dyk insurance on our current insurance coverage claims and cost.

The commission considered and approved the recommendation by the Media & Communications Commission titled, "Policy Statements Regarding Overseas Magazine Subscriptions." The statement of policy is attached and was approved.

There are currently 254 authorized positions at national headquarters, of which we have currently 12 vacancies.

The American Legion spent more than $1 million from the operational budget to supplement the United States Coast Guard salaries during the recent government shutdown.

A list of resolutions recommended for approval is attached for your consideration. Mr. Commander, that's my report.

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

The Finance Commission met on Monday and Tuesday, May 6-7. All commission members were present. Also present were National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler; National Treasurer George Buskirk; Executive Directors James Baca and Lou Celli; Finance Director Shawn Long; Human Resources Director Rodney Rolland; and Finance NEC Liaison Committee members Lawrence Van Kuran (CA), Edward Bertrand (NY), Robert Krause (ND) and Michael Mitrione (VA). Several guests joined us throughout the meeting. Finance NEC Liaison Committee Chairman Dave Warnken (KS) was excused.

Reports were received from

- National adjutant
- National treasurer
- National judge advocate
- National headquarters' executive directors
- Finance director
- Convention Corporation of Minnesota
- Internal Affairs Commission
- Membership & Post Activities Committee
- Marketing Commission
- Americanism Commission
- Crowe LLP
- S. A. Van Dyk Insurance
- Media & Communications Commission (written report)
- Fifth Third Bank
- Hoosier Trust

The net operating surplus for 2018 was $1,606,056, pending audit.

Last fall, the NEC approved the 2019 budget based on revenues of $88,613,563 and expenditures of $81,516,255 for a net operating surplus of $7,097,308. The budget is based on a total 2019 membership of 1,850,000. Actual membership as of March 31, 2019, was 1,694,176.

At the Finance Commission's February 25 meeting in Washington, it approved the 2020 membership solicitation budget of $7,643,000. It also approved $8,906.85 in write-offs and $5,242 in emergency purchases and budget overruns since its fall meeting. $50,000 was added back to the national convention budget for re-enactors and other special events at our 101st annual national convention.

Randy Tesdahl, Minnesota Department Adjutant, reported that the 2018 convention corporation will present to national headquarters a check for $101,750.38 which represents 50 percent of the convention's net profit.

The Finance Commission approved the 2018 audit as presented by Crowe LLP.

American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation

A special campaign was mailed in February 2019 to benefit the Veterans & Children Foundation. The campaign resulted in approximately $546,000 in gross funds being raised. After expenses, this campaign raised net income of just under $400,000. This brings the total amount of revenue raised for the Veterans and Children Foundation during the National Commander's year to $1,289,273.

The commission received an update from S. A. Van Dyk Insurance on our current insurance coverage, claims and cost.

The commission considered and approved a recommendation by the Media & Communications Commission titled "Policy Statement Regarding Overseas Magazine Subscriptions." This policy statement is attached.

There are currently 254 authorized positions at national headquarters.

The American Legion spent more than $1 million from the operations budget to supplement U.S. Coast Guard salaries during the recent government shutdown.
A list of resolutions recommended for approval is attached.

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

• Resolution #2: Extend Agreement with LSC Communications US, LLC: The national commander is directed to have a five-year contract (three years continuous, followed by two one-year contracts) for the printing of The American Legion Magazine with LSC Communications US, LLC negotiated and prepared, which shall commence on January 1, 2020, and shall terminate on December 31, 2024.

• Resolution #3: Authorization to Purchase Paper From Lindenmeyr Central: Authorizes The American Legion to negotiate a contract for the purchase of either body or cover paper stock, or both, with Lindenmeyr Central for a period not to exceed three years, starting on the 1st day of December 2019, with appropriate provisions for optional extension or renewal for an additional two years.

• Resolution #4: National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion: The existence of the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL) is formally authorized by the National Executive Committee upon (1) approval of this resolution and (2) the constitution and by-laws approval by the national judge advocate. All monetary funds from dues (or any source) shall be used for operational expenses of NADHAL, shall be deposited with, and maintained by, the finance division which shall report same to the Finance Commission and provide status of the funds to the NADHAL treasurer for their annual meeting in October.

• Resolution #5: National American Legion College Tuition Change: The $600 charged to departments for each student to attend National American Legion College will be raised from $600 to $800 per student effective with the class of 2019, which will convene November 3-8, 2019.

• Resolution #6: 2022 National Convention Contract: The national commander, after receipt of an executed contract from the 2022 National American Legion Convention Corporation and the review and approval of same from the national judge advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract and the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.

• Resolution #7: Acceptance of financial grants from organizations that align with the purposes and policies of The American Legion: Authorizes The American Legion to accept financial grants from organizations that are aligned with purposes and policies of The American Legion, after review and approval by the Marketing Commission chairman, the Finance Commission chairman, and the national judge advocate. The purpose, amount and conditions of any such accepted grants shall be reported by the Finance Commission to the National Executive Committee at the next official meeting following the acceptance of such grants.

Policy Statement Regarding Overseas Magazine Subscriptions

Policy

American Legion members with mailing addresses outside of the United States will receive free access to a digital version of the monthly magazine instead of a printed copy in order to save the organization an estimated $34,000 per year in mailing costs. These members will have the option to opt-in to delivery of the printed magazine for $15 per year.

Cost Justification

The May 2019 invoice from Imex Global Solutions was $2,886.99 for the delivery of magazines to overseas members and posts. That equates to $34,643.88 annually. By enacting this policy, The American Legion can use the savings to better support veterans,

their families and the communities in which they live. Members affected by this policy will still receive the magazine and all of its content in a digital form as part of their membership.

Application

1. This policy takes effect as of May 1, 2020.
2. Starting with the May 2020 issue of the magazine, members with mailing addresses not serviced by the USPS will be provided a digital copy of the magazine as part of their American Legion membership. Instructions on how to access the digital magazine will be communicated to affected members before May 1, 2020.
3. Members affected by this policy have the option to opt-in to receiving a printed copy each month for an annual shipping fee of $15. They may opt-in or opt-out at any time.
4. The Media and Communications Commission and Finance Commission maintain the rights to adjust this policy as needed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, motion to approve the report of the Finance Commission with the exception of six resolutions. There is no addendum. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I have a motion on the floor to approve the report of the Finance Commission. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 2: Extend Agreement with LSC Communications US, LLC
Origin: Media & Communications Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion currently has a contract with LSC Communications US, LLC to print *The American Legion Magazine*, and said contract expires December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, LSC Communications desires to negotiate a new five-year contract, three years continuous and two one-year automatic renewals subject to performance review each of those years, which would commence on January 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, LSC Communications is offering price concessions that amount to about $162,549 per annum for the duration of the contract(s); and

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

WHEREAS, The American Legion Media & Communications Commission, meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the 2019 Spring Meetings, does concur that a five-year contract (three years continuous, followed by two one-year contracts, after review) be negotiated with LSC Communications for the printing of *The American Legion Magazine*; and

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

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the national commander is directed to have a five-year contract (three years continuous, followed by two one-year contracts) for the printing of *The American Legion Magazine* with LSC Communications US, LLC negotiated and prepared, which shall commence on January 1, 2020, and shall terminate on December 31, 2024; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national commander, after review and approval by the national judge advocate for legal sufficiency, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract, and the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 2 has the approval of the Media & Communications Commission, Finance Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. *…Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion on the floor to approve Resolution No. 2 entitled, "Extend Agreement with LSC Communications US, LLC." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 3: Authorization to Purchase Paper from Lindenmeyr Central
Origin: Media & Communications Commission
Submitted by: Finance Committee

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The staff of the Media & Communications Division has checked the current pricing of other major paper brokers, suppliers, and mills and finds the Lindenmeyr Central contract proposal to be very competitive with any pricing that might be offered by other vendors; and

WHEREAS, Said contract would be for a period of three years starting on the 1st day of December 2019, with the option of renewing the contract for an additional two years; and

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

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion negotiate a contract for the purchase of either body or cover paper stock, or both, with Lindenmeyr Central, a business of Central National Gottesman, Inc., for a period not to exceed three years, starting on the 1st day of December 2019, with appropriate provisions for optional extension or renewal for an additional two years; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national commander be, and is hereby, authorized and directed to execute said contract after review and approval as to terms and conditions by the national judge advocate, and the national adjutant be, and is hereby, authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 3 has the approval of the Media & Communications Commission, Finance Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I have a motion and a second on the floor to approve Resolution No. 3 entitled, "Authorization to Purchase Paper from Lindenmyer Central." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 4: National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL) has been in existence since 1949; and

WHEREAS, The importance of a historians association was first recognized by the National Executive Committee at its May 1951 meeting in Resolution No. 57, "Encourage the Writing of American Legion History"; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of NADHAL is to give and gain mutual aid in collecting from year to year all records and data of value and interest; in the compilation of complete histories of each year's activities and stimulation of in the preparation of annual histories; to coordinate and unify the work of post historians; and to increase the appreciation of the importance and responsibility of the office of historian; and

WHEREAS, Membership in NADHAL is contingent upon membership in good standing in The American Legion and having been a department or national historian; and

WHEREAS, There are currently eighteen (18) officers in NADHAL – the president, nine (9) vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, judge advocate, chaplain, assistant chaplain, sergeant-at-arms, editor of the newsletter and historian; and

WHEREAS, NADHAL meets twice a year, once at the National Convention, and once during the week of the October National Executive Committee meeting, for a social time of the members, to assist the national historian conduct the annual history contest and to conduct any business that may arise; and

WHEREAS, Membership in NADHAL is voluntary and not mandatory; and

WHEREAS, Participation in the paying of NADHAL annual dues is also voluntary and at a minimum amount; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the existence of the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL) be formally authorized by the National Executive Committee upon (1) approval of this resolution and (2) the constitution and by-laws approval by the national judge advocate; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all monetary funds from dues (or any source) shall be used for operational expenses of NADHAL, shall be deposited with, and maintained by, the national Finance Division which shall report same to the national Finance Commission and provide status of the funds to the NADHAL treasurer for their annual meeting in October.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 4 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. *…Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to approve Resolution No. 4 entitled, "National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. Continue.

Resolution No. 5: National American Legion College Tuition Change
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Headquarters has conducted National American Legion College, providing vital training and development to Legionnaires and aspiring leaders; and

WHEREAS, The cost required for each student to attend the college for seven days covers transportation, lodging, per diem, materials, and activities; and

WHEREAS, When National American Legion College resumed from the 1950s in 1999, the average total cost per student was $1,145; and

WHEREAS, Today, with the cost of inflation that cost is now $1,755 per student; and

WHEREAS, The costs for students to attend the college are shared between national and departments as set in 1999, where each department pays $600 per student, and today, with the cost of inflation, that shared value is now $920 per student; and

WHEREAS, National recognizes the importance of this training and the partnership of each department and desires to make the cost sharing reasonable, but in order to continue the training at the current level the original tuition of $600.00 paid by departments must increase in order to cover a portion of the increased costs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the $600 charged to departments for each student to attend National American Legion College be raised from $600 to $800 per student effective with the class of 2019, which will convene November 3-8, 2019.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 5 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion on the floor and a second to approve Resolution No. 5 entitled, "National American Legion College Tuition Change." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed**.**

Resolution No. 6: 2022 National Convention Contract
Origin: Convention Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission has reviewed the status of the proposed National American Legion Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 26 - September 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Subject to receiving a properly executed contract from the 2022 National American Legion Convention-Corporation, the Convention Commission believes that all conditions for a contract covering The American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 26 - September 1, 2022, have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission hereby recommends to the National Executive Committee that it enter into the appropriate contract with the 2022 National American Legion Convention-Corporation to cover the 2022 American Legion National Convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the national commander, after receipt of an executed contract from the 2022 National American Legion Convention-Corporation and the review and approval of same from the national judge advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract and the national adjutant, be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 6 has the approval of the Convention Commission and the Finance Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I have a motion and a second on the floor to approve Resolution No. 6 entitled, "The 2022 National Convention Contract." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 7: Acceptance of Financial Grants from Organizations that Align with the Purposes and Policies of The American Legion
Origin: Marketing Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion qualifies for numerous opportunities to apply and accept financial grants from many organizations; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion can greatly benefit financially from such grants; and

WHEREAS, Any financial grants should only be accepted from organizations that are aligned with the purposes and policies of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion may accept financial grants from organizations that are aligned with purposes and policies of The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That after review and approval by the Marketing Commission chairman, the Finance Commission chairman, and the national judge advocate, the national commander be and is hereby authorized to execute the necessary documents for acceptance of financial grants and the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the purpose, amount and conditions of any such accepted grants shall be reported by the Finance Commission to the National Executive Committee at the next official meeting following the acceptance of such grants.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution No. 7 has the approval of the Marketing Commission, Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and second on the floor to approve Resolution No. 7 entitled, "Acceptance of Financial Grants From Organizations That Align With the Purposes and Policies of The American Legion." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. Chairman Keener?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: Commander, I request that the commander call Past National Commander Koutz and along with Commission Chairman Michael Rohan, Marketing, and also Al Lennox, who is a member of my charities, for a presentation of a check. *...National Vice Commander Pisa assumed the chair.*

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KEENER: Commander, it's always been great to work with people who know how to raise money. Michael and I have been talking since day one, we've worked together, and I want him to be in this because his group helped raise these funds of $400,000 for the Veterans & Children Foundation. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Chairman Keener and Vice Chairman Koutz, I want to thank you for this most generous contribution to the Veterans & Children Foundation. I know it will be received very well. I appreciate it.

...National Commander Reistad resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: The chair now recognizes Ralph P. Bozella of Colorado, chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, for the purpose of his report.

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

Good morning, commander, national officers, NEC, and guests. A written report is filed. I would like to highlight some of the activities of the VA&R Commission since our last report before you in October of 2018.

The VA&R Commission met in one full commission meeting, and each of our three committees on veterans benefits, veterans health administration, and veterans cemeteries

also met at the National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. We had presentations from all three undersecretaries of VA in benefits, health administration, and cemeteries, and we appreciated their participation at our meeting.

I also think it's important to note a VA&R consultant that is listed in our blue book, Dr. Kenneth Kizer, was also present, and that was a real treat to have Dr. Kizer at our meeting in person. I've communicated with him before by email, but I have not had the opportunity to meet him. If you know, he was credited with vastly improving the VA health-care system in the 1990s. And I had the opportunity to go to lunch and to meet with him and talk about veterans health, and that was a rewarding experience for me, certainly.

Our TBI/PTSD Committee also met while we were in Washington. A highlight of that was Dr. Keita Franklin, the executive director for suicide prevention at VA, was there, and we had a really frank discussion about how suicide prevention needs to move from discussions at a national level to the community level. Because, really, as we all know, suicide is a very personal issue, a home issue, it's a family issue, it's community! We have the opportunity to provide community resources. And our committee challenged Dr. Franklin to work with The American Legion in that respect.

I'm happy to report, in Commander Brett Reistad's message of April 24, the VA suicide prevention program, has links that we can get into, and find resources and strategies of how we can work at the department level and the post level for suicide prevention. I think this is one of the most important activities that The American Legion can take on. I want to be clear about this. What we're talking about is training. Training our members to be able to recognize a veteran who is possibly at risk for suicide, and then how to connect that person to the right resources within VA. We are not proposing at all that we're going to train our people to become mental health counselors or suicide prevention counselors. So let's be clear that's what this is all about.

I encourage you to look more into that message of April 24, I think it is, from the commander. Get into those links. If you have questions about this, you can contact our office in Washington, D.C. And also, I know the VA hospitals are supposed to be assisting with this as a resource within our communities.

Your VA&R Executive Committee, which you authorized in May of 2018, also met in this building in Room 301 on Monday and Tuesday. The first thing, after our opening ceremonies, was a moment of silence in honor of our TBI/PTSD former chairman, Bill Detweiler. Bill was so essential to veterans advocacy, as was testified here this morning in the eulogies. Having the opportunity to work with him and know him as a friend over the past years, Bill's the kind of person that helps us all improve our lives as Legionnaires and on a personal level. I just appreciate the opportunity I had to know such a wonderful and great man.

What we did at our meeting is we reviewed our awards. I want to pull this out in front of you again. I talked to you about it in October. You got one of these again on your desk. Why is this guy doing it again? I know, as an educator, you got to hear things a couple, two, three times so it will sink in. We're going to make this easy for you to deal with it. Our American Legion and VA Doctor of the Year Award and VA Health-care Provider of the Year Award program is in existence. If you were at the Washington Conference, you saw two winners on that stage. Our office will get an email to your department offices, to the adjutant, you, the NEC, and to your department commanders, with links to the applications. We highly encourage you to recommend those deserving people in your communities.

The Lenker Award, which is presented at our national convention every year, we will send an email to you by May 15. The deadline of the Lenker Award will be July 15. We hope to have more people this year apply for the VA&R veterans service award, the Lenker Award. You don't have to send us books of material. I can tell when you send us whole books about what you're doing. We're not going to read it, we have a whole lot to do. But if you take that application, and there's 22 or 23 questions, and you answer those questions in a quantitive and a qualitive way. We can evaluate that and have a fair evaluation. Bigger departments against smaller departments. So we ask you to do that.

What's not on the card are the VA Certificates of Appreciation. When a VA employee is retiring, a deserving employee is retiring or resigning from VA, all you have to do is contact our office, and we will send you a signed certificate. You frame it and present it to that deserving employee at any time you want: at a VA hospital, at one of your department functions or post functions, however you want to do it.

And the other is The American Legion Citation for Meritorious Service. That's where we recognize our own American Legion volunteers who are doing outstanding work to help veterans in our communities. You know, volunteers don't work for money, but they certainly work for recognition. The more we recognize the outstanding work of people, the more I think we can help veterans in that vein.

We had an update in our TBI/PTSD Committee. I'm very, very pleased to announce that past national commander from Pennsylvania, Ron Conley, is the new TBI/PTSD Committee chairman. Ron has, obviously, a tremendous passion for serving veterans. He has a great wealth of experience in servings veterans. And his leadership style, he can bring to this committee that I know personally, and our committee is looking very, very forward to working with Commander Conley on this. He will have a report for you today at 1:30 and is going to announce a mental health survey that we're very excited about.

We had an update on the Veterans Benefits Committee. Most of the stats you can read in the report that we had today. The Appeals Modernization Act was rolled out in February, and I think we're on top of that and it's working well for the claims that The American Legion has. We continue with our ROAR. Our regional office review team visits in the various VA offices throughout the country.

And we also had an update on VA health. I want to talk about the MISSION Act for a moment. You know, we're very concerned about the MISSION Act. We helped write the MISSION Act. Our staff worked very, very diligently with VA and Congress for that act. I want you to know that we're very vigilant to ensure that the MISSION Act is not leading us into privatization for veterans health care. We're paying attention. We want to be sure that the veterans' health records are properly being transferred from the community care providers back to the VA for the record. We're also keeping tabs on the payments. Are the payments timely? Are they not getting veterans in trouble with the payments? So we're paying very close attention to that.

VA has a new program now, it's called VA AIR, Asset and Infrastructure Review. It's kind of like the old BRAC program from the military bases where they're reviewing their infrastructure, their buildings, and shutting down buildings. That becomes very political because people can lose VA facilities in their communities. I know everyone gets excited about that: Congress, senators, as well as you, representing The American Legion and the people in your community. So we're keeping an eye on that as well. We are also keeping tabs on something very near and dear to Commander Detweiler's heart, and that's the caregiver program.

Our System Worth Saving program is in full force for 2019. We have had five site visits, and we have nine more to go this year. One that I want to mention will be to Mountain Home, Tennessee, in mid-June. Dr. Phil Roe, former chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and now ranking member of that committee, has contacted our American Legion office and personally requested that we come to Mountain Home, Tennessee. That, I think, is a testimony to the kind of great work that we're doing with that System Worth Saving program.

We had an update on the Cemetery Committee. One of the three resolutions that you will see today from our report will have to do with the burial situation at Arlington National Cemetery, the eligibility for that. You'll have an opportunity to discuss that later.

I want to mention that Chanin Nuntavong is our staff director. You met Chanin. I know many of you met him personally. We have lost a lot of staff in our VA&R offices in Washington, D.C. I used to tell Lou Celli "We're like the minor leagues. You find this great talent, you train them up, you expose them to this environment in Washington, D.C. and they then poach us," and that continues to go on.

We're concerned about that. Chanin is doing a really good job of rebuilding that staff. I want to compliment the staff that we have that are still in those offices on the cross-training that they received, and the other tasks that they're taking on. So we're catching up with a lot of things including the System Worth Saving.

Commander, as you know, I like to always remind you that VA&R issues never rest, and we're constantly at work. Our staff and our volunteers are working to meet the challenges of VA and meet the challenges of ensuring that veterans get their health-care benefits, pensions, compensation, and memorial benefits that are deserving to veterans and our families. Commander, I can think of no other higher calling, and I appreciate the opportunity you provided to me to serve in this capacity. That concludes my report, sir.

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

I. 2019 DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS SCHOOL

The first session of the 2019 Department Service Officers School was held at the Washington, D.C. Hilton from February 27-March 1, 2019. In attendance were 90 Department, State, and County Veterans Service Officers from around the country, Germany and Puerto Rico.

Pre-event activities included a National Association of Department Service Officers (NADSO) reception at TAL National Headquarters on Tuesday evening, which included a presentation VETPRO by Jay Joyce of Panoramic Software. The event was attended by VA&R Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella who briefly addressed the group.

The training session began with a welcome and greetings from Chanin Nuntavong, Director of VA&R and Greg Nembhard, Deputy Director for Claims Services. Introductions were also made with our training partners, Bergmann and Moore.

Following the welcome and introduction, the training curriculum broke out into three separate classrooms, each covering the same curriculum. Like the previous DSO School, service officers were assigned seating based on their experience; the purpose was to pair experienced service officers with those having less experience. The goal was to use the better-trained service officers to facilitate discussion and share their personal experiences with those less experienced. Attorneys from Bergmann and Moore facilitated all the training.

The theme for this training session was “Winning New Claims at Your Regional Office”. Topics for discussion included: DSO Ethics; the claims process and deadlines; applying for VA benefits, eligibility and entitlement; chronic conditions, secondary conditions and aggravation; gathering of evidence; requesting records; individual unemployability; exposure claims; rating disabilities, recent court cases, survivor benefits, aid and attendance; compensation and pension exams; and the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017.

On Thursday, February 28th, Service officers received a briefing from Ms. Carole Hamm and Anjum Ansari of Abbott Diabetes Care. Ms. Hamm discussed the Freestyle Libre 14 Day System and its availability and benefits to the Veteran community suffering from diabetes.

The next Department Service Officer School is currently scheduled to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 8-10, 2019.

II. NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE

The 96th Annual Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Conference was held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Monday, February 25, 2019.

III. MEETING OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission met on February 25, 2019, in the Jefferson Room, Concourse Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC. Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella, (CO) presided.

Reports received, together with matters considered during this meeting, are as follows:

A.) Report on Certificates of Appreciation

The VA&R Commission presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jacob Gadd, VSO Liaison for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Gadd resigned his post at VA and was recognized for his outstanding work with the American Legion and other VSO's.

Moving forward, any department wishing to nominate an individual for a Certificate of Appreciation will need to submit the name and write-up to the Director of VA&R.

B). VAVS Volunteer of the Year Award/Legion Volunteering

National Commander Brett Reistad presented Mr. Roscoe Eagle, the VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) Worker of the Year award during the 2019 Washington Conference. Legionnaire Eagle, a 33-year Paid-Up for Life member of the General Billy Mitchell Post 85 in Arlington, Virginia, was accompanied to the ceremony by his wife Edna and Mr. Aldean Swan, the Chief of Voluntary Services of the Washington DC VA Medical Center where he volunteers. Mr. Eagle has been a constant presence at the Washington DC VAMC for many years and he has accumulated more than 5,000 voluntary hours at the facility.

The American Legion's Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program continues to support VA initiatives that support the care and treatment of veteran patients in VA medical facilities. During fiscal year 2018, Legionnaires volunteered at over 200 VA facilities, which included VA medical centers, community clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses, state Veteran's Homes and national cemeteries.

An impressive total of 4,642 regularly scheduled volunteers contributed 706,996 hours and 13,932 occasional visits contributed an additional 59,568.75 hours for a grand total of 766,564.75 hours volunteered by American Legion members. With more than three-quarters of a million hours volunteered, The American Legion saved the Department of Veterans Affairs more than $18,926 dollars million in 2018.

The 73rd Annual VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee Meeting and Conference was held April 30-May 4, 2019 in San Antonio, Texas.

Remarks

Joseph R. Tober, Executive Director Veterans Canteen Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, briefed the commission on the mission of the Veterans Canteen Service which is to provide America's veterans enrolled in VA's healthcare system, their families, caregivers, VA employees, volunteers, and visitors reasonably priced merchandise and services essential to their comfort and well-being. The Veterans Canteen Service was created by public law #109-461 in 1946. It is self-sustaining and an independent entity within VHA. Mr. Tober mentioned that online shopping is now available to veterans enrolled in VA, their families and VA employees. Mr. Tober encouraged the commission members to support their local canteen because a portion of the profit goes back into programs to help veterans. To date the canteen service has donated a total of $8.3 million dollars to various programs.

Dr. Richard A. Stone, Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Stone provided an update on the implementation of the Mission Act. Dr. Stone mentioned that veterans will see an increase to access under the Mission Act in six sections, five which are in statute and one permitting the VA the flexibility to grant. Dr. Stone also noted that the 40 mile radius under the Choice Program would no longer exist and the new standards for veterans to be seen in the community would be 30 minute drive time from their home of record or 20 days wait for primary care

and 60 minute drive time and 28 days for specialty care. According to Dr. Stone nine out of ten veterans eligible to been seen outside of VA under Choice did not go to their appointments, but rather opted to wait for an appointment and 90% of first time visit to outside providers came back to VA. Dr. Stone assured the commission that VA is not moving money from healthcare and has no plans to dismantle the VA system. Dr. Stone explained that the future of VA should be left veterans to decide.

Dr. Paul R. Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits VBA for the Department of Veterans Affairs, stated that VA is changing for the better. He based his opinion on the results of two surveys and a recent study by Dartmouth. The latest veterans satisfaction survey demonstrated that 87.7% of veterans who responded trust the VA and are very satisfied with their care, compared to 47% in 2015. The Partnership for Public Service employee survey ranked VA 6th among the 17 largest federal government organizations to work for in 2018. The Dartmouth Study of 2018 found that VA medical care is as good as or better than the private sector and that wait times found at VA are shorter than the private sector in primary care and two of three specialty care areas. Dr. Lawrence also took the time to explain and apologize for the confusion last fall when implementing the housing allowance for veterans utilizing the Post 9-11 GI Bill. He assured that all veterans who were affected would be receiving retroactive payments dated back to August 1, 2018, when the law became effective. Dr. Lawrence congratulated The American Legion on its 100th birthday and for all the organization has done to advocate for veterans. He reminded the commission that our history is intertwined and our relationship is strong and powerful.

Randy C. Reeves, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs. Under Secretary Reeves discussed NCA's Legacy Program and the importance never to forget those that have served the nation. He challenged us to get involved in community efforts to fund additional state and tribal cemeteries and to garner support nationwide. Under Secretary Reeves asked that The American Legion support legislation to ensure the Legacy Program can be self-sustained into the future to ensure that veterans buried in cemeteries across the nation do not suffer a second loss of being forgotten. Under Secretary Reeves shared two inspiration videos highlighting NCA employees and their dedication to ensure that all veterans and their dependents are buried with honor and respect. Under Secretary Reeves mentioned that during 2018 NCA was able to provide 92.12% of veterans with access to a veteran cemetery within 75 miles of their home of record. He mentioned that his goal was to increase access to 93.74% by 2022 by expanding current cemeteries or opening new ones.

Mark Mullot, Jason Thenisen, Kara Titus, and Nora Riley from Cerner provided the commission with an interactive presentation highlighting the new Electronic Healthcare Record (EHR) and how it will improve veteran health care and experience when it's officially launched. In May of 2018, VA signed one of the largest contracts in the federal government with Cerner to create an EHR system. VA has lauded the EHR as a game changer that will help provide seamless care to veterans as they transition from military service to veteran status, and if they choose to use community care. The contract spans 10 years and worth $10 billion.

Pradheep Sampath, Chief Product Officer and Meredith Work, Public Sector Accountant Executive from ID.me briefed the commission on their company's mission and current contract with VA. In 2016, veterans online benefits and services, such as refilling prescriptions or tacking disability claims were embedded across 500 different veteran facing websites. In an attempt to streamline services and deliver a cohesive user experience, VA launched VA.gov, a secure digital portal that gives veterans direct access to their benefits and resources online. VA's objective was to improve the veterans digital experience and better enable veterans to discover and claim the benefits they have earned. VA.gov would become the veterans community's digital front door to access all VA information. VA contracted ID.me to deliver an authentication process that was compliant with federal government security standards and provide a way for veterans with existing login credentials to continue using them while making them more secure. Id.me provides identity verification and authentication online or in person. In person identity proofing can

be accomplished by a "trusted referee." ID.me recommended that all American Legion accredited representatives to be recognized as a trusted referee. Any service officer that is interested needs to complete a short training session and pass the certification program test. The American Legion is encouraging service officers to complete the training in able to better assist veterans.

Resolutions

During the afternoon business session, Ralph P. Bozella (CO), Chairman, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission lead a discussion on the following resolutions in order to prepare for the Spring National Executive Committee Meeting.

Title: Allow Updates to the Burn Pit Registry With Additional Veteran's Information As Needed
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Title: Oppose Service-Connected Veterans Paying Co-Payments For Any Service-Connected Conditions
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Title: Establish Green Alert Systems For Veterans With A History Of Mental Issues
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Title: Housing Allowance For VA Employees Living In High Cost-Of-Living Areas
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

The Commission recommended a modification to the "Housing Allowance" resolution for clarity and all four (4) resolutions were recommended for presentation to the 2019 Spring National Executive Committee meeting for consideration.

C). Report on Health Administration Committee

The Health Administration Committee met on February 25, 2019, in Piscataway, Lobby Level. During the hour-long breakout, the committee heard Margaret Kabat, National Director, Caregiver Support Program, Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Kabat discussed VA's expansion of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) required by the MISSION Act. Ms. Kabat explained that the MISSION Act, expands eligibility for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) of veterans injured in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, and on or after September 11, 2001(~ 2020), and all veterans injured in the line of duty (~2022).

Ms. Kabat explained before VA can expand the program, the MISSION Act requires VA to implement an information technology system that fully supports PCAFC, allows for data assessment, and allows for comprehensive monitoring of all aspects of PCAFC.

D). Report on Benefits Committee

The Benefits Committee met on February 25, 2019, in the Lincoln Room. The committee conducted a panel discussion with the following participants Cheryl L. Mason, Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs. Topics of discussion included an overview of the Board of Veterans' Appeals and the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017; and the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP).

E). Report on Cemetery Committee

The National Cemetery Committee met on February 25, 2019, in the Shaw Room, First Floor Level. The committee welcomed Ms. Renea C. Yates, Deputy Director and Major Shannon T. Way, Army Strategist, Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) and Mr. Lawrence Provost, Program Analyst, Partnership & Outreach, National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

Ms. Yates and Major Way explained that in order to expand the life span of Arlington as an active cemetery. The Arlington Advisory Committee has proposed to change the eligibility criteria for burial and internment. The recommendations for who should be

eligible for burial include those killed in action (KIA's), individuals who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal and the Purple Heart. They stressed that these were tough decisions that needed to be made, without changes to the eligibility criteria ANC would reach maximum capacity by midcentury. Congress now needs to act on the recommendations, and the new criteria need to be established no later than September 2019 with implementation beginning in October 2019. Mr. Provost from NCA briefed the committee on burial and interment options at a national, state or tribal cemetery operated by NCA. Mr. Provost explained that NCA operates cemeteries across the nation and benefits include a gravesite; the opening and closing of the grave; grave liner; government headstone or marker; perpetual care of the grave; a burial flag; and Presidential Memorial Certificate at no cost to the family.

F). System Worth Saving Program (SWS)

Past National Commander (PNC), Ronald Conley initiated the SWS Program in 2003. The American Legion resolved to support the SWS program through Resolution 206, which authorized visits to designated Veterans Administration Medical Centers. The American Legion passed Resolution 105, "Reiteration of the SWS Program" during its 2015 National Convention that established SWS as a permanent program managed by the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission (VA&R).

Site visits 2019

During 2019, the following site visits were completed: Tampa, FL (Jan. 21-23), Palo Alto, CA (Feb. 4-6), New Orleans, LA (Mar. 11-13), and Fayetteville, AR (Apr. 8-10).

The following site visits are scheduled: Topeka, KS (May 20-22), Wilkes Barre, PA (Jun. 17-19), Martinsburg, WV (Jul. 15-17, Danville, IL (Aug. 5-7), Washington, DC (Sep. 23-25), Lexington, KY (Oct. 22-24), Salisbury, NC (Nov. 4-6), and Montgomery, AL (Dec. 2-4). Dr. Phil Roes, Ranking Member, House Veterans Affairs Committee has requested a SWS visit to Mountain Home Tennessee. The visit has been scheduled for June 15-17, 2019.

Veteran Town Hall Meetings

The American Legion conducts a veteran town hall meeting on the first day of a site visit at a local American Legion post. The town hall gives veterans and their families an opportunity to discuss their experiences at the local VA medical center with staff from The American Legion National Headquarters and a VA&R Commission member.

Executive Leadership Meeting

During the medical facility site visits, VA&R Commission members, and National staff conduct interviews with VA staff from the following areas: Human Resources, Business Office, Enrollment, Non-VA Care, Choice Program, Outreach, all Clinical Services, Homeless Program, Patient Advocate, Construction, Budget, and the Women's Program. For each of the programs listed, The American Legion seeks to understand what new innovations or progress that have been made, the current situation, goals, and a strategic plan that.

G.) Report of The American Legion TBI/PTSD Committee

In 2017, The American Legion declared suicide prevention as one of its top priorities. Increasingly concerned by the number of veterans taking their own lives, The American Legion established a Suicide Prevention Program and aligned the program under the TBI & PTSD Committee. This committee reviews methods, programs and strategies that can be used to treat TBI & PTSD. To reduce veteran suicide this committee seeks to influence legislation and operational policies that can facilitate quality health care for veterans regardless of combat era.

On Sunday, January 24, 2019, the TBI/PTSD Committee met at The Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C., during the Washington Mid-Winter Conference. PNC and TBI/PTSD Committee Chairman William Detweiler was unable to attend; Committee Vice Chairman Ralph Bozella conducted the meeting. The guest speaker for the TBI/PTSD

Committee meeting was Dr. Keita Franklin, Executive Director for the Suicide Prevention for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Franklin gave a powerpoint presentation on the Veteran Suicide and Suicide Prevention. The presentation covered the following topics: National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2018 – 2028, The Mayor's Challenge, VA suicide prevention goals for 2019, and suicide prevention training initiatives like S.A.V.E., Psyche Armor, Make the Connection, and #BeThere.

During the meeting, Dr. Jeanne Stellman, Ph.D., discussed The American Legion/Columbia University Study on Agent Orange and PTSD. TBI/PTSD Committee.

Vice Chairman Ralph Bozella led a discussion for the committee's plans for 2019, including the importance of adhering to Resolution No. 20, The American Legion's Suicide Prevention Program. Chairman Bozella emphasized the need for a 2019 Mental Health Survey and an Annual Report submitted to the VA&R Commission in October.

TBI/PTSD Committee hosted a conference call planning meeting on March 24, 2019 to discuss the 2019 Mental Health Survey. The purpose of the survey is to identify traditional and alternative programs used to treat veteran mental health and prevent suicide. The Committee will endeavor to have a completed 2019 Annual Report in October, detailing the findings of the 2019 Mental Health Survey. The TBI/ PTSD Committee will also work on finalizing the plan for a meeting during the 2019 National Convention.

Joshua Hastings, who has been working with Roscoe Butler, Deputy Director for Health Policy, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and Nuntavong, Chanin, Executive Director, Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation, will provide his updates on the Mental Health Survey and Annual Report for 2019 during this meeting.

IV. VA&R Executive Committee

VA&R Chairman Ralph Bozella has requested a meeting for the VA&R Executive Committee, May 6-7 at the NEC Spring Meeting in Indianapolis. An Agenda has been submitted and an oral report will be presented to the NEC at the Spring Meeting.

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

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission introduced three (3) resolutions to the National Executive Committee for adoption:

Origin	Title
VA&R	Allow Updates to the Burn Pit Registry With Additional Veteran's Information As Needed
VA&R	Oppose Service-Connected Veterans Paying Co-Payments For Any Service-Connected Conditions
VA&R	Establish New Eligibility Criteria for Burial and Interment at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC)

Three (3) resolutions were presented to the Resolutions Subcommittee by the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. Zero (0) resolutions was received and recorded and zero (0) resolutions were disposed of administratively.

VA&R COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee met on May 6-7, 2019, Room 301, American Legion National Headquarters, Indianapolis, IN. Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella, (CO) presided. A brief moment of silence was held in honor of PNC Bill Detweiler. Agenda topics included resolutions for NEC consideration, review of the VA&R awards and recognitions, and updates from the TBI/PTSD, Benefits, Health and Cemetery Committees.

CLAIMS SERVICES UPDATE

Department Service Officers School

The first session of the 2019 Department Service Officers School was held at the Washington, D.C. Hilton from February 27-March 1, 2019. In attendance were 90 Department, State, and County Veterans Service Officers from around the country, Germany and Puerto Rico.

Pre-event activities included a National Association of Department Service Officers (NADSO) reception at TAL National Headquarters on Tuesday evening, which included a presentation VETPRO by Jay Joyce of Panoramic Software. The event was attended by VA&R Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella who briefly addressed the group.

The training session began with a welcome and greetings from Chanin Nuntavong, VA&R Director and Greg Nembhard, Deputy Director for Claims Services. Introductions were also made with our training partners, Bergmann and Moore.

Following the welcome and introduction, the training curriculum broke out into three separate classrooms, each covering the same curriculum. Like the previous DSO School, service officers were assigned seating based on their experience. The purpose was to pair experienced service officers with those having less experience. The goal was to use the better-trained service officers to facilitate discussion and share their personal experiences with those less experienced. Attorneys from Bergmann and Moore facilitated all the training.

The theme for this training session was "Winning New Claims at Your Regional Office". Topics for discussion included: DSO Ethics; the claims process and deadlines; applying for VA benefits, eligibility and entitlement; chronic conditions, secondary conditions and aggravation; gathering of evidence; requesting records; individual unemployability; exposure claims; rating disabilities, recent court cases, survivor benefits, aid and attendance; compensation and pension exams; and the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017.

On Thursday, February 28th, Service officers received a briefing from Ms. Carole Hamm and Anjum Ansari of Abbott Diabetes Care. Ms. Hamm discussed the Freestyle Libre 14 Day System and its availability and benefits to the Veteran community suffering from diabetes.

The next Department Service Officer School is currently scheduled to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 7-9, 2019.

ROAR Site Visits

As of April 30, 2019, the following ROAR site visits have been completed: New York, NY Regional Office (RO) (Jan. 21-23), Lincoln, NE RO (Feb. 11-13), New Orleans, LA RO (Mar 11-13), and the Little Rock, AR RO (Apr 8-10.

The following site visits are scheduled for the remainder of the year: Wilmington, DE RO (May 20-22), St. Petersberg, FL RO (Jun. 17-19), Newark, NJ RO (Jul 22-24), Providence, RI RO (Aug 5-7), Hartford, CT RO (Aug. 20-22), Anchorage, AK RO (Sep. 23-25), Washington, DC RO (Oct. 22-24), Winston-Salem, NC RO (Nov. 4-6) and Montgomery, AL RO (Dec. 2-4).

The purpose of this visit was to review the service-connected disability compensation claims processing functions within the RO. Before the implementation of NWQ, VA ROs were primarily responsible for service-connected disability compensation claims for veterans residing in the respective states they were located. However, under the NWQ, claims are assigned to ROs based on the capacity and workload. The NWQ has drastically changed the way claims are processed, a change not fully embraced by employees across the ROs.

Board of Veterans' Appeals

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) reached dispositions on 5,996 American Legion represented appeals during fiscal year October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. Of those dispositions, over 72.0% of the denials were overturned with outcomes favorable to

the veteran. In 2,079 cases, the Board granted benefits outright after considering The American Legion's arguments. In 2,297 cases, The American Legion was able to point out errors in the development of the veteran's claims, which mandated corrective action under the law. Of the total number of dispositions, only 1,350 (22.5%) were outright denials. Nearly 4,000 claimants were represented by The American Legion's BVA unit in (FY October 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019) through submission of informal hearing presentations or veterans' hearings. These claims included originals and remands as well as special cases (Advanced on Docket, Independent Medical Opinions, Court Remands, etc.). The BVA Unit also handled numerous telephone inquiries and provided consultation with veterans, VSOs, and Congressional offices. The administrative team completed 1633 phone inquiries during this period. The disability claims specialists provided assistance for 13 walk-in veterans for their individual hearings held at the Board.

Appeals Modernization

The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (Appeals Modernization Act (AMA)) became law on August 23, 2017 (Pub L. 115-55). Here are the key provisions:

• Includes three options for veterans dissatisfied with VA's decision.

• Requires enhanced notification letters so veterans will understand what additional evidence is needed to support a favorable or more favorable decision.

• Streamlines the claims and appeals process to provide veterans with the earliest possible claim resolution.

• Provides safeguards to ensure that the veteran receives the earliest effective date possible if a favorable decision is made.

The three options afforded veterans under the Appeals Modernization Act are as follows:

• Option 1: **Higher-Level Review Lane**

A reviewer conducts a higher-level de novo review of the decision based on the same evidence of record. The higher-level review consists of a closed record; therefore, there is no submission of new evidence. A reviewer can overturn a previous decision based on a difference of opinion, or based on clear and unmistakable error. A reviewer who identifies a duty to assist error can return the claim for correction of the error. The veteran or the veteran's representative can request an informal hearing by telephone to identify specific issues or errors.

• Option 2: **Supplemental Claim Lane**

This review is done at the VA office that made the original decision. It allows the veteran to submit new evidence to support his or her claim and VA will assist in obtaining pertinent records.

• Option 3: **Appeal Directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals Lane**

This lane provides the veteran with the option of appealing directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The veteran can choose a direct review if he or she has no additional evidence to submit; a review based on additional evidence but without a hearing; or a hearing before a Veterans Law Judge at which the veteran may submit additional evidence.

Under a transitional phase known as the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP), veterans who chose to "opt in" had the opportunity to have their appeals handled under most of the new provisions. On March 19, 2019, the Appeals Modernization Act will be fully implemented and the RAMP process was discontinued. The AMA has now been in effect for a short time, but VA Regional Office staff are still not fully trained on the changes and how they apply. We have continued to impress upon the VBA a need to ongoing, robust training to avoid unnecessary delays of compensation claim, or worse, erroneous denials.

New BVA Unit Team Established in Indianapolis

The week of April 2, 2018, then VA&R Director Louis Celli established a new team of The American Legion BVA Unit at the John H. Geiger Operations Center. At present, the new team is comprised of a Team Leader, two Team Trainers, and eight veterans

disability claims specialists. Effective May 13, 2019, the Indy team will have been fully staffed. Administrative control and support for the team is provided through the BVA unit in Washington, DC. We recruited and hired candidates for the veterans disability claims specialist position who have a rich variety of experience and a wealth of knowledge from the VA.

This new team was made feasible because of the willingness of the Board of Veterans' Appeals to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with The American Legion. The MOU allows our BVA Unit staff to have remote access through a system known as CITRIX, which enables access to veterans' necessary information and individual claims records. CITRIX enables our staff the ability to perform advocacy work as veterans' appeals are adjudicated at the Board. Here is the current make-up of the Board Unit Team:

1. 425 I St., Washington, DC – One team (one Team Lead five Claims Specialist, and one Team Trainer)
2. 1608 K St. NW, Washington, DC – One team (four Claims Specialist, and one Team Trainer)
3. GOC, Indy – Two Teams (One Team Lead, eight Claims Specialist, and two Team Trainers)

The teams have been receiving monthly training by Bergmann and Moore attorneys on a variety of topics. We have also conducted two site visits to the team in Indy and was able to provide one-on-one training for the team members. Bergmann and Moore is currently preparing training to simplify but increase the efficiency of the Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) completed by Board Unit employees to advocate for veterans who have appealed a VA decision. We are currently working hard to reduce the backlog even more while looking ahead to Blue Water Navy and its potential impact of the number of claims and appeals that may hit the system.

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE

System Worth Saving site visits 2019

As of April 30, 2019, the following site visits have been completed: James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa, FL (Jan. 21-23), VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, CA (Feb. 4-6), El Paso VA Health Care System, El Paso TX (Feb. 11-13), Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, New Orleans LA (Mar. 11-13), and Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, Fayetteville, AR (Apr. 8-10.

The following site visits are scheduled for the remainder of the year: VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System – Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center, Topeka, KS (May 20-22), Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre PA (Jun. 17-19), Mountain Home VA Healthcare System, Johnson City TN (Jun. 17-19), Martinsburg VA Medical Center Martinsburg, WV (Jul. 22-24), VA Illiana Health Care System, Danville IL (Aug. 5-7), Washington DC VA Medical Center, Washington DC (Sep. 23-25), Lexington VA Health Care System, Lexington KY (Oct. 22-24), W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center, Salisbury NC (Nov. 4-6) and Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, Montgomery, AL (Dec. 2-4).

Of note, The American Legion visited the facility in New Orleans, LA, with the intended purpose of assessing the newly built hospital 15 years after the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Common themes recognized up to this point during the first half of the 2019 SWS visits are the following:

- Lack of adequate space continues to be problematic at VA/VHA medical facilities.
- Staffing/Retention and Recruitment of qualified health care professionals.

TBI/PTSD Committee

On Sunday, February 24, 2019, the TBI/PTSD Committee met at The Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C., during the Washington Mid-Winter Conference. PNC and TBI/PTSD Committee Chairman William Detweiler was unable to attend; Committee Vice Chairman Ralph Bozella conducted the meeting. The guest speaker for the TBI/PTSD Committee meeting was Dr. Keita Franklin, Executive Director for the Suicide Prevention for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Franklin gave a powerpoint presentation on Veteran Suicide and Suicide Prevention. The presentation covered the following topics: National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2018 – 2028, The Mayor's Challenge, VA suicide prevention goals for 2019, and suicide prevention training initiatives like S.A.V.E., Psyche Armor, Make the Connection, and #BeThere. Other topic discussed during the Mid-Winter Washington Conference included:

- The need for increased suicide prevention education
- The need for increased suicide prevention awareness
- The need for a consolidated list of available resources for veterans seeking mental health services
- The need for effective dissemination of information pertaining to suicide prevention education, suicide prevention awareness, and available mental health services, down to the post level of The American Legion
- Importance of adhering to Resolution No.20 Suicide Prevention Program

The TBI & PTSD Program Coordinator, Joshua Hastings, briefed the Committee on the 2019 Mental Health Survey on April 10, 2019. The purpose of the survey is to identify traditional and alternative programs used to treat veteran mental health and prevent suicide. The 2019 Mental Health Survey is also designed to collect data on current Suicide Prevention Readiness by evaluating the Suicide Prevention Training taken by participants or lack thereof. If a lack of Suicide Prevention Readiness is found, the evidence will be used to push for increasing the Suicide Prevention Training efforts of The American Legion. If effective Suicide Prevention Training is identified, the training will be vetted as a potential resource for Veterans. The American Legion Mental Health Survey is scheduled for release early May 2019. The Committee will endeavor to have a completed 2019 Annual Report in October, detailing the findings of the 2019 Mental Health Survey.

It has been proposed by The American Legion TBI & PTSD Committee to hold its next TBI & PTSD meeting at the National Convention in Indianapolis on August 23, 2019. Proposed topics for discussion include:

- Reconsolidation of Traumatic Memories (RTM)
- 2019 Mental Health Survey
- MIBH treatments for Veterans and collaboration with VA
- VA Firearm Safety Pilot Program
- Increased Suicide Prevention Training
- Increased Suicide Prevention Outreach

OTHER BUSINESS:

FY20 Budget Proposal:

Next year's budget has allocated $9.4 billion ($426 million above 2019) for mental health services, including $222 million for suicide prevention outreach, a 15.6 million increase over 2019. This is a substantial increase in the budget for mental health services. The American Legion will monitor how this budget is utilized and ensure the money is spent on increasing the mental health services at VA, not wasting or holding the resources in reserve.

MISSION Act:

$8.9 billion was allocated for implementation of the Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (MISSION Act). This Act was created to increase the number of choices Veterans have on where they receive their care. While promising in theory, many of the Outside Networks used in the Mission Act do not have the same accountability standards as the VA. The American Legion will monitor these

Outside Networks to ensure proper treatment is given to Veterans seeking care outside of the VA.

VAVS Program

The American Legion's Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program continues to advocate for veteran patients seeking treatment in VA medical centers, clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses, and state veterans homes, as well as volunteering at veteran's cemeteries, assisting adaptive sports and creative arts programs and veterans benefits offices nationwide. The American Legion has thousands of dedicated men and women from various communities providing significant voluntary contributions to the VA. To continue this important work The American Legion must rely on the diligence of its departments to retain current volunteers and actively recruit new volunteers, particularly from the Iraq and Afghanistan veteran population. Department leadership is also reminded to annually review the rosters of representatives, deputies and associate representatives at their state's facilities and to keep the national VA&R staff informed of any needed changes.

As of the end of the 2nd quarter, 2019, American Legion volunteers totaled 3,724 regularly scheduled and 7,232 occasional visits for an accumulated 367,354.50 hours volunteered, which is a slight increase over 2018 hours volunteered at the same point in time. These volunteer hours result in savings to the Department of Veterans Affairs of more than $8.867 million, an increase of over $3 million at the same point in time from 2018. Legionnaires are encouraged to continue to volunteer and provide gifts and donations for the care of the nation's veterans.

VA 2020 Budget Request Impact on Veterans Health

The proposed budget for FY 2020 funds will provide veterans more quality, timely and efficient services by requesting an increase of over $19 billion, which is close to 10% above the FY 2019 budget.

The increases include money intended to expand health care access and the implementation of the MISSION Act, mental health, women's health, homelessness and the continued development of the electronic health record.

MILITARY BOARDS & MEMORIAL BENEFITS UPDATE

Arlington National Cemetery

As it has been previously reported and briefed by Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) leadership to the VA&R Commission, ANC is nearing maximum capacity. Using the current eligibility criteria and rates of burial, full capacity is expected to be reached by the early 2040s. In an attempt to extend the life of ANC as an active cemetery the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC) has recommended that the eligibility criteria be amended in an effort to expand the life of ANC as an active cemetery well into the future (150 years) and to ensure that those veterans and service members most deserving are afforded the opportunity to choose ANC as their final resting place if they choose.

The advisory committee has recommended that eligibility should be restricted to those killed in action, former prisoners of war, combat-related service deaths, WWII Veterans (above ground burial) or members who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, Silver Star/Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, or the Purple Heart.

ACANC's revised criteria recommendations were sent to the Secretary of the Army on December 1, 2018 for consideration. From December 2018-August 2019 the recommendations and other options will be considered prior to internal CFR rulemaking begins with Headquarters Department of the Army and Department of Defense staffing. In accordance with Public Law 114-158 new criteria must be established no later than September 30, 2019 and will be implemented on October 1, 2019.

NCA's Long Range Goals for FY2020

NCA aims to continue to honor Veterans with final resting places and to commemorate their service to our Nation through the following three priorities. Preserving the Legacy: Ensuring "No Veteran Ever Dies", through the establishment of the Veterans Legacy Program (VLP) NCA will ensure that no Veteran is ever forgotten. VLP will increase the public's awareness of the value and sacrifices of military service and provide an interactive website that will enable virtual memorialization of the millions of Veterans buried at national cemeteries. Second, providing access and choosing VA, NCA's goal is to provide access to a burial in a national, state or tribal Veterans cemetery within 75 miles of their home. NCA anticipates that by 2020 the 75 mile goal will be a reality for 93% of all Veterans. Future plans call on the establishment of national cemeteries in highly rural areas in the states of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Maine, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. And finally, establishing a partnership to serve Veterans thru its grants program. For FY20 NCA has requested $45 million to fund grants for state and tribal cemeteries. Grants play a crucial role in assisting NCA meets its mission in locations not served by a national cemetery. Since 1980, the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program has awarded grants totaling over $815 million for 111 Veterans cemeteries in 48 states and territories.

Insurance, Pension, and Debt Management

The VA&R Pension units at the Philadelphia, St. Paul and Milwaukee VA Pension Centers processed 7,199 new claims for veterans or death pensions, along with reviewing and preparing 10,873 case actions for support of on-going pension benefits. Casework also included processing 10,234 additional transactions and case inquiries to VA, performing 5,233 audits of pension and debt management (St. Paul) rating actions, and 8,799 phone/e-mail contacts with claimants and VSOs. There were 563 personal interview contacts, with 178 appeals. Additionally, the VA&R unit at the St. Paul Center received 647 original debt management claims and 1,777 debt management grants and denials.

During this period, the Department of Veterans Affairs provided a new resource to enable veteran's service officers to electronically submit benefit claims. This direct upload process allows e-mailed claims in PDF format to be transmitted to the VA's Evidence Intake Center in Janesville, WI, where such are identified and distributed to their respective offices of jurisdiction for processing. This has greatly speeded up claims establishment in the VA system and simultaneously allows electronic filing of cases for the submitting veteran's service office as well.

DoD Boards

The DoD Boards section has submitted 57 applications (DD Form 149) to the Board for Correction of Military/Navy Records, 41 applications (DD Form 293) to the Discharge Review Board (DRB), and represented seven (7) applicants during their personal hearing before the DRB.

Addendum A

Rejected

Register Resolution No. 2762 (OH)(DEC): **Encourage Legislation That Entitles Members of the National Guard to Receive a Flag of the United States of America at Their Time of Death**

Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2763 (OH)(DEC): **Burn Pits Benefits for Gulf War Veterans**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: A motion to receive and file the report of the VA&R Commission with the exception of three resolutions and one addendum. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion on the floor and a second to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 10: Allow Updates to the Burn Pit Registry With Additional Veterans Information As Needed
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Veterans or Service members who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations after August 2, 1990, or in Djibouti, Africa, Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, are eligible to participate in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry; and

WHEREAS, This registry is an online database of health information that collects information through a questionnaire concerning exposures to airborne hazards; and

WHEREAS, This registry is designed to promote awareness to Veterans or Service members of the potential health effects of deployment-related exposures; and

WHEREAS, Collected information can allow veterans and servicemembers to create a snapshot which will identify any changes to their health for use in discussions of concerns with a health-care provider; and

WHEREAS, At present, the only person who can update the registry is the "registered individual", that is the veteran or servicemember who was potentially exposed; and

WHEREAS, The Burn Pit Registry should be updated with a cause of death of a registered individual veteran or servicemember; and

WHEREAS, The registry should be updated by either an individual designated by the deceased registered individual, or if no such individual is designated, an immediate family member of the deceased registered individual; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take actions necessary to ensure that the Burn Pit Registry may be updated with the cause of death of a deceased registered individual by a designated individual or immediate family member of the deceased registered individual.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution No. 10 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolution and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to approve Resolution No. 10 entitled, "Allow Updates to the Burn Pit Registry With Additional Veterans Information as Needed." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed?

Resolution No. 11: Oppose VA Charging Veterans Co-Payments for Treatment of Service-Connected Disabilities
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
(As Amended)

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2019, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a proposed rule that would grant eligible veterans access to urgent care from qualifying non-VA entities or providers without prior approval from VA; and

WHEREAS; The rule proposes to require all eligible veterans who are enrolled in priority groups 1–6, to pay a $30 co-payment after three urgent care visits except when the veteran is enrolled in priority group 6 and receives care as a Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veteran, radiation-exposed veteran, Gulf War veteran, post-Gulf War combat-exposed veteran, or Camp Lejeune veteran; and

WHEREAS, Under VA's co-payment regulations, 38 CFR § 17.108 – Co-payments for inpatient hospital care and outpatient medical care, when a veteran, who has a compensable service-connected condition, receives care at a VA health care facility, the veteran is exempt from being charged a co-payment for inpatient hospital care or outpatient medical care; and

WHEREAS, Under the proposed urgent care regulations, compensable service-connected veterans would be required to pay a $30 co-payment, but are exempt from paying a co-payment for hospital care and medical care received in a VA health care facility; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion oppose the Department of Veterans Affairs charging co-payments to veterans for treatment of their service-connected disabilities.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution was approved by the VA&R Commission, your Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion on the floor and a second to adopt Resolution No. 11 entitled, "Oppose Charging Compensable Service-Connected Veterans Co-Payments." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 12: Establish New Eligibility Criteria for Burial and Interment at Arlington National Cemetery
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Arlington National Cemetery is our nation's most sacred shrine representing an embodiment of the sacrifices that were made to uphold our country's ideal and freedoms; and

WHEREAS, Arlington National Cemetery is running out of burial space and at current rate maximum capacity will be reached by mid-century which will result in ANC to cease operating as an active cemetery; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that remaining space should be reserved for those veterans that are most deserving; and

WHEREAS, The Arlington Cemetery Advisory Committee in an attempt to extend the life of ANC has recommended that the eligibility criteria be amended for those killed in action, combat-related service deaths, former prisoners of war, WWII Veterans, and veterans who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal and the Purple Heart; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion urges Congress to codify eligibility criteria for burial at Arlington National Cemetery and that such burials and interment of cremated remains should be restricted in accordance with the recommendations of the Arlington National Cemetery Advisory Committee minus the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM); and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion opposes the inclusion of the DSM or any other award that is given to a select group of individuals for service alone.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution was approved by the VA&R Commission, your Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion on the floor and a second to adopt Resolution No. 12 entitled, "Establish New Eligibility Criteria for Burial and

Interment at Arlington National Cemetery." Is there any discussion Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have, the motion is passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Attached to this report is Addendum A, and I move that the actions of the VA&R Commission become the actions of the NEC. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion on the floor and a second to accept Addendum A of the commission report and that it be approved as the action of the National Executive Committee. Is there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. Thank you.

The chair now recognizes Chairman Reverend Daniel. J Seehafer from Wisconsin for the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee.

Oral Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Chairman

Good morning, National Commander Reistad, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers, and guests, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to address you, and it's still this morning. You have a copy of my written report in front of you. You will find updated information on the 95 percent target date, National Commander Reistad's membership incentives, DMS and DMS transfers, and online membership renewals.

You know, membership is the foundation the American Legion's Four Pillars rest upon. We must have a solid foundation so that the local posts can promote and conduct their chosen programs. That's why we must, all together, engage our current members, as well as all veterans along with their families at our local communities. And family, I'll tell you what, this starts with the buddy check.

This past January, the buddy check toolkit was developed, and the week of the Legion's birthday was chosen for its kickoff. That is to check on, yes, to contact our members. This is a reason why our forefathers created The American Legion, a network of Legionnaires, of family, a close-knit team checking on each other to ensure their basic needs are always being met. And really, isn't that what we were taught in the military?

It's not a one-time event either, some sort of box that we check off and we're done with it. This has to be an ongoing tactic that we use every day, ensuring them that we do care, by reaching out to them, treating them as one of our own, family. This is, then, our most sacred responsibility, and that's to look out for each other, our fellow veterans.

Contrary to popular belief, working membership certainly is not easy. It requires us to be proactive. Yes, to roll up our sleeves and personally contact our members, and yes, once again, it takes work. One's time, your time, my time, and sometimes it's even a little personal treasure.

With that being said, our national commander created, then, a $5 incentive for posts who bring back 2014, '15, and '16 expired members. To date, we have brought back 3,212 members. That might not sound like a lot, but one of those members could change a post, a county, district, department. It could even save a life.

Additionally, Commander Reistad created an award for departments who hit that benchmark of 100 percent by today's armed forces target date. As of right now we have eight departments who have qualified for this $2,500 incentive, and they are the Departments of the Philippines, Hawaii, France, Alabama, Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho. Let's give them a round of applause. *(Applause)*

Now, family, keep in mind that Commander Reistad created another award, and this one actually encourages growth. Any department who achieves, then, 105 percent or more of their membership goal by the delegate strength date, that target date in July, will earn $5,000.

Even with those eight departments who have already hit 100 percent, we estimate that we will still finish the 2018-'19 membership year around 1.805 million, which is 75,000 members short of where we finished last year, 2018. However, due to past efforts, we have

slowed down that slide which, I'm going to tell you, is good news and it is worth noting. It's not all doom and gloom, and yet, and yet, this isn't acceptable to us, not for this veterans organization. So igniting the fire in the belly once again, knocking on doors, picking up those phones of ours, and making those personal contacts to our members who have not yet renewed, well, don't we owe this to our national commander. And just as important, to our fellow blue caps.

Furthermore, our current retention rate is at 84.29 percent. We ended the 2018 membership year at 87 percent. We need to increase our retention rate by 6 percent so that we can show growth. You know, this was stated in The American Legion strategic plan for membership growth at, again quoting, "Retention must be the first priority to increase our membership."

Yet, we must not forget or disregard our recruiting efforts, welcoming new members into Team 100, if you will, by getting out of the post home and into our communities, engaging, asking all veterans to join us. Yes, we need to expand our outreach to as many veterans as we can, whether it's someone who just left for basic or someone who turned in their uniform years ago. Again, no matter what the race, the religion, the creed, whether they're male, female, we certainly need to welcome them into our ranks and ask them to join. So yes, we've heard it before, membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Otherwise, this would be a waste of our time, your time, my time.

But ultimately, programs do drive membership. The more active we are in our communities, working these worthwhile Legion programs, the more visible we are to potential members; it's rewarding, then. Thus answering that familiar question that's been asked, and I know it's been asked to you, too: "Hmm, what is The American Legion?"

And membership isn't solely about the numbers per se. It's about what we do. What we do for our veterans and their families, as well as for this country. That's why that membership impact report was developed in the first place, because membership has a strong effect on the lives of veterans, their families, this country. Hence, answering that pressing question, "What is The American Legion?"

For example, hot off the press, the May issue of that report shows that the American Legion Riders, again, for example, that's Chapter 560 in Zimmerman, Minnesota, raised $50,000 for their state veterans home and other local organizations. Another example, 3,163 children have been helped by our Temporary Financial Assistance program just through April 30. Many of those were children of our brothers and sisters serving in the Coast Guard. You know, this is what we do on a daily basis. This is our American Legion at work. Who in the world wouldn't want to join? Therefore, an engaged and empowered Legionnaire is the biggest asset to our organization. And after all, as leaders assembled here, this is our most sacred responsibility.

Commander, thank you for allowing me this time to address this distinguished group. This concludes my report, and I'm only three minutes over the time that you are going to allow Mr. Adjutant to make announcements.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Chairman

2019 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are nearing the end of the 2019 membership campaign. We have seen several departments at the top of the membership standing that traditionally have not been there (Alaska, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico and Hawaii).

The 95% target date was April 10, 2019. Seven departments exceeded the 95% target and eleven departments (Oklahoma, South Carolina, Alabama, New Hampshire, France, Philippines, Delaware, Alaska, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Hawaii) were more than their previous year's membership – in 2018 there were only five departments. The Departments of Philippines, Hawaii, France, Mexico, Alabama and Idaho have exceeded 100% of their 2019 membership goal. The next target is the 100% target date on May 8th and we hope to have several other departments over 100% of their assigned goal.

National Commander Reistad announced the department incentive of $2,500 for achieving 100% by the May target date and $5,000 for achieving 105% by the delegate strength date. The Departments of Philippines, Hawaii, France, Mexico, Alabama and Idaho are currently the only departments who have achieved 100%. They have earned the $2,500 incentive by attaining 100% by the May target date. There are four other departments who are within 3% of achieving 100%. As for the $5 post incentive, the local posts have renewed 3,148 from the 2014-2016 expired members.

DMS is a valuable tool to the membership program. Members acquired each year are a great resource for posts to use in growing their membership and increasing the members' chances to renew. Currently, encumbered DMS members who transfer into a local post count toward the department's membership goal. The overall intent has always been to get these members into a local post. This past January the Membership & Post Activities Committee made the recommendation to include already acquired DMS numbers into the membership goal process for the departments.

Departments have had immediate access to all acquired DMS members since July 1, 2017. Since then, 46,896 encumbered DMS members have transferred to local posts. Currently the retention rate for 2018 acquired DMS members is 40%. This needs to improve. We are losing too many first year DMS members. The sooner they are transferred to a traditional post and engaged the better chance they will renew.

Since 1999, our traditional new starts have gone from 102,269 to 55,164 currently. We are missing an opportunity in our communities to reach out to eligible members and invite them to join this great organization. We need to engage these veterans and find out what their family's needs are and tell them what the Legion has to assist them. We have to engage them personally before we can expect them to join and then renew. This is a great challenge as we move forward into our next 100 years.

The final two updates are online renewals and DMS. The online renewal program continues to prove it was a smart idea to begin allowing our members to renew online. To date, 250,015 have renewed online which is 11,612 behind where we finished 2018. The 2019 goal for DMS is 120,000 and the current total is 111,864. We stand at 7,978 less from this same time last year.

M&PA COMMITTEE JANUARY PLANNING SESSION

The Membership & Post Activities Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana, January 11-12, 2019. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the 2020 membership campaign and strategic operational planning.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 10 (Convention 2018): Recommended to Internal Affairs Commission to REJECT this resolution.
Subject: Minimum National Dues Rate Origin: Michigan

2019 MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION:

The following topics were briefed and discussed:

1. Focus on why we are here and how to eliminate our membership deficit.
2. Verbiage on DMS mailing was discussed to add a line stating "Would you like help in transferring into a local post?". Committee will be emailed on DMS distribution.
3. New Membership Incentives:
   - Posts will receive $5 from National Headquarters for every expired member renewed from 2014, 2015 and 2016 that renews in 2019.
   - Departments will be awarded $2,500 that achieves 100 percent of its established 2019 membership goal by the Armed Forces Day (May 8, 2019) 100% Target Date

- Departments will be awarded $5,000, in addition to the $2,500, that achieves 105% of its established 2019 membership goal by the Delegate Strength Target Date (30 days before the start of National Convention).

4. Commander Reistad's Incentive Pin Form was changed for the recruiter to get 3 new members or 6 renewals from just getting 3 new members.
5. National week of calling for membership growth through personal contact – "Buddy Check" during the month of March for The American Legion Birthday.
6. All Time High Award was discussed and the following criteria for a new award was recommended:

2nd Century Department Growth Award

- Use The American Legion Year-End Membership Comparison Report, December 31, 2019 total as the benchmark
- First Award would be for the December 31, 2020 (showing an increase from 2019) presented at the 2021 National Convention
- Award will be a plaque with an engraved bar identifying the membership total, year and outgoing commander
- Goal is to promote departments to retain Post, DMS and Holding Post members and to attain and exceed nationals Two Million Member Plateau again

7. Gold Brigade Award was discussed and the direction is to bring more recognition to this award. Several ideas were discussed and given to the staff to determine feasibility and financial impact such as gold pin for ten years consecutive, distinguished guest badge at Convention, current year winners announced on screen during membership report, winners attend National Commander's reception and a new award for ten consecutive or combined years.
8. Retention is KEY! There's a need to define and have written retention guidelines. Staff is to review revised retention incentives and determine financial feasibility and as appropriate develop required resolution.
9. The Committee was updated on the progress of the 21st Century Committee study.

THE AMERICAN LEGION STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW:
No changes were made to The American Legion Strategic Plan for Sustained Membership Growth.

CONFIRMATION OF DATES FOR 2019 – 2023
(Please note these dates also include DSO)

2019 Membership Workshop – August 6-10, 2019

2020 January Planning Session – January 10-11, 2020
2020 Membership Workshop – August 4-8, 2020

2021 January Planning Session – January 8-9, 2021
2021 Membership Workshop – July 27-31, 2021

2022 January Planning Session – January 7-8, 2022
2022 Membership Workshop – July 26-30, 2022

2023 January Planning Session – January 6-7, 2023
2023 Membership Workshop – July 25-29, 2023

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Motion to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. There are no resolutions and no addendum. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion on the floor and a second to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. Our national adjutant has no announcements. At this time, I'm going to ask that you rise, we will salute the flag and then we will recess and reconvene at 1:15 p.m. Hand salute: Two. We are in recess.

...At 11:44 a.m., the National Executive Committee of The American Legion stood in recess.

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 Afternoon Session

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Please rise and join me to salute the colors of our country by the numbers: One, two. Please be seated. We are reconvened. The chair recognizes Vincent James Troiola of New York, chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Vincent James Troiola, New York, Chairman

Commander Reistad, past national commanders, members of the NEC, fellow Legionnaires, good afternoon. On April 18, I organized a call with the Veterans Employment & Education Division staff and committee chairs for the purpose of considering new matters to be brought to the National Executive Committee. From this we have forwarded one resolution, No. 13, which you will find in your packet, concerning the Military Lending Act.

In 2006, the bipartisan Military Lending Act was enacted, a reformed champion by the Department of Defense. At the time, DoD warned how severe financial stress diminished military readiness. Years later with the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, CFPB, MLA enforcement was assigned to the new agency and MLA was updated to include the phrase "shall be enforced by the CFPB." From 2011 to 2017, CFPB delivered $130 million in financial relief as a result of actions taken on military complaints. For payday loans, CFPB projects that servicemembers save a combined $35 million every year as a result of MLA rules. An anchor to CFPB safety net for veterans is its ability to visit payday lenders to ensure compliance with the Military Lending Act.

Despite the record of excellence, the CFPB turned an about-face on our military families in 2018 by halting its use of its supervisory powers to fulfill the mandate of MLA enforcement. CFPB's leadership rationale is that the Dodd-Frank Act did not specifically identify the MLA among the 19 statutes under the CFPB's authority, and have requested an act of Congress to specifically enumerate this ability. That can take years to happen.

But for right now, there's one clear winner, the payday lenders that flock outside of military bases, convincing young soldiers and Marines to take high-interest loans; the payday lenders now have no need to worry about a visit from the CFPB to check their books. The bureau's move here looks worse than politics. It looks like placing the special interests of usury lenders ahead of the financial protections of our servicemembers.

While our division will continue to investigate these issues at the CFPB, The American Legion continues to assist veterans and their families in their transition to employment through our career fairs, résumé workshops, and small business development classes we hold across the country. I encourage each and every department to advertise this work to your veterans, reach out to our Veterans Employment & Education Division staff for how to get involved, and visit the job fair that we'll be organizing later this summer at the national convention.

In the area of employment awards, this year we received 49 nominations from across The American Legion. We commend those departments that are advocating employers to hire veterans, and encourage all to learn about these winners in your packet.

Many of you have heard about the wave of GI Bill late payments that hit thousands of student veterans in the fall of 2018. To pinpoint the cause of these delays, in conjunction with our Washington Conference, we convened a Veterans Benefits Administration GI Bill Symposium to bring together university staff with senior VBA leadership to review the delays. During the course of our discussion with senior leadership, they communicated the main causes for the poor implementation, primarily due to IT challenges associated with the launch of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Improvement Act, which has now been delayed to December of 2019, but that payments are now being made on time.

We are encouraged by these improvements. However, the school officials in attendance were unanimous in expressing concerns that these problems may again rise in

the fall. And while the VA is ultimately responsible for modernizing the IT to fix these problems, we must be prepared to support them in accomplishing this task. Oversight and support must be in real time and practical, no matter the challenge. That means being transparent about complications and forthright on changes, open to school inputs and adaptive to recommendations. We must ensure that the bill which bears our past national commander's name succeed. Our division will continually work with the VA directors, director of education service, to assure the VA is adequately resourced for implementation of the Colmery Act.

In summary, I am humbled to serve as the chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, but it is always at the forefront of my mind that the charge that has been given to us is only possible through the involvement and active participations of the posts, districts, and the departments. We appreciate all of your support for ensuring that veterans have the opportunity to provide with honor and dignity the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families. Thank you to the national adjutant and the National Executive Committee for your dedication and support of these important issues. Thank you to the staff in Washington and Indianapolis. And finally, Commander Reistad, thank you for this appointment. That concludes my report, commander.

Advance Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Vincent Troiola, New York, Chairman

Members and guests of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission and its two standing committees on Employment and Veterans' Preference and Veterans Education, Other Benefits and Homelessness met at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., on Monday, February 25, 2019. Those meetings held in conjunction with the Fifty-Ninth Annual Washington Conference.

Also, a Career Fair hosted with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was conducted on Friday, February 22, along with a Financial Literacy, Resume Workshop, and Networking Luncheon, to discuss the Commission's ongoing initiative to assist veterans with a successful transition from active-duty to gainful employment and financial stability. Furthermore, we hosted an Employment Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, February 21, a veterans small business policy roundtable on Wednesday, February 27. An Awards Selection Subcommittee composed of members of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission and its two committees met in the afternoon of Monday, February 25, to select the national winners and runners-up in the Commission's two national awards programs.

Finally, our commission hosted a Veterans Benefits Administration GI Bill Symposium Thursday, February 28.

A synopsis of the meetings follows:

I. CAREER FAIR

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission of The American Legion collaborated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to host a hiring event on Friday, February 22, in the International Terrace, Terrace Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC. This event started with an opening ceremony, which included speakers Mark Toal, Program Manager, Department of Labor, Veterans Employment & Training Services, District of Columbia; Denise Rohan, Past National Commander, The American Legion; and Vincent Troiola, Chairman, Veterans Employment and Education Commission, The American Legion. There were 60 employers from various industries and 315 preregistered attendees that participated in the Career Fair. There were 96 on the spot interviews, 20 potential job offers, and 3 immediate hires at the event.

The American Legion manned a table at this event. The information table staffed by Ariel De Jesus, Jr., Assistant Director, National Veterans Employment & Education Division and Shalene Durham, Manager, Human Resources Division. These Legionnaires discussed how The American Legion assists veterans with reintegrating back to their local

communities. Additionally, they answered service members/veterans questions about benefits and described the Legion's programs as well as explained how to become a member. The employers and participants at this event were pleased with the outcome. The employers stated that the participants were professional and qualified. The participants liked that employers were from different industries and willing to hire veterans.

II. FINANCIAL AND VETERAN RESUME WORKSHOPS

On Friday, February 23, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a Financial Literacy and Resume Workshops at the Washington Hilton. The workshops were designed to help veterans, servicemembers, and their spouses find meaningful careers in the civilian workforce, expand their networks and gain the tools necessary to stand out throughout the hiring process. Speakers for these workshops included Rodney Rolland, Director of Human Resources, American Legion, and Judy Viccellio, Partner, New York Life. Following the morning workshops, attendees were able to mingle with each other and prospective employers during a networking luncheon. The forum speakers included: Dave Wallace, Military Relations Project Manager, Lockheed Martin, Talent Acquisition Strategy & Solutions (TASS); Mark Escherich, Military and Veteran Programs Manager, U.S. Transportation Security Administration; Ralph Hernandez, Military Senior Program Leader, Amazon; Brian Armstrong, Manager of Military Recruitment, Hilton; and Gary Patton, Major General, U.S. Army (Retired), Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI.

Also, on Thursday, February 21, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission held its Employment Advisory Board meeting, otherwise known as the Employment Innovation Task Force. The Task Force exists to: Provide independent surveys and assessments of the efficacy and efficiency of delivering "for life" support to veterans and transitioning servicemembers in the digital era; introduce innovations responsive to the digital age warrior and digital era employer; identify best practices from the best of demonstrated veteran-friendly employers to encourage adoption by all employers; use labor market and labor economic data to guide career goal setting and development of veterans and transitioning servicemembers; introduce the use of digital tools and skill drills to support just-in-time delivery of information, assistance, support, training, and skill development underlying the "for life" concept; ensure all outcomes further the goal of providing a seamless transition from military service to private sector employment; and create feedback loops for continuous improvement of TAP and credentialing programs along with continuous innovation in the method and means by which translation and "for life" support are provided.

The Task Force members include but not limited to: Jerry Chan, Vice President, Cyber/Network Audit, BNY Mellon; Abie Chong, Recruiter, Military Programs, Hilton Worldwide; Rosye Cloud, Senior Advisor, Veterans Employment, Office of Economic Opportunity, VA; Berlyn Cooper-Howard, Senior Program Manager, Office of Personnel Management (OPM); Thomas Dawkins, Director of Workforce Development & Education, Microsoft; Mark Escherich, Military & Veteran Programs Manager, U.S. Transportation Security Administration; Michael Toal, National Veterans' Employment Manager, DOL; Ralph Hernandez, Senior Military Program Leader, Amazon; Stan Kurtz, Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center Program, SBA; Chip Meyers, Vice President, Corporate Public Affairs, UPS; Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, Consultant, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Building Materials & Construction Trade Division; Gary Patton, Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI; Raul Rosas, Commissioner, Maryland Veterans Commission; Max Shuftan, CyberTalent Program Director, SANS Institute; Tony Marlow, Vice President, Field Marketing, Oath: A Verizon Company; and Tamre Newton, Chief, Transition Programs, Transitions to Veterans Programs Office, DOD.

III. NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION FORUM

On Monday, February 25, the National Veterans Employment & Education

Commission assembled in Lincoln East, Concourse Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington D.C., to address education, employment and small business concerns regarding veterans and their families. The meeting started with The American Legion employment updates from four Departments – Juan Cruz (PR), John McKinney (TX), Michael Espinoza (AZ), and Bob Looby (NJ). This time was used to share best practices and successes that their departments had over the past year. The intent was to encourage others to play a more active role within their departments to reduce the veterans unemployment rate and elicit new members. Afterward, conducted an employer panel consisted of employers from various industries. Participants included Ralph Hernandez, Military Senior Program Leader, Amazon; Brian Armstrong, Manager of Military Recruitment, Hilton; Edward Carr, Senior Project Manager, Military & Veteran Affairs, Comcast; Gary Patton, Major General, U.S. Army (Retired), Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI; and moderated by Chip Meyers. Area of discussion was focused on hiring & retention of veterans to include the evolution of cultural changes within their prospective organization. Then briefings on small business opportunities for veteran business owners. Our guest speakers from banks and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) to discuss the market trends and lending resources for veteran entrepreneurs when they are seeking start-up seed money or are ready to scale. We also receive a briefing from the SBA and the Legion's resource partners on all the entrepreneurship development programming that is now available for veterans. They talked a little about their program but also gave some updates as to how the programs have grown.

Obtaining financing for a business venture is often challenging for veteran entrepreneurs. From being in the startup phase to growing a business, an entrepreneur faces difficulties with the requirements of traditional bank loans. However, the 7(a) Program may be able to help – it's SBA's primary and most popular loan guarantee program. Through SBA's Veterans Advantage initiative, veterans, members of the Guard and Reserve as well as Military Spouses are eligible for a standard 7(a) loan of up to $350,000 and their loan guarantee fees waived.

Aside from the 7(a) loan program, veterans can also utilize the SBA's micro-lending program which is administered by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund or CDFIs. Since 2013 veteran small business usage of micro-loans have almost doubled.

The American Legion has been piloting our own Small Business programs at the Legion. Over the last few years, we have partnered with Foresight CFO to roll out the new curriculum aimed at assisting our veterans entrepreneurs in scaling their business. The 5 Habits of Profitability is a two-day course that guides the participants towards drafting a customized plan to grow their business. We hope to get more buy-in from the state leadership to see if this is a program they want to extend to their states.

Since its implementation in 2012, the Boots to Business (B2B) capstone course taught as a part of the military's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) has been very successful. B2B is a lean program, administered solely through SBA's 22 Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs). For the last five years, the two day B2B curriculum has been the catalyst that has launched many veterans-owned businesses.

IV. AWARDS SELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Before the Washington Conference, the Chairman of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission appointed an awards selection subcommittee to review all the nominations received during 2018 in the Employer of the Year awards program, and in the Employment Service awards program. This subcommittee met on Monday, February 25, in Lincoln East, Concourse Level in the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., to select winners in the small, medium and large employer, LVER and DVOP categories, as well as Employment Service Local Office of the Year, Employer of Disabled, and Older Workers categories. During 2018, Departments submitted 49 nominations for employers and employment services. 8 were for small companies (1-50 employees), 4 were for medium-size companies (51-200 employees), and 9 were for large companies

(201+employees). 4 were for Employer of Older Workers, 2 was for Enhancing the Lives of the Disabled. Departments also submitted 6 nominations for Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs), 8 for Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and 8 for Local Employment Service (ES) Offices. Those appointed to the subcommittee were James Fratolillo (MA) - Chairman, Joseph R. Magee (FL), Michael Espinosa (AZ), Dennis Tipsword (IL), Eric Measles (CA), David Eagan (TX) and Frederick Nelson (SD).

Winners and runners-up for the Employer of the Year categories will be reviewed by the Department of Labor for pending safety and health or fair labor practices violations before making the announcement.

SMALL EMPLOYER:	Bravehearts Therapeutic Riding & Education Center Harvard, Illinois
MEDIUM SIZE EMPLOYER:	HICAPS Inc. Greensboro, North Carolina
LARGE EMPLOYER:	Grunt Styles, LLC Carol Stream, Illinois
EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS:	Workforce Connection – Wise Title V. La Crosse, Wisconsin
LVER OF THE YEAR:	Osvaldo "Ozzie" Montalvo Norcross, Georgia
DVOP OF THE YEAR:	Mark Simmons Colorado Springs, Colorado
ES LOCAL OFFICE OF THE YEAR:	Bobby Dodd Institute (BDI) Atlanta, Georgia
HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH:	Department of New Jersey Trenton, New Jersey

V. SMALL BUSINESS

The Veterans Small Business Policy Roundtable held on February 27, 2019, focused on the Medical & Surgical Prime Vendor (MSPV) contract vehicle that will be coming out in 2020. This will be the largest contracting vehicle VA will administer, as they plan to reorganize 80 percent+ of their medical supplies, services, and equipment under the new MSPV 2.0. 2019 will be the testing ground and study year for how the new MSPV framework will be implemented. The purpose of this roundtable is to get stakeholder organizations, small business distributors and prime vendors in front of VA contracting officials.

How VA purchases medical supplies and services affects the most vulnerable segment of our constituency – the veteran patients. VA's ability to provide adequate care to our veterans critically hinges on this contracting vehicle.

The meeting included senior VA contracting officials from Veterans Affairs, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (VAOSDBU), Strategic Acquisition Center and Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The Legion intends to further the conversation on MSPV 2.0 to find a solution that works for VA, veteran-owned small businesses, and most importantly serves the need of our veteran patients whether they are administered care at home, Community Based Outpatient Clinics or at the Veterans Affairs

Medical Centers.

Scott Denniston, executive director of the NVSBC, has been carrying the water on this issue. We have been asked by VA, House of Veterans Affairs Committee, and HSBC to speak a united front and give them a list of demands that they can work with regarding MSPV 2.0. Scott has compiled the best practices. We asked him to walk us over some of his suggestions. Moreover, we also heard what currently works and what doesn't from current Service-Disabled-Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) on MSPV next generation and medical supply manufacturers who were present.

Ideally, we would like to come out of this discussion with a uniform list of requirements we as small businesses and advocates would like to see and let leadership from VHA and the Strategic Acquisition Center take it from there as they craft MSPV 2.0.

Furthermore, there has been much confusion over a recent Court of Federal Claims decision as it pertains to the Justification & Approval and MSPV next generation. We've invited Gunjan Talati, a senior partner from Kilpatrick, Townsend and Stockton PLLC to provide for our briefing on the significance and impact of the court case ELECTRA-MED CORP. v. USA. Not only does this case set a dangerous precedence for VA to craft false narratives around emergencies to side–step Kingdomware's "rule of two" and abdicate their fiduciary responsibilities of administering a contract.

Finally, there was skepticism regarding if VA will follow through with all of the actionable they said they would do or consider in MSPV 2.0. All of the stakeholders from VHA, VA OSDBU, SBA, and the advocacy organizations agreed that further conversations with any more "concessions" in writing would be necessary from VA.

VI. VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

On Monday, February 25, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission invited Joshua Stewart, Director of Policy for the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans. Mr. Stewart's presentation focused on the landscape of homeless veterans and included remarks on the potential effects of another government shutdown. Also, the Contingency Plan in the event of another shutdown on the Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. The bad news is that because of the way the HUD system works; the local level is not in sync with the national level. Smaller Public Housing Administrations (PHA) will run out of leftover money first, which means that they will be the first to show problems. What you have probably heard is about a small PHA that has decided not to issue new HUD-VASH vouchers until they get new money coming in. What this means is that: 1) no veteran currently in HUD-VASH is in danger, but also that 2) veterans in the pipeline (homeless or in the shelter) have to stay where they are at until the shutdown is over. That second point is the pain point. As the shutdown goes on and on, more PHAs will have to make that decision to protect what funds they have in reserve to keep people with vouchers housed. It's a tough decision that they shouldn't have to be making, and one that hurts veterans and other people on the street or in the shelter.

VII. EDUCATION

On February 28, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division convened a Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) GI Bill Symposium. Charmain Bogue, Interim Director of VA Education Service, led the GI Bill symposium after opening keynote remarks from Margarita Devlin, VBA Principal Deputy Under Secretary. Ms. Bogue shared that as of February 27, pending inventory is 115,000 claims (85,000 Chapter 33).

- Less than 200 claims over 60 days
- Timeliness averages 18.9 days for original claims and 14.1 days for supplemental claims

Ms. Bogue provided updates on several new provisions of the Forever GI Bill:

Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) sets forth a 5-year pilot program to eligible GI Bill beneficiaries connecting them to accelerated

learning courses in media applications, computer software, computer programming, data processing, or information sciences to help them secure meaningful employment.

- VET TEC website went public on February 12
- VET TEC Veteran application will go live no later than March 25
- Housing Stipend paid in accordance with Section 107
- Unused funds ($15 million annually) roll-over to the following year

Additionally, we discussed the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship. It authorizes VA to provide a scholarship of up to an additional nine months of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to eligible individuals - Maximum is $30,000, then highlighted key points to the Colmery Act, that included VA updated monthly housing rates for the Fall 2018 and processed over 450k corrections in December, and Spring 2019 processing times are consistent with goals.

- Awarded Information Technology contract, and stood up a dedicated and focused Program Management Office
- VA is applying lessons learned to inform the implementation reset and its strategy going forward
- VA will continue to update Congress, Veterans Service Organizations, and stakeholders on our plan and progress

Furthermore, following the remarks from Ms. Bogue, VE&E staff provided schools in attendance the opportunity to share with VA their concerns. Unanimously, the schools in attendance expressed that the student veterans affected by the late payment fiasco last fall were not happy with the way VA handled the situation.

Janine Wert, Director of Veterans Services for the University of Massachusetts stated the following:

- Many of the students lost trust in the VA. VA lost ownership, provided no direct apology to the students, and there was little or no communication.
- The University was told 45 days in advance of the rollout that there were no issues and everything was on track.
- VA never notified universities that a hiccup was on its way.
- Universities couldn't give students intelligent answers regarding payments, so they gave the students instructions to call the VA hotline where they spent 3-4 hours on hold in many cases. When they finally got someone on the phone, the students could feel how stressed the call line agents were by the way they spoke.
- Call center staff appeared to be suffering from compassion fatigue.
- Is there a statistic that shows any veteran suicides during the period of late payments?
- Is there a statistic of how many dropouts there were during the same period?
- UMass worked with many students that evicted from their apartments during this time

Finally, Tanya Ang, Director of Government Affairs for Veterans Education Success shared that VA Education staff has been diligently working to ensure that the next tuition payments go out on time and that there will never be a repeat of the events of last Fall.

VA Education staff patiently listened to further concerns and offered their assurance that they would communicate future updates on implementation progress.

After listening to these remarks, VE&E Chairman Troiola concluded the discussion stating that something needs to be down to regain the trust of students as well as the school. The VA needs to give a timeline and determine what is required to help rectify the issues.

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
April 18, 2019
Vincent J. Troiola, New York, Chairman

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission met via teleconference on April 18, 2019, where we discussed the Washington Conference, considered matters

previously referred for study, and to discuss a range of other current issues.

Presiding: Vincent J. Troiola (NY), Chairman

Also in attendance were: Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr. (DC), Director, for the National Veterans Employment & Education Division, James Fratolillo (MA), Chairman, Employment & Veterans Preference Committee, Eric Measles (CA), Chairman, Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee, and Dennis Tipsword (IL), Vice Chairman, Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

MATTERS RECEIVED, CONSIDERED AND ACTED UPON BY THE COMMISSION:

RESOLUTIONS

Your Subcommittee considered one resolution from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, and subsequently forwarded it to the National Executive Committee for adoption.

Origin: VE&E Title: Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act

One resolution was presented to the subcommittee by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. One resolution was held for further study and one resolution was withdrawn.

The Commission then discussed the following issues:

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION FORUM

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission assembled in Lincoln East, Concourse Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington D.C., to address education, employment and small business concerns regarding veterans and their families. The meeting started with The American Legion employment updates from four Departments – Juan Cruz (PR), John McKinney (TX), Michael Espinoza (AZ), and Bob Looby (NJ). This time was used to share best practices and successes that their departments had over the past year. The intent was to encourage others to have a more active role within their departments, to reduce the veterans' unemployment rate, and elicit new members. Next, the Commission conducted an employer panel consisting of employers from various industries. Participants included Ralph Hernandez, Military Senior Program Leader, Amazon; Brian Armstrong, Manager of Military Recruitment, Hilton; Edward Carr, Senior Project Manager, Military & Veteran Affairs, Comcast; Gary Patton, Major General, U.S. Army (Retired), Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI; Chip Meyers moderated the panel. The panel discussion focused on the hiring & retention of veterans and the evolution of cultural changes within their prospective organization. Following the panel, the Commission presented briefings on small business opportunities for veteran business owners. We hosted guest speakers from banks and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) that discussed market trends and lending resources for veteran entrepreneurs seeking start-up seed money or those ready to scale. We also received a briefing from the SBA and other Legion resource partners on the entrepreneurship development programming available for veterans.

Obtaining financing for a business venture is often challenging for veteran entrepreneurs. From being in the startup phase to growing a business, an entrepreneur faces difficulties with the requirements of traditional bank loans. However, the 7(a) Program may be able to help – it is the SBA's primary and most popular loan guarantee program. Through SBA's Veterans Advantage initiative, veterans, members of the Guard and Reserve, as well as, Military Spouses are eligible for a standard 7(a) loan of up to $350,000 and their loan guarantee fees waived.

Aside from the 7(a) loan program, veterans can also utilize the SBA's micro-lending program which is administered by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund or CDFIs. Since 2013 veteran small business usage of micro-loans have almost doubled.

Over the last few years, the American Legion piloted a Small Business Program and

partnered with the CFO of Foresight to roll out a new curriculum aimed at assisting veteran entrepreneurs in scaling their business. The *5 Habits of Profitability* is a two-day course that guides participants towards drafting a customized plan to grow their business. We hope to develop more buy-in from our state partners and to gauge their interest in extending the program to the state-level.

Since its implementation in 2012, the Boots to Business (B2B) capstone course taught as a part of the military's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) has been very successful. B2B is a lean program, administered solely through SBA's 22 Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs). For the last five years, the two day B2B curriculum has been the catalyst for the launch of many veterans-owned businesses.

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER FAIRS

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission of The American Legion collaborated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to host a hiring event, in the International Terrace, Terrace Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC. This event started with an opening ceremony, which included speakers Mark Toal, Program Manager, Department of Labor, Veterans Employment & Training Services, District of Columbia; Denise Rohan, Past National Commander, The American Legion; and Vincent Troiola, Chairman, Veterans Employment and Education Commission, The American Legion. Sixty employers from various industries and 315 attendees participated in the Career Fair. There were 96 on the spot interviews, 20 potential job offers, and three immediate hires at the event.

The American Legion's table was staffed by VE&E and HR staff. They discussed opportunities for The American Legion to assist veterans with their reintegrating back into their local communities. Additionally, they answered servicemembers and veterans questions concerning benefits and described the Legion's programs, as well as; they explained how to become a Legion member. Overall, the employers and participants at this event were pleased with the outcome. The employers noted the participant's professionalism and overall high-level of qualifications. The participants commented that they were impressed with the variety of employers from different industries and their willingness to hire veterans.

Additionally, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a Financial Literacy and Resume Writing workshop at the Washington Hilton. These workshops were designed to help veterans, servicemembers, and their spouses find meaningful careers in the civilian workforce, expand their networks, and gain the tools necessary to stand out throughout the hiring process. Speakers for these workshops included Rodney Rolland, Director of Human Resources, American Legion, and Judy Viccellio, Partner, New York Life. Following the morning workshops, attendees were able to mingle with each other and prospective employers during a networking luncheon. The forum speakers included: Dave Wallace, Military Relations Project Manager, Lockheed Martin, Talent Acquisition Strategy & Solutions (TASS); Mark Escherich, Military and Veteran Programs Manager, U.S. Transportation Security Administration; Ralph Hernandez, Military Senior Program Leader, Amazon; Brian Armstrong, Manager of Military Recruitment, Hilton; and Gary Patton, Major General, U.S. Army (Retired), Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI.

The Job Fair/Workshop dynamic that The American Legion and U.S. Chamber of Commerce created has stepped outside the traditional hiring-fair template by developing programs and engagements that target the frustrated veteran job seekers. Of note, the veterans in attendance took advantage of the opportunity to improve upon the skills they developed during the sometimes challenging job search process. Many veterans stated that the workshops and the Job Fair were very informative and complete with many quality job opportunities.

The American Legion's National Veterans Employment & Education Division, through its established partnerships, continue to play a vital role in assisting American

Legion Posts in their production of successful Job Fairs, small business development workshops, and employment training services throughout America. Also, the staff of the National Veterans Employment & Education Division is also involved in several advisory committees, such as the Small Business Administration's Advisory Committee, and Veterans Employment and Transition Policy Associate, Ariel De Jesus is a member of the Department of Labor's Advisory Committee Veterans' Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO). Aside from advisory committees, The American Legion is also a stakeholder and active participant in numerous government agencies and private businesses' veteran initiatives. The American Legion has a representative on the Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development. Lastly, The American Legion participates in the Veterans Entrepreneurship Task Force (VET-Force) business forums and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Service Member's Affairs meetings.

Also, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division has participated in numerous Career Fairs throughout the nation, allowing The American Legion to connect with more than 25,000 veterans and their families. The American Legion has been invited to participate in over 12 Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) events. The YRRP is a Department of Defense (DOD) effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families, and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle. The American Legion is the only Veterans Service Organization that participates in these events; as a result of our presence, the Legion was tasked with coordinating and moderating the YRRP employer panel. The panel consisted of employers sharing advice and information to help servicemembers land their dream job. The recruiters were asked a variety of questions to help understand what runs through the mind of hiring managers or HR professionals while interviewing them and what it takes to get the job. Locations for the YRRP included but were not limited to Florida, California, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, and Hawaii.

Veterans' Preference

The staff discussed a proposed draft bill from Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler (MO-04) that would afford all those servicing in the Reserve Component (Reserve and Guard) Veterans' Preference status. The purpose of Veterans' preference is to provide eligible veterans with an advantage when they compete with equally qualified non-veteran candidates for Federal employment.

By law, veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty in the Armed Forces over 180 days consecutively or in military campaigns are entitled to preference over non-veterans both in hiring from competitive lists of eligibles and in retention during reductions in force.

"[v]eterans' preference recognizes the economic loss suffered by citizens By law, veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty in the Armed Forces during certain specified time periods or in military campaigns are entitled to preference over non veterans both in hiring from competitive lists of eligibles and in retention during reductions in force."

The draft bill states that Veterans' Preference should include or not limit its preference to national guardsmen and members of the reserve Armed forces.

The Committee believes that the economy and the Federal Government, as a whole, benefit from having more qualified Veterans employed within their ranks. Unfortunately, there are specific segments of veterans and servicemembers that do not qualify for veterans' preference due to an outdated statute that does not accurately reflect the current characteristics of the U.S. Armed Forces.

To be entitled to preference, a veteran must meet the eligibility requirements in section 2108 of title 5, U.S.C., which states that the veteran must have an honorable or general discharge and serve a 180 days consecutively active duty. Military retirees at the rank of major, lieutenant commander, or higher are not eligible for preference unless they meet requirements to be considered a disabled veteran. Guard and Reserve active duty for

training purposes do not qualify for preference unless they are granted preference for time served on a campaign or have a service connection.

The Committee is also concerned that section 2108 of title 5, U.S.C., does not allow for retired members of the Armed Forces to receive some form of veterans' preference.

Veterans Affairs Administration defines a veteran as an individual who— (A)served on active duty any time in the armed forces for a period of more than 180 consecutive days any part of which occurred during the period beginning on, and ending on the date prescribed by Presidential proclamation or by law as the last date of Operation.

The American Legion can support this bill with the following stipulations, for striking "consecutive" in each instance and inserting "cumulative" with regards to the 180 days time frame; however, that a rolling over period should be implemented and accumulated within a specified period, that being three years.

The Committee also states that this section will additionally, further amend section 2108 of title 5 U.S.C., to allow retired members of the Armed Forces to qualify for veterans' preference. The Veterans Employment and Education Commission agrees that a leveled playing field for veterans preference that includes all retired military servicemembers and they should not be limited to rank be mandated. With that said VE&E recognize that the three-tier preference eligibility applies to all veterans: 1) sole survivorship (0 point preference eligible), 2) non-disabled veteran (5 point preference eligible) and 3) service-connected disabled (10 point preference eligible).

Finally, after meeting with Jared Patterson, a Defense Fellow representing the Office of Congresswoman, Vicky Hartzler, discussing the bill in its entirety, we agreed that some of the language surrounding the bill needs to be revised. He stated that he was not aware of the issue encompassing National Guardsmen, is that they fall under the State and not Federal, during their drill weekends and annual training that they are required to complete. The question remains, should they be awarded this preference when in actuality they are under the State unless called to active duty by Executive order.

We concluded that the language of the bill needs further clarification. The American Legion will decide if cumulative should be implemented disregarding time constraints.

EMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE MEETING

The National Veterans Employment & Education Division created The American Legion Employment Innovation Task Force. The Task Force is formed to combine the talents, expertise, and innovations of government, nongovernment organizations, and private sector organizations in bringing solutions forward for the Legion to champion with its federal agency partners to improve the employment and quality employment of veterans and transition servicemembers. Includes introducing both service delivery, business process, and technology innovations in support of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and credentialing of servicemembers. This includes examining all aspects of TAP and credentialing from résumé writing, financial planning, goal setting, job search, interviewing, networking, peer-to-peer support, family transition support, higher education, individual career development plans, entrepreneurship, VA benefits, and other elements of holistic support of veterans "for life" and transitioning servicemembers. The primary objective is to provide for a seamless transition from military service to the private sector.

The outcomes of the Task Force should provide a compelling set of innovations that will, if adopted by DOD and other related agencies, improve the quality, timeliness of services, and relevance and usefulness of the TAP and credentialing programs that support transitioning servicemembers and veterans. The outcomes should demonstrate increased scalability, efficiency, and reduced costs to deliver these services while, at the same time, substantially improving the quality of the "for life" support of veterans. The value-added outcome should be enhanced membership in the Legion by digital era veterans and their family members.

The task force has held one meeting during the Washington Conference, and two

conference calls. Suggestions for things that need to be improved are the finance and budgeting aspect of the process, pre-separation counseling; the right information needs to be made available, being that each would want to embark unto a different part. For example, websites need to be readily available to connect veterans to these employers. The right information and the appropriate amount would make the transitioning process more effective if these were made accessible.

Finally, a task force member pointed out; "Evolution versus Revolution." He stated that in many cases more opportunities are made available to Officers, while Junior enlisted get surface level opportunities. The conversation about career planning courses and the marketing of other services should allow change for the people in leadership positions. People placed in those positions should prove that they can evolve which provides for the transformation of culture throughout the different branches

The Task Force members include but are not limited to: Jerry Chan, Vice President, Cyber/Network Audit, BNY Mellon; Abie Chong, Recruiter, Military Programs, Hilton Worldwide; Rosye Cloud, Senior Advisor, Veterans Employment, Office of Economic Opportunity, Veterans Affairs (VA); Berlyn Cooper-Howard, Senior Program Manager, Office of Personnel Management (OPM); Thomas Dawkins, Director of Workforce Development & Education, Microsoft; Mark Escherich, Military & Veteran Programs Manager, U.S. Transportation Security Administration; Michael Toal, National Veterans' Employment Manager, Department of Labor (DOL); Ralph Hernandez, Senior Military Program Leader, Amazon; Stan Kurtz, Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center Program, Small Business Administration (SBA); Chip Meyers, Vice President, Corporate Public Affairs, United Parcel Service (UPS); Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, Consultant, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Building Materials & Construction Trade Division; Gary Patton, Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI; Raul Rosas, Commissioner, Maryland Veterans Commission; Max Shuftan, CyberTalent Program Director, SANS Institute; Tony Marlow, Vice President, Field Marketing, Oath: A Verizon Company; and Tamre Newton, Chief, Transition Programs, Transitions to Veterans Programs Office, Department of Defense (DOD).

EDUCATION

The National Veterans Employment & Education Division convened a Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) GI Bill Symposium. Charmain Bogue, Interim Director of VA Education Service, led the GI Bill symposium after opening keynote remarks from Margarita Devlin, VBA Principal Deputy Under Secretary. Ms. Bogue shared that as of February 27, pending inventory is 115,000 claims (85,000 Chapter 33).

Ms. Bogue provided updates on a new provision of the Forever GI Bill. The Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) sets forth a 5-year pilot program to eligible GI Bill beneficiaries connecting them to accelerated learning courses in media applications, computer software, computer programming, data processing, or information sciences to help them secure meaningful employment.

- VET TEC website went public on February 12
- VET TEC Veteran application will go live no later than March 25
- Housing Stipend paid in accordance with Section 107
- Unused funds ($15 million annually) roll-over to the following year

Additionally, we discussed the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship. It authorizes VA to provide a scholarship of up to an additional nine months of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to eligible individuals - Maximum is $30,000, then highlighted vital points to the Colmery Act, that included VA updated monthly housing rates for the Fall 2018 and processed over 450k corrections in December, and Spring 2019 processing times are consistent with goals.

Furthermore, following the remarks from Ms. Bogue, VE&E staff provided schools in attendance the opportunity to share with VA their concerns. Unanimously, the schools

in attendance expressed that the student veterans affected by the late payment fiasco last fall were not happy with the way VA handled the situation.

Finally, Tanya Ang, Director of Government Affairs for Veterans Education Success shared that VA Education staff has been diligently working to ensure that the next tuition payments go out on time and that there will never be a repeat of the events of last fall. VA Education staff patiently listened to further concerns and offered their assurance that they would communicate future updates on implementation progress.

Finally, a new report suggests some of the schools that receive the most Post-9/11 GI Bill money spend the least on teaching students.

The study, conducted by the nonprofit group Veterans Education Success, analyzed more than 4,600 higher-education institutions and found that in 2017, 427 of those schools spent less than 30 percent of their gross tuition dollars on instruction, according to VES. That's about $980 million in GI Bill money that went toward costs other than directly educating student veterans, VES estimates.

The three schools receiving the most GI Bill money nationwide from the fiscal year 2009 through the fiscal year 2017 – University of Phoenix, DeVry University and Strayer University, all of which are for-profit schools – spent only 15.3 percent, 12.4 percent, and 10.9 percent respectively of their overall revenue on instruction in 2017.

The VES study defines "instruction" in line with the Education Department's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Outcome Measures Survey, including funds for academic and training essentials like providing classes and professors.

It notably does not include investments in academic support or student services in that definition. The study used data from the Education Department's IPEDS Outcome Measures Survey, the 2016-17 IPEDS Finance Survey, the College Scorecard database and VA's records of schools' GI Bill tuition and fee payments.

VES calculated how much of a school's GI Bill revenue is going toward teaching and learning by dividing the total amount schools spent on instruction by the total amount they received in tuition and fees. In addition to analyzing GI Bill revenue, the report also looked at schools' success graduating their students within eight years of enrolling and whether those graduates were making more or less than $28,000 a year — what the average U.S. high school graduate makes — within six years of entering a college.

The study concluded that seven of the top 10 schools receiving GI Bill funds failed to graduate more than 50 percent of their students. It also found that only about 47 percent of GI Bill students at those schools were earning more than $28,000 a year within six years of starting school. The worst schools — or the ones the VES dubbed the "bottom of the barrel" — for allocating GI Bill money for instruction were all for-profits: Colorado Technical University, American Intercontinental University, and Capella University, all of which spent less than 10 percent of their gross revenue on instruction in 2017.

NATIONAL EMPLOYER AWARDS

During the Washington Conference, the Commission's Awards Subcommittee met to select winners in the Employer of Veterans and Employment Service awards categories. Winners include:

SMALL EMPLOYER:	Bravehearts Therapeutic Riding & Education Center Harvard, Illinois
MEDIUM SIZE EMPLOYER:	HICAPS Inc. Greensboro, North Carolina
LARGE EMPLOYER:	Grunt Styles, LLC Carol Stream, Illinois

EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS:	Workforce Connection – Wise Title V. La Crosse, Wisconsin
LVER OF THE YEAR:	Osvaldo "Ozzie" Montalvo Norcross, Georgia
DVOP OF THE YEAR:	Mark Simmons Colorado Springs, Colorado
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES LOCAL OFFICE OF THE YEAR:	Bobby Dodd Institute (BDI) Atlanta, Georgia
HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH:	Department of New Jersey Trenton, New Jersey

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The staff held a Veterans Small Business Policy Roundtable focused on the Medical & Surgical Prime Vendor (MSPV) contract vehicle that will be coming out in 2020. MSPV will be the largest contracting vehicle VA will administer, as they plan to reorganize 80 percent+ of their medical supplies, services, and equipment under the new MSPV 2.0. 2019 will be the testing ground and study year for how the new MSPV framework will be implemented. The purpose of this roundtable is to get stakeholder organizations, small business distributors, and prime vendors in front of VA contracting officials.

How VA purchases medical supplies and services affects the most vulnerable segment of our constituency – the veteran patients. VA's ability to provide adequate care to our veterans critically hinges on this contracting vehicle.

The meeting included senior VA contracting officials from Veterans Affairs, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (VAOSDBU), Strategic Acquisition Center and Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The Legion intends to further the conversation on MSPV 2.0 to find a solution that works for VA, veteran-owned small businesses, and most importantly serves the need of our veteran patients whether they are administered care at home, Community Based Outpatient Clinics, or at the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers.

Ideally, we would like to come out of this discussion with a uniform list of requirements; small businesses advocates would like to see the leadership from VHA and the Strategic Acquisition Center collaborate resulting in the crafting of MSPV 2.0.

Furthermore, there has been much confusion over a recent Court of Federal Claims decision as it pertains to the Justification & Approval and MSPV next generation. We've invited Gunjan Talati, a senior partner from *Kilpatrick, Townsend and Stockton PLLC* to provide a briefing on the significance and impact of the court case *ELECTRA-MED CORP. v. the USA*. This case establishes dangerous precedence for VA to craft false narratives around emergencies to side–step *Kingdomware's* "rule of two" and abdicate their fiduciary responsibilities of administering a contract.

Finally, there was skepticism regarding the VA's willingness to follow through with the actionable items they agreed to complete or consider in MSPV 2.0. Stakeholders from VHA, VA OSDBU, SBA, and the advocacy organizations agreed that further conversations with any more "concessions" in writing would be necessary from VA.

Small Business Economic Initiatives

The rate of veteran small business entrepreneurship has trended downward at the highest rate since the Vietnam era. The lack of capital is one of the reasons contributing to this decline. In the recent U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Report entitled "Financing Their Future: Veteran Entrepreneurs and Capital Access," SBA found that

veterans requested small-dollar loans and banks were not willing to make such small loan amounts, especially since they deemed veterans as being high credit risk lenders. SBA also found that veterans had a lack of information and did not know where to find available resources. To address these challenges, the American Legion's National Veterans Employment and Education Division is developing economic initiatives, such as hosting small business round-tables with financial stakeholders (i.e., community banks, U.S. Department of the Treasury and venture capitalists) to identify available resources for veterans.

Finally, the staff is also continuing its relationship with the SBA Office of Veterans Business Development to increase participation in the Boots to Business entrepreneurial education and training program. VE & E is also promoting the establishment of at least two new Veteran Business Opportunity Centers to expand access to business training and counseling for veteran-owned small businesses. VE & E is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a procurement advisory board to provide feedback on current VA procurement policies, procedures, and practices; encourage competition at the VA and ensure VA procurement officials are using procurement best practices to maximize procurement competition. Also, VE & E is in the process of addressing small business development in rural areas. We are currently identifying Federal, State and local resources throughout the United States that can be accessed by veterans, such as business loan guarantees and counseling services.

VETERAN HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Key Takeaways from the 2019 Veterans Affairs Home Lending Conference

The Veterans Benefits Administration's annual VA Home Loan Guaranty Lenders Conference was held April 23-25th in San Antonio, Texas. More than 1200 VA Home Loan stakeholders attended the conference. A total of 52 stakeholders and speakers presented topics during 22 sessions, covering multiple issues on the VA Home Loan Guaranty policy and program administration.

The conference opened with Jeff London, Executive Director, Loan Guaranty Service, providing an overview of the VA Loan Guaranty's strategic plan. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the VBA's mission, values, and goals. He expressed the importance of:

- Innovation for lending processes.
- It suggested that improved customer service, and maintaining a veteran-centric approach for the entire organization.
- VBA will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the G.I. Bill with a video repository that allows veterans to tell how the VA Home Loan changed their life.
- Most importantly, he emphasized to those in attendance that the VA Loan is an earned benefit.

Did you know? The VA has administered more than 23 million loans as of FY 2018. These loans equate to more than 2,400 loans every day. Equally, impressive the VA Home Loan Guaranty's default rate has traditionally been the lowest of all home loan products.

Housing Policy Update

Over the course of the three-day conference, there were many policy discussions, and comments concerning enacted and proposed changes to the home loan earned benefit.

Loan Guaranty Cash Out: Interim Final Rule – Effective date February 15, 2019

This rule protects veterans by stating that lenders must be transparent about fees at the time of application and closing. The law also requires that a minimum of 210 days to pass and six monthly payments made before a veteran can refinance their mortgage.

- The Issue: The so what? According to published reports, lenders made more than 41 billion dollars off of cash-out financing in 2019. Because of this, Congress and the VA want to make sure veterans understand the cash-out

decision.

- Winners: Veterans that are first time home buyers are often targeted with unscrupulous cash-out refinance mail and emails. The VBA wins because this ruling protects their program and helps ensure veterans are receiving their earned benefit within the intent of the original 1944 Servicemen's Readjustment Act.
- Losers: Bad Faith VA Home Lenders.

H.R. 299 - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019.

This bill passed the House but did not pass the Senate last year. If passed this bill will provide healthcare and monetary benefits for veterans exposed to the Agent Orange herbicide as a result of their service aboard Navy shipping in determined geographic locations in and around Vietnam, the Korean DMZ, and the children of veterans that suffer from spina bifida as a result of a servicemembers service in Thailand.

- The Issue: The issue here is that the VA Home Loan Guaranty funding fee, which before now is protected, will be used as the vital instrument to fund these benefits. Why is this significant? This means that Blue Water Navy Veterans would subsidize their benefits by utilizing their VA Home Loan Benefit. Also, the funding fee exemption for service-connected veterans will disappear for veterans rated with a less than 100 percent disability. Moving forward, this bill may gain momentum as it marked up and goes to committee. We will continue to track this legislation. In its current language, this bill is complex, and there are no clear winners or losers.

SEC. 6. H.R. 299. On a positive note, Section. 6. of the bill removes the loan guaranty limit of 25 percent removing limitations to the loan amount for qualifying veterans.

- Winners: Allows Veterans to purchase homes in all types housing markets regardless of the home value.
- Losers: FHA and conventional loan lenders that compete for veteran business.

Future VA Home Loan Collaborative Opportunities

The VE&E Division has been asked to participate and present in the 2020 VA Lenders Conference. At the request of the VBA, TAL as the leading VSO will reach out to other VSOs to gauge their interest and participation in a panel for the 2020 VA Lenders Conference.

Overall, the conference was a great success and well worth the time and resources required to attend. The VE&E established relationships and discussed collaborative opportunities with the National Association of Realtors, Veterans United, CFPB, VBA Regional Loan Centers, USAA, and strengthened our relationships with the VA Loan Guaranty leadership. Moving forward, we will use the resources gained from this conference to assist with the update of the Legion's VA Home Loan pamphlet and resource book. Also, VE&E staff will participate in future VA home loan working groups and programs.

Under the leadership of our Chairman, Mr. Vincent Troiola and the VE&E staff, we will continue to support veteran home loan education, increase our advocacy efforts on home loan regulations, promote veteran home ownership, and initiate actions concerning all matters affecting the economic well-being of veterans.

Veteran Homelessness

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission invited Joshua Stewart, Director of Policy for the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans. Mr. Stewart's presentation focused on the landscape of homeless veterans and included remarks on the potential effects of another government shutdown. Also, he discussed the Housing and Urban Development -VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Contingency Plan in the event of another shutdown. The bad news is that because of the way the HUD system

works, funding for the local level is not in sync with funding at the national level. Smaller Public Housing Administrations (PHA) will run out of money first, and they will also be the first to show struggle executing their missions. Some have probably heard news reports of small PHAs during the government shutdown deciding not to issue new HUD-VASH vouchers until new funding is approved. In the event of a future government shutdown veterans participating in the HUD-VASH are at risk and veterans in the pipeline (homeless or in the shelter) have to stay where they are at until the shutdown is resolved. Mr. Stewart emphasized that the longer a shutdown goes on, more PHAs will have to make difficult decisions on funding and resource allocation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A very important part of the work of the National Veterans Employment & Education Division is the preparation and presentation of congressional testimony as well as letters of support on issues affecting the economic well-being and financial stability of America's veterans. Since January of 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division has been involved in several congressional testimonies and have written numerous letters of support or opposition.

The following is a synopsis of the congressional hearings and correspondence held from January 1, 2019, to May 3, 2019, on matters pertaining to the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission:

In January 2019, the staff delivered testimony examining the progress of the Department of Veterans Affairs in implementing Veterans-First contracting program after the Supreme Court's *Kingdomware* decision. The House Veteran Affairs Committee requested veteran service organization policy input in light of the recent GAO report. The American Legion discussed VA's National Acquisition Center's move towards insourcing, large business subcontracting issues, and the new VA class deviations that continue to prevent VA from fully implementing GAO's recommended changes. We also discussed the VA's Center for Certification and Evaluation's botched procurement for a CRMS that prevented many veterans from entering the Veterans-First program.

In February 2019, the staff delivered testimony to the House Small Business Committee hearing regarding the progress of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Small Business Administration implementation of sections 1832 and 1833 of the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. (P.L. 114–328, H. Rept. 114-840.) The new law required SBA and VA to realign the definitions related to Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses, designated SBA with regulatory responsibility for matters of ownership and control, and tasked SBA's Office of Hearings and Appeals with jurisdiction over protests and the appeal of the VA Center for Verification and Evaluation's verifications of SDVOSBs.

In February 2019, the staff testified in front of the House Small Business Committee. The hearing's purpose was to examine the challenges faced by underserved businesses; the American Legion took the opportunity to discuss the Small Business Administration's Veterans-focused Entrepreneurial Development and Loan programs. We discussed the progress veteran-specific programming at the SBA has made since 2005. We also critiqued the antiquated metrics used by the SBA to capture success rates that may not be relevant in light of the changing landscape of digital resources and consolidation of the banking industry.

In February 2019, the staff submitted a letter of support for the Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act a bipartisan bill introduced by U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), John Kennedy (R-LA) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) to help Veteran entrepreneurs grow their small businesses, create jobs and expand economic opportunity. The Legion supported this bill in the last three years and was elated when the bill passed. The new law allows Veteran small business owners to acquire equipment and personal property that the federal government no longer has a use for by adding Veterans to the list of eligible recipients for federal surplus personal property. The General Services

Administration (GSA) oversees the distribution of federal surplus personal property with the Small Business Administration (SBA) and State Agencies for Surplus Property (SASP) through the Federal Surplus Property Donation Program. When there is no federal need for excess property, SASPs disburse the property to eligible recipients.

On March 13, 2019, the staff assisted the Department of New York in drafting a Memorandum of Support to the New York State Senate Higher Education Committee for closing the 90-10 loophole. Explicitly, the memorandum articulated support for Article VII Budget Legislation, EFLA Part E, the *'For-Profit Accountability Act.'*

In April 2019, the staff submitted a letter to VA objecting to the awarding of a VA healthcare supplies and services contract to a large business Rotech Healthcare Inc. Not only did this award wrongfully displace a small business, but it also violated the statutory mandate of rule-of-two as defined by the Supreme Court's *Kingdomware* decision. VE&E researched and exposed Rotech for being a three-time Medicare fraudster that has admitted guilt and settled with the Department of Justice multiple times to avoid prosecution. As a result, the Government Accountability Office sustained a protest against Rotech Healthcare Inc. and canceled their participation in the contract. The American Legion is vigilant and will not allow our veteran patients to be harmed by fraudulent government contractors.

In April 2019, the staff signed on to an opposition letter to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees underscoring our deep reservations on small business policy changes recommended by the Section 809 Panel in its final report published in late January 2019. The Section 809 Panel is an independent commission Congress created to modernize and streamline the Defense acquisition system. The small business community, advocates and stakeholders opposed the recommendation of the panel to eliminating small business set-asides in exchange for a 5% price preference be adopted by the Department of Defense (DoD). We summarily reject the notion that small businesses would benefit from this change and asked the Committees to abandon the Section 809 Panel's recommendations in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorizations Act.

In April 2019, the staff prevented the advancement of the BRAVE Act, which proposed a new federal preferred contracting group within VA for large businesses that hire veterans. By sheer size and capacity, large corporations will always be able to employ more veterans than small business. The American Legion does not want small businesses to be permanently disadvantaged when competing against the giant corporation in the federal market space. The Supreme Court Justices were clear in their unanimous opinion in *Kingdomware*; the set-aside goal for SDVOSBs intended to "encourage small business" and build the capacity in the veteran small business industrial base, and it was not for the sole purpose of fulfilling a quota. (*Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. v. United States*, 579 U.S. (2016) ("In an effort to encourage small businesses, Congress has mandated that federal agencies restrict competition for some federal contracts.")) Further, the Justices opined that the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 was ancillary in nature to the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999. The opinion of the Court advises agencies that the reasoning behind the set-aside goals applies to government-wide SDVOSB programs and agency-specific programs, namely the Veterans First Contracting Program at the Department of Veterans Affairs. (38 USC 8128) As written, the BRAVE Act would rock the infrastructure on which these two programs were founded, and potentially alter VA's fiduciary responsibility to grow the veteran small business industrial base with their small business goals. (Public Law 109-461 and President Bush's 2004 Executive Order 13360)

On April 9, 2019, Staff testified before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity concerning H.R 95, H.R. 444, H.R. 1448, and draft legislation:

H.R. 95: the 'Homeless Veterans Family Act' would amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that children of homeless veterans are included in the calculation of the amounts of specific per diem grants. The American Legion supports passage of H.R. 95.

H.R. 444: the 'Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of All Ages Act' would amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the period of eligibility for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The basic

period of eligibility for VR&E benefits is limited to 12-years from the date of separation from military service or the date of notification by VA of a service-connected disability rating. This legislation eliminates the 12-year limitation to participate in the program and extends opportunities and resources to deserving veterans. The American Legion supports passage of H.R. 444.

H. R. 1718: the 'GI Education Benefits Fairness Act' would amend title 38, United States Code, to enable GI Bill transferability to ward and foster children. Currently, incongruent statutory language prevents ward and foster children from receiving the same privileges of transferability as an adopted child or biological child. The American Legion supports passage of H.R. 1718.

Notable among the draft legislation shared is the *Navy Seal Chief Petty Officer William 'Bill' Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.* This bill would make improvements to the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the overall transition process for servicemembers to include an increased focus on career opportunities and entrepreneurship. This bill would represent the most significant reorganization of TAP since 2011.

The necessity for this bill is consistent with a critical discovery from our Employment Innovation Task Force, which surveyed 550 exiting active duty servicemembers over the summer of 2018. When asked about if "TAP helped me identify community resources for ongoing support beyond transition," only 16% agreed or strongly agreed. This draft language would increase community engagement in TAP, and The American Legion supports its passage.

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 sincerely appreciate their continued support and participation. Chairman Troiola would also like to thank 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.

Addendum A

Tabled

Resolution No. 19 (2018 Fall National Executive Committee)**: Creation of The American Legion Credentialing Advisory Task Force**

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 20 (2018 Fall National Executive Committee) **Creation of The American Legion Employment Innovation Advisory Task Force**

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to receive and file the Veterans Employment & Education Commission report. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 13: Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Military Lending Act in 2006 in response to Department of Defense concerns that high-cost lending to service members and their dependents undermines military readiness, harms the morale of troops and their families, and adds to the cost of fielding an all-volunteer fighting force; and

WHEREAS, Through the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (CFPA) the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) was charged with protecting Americans from harmful and predatory financial products, and has specifically focused on the concerns of military families through its Office of Service Member Affairs; and

WHEREAS, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 articulated CFPB enforcement authority over the Military Lending Act, of which supervisory procedures were developed through interagency coordination under the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council; and

WHEREAS, These supervisory procedures have employed examinations of non-bank entities to assess compliance with the Military Lending Act since 2013; and

WHEREAS, In an October 2018 CFPB town hall in Louisiana, CFPB leadership disclosed that based on new statutory interpretation it would cease to conduct supervisory examinations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion supports the authority of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to conduct supervisory examinations for violations of the Military Lending Act; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation that will rationally improve service member financial protections and enforcement provisions of the Military Lending Act; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any legislative or regulatory actions that undermines the supervisory powers of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with respect to protecting servicemembers, veterans and their families.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution 13 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 13 entitled, "Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act." Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Attached to the report is Addendum A. I move the actions of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission become actions of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion on the floor. Any discussion? The chair recognizes Past National Commander John Brieden.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: On Resolution No. 19, the credentialing advisory task force, it was formed last fall and we're withdrawing that. So I presume that all the credentialing issues have been resolved and we have no further problems with that; is that correct? By the way, I know the answer is "no." *(Laughter)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: The chair at this time recognizes Chairman Troiola to address this question.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TROIOLA: The resolution was withdrawn because it was considered out of order.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: We've been working on credentialing since I was chairman of that commission, I think that was 1904. *(Laughter)*

But while we've made headway, it's still a major issue. And so I'm not sure I completely understand why we would want to have a task force and we don't want to have a task force, if we still have credentialing problems and we haven't gotten that issue settled. So somebody needs to explain that to me.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: The chair will recognize staff members for the purpose of an explanation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CELLI: We are absolutely not abandoning the credentialing issue, it's one of our major issues and we continue to work on it. What the VE&E division was trying to do was to create an additional task force that this body wasn't ready to approve yet. So we have to go back and we have to reconstruct it, and then we'll be able to bring forth a resolution to ask this body to approve it. But we are still 100 percent committed to credentialing. As a matter of fact, we've been working on it this week and we have several credentialing roundtables scheduled throughout the country.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Past National Commander Brieden, does that answer your question?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: More or less, yes, sir. The fact that we're still working on it is what I wanted to hear. The fact that we can make it a priority, I'm wanting to hear. Because just looking at that made it look like that was not the case.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: The chair recognizes Past National Commander Conley.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: Commander, I'd like to make a motion that we table that until the staff and the chairman of the committee comes up with a new resolution. That way, nobody will interpret what Past Commander Brieden did, thinking we were abandoning it. So if we table it, it's still there until such time as we bring a new resolution before this body.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Is there a second to that motion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Okay. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Any opposed? Okay. The motion passed. I have a motion still on the floor and a second to accept the Addendum A of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission minus Resolution No. 19, which has been withdrawn and tabled. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, motion is passed.

The chair now recognizes Ronald F. Conley, past national commander of Pennsylvania, chairman of the TBI/PTSD Committee, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: TBI/PTSD Committee
Past National Commander Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania, Chairman

Good afternoon. Commander Brett, national officers, members of the NEC, and guests, I'm honored to chair this very important committee and continue the work and legacy of a great Legionnaire, Past National Commander Bill Detweiler.

I would like to highlight some of the actions of the TBI/PTSD Committee. First of all, I was not in Washington for the Washington Conference because I think most everybody knows of my injury to my knee. During the Washington Conference, the committee met on February 24 and heard from Dr. Franklin, executive director for suicide prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs. A key point of her discussion was the national suicide prevention strategy for the next ten years. Priorities include identifying both risk and protective factors, and the best methods outreached to bring more awareness.

The VA recognizes that alone, it does not have the power to reduce veteran suicide. We assured them that The American Legion is ready to assist. One of the ways that we are going to assist is making sure every post in The American Legion understands the severity of veteran suicide throughout the country, and participates in any information that the national organization puts out to help resolve this terrible tragedy.

I'd like to mention that in 1950, The American Legion donated money to form the Mental Health Association. The Legion was very concerned about mental the health of our veterans, and by donating funds to establish that agency, we felt we'd be handling any mental health problems that might come forward.

The committee has released the 2019 mental health survey. It will be on the website or should be on the website next week. It has several questions that are for veterans and for those that support and help veterans. The survey is designed to collect data that will help The American Legion bring local resources related to TBI/PTSD and suicide prevention to veterans and their families. The data collected will help The American Legion determine the current suicide prevention readiness of respondents and provide information on treatment programs, both inside and outside the VA. From the survey, we hope to learn best practices and which treatment therapies are having success.

Our committee over the years has listened to speakers from all over the country, dealing with ways that we can treat suicide and PTSD. We had hyperbaric oxygen. We had acupuncture. We had the veterans from Canada come down and tell us how they respond to TBI and PTSD. We had a wealth of knowledge, and published a book dealing with some of the things we found pertaining to suicide prevention.

The TBI/PTSD Committee is scheduled to meet during the national convention on August 23, 2019, at the VA Medical Center here in Indianapolis. If we cannot get a room there, we're going to meet here at national headquarters. Invitations were sent to potential speakers, Dr. Bourke from the Research and Recognition Project, and Mr. Hartford from the Marcus Institute of Brain Health.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Thank you to our volunteers, members, and staff for the outstanding work done on behalf of our nation's veterans. I have a copy of the survey, which will be for veterans and providers, and cover questions relating to both. If anybody has any questions for me, I'll accept them at this time. If not, Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, a motion to accept the report of TBI/PTSD Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to receive and file the TBI/PTSD Committee report. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The motion is passed. The chair now recognizes Chairman Robert E. Newman of Indiana for the Internal Affairs Commission report.

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

Good afternoon. Commander, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chairman. Members of the National Executive Committee, fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen, you heard from Membership Chairman Dan Seehafer earlier, and I just want to reemphasize the importance of his report and his message to us in this room. It is our job to provide the leadership to carry this organization into our second 100 years. A stagnant membership base affects everything: Fewer members, less activity, less new leadership, less new ideas, fewer volunteers, and the list goes on.

As we celebrate 100 years of service, let us not forget the things that brought us here: A strong membership base, active posts in our local communities, and working programs designed to improve the quality of life for America's veterans, their families, and communities. Engaging with our members as leaders, we must dream the great dreams and imagine the future of this great organization, and develop plans for our membership to understand. We must be able to draw strength from the fact that others have succeeded where we must succeed.

Everyone in this room is here because of the success of others, and we in turn must develop our successors. Change is hard work. Leading change means doing two jobs at once: Getting the organization through today, and getting the organization into tomorrow.

Engagement and training is the key, as Chairman Seehafer said. This is a hands-on job for each of us to make the mind-set change we need across the organization in membership and leadership development. It requires a very personal and very hands-on approach, taking a direct action, building the confidence necessary for leaders at all levels.

This was a discussion in the 21st Century Committee this weekend, as well as at the commission meeting. From our meetings, there are five take-aways: A need for training at all levels; engaging our members, as evidenced by the buddy check; conducting quality programs to support the needs of our communities; review our programs to ensure proper utilization of our members' resources; mentor our future leaders.

You have my report of all of our actions and deliberations before you. I draw your attention to the great work the Sons of The American Legion have accomplished and I commend every department for supporting the great program. You all know what the American Legion Riders do for developing awareness within their home communities, and for the Legacy Scholarship at the national level. The 2019 Legacy Run to Indianapolis is outlined in the report. I commend this report for your reading.

My last topic is the National Emergency Fund. The spring storms have started and we are positioned to provide our members and their families with immediate assistance. Thank you again for your support for this very critical program.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
May 8, 2019
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman

Chairman Robert E. Newman (IN), called the Internal Affairs Commission to order at 9:00 a.m., May 6, 2019, and at 8:30 a.m., May 7, 2019, in the Herman G. Harrington Conference Room, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. The following areas were discussed:

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF)

Since its creation in 1989, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has awarded nearly $10M American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members and posts. Up to $3,000 is available to members, and up to $10,000 is available for posts that, as a result of natural disaster, temporarily lose the ability to maintain existing Four Pillar programs within the community.

In 2018 we approved 104 grants (83 individual grants and 21 post grants) totaling $256,870. The majority of the grants were distributed in the last quarter of 2018 for Hurricanes Florence (North & South Carolina and Georgia) and Michael (Florida).

2018 Individual Grants (83) **$132,700 (Average individual grant $1,560.00)**
2018 Post Grants (21) **$124,170 (Average post grant $5,912.00)**

So far in 2019, the NEF has provided grants to **20 members and three posts** within the departments of California, Florida, Kentucky, North & South Carolina, Georgia, Wisconsin, Tennessee and Nebraska for a total of $56,125 (compared to $144,270 on this date in 2018). 2019 NEF donations (Jan 1 to April 30) total **$113,165.03.**

The trust has $6,180,065 as of April 23, 2019.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (ANNUAL SPRING MEETINGS REPORT)

Submitted by Greg K. Gibbs (NY), National Commander, Sons of The American Legion

The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) has just completed a very successful National Executive Committee meeting this past weekend.

As of May 2, 2019, we have a total reported membership of 340,810. This is 91.86% of our 100% target and 85.2% of our membership goal for 2019 of 400,000 members.

Again, this year, we remained a strong supporter of the Child Welfare Foundation, raising $219,723.73 total to date as of April 30, 2019. The organization has now surpassed

$8 million in contributions to the Foundation. During the National Executive Committee meeting this past weekend, an additional amount of $112,813.22 was donated to the Foundation with more coming prior to May 31st. The total, after the donations this weekend, is over $365,142.95, which is 107% of our goal of $340,065.

The SAL is also focused on assisting The American Legion through donations to the National Emergency Fund. During the National Executive Committee meeting this past weekend, $15,706 was donated to the NEF with more coming in all of the time.

One hundred eighty-nine (189) National Executive Committeemen, Alternates, Commission and Committee members attended the 2019 Spring National Executive Committee meeting representing forty-five (45) detachments. Forty-seven guests also attended.

The Member Training and Development Committee continued training our members with the National Management Institute (NMI). Three hundred and seventy-two (372) SAL leaders have now completed all phases of this three-session management training. Nineteen graduated during this 18th Anniversary session. All graduates receive a Certificate of Graduation. The NMI is a three-course seminar that encompasses communication skills and public appearances; time management and personal administration; building action plans for results; driving for results; developing oneself; acting with integrity and thinking strategically.

In addition to the donations for CWF and NEF, our members presented the following donations: $1,600 to the Endowment Fund and $14,000 to Operation Comfort Warriors. The donations received this weekend, without the resolutions, totaled $145,419.22. The donations came from various detachments, districts and squadrons from across the country.

Fourteen resolutions were presented to the National Executive Committee for consideration. Five were recommended for adoption and two were received and filed. The disposition of these resolutions can be found in Addendum B of this report.

With our membership goal for this year appearing to be very attainable, we appear to be heading towards another record year. Our members from around the country have been actively supporting the programs and ideals of our parent organization, The American Legion. The Sons of The American Legion will continue to work for the benefit of our veterans who helped make this country great. Our work in assisting veterans in the local VA Medical Centers and Hospitals continues to grow and will remain the top priority of the SAL.

The Finance Commission report contained many items of great importance to the SAL as a whole and we spent some time deliberating the need for a per capita increase. Recommendations were suggested and a template for potential resolutions regarding this issue will be created and distributed to the SAL NEC.

Through the use of our in-house training courses, and the mentoring from our current leaders, our members will continue to enhance our dedication to the purposes and programs of The American Legion. We will continue to develop in-depth programs so that the Sons of The American Legion will become even more of an asset to The American Legion Family.

This part of the report consists of the following sections: Standing Committee Reports (Section I); Subcommittee Reports (Section II); and Actions on Assigned Resolutions (Section III).

I. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana at 8:30 A.M. on May 6, 2019. Present was the Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan (IL), Chairman.

The following resolution was discussed because of the involvement and development of the resolution by the National Judge Advocate.

Changes to the National Constitution and the National By-laws.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Committee adjourned.

B. 100TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee is heading into the final stretch to fulfill its five-year strategic plan to commemorate the organization's centennial in communities, states, the nation and around the world. The 100th National Convention in Minneapolis opened a window of recognition last August that continues through Nov. 11, 2019. Through the first seven months of the program, the centennial has been promoted far and wide, from Paris Post 1 to presidential libraries and museums, through thousands of events, commemorations, media developments, Team 100 new post charters and public awareness initiatives.

Among the most prominent and visible activities to celebrate The American Legion centennial have been physical displays to commemorate the organization's role in crafting, fighting for passage of and continuing to improve the GI Bill. Two physical displays have been traveling the nation almost continuously since the National WWII Museum in New Orleans opened the tour in June 2017. Since then, the major GI Bill traveling exhibit has been seen by more than 500,000 people, including two national conferences of Student Veterans of America, two presidential libraries and museums, one American Legion national convention, and it is now soon to be installed for Fleet Week on the USS *Intrepid* in New York City. This week, May 9, 2019, the exhibit will be on display at the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in St. Louis, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the St. Louis Caucus. In June, the exhibit will be on display in Washington, D.C., as part of the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944.

In addition to the two GI Bill displays traveling the country (one major, with video kiosks and illuminated panels; the other lighter and more mobile), the 100th Anniversary Committee has produced and traveled a 160-foot chronology display titled *"100 Years for God and Country"* that debuted during the 100th American Legion National Convention last August in Minneapolis and has traveled to multiple locations since then, most recently the International Tattoo Festival in Norfolk, Virginia, where thousands saw it at an event honoring women in service.

In addition to American Legion Past National Commander Denise Rohan, American Legion 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee member Diane Carlson Evans was an honored guest and participant in the International Tattoo Festival, with participation from nine different nations.

An American Legion Baseball history exhibit was designed, manufactured and displayed for a special centennial weekend at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, March 29-30, 2019, coordinated by The American Legion Department of New York. This exhibit has been on display at the Sheraton Hotel this week during the National Executive Committee and national commission meetings. It will also be shown at the American Legion Baseball World Series in Shelby, North Carolina.

Additional physical exhibits include a 10-foot, booth-sized pop-up chronology of The American Legion; a similar display featuring the Four Pillars; and smaller ones. Some of these exhibits have been replicated into Fathead wall hangings, which are now marketed for sale through Emblem Sales.

Two other media developments of note are the rollout of a documentary video series, "To Strengthen a Nation: The American Legion Story" and "A Century of Service" 116-page bookazine now in layout and production.

American Legion Emblem Sales centennial merchandise has continued to sell well, with no sign of decline, heading into the final summer of the commemoration. The top sellers remain polo shirts, T-shirts and coins. Nearly 100 Fathead wall hangings were sold by May 1, and more than 500 centennial "Legacy and Vision" lithographs have been sold. The catalog of centennial merchandise will be promoted heavily as the summer unfolds.

Two recent initiatives to commemorate The American Legion 100th anniversary have arisen on opposite ends of the planet.

First is an American Legion Centennial Ride Aug. 1-4, 2019, along the American Legion Memorial Highway, which bisects the heart of the nation between Mexico and Canada. Two legs of American Legion Riders, one coming up from the south and the other

coming down from the north, will carry a special vinyl banner through six departments, visiting posts along the way, accompanied by national vice commanders, drawing public and media awareness. The two legs will rendezvous at Great Bend, Kansas, fasten the two halves of the banner together – one representing "legacy" and the other "vision" – and the completed product, with signatures of post commanders along the route, will be presented to the national commander onstage at the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis.

The second initiative is an effort to erect two statues of American Legion historical significance in Normandy, France, in 2020 and 2021. One of the statues will depict Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. while the other will portray Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Roosevelt Jr., widely regarded as the founding organizer of The American Legion, received the Medal of Honor posthumously in 1944 for his actions in the D-Day invasion. Eisenhower, who received the Legion's Distinguished Service Medal in 1945, was a life member of American Legion Post 39 in Abilene, Kansas. The project is called *"Statues of Liberation,"* to be installed in Ste. Mere-Eglise, Normandy, France, which is one of the world's most visited military history historical sites, commemorating the Allied invasion that liberated Europe in 1944 during World War II.

The Statues of Liberation project has been reviewed as a resolution, approved by the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee, and was advanced to the Internal Affairs Commission.

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee is extremely grateful to posts, counties, districts and departments throughout the country and around the world for having made the most of the centennial opportunity. These have included American Legion 100th birthday galas in the Departments of Ohio, Oregon, and elsewhere; a documentary film series in the Department of Arizona; commemoration of the St. Louis Caucus centennial by the Department of Missouri; the National Baseball Hall of Fame American Legion Centennial Weekend, coordinated by the Department of New York; public television appearances in the Department of Minnesota; two American Legion centennial monuments in Texas; promotional opportunities with the National Football League to celebrate the centennial in Indiana and Minnesota; ceremonies to honor The American Legion 100th birthday in Paris, France, and communities worldwide; city and county proclamations, special events and commemorations; and much more. Included in this effort to advance local centennial activity has been the development of a national American Legion Memorials Database, which now stands at nearly 2,500 entries.

The committee commends the work of the National Marketing Commission in support of the centennial. Prominent among the Marketing Commission efforts have been promotions to strategize, advance awareness and to market the U.S. Mint American Legion commemorative coin sets and the multitude of details necessary to design, build and present an American Legion centennial float for the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 1, 2019. The committee also extends its deepest appreciation to the Convention and Meetings Committees, both nationally and state, for putting together 100th and 101st National Convention programs that would make the founders of The American Legion proud.

Each commission and division of The American Legion has been touched by the 100th Anniversary opportunity, as have thousands of posts, every department and American Legion Family members – the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders – as all have worked together to execute this five-year plan, connecting the organization's proud legacy with a vision for the future.

C. AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee met on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at The Sheraton Hotel, 21st floor in the Michigan room at Noon. All committee members that could not be at the meeting in person were afforded the opportunity to participate via online video conferencing or telephonic conference call.

After opening meeting formalities, guests in attendance were introduced. The committee members were honored to be addressed by:

- The Chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission, Robert Newman, Indiana

- The Chairman of Americanism Commission, Richard Anderson, Connecticut
- The Chairman of the Committee on Youth Education, Michael Westergren, Arkansas
- The Commander of Post 82, Shelby and consultant for American Legion World Series in place of Mr. Eddie Holbrook the Chairman of Cleveland County ALWS Baseball and TAL North Carolina Department Commander Thompson
- The Chairman of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee Past National Commander David Rehbein, Iowa

Two online Video Conference presentation were scheduled:

1. Mobile application to facilitate ride tracking including turn by turn directions and affording riders a safe means of communicating text messages while riding. The back end of this application, customized for TAL Riders, includes a hierarchical tiered structure to enable the higher levels to capture rider data to include mileage, participation population, and dollars either donated or donated in kind to enable Chapters, up through the hierarchy to have access to both detailed and summary data for Consolidated Post Reports. This mobile application contains two means of access, one from the mobile device and the other from the desktop/laptop computer.
2. Mobile application to facilitate riders at all levels to engage friends and family to assist in fund raising efforts. This presentation started and will be continued online within a week due to connectivity issues as the vendor was in a very remote location and had spotty service.

The structure of the American Legion Rider program was discussed in detail and a report will be prepared through the Internal Affairs Commission, and National Judge Advocate to The National Adjutant recommending that a Program Guidance letter be distributed affirming, reaffirming the structure and form of the American Legion Riders incorporating:

- The Five Rules of a subsidiary organization
- Marks, logos and copyright guidance
- Roles of Chapters, Posts, Departments and the National Organization

The Committee has embarked on a review of the content pertaining to riders on the national website. The Committee members in conjunction with staff in the near future will be recommending changes to the FAQ's and a number of documents that are on the website as resources, for example "sample constitution and bylaws".

Romps were discussed and it was restated that the national organization does not sponsor, condone nor permit any romp to be called the National Romp. Departments are free to hold local or regional romps and it is recommended that they proceed with caution to mitigate any potential liability to their operating units.

The following rides, that are being supported by the respective departments and not the national organization were discussed:

- US281 Centennial ride on The American Legion Highway
- Ride from the NEC Meeting to St. Louis
- Participation in Rolling Thunder

A detailed briefing was held on the 14th Annual – 2019 Legacy Run which will start this year at Post 347, Lady Lake in the Department of Florida. The five day ride starting in Florida and ending in Indiana will travel through eight departments. Overnight stops in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Kentucky. Total mileage is approximately 1,200 miles with stops at a number of American Legion Posts. A particularly notable stop will be at the Georgia War Veterans Home for lunch and camaraderie with the residents. A number of wreath laying events at memorials will be held on the ride. The planning team has been in conversations with the Executive Director of the Downtown Waycross Development Authority for our first day overnight stop and dinner. Media outreach has begun and planners and stops are being distributed meeting kits and numerous conference calls will be held leading up to the day of the ride. We are also looking at unique fund

raising and sponsorship opportunities for the ride. Emblem sales will be participating both in the Legacy Run and Rolling Thunder with a newly purchased 22 foot trailer.

II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)

The Sons of The American Legion Subcommittee of the Internal Affairs Commission met at 1:10 P.M. on May 6, 2019.

SAL National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs, leading SAL National Commander Candidate Clint Bolt, second leading SAL National Commander Candidate Michael Fox were introduced and gave brief comments regarding highlights that occurred during the SAL-NEC meeting. The meeting had 189 registered SAL members representing 45 detachments. The incoming national SAL officers for 2019-2020 attended ambassador training which prepares them for public appearances and properly conducting themselves while serving as a national officer. The Commander discussed the strategic plan and how it is applied to the various commissions and committees. The strategic plan provides direction and adjustments to the program and will continue to be evaluated and adjusted as needed. The membership is currently at 91.86% of the 400,000 goal; currently there are 340,810 members. The SAL has grown in membership surpassing their annuals membership goals for the past 21 years. The SAL over this past year has raised $219,723 and over $8 million overall to the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF). The commander further discussed the 2020 SAL budget, and a proposed the SAL per capita increase to take effect in 2021 upon the membership passing a resolution at their national convention. The Commander closed his reports by thanking the subcommittee and the SAL Liaison for their support and guidance.

The SAL Subcommittee reviewed all commission and committee appointments made by the Committee on Committees Commission and Past National Commanders Panel. All appointment were approved with a motion and unanimous decision.

The subcommittee reviewed the SAL National Officers slate running with the Leading Candidate Clint Bolt for 2019-20 at the national convention. All candidates were approved with a motion and unanimous decision pending a background check to be completed before the national convention.

The subcommittee reviewed and affirmed the resolutions forwarded by the SAL NEC. All resolutions reviewed and approved by individual motion and unanimous decision. Copies of all resolutions are listed in Addendum B of this report.

The subcommittee was briefed on the current projects. The SAL budget is a top priority and discussed at length. In the past, the SAL budget was not submitted to The American Legion Finance Commission due to the SAL budget cycle did not coincide with the TAL budget cycle. The SAL budget cycle was moved back six months so budget cycles could be aligned and submitted to the TAL Finance Commission when they review their annual budget. With this change, the SAL leadership is involved in the process. The Sub-Committee approved the 2020 SAL draft budget by motion and unanimous decision.

The 2019 actual expenses were reviewed and evaluated. It was discovered the TAL had not properly billed the SAL, thus not being able to budget effectively for all internal costs and services provided by The American Legion headquarters staff. After compiling all internal and external costs, it was determined there was a $650,000 annual deficit not covered by the SAL membership dues. It was suggested the SAL leadership look into the deficit and provide a proposed per capita increase to take effect by 2021. The current per capita of $2 has remained since 1982. The SAL Finance Committee suggested a $3 increase to the current per capita bringing the per member amount to $5 that would be paid to the national organization. By increasing the per capita to this amount, it is estimated the per capita may not have to increase until 2026. After the increase, the Finance Commission will monitor and make adjustments to expenses as needed. A draft resolution was submitted by the SAL leadership, but was returned and suggested the SAL make corrections. The SAL bylaws were addressed in regards to their procedure for per capita increases. The subcommittee instructed the SAL Commander to coordinate with his leadership and make

the appropriate changes to the SAL bylaws so they coincide with The American Legion established bylaws as it relates to per capita increases.

The last project discussed was how the SAL would benefit from the software upgrade currently underway and projected to be released in late 2021. The capabilities would enable the ability to complete online renewals, online membership transmittals, joining online and the ability to edit your own information. Another project being evaluated is overhauling the legion.org/sons website with updated fresh content. This concludes the Internal Affairs Sons of The American Legion Subcommittee report. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The recommendations of the Sons of The American Legion Subcommittee were approved by the Internal Affairs Commission to include the actions taken on resolutions. See Addendum.

B. TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE

The Training Subcommittee met in the National Headquarters building at 11:00 a.m. in conference room 314B to review business pertaining to National American Legion College, National Legion College Alumni Association, and the Training Program.

National American Legion College (NALC)

The application for the upcoming class was posted online in February 2019. Applications should be submitted via the prospective student's department who makes their recommendations and submits them forward to national.

Last year the college curriculum had significant changes which focused on NALC with leadership, mentoring and critical problem solving as a team. Upon graduation, students were encouraged to go back to their departments and partner with other graduates and likeminded Legionnaires to develop a training program at any level within the department. This year we are anticipating slight changes.

National American Legion College Alumni Association (NALCAA)

The subcommittee reviewed the updated National American Legion College Alumni Association (NALCAA) Constitution & By-Laws with small verbiage changes before presentation to the NALCAA general membership at their annual business meeting during the 2019 National Convention.

Training Program

District Training In A Box (Phase 1) and Post Training In A Box (Phase 1) will be completed before the 2019 Fall Meetings and available online. Basic Training was discussed and there is more need for members to take this great online course.

The recommendations of the Training Subcommittee were approved by the Internal Affairs Commission.

C. TROPHIES, AWARDS & CEREMONIALS [TAC] SUBCOMMITTEE

The **Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Subcommittee** was called to order by Chairman James Bojanowski (NY) at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 6, 2019, at National Headquarters, Conference Room 311, to receive the 2018 Official and Unofficial Awards and review the Spring 2019 Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials (TAC) Manual and other business of the TAC Subcommittee.

The subcommittee recommended approval on:

- The Spring 2019 Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Manual
- The 2018 Official and 2019 Unofficial Awards (see below)
- The International Amity Award to Philippe Colinet from the Department of France (Post BE02)
- The National Emergency Fund Post Excellence Award name change to National Emergency Fund Excellence Award

- A 2019 National Emergency Fund Excellence Award (name changed) recipient is Post 245, Department of Wisconsin. This is the only recommendation received this year.

OFFICIAL AWARDS APPROVED FOR 2018:

The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Award: Awarded annually to an individual(s) or organization for their outstanding service to the nation and to the programs of The American Legion by nomination by department action or by the National Commander.

RECIPIENT: Hon. Elizabeth Dole

American Legion Baseball Graduate of The Year Award: Presented to the major league baseball player who played American Legion Baseball as a teenager and best exemplifies the principles and purposes of the program in sportsmanship, citizenship, general good conduct, integrity and playing ability.

RECIPIENT: Brian Duensing, Chicago Cubs

Bob Feller American Legion Pitching Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player recording the greatest number of strikeouts during the regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

RECIPIENT: Jimmy Gambino, Post 40, Las Vegas, NV (25 strikeouts)

Commissioner of Baseball Trophy: Awarded annually at the Major League World Series to that baseball team which becomes the National Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion World Series.

RECIPIENT: Wilmington Post 1, Wilmington, DE

Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger Memorial R.B.I. Award: Awarded annually to The American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official score keepers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

RECIPIENT: Bryce Marsh, Post 45, Randolph County, NC (15 RBI's)

Ford C. Frick Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the runner-up team in the National Finals of The American Legion Baseball program.

RECIPIENT: Las Vegas Post 40, Las Vegas, NV

The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the year to the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

RECIPIENT: Department of Missouri

George W. Rulon Baseball Player of the Year: A Plaque is presented to recipient by appropriate official upon conclusion of The American Legion Baseball World Series. Citation is presented to recipient at a special Hall of Fame ceremony at Cooperstown, NY, the following summer.

RECIPIENT: Chris Ludman, Post 1, Wilmington, DE

The Howard P. Savage, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having the baseball team which becomes the Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion World Series.

RECIPIENT: Wilmington Post 1, Wilmington, DE

Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award: Awarded annually to the manager and coach of the national championship team, as representative of the adult leadership Jack Williams stressed during his lifetime.

RECIPIENT(s): Manager: Brent Treml, Post 1, Wilmington, DE
Coaches: Stephen Lex, Mark Wihelm, Matthew Schubert and Dane Walter

James F. Daniel, Jr. Memorial Sportsmanship Award: Awarded to The American Legion Baseball player participating in the World Series that represents the principle of good sportsmanship emphasized by the program.

RECIPIENT: Sam Goodman, Post 137, Dubuque County, IA

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy: Awarded annually in four categories to the top performing Individual and Team in the Sporter and Precision categories competing in the annual USA Shooting National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship who are members of clubs and teams affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program.

RECIPIENT(s):	**Precision Team:**	Ontelaunee Jr. Rifle Team, Post 173, New Tripoli, PA – Calista Smoyer, Emma Rhode, Sarah, Frantz, Jeanne Haverhill
	Precision Individual:	Jared Eddy, Ole Mill Rangers, Post 15, Midland, GA
	Sporter Team:	Des Moines North MCJROTC, Post 42, Des Moines, IA - Adrianna Campos, Kevin Nguyen, Sydney Krejci, Nicole Masteller
	Sporter Individual:	Bailey Hoenig, Zion Benton HS NJROTC, Post 865, Zion, IL

The American Legion Baseball "Slugger" Trophy: Plaque is presented to recipient, or designated representative, by appropriate official upon the conclusion of The American Legion Baseball World Series.

RECIPIENT: Sam Link, Post 137, Dubuque County, IA (.555 batting average)

Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department within the continental limits in the United States showing the greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards.

RECIPIENT: Department of New Mexico

The American Legion Baseball "Big Stick" Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player having the highest total number of bases as determined by the official score keepers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

RECIPIENT: Austin Colmery, Post 1, Wilmington, DE (21 total bases)

Spafford National Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department of The American Legion having within its jurisdiction the winner of the National High School Oratorical Contest.

RECIPIENT: Department of Kentucky

Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship Award: Awarded annually to the athlete competing in The American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championship who best exemplifies good sportsmanship and fair play.

RECIPIENT: Kaylene Castillo, Post 49, Eldorado HS MCJROTC, New Mexico

Daniel J. O'Connor Award: Awarded annually to that Department attaining the greatest number of percentage points compiled from information contained in the Consolidated Post Reports and supporting Department narrative. (Originally named the William Randolph Hearst Trophy)

RECIPIENT: Department of Virginia

The American Legion and Scouting "Square Knot" Award: This award is designed to recognize American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who completes the requirements for the award. The Award is meant to recognize dedication and work required by an American Legion, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion.

RECIPIENT(s): 2018 Robert C. Monto, James M. Hughes, Richard L. Hewett, William Hogg, John P. Wiltenmuth III, Richard T. Markley, Benjamin M. Strong, Michael C. Macku, William Lindberg, Ricky N. Riggins, Bruce Olson, Don Hall, Stacy L. Hall, Jaime J. Gonzalez, James Colvin, Frederick Drzewiecki II, Ronald Comtois, Jason Sansburn, Richard C. Barnard, Dana Edwards, Ralph E. Belter, Robin Hoyle.

The American Legion National Education Award: Awarded annually to an individual, group or organization that has promoted the education programs of The American Legion, including the promotion of "Need A Lift?", correspond to the goals of The American Legion or has promoted or advanced education programs at the national level.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded for 2018

The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate. It shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of authentic veterans' organization in Canada. It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans' affairs and in the development and perpetuation of the spirit of international good will and comradeship between the United States and Canada and between their veterans' organization and The American Legion.

RECIPIENT(S): **ANAVICUS –** Gordon MacEachern, Lucille Foubert, Bruce Wilson, Joy Fidler, Darlene Michel, Karen Kitchen, Fred Kanne, Lloyd Shaw, William "Bill" Sadler, Rae Roberts, Karen Wright, Michael Berridge, Donald Hinse, Kelly Kwong, Marilyn Marsh, Grant Taylor, Chester McComb, Eleanor Beaulieu, Wayne Miller
INDIVIDUAL – MAJ John Mahon (Ret.)

Department Award for 100% Post Children & Youth Reporting: Awarded annually to those Departments which achieve 100% of Posts indicating Children & Youth activity on Consolidated Post Reports.

RECIPIENT: Departments of Delaware, Alabama, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Montana

National Employer of Veterans Award Recipient(s): Awarded to an employer in recognition of outstanding achievement in the employment and retraining of veterans.

RECIPIENT(s):	**Category I**	Allied Universal Security Services, Rowlett, TX
2017	**Category II**	Gallery Furniture, Houston, TX
Winners	**Category III**	Southwest Airlines, Dallas, TX

Note: The 2018 National Employer of Veterans Award Recipient(s) will not be announced until 2019 National Convention.

National Employment Service Award Recipient(s): Awarded in three categories: Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) of the Year; Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP) of the Year; Employment Service (ES) Office of the Year.

RECIPIENT(s):	**LVER of the Year:**	John J. Irvine, Atlanta, GA
2017	**DVOP of the Year:**	Samuel L. Denson, Pensacola, FL
Winners	**ES Office of the Year:**	IDES Sterling Office, Peoria, IL

Note: The 2018 National Employment Service Award Recipient(s) will not be announced until 2019 National Convention.

Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award Recipient: The program is a joint project between the National Organization & the AETNA Company, to award those Posts that enhance the lives of disabled persons by providing opportunities for their participation in community activities.

RECIPIENT(s): None Awarded
2017 Winner

Note: The 2018 Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award Recipient will not be announced until 2019 National Convention.

National Employer of Older Worker Award Recipient: The program provides an Employer of Older Worker Award for a company that consistently hires older workers, especially veterans and serves as an inspirational recognition of a company with a record of support and commitment to the hiring of America's older workers.

RECIPIENT(s): ESW Inc., Crown Point, IN
2017 Winner

Note: The 2018 National Employer of Older Worker Award Recipient will not be announced until 2019 National Convention.

National DEPARTMENT History Contest Awards: Awarded annually at the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee to those contestants entered in the National Department History Contest having submitted the One-Year History *Narrative* or *Yearbook* of the Department which best meets the standards established for that particular competition.

RECIPIENT(s):	North Carolina	**(One-Year Narrative History)**
	North Carolina	**(One-Year Yearbook History)**

National POST History Contest Awards: Awarded annually to those contestants entered in the National Post History Contest deemed by a duly authorized panel of judges to have submitted the One-Year History of the Post which best meets the standards established for the competitions.

RECIPIENT(s):	Frierson-Nichols Post 8, Winter Haven, FL	**(One-Year Narrative History)**
	Women Veterans of Southwest Missouri Post 1214, Ozark, MO.	**(One-Year Yearbook History)**

International Amity Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate. It shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of an authentic veteran organization established in the territory of any of the nations associated as war-time allies of the United States of America. It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans affairs and for service and contributions made in the

development of international good will and comradeship between their organization and The American Legion.

RECIPIENT(s): None awarded for 2018

Distinguished Public Service Award: Awarded annually by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the Commander's Advisory Committee at the time of the annual Washington Conference. It may be awarded to one or more person(s) of the United States Congress.

RECIPIENT(s): Honorable Phil Roe, M.D., U.S. House of Representatives (TN)

The Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy: Awarded annually to that Detachment of Sons of The American Legion in each of five membership categories (I – 200-1,000 members; II - 1,001-3,000 members; III - 3,001-6000 members; IV – 6001-12,000 members; V – 12,001 or more), each of said Detachments attaining the greatest percentage of increase over previous year's membership when compared with all Detachments in its category.

RECIPIENT(s):	**Category I**	Detachment of Nevada
2018	**Category II**	Detachment of Alabama
Winners	**Category III**	Detachment of Colorado
	Category IV	Detachment of Arizona
	Category V	Detachment of Michigan

General Henri Gouraud Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department in each of six categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said Department having been the first in its respective category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota (effective 1986).

RECIPIENT(s):	**Category I**	None qualified
	Category II	None qualified
	Category III	Department of Wisconsin
	Category IV	None qualified
	Category V	Department of West Virginia
	Category VI	Department of France

General John J. Pershing Honor Award: Awarded annually to that Department having the greatest percentage of its posts receiving the Honor Ribbon for having 100 percent or more, of the post's previous year's membership enrolled for the coming year by December 31, and having reported such achievement to National Headquarters by not later than January 31.

RECIPIENT: Department of District of Columbia

Henry D. Lindsley Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.

RECIPIENT: None awarded for 2018

The American Legion National Recruiter of the Year: Awarded annually to the individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all of the departments.

RECIPIENT: David L. Witucki, Department of Texas

Jerry L. Hedrick Membership Award: Awarded annually to the Department, not included among the several state Departments or the Department of the District of Columbia, attaining the highest percentage of membership as of March 31, over its preceding year's membership.

RECIPIENT: None awarded for 2018

O. L. Bodenhamer Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing National Convention.
RECIPIENT: Department of West Virginia

The American Legion Air Force Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the Air Force Academy who demonstrates the highest proficiency in all academic subjects.
RECIPIENT: Ryan I. Silva

The American Legion Coast Guard Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class of the United States Coast Guard Academy who is considered to have personally excelled in athletics.
RECIPIENT: Dana Rohde

The American Legion Merchant Marine Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman of the Merchant Marine Academy, enrolled in the Pre-Commissioning Seminar Course, and selected by the Academy Faculty, as achieving the highest grade pertaining to a 1,000-word composition dealing with the subject of National Security.
RECIPIENT: Tyler Dugan

The American Legion Military Academy Award: Awarded annually to cadet of the graduating class at the United States Military Academy with the highest standing in Chemistry.
RECIPIENT: Louis Kurcz

The American Legion Naval Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman of the United States Naval Academy who stands highest in those English, History and Government courses taken to complete a Foreign Affairs major.
RECIPIENT: Nathan Bermel

National Commander's Blood Donor Awards: Presented to departments in different sized categories for participating in The American Legion's Blood Donor Program.

RECIPIENT(s):	**Category I**	**Departments with 100,000 or more members:**
	Post Participation:	No Submission
	Individual Participation:	No Submission
	Category II	**Departments with 70,000 to 99,999 members:**
	Post Participation:	No Submission
	Individual Participation:	No Submission
	Category III	**Departments with 40,000 to 69,999 members:**
	Post Participation:	Department of Maryland
	Individual Participation:	Department of Maryland
	Category IV	**Departments with 25,000 to 39,999 members:**
	Post Participation:	No Submission
	Individual Participation:	No Submission
	Category V	**Departments with 10,000 to 24,999 members:**

Post Participation:	Department of Montana
Individual Participation:	Department of Montana
Category VI	**Departments with less than 10,000 members:**
Post Participation:	No Submission
Individual Participation:	No Submission

The American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award: To recognize an outstanding law enforcement officer as selected from Department law enforcement officer winners for distinguished on-and off-duty service. The accomplishments for which the award is presented shall have been in accordance with, or in furtherance of, established American Legion policies or programs and it shall have contributed to the preservation of law and order as well as the American way of life.

RECIPIENT: Brett Walsh, Fuquay-Varina, N.C. Police Department, Fuquay-Varina, NC

The American Legion National Firefighter of the Year Award: To recognize an outstanding firefighter as selected from Department for distinguished on-and off-duty service. The accomplishments for which the award is presented shall have been in accordance with, or in furtherance of, established American Legion policies or programs and it shall have contributed to the preservation of law and order as well as the American way of life.

RECIPIENT: Damon Faust, Estacada, OR, Rural Fire District 69, Estacada, OR

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department giving the highest degree of support to the ROTC program within its jurisdiction, based on criteria drawn up by the National Security Commission.

RECIPIENT(s): Departments of Connecticut and Maryland

The American Legion Fourth Estate Award: Awarded to press, radio, TV, or other communications media; to associations of same, to owners, executive heads or staff members; such award to be in recognition of outstanding service to community, state, or nation, which service shall have been in accordance with or the furtherance of established American Legion policies and programs.

RECIPIENT: 2018 – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Milwaukee, WI (print); Minneapolis NBC-affiliate KA RE-TV, Minneapolis, MN (broadcast); The War Horse, Richlands, NC (online)

The American Legion Patriot Award: Awarded to an outstanding citizen who has demonstrated a profound and exceptional commitment to military personnel and their families.

RECIPIENT(s): Diane Carlson Evans

The American Legion Spirit of Service Award: Awarded annually by the Department of Defense and the six military departments that have identified the most outstanding men and women that have received press coverage in Armed Service News dispatches, the Pentagon Channel, their military base newspapers and their hometown publications.

RECIPIENT(s):	**Army:**	Sgt. Drew Hunnicutt
	Navy:	Petty Officer 2nd Class Sha'nae Wilson
	Marine Corps:	Sgt. Molly Hampton
	Air Force:	Staff Sgt. Robert P. Andrews
	Coast Guard:	Machinery Technician 2nd Class Brian Gogo
	Air National Guard:	Staff Sgt. Heather J. Hyon

Arch M. Cantrall Trophy: Awarded annually to that American Legion Band winning first prize in competition with all other American Legion bands during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.
RECIPIENT: American Legion Band of the Tonawandas, Williamsville, NY

Glen R. Hillis Trophy: Awarded annually to that Color Guard winning first prize in competition with all other Color Guards during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.
RECIPIENT: Harrisburg Post 472, Houston, TX

The Lemuel Bolles Trophy: Awarded annually to that band winning first prize in competition with all other bands during the annual National Convention.
RECIPIENT: American Legion Band of the Tonawandas, Williamsville, NY

William F. Lenker National Service Trophy: Awarded annually to that State Department of The American Legion excelling in welfare work for war veterans, providing the membership of that Department shall be no less than 80% of the membership of the preceding year.
RECIPIENT: Department of Montana

Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Provider of the Year Award: To be awarded annually at the Washington Conference to one outstanding non-physician direct patient care provider in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), nominated and selected under such conditions as the Internal Affairs Commission should from time to time select as necessary and consistent with the effective administration of such an award.
RECIPIENT: Nurse Jillene Sroczynski, Oklahoma City, OK

Department of Veterans Affairs Physician of the Year Award: To be awarded annually at the Washington Conference to one outstanding physician in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), nominated and selected under such conditions as the Internal Affairs Commission should from time to time select as necessary and consistent with the effective administration of such an award.
RECIPIENT: Dr. Amy Candy Heinlein, Minneapolis VA Health Care System

2019 UNOFFICIAL AWARDS
Contained within this extensive program are a wide variety of prizes ranging from simple certificates and ribbons to valuable gifts and travel. The awards are designed to reward the membership success of dedicated Legionnaires at all levels of the organization and to encourage continued growth. By getting active in membership recruiting, and by asking a veteran to join our ranks, one or more of the many prizes and awards listed below can be earned. The department membership chairman can be contacted for more information.

EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF - SEPTEMBER 12, 2018: Forty departments qualified for the 50% target date they are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

FALL MEETINGS - OCTOBER 11, 2018: Forty-six Departments qualified for the 55% target date they are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North

Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 15, 2018: Forty-three Departments qualified for the 65% target date they are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

PEARL HARBOR DAY – DECEMBER 12, 2018: Thirty Departments qualified for the 75% target date they are: Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, France, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

MID WINTER – JANUARY 17, 2019: Forty-seven Departments qualified for the 80% target date they are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

PRESIDENT'S DAY – FEBRUARY 13, 2019: Forty-eight Departments qualified for the 85% target date they are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

LEGION BIRTHDAY – MARCH 13, 2019: Twenty-five Departments qualified for the 90% target date they are: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Philippines, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

"BIG TWELVE" COMPETITION WINNERS:

Category I	**Ohio**
Category II	**None Qualified**
Category III	**Michigan**
Category IV	**None Qualified**
Category V	**South Dakota, Connecticut**
Category VI	**Delaware Utah**

CHILDREN & YOUTH – APRIL 10, 2019: **Eight** departments qualified for the **95%** target date: **Alaska, Delaware, France, Mexico, New Hampshire, Philippines, South Dakota, Utah.**

ARMED FORCES DAY – MAY 8, 2019: departments qualified for the **100%** target date: **not yet determined.**
By achieving **100%** of the department's **2019** membership goal, the department will receive a plaque recognizing this achievement. The plaque will be presented at the National Convention in ***Indianapolis, Indiana.***

DELEGATE STRENGTH – JULY 26, 2019: Delegate strength is determined by the membership in the hands of the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the National Convention. Total number of delegates for each department is based on five delegates at large, one delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, and the members of the National Executive Committee.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER OF THE YEAR: Any department commander, who met or exceeds his/her 100% goal for **2019** by **May 8, 2019**, will receive a plaque recognizing his/her achievement. The plaque will be presented at the National Convention in ***Indianapolis, Indiana.***

GOLD BRIGADE RECRUITER AWARD: A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more NEW members by **May 8, 2019**, will qualify for enrollment in the elite **GOLD BRIGADE** of The American Legion.

POST HONOR RIBBONS: Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to **1,142** posts whose **2019** membership as of **December 31, 2018** exceeded their final **2018** membership.

CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE: These certificates were awarded for **126** posts for attaining a new All-Time-High membership for **2019** by **December 31, 2018**.

FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS ALL-TIME-HIGH: These citations are awarded to Posts with five or more consecutive years of all-time high membership in **2019**.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS "RACE TO THE TOP":

District commanders are the lynchpin of The American Legion's chain of command, serving as the vital link between the national and department organizations and all posts. As we are all aware, the local post is where the "rubber meets the road." If it doesn't happen at the post level -- it doesn't happen at all. District Commanders are the people charged with ensuring all posts in their district maintain their vitality.

Consequently, this unique award was created to provide a meaningful incentive for the five top district commanders in each category and reward their successful membership efforts. The winning district commanders and guests receive:
Distinguished guests of the National Commander at National Convention.

- 1st class hotel accommodations for four nights at convention location.
- Legion cap that signifies they are Race-To-The-Top winners.

The following provides more specific information on how you can win.

Competition is divided into five categories based on the membership of the district without regard to geographic locations. District commanders will compete in each of the following categories based on the final **2018** totals, and a top district commander for the national award will be selected from each of the five categories. Second and third place awards will also be presented in each category.

Category I	**Districts of:**	**15 to 1,499 members**
Category II	**Districts of:**	**1,500 to 2,999 members**
Category III	**Districts of:**	**3,000 to 4,999 members**
Category IV	**Districts of:**	**5,000 to 7,499 members**
Category V	**Districts of:**	**7,500 and above members**

Trip to National Convention will be presented to the top district commander and spouse in each category whose district membership on **March 31st** represents the greatest percentage over the final previous year membership of that district. **Cannot be less than 100% to qualify**. First place award entitles you and your guest to attend the **101st** National Convention in ***Indianapolis, Indiana.***

Second Place Awards will be presented to the district commander in each category whose district membership on **March 31st** represents the second highest percentage over the final previous year membership of that district. **Cannot be less than 100% to qualify**. Winners will receive a **$500** check.

Third Place Awards will be presented to the district commander in each category whose district membership on **March 31st** represents the third highest percentage over the final previous year membership of that district. **Cannot be less than 100% to qualify.** Winners will receive a **$375** check.

This year's winners are:

FIRST PLACE WINNERS: (TRIP TO NATIONAL CONVENTION – INDIANAPOLIS, IN):

Category I	**Richard F. Devlin, III**	**Colorado**	**113.55%**	**District 1**
Category II	**Benjamin David Gibson**	**California**	**103.60%**	**District 24**
Category III	**No submissions**			
Category IV	**No submissions**			
Category V	**Stephen C. Hamrick**	**Florida**	**100.47%**	**District 12**

SECOND PLACE WINNERS ($500 CHECK):

Category I	**George M. Wooden**	**Oklahoma**	**111.20%**	**District 4A**
Category II	**Curtis Ray Humphrey, Jr.**	**Georgia**	**102.74%**	**District 12**
Category III	**No submissions**			
Category IV	**No submissions**			
Category V	**Bradley A. Teis**	**Ohio**	**100.27%**	**District 10**

THIRD PLACE WINNERS ($375 CHECK):

Category I	**Andrew E. Lowen**	**Texas**	**110.42%**	**District 1**
Category II	**Melvin O. Weaver**	**Georgia**	**102.53%**	**District 11**
Category III	**No submissions**			
Category IV	**No submissions**			
Category V	**No submissions**			

DISTRICT COMMANDER NEW POST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS:

District Commanders, who achieve the goal of creating new American Legion Posts in their respective District and have the new Post's Temporary Charter Application on file at National Headquarters by May 8, 2019, qualify for a special recognition framed certificate.

DISTRICT COMMANDER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD W/DISTRICT HONOR RIBBON:

All district commanders whose May Target Date membership exceeds the previous year's membership by at least the number of posts in that district will be awarded the District Commander Achievement framed certificate. In addition, the district will receive a District Honor Ribbon for its district colors.

DEPARTMENT RECRUITER OF THE YEAR: Each American Legion post will have the opportunity to submit the name of the "Top Recruiter" for that post who has signed up the highest number of new members for the 2019 membership year by May 8, 2019. Department adjutants will determine the top new member recruiter for their respective

department and certify their "Department Recruiter" to National Headquarters on or before May 31, 2019.
The "Department Recruiter" properly certified from each department, will be awarded a plaque with his/her accomplishment inscribed thereon.

NATIONAL RECRUITER OF THE YEAR: The individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all the departments will be declared "National Recruiter of the Year". The winner of this award receives an all-expense paid trip to the **101st** National Convention in ***Indianapolis, Indiana.***

The Internal Affairs Commission approved the recommendations of the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Subcommittee.

III. RESOLUTIONS

Approved and forwarded to Subcommittee on Resolutions

Resolution No. 1	Recommend Amendments to The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws
Resolution No. 14	Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions
Resolution No. 15	Commendation for Statues of Liberation in Normandy
Resolution No. 16	Community Level Academic Program Engagement
Resolution No. 17	American Legion Sponsored Veterans Service Days
Resolution No. 18	Buddy Check
Resolution No. 19	Sports
Resolution No. 20	Promotion of Family Play Day Events at Posts
Resolution No. 21	Procedures for The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal

Approved and forwarded to the Finance Commission

Resolution No. 4	National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion
Resolution No. 5	National American Legion College Tuition Change

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

Rejected

Resolution No. 28 (TX)(2018 National Convention)**: Add Video Categories to the National History Contest**
Resolution No. 10 (MI)(2018 National Convention)**: Minimum National DMS Rate**

Held for Study

Register Resolution No. 2760 (MI)**: Korean “Unknown War” Memorial**

Addendum B
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 SAL National Executive Committee
May 4-5, 2019.

Number	Origin	Title	Recommendation
SAL Res 1 – Spring NEC 2019	Americanism Commission	Chaplain Training for New Chaplains for the Sons of The American Legion	Return to Americanism for further study
SAL Res 2 – Spring NEC 2019	Nevada	Endorsement of L. James Stewart (NV) for National Vice Commander	Received and filed
SAL Res 3 – Spring NEC 2019	Ron Roberts NEC Mississippi	NEC Approval of National Commander's Appointments at Post-National Convention Meeting	Return to Mississippi
SAL Res 4 – Spring NEC 2019	Ron Roberts NEC Mississippi	Change to the Rules of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion	Return to Mississippi
SAL Res 5 – Spring NEC 2019	Membership Committee	Recognize November as "National Membership Renewal Month"	Approved
SAL Res 6 – Spring NEC 2019	Membership Committee	Recruiter of the Year Award	Approved
SAL Res 7 – Spring NEC 2019	Membership Committee	Detachment Recruitment Award	Approved
SAL Res 8 – Spring NEC 2019	Ron Roberts NEC Mississippi	Sons of The American Legion Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions and Special Order of Business - Election of National Officers	Return to Mississippi
SAL Res 9 – Spring NEC 2019	Vets Employ. and Edu. Comm.	Consolidated Report Modification to Reflect VE&E Efforts	Return to VEE for further discussion and consideration
SAL Res 10 – Spring NEC 2019	Vets Employ. and Edu. Comm.	Establishment of an Annual Sons of The American Legion Award for Outstanding Contributions for Veterans and Their Families	Return to VEE for further discussion and consideration
SAL Res 11 – Spring NEC 2019	Maine	Endorsement of Richard L. Huntley (ME) for National Vice Commander	Received and filed
SAL Res 12 – Spring NEC 2019	Member Train. & Develop. Cmte.	Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman Training	Return to MTD

SAL Res 13 – Spring NEC 2019	Americanism Commission	Community Level Academic Program Engagement	Approved
SAL Res 14 – Spring NEC 2019	CWF Committee	Child Welfare Donation of $5,000 from 2019 Budget	Approved

The above recommendations for the SAL National Executive Committee were reviewed and approved by The American Legion Internal Affairs SAL Subcommittee and the Internal Affairs Commission.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 1 - Spring, 2019
Title: Chaplain Training for New Chaplains for the Sons of The American Legion
Origin: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, the Preamble to the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion reads, "To carry on for God and Country;" and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 3 of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion states, "The Sons of The American Legion shall be absolutely non-sectarian;" and

WHEREAS, annually, the Sons of The American Legion on the National, Detachment, District and Squadron levels select a Chaplain to provide spiritual leadership, participate in dedication ceremonies, funeral services of members and other activities supportive of the Organization and its members; and

WHEREAS, currently structured training for Chaplains is not provided by the National Organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019, that the Sons of The American Legion make available suitable training for Chaplains at all levels of the Organization; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chaplain Training narrative and PowerPoint program approved by reference in the report of the National Americanism Commission at the 2018 Fall National Executive Committee Meeting be adopted as a foundation for Chaplain Training; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that contingent upon approval, the Chaplain Training narrative and PowerPoint presentation be posted on the National Sons of The American Legion website for the utilization of all Chaplains at all levels of the Organization and the entire membership.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 2 - Spring, 2019
Title: Endorsement of L. James Stewart (NV) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Detachment of Nevada

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of 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, L. James Stewart has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Nevada as an elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of The American Legion Family; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Nevada hereby endorses L. James

Stewart for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Nevada and the Department of Nevada with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Ben Casad, and Department Commander, Joel Forman, are on the submitted resolution.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 3 - Spring, 2019
Title: NEC Approval of National Commander's Appointments at Post-National Convention Meeting
Origin: Ronald Roberts, National Executive Committeeman, Mississippi

WHEREAS, The National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Article VII, Section 1, states, "The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion shall meet at least twice each year. It shall meet immediately preceding the National Convention to establish the agenda for that National Convention, and immediately following the National Convention to approve the National Commander's appointments;" and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion has no knowledge of the individuals to be appointed to these positions, their experience, or tenure in the Sons of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019, that information on each individual appointment, including but not limited to, name, tenure in the Sons of The American Legion, offices held at all levels, and previous committee-commission positions held; on a form similar to that used to submit recommendations for these appointments and that this information be provided to the members of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion by the Leading Candidate at least thirty (30) days prior to the National Convention, this information being necessary for the National Executive Committee to make an informed decision ensuring the best individuals who can contribute the most to the goals of the Committee or Commission receive the appointments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this action take effect immediately.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 4 - Spring, 2019
Title: Change to Rules of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion
Origin: Ronald Roberts, National Executive Committeeman, Mississippi

WHEREAS, The National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Article VII – National Executive Committee, Section 1, states, "Between National Conventions the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, the membership of which shall be composed of the National Commander, National Vice Commanders, National Chaplain, the immediate Past National Commander or Chairman, and one (1) National Executive Committeeman and one (1) Alternate National Executive Committeeman from each Detachment, to be selected as such Detachments shall determine The Alternate National Executive Committeeman may act only in the absence of the National Executive Committeeman from his Detachment. All Past National Workshop Chairmen and all Past National Commanders shall be nonvoting members of the National Executive Committee;" and

WHEREAS, Rule 3, Section i, of the Sons of The American Legion, Rules of the National Executive Committee currently states, "In general to perform between National Commander, or the request of three members of the NEC, may be called into executive session. At such time, only members of the NEC shall be present in the NEC room"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019, change the Rules of the National Executive Committee, that the word "voting" be inserted between the word "only" and the word "members" in Rule 3, Section i, so that the sentence now reads, "At such time, only voting members of the NEC shall be present in the NEC room;" and be it further

RESOLVED, That this change be implemented immediately and all further publications of the Rules of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion include this change.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 5 - Spring, 2019
Title: Recognize November as "National Membership Renewal Month"
Origin: National Membership Committee

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a member-based program of The American Legion, a veterans organization; and

WHEREAS, The retention of our membership is vital to our success and continued growth; and

WHEREAS, There is an opportunity to make the most of the publicity of Veterans Day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019 that each November be designated as "National Membership Renewal Month;" and be it finally

RESOLVED, That recognizing November as "National Membership Renewal Month" become effective November, 2019.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 6 - Spring, 2019
Title: Recruiter of the Year Award
Origin: National Membership Committee

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a member-based program of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The growth of our membership is vital to our success; and

WHEREAS, The recruitment of new members should be recognized at the national level; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a Recruiter of the Year Award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019 that the Sons of The American Legion create a "Recruiter of the Year" award for the Sons of The American Legion member who recruits the highest number of new members in a membership year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a nomination form has been developed by the Membership Committee that Squadron and Detachment Adjutants must use to nominate a member as a Recruiter of the Year (see Attachment A); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the cut-off date for selection coincide with the 105% membership target date for said year as determined by the National Organization; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the winner of said award shall receive an official Sons of The American Legion cover embroidered with "Recruiter of the Year" (and the year) through National Emblem Sales; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the presentation of this award shall commence with the 2020-2021 membership year.

Attachment A

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
RECRUITER OF THE YEAR
NOMINATION FORM

Squadron Adjutants must send this form to Department / Detachment Headquarters.

Detachment Adjutants must send this form to:

Sons of The American Legion, Attn.: Membership Division

P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

In the Detachment of _____ , the top new member recruiter of membership enrolled for the current membership year and received and verified by National Headquarters as of the 105% target date as determined by the National Organization is:

Name _____ Squadron _____ Member I.D. _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone / Email _____

Number of new members recruited (minimum of 30) _____

Attach list of names and I.D. numbers of members recruited.

_____ _____
Squadron Adjutant Detachment Adjutant

_____ _____
Date Date

This form MUST reach National Headquarters before July 31st.
In the event of a tie, the winner will be the nomination form with the highest number
of newly recruited members and the earliest postmark received by National.

S.A.L. Resolution 7 - Spring, 2019
Detachment Recruitment Award
National Membership Committee

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a member-based program of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The growth of our membership is vital to our success; and

WHEREAS, The recruitment of new members should be recognized at the national level; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019 that the Sons of The American Legion create the "Detachment Recruitment Award" for detachments with the most new members recruited; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there shall be five (5) size categories which follow the Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the cut-off date shall coincide with the 105% membership target date for said year as determined by the National Organization; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the winners shall be awarded a RIBBON created by the National Membership Committee through National Emblem Sales; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this award commence with the 2020-2021 membership year.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 8 - Spring, 2019
Title: Sons of The American Legion Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions and Special Order of Business – Election of National Officers
Origin: Ron Roberts, National Executive Committeeman, Mississippi

WHEREAS, The Standing Rules of Convention, as published in the Sons of The American Legion Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions states on page 12, line 1, *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall be the authority on parliamentary procedure; and

WHEREAS, *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, page 443, paragraph 2, states, "If only one person is nominated and the bylaws do not require that a ballot vote be taken, the chair, after ensuring that, in fact, no members present wish to make further nominations, simply declares that the nominee is elected, thus effecting the election by unanimous consent or 'acclamation,'"; and

WHEREAS, The Special Order of Business – Election of National Officers, read by the National Judge Advocate, does NOT contain a provision for seconds of a nomination during roll call of detachments – specifically in the Standing Rules of Convention it is stated:

> Line 18. Nominations for National Officers shall be from the floor on roll call of the detachments in alphabetical order. Each detachment may present as many candidates as it chooses, unless otherwise specified.
> Line 19. Nominating speeches for National Officers shall be limited to five minutes. Not more than two seconding speeches shall be made for any candidate, and shall be limited to three minutes each.
> Line 20. If there is only one candidate nominated for an office, **election shall be by acclamation**, except when a roll call is requested by the chairmen of at least three detachments; and

WHEREAS, A motion for the National Adjutant or any other person to cast (ONE-UNANIMOUS) vote for an individual elected to office is out of order – Webster defines ONE as a single unit or person and UNANIMOUS as two or more persons constituting the entire body – since a roll call to determine the exact number of votes cast for an individual is not conducted, there is no way to determine if it is a unanimous vote; and

WHEREAS, It states on the last page of the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions, Line 1, Item b, "Amendments can be made by action of the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019 that the Special Order of Business – Election of National Officers read by the National Adjutant at the National Convention as well as the Sons of The American Legion Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions be followed; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That these changes take effect immediately.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 9 - Spring, 2019
Title: Consolidated Report Modification to Reflect VE&E Efforts
Origin: National Veterans Employment and Education Commission

WHEREAS, the current consolidated report request information from squadrons. districts and detachments for all VA&R projects; and

WHEREAS, the current Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation section of the consolidated report offers twenty line-items, none of which reflects the work of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission; and

WHEREAS, some consolidated reports turned in to National Headquarters indicate hours of service and dollars donated that are combined without distinguishing between VA&R and VE&E; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019 that a new line item be added to the Consolidated Report form to reflect hours of service and dollars donated for Veterans Employment and Education that provides true numbers for this Commission.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 10 - Spring, 2019
Title: Establishment of an Annual Sons of The American Legion Award for Outstanding Contributions for Veterans and Their Families
Origin: National Veterans Employment and Education Commission

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion, founded in 1932, to help support our Veterans and Veterans causes; and

WHEREAS, An organization of volunteers along with generous organizations that support such Veteran causes, and activities that highlight the purposes of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission; and

WHEREAS, An annual award presented to an organization that accommodates Veterans with employment and who assist Veterans that desire continued educational purposes; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Employment and Education Commission has set certain criteria for those organization to meet through an application that will be filled out by supporting Sons of The American Legion squadrons, districts and detachments; and

WHEREAS, The funding for the plaque to be awarded will come from the line item in the National Sons of The American Legion's budget that is set aside for the Veterans Employment and Education Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019 that such award to be announced at the National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion each year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a plaque will be awarded to a deserving organization that promotes hiring Veterans, sponsoring events for Veterans activities, and provides Veterans with resume assistance, and for those Veterans who wish to continue their education; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That Sons of The American Legion squadrons, districts and detachments encourage all members to develop relationships with such organization that believe in the translation from military to civilian life.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 11 - Spring, 2019
Title: Endorsement of Richard L. Huntley (ME) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Detachment of Maine

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of 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, Richard L. Huntley has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Maine as an elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of The American Legion Family; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maine hereby endorses Richard L. Huntley for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Maine and the Department of Maine with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant, Bruce M. Pierce, and Department Adjutant, Paul A. L'Heureux, are on the submitted resolution.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 12 - Spring, 2019
Title: Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman Training
Origin: National Member Training and Development Committee

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion – Membership Training and Development Committee, hereinafter referred to as (MTD Committee), has the duty and responsibility to provide membership training and development to the members of the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The MTD Committee currently provides training in the form of new Detachment Commanders /Adjutants training classes at Fall NEC meetings, National Ambassadors Training, as well as NMI (National Management Institute) training at Spring NEC meetings; and

WHEREAS, The NEC is the governing body of the Sons of The American Legion, absent the National Convention; and

WHEREAS, There currently is no NEC (National Executive Committeeman) training being provided for new NECs or existing NECs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019 that the MTD Committee of the Sons of The American Legion develop a program for National Executive Committeeman training which shall include but not be limited to, printed materials, PowerPoint presentations and other resources of pertinent information; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That funding be provided to cover the cost of development and continuing presentation of this program.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 13 - Spring, 2019
Title: Community Level Academic Program Engagement
Origin: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion actively engage the youth of America through Boys State/Boys Nation, Oratorical Contest,

Scouting and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement are the stellar and most recognized Legion sponsored civic and academic programs that promote and develop future leaders; and

WHEREAS, Numerous Sons of The American Legion squadrons throughout the country support, financially and voluntarily, other youth academic programs in their communities including, but not limited to, debate teams, essay contests, spelling bees, art exhibits, music concerts, science and math fairs which will serve to create intellectual or artistic curiosity; and

WHEREAS, The challenge is for all squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion to actively engage in the promotion of academic programs in their communities by working with schools and colleges in getting the youth of America to address the consequences of achievement during high school, and the transition to adulthood and the work experience; and

WHEREAS, The objective is to work with local agencies and academic institutions to create a community where all youth can objectively be heard, engaged, inspired to live with optimism for the future by demonstrating and reinforcing the values of this great Nation as well as the dream of our American Legion founders; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the concurrence of The American Legion Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019, that the Sons of The American Legion strongly urges all American Legion squadrons to take on an active supporting role in mentoring and developing a forum for the youth academic programs in their respective community.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 14 - Spring, 2019
Title: Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $5,000 from the 2019 Budget
Origin: Child Welfare Foundation Committee

WHEREAS, The Child Welfare Foundation is a vital part of the Sons of The American Legion since its inception in 1987; and

WHEREAS, There is a constant and vital need for funding of many programs and grants that can assist children in need; and

WHEREAS, Donations by the Sons of The American Legion have provided greatly needed assistance to these children in our country; and

WHEREAS, The support and recognition provided by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has

further established our organization as a true partner in the goals and principles of The American Legion Family; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular

meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2019 that a donation in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000) be made to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the funds be taken from the 2019 Child Welfare Foundation Donation budget line.

Addendum C

REPORT TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR APPROVAL
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 8-9, 2019

The Internal Affairs Commission recommends approval on the following updated protocol guidelines for National Commander's Travels and Visitations which was initially adopted by the National Executive Committee May 7-8, 2003.

Protocol Guidelines For
National Commanders Travels and Visitations
As Adopted by the National Executive Committee
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 8-9, 2019

1. **Utilization of Time**
   a. National issues take priority on travel and visitations.
   b. National Commander's schedule must be flexible and is subject to change.
   c. Due to airline flight schedule reductions, to best utilize the National Commander's travel time and to minimize travel expenses, it is recommended that adjacent Departments try to "regionalize" their visitation schedule.
2. **Daily Time Frames**
   a. It is recommended that the National Commander's day start no earlier than 7:00A.M.
   b. It is recommended that the National Commander have 1.5 to 2.0 hours each afternoon at his hotel/motel to prepare for the evening's activities and to respond to communication needs.
   c. It is recommended that the National Commander be free to return to his hotel room no later than 10:00 P.M. and retire for the night.
3. **Schedule of Events**
   a. It is recommended that a reasonable amount of time should be scheduled at each location.
   b. There should be reasonable travel time between events.
   c. Do not alter the finalized itinerary.
   d. Upon arrival, it is recommended that 1.0 to 2.0 hours be allocated to allow the National Commander's to prepare for the first event.
   e. Partial days of visitation should be reflected in schedule. It is recommended that informal gatherings such as breakfast, lunch or dinner be utilized prior to departure or immediately after arrival.
   f. It is recommended that meetings with the Governor, Veterans Affairs Secretary, Adjutant General, Senators, Congressmen and other notable dignitaries be scheduled for current events driven issues.
4. **Transportation**
   a. Transportation should be provided to and from points of arrival and departure.
   b. Transportation should be provided at all times, regardless of the hour of the day or night.
   c. American Legion staff or American Legion volunteers should provide transportation.
   d. Sufficient number and size of vehicles should be provided to transport the National Commander, the National Commander's Aide, four pieces of large-size luggage, briefcases, and computer and case.

5. **Hotel Rooms**
   a. In large hotels, you should request rooms near, but not directly next to an elevator.
   b. In small hotels, you should request rooms near entrance.
   c. Ensure room preference, i.e. nonsmoking versus smoking or handicap versus non-handicap.
   d. If no elevators are on the property, you should request room on the ground-level floor.
   e. The National Commander's and his Aide's rooms should beadjoining rooms.
   f. Personnel of the Host Department, regardless of the absence or presence of the Aide, always handle the luggage of the National Commander's party.
   g. It is recommended that accommodations for two consecutive nights with one-day laundry service be used.
6. **Visitation Requests**
   a. Requests for official department visits for the National Commander should be submitted in detail and in a timely fashion toward deadline.
   b. Itinerary of scheduled activities should be submitted to the National Commander's office in detail and in a timely fashion toward deadline.
   c. National programs do take priority over department visitations. Do not request time frames that include "Dates To Be Avoided," as listed in National's request notification.
7. **Host and Department Guest**
   a. The National Commander is the guest of the Department.
   b. The Department is the official host for the National Commander.
   c. The National Executive Committeeman should have the privilege of introducing the National Commander.
8. **Disputes**
   a. The NEC has the final word on any disputes concerning the above recommendations.
9. **Annual Distribution**
   a. The national adjutant will distribute these guidelines annually to all departments.

This rescinds and updates the protocol guidelines for National Commander's Travels and Visitations as adopted by The National Executive Committee May 7-8, 2003.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and second on the floor to receive and file the Internal Affairs report. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The motion is passed.

Resolution No. 1: Recommend Amendments to The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws

Origin: Constitution & By-Laws Committee

Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is very careful and cautious in the drafting of its National Constitution and National By-Laws; and

WHEREAS, A complete and through review of the National Constitution and National By-Laws has not occurred in a number of years; and

WHEREAS, Since this last review numerous changes have taken place within The American Legion, including but not limited to, the election of Past National Commander Denise Rohan, the election of numerous female National Vice Commanders and national officers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 8-9, 2019, That the National Executive Committee recommends that the 2019 National Convention amend The American Legion's National Constitution and National By-Laws to read as attached hereto; and

RESOLVED, That in accordance with Section 1, Article XV of the National Constitution, these proposed amendments be forwarded from the national adjutant to the several departments and members of the National Executive Committee at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 27 – 29, 2019; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national adjutant forthwith mail a copy of these proposed amendments to each of the departments of The American Legion.

Attachment A

Charter of
The American Legion

National Constitution and By-laws

Uniform Codes of Procedure for the
Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension
of Department and Post Charters

Official

The National Constitution of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion as set out herein, is in full force and effect and represents action taken by National Conventions, being the Constitution adopted at the First Annual Convention, Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 10-12, 1919, and as amended at the Second Annual Convention, Cleveland, Oh., Sept. 27-29, 1920; Fourth Annual Convention, New Orleans, La., Oct. 16-20, 1922; Fifth Annual Convention, San Francisco, Calif., Oct. 15-19, 1923; Sixth Annual Convention, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 15-19, 1924; Seventh Annual Convention, Omaha, Nebr., Oct. 5-9, 1925; Ninth Annual Convention, Paris, France, Sept. 19-22, and Ratification Convention, New York N.Y., Oct. 19-22, 1927; Twelfth Annual Convention, Boston, Mass., Oct. 6-9, 1930; Fifteenth Annual Convention, Chicago, Ill., Oct. 2-5, 1933; Nineteenth Annual Convention, New York, N.Y., Sept. 20-23, 1937; Twentieth Annual Convention, Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 19-22, 1938; Twenty-first Annual Convention, Chicago, Ill., Sept. 25-28, 1939; Twenty-second Annual Convention, Boston, Mass., Sept. 23-26, 1940; Twenty-third Annual Convention, Milwaukee, Wis., Sept.18, 1941; Twenty-fourth Annual Convention, Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 19-21, 1942; Twenty-fifth Annual Convention, Omaha, Neb., Sept. 21-23, 1943; Twenty-seventh Annual Convention, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 18-21, 1945; Twenty-eighth Annual Convention, San Francisco, Calif., Sept. 30-Oct. 1-4, 1946; Twenty-ninth Annual Convention, New York, N.Y., Aug. 28-31, 1947; Thirtieth Annual Convention, Miami, Fla., Oct. 18-21, 1948; Thirty-first Annual Convention, Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1949; Thirty-second Annual Convention, Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 9-12, 1950; Thirty-third Annual Convention, Miami, Fla., Oct. 15-18, 1951; Thirty-fourth Annual Convention, New York, N.Y., Aug. 25-28, 1952; Thirty-sixth Annual Convention, Washington, D.C., Aug.30-Sept. 2, 1954; Thirty-seventh Annual Convention, Miami, Fla. Oct. 10-13, 1955; Thirty-eighth Annual Convention, Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 3-6, 1956; Fortieth Annual Convention, Chicago, Ill., Sept. 1-4, 1958; Forty-second Annual Convention, Miami Beach, Fla., Oct. 17-20, 1960; Forty-eighth Annual Convention, Washington, D.C., Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1966; Fifty-second Annual Convention, Portland, Ore., Sept. 1-3, 1970; Fifty-fourth Annual Convention, Chicago, Ill., Aug. 22-24, 1972; Fifty-fifth Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hi., Aug. 21-23, 1973; Fifty-sixth Annual Convention, Miami Beach, Fla., Aug. 20-22, 1974; Fifty-eighth Annual Convention, Seattle, Wash., Aug. 24-26, 1976; Fifty-ninth Annual Convention, Denver, Colo., Aug. 23-25, 1977; Sixty-first Annual Convention, Houston, Tex., Aug. 21-23, 1979; Sixty-ninth Annual Convention, San Antonio, Tex., Aug. 25-27, 1987; Seventy-second Annual Convention, Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 28-30, 1990; Seventy-third Annual Convention, Phoenix, Arizona, Sept. 3-5, 1991; the Seventy-seventh Annual Convention, Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 4-6, 1995; Seventy-ninth Annual Convention, Orlando, Fla., Sept. 2-4, 1997; Eighty-second Annual Convention,

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 5-7, 2000; and reiterated at the Eighty-third Annual Convention, Charlotte, NC, Aug. 27-29, 2002; Ninety-fourth Annual Convention, Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 28-30, 2012; ~~*and Ninety-seventh Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, Sept. 1-3, 2015*~~, Ninety-seventh Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, Sept. 1-3, 2015 and the One Hundred and First Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN, August 27 – 29, 2019.

The By-Laws as adopted at the Fourth Annual Convention, New Orleans, La., Oct. 16-20, 1922, and as amended at the Fifth Annual Convention, San Francisco, Calif., Oct. 15-19, 1923; Sixth Annual Convention, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 15-19, 1924; Eleventh Annual Convention, Louisville, Ky., Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2, 3, 1929; Fifteenth Annual Convention, Chicago, Ill., Oct. 2-5, 1933; Nineteenth Annual Convention, New York, N.Y., Sept. 20-23, 1937; Twentieth Annual Convention, Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 19-22, 1938; Twenty-first Annual Convention, Chicago, Ill., Sept. 25-28, 1939; Twenty-second Annual Convention, Boston, Mass., Sept. 23-26, 1940; Twenty-third Annual Convention, Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 15-18, 1941; Twenty-seventh Annual convention, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 18-21, 1945; Twenty-ninth Annual Convention, New York, N.Y., Aug. 28-31, 1947; Thirtieth Annual Convention, Miami, Fla., Oct. 18-21, 1948; Thirty-first Annual convention, Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1949; Thirty-third Annual Convention, Miami, Fla., Oct. 15-18, 1951; Thirty-fourth Annual Convention, New York, N.Y., Aug. 25-28, 1952; Thirty-ninth Annual Convention, Atlantic City, N.J., Sept. 16-19, 1957; Fifty-second Annual Convention, Portland, Ore., Sept. 1-3, 1970; Fifty-eighth Annual Convention, Seattle, Wash., August 24-26, 1976; and Fifty-ninth Annual Convention, Denver, Colo., Aug. 23-25, 1977; and Ninety-Second Annual ~~National~~ Convention, Milwaukee, Wis., Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2010; Ninety-fifth Annual Convention, Houston, Texas., Aug. 23 - 29, 2013*;* ~~and Ninety-seventh Annual National Convention, Baltimore, MD, Sept. 1-3, 2015 (as found in italic print).~~ Ninety-seventh Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, Sept. 1-3, 2015; and the One Hundred and First Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN, August 27 – 29, 2019.

Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant

CONSTITUTION
of The American Legion

PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion.

Section 2. The National Headquarters of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion shall be located ~~at the site of the Indiana World War Memorial~~ in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana or a surrounding community.

ARTICLE II
NATURE

Section 1. ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in ~~the~~ The American Legion; no member shall be addressed by ~~his~~ their military or naval title in any convention or meeting of ~~the~~ The American Legion.

Section 2. ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

ARTICLE III
ORGANIZATION

Section 1. ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion shall be organized in Departments with a minimum of one thousand members and these in turn in Posts. There ~~shall~~ may be one Department in each state, ~~in~~ the District of Columbia, and ~~there may be one Department~~ in each territory and insular possessions of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish Posts in the territorial and insular possessions of the United States and foreign countries, and shall designate the Department under whose jurisdiction they shall function, but this shall in no way affect the status of Departments already established.

ARTICLE IV
ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955; February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990; August 2, 1990, to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States; all dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of ~~his~~ their entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the Governments associated with the United States during any of said periods; provided, however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or continued honorably during or after any of said periods; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject ~~himself~~ oneself to military discipline or unqualified service. *

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. No person may be a member at any one time of more than one Post.

Section 4. No person, who has been expelled by a Post, and such expelling reported to the National Headquarters, shall be admitted to membership in another Post without the consent of the expelling Post, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, ~~he~~ such person may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for permission to be admitted to membership in another Post, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

ARTICLE V
NATIONAL CONVENTION

Section 1. The legislative body of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion shall be the National Convention, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. The time and place of the National Conventions shall be determined by the National Executive Committee, which shall have authority to change such time and place for sufficient reasons to it appearing.

Section 3. In the National Convention each Department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of said convention, and whose registration fees, as fixed by the National Executive Committee, for its total authorized delegate strength, have been paid; and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegates shall be chosen not less than two weeks before the National Convention at Department Conventions or in any other manner specified by any Department Constitution.

Section 4. Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any

registered delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the registered delegates present from ~~his~~ their Department. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all the privileges of registered delegates, except that of voting. A registered delegate is one who has received ~~his~~ their credentials after ~~his~~ their registration fee has been paid.

Section 5. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when sixty percent of the Departments are represented as provided above.

Section 6. The National Executive Committee shall provide a Uniform Code of Procedure for the orderly organization and operation of National Conventions with continuing power of revision, and said Code shall be applicable at all National Conventions unless it is amended, suspended, or repealed by a majority vote of the total authorized representation at a National Convention.

ARTICLE VI
NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, and five National Vice Commanders, who shall serve without seniority. No two Vice Commanders shall be chosen from the same Department. No persons shall be eligible for re-election to the office of National Commander or National Vice Commander.

Section 2. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices occurring between National Conventions shall be filled by election by the National Executive Committee, and any member of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion, in good standing, shall be eligible for election to such vacancy~~. Provided,~~ ; however, ~~that~~ no Past National Commander~~,~~ or Past National Vice Commander shall be elected to fill any vacancy in these respective offices.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee at its first meeting following the National Convention shall appoint the National Adjutant, National Treasurer, National Judge Advocate, National Chaplain, and National Historian, such officers to hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power. All persons having the custody of funds shall give adequate bonds, which shall be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. All Past National Commanders, while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, without vote, and shall also be life delegates to all National Conventions of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion, with vote, to be exercised by them with their respective Departments.

ARTICLE VII
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between National Conventions, the administrative power of The American Legion shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander, the National Vice Commanders, and one National Executive Committeeman and one alternate from each Department to be elected as such Department shall determine, the alternate to act only in the absence of the National Executive Committeeman.

Section 2. The term of office of such National Executive Committeemen and alternates shall be two years. The term of office of each National Executive Committeeman and alternate shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing after their election and shall end at the adjournment of the second next succeeding annual National Convention.

Section 3. Members of the National Executive Committee shall be delegates to the National Convention with vote, which vote shall be exercised with their respective Departments, except that the vote of the National Commander shall be exercised only in ~~his~~ their capacity as chairman of the National Convention.

ARTICLE VIII
DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Departments shall be chartered by the National Executive Committee and shall be composed of the Posts within their respective areas, and such other Posts as the National Executive Committee may approve. Each Department charter shall be signed by the National Commander and National Adjutant.

Section 2. Each Department shall have a Department Commander, one or more Department Vice Commanders, a Department Adjutant ~~and~~ , a Department Executive Committee, a Finance Officer, a Judge Advocate, and may have a Chaplain and such other officers as the Department ~~shall~~ may determine.

Section 3. Departments shall have authority to create and charter intermediate bodies between the Posts and Department to act as a liaison between such organizations and for the purpose of promoting the programs of The American Legion.

Section 4. The Department Executive Committee shall define the powers of such intermediate groups, but in no event shall such powers invade the prerogatives now vested either in the Post or Department or National Organization.

Section 5. Such intermediate bodies now existing within the Departments and heretofore authorized or recognized by such Department are hereby officially recognized to the extent of the powers herein granted.

ARTICLE IX
POST ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Those who desire to form a Post shall ~~make application~~ apply for a temporary charter to the Commander of the Department in which they reside. The temporary charter shall be issued by the National Commander and National Adjutant upon receipt of the application properly executed by the charter members of the ~~projected~~ applying Post, but only when such ~~application~~ applying Post is approved by the Commander of the Department or by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 2. The minimum membership of a Post shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Department in whose area it lies.

Section 3. No Post shall be named after any living person.

Section 4. Upon receipt and processing of a proper application a ~~A~~ temporary charter shall be granted and shall state that it is granted on the recommendation of the Department and on the following terms and conditions:

1. **All acts heretofore duly and properly taken for the formation of the ~~above named~~ above named Post are recognized and confirmed by the National Executive Committee.**

2. **The ~~above named~~ above named Post shall uphold the declared principles of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion and shall conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the Department and of the National Executive Committee, or other duly constituted national governing body of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion.**

3. **This charter is subject to revocation by the National Executive Committee on the recommendation of the Department, or by such authority that may hereafter be established by the National Convention.**

Section 5. After a temporary charter has been in effect for a probationary period of at least ninety days, application for a permanent charter may be made. Such probationary period shall not exceed one year upon the termination of which the Department shall determine whether or not a

permanent charter shall be issued or denied and the action of the Department shall be final.

Section 6. All charters shall be countersigned by the Commander and the Adjutant of the Department.

Section 7. Each Department may prescribe the Constitution of its Posts. Permanent charters may be suspended, cancelled or revoked by the Department Executive Committee as provided in ~~the~~ their respective Department By-Laws.

ARTICLE X
FINANCE

Section 1. The revenue of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Section 2. The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by each National Convention for the ensuing year.

Section 3.1. The annual dues shall be collected by each Post and transmitted promptly through the Department to the National Treasurer. Departments are designated agents for collection for ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion with respect to such annual dues and upon the receipt thereof shall remit them promptly to ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion. In no event shall the period transpiring between the receipt of such annual dues by a Department and the remittance thereof to ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 3.2. The annual dues shall be collected in such alternate method(s) as determined by the National Executive Committee from time to time and thereafter communicated to the Departments for communications to the Posts provided that (a) in no instance shall the National Organization or the Departments be empowered to retain, or withhold, more than each ones published amount of per capita dues; (b) in no event shall the period transpiring between the receipt of such annual dues by the National Organization and the remittance thereof to the Departments exceed thirty (30) days; and (c) any such alternative method shall be in addition to and not in substitution for method 3.1 above.

Section 4. Annual dues shall be payable October 20 of each year, for the succeeding calendar year.

ARTICLE XI
DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The National Executive Committee, after notice and a hearing before a subcommittee as hereinafter provided, may cancel, suspend or revoke the charter of a Department for any good and sufficient cause to it appearing.

Section 2. The National Executive Committee may designate, appoint and authorize a subcommittee to hear and try and make written findings of fact and recommendations with reference to the matter of the cancellation, suspension or revocation of the charter of any Department of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion after said Department shall have received due and proper notice of said hearing and trial. Said subcommittee shall make its written findings and recommendations to the National Executive Committee for its approval or rejection, and the action of said National Executive Committee upon such findings and recommendations shall be final and conclusive.

Section 3. The hearing and trial of any cause involving the cancellation, suspension, or revocation of the charter of any Department in ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION.~~ The American Legion shall be had and held under rules of procedure to be adopted by the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. Upon suspension of the charter of any Department of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The

American Legion, the National Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all of the records, property and assets of and belonging to such Department, and to provide for the government and administration of such Department during said suspension.

Section 5. Upon cancellation or revocation of the charter of any Department of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion, the National Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all of the records, property and assets of such Department, and to take all necessary and proper steps and proceedings to conclude and close the affairs of such Department, and said National Executive Committee may provide for such continued recognition and activities of Posts in said Departments as it may deem proper.

ARTICLE XII
CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

Section 1. Any member in good standing in a Post ~~removing~~ moving from ~~his~~ their ~~Department~~ Post to any other Post shall be entitled to a certificate from ~~his~~ their original Post stating ~~his~~ their membership therein and the duration thereof.

ARTICLE XIII
AUXILIARIES

Section 1. ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion recognizes an auxiliary organization, known as ~~the~~ The American Legion Auxiliary.

Section 2. *~~Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of THE AMERICAN LEGION, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955; February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990; August 2, 1990, to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States; all dates inclusive, or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION.~~*

Membership in ~~the~~ The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, ~~wives~~ spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, ~~wives~~ spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955; February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990; August 2, 1990, to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States; all dates inclusive, or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Section 3. The American Legion Auxiliary shall be governed in each Department of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and thereafter approved by such Department of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion.

ARTICLE XIV
RATIFICATION

Section 1. All acts performed and charters heretofore granted by the temporary organization to

~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion are hereby ratified and confirmed.

ARTICLE XV
AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Adjutant to the several Departments and members of the National Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; any such proposed amendment may be amended without further notice by a two-thirds vote of the total authorized representation thereat, provided it does not increase the modification proposed by the amendment and it has received the approval of the Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments; and, provided further, it may be amended by unanimous vote at any National Convention without notice.

Section 2. That no proposed amendment shall be submitted through the National Adjutant to the several Departments and members of the National Executive Committee, as provided in Section 1 of this article, unless said proposed amendment shall have been first submitted by a Department Convention, Department Executive Committee, or the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XVI
NATIONAL INCORPORATION

This Constitution is adopted conformably to the Act of Congress of the United States of America of September 16, 1919, and all amendatory acts thereto.

ARTICLE XVII

~~In the event the~~ If the Congress of the United States shall amend the eligibility ~~clause~~ section in the Act creating ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion, this Constitution shall be ~~deemed~~ automatically amended in conformance therewith, but subject to all consistent limitations and restrictions in this Constitution ~~contained~~.

BY-LAWS
of The American Legion

ARTICLE I
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. In case of death, resignation or removal by ~~his~~ their respective Department of any National Executive Committeeman or alternate to the National Executive Committee, the successor shall be selected as such Department shall determine and shall serve for the remainder of such unexpired term.

Section 2. The National Executive Committee shall meet within twenty-four hours before and after each National Convention and within ~~forty-five~~ fifty-five days following its adjournment, provided however, that the National Commander shall have authority to extend said ~~forty-five~~ fifty-five day period for sufficient reasons ~~to him appearing,~~ upon approval by the National Executive Committee, and in May of each year. Special meetings may be held upon reasonable notice at the call of the National Commander. The National Commander shall call a meeting of the National Executive Committee upon the written request of National Executive Committeemen from fifteen or more Departments.

Section 3. Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum of the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. The National Commander shall name such committees as ~~he~~ shall be ~~deem~~ deemed advisable, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next meeting succeeding the appointment.

Section 5. The National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the National Commander, a Finance Commission to be composed of seven (7) members. Of the seven members appointed following the National Convention (1945) at which this amendment is adopted, two shall be appointed to serve for a term of one year, two shall be appointed to serve for a term of two years, and three shall be appointed to serve for a term of three years; thereafter each succeeding appointee shall serve for a term of three years or until removed by the majority vote of the National Executive Committee. The National Commander and the National Treasurer shall be ex officio members of said commission and the National Adjutant shall be ex officio secretary of the said commission. The Finance Commission shall be charged with the preparation of the yearly budget and the handling of funds under that budget, and such other duties as shall be prescribed by the National Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

Section 6. ~~***There shall be the following standing commissions: Americanism Commission, Convention Commission, Finance Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, Legislative Commission, Marketing Commission, Media & Communications Commission, National Security Commission, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, Veterans Employment & Education Commission.***~~

There shall be the following standing commissions: Americanism Commission, Convention Commission, Finance Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, Legislative Commission, Marketing Commission, Media & Communications Commission, National Security Commission, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

The commissions shall consist of such number of members of ~~**THE AMERICAN LEGION**~~ **The American Legion as the National Executive Committee may from time to time determine. Appointments to such commissions shall be made by the National Executive Committee upon nomination by the National Commander. The National Executive Committee is empowered to assign duties and responsibilities to all standing commissions and committees and to group standing committees with commissions for the purpose of efficient supervision and coordination of activities.**

Section 7. The National Executive Committee shall provide for the appointment and employment of such subordinate officers and employees as may be needed for the administration of the affairs of ~~**THE AMERICAN LEGION**~~ **The American Legion, and prescribe their duties and emoluments.**

Section 8. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of national officers shall be referred to and determined by the National Executive Committee. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of the National Executive Committeeman from any Department, or of Department officers, or members of Department Executive Committees, shall be referred to and determined by the Executive Committee of the Department involved, which shall be the final authority thereon.

ARTICLE II
DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. NATIONAL COMMANDER: The National Commander shall be the executive head of ~~**THE AMERICAN LEGION**~~ **The American Legion with full power to enforce the provisions of the National Constitution, National By-Laws, and the will of the National Convention.** ~~**He**~~ **The National Commander shall be the chairman of the National Convention and the National Executive Committee.** ~~**He**~~ **and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.**

Section 2. NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS: The National Vice Commanders shall act as representatives of the National Commander on all matters referred to them ~~**by him,**~~ **and shall, on** ~~**his**~~ **the National Commander's request, preside over the meetings of the National Convention or National Executive Committee, and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.**

Section 3. NATIONAL ADJUTANT: The National Adjutant shall be charged with the administration of the policies and mandates of the National Convention, the National Executive

Committee, and of the National Commander. ~~He~~ The National Adjutant shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. ~~He~~ and shall also be authorized, in event of the death or resignation of the National Commander, to summon the National Executive Committee for the election of a successor~~, and in~~ . In the event the National Adjutant shall fail, refuse or neglect, within fifteen days after said death or resignation, to issue a call for said meeting of the National Executive Committee to be held within thirty days after said death or resignation, then said meeting for the purpose of electing a successor may be held upon the written demand therefore signed by representatives from fifteen or more Departments, giving fifteen days' notice thereof.

Section 4. NATIONAL TREASURER: The National Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the National Organization. ~~He~~ The National Treasurer shall sign all checks disbursing the funds of the National Organization, and shall make reports upon the condition of the national treasury when called for by the National Commander. The National Treasurer shall furnish a surety bond as hereinafter prescribed. ~~He~~ The National Treasurer shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 5. NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE: The National Judge Advocate shall advise the national officers and the National Executive Committee on all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the National Constitution and By-Laws, and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 6. NATIONAL CHAPLAIN: The National Chaplain shall perform such divine and nonsectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by National Headquarters from time to time.

Section 7. NATIONAL HISTORIAN: The National Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest for the National Headquarters of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion, and shall compile during ~~his~~ their term of office a complete history of the year's activities. ~~He~~ The National Historian shall also assist Department and Post historians so as to coordinate and unify the work of these officials, and shall have such other duties as the National Executive Committee shall prescribe.

ARTICLE III
CHARTERS

Section 1. The Department Executive Committee may suspend, cancel or revoke a Post Charter. The action taken by the Department Executive Committee shall be final and conclusive unless an appeal is taken to the National Executive Committee within thirty days from the date of said suspension, cancellation or revocation. The action taken by the National Executive Committee upon appeal shall be final.

Section 2. Any Post failing to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the Constitution and By-Laws, or ceasing to function for six months as an American Legion Post, or voluntarily ceasing to function as a Post, or merging with one or more other Posts, or refusing to pay the Department and National per capita dues, or under such other conditions as might make such action necessary shall, upon order of the Department Executive Committee, surrender its charter for cancellation. Upon failure to surrender such charter, immediate steps may be taken for its revocation, suspension or cancellation.

Section 3. Upon revocation, cancellation or suspension of the charter of a Post in any Department of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion, said Post shall immediately cease operations and upon revocation or cancellation shall turn over its charter to its Department Commander or Department Executive Committee, and the Department Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed by and through its duly authorized agent to take possession, custody and control of all the records, property and assets of said Post; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed as requiring any Department to take over or assume any financial responsibility as to such property. Said Department Executive Committee may provide for the transfer of the members in said Post to other Posts of their choice, subject to the approval of such

other Post.

Section 4. The National Executive Committee shall provide a uniform code defining the procedure to be followed in the revocation, cancellation or suspension of Post charters and providing for a method of appeal and further providing a code of procedure for the revocation, cancellation or suspension of Department charters with continuing power to revise said code, provided, however, that the procedure now in effect shall continue until such code is so adopted.

ARTICLE IV
DISCIPLINE OF POST AND POST MEMBERS

Section 1. Each Post of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the Constitution and By-Laws, except that no person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States Government by force or violence, or who subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government, shall be eligible to become or remain a member of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion.

Section 2. A Post may suspend or expel a Post member ~~Members may be suspended or expelled~~ from ~~the~~ The American Legion only after providing the member due process and ~~upon~~ a proper showing of cause. Charges shall be based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty ~~and~~ and/or conduct unbecoming a member of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion. All charges must be made under oath in writing by the accusers, and no member in good standing shall lose ~~his~~ their membership until given a fair trial by the Post or Department in such manner and form as the Post or Department By-Laws and Post or Department Executive Committee shall prescribe.

Section 3. Any member who has been suspended or expelled has the right of appeal to ~~his~~ their Department Executive Committee, or to the Department Convention, according to the provisions in the By-Laws of such Department. The decision of the Department shall be final.

Section 4. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first shall be classed as delinquent. If ~~his~~ their dues are paid on or before February first, ~~he~~ the member shall be automatically reinstated. If ~~he~~ the member is still delinquent after February first, ~~he~~ the member shall be suspended from all privileges. If ~~he~~ the member is still under such suspension on June ~~thirtieth~~ first of such year, ~~his~~ their membership in ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post and payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs~~. Provided~~ ; however, that the Posts, Departments and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion is membership in the National Organization of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion by affiliation with Posts.

ARTICLE VI
MONIES AND COLLECTIONS

Section 1. *~~All national employees and volunteers handling all American Legion monies and negotiable instruments shall be covered by fidelity/crime insurance in an adequate amount as desired by the Finance Commission and said fidelity/crime insurance policy(s) shall be approved by the National Treasurer, National Judge Advocate, and Finance Commission.~~*

All national employees and volunteers handling all American Legion monies and negotiable instruments shall be covered by fidelity/crime insurance in an adequate amount as desired by the Finance Commission and said fidelity/crime insurance policy(s) shall be approved by the National Treasurer, National Judge Advocate, and Finance Commission.

Section 2. National Headquarters shall, should it be deemed advisable, detail special auditors to investigate the membership roll and financial statement of any Department, and should that Department so desire, assist in a similar audit of Posts within that Department.

ARTICLE VII
TRANSFER OF POSTS

Section 1. Posts of ~~THE AMERICAN LEGION~~ The American Legion formed within units of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard or other organizations, including U.S. Merchant Marines who served during the December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946 timeframe, liable to transfer from one place to another, and which are organized under the Department in which they are then located, may transfer to another Department in a manner similar to the transfer of individuals from one Post to another.

Section 2. Any existing Post in the territorial or insular possession of the United States or in foreign countries, which is not under the jurisdiction of a present existing Department, shall within one year following the adoption hereof, unless extended by the National Executive Committee, request the National Executive Committee to place it under the jurisdiction of a Department to be selected by such Post. Said request shall have attached thereto the formal consent of such Department. Should a Post fail or refuse to make such request or be unable to obtain the consent of a Department, then the National Executive Committee shall designate the Department.

ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any National Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Adjutant to the several Departments and members of the National Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; any such proposed amendment may be amended without further notice by a two-thirds vote of the total authorized representation thereat, provided it does not increase the modification proposed by the amendment and it has received the approval of the Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments; and, provided further, it may be amended by unanimous vote at any National Convention without notice.

Section 2. That no proposed amendment shall be submitted through the National Adjutant to the several Departments and members of the National Executive Committee, as provided in Section 1 of this article, unless said proposed amendment shall have been first submitted by a Department Convention, Department Executive Committee, or the National Executive Committee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Resolution No. 1 has the approval of your Constitution and By-Laws Committee, your Internal Affairs Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its approval. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 1 entitled, "Recommend Amendments to The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws." Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The motion is passed.

Resolution No. 14: Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Commission reviewed its resolutions in accordance with the suggested review practices recommended by the National Conventions and the 1961 report of the Program Study Committee by the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, This review took place during the Internal Affairs Commission meeting held May 6, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, This study has found that resolutions should be rescinded because they have been superseded, accomplished, duplicated and/or are obsolete; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the following resolutions are rescinded for the reasons indicated below.

No.	Year	Meeting	Title (Brief)	Reason
28	1919	Convention	Promotion Of American Legion Week	Obsolete
103	1919	Convention	Posts To Pursue Policies Through Community Or Geographic Units	Accomplished
3	1919	Fall	Official Badge	Obsolete
260	1920	Convention	Outline Of Suggested Activities Be Submitted	Obsolete
399	1920	Convention	Question Relative To The Changing Of The Present Eligibility Clause	Obsolete
1	1920	Pre-NEC	Convention Program Submitted Is Not Binding On The Convention	Accomplished
1	1921	Convention	Activities Of The American Legion	Obsolete
32	1921	Convention	Memorialization Of The Public Highways, Streets and Parks	Obsolete
206	1921	Convention	Recognition Of La Societe Des Hommes As Official Fun-Making Organization Appurtenant To The American Legion	Superseded
210	1921	Convention	Endorsement Of Memorials	Obsolete
49	1922	Convention	Preventing Abuse Of The American Legion Emblem	Obsolete
241	1922	Convention	American Legion Service Work	Obsolete
11	1923	Convention	News Service	Obsolete
16	1923	Convention	Creation Of Special Committees	Obsolete
225	1923	Convention	Athletic Activities	Obsolete
310	1923	Convention	Love Of The Uniform	Obsolete
5	1923	Spring	Use Of The American Legion Emblem In Places Of Business	Obsolete
20	1923	Spring	Procedure On Communications Going To The National Executive Committee	Obsolete
483	1925	Convention	Disaster Relief	Accomplished
11	1927	Winter	Poppy Program Of The American Auxiliary	Duplication
454	1928	Convention	National Vice Commanders Be Assigned Definite Duties	Accomplished
9	1928	Spring	Conditions Of The Drain Trophy	Obsolete
10	1928	Spring	Hanford MacNider, Franklin D'Olier, Henry D. Lindsley, John G. Emery and John R. Quinn Membership Trophies	Accomplished
7	1929	Fall	Miami Trophy	Obsolete
14	1929	Spring	Cooperation Of The National Rifle Association	Accomplished
17	1929	Spring	National American Legion Distinguished Service Award	Duplicated
523	1930	Convention	Appreciation Expressed	Accomplished
4	1930	Spring	Advancing Closing Dates For Determining Parade, Housing Rank And Convention Hall Seating From June 15 to May 15, For The 1931 Convention and Subsequent Conventions	Superseded

5	**1930**	**Spring**	**International Allied Veterans Small Bore Rifle Team Match**	**Obsolete**
308	**1931**	**Convention**	**Official Publicity**	**Obsolete**
9	**1931**	**Fall**	**Certificate Attesting The Service Of National And Department Commanders And Members Of The National Executive Committee**	**Accomplished**
456	**1932**	**Convention**	**Sons Of The American Legion**	**Accomplished**
11	**1932**	**Fall**	**Departments Of The American Legion Be Divided Into Five Geographical Districts**	**Accomplished**
7	**1933**	**Spring**	**Eight And Forty As A Subsidiary To The American Legion Auxiliary**	**Accomplished**
279	**1934**	**Convention**	**Nominal Dues For Sons Of The American Legion**	**Obsolete**
13	**1934**	**Spring**	**American Legion Insignia**	**Obsolete**
33	**1935**	**Spring**	**Pilgrimage To Tomb Of Abraham Lincoln**	**Accomplished**
564	**1936**	**Convention**	**Sale Of Headwear**	**Obsolete**
22	**1937**	**Fall**	**Publication And Distribution Of Legion Heir**	**Obsolete**
23	**1937**	**Fall**	**Badges For National And Department Officers**	**Obsolete**
33	**1937**	**Fall**	**Continuity Of Membership**	**Accomplished**
658	**1938**	**Convention**	**Safeguard Use Of Emblems At National Conventions**	**Accomplished**
9	**1938**	**Spring**	**U.S. Coast Guard Academy Award**	**Superseded**
47	**1938**	**Spring**	**Supplemental Charters To Be Issued To Departments And Posts Which Have Been Incorporated Since The Original Charters Were Issued**	**Accomplished**
662	**1940**	**Convention**	**Alaska Be Considered Within The Continental Limits Of The United States**	**Accomplished**
285	**1941**	**Convention**	**Oppose Sale Of Pin-On Objects At National Convention**	**Accomplished**
551	**1941**	**Convention**	**Certification To Delegates And Alternates To National Convention**	**Accomplished**
4	**1941**	**Pre-NEC**	**Naval Academy Award**	**Superseded**
44	**1941**	**Spring**	**Unauthorized Use Of The Overseas Cap**	**Obsolete**
68	**1941**	**Spring**	**Amend Section 1, Article I Of The National By-Laws Of The Sons Of The American Legion**	**Obsolete**
705	**1944**	**Convention**	**Authentic History Of The American Legion**	**Obsolete**
2	**1944**	**Spring**	**Membership Card Check**	**Obsolete**
4	**1945**	**Fall**	**Hospital Program Of Auxiliary Be Continued In Veterans Hospitals**	**Accomplished**
29	**1946**	**Fall**	**Extension Institute Of The American Legion**	**Accomplished**
17	**1946**	**Spring**	**Development Of Programs To Stabilize The Younger Membership**	**Obsolete**
112	**1946**	**Spring**	**Legion Award To United States Naval Academy Cadet**	**Accomplished**
140	**1946**	**Spring**	**Approve American Legion College**	**Accomplished**
6	**1947**	**Pre-NEC**	**Former Prisoners of War**	**Accomplished**

77	**1947**	**Spring**	**The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Ribbon**	**Accomplished**
30	**1948**	**Spring**	**Emphasize Importance Of Initiation To New Members**	**Accomplished**
24	**1948**	**Fall**	**Mancel B Talcott Trophy**	**Obsolete**
25	**1948**	**Fall**	**Establishment Of Personnel Practices**	**Obsolete**
19	**1948**	**Spring**	**National Adjutant To Control Release Of All Material Emanating From National Headquarters**	**Accomplished**
421	**1949**	**Convention**	**Neglect Of Honor Memorial Rolls**	**Obsolete**
35	**1949**	**Fall**	**National Convention Committees**	**Obsolete**
79	**1955**	**Spring**	**Official American Legion Marching Song**	**Obsolete**
29	**1971**	**Fall**	**National Executive Committee Study Of Resolutions No. 28 – Sons Of The American Legion Constitution And By-Laws Revision Providing A Framework For A National Organization**	**Accomplished**
38	**1991**	**Fall**	**Direct Membership Solicitation Study**	**Accomplished**
45	**1993**	**Spring**	**Support American Legion Auxiliary Recruitment**	**Accomplished**
5	**2014**	**Spring**	**Soldier's Wish Project**	**Obsolete**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: This has the approval of your Internal Affairs Commission and that of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its approval. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to adopt the Resolution No. 14, "Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 15: Commendation for Statues of Liberation in Normandy
Origin: 100th Anniversary Observance Committee
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion upholds a sacred duty to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars, as stated in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Operation Democracy of Locust Valley, N.Y., Amis des Veterans Americains (Friends of American Veterans) of Normandy, France, and some local American Legion posts in the United States have expressed support for a plan to erect two statues in Ste. Mere-Eglise, Normandy, France, one in honor of Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., and the other to immortalize Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in June 2020; and

WHEREAS, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt Jr. is widely regarded as the driving force behind the formation of The American Legion and can be depicted as such on the statue in Ste. Mere-Eglise, center of Normandy invasion commemoration events since 1945; and

WHEREAS, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt Jr. was first laid to rest in Ste. Mere-Eglise and now lies eternally among his fallen comrades at the Normandy American Cemetery near Omaha Beach, and received the Medal of Honor for his actions on June 6, 1944, coming ashore in the first wave of the D-Day invasion, before dying of a heart attack five weeks later; and

WHEREAS, Gen. Eisenhower was a life member of The American Legion post in Abilene, Kan., and received the national organization's Distinguished Service Medal in 1945, for his victorious leadership in World War II; and

WHEREAS, This project is termed "Statues of Liberation" to express the historical U.S. military identity as liberators of the oppressed, as the French were in 1944 after four

years of German occupation, which amplifies the honorable nature of U.S. military service and can do so for generations to come, through this initiative; and

WHEREAS, The two statues may include American Legion references and/or emblem usage in the pedestals, if reviewed by the national judge advocate and approved by the national adjutant, according to policy and constitutional protocol; and

WHEREAS, No financial commitment from The American Legion National Headquarters is requested at this time, but may be requested in the future, while some posts have indicated financial support for the project if a national resolution is passed commending it; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion commends the "Statues of Liberation" project in Ste. Mere-Eglise, Normandy, France, to install life-sized or larger statues of American Legion founding leader Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. and Supreme Allied Commander-Europe and former U.S. President Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, and may promote the project through media channels for those who wish to support it; and

RESOLVED, That the two statues may include American Legion references and/or emblem usage if reviewed by the national judge advocate and approved by the national adjutant, according to policy and constitutional protocol; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That although this support does not currently commit any additional financial support from the national organization, posts may contribute if they wish.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Resolution 15 has the approval of your 100th Anniversary Observance Committee, your Internal Affairs Commission, and that of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 15 titled, "Commendation for Statues of Liberation in Normandy." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 16: Community Level Academic Program Engagement
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internals Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion actively engages the youth of America; and

WHEREAS, Boys State/Boys Nation, Oratorical Contest, Scouting and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement are the stellar and most recognized Legion-sponsored civic and academic programs that promote and develop future leaders; and

WHEREAS, Numerous American Legion posts throughout the country support, financially and voluntarily, other youth academic programs in their communities including, but not limited to, debate teams, essay contests, spelling bees, art exhibits, music concerts, and science and math fairs which will serve to create intellectual or artistic curiosity; and

WHEREAS, The challenge is for all posts of The American Legion to actively engage in the promotion of academic programs in their communities by working with schools and colleges in getting the youth of America to address the consequences of achievement during high school, and the transition to adulthood and the work experience; and

WHEREAS, The objective is to work with local agencies and academic institutions to create a community where all youth can objectively be heard, engaged, and inspired to live with optimism for the future by demonstrating and reinforcing the values of this great nation as well as the dream of our American Legion founders; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the Internal Affairs Commission, and with concurrence from the Americanism Commission, is now 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 May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion strongly urges all American Legion posts to take on an active supporting role in mentoring and developing a forum for the youth academic programs in their respective community.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: This has the approval of your Americanism Commission, your Internal Affairs Commission, and that of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for the adoption of Resolution No. 16. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 16 entitled, "Community Level Academic Program Engagement." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 17: American Legion Sponsored Veterans Service Days
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, One of the founding principles of The American Legion is "to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation" as expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It is important to raise public awareness of veterans' issues to garner attention and support as Congress considers funding and legislation for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, At the Spring 2005 National Executive Committee Meeting Resolution No. 39, Subject: Support of Veterans Service Days from the Department of Pennsylvania was approved; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Pennsylvania established a relationship with other veterans service organizations and created an effective program of veteran outreach and education termed "Veterans Service Days"; and

WHEREAS, These veterans service days were conducted at a central location in each congressional district in the state; and

WHEREAS, These veterans service days provide assistance at each location in filing claims, offering benefit information and facts on legislation affecting those benefits; and

WHEREAS, These veterans service days provide information on the VA budget and its effect on veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, These veterans service days provide information for military personnel and their families on their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Departments have established relationships with other veteran service organizations and groups within their community; and

WHEREAS, Many departments are conducting town hall meetings meeting the same objective but we can standardize it by calling them Veterans Service Days; and

WHEREAS, Departments either have a trained service officer or have access to a network of service officers to assist with providing information to the veterans in attendance at the Veteran Service Days; now, therefore, be it

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the Internal Affairs Commission, and with concurrence from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, is now 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 at Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion work with veteran service organizations and veteran assistance agencies within each state to create and promote Veterans Service Days that seek to raise awareness of veterans issues and provide outreach to America's veterans regarding the benefits and services available to them; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each department is encouraged to establish a Veterans Service Day cohort of individuals to provide information to veterans; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each department is encouraged to conduct these Veterans Service Days in The American Legion districts and/or counties throughout the department but not less than once annually; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each should be promoted through national and department social media to gain attention to their event; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That accumulative activity is reported in the annual consolidated post report and the annual Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee report; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 39 (NEC, May 2005), Subject: Support of Veterans Service Days is hereby rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Resolution 17 has the approval of your Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, your Internal Affairs Commission, and that of your Resolutions Subcommittee, and I so move for its approval. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 17 entitled, "American Legion Sponsored Veterans Service Days." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 18: Buddy Check
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, At its core, The American Legion is an organization by, for, and about veterans of our United States; and

WHEREAS, Serving those who serve is an honor and distinction not unique to The American Legion, but one Legionnaires should endeavor to serve as an example for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Our most sacred responsibility is to care for our fellow men and women who served this nation with honor; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires are naturally inclined, through demonstrated commitment to serve something greater than self, to extend hearts and hands to others; and

WHEREAS, Our duty is to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; and

WHEREAS, Only with servant leadership and direct contact can we uncover needs and priorities of our warriors and avert any crisis; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires shall conduct veteran outreach as part of their daily routine; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires at all levels join together at least twice per year to contact all members both active and expired with a health and welfare check to be known as "Buddy Check"; and

WHEREAS, "Buddy Check" is not a membership drive or attempt to solicit participation in, or donations for, American Legion programs, it is solely a health and welfare check or offer of assistance; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the concurrence of the Media & Communications Commission and the Marketing Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in Regular Meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the process of "Buddy Check" be made formal and executed Legion-wide concurrent with the weeks of The American Legion birthday and of Veterans Day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the "Buddy Check" be promoted through national and department marketing, media and social media campaigns; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the "Buddy Check" weeks be the primary operational focus of every member, post, department and the National Headquarters; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That results of each "Buddy Check" week be established as a reportable item on the annual Consolidated Post Report.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Resolution 18 has the approval of your Marketing Commission, your Media & Communications Commission, your Internal Affairs Commission, and that of our Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 18 entitled, "Buddy Check." Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Resolution No. 19: Sports
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Baseball was the original American Legion sponsored youth sporting event; and

WHEREAS, Numerous American Legion posts throughout the country support, financially and voluntarily, other youth sports including, but not limited to, soccer, wrestling, football and basketball; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 104 of the 2nd National Convention called for the approval of the development of athletic sports; and

WHEREAS, This same resolution recommended that all posts of The American Legion take an active interest in the promotion of athletic sports; and

WHEREAS, Youth participation in sports programs leads to a healthier life-style, strong self-esteem and enhanced physical and mental well-being; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the Internal Affairs Commission, and with concurrence from the Americanism Commission, is now 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 May 8 -9, 2019, That The American Legion strongly urges all American Legion posts take on an active supporting role in the youth sports programs in their respective community; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 104 (Convention, 1920), Subject: Development of Athletic Sports is hereby rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Resolution No. 19 has the support of your Americanism Commission, your Internal Affairs Commission, and that of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 19 entitled, "Sports." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? Hearing none, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 20: Promotion of Family Play Day Events at Posts
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, American Legion posts worldwide can promote a fun, positive public image and attract a new generation of American Legion Family members through the planning and operation of Family Play Day or Game Night events in their communities; and

WHEREAS, A consistent refrain among younger veterans who may otherwise join the American Legion Family, but do not, is a perception that local posts are not family-friendly or offer enough activities for their children; and

WHEREAS, Popular and growing programs to promote family togetherness and fun are drawing young parents and their children to community centers, hotels, restaurants, YMCA facilities and other venues throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Such activities would be based more on family togetherness, fun and activities for all ages, not just those who participate in competitive sports, to include activities suitable for participants with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Some posts across the United States have existing or emerging programs to better engage young veteran families through special events in their communities and many have expressed interest in modeling a structured, national Play Day/Games Night program to help other posts realize the benefits of such events in a strategic manner that could measure growth and effect and recognize success; and

WHEREAS, Family Play or Games Day activities expand on American Legion Past National Commander Denise H. Rohan's "Family First" message to promote membership and strengthen renewal by uniting the American Legion Family around activities for all ages, involving Sons of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Riders, and demonstrating the life-changing support that can come through camaraderie among all who have served in the military and their families; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission has advanced resolutions to promote and elevate awareness to renew and reinvigorate American Legion programs that promote sports and fitness, as well as scholarship and academic programs for students; and

WHEREAS, Market research of younger members and eligible non-members can bring form to a Family Play Day/Games Night program that could be promoted nationwide and beyond; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion Internal Affairs and Media & Communications Divisions collaborate on the market research necessary, to include surveys and pilot programs at selected American Legion posts, to structure national guidance, promotional materials and potential adoption of a Family Play Day/Games Night program, based on such research, for consideration by the National Executive Committee at the Fall 2019 national meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Resolution 20 has the approval of your Media & Communications Commission, your Internal Affairs Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 20 entitled, "Promotion of Family Play Day Events at Posts." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The motion is passed.

Resolution No. 21: Procedures for The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 38 adopted by the National Executive Committee at the November 1951 meeting refers to the nomination by the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee of not less than three persons shall be nominated for the Distinguished Service Medal at the May NEC Meeting each year for the National Executive Committee to decide by written ballot; and

WHEREAS, It further stated that not more than one of such nominees by a majority vote of the full membership of the National Executive Committee may be selected to receive The American Legion Distinguished Medal; and

WHEREAS, The Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee was rescinded by Resolution No. 1 (NEC, May 2013) and its responsibilities was assigned to the Internal Affairs Commission; and

WHEREAS, It has happened in the past several years and conceivably will happen again in the future that nominations for such award may only number one nomination; and

WHEREAS, If there is only one nomination then the requirement for a written ballot is not necessary since there is a lack of competition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That voting by the National Executive Committee for the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal by written ballot is only required if more than one person is nominated then otherwise for the single nominee only a voice vote of those in attendance for the one nomination is required; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in the event that the nominee or in the case of more than one on the written ballot, shall not receive an affirmative vote of a majority of the National Executive Committee membership, no Distinguished Service Medal will be awarded for the year in which such vote is taken; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That it shall not be mandatory for the national commander or Internal Affairs Commission to submit any nominations for such award; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 38 (NEC, November 1951) Subject: The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal is hereby rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Resolution 21 has the approval of your Internal Affairs Commission and that of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its approval. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 21 entitled, "Procedures for The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Accompanying this report are Addendum A and Addendum B. I move that the actions of the Internal Affairs Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to accept the Addendum A and B of the Internal Affairs Commission as the action of the NEC. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW: Also attached to this report is Addendum C. You should have a copy of the amended addendum. I move that Addendum C be approved with the following changes: Strike the word "commander" from paragraph 7b, and add paragraph 9 "Annual Distribution" with a subparagraph A which reads, "The national adjutant will distribute these guidelines annually to all departments."

I move that the actions of the Internal Affairs Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to accept the amended Addendum C of the Internal Affairs Commission as the action of the NEC. Is there any discussion? The chair recognizes Past National Commander Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Commander, may I address the body from the podium?

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Please come forward, sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: There are a few points in this report that I want to stress, through experience. The one point, that it's certainly up to various

departments and regions that can do this, because it's getting kind of ridiculous with the commander's travel and driving him crazy, traveling from one state to another without some thought to what's easier for the commander.

In New England where we are, this year, for instance, the Department of Vermont brought the national commander, when they were through, down to the border, was picked up by Department of Massachusetts. Then we had him for a few days. Then the Department of Rhode Island comes to our state, picks him up, takes him to Rhode Island. So you've got three states in New England all in one week, a ten-day period. I know the commander is much more pleased when that happens. So that's what you've got to look at.

Look at this complete detailed sheet to see how you can help the commander in his travel. Because some travels are very ridiculous. Sometimes he goes for seven days in a state and he's in a different hotel every night. Ridiculous. You've got to combine them; you've got to think of his health. "Recommended that a reasonable amount of time should be scheduled at each location. There should be reasonable time for travel between events." It's not happening.

The other thing that's not so much now with cell phone and computerization, what have you, but I can only go back to 1987. On that part that says, "Do not alter the finalized itinerary." The year I was commander, I never even had a beeper nor a cell phone. It wasn't in existence back in 1987. How the national adjutant communicated was with the itinerary, to make sure it didn't change.

I walked into a post in North Carolina one afternoon around 2:00 and the bartender said, "Commander, call your office." They knew where I was going to be, walking into a certain post at that time, so the adjutant would know where I was so he could communicate. As I said, there was no beeper. Not so difficult today, but try that.

When they travel into a department and go to seven different posts in seven different days, the commander does that in a two-year schedule prior to becoming commander, he visits posts. You know who he is, you know what his programs are. What we want to see is that you go to a governor, the Veterans Affairs secretary, the adjutant general, senators, congressmen, soldiers' homes, VA facilities. That's what the commander is supposed to be communicating with, talking about the future of our organization. It's not done with our own members, although part of it can be done for that.

In one department this year, the commander went in. I don't know why they couldn't find a hotel, but they couldn't. You know where they put him up? In a bed and breakfast. You won't put me up in a bed and breakfast.

The other thing is, because I get calls, "Who is responsible for the national commander?" The national commander is the guest of the department, we know that. And the department is the official host for the national commander. But you members of the executive committee, you have a responsibility to our organization, and your responsibility is for the care of the national commander when he visits your department. Don't let it be done by the commander, don't let it be done by a vice commander, don't let it be done by anyone but himself. You are responsible. And if the commander or your department gives you any trouble, call me. *(Laughter)*

So the NEC has the final word in any disputes concerning the above recommendations. He knows that in one particular year he may want to take the commander to the East in larger states. Next year he may want to take them to the West to get everyone involved, another one in the Central. He sets up a plan of attack, and probably many of them are setting them up right now. And then to find out that commander gets selected in June, he says, "No, go sit down. I'm going to go handle this." Won't happen. Won't happen anymore.

You have your responsibility by reading this piece of paper, and that's the reason we had to bring it out. If there's anything you don't understand, give Dan Wheeler a call, talk to the commander, because we're the ones that are going to inform the commander. If it doesn't conform to these rules, he'll get an early flight out of that state. Have I made myself clear? Have a nice day. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Commander Comer. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. At this time, are there any National Emergency Fund donations to be made? Please identify yourself if there is. Please come forward and I'll receive those. *...National Vice Commander Milburn assumed the chair.*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SWEET: I have, from the Department of Mississippi, NEF and Child Welfare all in one envelope.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PISA: Commander, on behalf of the Department of Alaska, we'd like to present two checks, one for the TFA and one for the NEF, both in the amount of $2,586.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LIEBENOW (OR): Commander, on behalf of the Department of Oregon, I have a check here for the NEF for $2,218.50, and one for the Veteran & Children's fund for $2,342.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND (FL): Commander, although I don't have the check with me, I want the NEC to be aware of Post 270 in South Daytona burned to the ground. At their meeting, they donated $7,500 to the NEF.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, everyone, for your generous contributions. *(Applause) ...National Commander Reistad resumed the chair.*

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: At this time, commander, I ask permission for Past National Commander Rehbein, chairman of the 100th Anniversary Committee, to give an update.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Permission granted. Chairman Rehbein.

Oral Report: 100th Anniversary Observance Committee
Past National Commander David K. Rehbein, Iowa, Chairman

I want to thank the commander and the members of the NEC, Legionnaires, guests, and the national officers. This has been a very rewarding process, as we've moved into the centennial. Members of our organization, our posts, our departments, our community leaders, government officials, many thousands of people around the country and around the world are commemorating The American Legion's centennial.

We've had ceremonies in Paris, France. We had a ceremony at the top of the snowy Adirondack Mountains where a young man, cancer survivor, climbed all 46 of those with an American Legion banner. That was his celebration of the centennial. We have a newly chartered post on the campus of the University of Illinois in Urbana, named after a young lady named Shawna Morrison; it's a collegiate post formed as part of the centennial.

The process began with a strategic plan several years ago. Like all good plans, it didn't survive very long in the initial form. Not every tactic in that plan has been fulfilled. Others have come along. Some are still in the process of popping up and being implemented. We focused that plan first on empowering posts and departments, because that's where The American Legion exists, out there in the communities around the country. If this was only a national celebration, it would have been a failure. But it has been a celebration of the posts and departments. We'll talk about some of those; I think there are many more that we don't know about. Many of the things our posts do fly completely under the radar and we simply don't know.

We've created some things that I think will live on. I hope they will, because they tell stories that we need to continue to tell. An exhibit entitled, "The Greatest Legislation: An American Legion Centennial Salute to the GI Bill," in June 2017 opened in the World War II Museum and was there for a number of months. It has continued to travel. It has been in Montana; it has been in Los Angeles; it has been in Camp Dodge, Iowa; it has been in both the George W. Bush and the George H.W. Bush Museum and Libraries. It's been to Douglas, Georgia, which is a special place for the GI Bill because that was the home of Representative John Gibson, the representative that cast the deciding vote. It will continue to travel. You saw it in Minneapolis. It will be in Indianapolis again. It will be on Capitol Hill when we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the passage of that GI Bill.

It tells the story of the GI Bill as it was conceived, as it was put together, and as it became the law of the land. It tells The American Legion's not primary role, pretty much sole role, in making sure that happened. There's a smaller version of that now. That big one costs a lot of money to travel. It needs to be someplace approximately 30 days to make it worthwhile. So it doesn't work for department conventions, it doesn't work for district meetings. So a smaller one was created that can come to those meetings.

There's a second display on American Legion Baseball, and you probably saw it down in the Sheraton. We had that at the Hall of Fame, and I'll talk a bit more about that in a minute. There's also a very large chronology of the history of The American Legion that I think, if you look at it closely, you will find out things about The American Legion you didn't know. It happened to me. There's a big version of that, there's a smaller version of that that you can get to come to your department, if it works better for you to have that smaller version. But they both ship fairly well.

But to come back to baseball, and this is one of the ways a department chose to celebrate the centennial. The Department of New York organized a two-day event at the National Baseball Hall of Fame to celebrate the centennial of The American Legion, to showcase the role that American Legion Baseball has played in baseball around this country. They brought in an individual named Lee Smith. Some of you that are baseball fans may recognize that name.

Mr. Smith was a relief pitcher in Major League Baseball. He will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this summer. He talked about what American Legion Baseball meant to him growing up in Louisiana, and he told his story. He signed pictures. He signed autographs. He recorded a video to be played to the players at our Legion World Series this summer. But now I'm told that that video will not be played at our Legion World Series because Mr. Smith will be there in person to talk to them. So he's really paying back the debt that he feels he has owed to The American Legion for what happened in his life because of American Legion Baseball. But I want you to watch the video.

...A video about Lee Smith recalling American Legion Baseball days was shown to the National Executive Committee. (Applause)

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: Mr. Smith tells another story, too, that's not in the video, that you should know. Because as he was coming up in professional baseball, he was a starting pitcher. Then one day the manager came to him and said, "We want to move you to the bullpen. That's where this team needs you."

He didn't want to be a relief pitcher. That wasn't his conception of who he was. He nearly quit baseball. Then he decided one day that if that's what it was going to take to stay in the game of baseball, that's what he would do. So the needs of the team outweighed his own desires, and you see where it led him. He wouldn't be anywhere near the Hall of Fame if he'd held onto that dream of being a starting pitcher, and walked away from baseball. I hope he tells that kind of story to those young men that are playing baseball, too.

We have been proud to cooperate with a number of the other commissions, committees, divisions in some of their projects. Marketing, with the coins. We have been very proud to coordinate with the Marketing Division in that float out there at the Tournament of Roses Parade. Front-page pictures on the LA Times, haven't had that in a long time. We were proud to cooperate with the Buddy Check. We were proud to cooperate with the Team 100 and its impact on membership. Those are things that we have worked with some of the other folks internal to the organization.

We're also working with the World War I commission, because they are starting to compile a database and they want to know the stories of our World War I post namesakes. All those pictures that are on the walls on the posts in your department of those people that were killed in World War I and the post is named after them, they're collecting those stories, they want to know them. So we need to do a real effort as this centennial finishes up, to acquaint the posts that that knowledge needs to be out there with the World War I Commission.

We've got 3,000 posts that entered history on the centennial website. I think the number is actually 3,150, but it's growing every day. That will not go away, that website is

permanent. It's going to become a public website where people in the community can see what their local post did. I wish we had another 3,150, because I think every post that started one of those learned something about their history. My post did.

We've got a searchable database of 2,500 veterans memorials around the country and around the world that came as part of The American Legion centennial. That's the only one of those that exists. Now when a veterans memorial possibly comes under attack, we know where they all are and we can join to help.

You've seen the centennial print, you've seen the Fathead materials that are out there. Thousands of shirts. Emblem sales has had very good business come out of your centennial.

The next convention is coming up, and I know you were all in Minneapolis and I know you all saw that opening. Some of us have seen it more than once because we've run the videos at home. There will be another celebration like that here in Indianapolis. Don't know the details except to tell you that that group of reenactors that was up there with Theodore Roosevelt IV, they will be back. That was legacy; this is vision. That talked about who we are; this will talk about why we continue to do what we do because of who we are.

We had an event pop up just a few months ago that we are coordinating several departments, and I have to congratulate and thank National Vice Commander Sweet and National Vice Commander Wallace, because they're part of it.

American Legion Memorial Highway runs down through the center of the country, from Canada to Mexico: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas. They wanted to ride that as part of the Legacy Run. Well, in that part of the country, taking 200, 300 bikes out there, you simply can't feed, house, and fuel that many bikes. But you can have smaller groups. National Vice Commander Wallace is going to lead a team that starts from the Canadian border. National Vice Commander Sweet will lead another team that starts from the Mexican border, and they will ride towards each other.

We've created a Legacy & Vision banner. Jim will have half, Steve will have the other half. And as they travel the highway, they're stopping at local posts in the towns along that highway, to present a certificate and have that post commander sign that banner. That starts the 1st of August. On the 4th of August, they'll meet in Great Bend, Kansas. The banner gets put together. The banner then gets delivered here to Indianapolis to be given to the national commander on the stage, as part of the Riders.

There's a centennial bookazine coming out. You will see it in the next few months. I know that Jeff and his staff are wearing their little fingers down to the bone writing the bookazine.

You approved a resolution a few minutes ago about those two statues over in Sainte-Mere-Eglise. Thank you for doing that, because those two statutes will be branded with American Legion branding. Because of Teddy Roosevelt Jr. being one of our founders and because of General Eisenhower's activity in The American Legion, the people in Sainte-Mere-Eglise want The American Legion connection with those statutes. You approved that, we appreciate it very much.

One of the things that's coming out, still in progress, but you'll see part of it here in a minute, is a 13-episode video that talks about the history of The American Legion: where we came from, what we do, why we do it. Two young people named Lorna and Jeric, traveling the country, rediscovering what The American Legion is. As you watch this, please don't think that these are professional actors that just put those Legion caps on to do this video. They are active members of the Hollywood post in California. They owned those caps before this project ever came along. So they are real young Legionnaires, rediscovering what The American Legion is about.

This is episode No. 1. We have a prelude and two episodes in the can, there are ten more to come. We hope they'll be done by the end of the year; we're not going to make it by national convention. But the nice part about them is they're short. They will fit into your post meeting and not take up all night. So you can show one today, and then you can show one next month, and use that as a way to draw people into your post.

...A video, "Formation of The American Legion," was shown to the NEC. (Applause)

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: So there's an episode called "The Prelude" that comes before that, there's one more episode in the can that's after it, there's ten more to come. Those first three are available on the website right now, and so you can start telling your folks back home about them. Jeric will be riding the Highway 281 ride, he'll ride the southern leg. Mike Hjelmstad who has been with us, he's a member of one of our commissions from California, will be riding the northern leg. They will be the publicity people for that ride.

You've seen what New York did on their own initiative; they're not the only ones. We're going to Missouri in a couple of days to celebrate the St. Louis Caucus, and that's an event organized by Missouri. We have had galas in at least two or three places around the country. I know in Oregon, I know in Ohio, I'm pretty sure there was one in Connecticut. Other departments are doing things. Posts are doing things. I'm going to a post celebration in Iowa later this summer where they simply took over that little town's annual summer celebration. It's going to be all about The American Legion, all weekend. That's the kind of initiative that's out there. That's the kind of feeling that our members have for this centennial.

Mr. Commander, it's been an honor to serve as chairman of this 100th Anniversary Committee. I want to thank my predecessor, Past National Commander and Adjutant Bob Spanogle, for the work he did in building the foundation. I want to thank the committee. I want to thank all of you for the support that you've given to this. We've had that strategic plan in place for four years, but it's really been more like seven, getting this put together to reach this point. There's still things to come; we're still looking towards more. So thank you for that, but thank the staff, because without them, this wouldn't have happened: Jeff, Holly. *(Applause)*

Mr. Commander, I appreciate the time. That's my report.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and second on the floor to receive and file the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee report. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is carried. The chair now recognizes Chairman Richard W. Anderson of Connecticut for the Americanism Commission report.

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

Thank you, Mr. Commander, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC. Copies of my detailed written report have been distributed for your review, so I'll only brief you on some of the highlights from our meetings.

This year, there were 1,204 scholarship applications that were opened for the Legacy Scholarship. Of those, 517 were completed. Of the 517, 250 demonstrated verifiable eligibility and financial need. Of that 250, there were 57 American Legion Legacy Scholarships awarded; three children of the fallen were awarded, and 54 children of disabled veterans. The total dollar amount of scholarships awarded this year was $1,122,624.

The Americanism Commission approved the Committee on Youth Education's recommendation that Priscilla Chan-Zuckerberg and Mark Zuckerberg, co-founders and co-CEOs of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI), be recipients of the 2019 American Legion National Education Award. CZI provides significant support of working to reshape teacher training and diversify the ranks of education leaders.

The commission wishes to extend its congratulations to the Department of Iowa for laying claim for having the 2019 American Legion National Oratorical champion, Patrick

Junker. In conjunction to that, the National Oratorical finals this year were dedicated to Past Chairman and Chairman Emeritus Mr. Joseph Caouette.

Coming before this body are seven resolutions for which the Americanism Commission is seeking approval. Of particular note is a resolution from the Americanism Commission titled, "Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung's American Legion Scholarship Program." That resolution was developed to reflect inclusion of two new youth programs: American Legion Auxiliary Hawaii Girls State and American Legion District of Columbia Boys State. By virtue that these two new programs have been established, the youth of those programs may apply to receive consideration for a Samsung American Legion scholarship. Approval of this resolution formalizes that. All of the rules and conditions of the Samsung American Legion scholarship remain exactly the same.

Another resolution entitled, "Addendum to American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites for 2020" is being presented to this body for approval, wherein the final two sites for the 2020 American Legion Baseball regional tournaments have been secured, which would award the Region 5 site to Elmhurst, Illinois, and the Region 7 site to Gillette, Wyoming, in 2020.

A third resolution of note is one titled, "April is Official Children & Youth Month," in which the Committee on Children & Youth and the Americanism Commission seek to officially designate April as Children & Youth Month. In 1941, a resolution did designate April as Child Welfare Month. In the time following, it began to unofficially be referred to as "Children & Youth Month" and has been referred to as such for many decades since. Approval of this resolution will supersede the 1941 resolution in order to officially bring April as Children & Youth Month up to date with its current and longstanding reference.

The Americanism Commission hopes this body will approve those and the remaining four other resolutions that it is recommending for approval.

Before I conclude, commander, I'd like to have my staff, under the direction of Director Jill Druskis, please stand and be recognized. *(Applause)*

Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, the Americanism Commission again thanks you for your longstanding support, and that concludes my report, commander.

Report: Americanism Commission
May 6-7, 2019
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

The Americanism Commission met at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana on May 6, 2019. There were 89 members present that included members of the Americanism Commission, Americanism Council, American Legion Baseball Committee, Committee on Children & Youth, Committee on Youth Education, and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee. We were privileged to have join us Past National Commanders John “Jake” Comer (MA), Daniel Dellinger (VA), Thomas Bock (CO), Anthony Jordan (ME) and Dale Barnett (GA). Other distinguished guests included Sons of The American Legion Americanism Chairman Donald Hall (MD), American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Chairman Beth McGinn (DE), and other honored guests representing The American Legion and affiliated organizations.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION
Michael Westergren (AR), Chairman

The Committee on Youth Education met on May 4-5, 2019, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The committee developed the following recommendations for review and consideration by the Americanism Commission:

SNAPSHOT OF THE 2019 AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

Per the funding strategy authorized in Resolution No. 1 NEC May 2016 *American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement*, a total of $1,122,624 was made available in 2019 for

American Legion Legacy scholarship awards. A total of $1,122,624 was awarded to 57 qualified applicants demonstrating a financial need; 54 are children of disabled veterans and 3 are children of the fallen (Enclosure 1).

- A total of 1,204 applications were opened
- Of those 1,204 there were 517 who submitted complete application
- Of those 517 complete applications, 250 demonstrated verifiable eligibility and financial need (3 children of the fallen / 247 children of disabled veterans)
- Of those 250 deemed eligible and demonstrating a financial need, a total of 57 American Legion Legacy scholarships were awarded (3 children of the fallen / 54 children of disabled veterans)
    - 193 applications totaling $2,178,786 remained unfulfilled due to The American Legion meeting its financial award cap for the year
- Monetary awards:
    - Total amount awarded: $1,122,624
        - 55 awards were $20,000 each
            - Two of those were awarded to children of the fallen
        - The remaining two awards were $2,298 (fallen) and $19,826 (disabled)

Also in accordance with the governing Resolution No. 1 of the National Executive Committee May 2016 titled *American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement*, a written draft of a *Policy & Procedures Manual for Administration of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship* was developed and reviewed by the Committee on Youth Education. After extensive review the Committee ratified the document. And again in accordance with the governing resolution, and with 2019 being the third cycle for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship since implementation of the enhancement to include children of veterans with a VA-assigned disability rating of 50% or greater, the Committee has begun to review of trends for processes, policies and outcomes.

The Committee on Youth Education reviewed the resolutions below, making the following recommendations to the Americanism Commission:

- *Remove Expected Family Contribution From Legacy Scholarship Application (CO)* – **Reject**
- *Support A Relationship With Joe Foss Institute (CT)* - **Reject**
- New: *Commending The Joe Foss Institute* - **Approve**
- New: *Updated Rules And Conditions For The Samsung American Legion Scholarship* – **Approve**

The committee recommends Pricilla Chan-Zuckerberg and Mark Zuckerberg, co-founders and co-CEO's, of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) as recipients of the 2019 American Legion National Education Award. CZI has provides significant grants in support of working to reshape teacher training and diversify the ranks of education leaders.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE
Gary Stone (MO), Chairman

The American Legion Baseball (ALB) Committee met Monday, May 6, 2019, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel.

The American Legion Baseball Committee recommended to the Americanism Commission that it approve the new resolution titled *Addendum To American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites For 2020*, which would award Region 5 site to Elmhurst, IL and Region 7 site to Gillette, WY in 2020.

The ALB Committee gave considerable discussion to the 2018 passage of Senate Bill 534. This bill amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 to extend the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to certain adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes at a facility under the jurisdiction of a national

governing body. An individual who is required, but fails, to report suspected child sex abuse is subject to criminal penalties. The bill includes designation of the United States Center for SafeSport and calls for consistent abuse awareness training to adult volunteers who are in contact with amateur athletes. The ALB Committee recommends that ALB staff and risk manager at national headquarters update the risk management policies of junior and senior baseball to become SafeSport compliant with S.B. 534. These updates will also be extended to junior shooting sports.

The ALB Committee reviewed, discussed and recommends approval for adoption of the 2019 American Legion Baseball National Tournament Rules and Policies for 2019 post-season tournament play.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH
Herbert J. Petit, Jr. (LA), Chairman

The Committee on Children & Youth met at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Panorama A, 21st floor in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday, May 6, 2019.

The Committee on Children & Youth recommended that the Americanism Commission approve the resolution titled *April As Official Children & Youth Month*. Resolution No. 537 of the 1941 National Convention titled *April As Official Child Welfare Month* previously designated April as Child Welfare Month – during the ensuing decades it subsequently changed to "Children & Youth Month" but the change was never officially made. Should it be approved, this resolution will supersede Resolution No. 537 of the 1941 National Convention.

The American Legion Child Welfare (CWF) Foundation met on Sunday, May 5, 2019, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. For the 2017-2018 donation year (1 June, 2017 – 31 May, 2018), the Foundation has received $562,053 in CWF donations; $327,594 was contributed by the Sons of The American Legion.

The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program continues to provide for the basic needs of minor children of current active duty servicemembers or American Legion members through cash grants made possible through the generosity of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation. During 2018 TFA assisted 376 minor children of 179 veterans throughout 35 states in receiving $228,975 in non-repayable cash grant assistance at the national level.

In January 2019 TFA rose to a challenge. After a federal government shutdown was announced just before Christmas in 2018, members of the United States Coast Guard received pay checks on December 31st, but their pay was in peril for January 15th. Unlike other the other four branches of the uniformed Armed Services that are budgeted through the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard budget is part of the Department of Homeland Security. The American Legion swiftly recognized that with any missed pay, the government shutdown could cause undue stress and anxiety for nearly 42,000 of the nation's men and women serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. So National Commander Brett Reistad, citing the Coast Guard's motto of "Semper Paratus", announced that The American Legion is "always prepared" to support men and women in uniform, and directed TFA administrators at National Headquarters to stand by, and if in the event that Coast Guard pay should be interrupted by the government shutdown, to quickly administer requests made by active-duty Coast Guard members needing financial assistance for minor children in their households.

As the nation endured its longest federal government shut-down in history, members of the United States Coast Guard missed their pay check on January 15, 2019 - those who risk their lives daily, defending our nation just like their sister services in the Department of Defense, had to begin worrying about meeting living expenses for their families.

With the directive from the National Commander, an abbreviated, one-page application TFA form with expedited processing procedures was initiated. Thousands of applications were immediately received from concerned Coast Guard members in a state of worry over when they and their families would again see their pay.

Ten days later, on Friday, January 25th, a short-term plan was announced by the President of the United States allowing the federal government to reopen. The U.S. Coast Guard received its back pay on Monday, January 28th, and received their regularly scheduled paycheck on Friday, February 1st. With the crisis having been abated by means of the January 25th announcement to reopen the government, National Headquarters discontinued processing expedited TFA applications for active duty Coast Guard at that time and returned to all regular TFA processes and procedures. The majority of Coast Guard families returned to having a regular cash flow with the receipt of back pay and their regularly scheduled pay check, however, if it was determined that a financial hardship remained for individual families who had not received an expedited TFA grant, the traditional TFA application process and investigation procedures were pursued.

As a result of implementing temporary expedited processing procedures and the collective herculean efforts of Legionnaires and Legion Family throughout many departments and at National Headquarters during the crisis, The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program was able to award over $1 million to aid 3,120 children of 1,713 active duty Coast Guard service members.

YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
Larry Price (SD), Chairman

On May 6, 2019, the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE) Committee met at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Library Room.

The YCLE Committee received a presentation from Chad Shrader, Director of Boy Scout Law Enforcement Exploring program, who provided an overview briefing of the Boy Scout Law Enforcement program of the Boy Scouts of America, involving 30,000 registered youth across the nation and Europe. His presented included discussion of how both organizations have potential to overlay their youth law enforcement programs to identify areas for complimenting each other and reciprocally assisting in bridging gaps with finding good candidates and volunteer staff for both YCLE and Boys Scout Law Enforcement Exploring programs nationwide. The YCLE Committee believes this idea holds merit and will be exploring this opportunity further.

REPORT OF THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
Loren Sperry (WA), Chairman

The Youth Activities Subcommittee (YASC) met Monday, May 6, 2019, in Indianapolis.

The Youth Activities Subcommittee reviewed the resolutions below, making the following recommendations to the Americanism Commission:

- Res. No. 29 (CT) 2018 National Convention *Girl Scouts Of America As An Official Program of The American Legion* – **Reject**
- New: *Commending The Girl Scouts Of The USA* - **Approve**
- Res. No. 82 (NY) *Proposed Change To The Oratorical Contest National Finals* – **Hold for further study**

Junior Shooting Sports Program

The 29th American Legion Junior Three Position Air Rifle National Championship will be held July 23 – 28, 2019, at the USA Shooting range facility located at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado; 1,359 athletes entered the individual Postal Match competition and 243 teams entered the national team Postal Match competition.

American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program
"A Constitutional Speech Contest"

The 82nd National Finals Contests were conducted on April 6-7, 2019, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. The 53 department winners who entered the national

competition were all outstanding representatives of today's youth. The top three national finalists are:

First Place	Patrick Junker (IA)	$19,500
Second Place	Caleb Maue (IL)	$17,500
Third Place	Eden Carnes (TN)	$15,500

The Media & Communications Division provided a YouTube live webcast of the 2019 National Final Contest with 947 live views and 1,524 views post-contest for a total of 2,471 views.

Scouting

Jaden Anderson of Utah, was selected the 2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the year and will receive a $10,000 scholarship. Runner-up recipients of the three $2,500 scholarships are: N'Jhari Jackson of Florida; Trevor Burke of Texas; and Rhylan Peterson of Minnesota. A total of 26 Eagle Scout of the Year applications were submitted from the departments of: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

At the end of 2018, there were 2,346 Scouting units were chartered by American Legion posts, American Legion Auxiliary units, and Sons of The American Legion squadrons, serving 62,541 youth.

The American Legion & Scouting Square Knot award recognizes American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program, their dedication, and work to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who completes the requirements for the award. In 2018, 22 awards were issued to Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion members.

American Legion Boys State/Nation

The number of delegates attending American Legion Boys State in 2018 totaled 18,241 nationally. This is a decrease of 949 delegates from the previous year.

In accordance with Resolution No. 5 approved by the National Executive Committee in May 2009 titled *Donations and Grants to Youth Programs of the National Americanism Commission,* the Americanism Commission hereby reports receipt of two donations to The American Legion Boys Nation program in 2019: 1) Heritage Foundation Leadership For America donated $3,000 in support of operational costs of the Boys Nation program; and; 2) Southern Company utilities provided $5,000 in support of Boys Nation scholarship expenses.

REPORT OF THE CITIZENSHIP & NATURALIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Alan Davis (MN), Vice-Chairman

Eight members of the Citizenship and Naturalizations Subcommittee met on Monday, May 6, 2019, in the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Panorama B, 21st floor. The Citizenship & Naturalization Subcommittee recommended to the Americanism Commission that it approve Resolution No. 12 titled *Constitution Day.*

The subcommittee gave significant discussion to the Naturalization Ceremony being hosted by the Americanism Commission at the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis on Tuesday, August 27th. Approximately 300 will be in attendance. Planning included discussions of a timeline, event set-up and break-down, security sweep, potential guest speakers, and after-events for the new citizens, such as voter registration (for Marion County, Indiana), ability to register for a social security number and opportunity for legal name change. The subcommittee concluded by conducting an onsite survey of the venue and room where the ceremony will take place.

RESOLUTIONS

At the meeting of the Americanism Commission at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2019, a total of 13 resolutions were considered. The Americanism Commission recommends the following:

Approve

- Res. No. 12 (CO) Constitution Day
- Commending Girl Scouts Of The USA
- Commending Joe Foss Institute
- Updated Rules And Conditions For The Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program
- Addendum to American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites for 2020
- April As Official Children & Youth Month
- Rescinding Of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions

Reject

- Res. No. 13 (CO) Remove Expected Family Contribution From Legacy Scholarship Application
- Res. No. 19 (CT) Girl Scouts Of America As An Official Program Of The American Legion
- Res. No. 20 (CT) Support A Relationship With Joe Foss Institute

Hold For Further Study

- Res. No. 82 (NY) Proposed Change To The Oratorical National Contest Finals

Concur With Resolutions Originating from Internal Affairs Commission

- Sports
- Community Level Academic Program Engagement

The commission further recommends new dates for Americanism programs and conferences as outlined on Addendum B attached to this report.

Enclosure (1)

2019 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Awards Listing

	Category	Dept	Applicant Name	Gap Amt	Award Amt
1.	Fallen	PA	Kevin James Curry	$33,425.21	$20,000.00
2.	Fallen	HI	Mylia Haruka Briggs	$23,114.00	$20,000.00
3.	Fallen	TX	Haley Hartwick	$2,798.21	$2,798.21
4.	Disabled	WI	Camila Alejandra Negron Garcia	$91,770.00	$20,000.00
5.	Disabled	CA	Morgan C Nichols	$74,940.00	$20,000.00
6.	Disabled	IL	Elek August Wellman	$71,779.04	$20,000.00
7.	Disabled	AR	Kellie Ann Holland	$66,104.00	$20,000.00
8.	Disabled	TX	Trinity Alexis Rivas	$65,586.00	$20,000.00
9.	Disabled	NC	McKayala Ann Kraft	$56,432.00	$20,000.00
10.	Disabled	TX	Nadia Woods	$56,202.00	$20,000.00
11.	Disabled	SD	Brady Bathke	$55,194.00	$20,000.00
12.	Disabled	CA	Rosa-Maria Valdes	$52,002.00	$20,000.00
13.	Disabled	OK	Summer Leigh Chapline	$50,874.00	$20,000.00
14.	Disabled	TX	Hunter Nathanial Dellova	$46,418.00	$20,000.00
15.	Disabled	GA	Dequiala Kelly	$44,632.00	$20,000.00
16.	Disabled	OH	Aurora Dorianne Crissman	$43,358.00	$20,000.00
17.	Disabled	OK	Joseph Alan Anderson	$42,870.00	$20,000.00

18.	Disabled	WI	Noah Shannon	$42,267.80	$20,000.00
19.	Disabled	PA	Tyler Frederick Medsger	$40,362.00	$20,000.00
20.	Disabled	ME	Dylan Montejo Doyle	$40,011.00	$20,000.00
21.	Disabled	TN	Brooklynn Marie Loposser	$39,990.00	$20,000.00
22.	Disabled	FL	Liam T. Hunt	$39,525.00	$20,000.00
23.	Disabled	CT	Reese Elizabeth Reiling	$39,497.00	$20,000.00
24.	Disabled	NC	Symone Davis	$38,245.00	$20,000.00
25.	Disabled	OR	Julianna Budnick	$37,840.00	$20,000.00
26.	Disabled	AZ	Mason Alexander Tigner	$37,262.00	$20,000.00
27.	Disabled	NC	Makenzie Alexis Jones	$37,107.00	$20,000.00
28.	Disabled	KS	Sierra Dawn Delamarter	$36,570.00	$20,000.00
29.	Disabled	MD	Madison N Williams	$34,334.68	$20,000.00
30.	Disabled	NY	Chyle Damien Grossman	$33,998.00	$20,000.00
31.	Disabled	TX	Madison Leigh Butler	$32,904.00	$20,000.00
32.	Disabled	VA	Hannah Delaney Maile	$32,726.00	$20,000.00
33.	Disabled	KS	Annelise E Holland	$32,649.00	$20,000.00
34.	Disabled	IL	Cara Lee Rhodes	$32,442.00	$20,000.00
35.	Disabled	IL	Hannah Elizabeth Ramos	$32,442.00	$20,000.00
36.	Disabled	GA	Dyami C Lynch	$32,150.00	$20,000.00
37.	Disabled	GA	Taylor Asher	$31,907.00	$20,000.00
38.	Disabled	FL	Nevaeh Newton	$31,892.00	$20,000.00
39.	Disabled	FL	Leonia M Hunt	$31,667.00	$20,000.00
40.	Disabled	SC	Mykia Shelita Kallie	$30,911.00	$20,000.00
41.	Disabled	KY	Matthew Allen Armstrong	$30,837.00	$20,000.00
42.	Disabled	CA	Anaiah R Christensen	$30,124.00	$20,000.00
43.	Disabled	CA	Marc Hudson	$30,073.00	$20,000.00
44.	Disabled	MS	Lindsey Macon II	$29,963.00	$20,000.00
45.	Disabled	NY	Hope K Walker	$29,869.00	$20,000.00
46.	Disabled	MA	Cecelia A Adelfio	$28,753.00	$20,000.00
47.	Disabled	AK	Megan Mae Kline	$28,495.00	$20,000.00
48.	Disabled	NY	Tianna Maria Negron	$27,824.00	$20,000.00
49.	Disabled	PA	Madeline Starling	$27,696.00	$20,000.00
50.	Disabled	CA	Christian Estrella	$27,672.00	$20,000.00
51.	Disabled	NY	Gillian Kelsey MacNeil	$27,396.00	$20,000.00
52.	Disabled	GA	Amelia Leigh Junod	$26,203.00	$20,000.00
53.	Disabled	NE	Tymber Whitney Long	$26,118.00	$20,000.00
54.	Disabled	CT	Haley Elizabeth Burgmyer	$26,107.00	$20,000.00
55.	Disabled	NM	Mia Nicole Montoya	$26,001.00	$20,000.00
56.	Disabled	CA	Emily Michelle Propst	$25,931.00	$20,000.00
57.	Disabled	TX	Jada Rhome	$25,850.00	$19,825.79

Addendum A

Rejected

Resolution No. 13 (CO)(2018 National Convention)**: Removed Expected Family Contribution From Legacy Scholarship Application**

Resolution No. 19 (CT)(2018 National Convention)**: Girl Scouts of America as an Official Program of The American Legion**

Resolution No. 20 (CT)(2018 National Convention)**: Support a Relationship with Joe Foss Institute**

Held for study

Resolution No. 82 (NY)(2018 National Convention)**: Proposed Change to the Oratorical Contest National Finals**

Addendum B

MEETING DATE	EVENT/MEETING	CONFERENCE DATES
May 8-9, 2019	**Americanism Conference – 2020**	**September 25-27, 2020 (Boys State only)**
	(Boys State, Oratorical, Baseball, Scouting)	**September 26-27, 2020**
	Baseball Regionals - 2020	**August 5-9, 2020**
	Baseball World Series - 2020	**August 13-18, 2020**
	Children & Youth Conference – 2020	**September 19-20, 2020**
	Department Chaplains Conference – 2019	**September 21-22, 2019**
	Department Chaplains Conference - 2020	**September 19-20, 2020**
	Jr. Shooting Sports Conference - 2020	**September 19-20, 2020**
	Scouting Chairman's Conference	**September 28-29, 2019**

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and second on the floor to receive and file the Americanism Commission report. Is there any discussion? Hearing non, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 22: Rescinding of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The Americanism Commission reviewed its resolutions in accordance with the suggested review practices recommended by the National Conventions and the 1961 report of the Program Study Committee by the National Executive Committee; and
WHEREAS, This review took place during the Americanism Commission meeting held May 6, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, This study has found that the following resolutions should be rescinded because they are either obsolete, accomplished, superseded, in conflict, duplicated, no longer having value or for other reasons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the following resolutions are being rescinded by reason of: (1) obsolete; (2) accomplishment of purpose (3) superseded; (4) in conflict with other resolution(s); (5) duplicated by other resolution(s); (6) having no value because of later changes in program, (7) for other reasons.

Res. No.	Meeting	Title (Brief)	Reason
3	**NEC Jan 1927**	**Appropriate Services For Armistice Day**	**1**
51	**CONV 1923**	**Pennsylvania Americanism Commission School Award**	**6**
8	**NEC May 1934**	**National Interscholastic Oratorical Contest**	**6**
24	**NEC Oct 1993**	**POW/MIA Flag Display at Postal Facilities**	**7**
94	**CONV 1996**	**POW/MIA Flag**	**5**

2	**NEC May 1932**	**Junior Baseball**	**6**
17	**NEC May 1989**	**American Legion Education Assistance Program**	**1**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Resolution 22 has the approval of the Americanism Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 22 entitled, "Rescinding of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. Continue.

Resolution No. 23: Constitution Day
Origin: Resolution No 12 (CO) 2018 National Convention
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS**,** Among the founding principles of The American Legion is the education of our youth and promotion of Americanism programs; and

WHEREAS**,** Many of today's youths lack an understanding of the founding documents created by our founding fathers, namely the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution with its incredibly important Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS**,** Our rights and liberties rooted in these cherished documents gave birth to our nation and those documents set forth the principals upon which our government is based; and

WHEREAS, The core principles embodied in these foundational documents that define the United States republican system of government form a common bond to unite the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS**,** In the words of our nation's first president, George Washington, during his April 30, 1789 inaugural address, "And since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the republican model of government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people"; and

WHEREAS, In 2005 the Congress of the United States passed a unanimous law requiring all educational institutions in America that receive federal funds shall hold an education program on the U.S. Constitution for their students every year on September 17, Constitution Day; and

WHEREAS, All chief state school officers (commissioners of education and state superintendents of public instruction) in the 50 states are asked by the U.S. Department of Education to inform the school districts in their states about this law and have them share this law with their superintendents, principals and teachers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That American Legion posts are encouraged to recognize and observe Constitution Day on September 17 each year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all American Legion posts are urged to participate in Constitution Day activities each year; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all American Legion posts are encouraged to reach out to people in their local communities to encourage participation in educating themselves and others about the contents of the U.S. Constitution, volunteer to visit schools to give students a free pocket Constitution book, and to go over the contents of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution with the students.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Resolution 23 has the approval of the Americanism Commission, Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move to adopt it. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 23 entitled, "Constitution Day." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. Continue.

Resolution No. 24: Commending The Joe Foss Institute
Origin: Committee on Youth Education
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, Two of the four pillars of The American Legion are Children & Youth and Americanism; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute lists its five values as freedom, patriotism, integrity, service, and character, and targets its programs at military veterans, students, and teachers; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute is a nonprofit organization in the United States that aims to promote an appreciation among students for the American tradition of liberty, the country's military history, and patriotic values; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute was founded in 2001 by Medal of Honor recipient General Joseph J. Foss and his wife Donna Foss, and throughout his high profile career, General Foss always made time to visit classrooms and speak with the students – America's future leaders; and

WHEREAS, His goal was to ensure the children understand America's freedoms and the importance of public service, integrity and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 2001, the Joe Foss Institute has served nearly 1.5 million students through in-classroom presentations, educational materials and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute was created to carry on that vision by offering free educational programs and curriculum for schools and youth groups nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute offers free educational programs for teachers around the country, and currently, the Joe Foss Institute offers three primary programs; Veterans Inspiring Patriotism, "You are America" Civics Series and the Joe Foss Institute Scholarship Program; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 10-11, 1984, approved Resolution No. 32 titled "Urging the U.S. Department of Education to Develop a Comprehensive Outline of Instruction Covering the Rights and Responsibilities of a Loyal Patriotic U.S. Citizen" that calls for successful completion of a final comprehensive examination regarding citizenship responsibilities for graduation from high school; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute is actively working with 20 states who do not currently have a Civics Educational Initiative, an initiative that, as a condition of graduation, seeks to require high school seniors to pass a citizenship test based upon 100 basic facts of U.S. history and civics taken from the United States Citizenship Civics Test – the test all immigrants applying for U.S. citizenship must pass; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion commends the Joe Foss Institute for their mission of helping educate and promulgate information to military veterans, students and teachers about the American tradition of liberty, our country's military history and patriotic values, and for championing implementation of a United States citizenship civics test in high schools as a condition of graduation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission's Committee on Youth Education send a copy of this resolution to the Joe Foss Institute as an expression of The American Legion's congratulations and admiration; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, This commendation is done at no cost to The American Legion and withholds all grants of authority to use The American Legion's name and/or trademark without specific authority, except in fair-use reporting of this resolution.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Resolution No. 24 has the approval of the Americanism Commission, the Committee on Youth Education, and the Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 24 entitled, "Commending the Joe Foss Institute." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. Continue.

Resolution No. 25: Commending Girl Scouts Of The USA
Origin: American Commission
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) is the largest leadership organization for girls in the world; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts of the USA boasts a long history with its founding in 1912, incorporation in 1915 and receipt of a congressional charter in 1950; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts of the USA prepares girls to empower themselves, and promotes compassion, courage, confidence, character, leadership, entrepreneurship, and Americanism; and

WHEREAS, The aim of GSUSA is to help girls develop to their full potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; have a meaningful set of values to guide their actions and make sound decisions; and contribute to the improvement of society; and

WHEREAS, GSUSA is 2.6 million strong - 1.8 million girls and 800,000 adults who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ to change the world; and

WHEREAS, In reciting the Girl Scout Promise, girls pledge on their honor to try "To serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law"; and

WHEREAS, More than 50 million women in America today enjoyed Girl Scouts during their childhood, with countless of those having served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces and having been proud members of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion commends the Girl Scouts of the USA for serving as a preeminent leadership development organization for girls, and further commends its proud and enduring mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who strive to make the world a better place; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion posts are encouraged to assist Girl Scouts of the USA within its community in whatever manner a post may deem practicable; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this commendation is done at no cost to The American Legion and withholds all grants of authority to use The American Legion's name and/or trademark without specific authority, except in fair-use reporting of this resolution.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Resolution No. 25 has the recommendation of the Americanism Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its approval. ...*Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 25 entitled, "Commending Girl Scouts of the USA." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? Okay, the motion is passed. Continue.

Resolution No. 26: April As Official Children & Youth Month
Origin: Committee on Children & Youth
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The Twenty-second National Convention of The American Legion assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15-18, 1941, adopted Resolution No. 537, "April as Official Child Welfare Month"; and

WHEREAS, The Americanism Commission, at the suggestion of the Committee on Children & Youth, wishes to reflect current terminology; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion set aside and officially designate the month of April of each year as American Legion Children & Youth Month; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 537 of the 22nd National Convention, September 15-18, 1941, "April as Official Child Welfare Month" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This has the approval of the Americanism Commission, the Committee on Children and Youth, the Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its approval. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 26 entitled, "April as Official Children & Youth Month." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 27: Addendum To American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites for 2020
Origin: American Legion Baseball Committee
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee, May 2009, established that beginning with the 2011-2012 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; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 30 of the National Executive Committee, May 2018, established the dates for regional tournaments of The American Legion Baseball program as August 7-11, 2019, and August 5-9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 30 of the National Executive Committee, May 2018, reflected Great Lakes Region 5 and Northwest Region 7 as having single year bids for 2019 only; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Americanism Commission to select the sites and dates for the regional and World Series tournaments of American Legion Baseball; and

WHEREAS, It is customary that the sites for regional tournaments be selected in advance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the Region 5 site for the 2020 Great Lakes Regional tournament of The American Legion Baseball program be awarded to Elmhurst, Illinois; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Region 7 site for the 2020 Northwest Regional tournament of The American Legion Baseball program be awarded to Gillette, Wyoming.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This has the approval of the Americanism Commission, the American Legion Baseball Committee, the Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its approval. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to approve Resolution No. 27 entitled, "Addendum to American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites for 2020." Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 28: Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program
Origin: Committee on Youth Education
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, In 1995 The American Legion was honored to receive a $5 million scholarship endowment from Samsung Group as a gesture of appreciation for the sacrifices of U.S. service men and women who helped maintain security of the Korean peninsula during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 1 of the National Executive Committee, September 3, 1995, titled "Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" authorized The American Legion to create a scholarship program by the same name; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, October 18-19, 2000, titled "Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" established criteria for awarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program from an applicant pool of representatives from The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 19, National Executive Committee, October 9-10, 2002, incorporated changes in eligibility criteria for students from Hawaii as recommended by the National Committee on Education with subsequent concurrence by the National Americanism Commission; and

WHEREAS, In 2013 The American Legion was pleased to honor its longstanding relationship with Samsung through presentation of its prestigious Patriot Award, followed by a visit to Samsung Global Headquarters in Seoul, Korea, by the national commander; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and Samsung Electronics located at the North America Headquarters in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, have reinvigorated discussions of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program to enhance the application process for benefit of the applicants, and publicly promote and elevate prominence of the Samsung American Legion Scholars; and

WHEREAS, Revision to the rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships were awarded which reflected implementation of dividing the pool of Samsung American Legion State Finalists into regions was contained in Resolution. No. 24 of the National Executive Committee in October 2014; and

WHEREAS, The recent addition of a formal American Legion Boys State program of the Department of District of Columbia and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program of the Department of Hawaii requires another update to the rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded; and

WHEREAS, The rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded are recommended by the Committee on Youth Education with subsequent concurrence by the Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded is hereby updated to include the American Legion Boys State program of the Department of District of Columbia and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program of the Department of Hawaii; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all other Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded shall remain the same; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded shall now read in its entirety as follows:

1. One representative from each American Legion Boys State program, one representative from each American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and one high school junior boy from the Department of Hawaii will comprise the pool of "Samsung American Legion State Finalists"

2. The pool of Samsung American Legion State Finalists will be divided into five (5) geographic regions:

• Western Region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington

• Midwest Region: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming

• Central Region: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin

• Southeast Region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas

• Northeast Region: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, District of Columbia

3. Two (2) "Samsung American Legion Scholars" will be selected by the Committee on Youth Education from each regional pool of State Finalists

4. Those eligible to apply for the scholarships shall be students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as such by the United States government:

• World War I April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918

• World War II December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946

• Korean War June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955

• Vietnam War February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975

• Lebanon and Grenada August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984

• Panama December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990

• Gulf War/War on Terrorism August 2, 1990 to cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States government

5. Samsung American Legion Scholars will have six (6) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission

6. Samsung American Legion State Finalists will have two (2) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school

excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission

7. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is for undergraduate study at an accredited U.S. college or university

8. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled as a full-time student to request his/her scholarship funds

9. The number and amount of the scholarship awards will be determined by the income derived from the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Trust

10. The scholarship funds may only be used to defray necessary costs of the student's education (i.e. tuition, room & board, books & supplies, fees and equipment required by the student's particular course of study or school)

11. A student may request any amount up to and including his/her total scholarship award at one time

12. The amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education

13. Students may make only one (1) request for funds per semester or quarter

14. Scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a "Request for Funds" form

15. A scholarship check will be issued in the normal and customary procedure of a two-party check made payable to the student and school

16. Students who have not requested their award will receive one (1) written notice reminding them of their award and the time limits remaining to receive their award

17. State finalists will receive their notice prior to their last year of eligibility

18. Samsung American Legion Scholars will receive their notice with two years of eligibility remaining

19. Unused scholarship funds will be returned to the scholarship trust fund for future awards; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all rules and conditions shall be included on each Samsung American Legion Scholarship application; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 24 of the National Executive Committee, October 15-16, 2014, titled "Revised Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: This has the approval of the Americanism Commission, your Committee on Youth Education, your Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 28 entitled, "Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program." Is there any discussion?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON (HI): I have a question. You have in paragraph 1, those who will be invited to this, and then paragraph 4 you have limits on those who can win. They seem to be in opposition. Those who are invited may not fit in paragraph 4.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: The chair recognizes Chairman Rich Anderson.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Commander, may the chair recognize Director Druskis?

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Agreed.

DIVISION DIRECTOR DRUSKIS: Okay. Sir. I need to understand your question a little better. So in "Resolved" clause 1, you said?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON: Paragraph 1, these are the people that will be invited to the competition.

DIVISION DIRECTOR DRUSKIS: In the first "Resolved" clause? Is that what you're referring to?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON: Yes.

DIVISION DIRECTOR DRUSKIS: All the departments have opportunity, from their Boys State and Girls State programs, to have a Samsung representative. There's two new programs from D.C. for Boys State, and Hawaii Girls State, that are now added to that pool of eligibility to apply for the scholarship.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON: I understand that part. When you come to paragraph 4, why are people being invited who don't fit into paragraph 1? They may or may not. Someone from Boys State, parents or grandparents without reference to any military.

DIVISION DIRECTOR DRUSKIS: So I think if I'm understanding correctly, your question is, is in paragraph 4 that talks about eligibility as it relates to being a descendant of a wartime veteran?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON: Yes. You have to be a descendant of a qualified veteran, plus you have invited people who may not only be descendants of qualified veterans at paragraph 1.

DIVISION DIRECTOR DRUSKIS: Those children who take part in those two new programs that are added to the pools, those youth that are in those programs who are a descendant of a wartime veteran, they are the ones who are eligible to apply. So you're right, not every Boys State/Girls State delegate is eligible. You have to be a wartime descendant in a Boys State or a Girls State program. So the youth that are eligible need to be a wartime descendant, the boys and girls in Boys State and Girls State need to be a descendant of a wartime veteran to apply for the scholarship for Samsung.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The motion passes.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Attached to this report are Addendum A and B. I move the action of the Americanism Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to accept the Addendum A and B of the Americanism Commission as the action of the NEC. Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. The chair now recognizes Gaither Keener, chairman of the Trustees American Legion Charities, Incorporated, for the purpose of a presentation.

...National Vice Commander Wallace assumed the chair.

Special Presentations

AMERICAN LEGION CHARITIES CHAIRMAN KEENER: Commander, it is with great pride that the American Legion Charities board has a check to present to you for the 2019 TFA support in the amount of a quarter of a million dollars. *(Cheers and applause)*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER WALLACE: I now call on Dennis Boland for the purpose of a presentation.

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT BOLAND: Commander, on behalf of the board of directors of the Child Welfare Foundation, as president, I'd like to present the Temporary Financial Assistance program a check of $750,000. *(Cheers and applause)*

Also, Commander, while I'm up here, I have a check for $5,000 for the Child Welfare Foundation from the Department of Florida. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER WALLACE: I now call on any other contributions to the TFA program. I recognize Charlie Aucoin.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AUCOIN (LA): Commander, on behalf of the Louisiana department, I'd like to give you a check for TFA for $500. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER WALLACE: Are there any other contributions?

...National Commander Reistad resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I'd like to thank those who made contributions to the American Legion Charities, for their generosity. *(Applause)*

To your left is a painting of the German surrender to the allies on May 7, 1945. Today, May 8, is the 74th anniversary of V-E Day. Let us stand for a moment of silence in honor of those who won the war with Germany and those who gave their lives in that endeavor. Please uncover.

...A moment of silence was observed by the National Executive Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Please recover and be seated. Due to the resolution that was passed earlier today regarding executive session, there is no need at this point to go into executive session. And at this time, I call on Chairman Newman to come forward.

Resolution No. 30: 2019 Distinguished Service Medal
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal, our highest award, was created to recognize individuals and organizations that have performed outstanding service to the nation and to programs of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It is in keeping with the principles, purposes and traditions of this award that it now be bestowed upon a person who during his years in public office has served community, state and nation in an exemplary manner; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1958 and flight school in 1960; and

WHEREAS, On October 26, 1967, during his 23rd air mission, his plane was shot down during a bombing run over the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi; and

WHEREAS, He broke both arms and one leg during the ensuing crash and was moved to the Hoa Loa prison, nicknamed the "Hanoi Hilton," on December 9, 1969; and

WHEREAS, His captors soon learned he was the son of a high ranking officer in the U. S. Navy and repeatedly offered him early release, but he refused, not wanting to violate the military code of conduct and knowing his captors would use his release as a powerful piece of propaganda; and

WHEREAS, He spent five and a half years in various prison camps (three in solitary confinement), was repeatedly beaten and tortured and released along with other American prisoners of war (POWs) on March 14, 1973; and

WHEREAS, He was first elected to political office on November 2, 1982 in the House of Representatives representing his Arizona district and was elected to the U. S. Senate for the state of Arizona in 1986; and

WHEREAS, He published Faith of My Fathers, the story of his family's military history and his own experiences as a POW; and

WHEREAS, He was a 38 year member of The American Legion of Post 2 in Tempe, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, He consistently supported the numerous proposals of a constitutional amendment to protect the United States Flag from physical desecration when brought up in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Due to his diligent resolve was instrumental in getting the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act (VA MISSION Act) signed into law on June 6, 2018; and

WHEREAS, He has received numerous awards such as the Eisenhower Leadership Prize from the Eisenhower Institute, the Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award from the National Park Trust, the Henry M. Jackson Distinguished Service Award by the Jewish Institute for National Security, the Policymaker of the Year Award from the World Leadership Forum, the Order of National Hero from President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia, the Order of St. Vladimir from the Kiev Patriarchate, the Prized for Civility in Public Life from Allegheny College, Order of Liberty from the President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine, the Order of Freedom from President Hashim Thaci of Kosovo, the Liberty Medal from the National Constitution Center and was decorated with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun from the Japanese Emperor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the 2019 Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion is authorized and directed to be presented posthumously to the Honorable John Sidney McCain III.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: I make a motion that we approve the Distinguished Service Medal to John S. McCain. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: At this time, are there any more nominations? Any more nominations? Any more nominations? Any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. I call on Adjutant Wheeler for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: If you've not yet picked up your tickets for the banquet this evening, please go to the front office on the third floor. The reception will be held in the Circle Suites, commencing at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served in the Meridian Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. That completes my announcements, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Please join me in saluting the colors of our country by the numbers: One, two. We now stand in recess until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

...At 3:17 p.m., Wednesday, May 8, 2019, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 9, 2019.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 9, 2019

...At 8:30 a.m., the National Executive Committee reconvened, National Commander Reistad presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I call the Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee back to order. Please rise and join me in saluting the colors of our country by the numbers: One, two. Please uncover. I call on Past National Chaplain Randy Cash of North Carolina for the invocation.

Invocation
Tierian "Randy" Cash, North Carolina, Past National Chaplain

Father, as we gather this morning, we are aware that in our world today there are many needs. Make us sensitive to those around us who do not have and have less than we. Now, Lord, lead and guide our deliberations that all is said and done will bring honor and glory to Your name. For this I pray. Amen.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Please remain uncovered. National Sergeant-at-Arms Willie Ransom will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS RANSOM: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler will now take the roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Paul I. Spedaliere, Connecticut
James E. Wallace, Michigan
James E. Pisa, Alaska
John F. Milburn, Maryland
Steve Sweet, Mississippi

Past National Commanders

Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)
John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia (Excused)
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. Conatser, Illinois

Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DeFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota (Excused)
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine (Excused)
Butch L. Miller, Virginia (Excused)
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan (Excused)
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
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin

National Executive Committeemen

Department	**Committeeman**	**Alternate**
Alabama	Willis Frazier	
Alaska	Steven L. Huisman	
Arizona	Judith S. Beischel	
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman (Excused)	C. Jacob Greeling
California	Lawrence Van Kuran	
Colorado	Thomas J. Florez	
Connecticut	D. Joseph Jackson	
Delaware	Robert L. Michael	
D.C.	George E. Roundtree	
Florida	Dennis R. Boland (Excused)	Arthur J. Schwabe (Excused)
France	James M. Settle	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	David R. Carlson	
Idaho	Robert L. Skinner	
Illinois	Bernard A. Stegmueller	
Indiana	Jerry L. Jordon	
Iowa	Jerry D. Sebben	
Kansas	David O. Warnken (Excused)	Gaylord K. Sanneman
Kentucky	Joseph M. Flynn	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Lloyd Woods	
Maryland	Lewis E. Trott, Jr	
Massachusetts	Louis E. Brault, Jr.	
Mexico	Michael D. Wood	
Michigan	Raymond W. Moore	
Minnesota	Marland A. Ronning	
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa	
Missouri	Kenneth J. Goth	
Montana	David A. Driver	
Nebraska	William D. Crosier, Jr.	
Nevada	Ronald L. Michalski	
New Hampshire	William R. Roy	
New Jersey	Charles K. Robbins	
New Mexico	Felix Trujillo	
New York	Edward Bertrand	
North Carolina	Jeff W. Joyner	
North Dakota	Robert L. Krause	
Ohio	Robert M. Klostermeier	
Oklahoma	Timothy W. Smith	
Oregon	Robert D. Liebenow	

Pennsylvania	E. Michael Stelacio	
Philippines	Lawrence E. Wade	
Puerto Rico	Angel O. Narvaez-Negron	
Rhode Island	Cory D. Bates	
South Carolina	Michael D. Strauss	
South Dakota	James Huls (Excused)	Terry L. Hanson
Tennessee	Don E. Mathis	
Texas	C. W. Sparks, Jr.	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Marlys A. Lemnah	
Virginia	Michael F. Mitrione	
Washington	Ken C. Lee	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Robert L. Shappell	
Wyoming	Terry E. Miller (Excused)	Douglas Uhrig

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, that completes the roll call. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Adjutant Wheeler. I am blessed to have five dynamic national vice commanders serving under me this year. Each of them will be given an opportunity, about three minutes apiece, for remarks. When I call your name, please come to the podium and present your address. I'll begin with James E. Pisa from Alaska.

Remarks of National Vice Commander
James E. Pisa, Alaska

Thank you, commander. The West is alive and well, that's because the West is the best. *(Applause)*

Yeah, the West is the best. This year, it's been an awesome year out there in the West. As of this morning, out of the top ten, we have six departments in the top ten. Six of them are at 100 percent. So way to go, Philippines, Hawaii, Mexico, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah, 100 percent. Way to go; keep going. *(Applause)*

As I've traveled around the country out in the West this year, I've had an awesome time. Every department treats you like gold. We've traveled Colorado, we traveled all over the state. Probably visited about 50 different posts. Had a lot of fun. Back in July last year, I made a challenge to all the departments that, for every department that made 100 percent, I would buy them a pair of Chuck Taylor sneakers like I wear most of the time, and I would pick the color. *(Laughter)*

But as I went along and I went to all the other departments, I said I'll let the departments pick the colors. After great discussion, they've decided that pink was going to be the color. So for every department, I already am up to six pair of Chuck Taylors, they will be pink, they will wear them in the parade, and I will march with them in the parade. But it's been an awesome year. Having Commander Brett as a leader has been an awesome time. Before I close out, one more thing: The West is the best. Thank you. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Jim. Next up is Paul Spedaliere from Connecticut.

Remarks of National Vice Commander
Paul I. Spedaliere, Connecticut

Good morning, Commander Reistad, past national commanders, fellow national vice commanders, members of the NEC, Adjutant Wheeler, and guests. It is such an honor to have been elected and serve as national vice commander during our centennial year. It's

been a humbling experience by the gratitude and hospitality shown to me and any guests that accompanied me to any of the departments that I visited, and all I can say is thank you.

I stand before you today to share some of my travel experiences, in case you haven't seen me on Facebook. Since September I visited 10 of 11 Northeast Region departments, nine personally, one France via Skype, and Maine will be my 11th visit, to be visited this weekend for the Commander's Testimonial.

To date, I was invited to participate in five department testimonials: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Connecticut; two department revitalizations: Delaware and New Hampshire, working with national membership team Nick Arnett and Kevin Mook.

The Department of Vermont was my first official visit. While in Vermont, my mission was to address the membership along with PNC Marty Conatser at their fall membership conference, to motivate the department membership, and I believe we did.

In late October, I had the privilege to get involved with and experience workings of the System Worth Saving at the VA Medical Center in Leeds, Massachusetts, along with department leadership of Massachusetts and national VA&R Commission members Patrick Rourke and Edwin Thomas. It was quite a remarkable experience and positive reactions by the VA department heads responding to the questions that were asked by the team.

In November, in my home department, we participated in a membership event called "Vets Rock" at Mohegan Sun Casino. That's where all veterans organizations and anyone that wants to help veterans are under one roof at one time, where any veteran can come in and get assistance. It's in our fourth year.

For Veterans Day weekend, I visited the Department of New York. They invited me to participate in the New York City Veterans Day Parade. It was the largest parade I've ever seen or been in, and I would recommend it to anyone that has the opportunity to go to the New York City Veterans Day Parade, because it's a four-hour-long parade.

While visiting the Department of Rhode Island, I was given a tour of the U.S. Coast Guard Station Castle Hill. It was interesting to note that they can pinpoint vessels in need of assistance from radio electronic transmissions via triangulation.

December, visited the Department of New Jersey to attend a Pearl Harbor ceremony in Toms River; a tour of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, highlighted by a visit to the crash site of the Hindenburg, with a presentation of a historian of the events that led to the crash of the Hindenburg and a tour of Hangar 1.

In January, in route to the Department of New Hampshire's mid-winter conference, national assigned me to stop by U.S. Coast Guard Station Boston to present TFA checks to six Coast Guardsmen, along with national media representative Schelly Stone. I would like to convey the great appreciation that those Coast Guardsmen that had received those checks. Because of the six of them, five of them had exceptional family members and one of the kids was getting out of the hospital, and they really appreciated it. That was a great job taking care of the Coast Guard.

March was exciting with the centennial celebrations. The State of Connecticut presented a proclamation recognizing the national organization for our centennial. In our home state we had Post 210 New Haven, they signed their permanent charter as Connecticut's centennial post. Follow on, I had the honor of attending The American Legion Weekend at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, featuring Hall of Famer and American Legion Baseball alumnus Lee Smith. As we heard yesterday, he's quite a remarkable man. Being from the New England states, we have New York and Boston, and my team happens to be the Cubs because you don't have to get involved with any controversy. *(Laughter)*

I didn't know what the man looked like and I says -- because my wife knew right away he was a Cubs player at one time, because she's from Iowa. I said, "I heard the guy is a Cubs fellow." You know, he's like, "Right here, glad somebody likes the Cubs." But anyway, just wanted to share that. And I'm getting near the end here.

The Department of Pennsylvania has a unique Housing for Veterans Homeless Corporation. The corporation owns properties in Pittsburgh, Ephrata, Philadelphia, and Harrisburg. These homes help homeless veterans transition back into society, and the Department of Pennsylvania raises their own money to support the homeless or transitioning veterans. It's kind of similar to our Soldiers, Sailors, Marine Fund in Connecticut, but our money comes from the state, from the tobacco sales that were from after World War I. But I want to give kudos to Pennsylvania on that. The Northeast Region was awarded 278 National Commander Incentive Pins for a total of 839 new members and 50 renewals.

Finally, I'd like to thank the national staff for all the assistance in guiding my year. Special thanks to Past National Vice Commanders Doug Haggan, Jim Troiola, and Larry Marcoullier for their mentorship. Thank you again for the privilege and honor of serving as national vice commander. Safe travels home and I look forward to seeing everybody again at the national convention. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Paul, that was an excellent report, but I'm going to have to skip over two of our national vice commanders because of the time it took. *(Laughter)* Jack Milburn from Maryland.

Remarks of National Vice Commander
John F. 'Jack' Milburn, Maryland

Good morning. I started my year out representing the national organization at Columbus, Ohio, where I participated in the dedication of the National Veterans Museum and Memorial. Unbelievable place.

In December, I went to Tennessee to participate in the revitalization program. During that trip I was able to go to the Alvin C. York Medical Center. Beautiful facility; old, but well-kept. In January, we were in Little Rock, Arkansas, for their mid-winter. I addressed the Legion family. It gave me my first chance, commander, are you ready --

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Yes, go.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MILBURN: -- to lead the audience in: We are ...

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Team 100!

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MILBURN: Thank you. Ending the month in Texas for their mid-winter, I brought greetings to numerous of their committees.

In February, I was in Alabama. I spent most of my time at Millbrook Post 133 where we did revitalizations. We transferred over 140 members into active posts. After that, we went to a Harley dealership. The Riders took me to a Harley dealership and we presented the dealership with a wheelchair in the Truckin 4 Troops program.

My wife and I went to D.C. for the National Commander's Luncheon at the Navy Yard, and then we went on to Washington for the conference and the National Commander's Testimony.

In March, I was in Portsmouth, Virginia, for their spring meetings. I addressed their DEC and the Legion Family there. Then I went back home to Maryland where I accepted citations and proclamations on behalf of the Department of Maryland from the governor and the senate, honoring the American Legion's 100th Anniversary.

Following that, I stayed home and we welcomed the national commander for his annual banquet and visit to the Department of Maryland. Ended March with a visit to Florida, which was just unbelievable. We toured the Panhandle, we hit about 14 or 15 posts. The camaraderie and the friendships that were made there were just unbelievable.

I visited the VA Clinic in Tallahassee. I also was able to speak at the Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Commemoration program. That was unbelievable. Nothing against the Marine Corps, but I was about five minutes and the command sergeant major was about an hour and a half. *(Laughter)*

In April, I spent some time in North Carolina with the Riders. They do a membership Pony Express where we went across from Charlotte to Raleigh-Durham collecting

memberships. We finally ended up in Raleigh at headquarters, and turned the memberships in there. I ended April in Oklahoma. Those of you who saw my post on Facebook know it was quite an experience. I was able to participate in the 89er Parade in Guthrie, which commemorates the first land rush in Oklahoma, and that was really a super day.

In closing, I'd like to thank the national organization for offering this opportunity and for all of the assistance they've given me this year. The courtesies and the friendships that I've made in the departments that I've visited so far are just unbelievable, and I look forward to just as much of an unbelievable year to finish it out. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Jack. Next up is Jim Wallace from Michigan.

Remarks of National Vice Commander
James E. Wallace, Michigan

Thank you, commander. Good morning to all. It was my pleasure and honor to have been elected by my peers to the high office of national vice commander for the Central Region, August 30, 2018, at the 100th Anniversary National American Legion Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The following is a short, short synopsis, because my time has been cut short by these guys over here, short synopsis for the activities accomplished by me throughout the Central Region and the national organization from August 30 till May 9, 2019.

I would like to thank National Commander Brett Reistad, all the national officers, the national staff and all department commanders, officers, staff, and Legionnaires within the Central Region for the opportunity to serve this great organization. I had the good fortune to work with Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin throughout this year of our 100th birthday celebration. By the time my tenure is complete, I will have had two fantastic visits to all departments, except Illinois with one.

We have had six Central Region conference calls which I feel have been very productive and helped all departments work together for the goal of helping veterans, their families, and gaining such needed membership. I am proud of the hard work accomplished by all. Our goals were lofty this year and we tried to accomplish them the best we could. The hospitality to my wife Linda and I was fantastic. Thank you for all you have done.

I have attended several post activities to represent the national organization, such as 100th birthday parties, installing district officers, and attending the State of Michigan Senate chambers with Commander Striggow, NEC Moore, Adjutant Runyan, and several Legionnaires, to accept the state proclamation for the 100th birthday of the Department of Michigan. A full listing of all of the activities I have done is on file with Michael Reed.

I was involved with four national vice commanders conference calls which helped the five of us to assist each other with activities and duties of the position to better the organization.

I have been involved with the Highway 281 Legacy Ride with eight conference calls to assist with the 100th birthday Legacy Ride. This pre-National Legacy Ride is to allow more departments and Legionnaires to be able to participate in the activities that will honor our 100th birthday. More information will follow, as planning is still in the works.

I wish everyone the best to finish this year's goals as well as possible. Keep up the great work to assist this organization, from the post level to national, in continuing our motto: Veterans serving veterans. Again, thank you very much. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Next up is a man of few words, Steve 'Sugar' Sweet from Mississippi. *(Laughter)*

Remarks of National Vice Commander
Steve Sweet, Mississippi

Good morning. Before I get started, if anything I say goes over your head, I've strategically placed some interpreters in here, they're called the "Southern Bloc." So if you hear a word, you don't know what it is, just ask one of them. Thank you. *(Laughter)*

Commander Reistad, members of the executive committee, and guests. I have visited all but one of my departments: Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Mississippi, and I'm looking forward to going to Minnesota in July, thank goodness. I just want to give Mr. Pisa over here a little word of advice: You've got to go through the Midwest to get to the West. *(Laughter)*

This Mississippi river rat got a taste of what winter is really like. In my departments in the wintertime, it's just cold. I mean, that's all you can say, it's just cold. I had a chance to do a little putting in the snow at one hotel. I did an ice plunge up to my armpit in an old fishing hole. It took three times to get the picture, and I think that was planned. *(Laughter)*

Throughout my travels, I've answered questions, had questions answered for me, and I think I've learned more from some of the departments than they probably learned from me. The one constant among all my departments has been how well the members work together not only to promote membership, but by their love of The American Legion, they all work and had well-working committees.

With the help of the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and Riders, they are all answering the call to care for him who has borne the battle. It has been a humbling experience to be greeted, had everything done for me by every department that I visited. Most days on membership awareness drives, we would hit five or six posts. Delays happened, but there was only one time when things didn't work out like it was supposed to. We were greeted everywhere we went with hugs and food. It's going to take some time after this is over with to get rid of some of this food. *(Laughter)*

There was never a time when I felt I needed to suggest to a post what they could do to increase their membership, because they were working so well. My shortfalling in my department was mostly attributed to Johnny Bracy, our adjutant of over 20 years, had to retire suddenly and just kind of left us like a fish out of water. Luckily, there was a few of our members that stood up and have helped out.

Working with the national staff has been a breeze. I've never had a call or an email not answered. I know they have a job to do, but dealing with all the issues they do on a daily basis, it was sure refreshing when I'd call, they'd say, "I'll take care of it."

Visiting small posts and some small towns, that although small themselves, had remarkable memorials and museums. From the Freedom Rocks to static displays, patriotism runs deep in the Midwest. One instance is in Joplin, Missouri. Their post was destroyed in a tornado a couple of years ago, but they are coming back. On my visit, for supper they packed the house. It could have been the meal that brought them out, because the weather that night was nasty, but they were there.

In closing, I want to thank the selection committee of the Southern Caucus for choosing me to represent them, and I hope their trust has been well placed. May God bless America. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Steve, and thank you, gentlemen, for all you do. The chair now recognizes Walter W. Ivie of Texas for the Media & Communications Commission report.

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

Good morning. Thank you, commander, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, American Legion members and staff and other guests. I

have provided my written report about the Media & Communications Commission so I will keep my comments brief.

I hope that your post enjoyed The American Legion centennial just a couple of months ago. Our organization's legacy offers a lot to celebrate: The drafting of the original GI Bill, strong advocacy for its more recent versions; the creation of today's Department of Veterans Affairs; The American Legion Baseball program that has witnessed more than 80 alumni enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame; and perhaps more importantly, how American Legion members have continued their service in their communities. The American Legion has, without fanfare tirelessly supported veterans, servicemembers, their families, and our nation's youth for the past 100 years and two months.

Now as we embark on our second century of service, we are faced with a membership challenge. In our previous NEC meetings, I have detailed how decreased membership has negatively affected our revenue, primarily in magazine advertising. Those specific details are in my written report, but let me just say that I am pleased to report that the magazine revenue through the June issue is a little more than $150,000 ahead of budget. A year ago at this time, it was more than $250,000 under budget. While that may seem like reason to celebrate, we need to focus on the bigger picture, the future.

The Media & Communications team is looking towards our second century and working towards launching a digital resource that is aimed at engaging the post-9/11 generation of veterans. We have convened a task force of post-9/11 veterans, surveyed nearly 500 veterans, and reviewed current research on media habits. We have held additional discussions with internal and external stakeholders on crafting a strategy that we feel will attract and engage this generation.

So what exactly is this digital concept? It's a new website that will also have an app. Content will be published daily, and an e-newsletter will draw these younger veterans to the site. Additionally, a twice-monthly podcast will tell the stories of veterans. Some inspirational, some humorous, some educational, and all relevant to our younger veterans. We are calling this "Tango Alpha Lima," the initials, of course, being an homage to our organization. The plan is to launch Tango Alpha Lima this summer.

When I began my presentation, I noted some of the accomplishments achieved during the first century of The American Legion. We cannot, however, simply rest on those laurels. We must innovate, we must try new things, we must connect with our brothers and sisters who have recently joined our ranks as veterans. That is why the Media & Communications Commission is dedicating itself to creating Tango Alpha Lima. For God and country, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Before I conclude, let me just thank our staff of the Media & Communications Division for all the hard work they've put in to get us where we are. That concludes my report, commander. Thank you for your continued support of the Media & Communications Commission and our various media programs.

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

Operations overseen by the Media & Communications Commission are on target, including an increase in magazine advertising. At the same time, Media and Communication staff members are working together to create and launch a high-profile digital resource aimed at increasing membership, engaging younger veterans and building awareness for The American Legion brand.

While there will be a greater emphasis on digital, we are not looking at reducing the importance of American Legion Magazine. It is the driver of our largest revenue share and audience. Last summer it was once again named the nation’s top-read magazine by an independent auditor.

By publishing a monthly magazine that is beloved by our members, we have been able to persevere through the membership slump. In fact, through the first three months of

2019, we are exceeding expectations for revenue even though expenses are higher than projected.

Magazine ad sales are $150,093 ahead of budget through the June issue. This represents a significant turnaround when compared to this time a year ago. Through the June issue of 2018, magazine ad sales were more than $250,000 behind budget.

However, digital advertising revenue is slightly behind budget this year. Overall, we are nearly $120,000 ahead of budget.

While the positive gains in magazine advertising are reason for optimism, we are taking a strategic look at the future. In fact, the Media and Communications Commission is pleased to report that a new digital product — website, app and podcast — aimed at the post-9/11 generation of veterans is being created by staff members. Such a media product has received strong support from multiple task force meetings of post-9/11 veterans and a survey of nearly 500 veterans. We believe this low-cost, high-impact media product will go a long way toward connecting with younger veterans and creating new revenue opportunities for The American Legion.

We are over budget on paper, printing and postage costs. The increases in page counts and postage is partly attributable to nearly 21 pages of marketing support, via USAA, Coin and Planned Giving. We have opportunities to negotiate reductions in expenses for the remainder of 2019 and beyond since the contracts with our paper vendor (Lindenmyer Central) and our printing vendor (LSC Communications, formerly RR Donnelly) both expire this year.

We expect printing costs to remain flat in 2019. We're currently $37,141 over budget.

Paper costs are higher than anticipated because we are over budget on pages, which can be made up fairly easily because we are so early in the year. Right now, we are $113,000 over budget. Additionally, we are $123,740 over budget on postage.

Elsewhere, our media program continues to exceed expectations. Consider:

Coin promotions: The Media and Communications Division worked with the Marketing Division to promote the sale of the Legion's centennial coins, which kicked off in mid-March. Among the highlights was a Commander's Message promoting the coins that prompted approximately 30,000 shares — twice the normal number.

Website traffic: We are still recording increases in all key metrics. For example, when comparing March 2015 (before the site redesign) with March 2019, the number of sessions increased from 322,830 to 523,373. During the same period, the number of page views grew from 837,465 to 1,172,607.

E-newsletters: The e-newsletter program continues to be a success with each of the 10 newsletters recording average open rates of between 20 and 40 percent, far superior to the industry standard of 14 percent.

Membership mobile app: The Legion's membership app has surpassed 30,000 downloads.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to receive and file the Media & Communications Commission report. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. *(Applause)*

The chair recognizes Frederick Doten of Nevada, our national historian, for his report.

Oral Report: National Historian
Frederick Doten, Nevada

National Commander Reistad, national officers, National Executive Committee members, distinguished Legionnaires, and guests, good morning.

One of my first duties as the national historian was to oversee the judging of the annual history book contest. It was my honor to announce the winners at the fall NEC meeting. In

overseeing the judging, I also had the opportunity to observe the individuals who did the judging. I have since reviewed the evaluation sheets that the judges submitted and have come to the conclusion that the abilities of the judges varies from individual to individual, and training needs to be improved. In my NADHAL newsletter article, I expressed my concern on the abilities of the judges. Of the several responses I received from the past judges, my perceived concern was validated.

I am now presently looking into a new process to evaluate the credentials of potential judges. This evaluation will include training received, books prepared, and past judging experience. I believe we need to have a better handle on that.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the Washington Conference. I found this experience eye opening, that it will provide me with some very valuable assets in my future activities in the Department of Nevada.

I am presently preparing for the annual historian's luncheon at this year's convention in Indianapolis. Invitations are being prepared and will be out in the mail soon. I am also looking forward to supporting Commander Reistad's visit to Nevada in June during our Boys State events.

In closing, I would like to offer a special thank you to Howard Trace and his outstanding library staff, for their support in performing my duties as national historian.

Commander Reistad, it continues to be a great honor to serve you and the NEC as national historian. Commander, this concludes my report.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the national historian, Frederick Doten. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to receive and file the national historian's report. Is there any discussion? Hearing none. All in favor? Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. The chair now recognizes E.C. Toppin of North Carolina, chairman of the National Security Commission, for his report.

Oral Report: National Security Commission
E.C. Toppin, North Carolina, Chairman

National Commander Reistad, members of the National Executive Committee, past national commanders, and fellow Legionnaires. You have a copy of the National Security Commission's advance report before you which includes a detailed account of the commission's activities during the Washington Conference. The commission was honored to welcome National Commander Reistad and was very appreciative of his attendance and participation.

During the Washington Conference, the National Security Commission hosted several panels of expert speakers on national security and foreign affairs topics. The morning panel included the adjutant general of the Washington, D.C. National Guard, who discussed the role of operational guard and reserves, and the challenges troops face as to the traditional one-weekend-a-month and two-weeks-a-year commitment is no longer enough, due to the increased frequency of deployments and operations tempos.

In addition, the commission hosted a principal deputy assistant secretary of defense with health affairs for the Defense Health Agency to discuss the importance and uniqueness of the military health system, and its dual missions of supporting the war fighters while also supporting their families and retirees.

The commission was informed that the next major challenge will be complying with the 2017 NDAA mandate to integrate health care of the four branches of service into a single health-care system known as the Defense Health Agency.

The first of the two foreign policy panels included the Honorable Tom Ridge and retired Lieutenant General Kip Ward. This panel was moderated by CNN Political Commentator Alice Stewart. The panel provided the commission with an expert deep-dive analysis of the importance of diplomacy and development used in conjunction with our

strong military. The destabilized areas of the world require diplomatic programs to enforce American values and achieve U.S. strategic objectives, and The American Legion must be a part of the conversation.

The second panel included a foreign affairs dialogue with two speakers from the Department of State to discuss how the U.S. is addressing great powers competition with China and Russia. Both nations are seen as key partners in areas of trade and the denuclearization of North Korea. The South China Sea is also a key strategic and economic area of contention with China. This dialogue is in line with the Department of Defense's national defense strategy, which addresses our vision of the return of great power of competition.

Lastly, the commission, in cooperation with the Legislative Division, advanced our ongoing relationship with the government and Embassy of Japan by hosting a joint reception to honor the future of U.S. and Japan's cooperation, at the Capitol Building on March the 26th. During the event, National Commander Reistad exchanged remarks with Japanese Ambassador Sugiyama.

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Reistad and distinguished members of the National Executive Committee for their continued support. We look forward to your continued support and involvement in advocating for a strong national defense. Thank you.

Advance Report: National Security Commission
February 25-27, 2019
E.C. Toppin, North Carolina, Chairman

The National Security Commission convened on February 25th during the 59th Annual Washington Conference at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. The following report is a summary of this session:

The Commission was honored to welcome National Commander Brett Reistad. The National Security Commission was honored by his attendance and very appreciative of his participation.

National Commander Reistad addressed some key policy areas that the National Security Commission covers, particularly the importance of the National Commander and Security Division's recent Far East Tour to the Indo-Pacific Region (South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and Hawaii). The primary focus of the Far East Tour was to gather intelligence on U.S. national security issues relating to China and North Korea.

The program proceeded in the following sections:

- Opening remarks and roll call;
- District of Columbia National Guard brief;
- Future of Military Health System (MHS) brief;
- Selective Service brief; and
- Valor Medals Review Task Force brief.

Finally, two foreign policy panels were hosted in partnership with the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition and the U.S. Department of State. The panels discussed U.S. national security issues relating to international development and regional conflicts in Europe and Asia with a particular focus on Russia, China, and the reemergence of long-term, strategic competition by these revisionist powers.

I. District of Columbia National Guard

The National Security Commission welcomed BG Aaron R. Dean II, Adjutant General, District of Columbia National Guard. Established by Thomas Jefferson in 1802, the DC National Guard plays a vital role in securing national security in times of war, times outside of war, and during operational conflict. The DC National Guard's mission is to protect the capitol and defend the nation, it is the only national guard assigned to protect the federal government, and it reports to the President of the United States. Missions

include countering terrorists, crime, cyber security, state and non-state actors, manmade and natural disasters. As former Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis once remarked: Our military's role is to keep the peace; to keep the peace for one more year, one more month, one more week, one more day. To ensure our diplomats who are working to solve problems do so from a position of strength and giving allies confidence in us. This confidence is underpinned by the assurance that our military will win should diplomacy fail.

Secretary Mattis's philosophy extends to the DC National Guard's mission. In addition to its traditional functions, the DC guard puts first responders in a position of strength (there are 29 law enforcement agencies in the DC area). The concept of an "operational reserve" offers a continuum of operational support. The DC Guard continues to evolve as a continuing total force.

II. Future of Military Health System (MHS)

The Commission's next speaker was Mr. Thomas McCaffery, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Mr. McCaffery discussed the importance and uniqueness of the MHS, describing the system's dual missions as: (1) supporting the warfighter; and (2) supporting the warfighter's family and retirees. He then spoke about two major changes to the Military Health System: (1) the 2017 NDAA's mandate for integrating and consolidating four major health services into a single health system known as the Defense Health Agency (DHA); and (2) the deployment of Electronic Health Records (EHR).

III. Selective Service

To address selective service, Mr. John Prigmore, Deputy Director of the Selective Service Administration, introduced himself and held a question and answer session from the audience. Mr. Prigmore accompanied National Commander Reistad to participate in a wreath laying ceremony at General Lewis B. Hershey's grave site, located in section 7 of Arlington Cemetery. The Selective Service System was invited to provide and update and answer questions regarding the interim report released January 23rd by the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service.

IV. Valor Medals Review Task Force

The Commission's final speaker was Mr. Christopher Leins, Chair of the Advisory Subcommittee, Valor Medals Review Task Force. Mr. Leins began by introducing a video documentary covering the National World War I Memorial project.

Mr. Leins then spoke to the sacrifices paid by many minority servicemen of World War I, recounting numerous historical events and referencing historic documents. The Valor Medals Review Task Force is charged with correcting past failures to recognize overlooked minority servicemen for their heroism, sacrifice, and wartime contributions. The U.S. World War I Commission is supporting an extensive review of all World War I veterans that were not recognized, mostly due to racial bias. The Commission is now looking to expand its investigation into all disenfranchised minorities that includes, Jewish, Asian, Hispanic, and other service members. Every American solider of the Great War exemplifying the gallantry associated with the Medal of Honor and other valor medals, should receive recognition, regardless of his/her ethnicity, religion, and/or color of skin.

V. National and Regional Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Selection Committee

Prior to the Washington Conference the Chairman of the Law and Order and Homeland Security Committee appointed an awards selection subcommittee to review all

the nominations that had been received during 2018 from the Departments for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year award programs. The Subcommittee met Monday, February 25, in the International Ballroom East in the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., to select the 5 regional Firefighter of the Year winners and the 5 regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Winners. There were 13 law enforcement officer nominees and 15 firefighter nominees submitted.

The selections for the Regional Firefighter of Year Award winning Departments are:

NEW ENGLAND:	Jason D. Trumbauer Department of Pennsylvania
CENTRAL:	Jan Radar Department of West Virginia
SOUTHERN:	Jeffery Cash Department of North Carolina
MIDWESTERN:	Matthew D. Gibbons Department of Nebraska
WESTERN:	Andrew Lowe Department of Colorado

The selection for the Regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award winning Departments are:

NEW ENGLAND:	Matthew R. Neidinger Department of Pennsylvania
CENTRAL:	Christopher Chiaravalloti Department of Maryland
SOUTHERN:	Stephen G. Lanier Department of North Carolina
MIDWESTERN:	Bradley D. Wangler Department of Nebraska
WESTERN:	Jane Anderson Department of Colorado

The subcommittee then reviewed the regional winners to select one National Firefighter of the Year and one National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

The selection for the National Firefighter of the Year is:

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:	Jan Radar Department of West Virginia

The selection for the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is:

NATIONAL LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR:	Officer Jane Anderson Department of Colorado

The winners and runner-ups have been contacted and the Regional winners will receive their awards during their respective Department Conventions. The National

winners will receive their awards on stage from the National Commander during National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana

VI. Foreign policy panels

After lunch, the National Security Commission, in partnership with the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition and the U.S. Department of State, hosted two foreign policy discussions surrounding U.S. national security issues relating to (1) international development; and (2) regional conflicts in Asia and Europe with a particular focus on Russia, China, the reemergence of long-term, strategic competition by these revisionist powers.

Keeping America Safe: Strengthening Diplomacy and Development alongside Defense

- Lt. General Kip Ward, USA (Ret.), National Security Advisory Council, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition
- The Honorable Tom Ridge, National Advisory Council, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition
- Moderator: Alice Stewart, Political Commentator, CNN

This first panel focused on the importance of diplomacy and development used in conjunction with a strong military. In particular, what is America's role in the world? The role of the DoD is to project power; however, the military is only one prong in a multifaceted approach toward enhancing global security and stability. The long-term use of soft power, i.e., foreign aid, is critical to maintaining the post-WWII world order. Furthermore, the deliberate use of American development and diplomacy programs is crucial to enforcing American values and achieve U.S. strategic objectives.

Less than 1% of discretionary spending is on foreign aid; however, the return on investment is indispensable. The U.S. military, which accounts for the majority of discretionary spending, should only be used as the third and last option. Diplomacy and development should be used as the first two options, addressing the needs of developing regions proactively, instead of reactively.

Furthermore, the U.S. must deal with a rising power seeking to project its global influence. China's strategic focus of international development has increased 500% and is forward thinking. China seeks to exploit natural resources abroad, build infrastructure within the developing world, offer unconditional money, and collect on loans. On the other hand, the U.S. doesn't just hand out money—it ties money to participation in diplomatic programs that enhances the well-being of the people, placing values and conditions on developmental aid. The U.S. cannot compete dollar-for-Yuan; however, the U.S. can and does offer aid in a far more diplomatic and recipient-friendly manner.

Finally, if the U.S. does not commit resources to global development and stability, strategic competitors like China, Russia, Iran, etc. will fill the vacuum. It is in America's best interest to increase engagement in the development systems budget. The reasons to do so are political, economic, strategic, and are inextricably linked to American national security.

State Department Speakers: Russia and China

- Christopher Robinson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs
- Sona Ramesh, International Relations Officer, Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs
- Moderator: Jeff Steele, The American Legion National Security Policy Advisor

The second panel focused on what the National Defense Strategy refers to as the reemergence of long-term, strategic competition by revisionist powers.

Russia

Mr. Christopher Robinson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs opened the discussion with talking about the continuing threat of Russia. Mr. Robinson stated that channels of communication with Russia are currently open; however, sanctions, expelling diplomats, spies, and other measures have been used in order to increase costs with Russia until Russia changes course on certain issues.

Russia has adopted a new maligned strategy. The Russian threat has evolved from external and military one into a brazen attempt of influence campaigns with the goal of manipulating the American public. Influence campaigns are not attached to a particular party and have existed prior to the 2016 elections with the goal of creating chaos and inspiring violence on all sides.

The Russian effort is a systemic and sustained campaign to exploit fault lines. It's a geo-strategic hybrid warfare campaigns against international norms and undercutting the U.S. influences. Russia has rejected the post-Cold War world order. Therefore, carrying out mass influence campaigns to manipulate populations and getting governments to make decisions in accordance with Russian prerogatives are now proving successful. Technology and the increased consumption of information on social media platforms has enabled Putin's success.

China

Ms. Sona Ramesh, International Relations Officer with the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs spoke about the One Belt One Road initiative, South China Sea, and the denuclearization of North Korea.

U.S.-China relationship

According to Ms. Ramesh, the overall U.S.-China relationship is influenced by the Trump Administration's America First policy. America seeks to cooperate when our interests align with China's; however, we will also compete vigorously when our interests do not. The Trump Administration also suggests that such an approach should be taken by other countries as well. Concerns on China, from U.S. allies, should be raised publicly and in multilateral settings. A reciprocal economic stance, the U.S. remaining in the Indo Pacific; and showcasing American values abroad are the backbone of American policy toward China.

China's "One Belt One Road" initiative

The One Belt One Road initiative is a way for China to increase engagement around the world and expand its economic reach. The U.S. believes that engagement is not zero sum; however, all international development that takes place overseas should conform to an international system, protect national sovereignty, and remain sustainable. The U.S. does not intend to match China dollar-for-Yuan; however, a free market, private sector approach is the best way forward.

The South China Sea

Beijing's construction in the South China Sea with militarized features is intended for coercion and intimidation. The U.S. is opposed to such action. China has committed to exercise self-restraint; however, actions have proven otherwise. Respect for international law and freedom of navigation in air and sea remain at the forefront of the U.S. stance in the South China Sea.

Denuclearization of North Korea

The U.S. remains committed to the full denuclearization of North Korea and sanctions continue to remain in full effect. China is seen as a key partner and the U.S. continues to work with China to make sure that UN Resolutions and sanctions are fully enforced. Secretary of State Pompeo meets with North Korean and Chinese leadership often and continues to work on these issues.

U.S.-China Trade

The 90-day deadline for negotiations ends on March 1, 2019; however, President

Trump has further delayed the trade deadline. A U.S. delegation is traveling to Beijing to iron out final details with "great progress" having been made.

Human Rights in China

China's Xinjiang region is the site of "reeducation centers" that the U.S. sees as internment camps. Secretary Pompeo is concerned with the number of detainees (estimates range between 800,000 to 2,000,000) and detentions that can last between a few months to years. High tech surveillance measures are used, bio data, and other information is collected during the process, and state sponsored propaganda is forced on detainees. China claims this is an internal matter which relates to international security.

Report: National Security Commission
E.C. Toppin, North Carolina, Chairman

The National Security Commission and its seven committees along with the council continue to review developments in the national security and foreign relations arenas. An executive session of the National Security Commission met by conference call on Tuesday, April 11th to act on 1 resolution regarding the Marshall Islands.

Presiding was Chairman E.C. Toppin (NC)

Vice Chairman present: Kenneth Trumbull (IL)

Committee Chairman present included: Rick Oertel (VA), Charles Kruger (MN), Paul Espinoza (NM), George Wehrli (FL), Steve Brennan (MD), Bill Goede (MN), and Doug Haggan (FR).

The following are brief updates on several critical areas for your review:

NATIONAL SECURITY UPDATES

CURRENT THREAT ENVIRONMENT

North Korea

Last year's summit represented an aggressive attempt at diplomacy engineered primarily by South Korea and the United States to avoid the collision course of war with North Korea that we appeared to be on due to the 20 ballistic missile tests by North Korea throughout 2017 and the response from President Trump.

The summit between the two Koreas is another positive step in diplomacy that keeps the situation around the Korean peninsula peaceful, moving away from last year's atmosphere of crisis. The positive atmospherics of the meeting, and North Korea's continued adherence to a weapons testing moratorium should also be welcomed. However, the inter-Korean summit perhaps raises more questions than it answers. There is clear agreement between the two Koreas that there should be no war on the Korean peninsula anymore. But it is still unclear whether the North Korean regime defines denuclearization in the same way as the United States (CVID—complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization). It is still unclear whether there will be an attenuation of the U.S. alliance commitment to South Korea as a condition for North Korea's denuclearization.

Since then, President Trump also made what appeared to be a major concession to North Korea, suspending joint military exercises with South Korea, saying the exercises were expensive and very provocative.

Trump and Kim held a second summit in Vietnam that began on February 27, 2019. After two days of talks, the leaders failed to reach an agreement. The American president said Kim wanted all sanctions on North Korea lifted, but didn't offer sufficient dismantling of the country's nuclear program in exchange.

A statement from a North Korean official after the summit said the North wanted only "partial" relief from sanctions in exchange for dismantling "all the nuclear material production facilities" at the country's main nuclear site at Yongbyon.

Syria

Last month President Trump announces that ISIS forces in Syria had been defeated.

He ordered a withdrawal of U.S. forces from the country. Right now, DoD is crafting plans to keep nearly 200 U.S. forces in Syria, working as advisers to the Syrian Defense Forces or providing other support to local militias battling the Islamic State. Their mission is being labeled a peace keeping force and may be stationed at the Al-Tanf base in southern Syria.

China

China intends to become a global military power and is currently building the capability to do so. Militarily, China seeks to limit our access and undermine our important alliances in the Indo-Pacific. While modernizing their nuclear enterprise, China is also developing a full range of air, maritime, space, and cyber capabilities. Their continued militarization of the South and East China Seas accompanies expanding sovereignty claims that have no basis in international law. They leverage diplomatic and economic influence through the Belt and Road Initiative, and China's military interests have followed these initiatives into the Indian Ocean, South Asia and beyond. And while we continue to seek Chinese cooperation on a number of fronts, especially with respect to North Korea, their projection of a state-controlled, 'strong-rule-the-weak' global order is incompatible with U.S. interests and a rules-based international order.

Russia

Russia continues to modernize and invest across the full range of military capability, including new aircraft, submarines, armor, counter-space, and air defense systems, while also modernizing conventional and nuclear strike capabilities. These investments and activities are specifically designed to limit our power projection capability and undermine the credibility of U.S. alliances, especially NATO.

The U.S. and NATO have responded by increasing the number of troops deployed to installations through Poland as well as held frequent joint exercises with rotating forces. The U.S. already has roughly 4,000 troops in Poland. In addition to an armored brigade on rotation, infantrymen guard Poland's border with the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad and a U.S. Air Force detachment operates in Lask. The Navy also has a contingent of sailors in the northern Polish town of Redzikowo, where work continues on a missile defense site that integrates with systems in Romania and at sea.

Violent Extremism

We continue to grapple with the challenge of violent extremism, including ISIS, a resurgent al Qaida, and associated movements. Our strategy remains focused on cutting the flow of finances, foreign fighters, and their disruptive narrative, while working by, with, and through local partners to sustain pressure on their networks, disrupt attacks, and dismantle their capabilities.

Iran

Iran also continues to project malign influence and threaten freedom of navigation in the Middle East. They are also modernizing their space, cyber, missile, and conventional maritime capabilities which pose a direct threat to our Allies and our interests in the region.

The American Legion's Position: The National Security Commission has Resolution No. 175: Oppose Iran Nuclear Deal. We urge Congress not to lift any sanctions in connection with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The United States must be prepared to exercise all options, up to and including military action, in the interest of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

READINESS

The Department of Defense (DOD) faces a strategic choice: whether to focus on modernization for high-tech conflicts with China and Russia or expand forces and improve readiness to meet a superpower's commitments for ongoing conflicts and crisis response. In their FY 2019 budgets, the services all complain that they are too small for the demands being put on them and hedge toward expanding forces and readiness.

In 2013, readiness took a hit as a result of sequestration. Because cuts had to be made late in the fiscal year, the services were forced to cut facility maintenance, international exercises, and most significantly, training activities. The services have been digging out of that hole ever since.

The administration emphasized readiness in its FY 2018 and FY 2019 budgets. Nevertheless, readiness data are conflicting. Some metrics, like Army rotations to Combat Training Centers, service flying hours, and Navy ship steaming days, have recovered from post-2013 lows, but others, like Navy and Marine Corps aircraft availability, remain depressed. With overall DOD budgets rising, targeted readiness increases, such as aviation spare parts, may be better investments than across-the-board increases.

High ops tempo is a policy choice, though often not in the branches' hands. The United States could reduce deployments, and the new National Defense Strategy proposes doing that, but such reductions are often regarded as detrimental to alliances. DOD could build more forces, and the administration plans to do some of that, but such expansion is expensive, and DOD's current plan is to emphasize modernization. The services sometimes argue that replacing "tired iron" with new equipment will help readiness. While such modernization may increase capability, it may not improve readiness. Flying hour costs for an existing F-18, for example, are about half that of a new F-35B/C.

High readiness is desirable in forces and equipment. However, readiness is also very expensive and highly perishable—it must be renewed constantly. Buying more means that DOD cannot buy something else, for example, modernization or force structure. In the new DOD strategy being developed for 2019 and beyond, the services hope to pursue all three goals—expand forces, improve readiness, and increase modernization—but the fiscal future is highly uncertain, and they will likely have to make difficult trade-offs.

Army Recruiting Shortfall - For the first time since 2005, the U.S. Army missed its recruiting goal last year, falling short by about 6,500 soldiers, despite pouring an extra $200 million into bonuses and approving some additional waivers for bad conduct or health issues.

Army leaders said they signed up about 70,000 new active duty recruits in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30th - well below the 76,500 they needed. The Army National Guard and Army Reserves also fell far short of their goals, by more than 12,000 and 5,000 respectively. The Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, meanwhile, all met their recruiting goals for 2018.

The Army has stated that the shortfall was fueled by a strong American economy and increased competition from private sector employers who can pay more. The Army has since increased its number of recruiters. Army leadership has stated that they will not lower standards to meeting higher recruiting goals and are confident that they can meet future goals.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Japan Embassy Reception

On March 26th the National Security Division in coordination with the Embassy of Japan held a reception to honor the future of U.S. and Japan cooperation and friendship at the Capital Building. The event included remarks from the National Commander, the Ambassador of Japan, and several Congressmen on the importance of this alliance in a time of international uncertainty.

Foreign Policy Panels

On February 25, the National Security Commission, in partnership with the United State Global Leadership Coalition and the Department of state, hosted two foreign policy summit to discuss global issues that affect the United States' relations with China and Japan, as well as Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East.

The first panel examined strengthening diplomacy and development alongside defense. The expert speakers were Lt. General Kip Ward, USA (Ret.), National Security Advisory Council, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition and the Honorable Tom Ridge,

National Advisory Council, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. The panel was moderated by CNN Political Commentator, Alice Stewart.

The second panel discussed the many challenges that the U.S. and its allies face in regard to China and Russia and how we are struggling to manage and how these collectively increase political volatility and risk for investors. Among the expert speakers included Christopher Robinson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs and Sona Ramesh, International Relations Officer, Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs

INDO-PACIFIC TOUR

While in Washington, D.C. in September the National Security Division staff coordinated for the National Commander to receive several briefings from desks within the Far East offices of the Department of Defense and Department of State in preparation for the upcoming Far East tour. Additionally, the National Commander met with Defense Assistant Secretary of Defense Joe Felter to discuss the position of the Secretary of State on the return of the Bells of Balangiga. The American Legion passed a resolution at National Convention supporting the Secretary's position.

The first location the party visited was Hawaii and included a tour of the new Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency headquarters and forensic lab as well as an update on the progress of the 55 boxes of remains turned over by North Korea this summer. In preparation for the rest of the tour the National Commander received a command briefing from Pacific Command headquarters on readiness, troop quality of life, and current focuses of the Major Command.

The trip also included visits to Department of Defense installations, American Legion Posts, and meetings with heads of state throughout Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan before returning to the United States, totaling almost a full month of travel. National Security Division staff have created a post trip briefing booklet that is available upon request.

MILITARY AND VETERAN QUALITY OF LIFE

Military Family Housing

Several hearings took place earlier this year to discuss the state of housing for military families. A survey from the Military Family Advisory Network was released just prior to the first hearing that reported more than half of military families surveyed about their privatized housing reporting a negative experience with problems ranging from mold, vermin, and lead paint.

Staff have participated in several meetings and conference calls with senior defense officials to receive updates on how DoD is addressing this issue. At this point rush works orders have been fulfilled on life emergency repairs. Commanders have been mandated to get involved and have held town halls at all installations to address issues. Customer service has been addressed to where families should have a more accurate date for when their maintenance repairs will be made. We will continue to track this issue closely as our servicemembers and their families deserve to live in safe and affordable housing.

Defense Health

Staff has attended monthly meetings with senior defense officials from the Defense Health Agency to discuss a series of major Tricare changes that were implemented January 1, 2018, ushering in fee changes for almost all beneficiaries, a new plan name, a new regional map and new regional contractors.

The updates are the result of a periodic federally mandated contracting process combined with new legislation passed by Congress in 2016.

Impacts for All Users

Tricare's annual fee schedule will now operate on a calendar year -- January 1 to December 31 -- instead of the fiscal year system used the past. That change impacts all beneficiaries, including Tricare for Life users, who are otherwise untouched by the shifts.

Last year, the plans known as Tricare Standard and Tricare Extra were combined into a single plan, known as Tricare Select.

Active duty family members who use Tricare Prime saw no major changes, so long as they stayed in that plan.

Starting January 1, 2019, active duty families and those who retire from active duty were longer be able to switch at will between plans. Instead, they must wait for annual fall "open enrollment" period to move plans or experience a "qualifying life event." Tricare has yet to release a final list of what those “life events” will include.

Last year, TRICARE pharmacy copayments changed for all beneficiaries, except Active Duty Service Members, dependent survivors of ADSMs, and medically retired service members and their dependents.

Retail Network Pharmacy Copayment Changes (up to 30-day supply)

- Generic formulary drugs will increase from $10 to $11.
- Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from $24 to $28.
- Non-formulary drugs will increase from $50 to $53. *(NOTE: Non-formulary drugs are generally only available through home delivery.)*

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery Copayment Changes (up to 90-day supply)

- Generic formulary drugs will increase from $0 to $7.
- Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from $20 to $24.
- Non-formulary drugs will increase from $49 to $53.

Military Treatment Facility Pharmacy Copayment Changes

- Beneficiaries can still fill their prescriptions for $0 copay at MTF pharmacies.

The American Legion’s Position: The National Security Commission has Resolution No. 102: Oppose Tricare Fee Increases which states that the American Legion is strongly opposed to hikes in premiums and or enrollment fees being paid by enrollees in TRICARE. The American Legion urges Congress to decisively reject these unjust proposed increase in the military retirees’ TRICARE enrollment fee, deductibles, or premiums.

DEFENSE BUDGETING

FY20 NDAA - The 2020 Defense Budget request has been submitted by the President and includes a 2.8 percent pay increase, the largest in a decade, and a $718.3 billion national defense budget. 2019 was the first year in more than a decade that the DoD was able to begin a fiscal year with an enacted appropriation instead of operating under a continuing resolution. We hope to see Congress approve the FY20 budget to ensure DoD can operate with a guaranteed budget again. The funding level is subject to the Budget Control Act and the actual appropriations are expected to be affected by sequestration.

The topline budget differences between the bills and the Presidential Budget Request (PBR) are as follows:

Department of Defense Budget *$ in billions*	**FY 2017 Actuals**	**FY 2018 Actuals**	**FY 2019 Enacted**	**FY 2020 Request**
Base	523.5	599.6	616.1	544.5
Overseas Contingency Operations	82.5	65.2	68.8	66.7
OCO for Base	--	--	--	97.9
Emergency	--	5.8	--	9.2
Total	**606.0**	**670.6**	**685.0**	**718.3**

The President's FY 2020 budget request for defense is for $718 billion. This budget represents 4.9 percent nominal growth (2.8 percent real growth) over the current FY 2019 enacted appropriation. Total DoD five-year program settles at $747 billion in FY 2024.

The FY 2020 budget request continues to advance the objectives of the National Defense Strategy by sustaining the gains in FY 2017, FY 2018, and FY 2019 and continuing to build a bigger more lethal and ready force. Military pay and benefits funding grows by more than $3.4 billion over the FY 2019 request. This increase includes funding for a 3.1 percent military pay raise, the largest in a decade, and an end strength increase of approximately 7,700 over the currently projected FY 2019 levels, which is designed to increase overall capacity and improve readiness through reduced operational and personnel tempo. In addition, these end strength increases will allow the Services to better support advanced capabilities like cyber, electronic warfare, and special operations needed to contend with our most capable, potential adversaries and fulfill the National Security Strategy charter to preserve peace through strength.

The FY 2020 budget request includes $9.2 billion of emergency funding for unspecified military construction to build border barriers, backfill funding reallocated in FY 2019 to build border barriers and rebuild facilities damaged by Hurricanes Florence and Michael. This funding and the required transfer authority would be provided through a general provision.

The American Legion's Position: These budget increases and proposed increases for fiscal year 2019 in defense spending are a step in the right direction to rebuild our devastated military but we must continue to advocate for full funding of the military. The National Security Commission has Resolution No. 35: National Defense Budget which urges Congress to support budget increases in military spending to reverse the effects of the 2013 Budget Control Act also known as sequestration and to not allow our military forces to reach a weakened state in these uncertain and perilous times.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

One of the most important parts of the work of the National Security Division is the preparation and presentation of congressional testimony as well as letters of support on issues of national security and the quality of life of servicemembers. Since January 2019, the National Security Division has submitted four (4) letters of support.

The following is a synopsis of the congressional hearings and correspondence held from January to May 1, 2019, on matters pertaining to the National Security Commission:

On January 7th, staff submitted a letter of support to Senator John Thune (SD) to express support for S.21 - A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act. The U.S. Coast Guard is the only military branch working without pay during the government shutdown.

On January 10th, staff submitted a letter of support to Senator Richard Burr (NC) for "Gold Star Wives Day", which would recognize the work of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. and their dedication to service, support and friendship to the spouses of fallen servicemembers and veterans. The service and sacrifice of servicemembers and their families should not be forgotten, and through this proposed legislation it will not.

On March 19th, the staff wrote a letter of support to Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) and on March 26th to Representative Raul Grijalva (AZ) for draft legislation "*Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2019*", which would enable the return of eligible veterans removed from the United States, protect veterans and servicemembers residing in the United States from removal, and facilitate naturalization through service in the Armed Forces.

POW/MIA

On Wednesday, September 26th at the American Legion headquarters in Washington, D.C. the Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Mr. Kelly McKeague presented National Commander Brett Reistad with one of the two flags from first two U.S. servicemembers identified from the remains turned over by North Korea this summer.

The two soldiers were Master Sgt. Charles Hobart McDaniel and Private First Class William H. Jones who both went missing in November 1950. Two of the 55 boxes contained two partial skulls that had dental remains, along with two clavicles. DPAA researchers used dental records, chest x-rays and DNA samples to conclusively identify the remains of the two soldiers.

Unaccounted for From Past Conflicts

WWII	Korean War	Vietnam War	Cold War	Iraq & Other Conflicts
72,000+	7,800+	1600+	126	6

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 opportunities may be missed.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to receive and file the National Security Commission report. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Resolution No. 9: Support for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, These three nations, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) , and Republic of Palau were created from the U.S. administered U.N. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, By 1994, they became independent countries in free association with the United States; and

WHEREAS, Under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA), with these nations, the U.S. provides economic and programmatic assistance and has basing rights and plenary defense authority that translates into the right to exclude third-party military access to the islands; and

WHEREAS, Citizens of these freely associated states (FAS) may serve in America's armed forces, and there is a high level of military enlistment by FAS citizens; and

WHEREAS, The FAS are geographically remote in the Mid-Pacific, and suffer from high levels of unemployment and lack economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Satisfactory solutions will require building partnerships among federal, public and private organizations, establishing mechanisms and incentives to foster increased information sharing on the benefits available to veterans in the FAS to include the VA home loan program, VA health care, and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The COFA economic assistance and other programmatic provisions to the Freely Associated States (FAS) will expire in 2023 unless the U.S. takes an affirmative step to renew and extend these agreements; and

WHEREAS, The free association relationship embodied in the COFA was negotiated in the 1980's and it has passed the test of time to the benefit of the development of self-government and democracy in the FAS and has served U.S. strategic interests well; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. strategic interests in this vast Pacific domain are increasingly

being challenged by other powers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the United States federal government continue to develop and refine processes and policies that enhance information sharing to develop programs, initiatives, and other activities that educate citizens and grow the veteran workforce to support the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau in building resilient networks through information sharing and promulgation of best practices and standards to ensure Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, resources and eligibility criteria are applied and fulfilled; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls on the United States federal government to take actions to extend and renew the Compacts of Free Association with the Federated States of Palau.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to adopt Resolution No. 9 entitled, "Support for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau." Is there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? Hearing none, the motion is passed. Is there anybody that has any donations for any charity to be presented at this time? Okay. Thank you.

We now move on to the confirmation of interim appointments. The chair recognizes Bill Kile, the NECman from West Virginia.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of interim appointments is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I move that the list of the interim appointments be approved without being read. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to approve the confirmation of interim appointments. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Confirmation of Interim Appointments
National Executive Committee Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 9, 2019

Lloyd H. Woods (Maine), Resolutions Subcommittee, Member (Replaces Dennis C. Haas [Pennsylvania] – deceased)

Thomas L. Bock (Colorado), The American Legion Department Advisory Committee, Chairman (Replaces William M. Detweiler [Louisiana] – deceased)

Clarence E. Hill (Florida), The American Legion Department Advisory Committee, Member (Replaces Thomas L. Bock [Colorado])

Douglas Huffman (Idaho), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Oliver C. Chase, III – resigned)

Lisa McPhee (Massachusetts), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Ronald T. Innocenti – deceased)

James C. Fulton, Sr. (Pennsylvania), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Michele A. Deems – resigned)

Richard J. Zipfel (Pennsylvania), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Sharon

E. Lowe – resigned)

Kevin J. Joy (South Carolina), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Jennifer M. Beilstein – resigned)

Alan C. Lennox (California), Finance Commission, Consultant (New appointment)

Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan (Illinois), American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, President (Replaces William M. Detweiler [Louisiana] – deceased)

James E. Koutz (Indiana), American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, Vice President (Replaces Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan [Illinois])

Charles E. Schmidt (Oregon), American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, 2020 Member (Replaces William M. Detweiler [Louisiana] – deceased)

Lena Heredia-Perez (Florida), Internal Affairs Commission, Consultant (Replaces Michael K. Seaton – resigned)

Michael K. Seaton (California), Internal Affairs Commission, 2020 Member (Replaces Larry D. Sheets – deceased)

Jeffrey W. French (New York), National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee, 2021 Member (Replaces Richard L. Milton – resigned)

E. Michael Stelacio (Pennsylvania), Legislative Commission Liaison Committee, Member (Replaces Dennis C. Haas – deceased)

Michele A. Deems, (Pennsylvania), Media & Communications Commission, National Commander's Representative (Replaces Richard F. Morgan – declined appointment)

Robert L. Reynolds (Tennessee), Media & Communications Commission, 2019 Member (Replaces Norman J. Nuismer – resigned)

Kraig A. Dean (Maryland), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Bernard A. Zempolich – resigned)

Bruce Heisey (Massachusetts), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Lisa McPhee – resigned)

Gerald Sheard (New Jersey), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Franklin R. Sickle, Jr. – deceased)

Richard L. Milton (New York), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Jeffrey W. French)

Robin Shingleton (West Virginia), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Kenneth E. Smith – resigned)

Patrick R. Rourk (New York), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, Vice Chairman (Replaces Kelly L. Ackerman [Montana] – resigned)

Timothy Ingraham (Montana), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, 2021 Member (Replaces Kelly L. Ackerman – resigned)

Patrick R. Rourk (New York), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, 2021 Member (Replaces R. Michael Suter)

Ronald F. Conley (Pennsylvania), TBI/PTSD Committee, Chairman (Replaces William M. Detweiler [Louisiana] – deceased)

Dr. Carl R. Moon (Minnesota), TBI/PTSD Committee, Member (Replaces Ronald F. Conley [Pennsylvania])

Joyce A. Miller (Virginia), Veterans Benefits Committee, Vice Chairman (Replaces Patrick R. Rourk [New York])

Audilio Miranda (New Mexico), Veterans Benefits Committee, 2021 Member (Replaces Dave Pineda – declined appointment)

R. Michael Suter (New York), Veterans Benefits Committee, 2021 Member (Replaces Patrick R. Rourk)

Lorn Dean Casey (Colorado), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (New appointment)

Jeremy A. Wolfsteller (Minnesota), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (New appointment)

Dr. Estella Morris (Arkansas), Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee, Consultant (New appointment)

Eric J. Broussard (Maryland), Veterans Employment & Education Council, Member

(Replaces Jack N. Smith – resigned)

Bruce A. Mayfield (New York), Veterans Employment & Education Council, Member (Replaces Frank P. Konopka – deceased)

Ashly Gorbulja (Ohio), Veterans Employment & Education Council, Member (Replaces Vince Becker, Jr. – resigned)

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Yes, you may, sir.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify that the list of cancellations of posts and squadron charters is a true and correct list, and everything has been done to try to revitalize these posts?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I move the list be approved without being read. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to approve the confirmation and cancellation of posts and/or squadron charters. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Post Charters Of The American Legion Presented To
The National Executive Committee For Cancellation
May 9, 2019

On October 18, 2018, at the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of thirty-seven (37) posts. The research done on each post prior to any recommendation made as an attempt to see whether these posts could be revitalized is based on the following criteria:
Community Size
Veteran Population

Seventy-four (74) posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2019 Spring National Executive Committee Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana. ** See Merging Post Information Below

Department	Post #	Name	Location
Colorado	0007	Edward J. Cavanaugh-Leadville	Leadville
	0117	Peter F. Galligan	Aspen
	0156	Adams-Crum	Vona
	0163	James H. McNeal	Pueblo
	0188	Brown-Foster	Nunn-Pierce
	0202	Thornton	Thornton
	1112	John Philip Sousa	Denver
Florida	0249	Freeport	Freeport
Illinois	0243	Lemont	Lemont
	0258*	Charles Walter Reid *(to merge with George H. Pettit Post 0498)*	Virginia
	0348*	Colonel Robert R. McCormick *(to merge with First Division Cantigny Post 0556)*	Chicago
	0534*	*Victor Hill* *(to merge with Martinsville Post 0515)*	Casey

	0739*	Chadwick *(to merge with Baughman-Diehl Post 0553)*	Chadwick
	1059	*Timewell*	Timewell
	1132*	Wayne City *(to merge with Anthony Wayne Post 0176)*	Wayne City
	1230*	Glidewell-Yelton *(to merge with Nichols-Goleman-Boggs Post 0566)*	Hazel Dell
Kansas	0242	*Rogers-Varner*	Nortonville
	0311	Earl F. Lowder	Tribune
	0354	Al Andrews	Rolla
	0391	Brown-Leonard-Woodward	Richland
Louisiana	0507	Mano Wise	Napoleonville
	0585	Merriman-Skidmore	Bertrandville
Massachusetts	0099	Watertown	Watertown
Michigan	0272	Dimondale/Potterville Grand River	Dimondale
	0319	Ecorse-Roy B. Salliotte-Giles A. Reeve	Ecorse
	0530	Business and Professional	Lansing
Minnesota	0332	Business and Professional Mens	Minneapolis
Montana	0111*	A.C. Buckner, Inc. *(to merge with Andrew Pearson Post 0117)*	Custer
Nebraska	0295	Te Selle-Jurgensmeier	Firth
New Jersey	0237	Charles F. Pancoast, Jr.	Woodstown
	0422	Roxbury Memorial	Roxbury
	0451	Rainbow Lakes, Inc.	Rainbow Lakes, Boonton
New York	0227	Bert G. Collins - Michael A. Cassavino	Lyons
	0709	Florence Nightingale, Inc.	Rochester
	0771	Dold-Doty-Magill	Rochester
	0852	Dannemora	Dannemora
	1353	Vlahos-Mertz	Rochester
	1951*	Borinquen *(to merge with Unionport Post 1065)*	Bronx
North Carolina	0098	Edwin Haynes Gregory, Inc.	Halifax
	0163*	John W. Hassell *(to merge with Haislip-Roebuck, Inc. Post 0131)*	Williamston
	0176	Bullock-Fisher, Inc.	Henderson
	0316	Webb-Stallings, Inc.	Pinetops
	0528	G.K. Butterfield, Sr.	Wilson

North Dakota	0287*	Eddie Johnson *(to merge with Albert Block Post 0056)*	Hurdsfield
Ohio	0121	Thurston-Zwir	Fremont
	0280*	Mil-Bow-Mar *(to merge with Firelands Memorial Post 0706)*	Greenwich
	0372*	Oola Khan, Inc. *(to merge with Yeager-Benson Memorial Post 0199)*	Cincinnati
	0495	Blennerhassett	Belpre
	0653	Homer Lawson	Washington Court House
	0689	Wakeman	Wakeman
Oklahoma	0134	Washita County	Cordell
	0199	Woy-Breckenridge	Pond Creek
Oregon	0113	Arlington	Arlington
Tennessee	0010*	John W. Thompson, Inc. *(to merge with Herbert Griffin, Inc. Post 0019)*	Mt. Pleasant
	0090*	South Madison County, Inc. *(to merge with John A. Deaver, Inc. Post 0012)*	Jackson
	0179*	Wilson County *(to merge with Clyde O. Bratten, Inc. Post 0015)*	Lebanon
	0238*	Old Dixie *(to merge with Cumberland County Post 0163)*	Crossville
	0283*	Munford *(to merge with Charles Porter Smith Post 0237)*	Munford
Texas	0279	Roy D. Slonaker	Bridgeport
	0343*	Ernest F. Pettit *(to merge with Tommie Aiken Post 0423)*	Moran
	0366	Lone Star	Katy
	0438*	Luther Powers *(to merge with George S. Berry Post 0575)*	Slaton
Virginia	0155	Highland	Monterey
	0158	Prince William, Inc.	Manassas
	0172	Forrest Kirby	West Point
	0773	Sussex	Waverly
	1997	Louis E. Randall	Hampton
Washington	0121	Elwha, Inc.	Lower Elwha Reservation

	0218*	Bridgeport, Inc. *(to merge with Columbia, Inc. Post 0097)*	Bridgeport
	0232	Robert Paul Youngchild, Inc.	Federal Way
Wisconsin	0203*	Federal, Inc. *(to merge with Greendale, Inc. Post 0416)*	Milwaukee
	0328	Sizer-Buchman, Inc.	Springbrook
	0443	Robert R. Shattuck, Inc.	Blue River
	0553	Blackhawk	Madison

SAL Squadron Charters Presented To
The National Executive Committee For Cancellation
May 9, 2019

On October 18, 2018, at the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of seven (7) Squadrons.

Twenty-two (22) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2019 Spring National Executive Committee Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana. ** See Merging Squadron Information Below

Department	Sqdn #	Name	Location
Illinois	0091	Wyoming	Wyoming
	0256	Commodore Barry	Berwyn
	0257	Zue-Vandeveer	Stonington
	0419	James J. Zientek	Chicago
	0442	Julian Wells	Winchester
	0620	Albert Parker	Bement
Kansas	0242	Rogers-Varner	Nortonville
Massachusetts	0099	Watertown	Watertown
Michigan	0319	Ecorse-Roy B. Salliotte-Giles A. Reeve	Ecorse
Montana	0111*	A.C. Buckner *(to merge with Andrew Pearson Sqdn 0117)*	Custer
New York	0227	Bert G. Collins – Michael A. Cassavino	Lyons
	0852	Dannemora	Dannemora
Ohio	0121	Thurston-Zwir	Fremont
	0464	Lee Bishop	Hudson
	0653	Homer Lawson	Washington Court House
South Carolina	0015	Sumter	Sumter
	0069	Andrews	Andrews
	0136	William Moultrie	Mt. Pleasant

Tennessee	0090*	South Madison County *(to merge with John A. Deaver Sqdn 0012)*	Jackson
Virginia	0158	Prince William	Manassas
	1997	Louis E. Randall	Hampton
Wisconsin	0203*	Federal *(to merge with Greendale Sqdn 0416)*	Milwaukee

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Yes, sir, you may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Do you certify that the confirmation of dates for future meetings is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: I move that they be reported in the digest, commander. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There is a motion and a second on the floor to approve the confirmation of dates for future meetings. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. Thank you.

Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings
Previously Approved by the National Executive Committee

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
2022 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE	February 27-March 2

2022 SPRING MEETINGS

Commissions and Committees	May 2-3
National Executive Committee	May 4-5

2022 FALL MEETINGS

Commissions and Committees	October 10-11
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 10-11
National Executive Committee	October 12-13

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: The chair now recognizes NECman Bill Kile of West Virginia in lieu of David Warnken for a final report of the Resolutions Subcommittee.

Resolution No. 29: Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The Subcommittee on Resolutions has conducted a review of National Convention and National Executive Committee resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the following resolutions be rescinded for the reasons stated herein.

No.	Year	Meeting	Title (Brief)	Reason
40	1919	Convention	Centralia Massacre	Obsolete
64	1919	Convention	Commend Members Who Defended Prisoners In Centralia	Obsolete
99	1919	Convention	Continuation Of Service Provided By The Grand Army Of The Republic And Confederate Veterans	Superseded
1	1920	Post	Order Of Business	Superseded
522	1924	Convention	Position Of American Legion In Politics	Superseded
532	1924	Convention	Political Interference	Superseded
533	1925	Convention	Appreciation To FIDAC	Accomplished
24	1927	Convention	Appreciation To Reni-Mel For "America"	Accomplished
488	1927	Convention	Equestrian Statute Of Marshal Foch	Accomplished
518	1930	Convention	George Washington	Accomplished
12	1933	Spring	American Legion Memorial Building In Paris	Superseded
3	1934	Pre	Annual Reports Of Officers, Committees, Divisions Or Commissions	Obsolete
17	1935	Fall	Pershing Hall Memorial Situation	Obsolete
9	1938	Fall	Resolution Of Appreciation	Accomplished
2	1938	Pre	Appreciation Of Sevres Vases	Accomplished
3	1938	Pre	Appreciation Of Bust	Accomplished
17	1939	Spring	Appreciation To International Shoe Company	Accomplished

10	**1940**	**Spring**	**Appreciation To J Scott Williams**	**Accomplished**
24	**1943**	**Spring**	**Definition Of "Active Duty"**	**Obsolete**
7	**1944**	**Fall**	**Eligibility Of Those Still In The Armed Forces When Hostilities Cease**	**Superseded**
57	**1944**	**Spring**	**Hamilton Fish Resolution**	**Accomplished**
20	**1963**	**Fall**	**Pershing Hall, Paris, France**	**Obsolete**
23	**1997**	**Fall**	**Special Report - 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee**	**Accomplished**
7	**1998**	**Spring**	**Contractor Code Of Conduct And Standards**	**Superseded**
1	**2014**	**Fall**	**Reinstatement Of The Charter Of The American Legion Department Of Oklahoma**	**Accomplished**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: The Resolutions Subcommittee has one resolution, and that is the Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions. It's been submitted by the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to approve Resolution No. 29 titled, "Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions." Is there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

Final Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions
William W. Kile, West Virginia, Vice Chairman

Mr. Commander, I'll now give the report on the Resolutions Subcommittee. Your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session since May the 6th. We have considered all resolutions that have come before us, and have considered and acted upon 30 resolutions.

I would like to take this time to thank the members of the committee who have done an outstanding job and who have attended every session and participated in the discussions of these resolutions. My special thanks goes to Dennis Boland of Florida, Marlon Ronning of Minnesota, Robert Liebenow from Oregon, Thomas Florez from Colorado, and Lloyd Woods from Maine. Thank you, gentlemen, for a good week. *(Applause)*

Our best wishes go to our chairman, David Warnken from Kansas, who we hope to see at the national convention. Appreciation is also extended to Howard Trace and his staff who served our committee. I want to thank the Document Center, directors and chairmen of the commissions and committees who have been most cooperative and helpful to the subcommittee in this week's work, in order to bring the reports to you. During our deliberations, we have met with a number of chairmen and staff who have been very busy and very helpful to us in explaining questions we had about the resolutions. I would ask that the commission chairmen continue to handle resolutions as early in their deliberations as possible, in order to expedite the work of the subcommittee and allow time for any revisions or corrections to be made to the resolutions.

Please remember that all active resolutions back to 1950 are available on the Digital Archive at archive.legion.org. Resolutions from this meeting will be available early next week. If you have any questions about the Digital Archive, please contact the library and museum director, Howard Trace.

Commander, it is a pleasure to serve as vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. We would like to thank the National Executive Committee in reporting of these various resolutions. You have been most cooperative.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I move that this report be received and filed. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to approve the final report of the Resolutions Subcommittee. Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed.

The chair recognizes Bill Kile, NECman, Department of West Virginia, for miscellaneous business and technical motions.

Miscellaneous Business and Technical Motions

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I'd like to make a technical motion and move that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting and to make any and all corrections, and without changing the intent of the NEC meeting to proceed to edit and distribute these minutes. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to allow the national adjutant to be able to review the minutes and make the necessary edits and corrections to the minutes. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. Thank you.

At this time, the chair recognizes Chairman Ralph Bozella of the VA&R Commission for the purpose of a technical correction.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOZELLA: Thank you, Commander. Yesterday, a resolution was brought forth before this committee with language that did not completely meet the intent of the VA&R Commission. It did not specify that we oppose VA for charging veterans for their service-connected care.

Commander, I recommend changing the language of Resolution No. 11 to read, "Title: Oppose VA Charging Veterans Co-Payments for Treatment of Service-Connected Disabilities " And for the "Resolved" clause to read, "RESOLVED, The American Legion oppose the Department of Veterans Affairs charging co-payments to veterans for treatment of their service-connected disabilities."

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I'd like to make a motion to amend Resolution No. 11 of previously adopted resolution to now read, "Resolution 11. Title: Oppose VA Charging Veterans Co-Payments for Treatment of Service-Connected Disabilities. Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission." And for the "Resolved" clause to read, "RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in their regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8 and 9, 2019, That The American Legion oppose the Department of Veterans Affairs charging co-payments to veterans for treatment of their service-connected disabilities."*...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: There's a motion and a second on the floor to amend Resolution 11 entitled, "Oppose VA Charging Veterans Co-Payments for Treatment of Service-Connected Disabilities," a previously adopted resolution, changing its title and "Resolved" clause to what was stated. Is there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The ayes have it, the motion is passed. Thank you. The chair recognizes National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler of Virginia for purposes of announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: The U.S. Mint and The American Legion have developed a unique opportunity for each of your department conventions, where each department will be given a unique promo code to be used during the time frame of your convention. This code will provide free shipping on any order from the U.S. Mint that contains an American Legion coin product. If you are interested in having brochures with this code sent to your department to be handed out during your department convention,

please visit the Marketing Division on the first floor before you leave today, or you can call the Marketing Division and place your order.

Finally, the limited-edition American Legion proof silver dollar and an American veterans silver medal set will be available May 20. This set features a 99.9 percent silver medal that will be only available in this set. Mintage is limited to 10,000 units and will sell for 99.95. That's dollars, $99.95.

The front of the medal portrays a bald eagle spreading its wings as it prepares for flight, suggesting the initiative, determination, and personal courage required by those who chose to serve in our nation's armed forces. The five stars represent the five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. The inscription, "Honoring America's Veterans," encircles the design. The reverse of the medal depicts a field of stars symbolizing all American veterans past, present, and future. A lone incused star below the field represents the veteran who has made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our country. The absence of this star in the field conveys a sense of loss to the nation. The inscription, "Service and Sacrifice" is featured. Please go to legion.org/coin to purchase this set. It's a one-time set.

Also, I want to tell you that the coins are selling very well, but don't take for granted that they'll always be available. We're almost sold out of the three-coin sets. When they're gone, no more will be issued. We really need to push the silver dollars and the half-dollars, for The American Legion to get the maximum benefit from this act of Congress, which was a very special feature. I thank all of you for lobbying your Congressmen to vote for it. It was a very successful bill. That concludes my announcements, Mr. Commander.

...National Vice Commander Spedaliere assumed the chair.

Closing Remarks
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia, National Commander

Good morning. I hope everybody enjoyed last night's meal and entertainment. *(Applause)*

This is a travel day for most of you so I will be brief. Seems like for the last ten years, we've been saying that The American Legion is almost 100 or nearly a century old. Isn't it nice to no longer have to say "almost"? This is particularly poignant as I head to my next stop, St. Louis. It will be there that I join American Legion family members in observing that historic caucus from 100 years ago, a meeting that continues to have so much influence on how The American Legion functions today.

But a lot of great things happened right here over the last 24 hours, and I thank you for your official support of our Buddy Check program. Checking on our fellow and past Legionnaires is something that we should be doing anyway. But the influence of this great body cannot be overstated, and I applaud your clear opposition to any proposal for VA to charge service-connected veterans with co-payments. Veterans have no greater advocates than our American Legion.

We've heard the report and seen firsthand the amazing work of our centennial committee. All of the founders of The American Legion have gone on to Post Everlasting, but they left us this great legacy. We need to continue that not for ourselves, but for veterans and young people who will be here long after we have passed. Previous generations of Legionnaires have left us this great gift. It's up to us to pay it forward. We owe it to those who came before us.

So until we meet again here in Indianapolis in just a little over three months for a fantastic national convention: We are ...

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Team 100!

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, and have a safe trip. *(Standing applause)...National Commander Reistad resumed the chair.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Please rise and uncover for our benediction by Past National Chaplain Randy Cash of North Carolina.

Benediction
Tierian "Randy" Cash, North Carolina, Past National Chaplain

It's an honor to serve with you. Keep the faith, and may the Lord bless all of us with fair winds and following seas. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Please cover and join me in saluting the colors of our country by the numbers. Hand salute: One, two. I declare this meeting adjourned.

...At 9:33 a.m., Thursday, May 9, 2019, the National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.

Abbreviations

A

ACANC ..... Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery
ADSM ..... active duty service member
AIR ..... Asset and Infrastructure Review
ALB ..... American Legion Baseball
ALR ..... American Legion Riders
ALWS ..... American Legion World Series
AMA ..... Appeals Modernization Act
ANC ..... Arlington National Cemetery

B

B2B ..... Boots to Business
BG ..... brigadier general
BNY ..... Bank of New York
BRAC ..... Base Realignment and Closure
BRAVE ..... Act Burial Rights for America's Veterans Efforts Act
BVA ..... Board of Veterans Appeals

C

CDFI ..... Community Development Financial Institutions
CEO ..... chief executive officer
CFO ..... chief financial officer
CFPB ..... Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
CFR ..... Code of Federal Regulations
COFA ..... Compacts of Free Association
CRMS ..... Contract Risk Management Software
CWF ..... Child Welfare Foundation
CZI ..... Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

D

DEC ..... Department Executive Committee
DMS ..... Direct Membership Solicitation
DMZ ..... demilitarized zone
DNA ..... deoxyribonucleic acid
DOD ..... United States Department of Defense
DOL ..... United States Department of Labor
DPAA ..... Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
DRB ..... Discharge Review Board
DSM ..... Distinguished Service Medal
DSO ..... Department Service Officer
DVOP ..... Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

E

EFLA ..... Education, Labor and Family Assistance
EHR ..... Electronic Healthcare Record
ES ..... Employment Service

F

FAQ ..... frequently asked questions

FAS ..... freely associated states
FHA..... Federal Housing Administration
FY ..... fiscal year

G

GAO ..... Government Accountability Office
GOC ..... Geiger Operations Center
GSUSA ..... Girl Scouts of the USA

H

HOMeS Act ..... Housing Our Military Servicemembers Act
HR ..... human resources, House Resolution
HS ..... high school
HUD ..... United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

I

IPEDS ..... Integrated Postsecondary Education System
IRS ..... Internal Revenue Service
ISIS ..... Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

L

LEGION Act ..... Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act
LLC ..... limited liability company
LVER ..... Local Veterans Employment Representatives

M

MAJ ..... major
MCJROTC ..... Marine Corps Junior Reservice Officers Training Corps
MHS ..... Military Health System
MIA ..... missing in action
MIBH ..... Marcus Institute for Brain Health
MISSION Act ..... Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act
MLA ..... Military Lending Act
MOU ..... memorandum of understanding
MSPV ..... Medical and Surgical Prime Vendor
MTD ..... Member Training and Development Committee
MTF ..... Military Treatment Facility

N

NADHAL ..... National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion
NALC ..... National American Legion College
NALCAA ..... National American Legion College Alumni Association
NASA ..... National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NATO ..... North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCA ..... National Cemetery Association
NCO ..... non-commissioned officer
NDAA ..... National Defense Authorization Act
NEC ..... National Executive Committee
NEF ..... National Emergency Fund
NIH ..... National Institutes of Health
NJROTC ..... Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps
NMI ..... National Management Institute

NVSBC ..... National Veteran Small Business Coalition
NWQ ..... National Work Queue

O

OCO ..... Overseas Contingency Operations
OCW ..... Operation Comfort Warriors

P

PCAFC ..... Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers
PHA ..... Public Housing Administration
PL ..... Public Law
PNC ..... Past National Commander
POW ..... prisoner of war
PSA ..... public service announcement
PTSD ..... Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

R

RAMP ..... Rapid Appeals Modernization Program
RBI ..... run batted in
RFP ..... request for proposal
RO ..... regional office
ROAR ..... Regional Office Action Review
ROTC ..... Reserve Officer Training Corps

S

SAL ..... Sons of The American Legion
SASP ..... State Agencies for Surplus Property
SBA ..... Small Business Administration
SDVOSB ..... Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business
SGT ..... sergeant
SWS ..... System Worth Saving

T

TAC ..... Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials
TAL ..... The American Legion
TAPS ..... Transition Assistance Program
TBI ..... Traumatic Brain Injury
TFA ..... Temporary Financial Assistance

U

UPS ..... United Parcel Service
URL ..... uniform resource locator
USAA ..... United Services Automobile Association
USAID ..... United States Agency for International Development
USC ..... United States Code
USCG ..... United States Coast Guard
USPS ..... United States Postal Service

V

VA ..... Department of Veterans Affairs
VA&R ..... Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
VAMC ..... VA Medical Center

VAOSDBU ..... Veterans Affairs Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
VASH ..... Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VAVS..... Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service
VBA ..... Veterans Benefits Administration
VE&E..... Veterans Employment & Education
VEE .....Veterans Employment & Education
VES .....Veterans Education Success
VET TEC .....Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Course
VHA .....Veterans Health Administration
VLP ..... Veterans Legacy Program
VSO ..... Veteran Service Organization

W

WWI ..... World War I
WWII .....World War II

Y

YCLE .....Youth Cadet Law Enforcement
YMCA ..... Young Men's Christian Association
YRRP .....Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

Index

100th Anniversary Observance....37, 99, 100, 141, 149, 178
100th Anniversary Observance Committee report.... 149
2018 National Convention Corporation report 36
2019 Distinguished Service Medal 168
2019 mental health survey 96
2022 National Convention Contract 52

A

Acceptance of Financial Grants from Organizations that Align with the Purposes and Policies of The American Legion 53
Addendum To American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites for 2020.... 164
Allow Updates to the Burn Pit Registry With Additional Veterans Information As Needed.... 68
American Legion Baseball 154, 164
American Legion College.... 48, 52, 103
American Legion Magazine 178
American Legion Riders.... 99, 100, 101
American Legion Sponsored Veterans Service Days 143
American Legion World Series 11, 99
Americanism Commission report 152
Announcements 4, 169, 202
April As Official Children & Youth Month.... 164
Arlington National Cemetery 66, 69
Aucoin, Charles 8
Authorization to Purchase Paper from Lindenmeyr Central 50

B

Barrett, Micheal P.... 14
Benediction.... 204
Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019.... 19, 90
Boy Scouts of America....*See* Scouts BSA
Boys Nation.... 157
BRAVE Act.... 92
Buddy Check 144
Buddy Check program.... 70, 144
Burn Pit Registry 68

C

Cancellation of Post and Squadron Charters.... 195
Caouette, Joseph E.... 7, 11
Child Welfare Foundation 124, 155, 168
Closing Remarks: National Commander Brett P. Reistad 203
Coffman, Randall 7, 12
commemorative coin 37, 41, 202
Commendation for Statues of Liberation in Normandy.... 141
Commending Girl Scouts Of The USA 163
Commending The Joe Foss Institute.... 162
Community Level Academic Program Engagement.... 142
Confirmation of Dates of Future Meetings 199
Confirmation of Interim Appointments 193

Constitution Day 161
Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 94
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau 75, 94
Convention Commission report 33

D

defense budget 187, 190
Dellinger, Daniel, Past National Commander 9
Department Service Officer School 56, 62
Detweiler, William M., Past National Commander 4, 6, 8-10, 18, 54
Direct Membership Solicitation 70, 72, 73, 115
Dungan, Kathy 12

E

Eisenhower, Dwight D. 141
Establish New Eligibility Criteria for Burial and Interment at Arlington National Cemetery 69
Extend Agreement with LSC Communications US, LLC 49

F

federal government shutdown 5, 37
Finance Commission report 46
Firefighter of Year Award 183
Fisher, Randall 12
flag amendment 18
Fourth Estate Award 110
fundraising program 39, 40, 46, 47

G

GI Education Benefits Fairness Act 93
Girl Scouts of the USA 163
Gold Star Wives of America 18
Greetings: Kathy Dungan, National President, American Legion Auxiliary 12
Guest Speaker: Micheal P. Barrett 14

H

homeless veterans 19, 21, 80, 90, 92, 175
Homeless Veterans Family Act 19, 21, 92

I

Internal Affairs Commission report 96
Invocation 1, 171

J

Joe Foss Institute 162

L

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award 183
LEGION Act 5, 18
Legislative Commission report 16
licensing and credentialing 94

M

Marketing Commission report 37
McCain, John Sidney, III 168
Media & Communications Commission report 177
Membership & Post Activities Committee report 70
membership program 5, 70, 71, 73, 146, 178
Memorial Resolutions 6
Military Lending Act 75, 94
military readiness 181, 188
minority veterans 182

N

National American Legion College Tuition Change 51
National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion 51
National Convention parade 34
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 94
National Emergency Fund 97, 104, 111, 149
National Historian report 179
National Poppy Day 37, 40
National Security Commission report 180
Navy Seal Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019 93

O

Opening Remarks, National Commander 4
Operation Comfort Warriors 38, 43, 44
Oppose VA Charging Veterans Co-Payments for Treatment of Service- Connected Disabilities 68
Oratorical Contest 156

P

Pay Our Coast Guard Act 5, 18
Policy Statement Regarding Overseas Magazine Subscriptions 48
Post 9/11 GI Bill 23, 81, 86, 87
POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony 1
Procedures for The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal 146
Promotion of Family Play Day Events at Posts 145

R

Recommend Amendments to The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws 126
Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of All Ages Act 92
Remarks of National Vice Commanders 173
Reports:
100th Anniversary Observance Committee 149
2018 National Convention Corporation 36
Americanism Commission 152
Convention Commission 33
Finance Commission 46
Internal Affairs Commission 96
Legislative Commission 16
Marketing Commission 37

Media & Communications Commission 177
Membership & Post Activities Committee 70
National Historian 179
National Security Commission 180
Subcommittee on Resolutions 6, 201
TBI/PTSD Committee 95
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission 53
Veterans Employment & Education Commission 75
Rescinding of Emblem Committee Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions 45
Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions 138
Rescinding of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions 160
Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions 200
Resolutions:
No. 1: Recommend Amendments to The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws 126
No. 2: Extend Agreement with LSC Communications US, LLC 49
No. 3: Authorization to Purchase Paper from Lindenmeyr Central 50
No. 4: National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion 51
No. 5: National American Legion College Tuition Change 51
No. 6: 2022 National Convention Contract 52
No. 7: Acceptance of Financial Grants from Organizations that Align with the Purposes and Policies of The American Legion 53
No. 8: Rescinding of Emblem Committee Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions 45
No. 9: Support for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau 192
No. 10: Allow Updates to the Burn Pit Registry With Additional Veterans Information As Needed 68
No. 11: Oppose VA Charging Veterans Co-Payments for Treatment of Service-Connected Disabilities 68
No. 12: Establish New Eligibility Criteria for Burial and Interment at Arlington National Cemetery 69
No. 13: Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act 94
No. 14: Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions 138
No. 15: Commendation for Statues of Liberation in Normandy 141
No. 16: Community Level Academic Program Engagement 142
No. 17: American Legion Sponsored Veterans Service Days 143
No. 18: Buddy Check 144
No. 19: Sports 145
No. 20: Promotion of Family Play Day Events at Posts 145
No. 21: Procedures for The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal 146
No. 22: Rescinding of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions 160
No. 23: Constitution Day 161
No. 24: Commending The Joe Foss Institute 162
No. 25: Commending Girl Scouts Of The USA 163
No. 26: April As Official Children & Youth Month 164
No. 27: Addendum To American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites for 2020 164
No. 28: Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program 165
No. 29: Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions 200
No. 30: 2019 Distinguished Service Medal 168
Retired Pay Restoration Act 18
Roll Call 2, 171
Roosevelt, Theodore, Jr. 141

S

scholarship program 153, 158, 165
Scouts BSA 157
Smith, Lee, Major League Baseball player 150
Sports 145
Subcommittee on Resolutions report 6, 201
suicide prevention 54, 60, 65, 95
Support for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau 192
Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act 94
System Worth Saving Program 55, 60, 64

T

TBI/PTSD Committee report 95
Temporary Financial Assistance 5, 13, 41, 71, 149, 155, 156, 168, 174

U

Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program 165

V

VA Hiring Enhancement Act 19, 21
VA Mission Act 55, 65
VA Voluntary Service Program 66
veteran claims 63, 67
veteran education 75, 80, 81, 86, 87
veteran employment 75, 76, 77, 78, 82, 83, 84, 85
veteran health care 68, 182, 189, 202
veteran-owned businesses 78, 79, 80, 82, 88, 91
Veterans & Children Foundation 37
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission report 53
Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 63
Veterans Canteen Service 57
Veterans Employment & Education Commission report 75
Veterans Service Days 143
Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2019 18

Y

Youth Cadet Law Enforcement 156
youth programs 142, 145