Sons of
The American Legion

RULES

of the
National
Executive
Committee

RULES
OF THE
SONS OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING

Adopted:

October 18-19, 1972;
October 13-14, 2007;
May 2-3, 2015 &
August 27-28, 2022
By the
SAL National
Executive Committee
And the
National Executive
Committee of
The American Legion

RULE 1

Self-Governing

The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, as provided by the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, shall be a self-governing committee and transact business in accordance with the rules hereinafter set forth, subject only to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion and mandates of the National Convention. Voting representation from five (5) Detachments shall constitute a quorum.

RULE 2

Officers

The National Commander shall be the Chairman of the National Executive Committee, and the National Adjutant shall serve as Secretary. Any temporary vacancies in such offices of Chairman and Secretary shall be filled by action of the Committee, for the respective meeting in which the vacancy occurs.

RULE 3

Duties and Powers

The National Executive Committee is specifically empowered to exercise the following powers and rights, and may delegate to any subcommittee composed of members of the National Executive Committee to investigate and report back to the Committee on any of the following powers and rights:

a. To make decisions on all matters, executive or administrative; provided, however, that the said action so taken shall not be contrary to, nor in derogation of, actions of the National Convention, except that any policy adopted by the National Organization, as follows:

"Resolved, That any policy adopted by the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion by convention action shall be a mandate during the year of its adoption and thereafter shall continue as the national policy of the National Organization unless changed by subsequent Convention action or by action of the National Executive Committee," except that mandates pertaining to legislative action by the Congress of the United States shall be effective only to the date of final adjournment of the Congress during which such resolutions were adopted by a National Convention or the National Executive Committee, except that resolutions passed at the National Convention or the National Executive Committee meeting shall be effective until the adjournment of such new Congress.

b. To determine the number of members of all National Commissions, National Committees, Board or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee created by the National Commander not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion or the National Executive Committee, and to ratify the appointments made by the National Commander. Such National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee shall receive full instructions from

the National Executive Committee by resolution specifying their purpose, scope, function and authority, and each National Commission, Board or Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee which has met since the last meeting of the National Executive Committee and at least three weeks prior to the next ensuing meeting of the National Executive Committee shall prepare preliminary reports for distribution by the National Adjutant to members of the National Executive Committee preceding any meeting, regular or special.

c. To remove members from National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee, that were previously approved by the National Executive Committee, by a majority vote of the National Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the National Commander, for cause to include, but not limited to, unexcused absences from two consecutive meetings of such National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee.

d. Upon any report made to the National Executive Committee by any National Commission, National Committee, Board or Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee and containing any recommendation as to future conduct, or as to future policy of matters such report shall not mean the adoption of such recommendations and each specific recommendation as to future conduct, or as to future policy of matters within their scope, the receiving, accepting or approval of such report shall not mean the adoption of such recom-

mendations and each specific recommendation as to future conduct or as to future policy shall be embodied in a separate resolution for the consideration and action of the National Executive Committee.

e. To make decisions when necessary, relative to expenditures from such special funds as may be under the direct control of the Sons of The American Legion.

f. To request emergency appropriations from funds under control of The American Legion.

g. To explore matters requiring the attention of the National Executive Committee and offer recommendations thereof to the National Executive Committee.

h. To advise the officers or National Commissions with regard to problems arising in the performance of their duties or functions.

i. In general, to perform between National Commander, or the request of three members of the NEC, the NEC may be called into executive session. At such time, only members of the NEC shall be present in the NEC room.

j. In fulfilling its duties and responsibilities, the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion shall be responsible to the Internal Affairs Commission and the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

RULE 4

Powers of the Committee Over its Members

a. If a quorum is not present, the National Commander may order a call of the National Executive Committee and send for the absentees.

b. In the case that less number than a quorum of the National Executive Committee shall convene, those present are hereby authorized to send the Sergeant-at-Arms, or any other person or persons by them authorized, for any and all absent members present within the city where the meeting is being held. And this rule shall apply, as well to the first meeting of the National Executive Committee at the legal time of meeting, as to each day of the session, after the hour has arrived, to which the National Executive Committee stood adjourned.

RULE 5

Decorum

a. No member of the National Executive Committee, or other person except the Secretary and his assistants, shall visit or remain by the Secretary's table while the yeas and nays are being called or counted.

b. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave of the National Executive Committee, nor more than once until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

c. While the Commander is reporting or putting a question, none shall entertain private discourse, read, stand up, and walk into, out of, or across the National Executive Committee room.

d. No question shall be debated until it has been propounded by the Chair, and then the mover shall have the right to explain his views in preference to any other member.

e. While the Commander is putting the question, any member who has not spoken before to the matter may speak to the questions before the negative is put.

f. During any debate, any National Executive Committeeman, though he has spoken to the matter, may arise and speak to the orders of the National Executive Committee, if they be transgressed, in case the Commander does not; but if the Commander stands up at any time, he is first to be heard.

g. Whenever the National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman from any Detachment shall be absent from any meeting or session of the National Executive Committee, the courtesy of the floor may be granted to an accredited representative of the Detachment not represented; provided, however, that the right to vote shall not be transferred or delegated.

h. Whenever a division of vote is to be determined on any question before the National Executive Committee, the Presiding Officer may determine division by:

1. Viva Voice vote, with right of recourse to a "teller vote" or "roll call vote" as hereinafter provided.
2. A teller vote whereby the yeas and nays may be counted by a rising vote with recourse to a roll call vote as hereinafter provided.
3. A roll call vote may be directed by the Presiding Officer to determine a division of vote on any question. A roll call shall be taken upon the request of three members.
4. On any Via Voice vote or tell vote, any member of the National Executive Committee shall have his vote recorded upon his request.

RULE 6

Committee of the Whole

a. When the National Executive Committee shall resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole, the Commander shall leave the chair and appoint a chairman to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

b. The Committee of the Whole shall consider and report on such subjects as may be committed to it by the National Executive Committee. The rules of the National Executive Committee shall be observed in the Committee of the Whole, so far as they are applicable, except the rule limiting the time of speaking, concerning the previous question, and taking the yeas and nays. The proceedings in the Committee of the Whole shall not be recorded on the minutes of the National Executive Committee, excepting so far as they are reported to the National Executive Committee by the chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

RULE 7

Order of Business

The order of business of the National Executive Committee shall be:

1. Posting of the Colors.
2. The Invocation
3. Call the roll.
4. Read the minutes of the former meeting.
5. Dispose of letters of communication.
6. Receive reports from National Officers of the Sons of The American Legion.
7. Receive reports from National Commissions, National Committees, boards and Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee.
8. Receive resolutions, motions and petitions.
9. Act upon unfinished business of the preceding day and resolutions lying over from the previous day.
10. Appointment of members of standing or special Commissions, Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee.
11. Miscellaneous business.
12. Benediction.
13. Retirement of the Colors.

RULE 8-A

Fiscal Policy

All matters of business affecting the fiscal policy of the Sons of The American Legion may be given a recommendation by the National Executive Committee and forwarded to The American Legion's National Internal Affairs Commission.

RULE 8-B

Legislative Program

A legislative program may be prepared for each session of the Congress by the National Legislative Commission and submitted for action of the National Executive Committee.

Such program shall be prepared from resolutions calling for legislation approved by the National Convention or by specific direction of the National Executive Committee.

The National Legislative Commission shall submit any legislative program to the National Executive Committee with recommendations as follows:

a. Bills to be originated by the Sons of The American Legion for introduction in the Congress in conformity with a specific program of the Sons of The American Legion.

b. Bills pending in the Congress which the Sons of The American Legion disapprove and will support.

c. Bills pending in the Congress which the Sons of The American Legion disapprove and will oppose.

In designing the legislative program the National Legislative Commission is authorized to select from Convention-approved resolutions items for inclusion in the legislative program, which conform to basic programs of the Sons of The American Legion, which are timely and which, in its best judgment, can be successfully advanced for Congressional action. Legislative programs approved by the National Executive Committee shall remain in force and effect during the life of the Congress to which they relate.

The National Executive Committee shall not approve of any item of business affecting or relating to legislation in any way without the prior consideration of the National Legislative Commission and receiving appropriate recommendations thereon.

All matters of business affecting the legislative policy of the Sons of The American Legion is for recommendation by the National Executive Committee to the National Advisor or Advisors.

RULE 9

Procedure

a. Letters and communications addressed to the National Executive Committee or to the National Commander, the National Adjutant or any other National Officer and by them referred to the National Executive Committee shall be read (or published to the members, if such be of import) by the National Adjutant. Such letters or communication shall be disposed of in one of the following ways:

1. By a motion to accept. Such a motion shall have the effect of approving the subject mat-

ter and should include specific instructions for further disposition, i.e., by directions to the National Commander, National Adjutant or other proper officer; by reference to an appropriate Commission or Committee or other proper instruction.

2. By a motion to receive and file. Such a motion shall denote neither approval nor disapproval of the subject matter and shall require no action on the part of National Officers or others beyond a formal reply should such be required.

3. By a motion to reject or decline. Such a motion shall mean disapproval and should include specific instructions for further disposition as contemplated in paragraph 1 above.

b. Reports of officers shall be acted upon directly by the National Executive Committee, except that by direction of the National Executive Committee a report of any officer may be referred to a Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee for study and report thereon; provided, however, that such reference shall not continue beyond the meeting of the National Executive Committee to which such officer's report is first submitted.

Reports of officers shall not be altered or amended by the National Executive Committee nor may any such report be rejected. In the event that the National Executive Committee shall not agree with the report or any statement herein contained, then, and in such event, if the presiding officer or the Executive Committee so determines, a separate memorandum shall

be prepared setting forth the objections which such memorandum, if approved by the National Executive Committee, shall be filed with the report. Any such memorandum, when submitted, shall be subject to amendment.

Reports of officers shall be disposed by motion as follows:

1. To approve the report. Such actions shall constitute approval of the statements made in the report.
2. To disapprove the report. Such motion shall have the effect of disapproving any or all statements in the report, but such motion shall prevail only in the event that a memorandum setting forth the objections to such report shall have been adopted.
3. To receive and file the report. Such action shall constitute only a routine disposition of the report. A negative vote on motions 1 or 2 shall automatically cause the report to be received and filed.

c. Reports of the National Commissions shall include a report of the National Committees assigned to them, except that for good reasons by direction of the National Commander a National Committee may report direct to the National Executive Committee.

Reports of National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee shall be received and shall then be subject to disposition on the following motions:

1. To approve the report. Such action shall constitute approval of the Statements made in

the report subject to the procedure outlined in Rule 3-c of the Rules of this committee.

2. To receive and file the report. Such action shall constitute only a routine disposition of the report.

3. To re-commit the report. Such action shall return the report to the Commission or Committee of origin for further study and report and may be accompanied by specific instructions.

4. To commit the report to a special Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee.

5. To commit to the Committee of the Whole. Upon adoption of such a motion, the National Executive Committee shall resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and may thereafter alter or amend the report in whole or in part. The results of such action, however, shall again be submitted to the National Executive Committee for final disposition.

A negative vote on Motion 1 shall automatically cause the report to be received and filed.

d. Any member of the National Executive Committee shall be privileged to present a resolution in his own right in any of the following ways:

1. Under a proper order of business, in which case the subject matter thereof shall be germane.

2. Under miscellaneous business.

3. Upon unanimous consent of the Committee at any session of the National Executive Committee, at an appropriate interval in the order of business.

4. Under a suspension of the rules.

e. All National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee shall be required to present in resolution form all recommendations as to their future conduct or future policy as to matters within their scope and functions upon which it is desired or required that the National Executive Committee take action as contemplated in Rule 3-d. Such resolutions shall be filed with the Subcommittee on Resolutions prior to the first session of any meeting of the National Executive Committee at which action thereon is contemplated.

The Subcommittee on Resolutions shall report such resolutions to the National Executive Committee with appropriate recommendations immediately following the disposition of the report of the National Commission or Committee concerned.

f. Matters emanating from Squadrons, Detachments or other sources shall be defined and classified as:

1. SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – SPONSORED MATTERS:

a. Resolutions of properly constituted Sons of The American Legion organizations, to-wit: Squadrons and intermediate bodies (which have been approved by their Detachment Convention or Detachment Executive Committee), Detachment Executive Committee, Detachment Convention, National Convention or resolutions submitted by any National Commission or Committee.

b. Resolutions emanating from the National Organizations of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary or any official component thereof.

c. Official communication or directives of the National Commander.

d. Official communication of National Officers of the Sons of The American Legion.

2. OFFICIAL MATTERS:

Official matters are those which originate with Sons of The American Legion officers of officials such as Commanders or other officials of Squadrons, intermediate bodies, Detachments, the Commander of the National Organization of The American Legion or the President of the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary.

3. GENERAL MATTERS

General matters are those which originate with individual members of the Sons of The American Legion, individual citizens or as a result of communications from organizations or their officials not affiliated with the Sons of The American Legion or from agencies of Government.

Such matters shall be disposed of as follows:

Whenever matters or communications are received at National Headquarters of The American Legion, the National Adjutant of the American Legion shall analyze the subject matter and take action in one or more of the following ways:

a. Determine in accordance with his good judgment whether or not such matter or communication is basically administrative in nature, and if so:

1. Refer the matter to the appropriate Administrator, Director or Executive of The American Legion for disposition.

2. Refer the matter to the National Adjutant of the Sons of The American Legion for disposition.

b. If in the judgment of the National Adjutant of The American Legion the subject matter be of primary concern to or related to a program or function of one of the National Commissions of the Sons of The American Legion, he shall refer the same to the appropriate Commission for action or for consideration by the Commission looking toward presentation to the National Executive Committee.

c. Matters which do not fall within the above classifications or which in the opinion of the National Adjutant of the American Legion involve questions of organizational policy of sufficient importance to be considered directly by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion shall be referred to the Subcommittee on Resolution of the National the Subcommittee on Resolutions of the National Executive Committee for disposition.

d. The National Executive Committee, with the exception of the latitude in Paragraph c above, will directly consider only matters which bear the prior approval of a Detachment Convention or Detachment Executive

Committee, or referred to it by the National Convention, or which may be recommended to it by the National Commander, or be presented to it through the governing bodies of The American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary. All other matters, as hereinbefore defined, which do not have the sponsorship specified in this paragraph may become eligible for consideration by the National Executive Committee only in the event that they have been recommended for approval to the National Executive Committee by a National Commission of the Sons of The American Legion.

e. The National Liaison of the Sons of The American Legion shall keep and maintain a register of all matters officially received from Detachment (i.e., from any Detachment Convention, Detachment Executive Committee) or sponsored by a National Executive Committeeman, referred to the Commissions, and shall report these referrals to the National Executive Committee in order that the National Executive Committeemen from the respective Detachment shall be informed of the referrals previously made concerning matters which originate within their respective Detachments. This register will be continuous from meeting to meeting and continue to list a subject once placed thereon until it is reported as disposed of.

f. National Commissions when submitting their reports to the National Executive Committee shall include therein a record of the disposition of all matters previously referred to them and shall designate each by its register number if in that category.

Resolutions referred to Commissions and upon which such Commissions shall have acted in an administrative or in such other manner or shall satisfy the purport of the resolution need only be reported to the National Executive Committee as to the disposition. Resolutions referred to Commissions for study and report and referred by such Commissions to the National Executive Committee for final action shall be filed with the Subcommittee on Resolutions as contemplated in Paragraph e above, with recommendation as to their disposition.

RULE 10

Form of Resolutions

a. Resolutions which shall be offered as the direct action of the National Executive Committee shall be prepared in appropriate form containing such informative preamble in the form of "Whereas" followed by statements of fact and shall specifically set forth what statement or declaration is to receive action of the National Executive Committee. Such resolving clause or clauses shall contain the following leading language.

"RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular (or special) meeting assembled in (City, State), or (date or dates) that, etc.—and be it further

"RESOLVED, That, ect."

b. Resolutions of Squadrons' intermediate bodies or other officially constituted subordinate organizations which shall have received favor-

able action by their respective Detachment Conventions or Executive Committee and which shall have an appropriate endorsement thereof in resolution from shall be acted upon by the National Executive Committee in the form of a final Resolving clause in the following leading language:

> "And be it finally Resolved, By the National Executive Committee in regular (or special) meeting assembled in (City, State), or (date or dates) that, ect."

c. Resolutions of Detachment Conventions or Detachment Executive Committees shall be similarly acted upon by the National Executive Committee in the form of a final Resolving clause as contemplated in Paragraph b above.

d. All resolutions for consideration by the National Executive Committee not emanating from a commission or committee of the National Executive Committee shall be forwarded to the National SAL Adjutant at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting of the National Executive Committee.

RULE 11

Subcommittee on Resolutions

The Subcommittee on Resolutions of the National Executive Committee shall meet at least two (2) hours prior to any regular meeting of the National Executive Committee or any adjournment thereof.

The Subcommittee shall prepare a digest and such supplements thereto as may be necessary of all resolutions considered by it and for presentation to

this Committee, together with the recommendation of the Subcommittee.

The digest of resolutions and supplements thereto shall be given to each Committeeman at the opening of the various sessions.

The Subcommittee shall have the cooperation of all officers, the National Liaison and members of Committees and Commissions to obtain such information, facts and advice as it may deem necessary to carry out its responsibilities and duties.

The Subcommittee shall have the authority to alter, amend, redraft or substitute for any resolution submitted to it for presentation to the National Executive Committee; provided, however, that the Subcommittee shall report the original resolution and its reason for any change.

RULE 12

Transaction of Business by Mail, Email, Fax or Telephone

The National Executive Committee, without meeting together, may transact business by mail, email, fax or telephone on a matter of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed to the next regular meeting, by voting upon proposed resolutions mailed, emailed, faxed or telephoned to them by the National Adjutant through the National Liaison, with the approval of the National Commander. Thirty (30) days shall be allowed for the return, by mail, email, fax or telephone, of the votes thereon to the National Adjutant. The voting shall be considered closed at the end

of the thirty days: provided, that a majority of the members of the National Executive Committee have returned their votes by that time, or it shall be considered closed at any time prior thereto if and when all the members shall have returned their votes. Provided, further, except in the case of an election to fill a vacant office, that in the event one-third of the committee in writing objects to the ballot by mail, email, fax or telephone, the matter shall not be decided and will be considered as the first order of business at the next regular or special meeting: provided, further, that thereafter the National Adjutant shall notify the committee of the action taken.

RULE 13

Suspension of Rule

No standing rule or order of the National Executive Committee shall be suspended without fifteen (15) minutes' notice being given of the motion therefore, and no rule shall be suspended except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members present.

RULE 14

Robert's Rules of Order to Govern

Except as otherwise herein specifically provided, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern.

Sons of The American Legion

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