PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

May 8-9, 2024

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PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

...At 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 8, 2024, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Seehafer.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: I call this meeting of the National Executive Committee to order. Please join me in a salute of the colors of our country by the numbers. One, two. Please uncover. I call on National Chaplain Frank H. Carr of Virginia for the invocation, followed by the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony.

Invocation
Frank H. Carr, Virginia, National Chaplain

Amen. Before we go into our invocation, can we give a moment of silence for all those veterans who have gone on before us to that spirit army whose footfall causes no sound, but we pray in our memory their souls go marching on. One moment.

...The National Executive Committee observed a moment of silence.

Amen. *...Chorus of "Amen."*

Let us pray. In the book of Psalms, the 23rd chapter, King David declares, "The Lord God is my shepherd." And if you believe that the Lord is your shepherd, we're praying that you let Him shepherd our hearts, our minds, our souls as we go through this meeting today of this, your American Legion National Executive Committee.

Father, lead us that we might employ Your wisdom as we make decisions and plans to sustain and improve this, Your American Legion, today. And all our actions will give You the glory, praise and honor as we serve You and this country as veterans, as active-duty soldiers and their families. That we, God, might be that beacon of light for all those that seek information, knowledge and want to be a part of an organization that's the one for You. For it's in the mighty name of the one true and living God we do pray, Father. Amen and amen. *...Chorus of "Amen."*

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Frank H. Carr, Virginia, National Chaplain

POW/MIA empty chair is placed at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the many American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoner from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital effort. Amen and amen. *...Chorus of "Amen."*

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Thank you, Chaplain Carr. I now call on National Sergeant-at-Arms Jim W. Kell from the Department of Wisconsin to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Please be seated. I now call on National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler of Virginia for the roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana
Randy D. Edwards, Utah
William R. Roy, New Hampshire
Robert M. "Mark" Shreve, Georgia
Raymond L. Vail, Kansas

Past National Commanders

John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia (Excused)
Robert S. Turner, Georgia (Excused)
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia (Excused)
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (Excused)
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania (Excused)
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas (Excused)
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 (Excused)
Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia
James W. Oxford, North Carolina (Excused)
Paul E. Dillard, Texas
Vincent J. Troiola, New York (Excused)

National Executive Committee Members

Department	**Committee Member**	**Alternate**
Alabama	Hardwick O. Hall, Sr.	
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Steve W. Aguirre	
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman	
California	Robert C. Heinisch (Excused)	Larry Leonardo, Sr.
Colorado		
Connecticut	Robert S. Murray	
Delaware	Michael A. Havel	
D.C.	Christopher V. Herndon	
Florida	Jim V. Ramos	
France	James M. Settle (Excused)	Hans J. Stockenberger
Georgia	Phil Youngblood	
Hawaii	Francis E. Riddell, Jr.	
Idaho	Robert L. Skinner	
Illinois	Roy Weber	

Indiana	Kenneth R. Cooper	
Iowa	Dennis J. Soppe	
Kansas	Dan K. Wiley	
Kentucky	William O. Moore, Jr.	
Latin America	Michael D. Wood	
Louisiana	Rudolph A. Bourg, Sr.	
Maine	Lloyd H. Woods	
Maryland	Melvin G. Smullen	
Massachusetts	Jodie L. Pajak	
Michigan	Larry C. Money	
Minnesota	William C. Barbknecht (Excused)	Peggy Moon
Mississippi	Steve Sweet	
Missouri	George E. Scarborough	
Montana	Larry G. Dobb (Excused)	Glen Sharbono
Nebraska	Frederick C. Craigie	
Nevada	Jeanette R. Evans	
New Hampshire	Robert E. Dionne, Sr.	
New Jersey	Berley Hanna, Jr.	
New Mexico	Edward Cheatham, Jr.	
New York	Timothy S. Van Patten	
North Carolina	Davis S. Shore	
North Dakota	Dean Overby	
Ohio	Stephen M. Masowick	
Oklahoma	Timothy W. Smith	
Oregon	Kevin John Owens	
Pennsylvania	E. Michael Stelacio	
Philippines	Michael S. Napsey (Excused)	Carl A. Nord (Excused)
Puerto Rico	Ramon L. Rivera (Excused)	Antonio Arroyo
Rhode Island	Ronald P. Levasseur	
South Carolina	Joe A. Lysaght	
South Dakota	Dennis O. Brenden	
Tennessee	Robert W. Hensley	
Texas	Kenneth W. Mueller	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Thomas J. Scanlon (Excused)	Catherine Tester (Excused)
Virginia	Linden B. Dixon, Jr.	
Washington		
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Robert L. Shappell	
Wyoming	Keith R. Davidson	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll call. You have a quorum.

Acceptance of Agenda

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: The next order of business is the acceptance of the meeting's agenda. *...Second.*

A motion has been made and seconded to accept today's agenda. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion Carried.

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meetings

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: We will now have the reading of the minutes from our previous meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: A motion to dispense the reading of the minutes since they were mailed in digest form. *….Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion and second have been made to approve the minutes without being read since they have been printed in digest form. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion carried.

Disposal of Letters or Communications

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: The next item on the agenda is the disposal of letters or communications. Mr. Adjutant, do you have any letters or communications?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: No, sir, there are no letters or communications. *...National Vice Commander Shreve assumed the chair.*

Opening Remarks
Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, National Commander

First and foremost, good morning national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and guests. Are you ready? *...Chorus of "Yeah!"*

In case you haven't heard, this city is hosting a race in a couple of weeks. Just as the Indianapolis 500 is often called "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing," in recent years it has included the greatest veterans organization in America, and that, family, is us, The American Legion. *(Applause)*

But as I've said many times before, The American Legion doesn't just sponsor a car because we are race fans. Rather, we do it because we are fans of veterans. We do it because we want to change lives and save lives. We do it because we have a mission, yes, a mission that is relevant and has purpose. And what is that mission, family? It's this *(raising index finger)*. Do you understand what I mean when I do this? One, be the one, as in saving one, one at a time.

You know, as a result of Alex Palou's victory at the Indy Grand Prix last year, his image, but more importantly, the mission of our family, that is The American Legion, will be featured on the Grand Prix tickets along with airport and escalator signage. *(Applause)*

Tens of thousands of more spectators will see that life-changing and life-saving message of Be the One. A message, a message, if we would have done it through regular TV commercials and/or ads, would have easily eclipsed, and I want you to write this down, it would have eclipsed $82 million. Understand that. I had people that were in arms because of racing. This is what the 21st Century was getting at. We want our name known. We want our mission known. And the good Lord has blessed us through this avenue as we continue to be, yes, wise stewards of our precious resources. And yet, again, making our name known as we embrace and proclaim our mission: Saving veterans lives. *(Applause)*

Family, I'm also excited about the relationship that The American Legion struck up with Columbia University. Now, family, aside from the current political protest that's going on, I hope you don't have to be an historian to know how valuable Columbia was decades ago in establishing links between Agent Orange and numerous deadly diseases, links that now have become laws that have changed and saved lives.

That's why we have joined with Columbia University again to help with our Be the One mission. Columbia experts are providing online training to those who want to learn more about interacting with and responding to veterans in crisis. These sessions are available by Zoom, with the next two scheduled for May 16 and May 30. I'll say it again. May 16 and May 30. Just go to betheone.org to register. The sessions are only 90 minutes and very worthwhile. It's the type of information that has and will save lives.

Now, more than one person has told me that they don't feel qualified to counsel a veteran in crisis. You see, friends, this training is not to make you some mental health expert or a Legion of the year counselor. Rather, this training gives you the opportunity to learn, learn from the experts and be aware to also be a good resource.

You know, as a pastor, I can tell you the most important attribute to have as a counselor is the ability to listen. So, whether you know the various signs of suicide or have no idea about your attributes, much less you can spell it, all of us should know what resources are available. This we can control, right? For all of our Be the One resources are available for download on our Be the One website. And toolkits, which I see are on your desks in front of you, those too will also be widely distributed.

You see, family, Be the One doesn't necessarily mean you have to do it all by yourself. It's really a family effort. For you, brothers and sisters, are in leadership positions for a reason. Do you believe that? *...Chorus of "Yes." (Applause)*

I know I do. And you must take, then, this message back. You need to take it back. This isn't a command, but this is from the heart. Your words, just think about that, your words could mean the difference between life or death.

And so, let's continue, then, to make our voices heard, heard on this, because every veteran's life is valuable. That's what we are saying when we engage, then, in our Buddy Checks. And I know I can get an amen on that. *...Chorus of "Amen."*

We can have a major impact on suicide prevention because this is a room where things happen. Take it in. I want to remind you, it wasn't that long ago, but ten years goes like this *(snaps fingers);* right?

But ten years ago this very month, the Department of Veterans Affairs faced an existential crisis. Back in 2014, Phoenix VA Medical Center and dozens of other VA centers across the country were embroiled in scandals over secret waiting lists, manipulated recordkeeping, and other areas of malfeasance. Remember that? And National Commander Dellinger, backed by the NEC, demanded the resignations of top VA officials, including the secretary. Town halls, congressional hearings, and a media blitz followed. Leaders resigned. But more importantly, reform came.

We have achieved legislative victories regarding the MISSION Act, appeals modernization, and of course the PACT Act, just to name a few. In the last decade, VA went from a system worth saving to a system worth celebrating. A recent survey revealed that 91.8% of VA outpatients trusted the quality of care that they received. Even in my travels, and I'm thinking I'm about at 44 states not including the foreign, and counting, the veterans that I have visited face-to-face all stated that the care was outstanding. Outstanding. *(Applause)*

And I don't think they would lie to a pastor. *(Laughter)*

Now, VA is far from perfect, but they are light years ahead of where they were back in 2014. And still, I challenge anyone to find a better overall system. If The American Legion can achieve such fundamental change in the nation's largest health-care system, just think of all the other great things we can accomplish. Like seeing predatory claim sharks prosecuted. Electronic records modernized. Man, we've been talking about this for years. Let's get it done! *(Applause)*

And disabled veterans tax, also known as concurrent receipt, abolished. I am proud that The American Legion changes lives and saved lives every single day. But we can change and save even more lives if we have even more members.

Now, obviously, our membership base is not as large as it was, again, back in 2014, but neither is the overall veteran population. However, let's not make that an excuse but, rather, motivation. That passion. Yes, I had fun with it, that eye of the tiger kind of thing. You know, that desire to help our military, our veterans and their families. And yes, even America. America.

So why join? You hear that question, don't you? Why should I join? Well, Legionnaires are answering that question, or should I say, doing an awesome job on communicating that "why." Remember the importance of purpose and relevance? If I was visiting your department, you heard me say that. Purpose and relevance. We're here to

change and save lives. We're not just some kind of social club. My NEC brothers and sisters, you're not just here to occupy a seat or to get some kind of per diem. We're here to make a difference between life and death. We will, we will be the most trained veterans organization in suicide prevention. We will. *(Applause)*

And why is that? Not solely because we are leaders, but because we want veterans to live. What a message. What a message. What a message of purpose and relevance. This is where it's at. This is why people would say, "I want to be on that team. I want to be a part of that family."

That's why more and more posts are not only embracing but actually conducting their own Buddy Checks, and frankly, it's working. People out there are extremely excited about membership again. You know about it, don't you? We are dang close to doing something we haven't done in years. With more and more family members, we can continue to celebrate each year then, that through our membership. Why? But through our membership, get this, nearly 2,500 teens learn about the U.S. Constitution through our oratorical contests. We need people like this on college campuses, huh? *(Applause)*

Almost 12,000 young people learn safe marksmanship skills through our Junior Shooting Sports, and nearly 50,000 athletes play American Legion Baseball. Fifty freaking thousand, huh? *(Laughter)*

And I saved this one for last because, yes, it's a presidential election year, but it's not just 1,600 but 16,000 young men attend Boys State and Boys Nation, and let's not forget the thousands of young women who attend Girls State and Girls Nation as well. Family, there's no doubt about it. A larger American Legion family can change and save even more lives. *(Applause)*

So, as you can see, our youth programs also can change and save lives, answering that why, showing that purpose and relevance, and yes, emphasizing good citizenship that is the love of our country, America. And that means studying issues of importance and also voting accordingly. While it's true that The American Legion Constitution calls us to be non-political, that has been widely interpreted in today's language to mean nonpartisan. We can't endorse candidates or political parties, but we sure can meet with them and we sure can ask their positions on our legislative priorities.

At our National Conventions, we always invite the two major candidates for president of the United States. Departments often do the same for candidates to their state offices. Just to be fair about it, though, we extend the same opportunities to all the other major candidates. But we should ask them questions like this: Do you know that 22% of military spouses face unemployment? Or like more than 60,000 military servicemembers earn less than 15 bucks per hour in basic pay? Or that child care in military communities is unavailable or unaffordable? So just as I asked Congress just a few months ago, what's your plan? You can ask the same thing. This, my friends, is dealing with the quality of life for our military, something we're also highly uplifting, right? *(Applause)*

Another issue of major concern to The American Legion is illegal immigration. Though our National Security Commission is immersed heavily into this subject, this is an area that touches on all four of our pillars. All four. Just think of it, 40% of border patrol agents are what? Veterans. I just visited the border down in Eagle Pass, Texas, with National Security Director Marquez. This follows an earlier visit to the border in Arizona by Chairman Shuman. And as a candidate, I was at the border, too, in Arizona.

What I saw, though, in Eagle Pass was both heartbreaking and impressive. Yes, I was impressed by the caliber of men and women serving in border patrol, sheriffs' departments and guard units from multiple states. But then seeing scattered shoes in the middle of the desert worn by a child, shoes that were this big *(indicating).* That's infants, almost. Muddy backpacks lying in debris and hygiene items in the brush. The morning-after pills scattered all over still in the packs. It looked like a third world country, what I saw. Made me want to vomit.

You can't help but picture the hell that some of those families go through in making that dangerous trip in entering our country. If the natural elements weren't bad enough, they were subject, then, to sexual exploitation. Talking about sick. I had a Legionnaire talk to

me about that, where they have bands on their little wrists and they're different colors. And if it was a pink, that was prime real estate, think of that, for the highest bidder. But if it was an orange band, you were trash.

Drug trafficking and extreme violence by smugglers and cartels. We were at, then, the border not very long, but we've been told that the physical barriers which this body called for two years after in Resolution No. 23 had been effective. The Laredo area has one of the lowest levels of illegal crossings on our southern border. During my visit, we uncovered a white X. That marker, lying flat on that ground that we just uncovered as we were scanning the area, turned out to be a rendezvous point for drug cartels as they entered our country.

Texas is fortunate to have had the support of the National Guard from at least 16 other states. Every state in the country has been impacted financially from those who enter illegally and await processing. This is a national problem which will require bipartisan solutions and bipartisan action by our Congress, president and governors. These are just some of the issues we would like our office holders and office seekers to address.

So please encourage your districts and posts to do what The American Legion does so well, and that is to engage in the process. We have an influential voice. But family, we need to use it. *(Applause)*

In doing so, let's also use it as we continue, then, with legion.org/action. Remember that from last time? Embrace it, do it yourselves, and spread that word. We had a little saying that my aide and I always say. "You're not done until the good Lord calls you home." Do it. Spread it. Legion.org/action. This is our legislative priorities. This is where it's at. This is our voice. And yes, let's use it, that voice of ours, as we then fill those vacancies with our legislative council members.

I'm not going to call the nine departments by name. This reverend doesn't do that kind of stuff. I'm going to talk to you face-to-face. But I want them filled within a few weeks. I'll be talking with you, all right? *(Applause)*

And let's do something that we can also be in control of, and that is to complete those CPRs. We're going to do it 100%. *(Applause)*

And my vice commanders are grinning from ear to ear because they're saying, "Oh, let me call you people." *(Laughter)*

But overall, more importantly and most important, let's use our God-given ability to change lives and save lives. For remember He, and that is our Supreme Commander, brought us into this very room where things happen. In this case, it's about life and service.

From my heart to your heart, I love you, thank you and God continue to bless you and our beautiful American Legion as well as our God-given country called America. Thank you. *(Standing applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, a motion to receive and file your opening remarks. …*Second.*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SHREVE: There's been a motion and a second to receive and file the opening remarks of the national commander. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, those in favor, say aye. Opposed, say nay. Motion carries.

...National Commander Seehafer resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: This chair now recognizes National Historian Edward DeGumbia of Connecticut for his report.

Oral Report: National Historian
Edward A. DeGumbia, Connecticut, National Historian

Talk about being put in a tough spot, huh? Good morning, everyone. I'll be a little bit shorter than the commander, but his words are very important. Saw him in Washington and it was fantastic there. And some of those people didn't know what was hitting them.

National Commander Seehafer, national officers, National Executive Committee, Legionnaires and guests, good morning. ...*Chorus of "Good morning."*

I assumed this position in North Carolina last year at convention, and it's been a great honor for myself. My first duty was to oversee the judging of the past year's histories. That was accomplished very easily except for one thing: the power outages. You ever try to read books in the dark? We had to do that. But we went from wherever the windows were open to where the sun came in, they moved around and got that job completed. It was hard to do that.

Now, I had a great honor to go to the national commander's testimony in Washington. It was eye opening. I hadn't been there in a number of years, and actually, to me, it was a disappointment with the amount of congressional people that were in that room. They were very sporadic. But he got his message across, and they were paying attention.

Then I had an opportunity to go down to Florida where a post down there was doing a Be the One campaign kickoff. Commander was just a couple of hours down the street, but I went to this post. They were very community wise, embraced in that. They had other posts around in the area, they had the hospitals, they had stores, they had everybody involved with Be the One, and a big sign, it was a 5K. So, it was a very good day down in Florida.

Last fall, a resolution went through here on the way that we judge histories. Guess what? We're moving on into the future. It's going to go digital. It's going to be hard for some people to want to do that, but we understand. It's going digital for a reason. It's easier for the younger people to understand, which we all know we need. And the way that it will be judged, it will be online. Everything will be there. We don't have to call people in to judge it. We'll still have hard books this year to judge, but we won't need as many people because a lot it will be digital.

Currently I'm working on securing the national historian's luncheon in New Orleans, and I have contacted the World War II Museum to be a speaker there, and they said they would. So, anybody who is a past historian, you want to come to the luncheon, come on in. You'll get a good view of the museum.

Finally, my job wouldn't be the same as it is; it would be a lot harder if it wasn't for the library staff. Howard and his team are phenomenal. They keep you in line. Howard emails me, keeps me in line. The girls keep me in line. You know, and that's a hard thing to do. So, I hope to see you at the luncheon, and that's the end of my report. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Report: National Historian
Edward A. DeGumbia, Connecticut, National Historian

National Commander Seehafer, national officers, National Executive Committee members, Legionnaires and guests. Good morning. My time as the National Historian started at the convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, this was a great honor. My first duty was to oversee and record the judging of the past year histories. This was done and reported at the Fall NEC meeting. This task was completed, but it was done with a group of historians that worked under duress. It was hard to read and write in the dark, but the power outage did not stop the task at hand.

I had the great honor to go and see the national commander's testimony before Congress this spring. I also had the opportunity go to Florida to assist in a Be the One awareness program. They had great attendance from around the area.

At the fall meeting there was a resolution with reference to digital formatted histories from the posts and departments. This year will be the first step of that process. Letters were sent out to all the departments on how the process would be handled. I am looking forward to the future where there will be more department and post histories recorded. As things around us change so shall we!

Currently, I am working to secure the national historian's luncheon at the National Convention in the city of New Orleans. I have contacted the museum to speak.

Finally, the job of the historian would be so much harder if it were not for Howard Trace, library and museum director, and his professional staff for their continuing support.

The National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion and Legion members do really appreciate all of their hard work. Commander Seehafer, it has not been just pleasure, but an honor, to serve in this capacity as a member of your team this year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of National Historian Edward DeGumbia. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Historian Edward DeGumbia. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion carried.

...National Vice Commander Vail assumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Next, it is my high honor to introduce a woman who has a passion for serving veterans and their families. A member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 in Alaska, she was elected last summer to lead the nation's largest veterans auxiliary. She is eligible through the military service of her father, Ray Allington; her adoptive father, Keith LaChance; and her son, Kyle. Ladies and gentlemen, the national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, my good friend Lisa Williamson. *(Standing applause)*

Greetings: Lisa Williamson, Alaska
National President, American Legion Auxiliary

Please, please, please be seated. This is incredible. I am not a person who normally gets nervous in front of a crowd, as many people know, but I just got a little nervous there when the commander started talking about me. First of all, I want to thank you for your time this morning to allow me a few minutes. I have an incredible national commander in your Commander Dan Seehafer. I think that you will agree. Please. *(Applause)*

I also have another national commander in the back of the room right now, Sons of The American Legion, Don J.R. Hall. So, I think you will agree with that. *(Applause)*

And let's get this out there right now. I am the oldest. *(Laughter)*

Because I know there's going to be some comment one way or another. Only a little bit, but it's like having two brothers, and we do everything as a family. So, first of all, to show that family, I want to present you with this check from The American Legion Auxiliary, on behalf of the Auxiliary, for the VCF. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

And like I said, as family, I raised my kids in this organization. I worked at our department headquarters for the Legion for about a decade and I saw how family worked together, the Legion Family worked. And I was so thrilled when I found out I was going to be paired with Commander Seehafer and Commander Hall, because I knew we were going to be able to work as a family.

So, this year my focus also is about military and veteran suicide. And I think that it's great that, as a family, we are walking together in the same direction. I want to tell you, I recently was at a post, they had a dinner, there was about 80 people there. And there was an empty seat at the front table, so they quickly threw the post commander in there. And I spoke on Be the One and gave some numbers, gave some stats, talked about how we can talk about it, just destigmatizing it by talking about it, that it's okay to not be okay, and talked about it.

And in the end, they passed him the mike just to introduce his post officers. And he said right then and there in front of 80 people, for the first time ever publicly, about how he struggled with suicide. His wife came up to me later and said he never talked about his struggles with suicide and mental health until that night. I know I can speak a little bit, not like our commander for sure, but something clicked with him and that he knows that talking about it is the way to go. So, keep on talking about it, that it's okay to not be okay.

We have a lot of things. Ask, we listen, and we reach out. Ask, listen, reach out. The Columbia University partnership is incredible. Do you know that we have, in the last 25 years, we've had more deaths by suicide than we've had by combat. Think about that. That's

a huge number. And by us talking about it, we can be the one to save one. Little by little, that number will come down.

I'm passionate about this. I don't know what's going to happen after our wonderful year together. But I can tell you, right here in my heart, I'm still going to push Be the One because it means a lot to all of us and it's in my heart. So, I thank you very much. Let me end you with three words: Be the One. Thank you all. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: A youth coach for more than 25 years, our next guest is the grandson of World War II veteran, Ed Hall, and a member of Glen Burnie Sons of The American Legion Squadron 40 in Maryland.

He is committed to making young people feel welcome in the Sons. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Sons of The American Legion National Commander Donald Lee Hall Jr. *(Standing applause)*

Greetings: Donald L. Hall, Jr., Maryland
National Commander, Sons of The American Legion

Good morning. I've said it a million times: I always feel bad when veterans stand for me. It is I who stand up here today because of your service, and I who have the freedoms to do the things that I do because of your service. So always let me start out by saying thank you first for your service and fighting, representing that flag to make America what it is today. Thank you on behalf of the Sons of The American Legion. *(Applause)*

The Sons just wrapped up our meetings. We had an incredible weekend. Many of you know, last year we hit an all-time high in membership, which made us a bigger, stronger American Legion Family, which is what we need to be. And right now, we are sitting at 97% on membership and headed in the direction to get another all-time high in membership. It will make us a bigger and stronger American Legion Family. *(Applause)*

I don't know if every national commander for the Sons have ever felt like this, but my job is to promote his job. My job is to take The American Legion's words and to send them to the Sons and make sure it gets out. And I think it's happening more than ever. And I say it all the time, the words "changing lives and saving lives." That's what our commander has told us to do: Carry this message forward so we can do it.

We're not veterans, but we can certainly listen. And a whole lot of times that's all they need, is somebody to listen, somebody to be the one and sit there and listen. And maybe let somebody know: Hey, we need to get this veteran help. Because that's what we all need to be about: One mission, one goal, saving one veteran.

The Sons of The American Legion, we believe in Be the One. We believe in The American Legion. You know what we've done for the programs for years. And this year we strive to try to hit that $10 million mark for CWF over the years. The other day, $92,000 came across the stage for CWF, and we sit less than $30,000 away from hitting the $10 million mark. *(Applause)*

So, I ask you to help me. Go back and tell your Sons, get a check out, write it and send it in, let's get this $30,000 out of the way so we can celebrate in New Orleans, $10 million that the Sons have given the CWF, because that's what we do to take care of our children. And send that check in for VCF. That's what we can do to take care of our veterans and our children. That's what the Sons are here for: to take your message, take it back home, get it out, and to be the one.

Thank you all for your time this morning. I hope if there's anything I can ever do for any of you, I've been so welcome in your departments. I can't tell you how much that means for the Sons of The American Legion to be treated so good.

Thank you all for your service, thank you what you continue to do for our veterans and thank you for being the one. *(Standing applause)*

...National Commander Seehafer resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Family, we continue. The chair now recognizes National Vice Commander Robert M. Shreve of Georgia for his report**.**

Oral Report: National Vice Commander
Robert M. Shreve, Georgia

Good morning, commander, members of the NEC, national staff, past national commanders, Legion Family members and distinguished guests. It's an honor to serve in this organization, and I want to thank the leaders of the Central Region for their efforts in support of the national message and the national priorities. There's going to be no surprises in this report, and all details of this report will be submitted in writing as well.

While we made great progress in the Central Region this year, we continued to evaluate what we were doing to ensure that we were on the right track. But we saw some challenges, we saw some risks and we saw some opportunities. And a few examples of these are leadership transition planning. We know it's important that, as leaders transition into new positions, they should be prepared.

Secondly, social media exposure. We know that it's great to get out on social media to let people know what we're doing, but there will be a disgruntled few that will use that as well to criticize what we do. We know that's a risk.

One of the other things we want to do is make sure that each post adopts the 21st Century report as well as integrate technology, protect our brand and change the mindset. It's not bragging, it's informing when we tell people what we do, especially through the CPR. But we also looked at some of the best practices in the Central Region. Examples of those are, the number one, Buddy Checks. Buddy Checks is significant on multiple levels for our organization.

The development of subject matter experts, such as parliamentarians and chairs of commissions at the state level or the department level. We also saw generational mentoring where people were sitting down with our younger members, teaching them. That is a great best practice that they're working on and working with in the Central Region.

Our department colleges that I visited were strong and they were making a difference in the departments. Also, another best practice was split-session training where they were working on the time with our younger veterans and giving them the opportunity to take training on their time instead of on our time.

We also saw social events at posts with the entire American Legion Family being involved. Community service, and creating community partnerships, was another best practice I saw in the Central Region. Also, legislation at all levels: at the community, in the counties, at the state level, as well as working with the national representatives, was strong in the Central Region. They also are very engaged with the VA and the local state veterans' facilities, being there to help veterans and to take care of veterans.

I will tell you, from my experience in the Central Region this year, it has been a great experience, and they are doing a wealth of good for our American Legion. With this, the Central Region will continue to provide support and care for veterans every day, and they will continue to be the one. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve. And commander, that is my report. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Mark Shreve. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Shreve. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion carried.

Oral Report: National Vice Commander
Raymond L. Vail, Kansas

Thank you, National Commander Seehafer. Good morning, everyone, National Adjutant Wheeler, members of the NEC, Legionnaires and friends and guests. As he said, I am Raymond Vail from the Department of Kansas, and I am a proud, honored member of this American Legion and proud to be a member of the national vice commanders.

As a national vice commander, I was asked here. We got an email about, "We want you to tell what you've done and what you've learned on your tour as the national vice commander." Well, I already had a program and a report already made out, then I had to go back and change what I did. It said, "You make sure it's done in three to five minutes." I think I can do it in three to five minutes. I hope I can, anyway.

But I'm going to go back about ten years, nine or ten years to relate a story. We were doing a membership drive in southeast Kansas down near where I live, going around, knocking on doors, talking to people, leaving door knockers, information sheets for members to call us if they're not home.

Well, that Saturday morning I got a call from a young man, a young veteran in a town a few miles from us. He said, "I got your door knocker here, explains that you've been here. But I don't know anything about The American Legion, never been in The American Legion. I don't know anything about it."

I said, "Well, we're having a spaghetti dinner tonight about around 5:00. If you got time, why don't you come down here, why don't you come down here and see it, and I'll serve you the best spaghetti dinner and meatballs you ever had."

He said, "Okay, I'll be there."

So, he came down. We talked a few minutes and I said, "You go ahead and eat your dinner. I've got to cook some more spaghetti. When you get done, look around the post, and I'll be out in a few minutes to talk to you."

So, when I got caught up, went out there and I saw the young man. He was looking around in the post. Of course, we have pictures of the past post commanders and the past Auxiliary presidents and stuff. And he said, "Wow, all the plaques and stuff on the wall." And he said, "Man, there's a lot of history here in this post here in Arma."

And I said, "Yes, there is. There's a lot of history here, a lot of memories."

He said, "I would like to be part of that."

I said, "Great." I said, "You join our post, and you can start making your memories and your history right here in Arma."

He joined, but unfortunately, about two months later he got a big promotion in the company, and he transferred out. But that was the easy part.

I get questions every time and every place that I go, just about, and I'm sure that all of you do too, as well: What do we do to get the young members in our post in The American Legion and how do we keep them? That's one of the most frequently asked questions I get. So, I relate to them about this young man that was there, about what he was wanting to do.

We have to give these individuals an opportunity to create their memories, to make a history in our post and in our American Legion. So how do we do that? You've got to listen to them, listen to what they say, what their concerns are, what their values are and what they want to do in their life. You've got to share with them the responsibilities and activities in that post so that they can learn to be a true American Legion member. And you've got to delegate. Delegate the responsibilities and the authority to let them do things that they want to do. That's the easy part.

But where do those members come from? Well, The American Legion will tell us where they're at. They give us all the information we need. I don't know how to get on the computer and get that information, but I know people that do. *(Laughter)*

And I don't, but I do. But anyway, The American Legion tells us, in those eight states that I'm a part of, they are Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa, right in the breadbasket of the United States of America. You

want to hear corn grow? In a couple of months, go down to Iowa and Minnesota, Nebraska, you'll hear corn growing. It's easy, it's a great sound.

But what they tell us in those eight states, eight departments, there's 1,508,000 veterans in those states that's eligible for membership in The American Legion. If the Midwest had 100% membership, we would have 204,903 members. That leaves 1,200,000 or so out there doing nothing, that we don't have.

So, we've got to get out there, we've got to participate in membership drives, we've got to knock on doors, we've got to get those young members in. That's what I've learned in the 39 years I've been in the American Legion and amplified in the few months I've been a national vice commander. The members are out there, we just have to go out and get them. Use the Buddy Check for the members you have.

One thing that we do in our post and that we've done it here just recently, we've taken the unpaid membership cards and divide them up and go on out and knocked on doors and called these people and got them. We're going to be 100% membership in that post by the time of our Department Convention in May, the 30th of May. We don't have as many members as we used to have. We used to have over 200 members. Now we are quoted as having a quota of 51 members. When I took back over the post a couple of weeks ago, we had 44. Two days after that we had 48. By the time I get back in Kansas, by Friday we will be a 100% post.

So that's what we have to do. Get out there and talk to people, knock on doors, get those members in. That's what I've learned in The American Legion. So, commander, that's my report, good, bad or indifferent. I hope that's good. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Vail. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Vail. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Opposed? Motion carried. The chair now recognizes National Vice Commander Charles D. Aucoin of Louisiana for his report.

Oral Report: National Vice Commander
Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana

Commander Seehafer, national officers, members of the National Executive Committee, past national commanders, guests and members of the Legion Family, good morning. What a great day it is to be from the Southeast Region. The eleven departments of the Southeast Region are again still number one in membership and working the programs of this great organization. Oop. ...*Several NECmen responded, "Oop."*

Race to the Top, those awards have just been given out. I'm an old-school membership guy, so I'm going to go there first. I want to congratulate Department of Texas, won three different categories; Florida, two different categories. The Southeast is still dominating in membership. Thank you, thank you, thank you for what you do for this great organization. ...*Several NECmen responded, "Oop."*

As I've had the opportunity to visit the departments in our region, I was greeted with respect and the great hospitality that you would expect of a national officer. All members of the American Legion Family were working on their particular programs and different projects, and I'm confident that each one will be worked and will be completed, and then they will be reported on. They'll file their CPRs, and the squadrons will do their reports also.

Overall, it's been a great experience thus far. One thing that I've learned is that every department works certain programs, but they all do it many different ways. Training, some do training by department, some by district, and unfortunately, some very little at all.

What a great experience, though. It's really been, it's been great. I've shared the podium with many people, from Medal of Honor recipients to blue cap Legionnaires. The

best part is that this journey is not but maybe halfway over. You know, timewise it's maybe more than 50%, but my visitations are just really gearing up.

Here in a week or two, I'm going to have the opportunity to go to Annapolis to the Naval Academy and make a presentation on your behalf. It's quite an honor and I'm really looking forward to it. Between the months of June and July, I have five more Department Conventions to make. Wherever I've been or will go in the future, the message will be the same: Be the One, Buddy Checks and membership. Be your brothers' and sisters' keepers. Look out for one another. Veterans working for veterans.

In closing, I want to thank Commander Seehafer for the opportunity to serve on this great team. I need to thank Matt Herndon, I don't know if he's here or not, Kellie Adams for all the work she does in reporting the membership, and all of that staff for their great assistance. I want to particularly thank Ken George, he's our liaison to the Southeast group. He's done a great job for us this year. He's answered every question that everyone has possibly been able to ask. And I want to tell you, he's had a lot of questions asked. He's done a great job.

Mr. Commander, thank you again for the opportunity again to speak. God bless each and every one of you and God bless America. That is my report, sir. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Charlie Aucoin. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Aucoin. Any discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion carried. The chair now recognizes National Vice Commander William R. Roy of New Hampshire for his report.

Oral Report: National Vice Commander
William R. Roy, New Hampshire

Commander Seehafer, members of the NEC, Legion family, guests. To tell you the truth, this has really been a trip. It's a lot more than I expected. And I can say it in one word: amazement. Competence, character, commitment, the three Cs of what National Commander Seehafer has said this year.

Would all the department commanders of the Northeast please stand? The Northeast Region, please stand. All the Northeast department commanders, they're not all here, but I want to thank you for what you've done. I want to thank you for how you treated me. But I also want to thank you, commander. This is where the rubber meets the road. They are promoting the programs. They are doing CPRs, veterans. They do a terrific job every day. And your year is going to go by fast. Probably when you first started, you thought it was going to take forever.

We all know our number one program, our mission, is Be the One and it's personal. In April of 1991, this just came to me when I went to school this year, I had forgotten about it. In April 1991, we had an installation of officers in my place of employment. I worked at the post office. So, it's always a good feast. Every two years it happens. So, we're at the table, my wife, her cousin Carrie and her husband Dick who is also a postal member.

So as the night went on, like I said, had a great time, camaraderie, dancing, great food, even an open bar. So as the night came on, we started talking about issues. Carrie and Dick had brought their good friends, their close friends Jim and Amy. Now, the Gulf War had just ended in 1991. That issue came up and they had said to me and my wife, "Oh, by the way, my son got mobilized," who is in the National Guard.

I said, "Really? What did he have to say about it?" Now, I had only been a Legion member for six years. And Agent Orange was just coming on the map, and we really did not know too much about PTSD. I said, "What did he have to say about it?"

They said, "Nothing. Every time we ask him something, he won't talk it." They said, "By the way, his personality changed 180 degrees."

I said "Wow." I said, "Well, maybe in time he'll come around, everything will be okay."

So, I go home that night, I said to my wife, "You know, I'm going to go to the post Monday." I said, "I'm going to bring this up." Now, Monday went into Tuesday, Tuesday went into Wednesday. One week, two weeks, three weeks, one month, two months, three months. Let's fast-forward, another two years. We're at that installation ceremony again. Again, that same cast of characters. As the night goes on, we're talking about different things. I said, "Jim, by the way, how is your son doing?"

He shakes his head. "He didn't make it. It got the best of him." His wife had a tear in her eye. I said, "I don't know what to say."

So, I have very few regrets in my life. This one is right up there. When they say, "Be the One" and it's personal, act right away. Do not wait a minute. You have to act yesterday. Thank you. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Roy. ….*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Roy. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion carried. The chair now recognizes National Vice Commander Randy D. Edwards of Utah for his report.

Oral Report: National Vice Commander
Randy D. Edwards, Utah

Commander Seehafer, national past national commanders, Adjutant Wheeler, national staff, National Executive Committee, special guests, honored guests and our visitors. The Western Region is proud to report that, even through the obstacles of two departments losing their charters, fire destroying the Maui area, the historical building in Ketchikan, the loss of lives and individuals of our leadership, and the fires, floods, and with the landslides, the fires, and the destruction that we've had in California, the leadership are blessed through the loss of these departments and are still motivated and determined. The Western Region American Legion Family will continue to support and provide the remarkable work ahead of us because of the ordinary people that are doing extraordinary things.

I almost feel like I'm the commander's first sergeant and sergeant major. It's our responsibility to make sure that the commander's message and his missions and his plan of action is being taken care of. We're providing the national commander on reporting that he gave to us at the national conference and several times through the legislative action, Washington, D.C. spring and fall conferences.

We are continuing to do the commander's plans of action, one being Be the One, is changing and saving lives. We're reuniting with them from the COVID-19 and making sure that they're okay. We're more concerned about their well-being than we are about their money. It's important that we show our compassion in caring for individuals, providing servant leadership and membership.

We provide the leadership to serve and not to be served. I appreciate that more than anything because I've realized that there's more that I don't know than I do know. To serve is personal not only to ourselves, but to care for others outside of ourselves is even more important. In promoting membership, we welcome everyone and recruit for the entire American Legion Family.

We've been working with the grassroots legislation campaign. In the Western Region, out of the five states that had done the most legislation and recognized at the testimony in Washington, D.C., four of the five states came from the Western Region.

We are concerned about those being protected from predatory claim sharks and the support of those that are being vetted by the VA and accredited. Our priority will be to support The American Legion and the everyday legislation. State Lobby Day was also

recognized by the Western Region, California has recognized as a State Lobby Day at the post.

Consolidated post reports. The Western Region is working on that, and at the end of this report, it's too early to report what we're doing, but we're pushing consolidated post reports. Consolidated reports are much more important, not only to the commander for his testimonial reports to legislation, but it's important in your local areas. There are many posts that have lost their facilities because of the loss of membership or not being active or inactive. But the CPRs, in going to your city mayor, going to your county commissions, going to your state legislator, provides that property that you need to be able to provide the business that you need to conduct within your communities.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity this year to serve you and to represent you, and to support this great institution and organization, and representing the national commander, the American Legion Family and all of the departments in the Western Region and the Department of Utah. I've been humbled and I've been honored to serve from the national American Legion convention in Charlotte. May God bless each and every one of you by the allegiant of the United States of America. We are Be the One, and this is my report. *(Applause)*

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Edwards. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion carried. The chair recognizes National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler of Virginia for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, in accordance with Resolution No. 6 passed by the October 2022 NEC, a copy of satisfactory evidence of honorable military service proving eligibility for membership in The American Legion has been submitted to my office for all national commission chairmen and committee chairmen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: The chair now recognizes the chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, William W. Kile, for a report of resolutions.

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

Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been meeting regularly to review resolutions. We have 18 resolutions that will be presented, coming from the commissions and the committees who will make reports. Any resolution seeking National Executive Committee approval will follow the report of the commission. All resolutions which have been disposed of by other action or held for further study will be reported on an addendum. Our thanks to the commissions for their efficient and accurate handling of the resolutions for this meeting. This has had a positive impact on the work of the subcommittee. Mr. Commander, I ask that you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Please uncover.

Memorial Resolutions
Glenn L. Wahus, North Dakota

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Glenn L. Wahus, Department Vice Commander –

2016 to 2017; Department Acting Adjutant – 2017; Department Commander – 2018 to 2019; National Vice Commander – 2022 to 2023; 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 2024, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Glenn L. Wahus, 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 CHAIRMAN KILE: Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of the following: Dean C. Hill, Alaska; Steven C. Weber; California; Thomas C. Flowers, Connecticut; James A. Handy, Indiana; Jerry A. King, Latin America; Gail E. Murdock, Maryland; David A. Schaaf, Maryland; Anthony J. Bicchieri Jr., Massachusetts; Richard I. Chatman, Michigan; William B. Goede; Minnesota; Marvin E. Harper, Missouri; John A. Schafer, North Dakota; Patrick A. Grzybowski, Ohio; Patsey J. Nestor, Oregon; Clare E. Blakeslee, Pennsylvania; Walter G. Lindemann, South Dakota; Gary R. Drennon, Tennessee; Robert G. Perham, Vermont.

On the Death of an Aged Friend

For us who knew you, dread of age is past!
You took life, tiptoe, to the very last;
It never lost for you its lovely look;
You kept your interest in its thrilling book;
To you, Death came, no conqueror, in the end -
You merely smiled to greet another friend.
-- Roselle Mercier Montgomery

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I ask that the body be seated.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: You may be seated. I now call on the chairman of The American Legion Department Advisory Committee, Past National Commander Thomas L. Bock, Colorado, for a report.

Oral Report: The American Legion Department Advisory Committee
Past National Commander Thomas L. Bock, Colorado, Chairman

I got some notes from our national judge advocate, and I just wanted to not read you the notes, just the title. It says, "Bare bones for Bock." So, we're going to give you some brief updates on our committees' challenges and successes.

First off, I want to recognize our committee. You'll notice as I read off the names, the list is longer than it was when we were originally formed, because the work is becoming more and more. I'd like to thank, of course, I'm the chairman, but our vice chairman is Past National Commander Dave Rehbein. We have members, Past National Commanders Ron Conley, Clarence Hill, and Brett Reistad. We've added Past National Commander Denise Rohan, Past National Commander Paul Dillard, and Past National Commander Charlie Schmidt. As consultants, we have our National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey, National Treasurer Shawn Long, we have Ken George, Autrey James, and great thanks to Julie Campbell for the help and consultants to our committee.

Today we will give you updates on three departments: The Department of Washington I'll deliver, David Rehbein will deliver the status on the Department of Colorado, and Denise Rohan will talk to us about the Department of Washington, D.C.

Department of Washington originated this claim because their Department Executive Committee asked for us to investigate their department and issues they were having. We went and visited their Department Executive Committee for a few hours and decided we had better opportunities doing interviews. It was total chaos. There was no agreement. Their favorite phrase in that DEC meeting was, "Point of order. I object." It went downhill from there.

So, we had several interviews set that weekend, and we found out the same type of thing: a lot of disagreements, a lot of challenges, a lot of arguments. So last June, after we put our report together, as you know, June 10, you suspended the charter for the Department of Washington. All their department officers and Department Executive Committee were relieved. And Barbara Lombrano from the Department of California, a former department adjutant, was assigned to help and move to Lacey and serve as their caretaker for their department. She has been doing a wonderful job. We're seeing very positive changes. Since then, we're finding out that their programs are working. Their baseball, their Boys State, their oratorical, junior shooting, and Special Olympics committees are active and being successful doing the mission of The American Legion.

So, we're moving towards getting their charter back. We're excited about that. The arguments and disagreements are subsiding. They're not over. So, we have some things that we have them to meet in order to reinstate their charter. The treasurer's office is still clearing up some things financially. The lawsuit still remains for the time being, but the court has indicated that they're wanting to progress towards settlement. That's good news. These must be resolved before we can move forward.

They've had a group assigned, a small group to do a first draft of their department constitution and by-laws. As you heard in the prior report, sometime in the '90s they didn't think they needed a constitution and consolidated into a book about this thick *(indicating).* This group has a draft, an initial draft of their constitution and by-laws. On, I believe it's May 17, a group of 12 will be meeting; two members from each of their districts have been selected to serve at a constitutional meeting, a constitutional convention. They will get together and they will work on that draft and prepare the final draft for their convention.

Their convention will be in July, and at that convention it will be opened up for the membership to debate and resolve and approve a constitution and by-laws. That's mandatory in order to continue to move. Once they get that done, they can elect some officers and begin to write a memorandum of understanding with us to move forward towards restoring their charter.

We're hopeful that by either the pre-NEC meeting at our National Convention or the fall meetings, we can recommend that their charter be reinstated with a probationary period to be monitored. We're optimistic; that's good. The committee has worked hard, and I want to thank them for that.

That ends the report for Department of Washington. Past National Commander Denise is here to give us an update on the Department of Washington, D.C.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Good morning. March 1st through 3rd of 2024, Department of Virginia Executive Committee meeting, a resolution was passed calling for an urgent investigation of the department of the District of Columbia. Based on complaints provided, there are serious concerns about the Department of D.C. not operating in accordance with the national or the department constitution and by-laws and having organizational structure issues.

The Virginia resolution was forwarded to the national headquarters, resulting in the national commander authorizing the national Department Advisory Committee to initiate a preliminary investigation. The commander of the Department of the District of Columbia was contacted, and we had a meeting on April 4 in our national headquarters out in D.C.

In attendance at that meeting were the Department of D.C.'s commander, Detashia Coleman; the alternate NEC Rip Preston; members Joe Grant, Alfredo Diaz; and a Post 8 representative; along with eight additional members of their DEC joining us via Zoom. In attendance on behalf of the national organization were myself, National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey and three national staff members.

After a very productive discussion that morning, it was determined that the Department of D.C.'s Constitution and By-laws under its current format may be obsolete and need to be rewritten. One of the notable concerns under the constitution and by-laws that they currently have is that all post commanders are voting members of their DEC. According to the current department commander, there are 16 active posts within their department, and it is unknown how many of those post commanders were appointed by a previous department commander. This challenges the validity of the appointments and the positions since they were not elected by their post membership.

Upon the adjournment of the meeting, again, all parties agreed the current constitution and by-laws as it is now creates a challenge and restricts the department operationally. They are no longer functioning properly, and, among other things, that creates difficulty in establishing a quorum for their DEC meetings.

It was also noted that the current ten living past department commanders are all voting members of the DEC. And from time to time, those past department commanders outnumber others in attendance, which could cause friction when voting on issues that are contentious.

The national Department Advisory Committee, through the national judge advocate's office, will draft a new constitution and by-laws, fixing some of those structural changes that need to take place, and we will present it to the Department of D.C. for their consideration. Some of the recommendations for the structural changes will include: reducing the DEC from 32 members to 15 members; that posts would elect at-large delegates to the DEC, not all post commanders would be part of their DEC; past department commanders would have a voice but possibly no vote.

Following our meeting with the Department of the District of Columbia, we'll keep having those meetings to address our concerns, provide them with documentation, hopefully help them find a resolution to this before we get to a point where some of the other departments have got to. So, I thank you for allowing me to be part of this committee. Appreciate it. We're going to get it fixed. *(Applause)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BOCK: Thank you, Denise. Now from our vice chairman, Past National Commander David Rehbein will give us an update on the Department of Colorado.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also echo what Denise had to say of my thanks of being allowed to be a part of this committee. *(Laughter)*

Let me give you a quick update on Colorado. Many of you may remember that we actually held a trial, this body did, some time ago, with charges brought by several posts in Colorado. What had happened in Colorado, the existing department leadership had essentially been forced out. New department leadership came in that really had not much of an idea of how to run the business of a department of The American Legion. Programs, all of those things continued to operate very well. It was the headquarters, the business that fell apart. You heard the charges during that trial, among other things, that DEC meetings were being held but no minutes were ever being produced, because the DEC meetings were so contentious and held so closely together that there was no time to really get minutes out.

This body authorized suspension of the charter. We began the reorganization. The recovery of that department is progressing well. And let me give you one point about where the problems lie. The posts and the districts of The American Legion in Colorado are excellent. Their work progressed to the point where, if you look at the membership table of The American Legion, you will find Colorado in the top ten, because their posts and their districts continue to work the tasks of The American Legion.

And so, the recovery is progressing. We are not at the stage yet that you heard the chairman talk about Washington. We are still dealing with some of the financial issues at the department headquarters, strictly around their headquarters building. They're almost unique in the fact that they have a 27,000-square-foot headquarters building with several tenants. And they also have a financial institution that they've been working with that your national treasurer characterizes as one of the most difficult that he has dealt with.

So, we're a little bit slower than Washington. We're coming along. We will hopefully, the chairman uses the word "optimistic" in regards to Washington. I use the word "hopeful" in regards to Colorado. Hopefully we can begin the process of that redraft of the constitution and by-laws this fall, and possibly have a special convention this winter, more likely January, to consider that final draft of the department constitution and by-laws, the election of officers, and then consideration of a memorandum of understanding, as Chairman Bock talked about with Washington.

I want to thank, and I know I do this on behalf of the chairman too. I want to thank the leadership of The American Legion for the support that we received. Some of you have dealt with problem posts, with troubled posts. You know that every time you walk into one of those, it's going to be different. They're never cookie cutter. Same thing here. And so, we have at times had to come to leadership with unique requests and decisions that had to be made. I want to thank the leadership of The American Legion, the commander, the adjutant, the staff, the treasurer, the judge advocate for the support that they've given us. And I want to thank you for the support that you've given us. And I want to close by thanking Past National Commander Jimmie Foster, who is serving as the official administrator of The American Legion in Colorado, along with Jim Lish and Jennifer Havlick who are doing the day-to-day work in that department headquarters.

We're going to get Colorado back. It's going to be a little slower. There's going to be some contentious times coming in Colorado. But I think we can deal with that and get their department back on a good footing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *(Applause)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BOCK: Thank you, David. In closing, I want to make one statement. The title of the committee is the "Department Advisory Committee." We didn't intend to be the department reconstruction committee. *(Laughter)*

That's why we've grown a little bit. We have very dedicated committee members working with us, along with our staff. But I urge your help in your departments across this whole organization. You know what's going on out there. There's a lot of rumblings, there's a lot of concerns, and we want to let you know that we're here to help you, help advise you, but we're counting on you to lead your department and get the contentious issues handled so it doesn't evolve into cases like we're dealing with now. Mr. Commander, in echoing the comments from our members, thank you for allowing us to serve on this committee. That concludes our report. *(Laughter and applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Department Advisory Committee. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Department Advisory Committee. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion carried. I now call on the chairman of the Membership Study Committee, Gaither M. Keener, Jr. of North Carolina, for a report.

Oral Report: Membership Study Committee
Gaither M. Keener Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

Thank you, commander. National Commander, members of the NEC, officers of The American Legion, past national commanders, chairmen of commissions and committees, employees and guests. Your Membership Study Committee met several times since my last report to you in May of 2023. You have my written report. I'll be very brief.

As you know, based on our study, the Finance Commission recommended and you approved a resolution approving a multi-year membership pilot program offering one-year, three-year and life memberships. The pilot program would last three years, at which time it will be reassessed and brought back to the NEC for its decision concerning whether to continue or discontinue it.

To date, as of this morning, 21,835 members have joined the three-year program. But what's more important, from yesterday to today, yesterday we had 1,400-some new

members. As of this morning, 1,516 people joined the Legion online and paid for three years. That's better than any DMS we've done. *(Applause)*

We'll continue to look at the matrix. We'll continue to look how to grow this program online, because the cost is minimal. And I think right now it's a success. We actually wanted 25,000. We believe by July, commander, we will be close to that 25,000, if not more, because we're only 3,000-some away. So, continuation of the program will work.

Our Paid Up For Life program, PUFL, is for the convenience of members. And our Paid Up For Life program is totally different than the VFW, totally different from the DAV, totally different from everybody else. It's a trust that is supported by robust actuarial analysis. And from being on the Finance Commission for 20 years, I understand all of the financial requirements we have to go through with our actuary.

The committee is considering life membership options that honor members and recognize them as specially dedicated members, the same as the VFW has. Who's a life member of the VFW with me? Raise your hand. Okay, you know what I'm talking about. Who is a life member of the DAV? Raise your hand. And they're always asking, "Can you be a member of this platinum program," where they want $20 a month for their programs. I'm not saying we're going to do that. We're studying it. That is something that all other VSOs have that we do not have. And we have numerous members requesting that aspect. Our committee will study the pros and the cons. It will not be quick.

On rolling-year membership. That's one we said, you join in May, your membership's due in May. We will continue to study that. We have no solutions yet. We'll also continue to discuss consolidation of fundraising from our own members who are our most generous donors. That will also take us a while. Mr. Commander, that is my oral report.

Report: Membership Study Committee
Gaither M. Keener Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

Your Membership Study Committee met several times since my last report to you in May 2023. Members are as follows: I serve as chairman. Paul Evenson is Vice Chairman. Members are Matt Shuman, Jay Bowen, Dennis Boland, Matt Jabaut, Mark Clark, and Mike Cooke. Consultants are department adjutants Ric Santos, Marty Conatser, John Derner, Lisa McPhee, Lowry Finley-Jackson, Mark Cauble, and Bill West.

The committee's purpose is to research and recommend a plan of action for each of the following assignments:

1) Whether or not it is prudent to implement a multi-year membership.
2) Whether or not to change a member's membership dues date to the date that person joined.
3) Recommendations on how to stabilize American Legion PUFL Membership Trust.
4) Recommendations on whether it is prudent to continue PUFL into the future, or to find a way to end the program.
5) Whether it would be advisable to create a new form of life membership which would be prestigious, and recommendations for implementation.
6) Whether or not we should continue using our Direct Membership Solicitation program in the manner we have done for the past 40 years or is there a better way to solicit new members and to retain them at a higher percentage rate.
7) Develop a unified national fundraising strategy that will benefit every entity in The American Legion.
8) Other such matters as may come before the committee while researching the above.

As you know, based on our study the Finance Commission recommended and you approved a resolution approving a multiple-year membership pilot program offering one-year, three-year and lifetime memberships. This pilot program would last three years, at

which time it will be reassessed and brought back to the NEC for its decision concerning whether to continue or discontinue it. To date, 20,500 Legionnaires have taken advantage of this option. I consider that a success.

Our Paid-Up-For-Life program is for the convenience of members. The committee is considering life membership options that honor members and set them apart as especially dedicated. This is something that all other VSOs offer.

Our committee will continue to study the pros and cons of rolling year memberships.

We also continue to discuss consolidation of fundraising from our own members, who are our most generous donors.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Membership Study Committee. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Membership Study Committee. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed? Motion carried. After the Finance Commission report, I will accept contributions for American Legion charities. The chair recognizes the chairman of the national Finance Commission, once again, Gaither M. Keener, Jr. of North Carolina, for the purposes of a report.

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

The Finance Commission met on Monday and Tuesday, May 6-7. We received many reports throughout the course of the two days' meeting. You have my written report before you.

As I mentioned during my fall 2023 report to the NEC, the dues increase was crucial. But prior to that increase taking effect this July, we would not have enough cash flow to pay our obligations on time. The $3 million transfer from the restricted fund was approved by the NEC in October 2023. The transfer requires NEC approval at two successive meetings. Therefore, the Finance Commission presents a second resolution for your consideration and approval.

Mr. Commander, that is the main aspect of my report, and that is my oral 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, either in person or virtually. Also present were National Adjutant Dan Wheeler; National Treasurer Shawn Long; National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey; Assistant National Adjutant Rodney Rolland; Executive Directors James Baca, Chanin Nuntavong and Dean Kessel; and Finance NEC Liaison Committee Chairman Dan Wiley (KS) and members Robert Skinner (ID), Tim Smith (OK) and Linden Dixon (VA). Larry G. Dobb of Montana was excused. Several guests joined us throughout the meeting.
The following reports were received:

- National adjutant
- National treasurer
- National judge advocate
- Assistant national adjutant
- National headquarters' executive directors
- Convention Commission
- Convention Corporation of Charlotte
- Internal Affairs Commission
- Membership & Post Activities Committee

- Marketing Commission
- Americanism Commission
- American Legion World Series update
- Endowment Fund Corporation
- Child Welfare Foundation
- NFP Property & Casualty
- Office of Charitable Giving
- Fifth Third Bank
- First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors
- Media & Communications Commission (written report)

At the Finance Commission's February 26 meeting in Washington, it:

- Voted to receive and record Resolution 12 (MN) National Convention, "Expand Availability of Female Uniform and Apparel Items." We believe Emblem Sales is carrying the proper balance of men's clothing vs women's clothing. Addendum A has been submitted in proper form.
- Approved the 2025 membership budget in the amount of $7,510,000.

We have no figures on the status of the 2024 budget thus far because the accounting division was short-staffed and preparing for the annual audit. We expect to have up-to-date information prior to the national convention.

The 2023 approved budget called for an operating deficit of $1,187,804, based on 2023 membership of 1,600,000. The actual 2023 membership was 1,509,865.

The actual deficit for 2023 was $4,379,955 – a variance of $3,192,151. The major differences were:

- Net investment income was about $1 million better than projected.
- Employee wages and payroll taxes were $800,000 less than projected.
- Sponsorship revenue was about $1.5 million off target
- USAA royalties were $1.3 million off
- Traditional membership dues were $400,000 off
- Employee health insurance premiums were up about $200,000.

We received a report from the Office of Charitable Giving, where the possibilities are very positive, and success in this area is essential to building a bright future for The American Legion and its beneficiaries – our veterans and their families. The office is projected to bring in more than $1 million this year, and that amount grows as the office grows.

The commission approved $275,000 to reconfigure the center north end of the third floor for the Office of Charitable Giving. It is currently located on the first floor near the shipping room / copy center, which not the optimum environment to discuss six-figure gifts with potential benefactors.

The Finance Commission approved $15,000 in a budget overrun for American Legion involvement in a regional conference to be held in Nashville this fall. More details will be forthcoming in the Internal Affairs Commission report.

James Mayhew, Charlotte Convention Corporation President, reported that the 2023 National Convention Corporation will present to national headquarters a check for $57,647.34 which represents 50 percent of the convention's net profit.

During our meeting, those present donated $811 to the Veterans & Children Foundation.

There are currently 257 authorized positions at national headquarters.

As I mentioned during my Fall 2023 report to you, the dues increase was crucial. But prior to that increase taking effect this July, we will not have enough cash flow to pay our obligations on time. A $3 million transfer from the Restricted Fund was approved by the NEC in October 2023. This transfer requires NEC approval at two successive meetings. Therefore, the Finance Commission presents the second resolution for your approval.

Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

The Finance Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

Addendum A

Received and Recorded

Resolution No. 12 (MN) (2023 National Conv.): **Expand Availability of Female Uniform and Approved Items**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I move to adopt the report of the Finance Commission, with the exception of three resolutions and one addendum. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to adopt the report of the Finance Commission, with the exception of three resolutions and one addendum. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 16: Restricted Fund Allocation to the Reserve Fund
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 24 titled, "Restricted Fund Allocation to Reserve Fund" on October 11-12, 2023 (attached); and

WHEREAS, The transfer of funds from the Restricted Fund requires a vote by the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings; 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, 2024, That the Restricted Fund provide $3,000,000.00 to the national "Reserve" Fund.

Attachment

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 11-12, 2023
Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. 24: Restricted Fund Allocation to the Reserve Fund
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission
WHEREAS, The Finance Commission noted at the 2023 Spring National Executive Committee meeting that the organization was suffering from a reduced cash flow potentially jeopardizing the ability to timely remit payments to contractors and utilities; and
WHEREAS, The Finance Commission believes it is not financially expedient to borrow funds for continuing operations at an interest rate above prime when the current balance of the Restricted Fund exceeds the required funds to operate; and
WHEREAS, It is in the financial best interest of the organization to not over-burden future budgets by saddling them with high interest rate loans to repay; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2023, That the Restricted Fund provide $3,000,000.00 to the national "Reserve" Fund.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DIXON: This resolution has the approval of the Finance Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 17: Department Retention Award
Origin: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a membership driven organization; and

WHEREAS, The membership of The American Legion successfully sign-up thousands of new members each year; and

WHEREAS, Even with the large number of new members signed up each year the membership of the national organization has continually decreased; and

WHEREAS, Every year there are thousands of both long and short-term members who fail to renew their membership in The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It has become increasingly evident that retention of members is a major problem in American Legion departments and posts; 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, 2024, That a department retention award be created based upon the highest percentage of retention using the same categories as the Big Twelve Competition; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments must have a minimum of a 90 percent retention rate to qualify for this award and the decimal point will be carried out three places (e.g. 98.565%); and, be it further

RESOLVED, That membership transmittals must be received by the national organization by the June 30 cutoff date; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That in each of the six categories, one department will be selected as the winner of this competition and will receive a check in the amount of $2,000.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DIXON: This resolution has the approval of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 18: 2027 National Convention Contract
Origin: Convention Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission has reviewed the status of the proposed American Legion National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, August 27 – September 2, 2027; and

WHEREAS, Subject to receiving a properly executed contract from The American Legion Missouri National Convention Corporation, the Convention Commission believes that all conditions for a contract covering the American Legion National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, August 27 – September 2, 2027, have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission hereby recommends to the National Executive Committee that it enter into the appropriate contract with The American Legion Missouri National Convention Corporation; 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, 2024, That the national commander, after receipt of an executed contract from The American Legion Missouri National Convention Corporation for the purpose of holding the American Legion National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, August 27 –

September 2, 2027, 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 DIXON: This resolution has the approval of the Convention Commission, your Finance Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried. At this time, I will accept contributions for any and all American Legion charities.

...National Vice Commander Aucoin assumed the chair.

Collection of Donations

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you, commander. Indiana, we just had our Operation Comfort Warriors bean, I'm not going to call it lunch or dinner, it was just a lot of gas. We had our benefit at Post 64 on March the 24th, and I'll read you the donations.

SAL Squadron 276 of Beech Grove, $1,000. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 64, $1,000. SAL Squadron 64, $5,000. American Legion Post 276, Beech Grove, $2,000. Wayne Post American Legion ALR, $1,000. Wayne Post American Legion, $50,000. Cherril Threte, our department president, $50. Bryce Hullett and Tomee Sue Bunner, $100. The sum of the food money was $402. The band that played that day, Mississippi Raglips and Riverdogs, donated their tips, $165, and another $67 for tips. Larry Lowry from Logansport, $100. Richard and Andrea Woodke, $150. John Vannatta, he is the Chef de Gare of the Forty and Eight of Indiana, $200. Kevin and Brenda Hinton from Shelburn, $100. Elberfeld American Legion, $41. Past National Chaplain Ed Harris, $50. David and Sandra Hicks, $50. Robert and Debby Oeth, $135. Indiana American Legion Riders, $1,000. Burlington American Legion 414, $300. American Legion Newburgh Post 44, $500. American Legion Post 66, $500. American Legion Post 145, $372. Squadron 97 of Auburn, Indiana, $250. American Legion Post 49, $250. An anonymous donation of $500. For a total at that bean supper, dinner, whatever you want to call it, of $64,782. That's a lot of beans. *(Applause)*

I'll now introduce the people, Kenny Cooper is from Post 64, our NEC; our alternate NEC, Terry Smith; and Bob Newman, Internal Affairs Commission chairman. Thank you all so very much. Thanks for supporting Operation Comfort Warriors. *(Applause)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HELM: Commander, I have a check here for $100 for VCF from Herbie Petit down in Louisiana in honor of Past National Commander Bill Detweiler. And also, Herbie's post and also at that time Commander Detweiler's post, Ed Brauner Post 307 in The American Legion, also for the VCF in honor of Bill for $1,000. And then the pickle man, they call me. *(Laughter)*

Thank you all for supporting this. And then I looked on the weather before I came out here and I saw it was supposed to be rainy. So, I loaded up a whole bunch of my old umbrellas from my year as commander and brought them out. Lo and behold, the Good Lord splattered us a couple of times. And last night coming back from the meal, I got rid of all of those. So instead of $1,000, I got $2,000.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER PAQUIN (NH): Commander, Leo Paquin, commander of the Department of New Hampshire. I'm looking at the earn sheet, and apparently New Hampshire is $550.46 short. So here is my check for $551. You can keep the change.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LEVASSEUR (RI): Commander, the Department of Rhode Island for the VCF, $700.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MOORE (KY): Mr. Commander, members of the NEC, on behalf of the Department of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I have a check for $3,532 for Veterans & Children Foundation.

...National Commander Seehafer resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Commander Helm, I think we need more umbrellas or something. I don't know. The chair now recognizes Matthew J. Shuman of Arizona, chairman of the National Security Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: National Security Commission
Matthew J. Shuman, Arizona, Chairman

Morning, Legion Family. I'll quickly say if anybody wants to bring me a check, I'll take it. Commander Seehafer, National Adjutant Wheeler, past national commanders, national officers, Legion Family all. Commander, with your permission, I will quickly address three things this morning: The American Legion BASE Program had our very first visit, my trip to the U.S. southern border, and finally, a resolution before this body that will codify the definition of a Gold Star Family.

Nearly a year and a half ago, the leaders in this room authorized the creation of the American Legion Base Assessment and Servicemember Experience, or the American Legion BASE Program. This past October, your National Security Commission leadership conducted our very first analysis at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma with great success. Thanks to the incredible reputation of our National Security director, Mario Marquez, The American Legion was welcomed with open arms.

We held a town hall. I heard directly from every rank, visited multiple barracks; saw the good, the bad and the moldy. We visited and even utilized the fitness facilitates, had lunch with lower enlisted Marines, visited the child care, medical facilities and more. As a quick aside, when we walked in to meet with the OIC of the medical facility, he had a gavel on his desk or the meeting table. And it was a gavel that he used when he was the governor of Missouri Boys State. He was very proud of that.

It was a great first visit that allowed our staff to create a thorough report that highlights and applauds the installation leadership, where deserved, while also being honest in our assessment of where improvement is needed.

Additionally, Congress also got active on the quality of life. They've held a couple of hearings and even created a congressional task force. After a year of field hearings, they released their report, which I believe most of you should have on your desk.

Moving forward, in March I was invited by two members of Congress to visit and tour our southern border of my home state with them. On behalf of Commander Seehafer and The American Legion, I accepted the invitation to visit and see for myself what is really happening and report back to you.

Legion Family, I can sum up my visit in four words: We have no border. A border requires two things: One, a physical barrier or a wall, and two, the federal law and policy that enables law enforcement to figure out what will happen to people who cross over our border illegally.

The Department of Arizona is currently passing out my report, but here are three facts that I'll share with you. The current policy is catch and release, meaning the border patrol, on average, holds illegal crossers for about 22 hours to conduct a rudimentary background and document check and then releases these people into the United States. Two, because the current policy is so forgiving, about 85% of illegal crossers actively seek out the border patrol to turn themselves in. And three, this is the scary one, if our policy is indeed so forgiving that 85% of people willingly turn themselves in, we must really be concerned about the 15% of people who don't. An educated guess by the border patrol leadership suspects that those people have dangerous criminal backgrounds, are involved in, as the commander mentioned earlier, child and sex slavery and/or the drug trade.

Either way you cut it, our southern border is a grave national security threat, and The American Legion has been a leader in creating resolutions to make sure we are on the right side of this. This is not a resolution issue. This is a leadership issue in Washington, D.C. Again, commander, thank you for going to the border. Thank you for allowing me to visit our southern border and represent you and our American Legion.

I would like to conclude with a resolution that will be brought before you very shortly to codify the definition of a Gold Star Family. Not all military deaths occur in the line of duty or as a direct result of military service. While every loss is tragic, Gold Star status traditionally applies to those who have died as a result of combat. This distinction is vital to uphold the integrity and the gravity of the Gold Star designation, preserving its significance for families who have experienced the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. Furthermore, expanding the definition to include all military deaths could dilute the recognition and support given to Gold Star Families.

By establishing a clear and specific definition, we ensure that the resources and assistance are directed to those who have experienced the most profound loss of their life. This targeted support acknowledges the unique challenges faced by Gold Star Families and allows for tailored assistance that addresses specific needs and will foster understanding and respect with both military and civilian communities.

In essence, while all military deaths are tragic and deserving of recognition, codifying the definition of a Gold Star Family requires a careful balance between inclusivity and specificity by focusing on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. We preserve the significance of the Gold Star designation, ensuring that the sacrifices of those families are properly honored and supported.

With that, commander, I thank you again for the honor to serve as your National Security chairman. A thank you to our incredible national staff, and I thank my veteran brothers and sisters here in this room. May God bless you. May God bless America. This concludes my report. *(Applause)*

Advance Report: National Security Commission
Matthew J. Shuman, Arizona, Chairman

The National Security Commission convened on February 26th during the 64th 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 Daniel Seehafer. The National Security Commission was honored by his attendance. The American Legion Auxiliary President Lisa Williamson and Sons of The American Legion Commander Donald "JR" Hall Jr. also attended. Lastly, the Commission was honored to host Past National Commanders: Jake Comer, Paul Dillard, Vincent Troiola, and Clarence Hill.
The program proceeded as follows:

Morning:

- Opening remarks and roll call.
- Speaker: Gerard Brinkman, Border Patrol Agent, US Customs and Border Patrol (Director, American Legion Riders, Arizona)
- Speaker: Colonel Matthew Coates, Commander, Special Operations Detachment (SOD-C)
- Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Congressman Clay Higgins (LA-3), US House of Representatives
- Resolution review and discussion: The Commission reviewed three resolutions

Afternoon:

- Speaker: Mr. Patrick Flood, National Security Advisor, Office of Congressman Don Bacon
- Speaker: Ms. Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Director of Defense State Liaison, Department of Defense

Business for the good of The American Legion.

I. Gerard Brinkman, Border Patrol Agent

The National Security Commission's first speaker was Border Patrol Agent Gerard Brinkman, who shared his experience as a border patrol agent in the Tucson, Arizona sector. He began by sharing the history of border patrol and discussed terminology commonly used by agents. He provided the number of illegal crossings over the last 20 fiscal years and pointed to a significant spike starting in 2021, reaching over two million in FY2022 and FY2023. As of FY2024, the number of illegal crossings is approximately 753,000 to date. Next, Mr. Brinkman outlined the process and time it takes to process an individual who has crossed the border, which can take about 2-3 hours per person, not including transport time.

He opined that the rhetoric in this country often drives migrant surges, but if the US were to start prosecuting, it would drive down crossings. Additionally, he stated that individuals crossing the border use any means necessary to get across the border, employing social media to contact one another and sometimes paying $1,000+ per person for transporting someone across the border. Mr. Brinkman also discussed the urgent need to prosecute smugglers.

Mr. Brinkman shared that about 30% of Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents are veterans and that the force's current morale is poor. In response, the American Legion Department of Arizona organized, funded, and volunteered to purchase food and provide meals for CBP agents at every post in the Tucson sector. He also shared some of the barriers to employment, such as the requirement for a polygraph exam which has resulted in numerous applicants being disqualified.

II. Colonel Matthew Coates, Commander, Special Operations Detachment (SOD-C)

The Commission's second speaker was Colonel Matthew Coates, Commander of Special Operations Detachment (SOD-C), and his remarks focused on counter-drug operations. He started by stating that in 2015, drug cartels had a breakthrough in how to manufacture fentanyl in bulk quantities, making it easier to move large amounts of drugs across the border.

Next, Colonel Coates informed the Commission on annual drug overdoses and estimated that overdose-reversing drugs like Narcan save 500,000-600,000 lives a year. He also stated that most drug overdoses occur in people who do not know that their drugs are laced with fentanyl. However, he did state that fentanyl strands are being created that will be too strong for Narcan.

The discussion moved on to drug supply, and Colonel Coates stated that 90% of fentanyl precursors come from China. Chinese businesses and cartels have begun using cryptocurrency to launder money and fund operations. Lastly, cartels use the U.S. Postal Service to ship drugs, which is an issue because U.S. customs can only screen about 5% of mail that comes into the United States.

Colonel Coates concluded with legislative asks from the Counter Drug Program:

- Funding to support authorization of 4,000 Guardsman in support of 54 state programs (currently manned at 1,600 personnel)
- Schools are legally to be funded at $30 million but are currently appropriated for $25 million.

III. The Honorable Congressman Clay Higgins (LA-3), US House of Representatives

Congressman Higgins stated that travel between Mexico and the United States worked well over the years. However, today, the Mexican government has allowed criminal cartels to dominate their side of the southern border, allowing cartels to traffic drugs and humans, which contributed to the situation we have today. He also suggested that America must respond with more aggressive tactics to secure our border, and this involves changing policies and committing more resources to the issues at hand. Congressman Higgins also stated that the Executive Branch must hold cartels and their associates accountable.

IV. National Commander Daniel Seehafer and SAL Commander Remarks

Before the lunch hour, National Commander Daniel Seehafer visited the National Security Commission. He stressed the importance of the national security endeavor and that its purpose and relevance cannot be overlooked.

Commander Seehafer stressed the importance of the American Legion's relationship with the Taiwanese government, citing his meeting with Taiwanese President Tsai in December 2023. He also mentioned his recent travel to the Pacific late last year and its relevance to national security.

He concluded his remarks by mentioning his visit to the border of North and South Korea. He emphasized distinguishing between tyranny and democracy, capitalism, and freedom. He reiterated the need to ensure our active-duty brothers and sisters' quality of life is taken care of, so they can focus on accomplishing their important mission.

Sons of The American Legion Commander Donald "JR" Hall Jr. also visited the National Security Commission and thanked the members for their military service. He stated that veterans have paved the way for his freedom, and it is the reason he can go to bed in peace every night. He concluded by restating his unwavering support and willingness to carry out the American Legion's mission.

V. Resolutions Review & Discussion

After the conclusion of the three speakers, Chairman Shuman introduced each resolution and their respective recommendations from the Resolution Screening Committee (RSC).

Chairman Shuman began with **Resolution 31: Artificial Intelligence**; RSC Recommendation: **Hold for Further study.**

The Resolution calls for a report on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its effects on different industries, including national security. After extensive research by the RSC, the federal government has completed the report, and the recommendations from that report are being formulated. The RSC recommended waiting for the complete assessment of the government report to formulate actionable resolve clauses.

John Digilio from the Department of New York moved to Hold for Further Study, which Dale Todd seconded from the Department of North Carolina. There was no debate on the Resolution, and the motion to Hold for Further Study was adopted.

Next, Chairman Shuman introduced **Resolution 35: Support Legislation on the Importance of Veterans Service Organizations;** RSC Recommendation: **Reject**

The RSC recommended rejecting the resolution for several reasons, including that its language may appear as a marketing scheme, which The American Legion cannot do as a Congressionally chartered veterans service organization. Congress would not agree to pass a similar law as the resolution intends.

Doug Haggan from the Department of France moved to reject the resolution, which Mike Cooke seconded from the Department of Wyoming. There was no debate on the Resolution, and the motion to reject it was adopted.

Chairman Shuman introduced the last resolution for the day: **Resolution 58: Gold Star Families Days be Established as a National Holiday;** RSC Recommendation: **Hold for Further Study.**

The RSC recommended holding for Further Study because Congress has not officially, by law, agreed on the definition of the Gold Star Family. The RSC further suggested that once Congress has agreed on a definition, The American Legion can discuss establishing a federal holiday.

Dale Todd from the Department of North Carolina moved to Hold for Further Study, seconded by Herman Preston from the Department of District of Colombia. There was no debate on the resolution, and the motion to Hold for Further Study was adopted. This concluded the morning sessions of the National Security Commission meeting.

To begin the second National Security Commission meeting session, American Legion Auxiliary President Lisa Williams visited and spoke to the Commission. She started by stating that her son serves in the Air Force and is also an auxiliary member through his wife, who also serves.

She also added her support for *Be The One* and shared how suicide has affected her community in Alaska. Lastly, she stated that she is here to help and work to decrease veteran suicide.

VI. Patrick Flood, National Security Advisor, Office of Congressman Don Bacon

The fourth speaker of the day was Mr. Patrick Flood, the National Security Advisor for Congressman Don Bacon's office. Mr. Flood, wearing his American Legion cap, started his remarks by stating that he is a Buckeye Boy's State alumnus and following that summer, he was motivated to enlist in the Air Force and went on to serve for 30 years.

He began his remarks by explaining how the creation of the Military Quality of Life Panel started. After receiving reports from bases across the world of significant challenges faced by servicemembers, he and his team observed some trendlines that were becoming noticeable. He cited examples such as a serious decline in infrastructure and investment in facility maintenance and renovation. Mr. Flood also identified that the lack of focus on infrastructure by the military allowed minor issues to grow into substantial problems that needed to be addressed.

After creating the Military Quality of Life Panel, he stated that they have received much feedback and that Congress has never had better access to information. He cited examples such as servicemembers on food stamps – an unfortunate statistic that he believes should not exist and that the Panel is looking at military pay and compensation. Additionally, he said we cannot forget that we are an all-volunteer military and should not lose sight of what makes an individual join the military.

Mr. Flood, in a show of unwavering trust and faith in the democratic process, reminded the audience that despite the often-sensationalized portrayal on TV, its strength is a source of pride for us all. He underscores the fact that every American, without exception, has a voice that matters and can shape the course of our nation. He concluded his remarks by saying that the guiding principle is to do the things necessary to ensure the rhetoric matches the priorities, and when DOD and Congress say "put people first," they must back it up.

VII. Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Director of Defense State Liaison Office, Department of Defense

Ms. Valentino-Smith began her presentation by sharing the Secretary of Defense's 2022 DoD Memo on Taking Care of Our Military Families and the First Lady's 2021 Joining Forces Report: Strengthening America's Military Families, reiterating the Administration's (and DOD) commitment to American military families.

Next, she outlined the mission of the Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO), which is to inform the Department of Defense of the most pressing needs of servicemembers and their families and issues affecting military quality of life. The DSLO is divided into eight regional offices, comprised of approximately six to seven states, each headed by a Regional Liaison. These liaisons are tasked with working with state policymakers by helping to establish state-specific priorities and offering insights into military life and issues that impact military families.

The State Priorities for 2024:

- Military Family Anti-Discrimination Status
- Military Spouse Employment
- Open Enrollment Flexibility
- Child Abuse Identification and Reporting
- Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction
- Military Access to Quality Family Childcare
- Defining Armed Forces in State Policy
- Military Community Representatives on State Boards and Councils
- State Response to Military Interpersonal Violence
- State Support for Military Families with Special Education Needs

She encouraged Legionnaires to contact the DSLO in their state if they see policies that have not been acted on.

VIII. Other Washington Conference Associated Activities

The National Security Division helped plan, facilitate, and staff the ANAVICUS breakfast and related Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. National Security Staff assisted the Legislative Division with escort duties for assigned Commander's Call guest speakers and activities associated with the National Commander's testimony before the Joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing.

IX. Update on the Regional and National Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Awards

On February 21, 2024, the Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee convened virtually to vote on the annual Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Awards, where it selected the regional winners. The Committee, chaired by Chairman George Wehrli (FL), selected five recipients for each category as follows:

Regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Winners for 2024:

- Northeast Region – Nicholas DeFelice of Maryland
- Southern Region – Brad Milstein of Georgia
- Central Region – Lacey Pueblo of Oklahoma
- Western Region – Ryan Rathbun of Washington
- Midwest Region - Scott Kostohryz of Minnesota

Regional Firefighter of the Year Winners for 2024:

- Northeast Region – Joseph Mitchell of Pennsylvania
- Southern Region – Brandon Dandy of South Carolina
- Western Region – Daniel Rawson of Alaska
- Midwest Region – John Settergren of Indiana

The National winners will be announced at the 105th National Convention.

Report: National Security Commission
Matthew J. Shuman, Arizona, Chairman

Our Advanced Report addressed the 64th Annual Washington Conference. After the Washington Conference, the National Security Commission, its seven committees, and the Council remained engaged on national security portfolio issues. The National Security Resolution Screening Committee and Commission met on Wednesday, April 24th, to review a resolution to be brought forward to the National Executive Committee for consideration.

National Security Resolution Screening Committee

- Matthew Shuman (AZ), Committee Chairman
- James Grenier Jr (VA)
- Devell Durham Jr. (NC)
- Gary Walker (WA)
- Michael Landkamer (NE)
- Theresa L. Pucket (VA)
- Richard Keiser (NY) Not Present

On April 24th, 2024, the National Security Resolution Screening Committee convened to deliberate on Resolution No. 31: Artificial Intelligence. The meeting, chaired by the Committee Chairman Matthew Shuman, commenced with a quorum being present. Chairman Shuman opened the session by stressing the importance of transparency in addressing concerns regarding the resolution. Theresa Puckett (VA) provided a detailed briefing on the background of the resolution. Subsequently, Michael Landkamer (NE) proposed a motion to recommend approval of Resolution No. 31, which Bo Durham (NC) seconded. The committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the resolution.

The National Security Resolution Screening Committee reviewed and provided recommendations on the following resolution:

- **Resolution 31:** *Artificial Intelligence* – **Recommend Approve**

National Security Commission Meeting

Presiding was Chairman Matthew Shuman (AZ)
Vice-Chairman: Kenneth Trumbull (IL)

The Committee Chairman present included: James Grenier Jr (VA), Thomas Schottenbauer (MN), Douglas Haggan (FR), Michael Landkamer (NE), and 19 Commission members.

On April 24th, 2024, the National Security Commission convened to deliberate on Resolution No. 31: Artificial Intelligence. Chairman Shuman opened the meeting by outlining the adoption process for the resolution. He then presented Resolution No. 31 and the Screening Committee's recommendation for support. Commission members questioned the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community's ability to meet goals for AI integration by 2025. After thorough consideration, the consensus was that the 2025 target, while ambitious, was achievable. John Digilio (NY) proposed a motion to adopt the resolution, which Doug Haggan (FR) seconded. The National Security Commission voted affirmatively to recommend approval of Resolution No. 31.

RESOLUTIONS

Commission Chairman Matthew Shuman (AZ) led a discussion on the following resolutions to make recommendations to the Spring 2024 National Executive Committee:

Title: Artificial Intelligence
Origin: Resolution No. 31 (MI) 2023 National Convention

National Security Commission Recommendation: The Commission moved and seconded to present this resolution to the 2024 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Key Commission Updates:

Since the Washington Conference, the National Security Staff and Commission has participated in multiple high-level meetings with DOD officials from across the entire enterprise, discussing a full range of issues, from healthcare for our military to veteran access to benefits and healthcare in overseas regions. Additionally, the National Security Staff wrote a white paper that covers the American Legion's resolutions as they apply to military and veteran benefits vs those received by undocumented/illegal and legal (Asylee)

immigrants. The white paper also outlines the Commission and Staff's concerted efforts to address the immigration problem.

On May 4, 2024, Chairman Shuman introduced Resolution No. 8 to the Resolution Screening Subcommittee and the Spring NEC on behalf of the National Security Commission titled *Definition of a Gold Star Family*. This resolution, if approved, aims to establish an American Legion position on the definition of a Gold Star Family. Typically, the Term Gold Star is associated with members of the military who lost their lives while engaging in combat operations.

National Security Commission Chairman Visits the Arizona/Mexico Border

Chairman Shuman's recent visit to the U.S.-Mexico border on March 25, 2024, in Nogales, Arizona, with two members of Congress has underscored significant border control and policy issues.

During the visit, the delegation received a detailed briefing from the Tucson Sector's Border Patrol leadership, revealing alarming statistics about the number of encounters and what standard procedures are for detaining legal and illegal immigrants that come through the Arizona-Mexico border. Physical examination of the border area highlighted the challenges of protecting our southern borders due to rugged terrain. Insights from a Border Patrol agent who is intimately familiar with cartel strategies explained the sophisticated and well-funded nature of these criminal organizations and how they contribute to severe national security risks.

The visit underscored the need for a holistic approach to border security, necessitating a balanced strategy that enhances physical barriers and aligns them with robust, supportive policies to ensure comprehensive border control. The urgent need for policy reform and resource allocation is clear if the U.S. aims to address these profound security challenges effectively.

National Commander Visits the Texas/Mexico Border

From April 24-26, 2024. National Commander Seehafer, escorted by the National Security Division Director and Department of Texas leadership, visited the southern border region in Laredo and Eagle Pass, Texas. The visit began with a two-hour drive to Eagle Pass, where the delegation visited the Shelby Park border area, taking time to observe border barriers and State/National Guard members patrolling the area. The delegation then visited a remote section of the Rio Grande border where they walked amongst thousands of items (clothing, hygiene, documents) left behind by the tens of thousands of immigrants who have come through the area. The delegation also met with military officials, who discussed operational details and specifics of Texas and federal policy-related matters and how the troops were performing, considering challenges with logistics and resources involving their mission. The delegation then returned to Laredo and met with the mayor and Sheriff to discuss mental health and veteran-related matters.

Finally, the National Commander attended a town hall and dinner at American Legion Post 59, situated on the U.S./Mexico Border in Laredo. Overall, the National Commander's visit highlighted the severity of the border crisis and the impact and failure of American immigration policy. There is clearly a need for total immigration reform, and only Congress can address this situation.

The National Security Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

Addendum A

Rejected

Resolution No. 35 (NY) (2023 National Conv.): **Support Legislation on the Importance of Veterans Service Organizations**

Hold for Further Study

Resolution No. 57 (IL) (2022 National Conv.): **Gold Star Families Day be Established as a National Holiday**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission with the exception of two resolutions and one addendum. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission with the exception of two resolutions and one addendum. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 8: Definition of Gold Star Family
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been the largest voice for the military and veteran community since 1919; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was formed to serve our active-duty military, veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Since the creation of the National Guard and reserve components of the U.S. military The American Legion has supported and advocated for them with the same veracity it does for the active-duty component; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's military personnel and their families; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has continuously honored and protected the legacy of American servicemembers who died in a congressionally declared theater of war, undeclared combat operation directed by the president of the United States or training to prepare for either of the above; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, the U.S. military, and the broader veteran population retain an indelible respect and honor for a servicemember killed in action or in training for that action, and as such that respect is extended to the family of the fallen servicemember; and

WHEREAS, The Gold Star symbol began during World War I; and

WHEREAS, At the start of the American involvement in 1917 families hung banners with blue stars representing family members in the services and if the service member died in combat, the family changed the blue star to gold; and

WHEREAS, The term "Gold Star" differs from most other designations in that an individual is not recommended for the designation; rather he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria; and

WHEREAS, The term "Gold Star Family" confers certain legal rights and entitlements to the defined family; and

WHEREAS, It is essential to establish a clear and concise definition of Gold Star Family for official support or honors from the U.S. government, and to recognize, support and properly honor the families of servicemembers who died fighting on behalf of the United States; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon The American Legion to ensure the legacy of servicemembers who gave their lives in defense of our country is not diminished by using the same term for servicemembers that tragically perish in other ways; 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, 2024, That The American Legion defines a "Gold Star Family" as the immediate family members of any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been killed or died (a) in any action against an enemy of the United States; (b) in any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in with the Armed Forces of the United States are

or have been engaged; (c) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party; (d) as a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces; (e) as a result of an act of any hostile foreign force; (f) as a result of an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States; or (g) as a result of military operations while serving outside the territory of the United States as part of a peacekeeping force; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That "immediate family members" include parents, spouses, legal (i.e. biological or adopted) children and siblings of the servicemember; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion recognizes the enduring grief and hardship experienced by Gold Star Families and hereby reaffirms its commitment to supporting them in their times of need; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages its members and the American public to honor the sacrifice of Gold Star Families via ongoing acts of support and gratitude; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, The American Legion calls on the White House, Congress, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to adopt the definition of a Gold Star Family as contained in this resolution.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SKINNER: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion and a second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 9: Artificial Intelligence
Origin: Resolution No. 31 (MI) 2023 National Convention
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to ensuring the safety and security of the United States and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) technology has the potential to significantly impact national security, including military operations, critical infrastructure and intelligence gathering; and

WHEREAS, AI technologies, such as autonomous weapons systems, cybersecurity threats, and surveillance capabilities, present both opportunities and risks to our nation's security; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative to understand and assess the potential national security risks associated with AI to develop effective policies, strategies and regulations to mitigate those risks; and

WHEREAS, Our adversaries are organized, resourced and determined to win in the AI era; and

WHEREAS, The United States must retain its innovation leadership and position in the world; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense and the intelligence community must be AI-ready by 2025; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognizes the importance of maintaining a technological edge while safeguarding American values and principles; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive research and analysis were completed by the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence to identify and evaluate the potential risks and vulnerabilities associated with AI systems, including their potential misuse by hostile actors, impact on military readiness and threats to personal privacy; and

WHEREAS, Cooperation among government agencies, the private sector, academic institutions and independent experts is crucial to thorough and objective implementation

of any recommendations to address the national security implications of AI; 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, 2024, That The American Legion support and endorse the recommendations of the 2021 National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI) Final Report; and, be it further

RESOVLED, That we call upon the United States Congress, the Department of Defense, the intelligence community and other relevant government agencies to take immediate actions to allocate resources to participate in an interdisciplinary task force composed of experts in artificial intelligence (AI), national security, ethics and law to address the following:

1. **Potential risks associated with AI technologies in civilian and military applications, including autonomous weapons systems, cyber warfare and potential vulnerabilities that adversaries could exploit;**
2. **AI impacts critical infrastructure, such as power grids, transportation networks and communication systems and potential vulnerabilities and strategies to protect against AI-related threats;**
3. **The identified AI risks and challenges in intelligence gathering, including data privacy concerns, information manipulation and potential exploitation by foreign entities;**
4. **The ethical considerations and legal frameworks to ensure AI technologies align with American values, international norms and legal obligations while minimizing potential abuses;**
5. **Opportunities for collaboration and information sharing among government agencies, the private sector, academic institutions and international partners to address AI-related national security risks; and, be it finally**

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress and the relevant government agencies to utilize the findings and recommendations from the NSCAI Final Report to quickly develop robust policies, regulations and international agreements that enhance national security while fostering responsible AI development and usage.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SKINNER: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has also been made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. I now call on the president of the National Convention Corporation, James C. Mayhew, for a report on the 2023 National Convention.

Oral Report: National Convention Corporation
James C. Mayhew, North Carolina, President

Good morning to the NEC, Mr. Wheeler, and other leadership in the room. I want to reiterate how much we enjoyed hosting the national convention last year, but also how much we were elated when it was over.

Now for the important part, the financial portion. Our total profit was $115,282.69, of which the North Carolina Convention Corporation received $57,641.34. Also, national will receive $57,641.35. I don't know who did the penny thing there. And with that being said, I end my oral report. Thank all who work hard for our great American Legion. Commander, that is my report.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Motion to receive and file the report of the 2023 National Convention. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the 2003 National Convention Corporation. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed? Carried. The chair now recognizes Michael E. Walton of Illinois, chairman of the national Convention Commission, for the purpose of a report.

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

Good day, Commander Seehafer, members of the NEC, and guests. Although my entire written report is in your packet, I would like to touch on some of the highlights of our meetings.

You just heard from Jim Mayhew, the president of the 2023 Convention Corporation. He's already reported the profit and what national will receive. We truly believe that Charlotte was another outstanding convention, and President Mayhew was thanked for he and his team's hard work for making that convention happen.

Herbie Petit, the president of The American Legion First District Convention Corporation of Louisiana, gave an update on the progress for up-and-coming 105th National Convention in New Orleans, August 23 through the 29. The corporation has opted to turn that convention over to national.

At this time, New Orleans has no restrictions or mandates. It has a brand-new airport that I think you'll enjoy. It's only been open about a year, so it's going to be a lot easier getting in and out. There's further information on our National Convention on the National Convention website. Additionally, we're pleased to report that, so far, we have five bands that are going to compete this year, and we're looking forward to the color guards registering by the July 22 deadline. The National Commander's Banquet is progressing well and tickets may still be available from the Convention and Meetings office. The commander's banquet entertainment this year will be a local band called the Bayou Royals.

This is an election year for our National Convention. With that will come some increase in security measures. Additionally, weather-related factors come also into play. Therefore, we want to make sure that everyone has the latest and best information by always checking the website and, most importantly, use that American Legion app for convention when it's available in early August.

We had Indianapolis, Indiana, and Salt Lake City, Utah, provide presentations to the commission requesting that they be awarded the 2029 or 2030 National Conventions of The American Legion. It is the recommendation of the Convention Commission that the 2029, 110th National Convention of The American Legion, be awarded to Indianapolis, Indiana, August 24 through 30, 2029. Plus, it's in our own backyard. It's like coming home. There's a cost savings there also.

Additionally, the commission recommends the 2030, 111th National Convention, be awarded to Salt Lake City, Utah, August 23 through 29, 2030. Both of these cities have a lot of flexibility with their hotel room block usage and to meet the number of peak rooms that we're going to need. They're comparably tiered. They provide some decent cost savings, and we believe what is best for The American Legion.

Another business for the Convention Commission, we held a lengthy discussion on security at the national convention, not only because of our presidential candidates attending, we believe they'll be attending, they've been invited, but also what's going on in

our great America and what you just heard from National Security a short time ago. We believe and I believe, I had 47 years in law enforcement, and I work very closely with the local, state and federal law enforcement folks still in my city back in Illinois. My friends in the FBI tell me something is going to happen. They just don't know where and they don't know when, but they said something is going to happen.

So, I'm a very cautious guy. We are going to add extra security to the convention this year, only because of the impact it would make if something happened at an American Legion National Convention. What kind of impact would that make? Plus, I'm very concerned about all of our attendees' safety, as is our entire commission. So, there will be extra security there. If the presidential candidates arrive, be ready for magnetometers. Be ready for all of that. We are going to be working closely with the federal, state, parish and local law enforcement in Louisiana all the way up until the convention starts. I'm going to go in early, actually and meet with those folks also, and we're going to make sure that we have a good, safe convention. So that's something that I really believe is very important.

Our RFP, our request for proposal, has also been updated by the commission. Also, Addendum A in your packet is a resolution received and recorded by the commission from the Department of Michigan for Grand Rapids to host the 2030 National Convention of The American Legion. Addendum B, which I believe you already voted on, was a resolution to approve the contract for the 108th National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, which you folks approved.

All of our commission members received their assignments for the National Convention, which they will report on at our October meetings. With the NEC approval of Indianapolis, Indiana, for 2029 and Salt Lake City, Utah, for 2030, our national conventions are set: this year New Orleans; the 106th in 2025 in Tampa Bay; the 107th in Louisville, Kentucky, 2026; the 108th in Kansas City, Missouri, for 2027; the 109th in Columbus, Ohio, for 2028. And if you approve the 110th in Indianapolis, 2029 and the 111th for Salt Lake City, Utah.

Also, commander and those attending, we've had some changes in our Conventions and Meetings Division. As you know or may not know, Reggie Mathis left us to focus on his family's business. We have a new member with us, Ms. Deanna Woodburn. She is our new conventions and meetings planner who is over here with us, has joined us. *(Applause)*

And also, if you haven't noticed, Andrea is pregnant, and she is going to be on maternity leave starting in mid-June.

One of the other things I was able to attend here in Indianapolis back in January, our director, Bridget Robinson, received a very prestigious industry award for her dealings, as she got the top award in the country for her job that she does for conventions and meetings. We're very proud of her. *(Applause)*

Those of you who work with this great team of ours or any of you that have been on the Convention Commission or attended any of our meetings, you know what a great team we have here at our Indy headquarters.

We look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans for another outstanding convention. Commander and members of the NEC, that concludes my report, and I'd like to thank you for allowing me to serve.

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

Chairman Michael E. Walton, Illinois, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. (EDT), Monday, May 6, 2024, and Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Roll call was taken with all members either excused or present.

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

Items Requiring NEC Action:

Resolution No. - 2027 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 Missouri National Convention Corporation for the purpose of holding The American Legion National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, August 27 – September 2, 2027, be signed by the National Commander and the President of the Convention Corporation.

Addendum A:

Resolution No. 2847 - Submitted by the Department of Michigan supporting a bid for the 2030 National Convention from the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan - Received and Recorded

Addendum B:

The following cities provided presentations requesting they be awarded the 2029 or 2030 National Convention of The American Legion: Indianapolis, Indiana, and Salt Lake City, Utah the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, is recommended to receive the tentative award of the 2029 National Convention for the dates of August 24 – August 30, 2029. It is the recommendation of the Convention Commission that the 2029, 110th National Convention be awarded to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the dates of August 24 – August 30, 2029. It is also the recommendation of the Convention Commission that the 2030, 111th National Convention be awarded to Salt Lake City, Utah, for the dates of August 23 – 29, 2030.

2023 Fall Meeting Minutes were approved, which was the last time the Commission met.

Herbie Petit, 2024 President, The American Legion First District Convention Corporation, gave his initial report on the planning process for the 2024 105th National Convention for New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23-29, 2024. The American Legion First District Convention Corporation opted to turn over the 2024 National Convention to National Headquarters.

Planning for the 105th National Convention of The American Legion is on schedule. The headquarters hotel for the Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and Auxiliary will be the Hilton Riverside The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center will be the site of the general sessions, exhibit hall, color guard and Band contests, the National Commander's Banquet and the Auxiliary States Dinner. The National Staff Offices for The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Distinguished Guest Registration and Badges & Packets will also be in the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Color Guard contest will take place on Friday, August 23, 2024, starting at 4:00PM. The Band Contest will take place this year in New Orleans on Saturday, August 24, 2024, starting at 1:00PM. The National Commander's Banquet on August 27, 2024, will feature a local band known as Bayou Royals.

Jim Mayhew, President of the 2023 The American Legion National Convention Corporation of North Carolina, gave the final report to the Convention Commission for the 104th National Convention of The American Legion. Mr. Mayhew reported the 2023 Convention Corporation generated a net profit of $ 115,282.69. He will present a check to the National Executive Committee for $57,641.34.

Chairman Walton mentioned he has talked with FBI and local police officers due to the events happening in the country and the uprise of higher threats in protests and the possibility of presidential candidates. To make sure we are safe during the National Convention, Chairman Walton will be requesting additional security throughout the national convention for New Orleans.

The National Convention Request for Proposal (RFP) was updated to reflect proposed changes for future national conventions to ensure what we provide to bidding cities is properly reflected within the RFP. The RFP will be updated each year as necessary.

Chairman Walton assigned each member of the commission specific assignments to observe at the 2024 National Convention. Each commission member will report their findings to the full commission during the 2024 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Convention Commission discussed several logistical aspects for National Convention and will go into further discussion during the 2024 Fall Meetings.

Dates for future Conventions are the following:

New Orleans, Louisiana August 23 – 29, 2024

Tampa Bay, Florida	August 22 – 28, 2025
Louisville, Kentucky	August 28 – Sept 3, 2026
Kansas City, Missouri	August 27 – Sept 2, 2027
Columbus, Ohio	August 25 – August 31, 2028

The Convention Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

Addendum A

Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2847 (MI) (DEC): **City of Grand Rapids to Host the 2030 National Convention.**

Addendum B

The Convention Commission recommends the following dates for the events/meetings from our report, which was presented to the body for disposition.

COMMISSION MEETING DATE	EVENT/MEETING	DATES
May 6 & 7, 2024	2029 National Convention - Indianapolis, Indiana	August 24 - August 30, 2029
May 6 & 7, 2024	2030 National Convention - Salt Lake City, Utah	August 23 - August 29, 2030

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission with the exception of two addenda. ….*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the National Convention Commission with the exception of two addenda. Any discussion? Commander Comer?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Commander, through you to the chairman, on my request before you, have you done anything on your commission, or were you going to do it later, about sending out that survey?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WALTON: We plan on having the survey ready by the time the convention is here.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: What I asked was that we have them send out a survey to the various departments to find out, where do the Legionnaires want to go? Sometimes that's very important. The other thing is, it's something we've never done before but we do it in our departments. Because of the cost of the buses and $200,000 for buses, we want to try to get some cities that have lower rates. What's the problem with going back to a city two years in a row, as we do in our departments? So, I really wanted to look into those situations.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WALTON: We're doing that, commander. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Any other discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WOODS: Mr. Commander, attached to the report are Addenda A and B. I move the actions of the Convention Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed? Carried. Family, since we are running ahead just a tad, we are going to go to Marketing Commission. So, the chair

recognizes Paul A. Evenson, chairman of the Marketing Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Marketing Commission
Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota, Chairman

Thank you, Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee and guests. Thank you for the opportunity to share an update from the Marketing Commission. It is our report, you have the detailed 2024 marketing strategic plan. The plan outlines the key projects the team will focus on in the 2024 year, accompanied by measurable goals. Additionally, the report offers a summary of our meeting, and today I would like to briefly update you on these key areas.

The multi-year membership: Marketing collaborated across multiple divisions to implement and execute an omni-channel strategy aimed at achieving a target of 25,000 multi-year memberships by June 1. These efforts will persist through the 2024 membership cycle with only a slight margin from reaching our goal. We remain optimistic that not only will the goal be attained, but also potentially exceeded.

INDYCAR: In addition to our activation enhancements as outlined in the report, you may have seen a little something about a comedian and a story about Pop-Tarts. Through a unique collaboration with Netflix, Jerry Seinfeld in his latest film, "Unfrosted," the Legion seized a remarkable opportunity to elevate our voice and amplify our Be the One campaign messaging at zero additional cost. Together with Netflix and Seinfeld, a custom livery was created for the Long Beach INDYCAR race, and not only enabled the Legion to reach new audiences, but also garnered unprecedented engagement. Within just over 48 hours, an Instagram video post featuring Seinfeld reached over 728,000 views, over 10,000 likes, and 200 comments, surpassing any previous Legion/Chip Ganassi Racing/INDYCAR social media promotions. The connection to the Legion and the Be the One in this partnership was centered around humor as a form of therapy for mental health, a theme NBC highlighted during the race broadcast to its national audience.

Corporate partnerships last year: The American Legion began the year with eight corporate partnerships, which surged to 18 by the end of the year, setting a strong fundraising foundation for further expansion in 2024. We feel it is important to note that, while we have partnerships at the national level that want to work with departments and posts, there are no exclusive partnerships that limit any department or post from formulating their own partnerships.

Lastly, but with great importance, I am proud to report that we have trained over 1,700, and counting, individuals since February through our collaboration with Columbia University Lighthouse Project. Remarkably, all participants reported feeling knowledgeable about how to assist someone at risk of suicide. Furthermore, notable metrics revealed that 41% of participants experienced an increase in their comfort level with discussing suicide, while 29% enhanced their understanding of the importance of asking specific questions to assess self-harm risk.

I highly encourage each of you to participate in the training, and challenge each of your departments and posts to participate as well. You can learn more about when these free training sessions are offered at betheone.org. As Commander Seehafer says, we are changing lives and saving lives. Thank you for your time and your support. That concludes my report. *(Applause)*

Report: Marketing Commission
Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota, Chairman

Marketing Commission Overview

The Marketing Commission met in Indianapolis on May 6 – 7, 2024. The group reviewed the 2024 Marketing Strategic Plan outlined below. As part of the review, staff members went into details for areas such as: corporate partnership growth, INDYCAR

activation enhancements centered around Be The One messaging, digital marketing updates and Be The One training and tool kit updates.

2024 Marketing Commission Strategic Plan

Guided by a vision for organizational growth and multiple strategy sessions, three strategic priorities were identified to serve as a blueprint for success – prevention of veteran suicide, membership, and corporate financial stability. Building upon this foundation, the Marketing Commission has integrated these overarching organizational priorities by crafting a tailored set of priorities designed to align with the broader goal and address the unique requirements of the Marketing Commission.

Marketing Commission Strategic Priorities

The following strategic priorities set the stage for a cohesive and purposeful approach, ensuring that the Marketing Commission's approach is not only aligned with the overarching strategic direction but also allows for the commission to leverage its distinct capabilities to drive innovation and success:

BE THE ONE Awareness
AMPLIFY *the message for ongoing veteran suicide; utilize resources to foster a community-driven approach*

VALUE of Membership
EARN *members by showcasing the real value of joining for the long term*

DIVERSIFY Revenue
EXPAND *our reach by utilizing internal relationships, leveraging technology and exploring new opportunities for sustainable growth*

MODERNIZE and SIMPLIFY
SAVE *time and money by simplifying and modernizing the way we work*

Marketing Commission Projects and Tactics with Measurable Goals

Outlined below is a comprehensive outline of the projects and tactics formulated to align with each priority with measurable goals linked to its respective priority. This detailed approach not only ensures a seamless integration of efforts but also provides a clear roadmap for tracking progress, assessing the efficacy of each tactic, and allowing for adjustments as necessary to attain the goals.

BE THE ONE Awareness

- Messaging featured on ALL external marketing efforts
- Build out Be The One Resources (Tool Kits, BTO "Labs", Training, etc.)
- Be The One PSA in partnership with and funded by Centene
- September Suicide Prevention Month Campaign
- Create and Enhance Influencer Strategy

Measures for Success

- Conduct Be The One Training to 100K participants in the next 18 months
- Generate over $30M in overall media value (paid, earned, owned) for Be The One
- Capture over 3K new leads through Be The One Pledge at mobile marketing events resulting in 250% increase YOY

VALUE of Membership

- Continue "Why Join" ad campaign efforts

- Deliver "Thanks & Assistance" to veterans/service members at events
- Customize the Member's Digital Experience
- Develop an Additional Member Benefit Perk
- Create Turnkey Digital Marketing Plans (i.e. Multiyear Membership, Legion.org/Action, Youth, Corporate Development, Emblem Sales, etc.)

Measures for Success

- Digital Marketing efforts specific to Membership to add 48K new online joins for 2025 membership cycle
- Add 14K additional multi-year memberships via all digital marketing channels for 2025 membership cycle
- Complete and implement email automation to communicate with new members obtained via DMS and traditional

DIVERSIFY Revenue

- Corporate Partnerships, Co-marketing, Licensing and HR Programs
- Monetize Thank You Thursday Program
- Utilize Effective CRM Platform
- Enhance Emblem Sales Efforts
- Develop Annual Fundraising Event

Measures for Success

- Net $3.6M in Corporate Partnership Revenue
- Net $100K in fundraising efforts through sponsorships and programs (i.e. Chip Ganassi Racing, Regiment Gaming, Hotel Tango, etc.)
- Net $250K in support of Youth Programs working towards becoming cost neutral

MODERNIZE and SIMPLIFY

- Enhance Professional Development
- Utilize Full Capabilities of Microsoft Products
- Streamline Processes and Templates
- Utilize Full Capabilities of Current Vendors/Services
- Create Dashboard to Report Real Time Metrics

Measures for Success

- Confirm each member of Marketing Division completes at least one (1) professional training course, webinar, certification and/or conference as discussed in their professional goals for 2024
- Implement at least three (3) new efficiency-increasing uses of the Microsoft Office Suite to improve productivity and communication

Corporate Partnership Growth

- The American Legion began 2023 with 8 corporate partnerships and ended with 18 laying the groundwork for continued growth in 2024
- Upon surveying subscribers to the Thank You Thursday email list, it was found that 90% expressed a desire for more partnerships with veteran-owned small businesses, over 60& are most interested in travel partners and 75% support partners with product discounts and member exclusives. Obtaining this key data allows the development team to actively pursue partnerships that fall in line with these preferences to continue to bring value to the members

INDYCAR Activation Enhancements

- Negotiated with INDYCAR to host the INDYCAR driver autograph sessions inside The American Legion mobile marketing activation area with the caveat that we received a larger activation area as well as offer The American Legion

Fast Lane allowing for veterans and service members plus a guest to skip the long lines to meet their favorite drivers

- The new design has heightened visibility in a 40' x 40' footprint, additional semi-private space for our Veteran Service Officers servicing veterans onsite with their benefits, added fan engagement components such as making the Be The One pledge and continuing to thank veterans and service members with a free reusable water offering free cold filtered water throughout the weekend
- With all the enhancements and the addition of 5 events from previous years, marketing was able to provide an $80,000 of savings to the activation

Digital Marketing

- Digital marketing continues to perform well; the top three performing digital ads with join messaging combined have resulted in over 44M impressions with over 1M clicks; Adding influencers like *MandatoryFunDay* into the join campaigns have proven to add to the current success
- Marketing collaborated across multiple divisions to implement and execute an omni-channel strategy aimed at achieving a target of 25,000 multiyear memberships by June 1st. These efforts will persist through the 2024 membership cycle with only a slight margin from reaching our goal. We remain optimistic that not only will the goal be attained but also potentially exceeded.
- Looking ahead, digital advertising campaigns will extend beyond membership focus to encompass Youth Programs, Emblem Sales, Legislative Action and Business Development; these campaigns will target audiences beyond the veteran community and will also utilize new channels such as LinkedIn with the goal to diversify and drive additional revenue to the organization

Be The One

- In partnership with Columbia University Lighthouse Project, we have trained over 1,700 since February resulting in 100% of those trained feeling knowledgeable about how to get someone the right care of suicide risk
- Additional key metrics of note are that 41% of those that participated increased their level of comfort with asking about suicide after their training and 29% increased their understanding the importance of asking specific questions to determine the level of risk when someone wants to self-harm
- Training sessions are on-going and updated regularly at https://www.legion.org/betheone/training and are free and available for anyone to participate.
- The group also received suicide prevention training from Columbia University and welcomed special guest Linus Lundqvist driver of the #8 American Legion | Be The One INDYCAR.

Addendum A

Rejected

Register Resolution No. 2844 (CA) (Dept. Conv.): **Be the One and TruConnect**

Hold for Further Study

Register Resolution No. 2854 (IN) (DEC): **Theme Music for Be The One**

Emblem Committee
Robert K. Burke, Massachusetts, Chairman

In 2023, Emblem Sales received orders amounting to over $16 million, marking a notable rise from the $14.5 million recorded in 2022. The net year-end profit for 2023

reached $2.88 million, compared to $2.45 million in 2022, representing a 17% increase from the previous year.

In the first quarter of 2024, the total order value amounted to $4.36 million, a slight decrease from the $4.42 million recorded in 2023. Approximately 25,000 orders were fulfilled during this period, resulting in an average order value of $173.

Flag sales during the first quarter reached $935,000, marking the highest first-quarter revenue in our history. This surge was primarily fueled by March, which saw unprecedented flag sales totaling nearly $526,000, representing a 6% increase compared to the previous year.

As of now, the "Flag Rewards" program boasts 2,358 registered posts, with more than 38,000 schools, businesses, churches, and individuals participating as sponsors. Since the Spring Meetings in 2022, there has been a reduction of 53 American Legion Posts in the Flag Rewards program due to cancellations and consolidations. However, there has been a notable increase, with nearly 4,000 new sponsors signing up during this period.

Emblem Sales persistently markets items to members and patriotic Americans through electronic and print mediums. In 2023, we distributed over 340,000 marketing emails at a cost of merely $378. These efforts generated an additional revenue of $150,000.

The 2023 Catalog features over 93 newly developed items for sale.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission except for one addendum. *…Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission with the exception of one addendum. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Do I hear any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried. The next item on the agenda is for us to go into recess for lunch and reconvene at 1 p.m.

...At 11:30 a.m., the National Executive Committee of The American Legion stood in recess.

Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Afternoon Session

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: The meeting of the National Executive Committee is reconvened. The chair now recognizes Patricia A. Harris of North Carolina, chair of the Legislative Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Patricia A. Harris, North Carolina, Chairwoman

"What will happen is that bills will start out the way that we like them, but in order to move them, we'll probably have to make compromises. That's the way the legislative process works when it's functioning." That was a quote from Mitch McConnell.

Greetings, Commander Seehafer, national officers, NEC members, past national commanders, and guests. You have a written copy of my report. It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I stand before you as your Legislative Commission chairwoman. Today marks another exciting chapter in our legislative endeavors, where creativity meets collaboration to pave the way for impactful change. I am delighted to have the opportunity to share the latest developments and initiatives brewing within the Legislative Commission.

After about six months of continuing resolutions, Speaker Johnson and his colleagues agreed on a federal budget in March, and Congress is now working on FY25 budgets for federal agencies. There seems to be partisanship gridlock in just about every area, but one of a few that remain not so much of a problem. And so, they try to cooperate with the business of taking care of veterans.

So, with our increasing grassroots advocacy and congressional engagements, the voice of The American Legion has been heard loud and clear in the halls of Congress. More Legionnaires have registered with the Legislative Action Center and are getting involved with their elected representatives. While we are still not as close to meeting our potential, there has been some improvement compared to last year. So, there's still a lot to be done.

Your departments have requested grassroots training from the national staff, and the Legislative Council members in your departments are stepping up to the plate to exert our Legion influence. In March, our national commander delivered a very fiery annual testimony to a joint session of Congress in a room packed full of veterans, and called on Congress to fully fund the VA, pass an annual budget on time to keep the government running and to take care of our veterans, servicemembers and their families.

And there were even more legislative wins for the Legion and for all veterans this year. Just last month, four, four Legion-supported bills passed in the House. In efforts to reduce suicide in the veteran community, the Daniel J. Harvey Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act was passed and will be sent to the Senate for a vote. Other legislation that passed the House includes a bill to restore GI benefits for those who default during a financial hardship, and legislation to increase veterans' economic opportunity and TAP assistance programs. These bills will preserve key veteran benefits.

We still have more work to do on the Hill before this session is over. For instance, the GI parity bill, and this is the bill that ensures that Guard and reservists receive credit for every day they spend in uniform in a federal duty status under Titles 10 or 32 for GI Bill purposes. We want to ensure that they continue to pay our Coast Guard and the VET-TEC Authorization. VET-TEC allows veterans who are looking to make a career switch to the competitive tech sector, to complete needed training to make them eligible job candidates without having to go through the standard two- to four-year training program.

With that, let's rally together and ignite the passion. We should stand tall and celebrate this organization's unwavering dedication to amplifying the voices of our veterans on Capitol Hill. In the words of the great Ronald Reagan, "If we lose freedom here, there is no place to go. This is the last stand on Earth."

Let's channel this energy to drive our initiatives forward, engage in grassroots campaigns, and ensure that we are actively shaping a brighter future for our veterans, and remember, together we can make a lasting impact and honor those who have sacrificed for our freedom. Thank you for your steadfast commitment. I wish to thank our national staff for all of their help. Commander, this concludes my report.

Advance Report: Legislative Commission
Patricia A. Harris, North Carolina, Chairwoman

This report summarizes the commission and congressional actions since the 2023 Fall NEC Meetings on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. Ther report is arranged by program areas.

RECENT CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

On October 25, 2023, Mike Johnson of Louisiana's 4th District, was elected to be Speaker of the House. This followed a contentious selection period for Congress after Speaker McCarthy was ousted.

After almost six months of several short-term spending bills and continuing resolutions (CRs) to keep federal agencies funded, Congress agreed on a budget. President Biden signed a $1.2 trillion package of spending bills on March 22, after the Senate passed legislation ending the looming threat of a government shutdown with a vote of 74-24.

On March 09, the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MILCON-VA) Appropriations was signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. The bill provides $18.7 billion for military construction, $2 billion above the President's budget request. Of those funds, $1.5 billion was programmed to construct or alter Guard and Reserve facilities in states and territories, an increase of $396 million above the fiscal year 2023 enacted level and $481 million above the fiscal year 2024 budget request.

In December, for the 63rd consecutive year, Congress reached a bipartisan, bicameral agreement to pass the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This year's agreement, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, addresses the most significant national security priorities for the United States, including strategic competition with China and Russia; disruptive technologies like hypersonic weapons, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing; modernizing America's ships, aircraft, and combat vehicles; and improving the lives of our servicemembers and their families. The final negotiated version of the NDAA for fiscal year 2024 authorizes $886 billion in national defense funding, an increase of $28 billion from last year.

Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson (LA-4), indicated that he will push for approval of a spending package of additional wartime funding for Ukraine. This will be a very difficult task to garner support, as it will be for tens of billions of dollars and has divided members of Congress over growing costs, especially for the House Republicans.

Congress was full of postponements in 2023, which means productivity was low in passing public laws. 2024 will also have obstacles in productivity, especially elections. The entire House and one-third of the Senate will be up for reelection. The focus on elections may overshadow the Congressional agenda, as majorities may be up for grabs.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The American Legion met for the annual Washington Conference on February 26, 2024. Because the Congressional schedule changed, Congress was not in session during our Washington Conference. This means that the National Commander's testimony was not delivered during the conference, but in the following weeks. During the Commander's Rally the Division Directors prepared Legionnaires for their Hill visits to meet with their Representatives. The Legislative Division encouraged Legionnaires to report their meetings and any meetings in the future on the grassroots platform. Legionnaires were briefed on our legislative priorities such as: GI Bill Parity, Afghan Adjustment Act,

GUARD Act, Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act, and PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Act.

The Legislative Commission met in person on February 26, 2024, and Legislative Commission Chairwoman, Patricia Harris (NC), ran the meeting. Legislative Council Chairman, Rick Oertel, presented his report on Council activities. The Commission welcomed a panel of staffers from the Four Corners to discuss the best way to approach Congressional interactions. We also held a grassroots training session from the Legislative Division.

On March 13, 2024, National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer, testified before a joint session of Congress. In his testimony, he highlighted the importance of our Be The One mission in reducing the prevalence of veteran suicide. His comments were warmly received by the members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, and there were several follow-on questions about The American Legion's positions on TAP, citizenship for military service, and the Veterans Employment Act. The National Commander committed to working with the Congressional offices in the future to continue supporting veterans, their families, and their caregivers.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

In February, The American Legion endorsed H.R. 7361, The Flowers for Fallen Heroes Act. This legislation allows those wishing to lay flowers on the graves of fallen heroes who are interred at American military cemeteries overseas to do so through the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) jurisdiction. The bill mandates the creation of a user-friendly website and payment system that accepts credit cards for payment, finds reasonably priced vendors in proximity to the gravesites, urges the ABMC to market the program, and requires the ABMC to submit a yearly report to Congress on its progress.

In early March, The American Legion participated in a roundtable with Members of Congress to discuss women veterans' issues and the Deborah Sampson Act. In early April they are attending a seminar hosted by the Center for Women Veterans to meet with other VSOs to discuss potential and pending legislation.

The American Legion endorsed H.R. 4334, The HERO Act. This bill will grant service members who are victims of medical malpractice in a DOD medical treatment facility the right and opportunity to take their claim to District Court—the same legal process as military spouses, DOD civilians, and anyone else. It will reform the current system and replace it with one that gives our military the fair shot at justice for medical malpractice.

In late March, The American Legion Legislative Division sent a letter to Rep. Garbarino in support of his legislation H.R. 5633- Veteran Suicide Prevention Act. This support is based on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division analysis that this legislation is supported by our Resolutions No. 6, No. 9, No. 17, No. 20, No. 37, and No. 52. This legislation is aligned with the priorities of The American Legion and our mission to Be The One. In early April, The American Legion is also attending a partnership meeting with the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. Executive Directors from the VA and Clinical Officers will be at the meeting to discuss mental health, specifically Geriatric mental health.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

The American Legion has submitted Statements for the Record on pending legislation before the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. The American Legion submitted statements of support for the draft legislation, Veterans Appeals Efficiency Act of 2024, based on Resolution No. 5. The American Legion also submitted a statement supporting the draft bill, Medical Disability Examination Improvement Act of 2024, based on Resolution No. 14 and Resolution No. 118. In this hearing, The American

Legion also issued a statement in support of current legislation, H.R. 2911- Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2023.

In February, The American Legion endorsed the Contract Our Veterans Act. Currently, the Defense Department has set contracting goals within 5 small business categories: women-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, socially and economically disadvantaged, historically underutilized business zones, and disadvantaged. The Contract Our Veterans Act would add veteran-owned small businesses to the list and set a contracting goal of 5% of the value of all prime contracts and subcontracts awarded each year, similar to the goal already set for service-disabled veteran-owned contracts. In addition, "The American Legion provided the following quote of support, "This legislation will increase the number of veteran-owned small businesses by tens of thousands, create hundreds of thousands of new veteran jobs, will strengthen national supply chains, and create a desperately needed recruiting incentive for our Armed Forces recruiters." In March we did an outreach campaign to Congressional members requesting their support for H.R. 6179 – The Home for the Brave Act. The American Legion initiated a grassroots campaign for H.R.1669 - VET–TEC Authorization Act of 2023.

NATIONAL SECURITY

On October 18, 2023, National Security testified in front of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and Senate Armed Services Committee to advocate for improving TAP, MLC, and Skillbridge.

In March, Commander Seehafer urged Congress to pass the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282) so combat disabled military retirees with VA ratings below 50% would no longer have to fund their disability compensation out of their own pensions.

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COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Legislative Commission met in December of 2023. In this meeting we discussed legislation in the upcoming Elizabeth Dole package and the FY 24 NDAA passage.
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Report: Legislative Commission
Patricia A. Harris, North Carolina, Chairwoman

This report summarizes the commission and Congressional actions since the 2023 Fall NEC Meetings on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. This report is arranged by program areas.

RECENT CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

On October 25, 2023, Mike Johnson of Louisiana's 4th District, was elected to be Speaker of the House. This followed a contentious selection period for Congress after Speaker McCarthy was ousted.

After almost six months of several short-term spending bills and continuing resolutions (CRs) to keep federal agencies funded, Congress agreed on a budget. President

Biden signed a $1.2 trillion package of spending bills on March 22, after the Senate passed legislation ending the looming threat of a government shutdown with a vote of 74-24.

On March 09, the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MILCON-VA) Appropriations was signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. The bill provides $18.7 billion for military construction, $2 billion above the President's budget request. Of those funds, $1.5 billion was programmed to construct or alter Guard and Reserve facilities in states and territories, an increase of $396 million above the fiscal year 2023 enacted level and $481 million above the fiscal year 2024 budget request.

In December, for the 63rd consecutive year, Congress reached a bipartisan, bicameral agreement to pass the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This year's agreement, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, addresses the most significant national security priorities for the United States, including strategic competition with China and Russia; disruptive technologies like hypersonic weapons, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing; modernizing America's ships, aircraft, and combat vehicles; and improving the lives of our servicemembers and their families. The final negotiated version of the NDAA for fiscal year 2024 authorizes $886 billion in national defense funding, an increase of $28 billion from last year.

Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson (LA-4), indicated that he will push for approval of a spending package of additional wartime funding for Ukraine. This will be a very difficult task to garner support, as it will be for tens of billions of dollars and has divided members of Congress over growing costs, especially for the House Republicans.

Congress was full of postponements in 2023, which means productivity was low in passing public laws. 2024 will also have obstacles in productivity, especially elections. The entire House and one-third of the Senate will be up for reelection. The focus on elections may overshadow the Congressional agenda, as majorities may be up for grabs.

The House of Representatives passed a series of bills at the end of April that would improve the lives of veterans and servicemembers. The American Legion provided statements for the record supporting three of these bills and backs the fourth but is seeking to increase the benefits provided.

- H.R. 3722, Daniel J. Harvey Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act. The legislation requires the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to jointly carry out a five-year pilot program to reduce suicide among veterans.
- H.R. 5914, the Veterans Education Transparency and Training Act. The legislation would amend Title 38 of the United States Code to improve the processes related to VA educational assistance programs.
- H.R. 1767, that would amend Title 38 of the United States Code to restore the GI Bill for veterans who were defrauded.
- H.R. 3738, that would amend Title 38 of the United States Code to compel the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration to administer economic opportunity assistance programs for veterans, and their dependents and survivors.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The American Legion met for the annual Washington Conference on February 26, 2024. Because the Congressional schedule changed, Congress was not in session during our Washington Conference. This means that the National Commander's testimony was not delivered during the conference, but in the following weeks. During the Commander's Rally the Division Directors prepared Legionnaires for their Hill visits to meet with their Representatives. The Legislative Division encouraged Legionnaires to report their meetings and any meetings in the future on the grassroots platform. Legionnaires were briefed on our legislative priorities such as: GI Bill Parity, Afghan Adjustment Act,

GUARD Act, Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act, and PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Act.

The Legislative Commission met in person on February 26, 2024, and Legislative Commission Chairwoman, Patricia Harris (NC), ran the meeting. Legislative Council Chairman, Rick Oertel, presented his report on Council activities. The Commission welcomed a panel of staffers from the Four Corners to discuss the best way to approach Congressional interactions. We also held a grassroots training session from the Legislative Division.

On March 13, 2024, National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer, testified before a joint session of Congress. In his testimony, he highlighted the importance of our Be The One mission in reducing the prevalence of veteran suicide. His comments were warmly received by the members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, and there were several follow-on questions about The American Legion's positions on TAP, citizenship for military service, and the Veterans Employment Act. The National Commander committed to working with the Congressional offices in the future to continue supporting veterans, their families, and their caregivers.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

In February, The American Legion endorsed H.R. 7361, The Flowers for Fallen Heroes Act. This legislation allows those wishing to lay flowers on the graves of fallen heroes who are interred at American military cemeteries overseas to do so through the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) jurisdiction. The bill mandates the creation of a user-friendly website and payment system that accepts credit cards for payment, finds reasonably priced vendors in proximity to the gravesites, urges the ABMC to market the program, and requires the ABMC to submit a yearly report to Congress on its progress.

In early March, The American Legion participated in a roundtable with Members of Congress to discuss women veterans' issues and the Deborah Sampson Act. In early April they are attending a seminar hosted by the Center for Women Veterans to meet with other VSOs to discuss potential and pending legislation.

The American Legion endorsed H.R. 4334, The HERO Act. This bill will grant service members who are victims of medical malpractice in a DOD medical treatment facility the right and opportunity to take their claim to District Court—the same legal process as military spouses, DOD civilians, and anyone else. It will reform the current system and replace it with one that gives our military the fair shot at justice for medical malpractice.

In late March, The American Legion Legislative Division sent a letter to Rep. Garbarino in support of his legislation H.R. 5633- Veteran Suicide Prevention Act. This support is based on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division analysis that this legislation is supported by our Resolutions No. 6, No. 9, No. 17, No. 20, No. 37, and No. 52. This legislation is aligned with the priorities of The American Legion and our mission to Be The One. In early April, The American Legion is also attending a partnership meeting with the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. Executive Directors from the VA and Clinical Officers will be at the meeting to discuss mental health, specifically Geriatric mental health.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

The American Legion has submitted Statements for the Record on pending legislation before the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. The American Legion submitted statements of support for the draft legislation, Veterans Appeals Efficiency Act of 2024, based on Resolution No. 5. The American Legion also submitted a statement supporting the draft bill, Medical Disability Examination Improvement Act of 2024, based on Resolution No. 14 and Resolution No. 118. In this hearing, The American

Legion also issued a statement in support of current legislation, H.R. 2911- Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2023.

In February, The American Legion endorsed the Contract Our Veterans Act. Currently, the Defense Department has set contracting goals within 5 small business categories: women-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, socially and economically disadvantaged, historically underutilized business zones, and disadvantaged. The Contract Our Veterans Act would add veteran-owned small businesses to the list and set a contracting goal of 5% of the value of all prime contracts and subcontracts awarded each year, similar to the goal already set for service-disabled veteran-owned contracts. In addition, "The American Legion provided the following quote of support, "This legislation will increase the number of veteran-owned small businesses by tens of thousands, create hundreds of thousands of new veteran jobs, will strengthen national supply chains, and create a desperately needed recruiting incentive for our Armed Forces recruiters." In March we did an outreach campaign to Congressional members requesting their support for H.R. 6179 – The Home for the Brave Act. The American Legion initiated a grassroots campaign for H.R.1669 - VET–TEC Authorization Act of 2023.

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ADDENDUM I
REPORT OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

The 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 legislative resolutions. This list of resolutions will constitute part of The American Legion's legislative program through the 118th Congress.

The following resolutions passed at the 2024 Spring National Executive Committee Meetings and are added to the Legislative Agenda:

NATIONAL SECURITY
Resolution 8: Definition of Gold Star Family
Resolution 9: Artificial Intelligence

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION
Resolution 10: Improve Security at Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Facilities

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION
Resolution 3: Increasing Military Tuition Assistance
Resolution 4: Appropriation of Funding for Credentialing Assistance Programs

The following resolutions which were passed at previous meetings and conventions remain on the Legislative Agenda:

AMERICANISM

2016	**Fall**	**19**	**Flag Code Amendment**
2016	**Convention**	**301**	**Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits**
2016	**Convention**	**303**	**Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Flag of the United States**
2018	**Convention**	**111**	**English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language**

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

2016	**Fall**	**11**	**Support and Defend Veteran and Military Memorials**
2018	**Convention**	**50**	**Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage**
2018	**Convention**	**110**	**Support Congressional Gold Medal for Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators of WWI**
2020	**Fall**	**17**	**Support for Review of Minority Awards of Medal of Honor WWI and Subsequent Wars/Conflicts**
2022	**Convention**	**3**	**Designate U.S. Highway 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway**
2022	**Convention**	**62**	**Award for service in support of the Kabul airlift**
2023	**Spring**	**6**	**Correction of Military Records**

NATIONAL SECURITY

2016	**Convention**	**225**	**Fully Fund NASA**
2016	**Convention**	**29**	**Commercial Shipbuilding For Defense**
2016	**Convention**	**33**	**Rare Earth Elements**
2016	**Convention**	**96**	**Support Full Funding And Resourcing For The U.S. Navy And Marine Corps**
2016	**Convention**	**219**	**Support Full Funding For The Department Of The Army Budget**
2016	**Convention**	**45**	**Policy On The Arctic Region**
2016	**Convention**	**90**	**South China Sea Island Building**
2018	**Convention**	**117**	**Japan Arms Sales**
2019	**Spring**	**9**	**Support For The Federated States Of Micronesia, The Republic Of The Marshall Islands, And Republic Of Palau**
2019	**Convention**	**41**	**Protection Of The POW/MIA Flag**

2016	**Convention**	**23**	**Support For The Department Of Homeland Security And Coast Guard**
2016	**Convention**	**32**	**Support Domestic Energy Production**
2016	**Convention**	**91**	**Cybersecurity And Identity Theft**
2016	**Convention**	**173**	**Secure National Borders Against Illegal Drugs**
2016	**Convention**	**85**	**Support For Military Quality Of Life Standards**
2016	**Convention**	**93**	**Codify Burial Eligibility For Arlington National Cemetery**
2016	**Convention**	**94**	**Earned Military Benefits**
2016	**Convention**	**102**	**Oppose Tricare Fee Increases**
2016	**Convention**	**107**	**Support Armed Services Retirement Homes**
2016	**Convention**	**200**	**Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)**
2018	**Spring**	**10**	**Expedited Citizenship Applications For Deported Veterans**
2018	**Convention**	**98**	**Continuation Of Military Death Benefits During Government Shutdown**
2018	**Fall**	**15**	**Expedited Citizenship Through Military Service**
2019	**Fall**	**18**	**Funding Of The Department Of Defense STARBASE Program**
2020	**Fall**	**22**	**Addressing the "Forever War"**
2021	**Spring**	**19**	**Oppose Deportation of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans**
2021	**Spring**	**20**	**Oppose Deportation of Immediate Family Members Of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans**
2021	**Convention**	**37**	**Abraham Accords Peace Agreement: Treaty of Peace, Diplomatic Relations and Full Normalization Between the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel**
2021	**Fall**	**3**	**Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness**
2021	**Fall**	**4**	**Support Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 and The Hatch Act of 1939**
2022	**Spring**	**23**	**Immigration Reform**
2022	**Spring**	**26**	**Support Availability of Tricare Prime To All Eligible Veterans Residing In All United States Territories**
2022	**Convention**	**4**	**Energy Independence**
2022	**Convention**	**13**	**Repeal the Rescission Act of 1946**
2022	**Convention**	**23**	**Implementing an Appeals Process for Medical Malpractice Claims**
2022	**Convention**	**51**	**Fully Fund the International Affairs Budget**
2022	**Convention**	**65**	**All Americans to be Registered for Selective Service**
2023	**Spring**	**9**	**Clarifying Definition of Incident to Service**
2023	**Spring**	**10**	**Expand the Reduced Retirement Age for Reserve Component Servicemembers**
2023	**Spring**	**11**	**Department of Defense Budget**
2023	**Convention**	**17**	**Policy on Taiwan**
2023	**Convention**	**30**	**Modernization of the Armed Forces**
2023	**Convention**	**48**	**Rebuilding the U.S. Defense Industrial Base**
2023	**Fall**	**1**	**North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Assessment**
2023	**Fall**	**2**	**TRICARE Coverage Of Dependent Adult Children**
2024	**Spring**	**31**	**Artificial Intelligence**

2024	**Spring**	**8**	**Definition of Gold Star Family**

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

2016	**Fall**	**22**	**Surviving Families Benefits**
2016	**Fall**	**23**	**Add Agent Orange Component To Code Of Federal Regulations 4.16**
2016	**Fall**	**24**	**Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award**
2016	**Convention**	**1**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Quadrennial Plan For Budget**
2016	**Convention**	**2**	**Reinstate Enrollment Of Priority Group 8g Veterans Into The Department Of Veterans Affairs Patient Enrollment System**
2016	**Convention**	**6**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Construction Programs**
2016	**Convention**	**8**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Preservation Of National Historic Properties**
2016	**Convention**	**11**	**Medical Marijuana Research**
2016	**Convention**	**35**	**Agent Orange**
2016	**Convention**	**41**	**State Veterans Home Funding For Construction Grants**
2016	**Convention**	**43**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Child Care Program**
2016	**Convention**	**51**	**WWII Veterans Hospital And Medical Entitlements**
2016	**Convention**	**52**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Means Test**
2016	**Convention**	**53**	**Veterans Discounts On Federally Funded Public Transportation**
2016	**Convention**	**54**	**Designate Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia As A Presumptive Condition For Veterans Who Served In Combat Theaters**
2016	**Convention**	**55**	**Radiation Exposure**
2016	**Convention**	**62**	**Veterans Transportation System And Benefits Travel**
2016	**Convention**	**64**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Beneficiary Travel Program**
2016	**Convention**	**83**	**Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record**
2016	**Convention**	**117**	**Disability And Death Pension Program**
2016	**Convention**	**131**	**Recognize Operations In Lebanon (1958), Grenada (1983), And Panama (1989-1990) As Periods Of War For Department Of Veterans Affairs Pension Purposes**
2016	**Convention**	**163**	**Legislation To Provide Reporting, Tracking, And Actions Dealing With Sexual Assaults At Department Of Veterans Affairs Facilities**
2016	**Convention**	**181**	**National Cemetery Administration**
2016	**Convention**	**182**	**Non-Department Of Veterans Affairs Emergency Care**
2016	**Convention**	**183**	**Presumptive Conditions For Former Prisoners Of War**
2016	**Convention**	**185**	**State Veteran Home Per Diem Reimbursement**
2016	**Convention**	**186**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Dental Care**

2016	Convention	187	Department Of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation
2016	Convention	188	Department Of Veterans Affairs' Role In National Emergency Preparedness
2016	Convention	238	Suicide Prevention For American Veterans Act
2016	Convention	245	Extend Eligibility For National Cemetery Administration Medallion
2016	Convention	255	Reducing Eligibility For Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Payments For 100% Disabled Veterans From 10 Years To 5 Years
2016	Convention	268	Urn Markers Provided By The National Cemetery Administration
2016	Convention	362	Congressional Budget Office Scoring On Department Of Veterans Affairs Leasing
2016	Convention	363	Consolidation Of Department Of Veterans Affairs Care In The Community Program
2016	Convention	367	Include Korean War Veterans In Priority Group 6 For Department Of Veterans Affairs Health Care
2016	Convention	372	Oppose Closing Or Privatization Of Department Of Veterans Affairs Health Care System
2016	Convention	375	Prosecution Of VA Employees Engaged In Fraudulent Practices In The Department Of Veterans Affairs
2016	Convention	377	Support For Veteran Quality Of Life
2016	Convention	380	Exempt Funds Related To Interment Services At Cemeteries From Any Future Sequestration
2017	Spring	27	Amend Title 38, United States Code, To Clarify The Treatment Of A Veteran As Adjudicated Mentally Incompetent For Certain Purposes
2017	Convention	14	Extend Allotted Time For Claims Review By Service Officers
2017	Convention	16	Department Of Veterans Affairs Automobile Allowance Program
2017	Convention	47	Research Into Hearing Loss Due To Loud Or Constant Noise Exposure In The Military
2017	Convention	75	Department Of Veterans Affairs Rural Health Care Program
2017	Convention	76	Veterans Emergency Room Or Urgent Care Facility Relief
2018	Spring	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
2018	Spring	19	Helping Veterans Exposed To Burn Pits
2018	Convention	11	Agent Orange And Kidney Disease
2018	Convention	49	Exempt Certain Income From VA Pension Rate Determination
2018	Convention	53	Means Test For Married Veterans
2018	Convention	58	Compensation For Veterans Requiring Hearing Aids For Service Connected Hearing Loss
2018	Convention	59	Automatic Waiver For Over-Payment Of $300

2018	**Convention**	**64**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Dental Care For Ratings Of 50% Or More**
2018	**Convention**	**74**	**Amend The Eligibility Requirements And Extend The Eligibility Time Period For Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance**
2018	**Convention**	**79**	**Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award**
2018	**Convention**	**85**	**Designate Prisoner Of War, Purple Heart And Medal Of Honor Recipients As Priority Group 1 Veterans**
2018	**Convention**	**93**	**Agent Orange**
2018	**Convention**	**115**	**Outdoor And Adaptive Sports Programs For Veterans**
2019	**Convention**	**11**	**Environmental Exposures At Fort McClellan**
2019	**Convention**	**32**	**Veterans Burial/Plot Allowance Payment**
2019	**Convention**	**52**	**Antidepressant Harms Analysis**
2019	**Convention**	**58**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Accreditation Of Individual Claims Agents**
2019	**Convention**	**59**	**Establish Green Alert System Interagency Group Or Committee For Veterans In Crisis**
2019	**Fall**	**11**	**Abolish Premium For Delayed Enrollment In Medicare Part B For Veterans Eligible For Medical Benefits From The Department Of Veterans Affairs**
2019	**Convention**	**18**	**Payment For Emergency Transportation To A Department Of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility**
2020	**Fall**	**3**	**Accuracy in Reporting Survivor Benefits and COVID-19**
2021	**Spring**	**14**	**Quality Assurance for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Contracted Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examinations**
2021	**Spring**	**16**	**Reproductive Assistance and Pregnancy Counseling**
2021	**Spring**	**18**	**Veteran Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Claims Training**
2021	**Convention**	**38**	**Predatory Claims Companies**
2021	**Fall**	**19**	**Improving Telehealth Access**
2021	**Fall**	**20**	**Home and Community-Based Services and Veteran Choice to Age In Place**
2021	**Fall**	**21**	**Expanding Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) Coverage**
2022	**Spring**	**10**	**Care For The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, + (LGBTQ+) Veteran Community**
2022	**Spring**	**11**	**Automatic Enrollment Into Veterans Affairs Health Care System**
2022	**Spring**	**13**	**Standards And Training For Community Care Providers**
2022	**Spring**	**14**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Programs**
2022	**Spring**	**15**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Prosthetic Program**
2022	**Spring**	**16**	**Department Of Veterans Affairs Accountability And Whistleblower Protections**

2022	**Spring**	**17**	**Continuum Of Care And Mental Health Supports**
2022	**Convention**	**9**	**Burial Allowance Following Hospice Care**
2022	**Convention**	**54**	**Expansion of Eligibility for Pension Benefits From the Department of Veterans Affairs**
2022	**Convention**	**64**	**Codification of the Department of Veterans Affairs Solid Start Program**
2022	**Fall**	**12**	**Implementation of the MISSION Act**
2022	**Fall**	**13**	**Redefine "Child" in Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations**
2022	**Fall**	**15**	**Oversight of Camp Lejeune Justice Act**
2022	**Fall**	**16**	**Furthering Research Pertaining to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**
2022	**Fall**	**18**	**Mental Health Programs for Justice-Involved Veterans**
2022	**Fall**	**20**	**National Standards of Practice**
2022	**Fall**	**21**	**Amend Radiation Exposure Compensation Act**
2023	**Spring**	**14**	**Electronic Health Record**
2023	**Spring**	**18**	**Written Informed Consent**
2023	**Spring**	**19**	**Protection of Veterans' Disability & Compensation**
2023	**Convention**	**3**	**Amend Rating Requirements for Hypertension**
2023	**Convention**	**4**	**Amend Eligibility for Burial Headstone and Markers**
2023	**Fall**	**5**	**Emerging Therapies To Address Veteran Suicides**
2023	**Fall**	**6**	**Stop Gap In Utilization Of Mental Health Services**
2023	**Fall**	**7**	**Ensuring VA Remain The Center Of Care**
2023	**Fall**	**8**	**Review Of All Claims Affected By Inaccurate Contact Information**
2024	**Spring**	**10**	**Improve Security at Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare Facilities**

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

2016	**Fall**	**20**	**Oppose Efforts to Downgrade Low-Level Wage Positions within the Department of Veterans Affairs**
2016	**Convention**	**58**	**Support Legislation that Prohibits Discrimination against Veterans in Federal Contracts**
2016	**Convention**	**60**	**Support Full Funding of Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOPS) Positions**
2016	**Convention**	**68**	**Support the Increased Funding of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Programs**
2016	**Convention**	**70**	**Improve Transition Assistance Program**
2016	**Convention**	**71**	**Oppose Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service Hiring of Non-Veterans**
2016	**Convention**	**73**	**Oppose the Transfer of Veterans' Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs**

2016	**Convention**	**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**
2016	**Convention**	**76**	**Support Improvements in the Reporting Programs available to and Administered by Veterans' Employment and Training Service**
2016	**Convention**	**77**	**Support for the Military Transition Program**
2016	**Convention**	**80**	**Support Legislation that would return Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Funding to a Staffing Grant**
2016	**Convention**	**81**	**Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops for National Guard and Reserve Members**
2016	**Convention**	**149**	**Support "Buy American" Policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs to Create Jobs and Opportunities for Veterans**
2016	**Convention**	**150**	**Expanding Post 9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship**
2016	**Convention**	**151**	**Status of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business after the Death of the Veteran Owner**
2016	**Convention**	**153**	**Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development**
2016	**Convention**	**155**	**Support Verification Improvements for Veterans' Business**
2016	**Convention**	**156**	**Veterans Entrepreneur Training Program**
2016	**Convention**	**170**	**Oppose the Department of Labor's Restructuring of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative Roles**
2016	**Convention**	**254**	**Raise on VA Home Loans for Two Legally Married Eligible Veterans**
2016	**Convention**	**274**	**Support Employment Services for Spouses of Servicemembers Killed in the Line of Duty**
2016	**Convention**	**311**	**Federal and State Incentive for Employers to use Veterans' Preference**
2016	**Convention**	**313**	**Support Elimination Funding Fees for Government Guaranteed Loans**
2016	**Convention**	**316**	**Support Employment of Veterans in the Public and Private Workforce**
2016	**Convention**	**317**	**Enforcing Veterans' Preference Hiring Practices in Federal Civil Service**
2016	**Convention**	**318**	**Ensuring the Quality of Servicemember and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education**
2016	**Convention**	**319**	**Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within The Department of Veterans Affairs**
2016	**Convention**	**327**	**Support further Assessment and Evaluation of Institutions of Higher Learning to Enable Veterans to make Informed Education Choices**

2016	**Convention**	**328**	**GI Bill Medical Transferability Rights**
2016	**Convention**	**329**	**Support Home Loan Guaranty Program**
2016	**Convention**	**330**	**Homeless Veterans Assistance**
2016	**Convention**	**331**	**Support Housing Preference for Low-Income Veterans in The Department of Housing and Urban Development**
2016	**Convention**	**332**	**Support Funding for The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Homeless Program**
2016	**Convention**	**333**	**Support Increase in Reporting Fees for Educational Institutions**
2016	**Convention**	**334**	**Support Legislation to Increase Telework (Telecommuting) Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veterans and Military Spouses**
2016	**Convention**	**335**	**Support Major Enhancements for The Montgomery GI Bill**
2016	**Convention**	**336**	**Support Legislation that would Change The 12-Year Delimiting Date for Eligibility to Chapter 31 Benefits (VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program)**
2016	**Convention**	**339**	**Support the Rollover of Ira Account Penalty of Tax Liability of a Permanent and Total 100 Percent Service-Disabled Veteran with Individual Unemployability**
2016	**Convention**	**340**	**Support Permanent Authorization for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program**
2016	**Convention**	**341**	**Support Recognition of Military and Pay when Calculating Starting Federal Civilian Salaries**
2016	**Convention**	**344**	**Support Federal Legislation that Protects the Employment of Veterans in the U. S. Postal Service Mail Processing Facilities that are Slated for Closure**
2016	**Convention**	**346**	**Support an Investigation of Hiring Practices in the Federal Government**
2016	**Convention**	**348**	**Support Legislation that Bolsters the Hiring of Veterans in the Private Sectors**
2016	**Convention**	**349**	**Support Legislation to improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill**
2016	**Convention**	**351**	**Support Tax Credit for certain Employers**
2016	**Convention**	**352**	**Transitional Housing Allotments for returning Combat Veterans**
2016	**Convention**	**353**	**Support a Veteran-Centric Website for Employment**
2016	**Convention**	**354**	**Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program**
2016	**Convention**	**355**	**Veterans Employment Initiative**
2016	**Convention**	**356**	**Veterans Home Loans**
2016	**Convention**	**357**	**Support Veterans Housing Repair and Modification for Pilot Program**
2016	**Convention**	**358**	**Support Veterans' Preference in Public Employment**

2017	**Fall**	**20**	**Support of An Acting Operator for Deployed Servicemember's Small Business**
2017	**Convention**	**26**	**Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development and Veterans Business Outreach Centers**
2017	**Convention**	**81**	**Military Spouse Employment**
2017	**Convention**	**82**	**Preserve Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Protections**
2017	**Convention**	**83**	**Protect Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Fair Consumer Arbitration**
2017	**Convention**	**84**	**Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)**
2017	**Convention**	**85**	**Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservists Returning from Deployment**
2018	**Fall**	**21**	**Support Reasonable Set-Aside of Federal Procurements and Contracts**
2018	**Fall**	**22**	**Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Student Loan Repayments**
2018	**Fall**	**23**	**Close the GI Bill Flight School Loophole**
2018	**Fall**	**24**	**Support Funding and Changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program**
2018	**Fall**	**26**	**Eliminate GI Bill Transferability Maximum Year Caps**
2018	**Convention**	**100**	**Accountability of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP)**
2018	**Convention**	**101**	**Support for Continuation of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program**
2018	**Convention**	**102**	**Expansion of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to include Ancillary Programs and Services**
2018	**Convention**	**103**	**Support and Expand Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program**
2018	**Convention**	**105**	**Support and Expand Warrior Transition Advancement Course (WARTAC)**
2018	**Spring**	**11**	**Support Veteran and Reserve Servicemember Financial Protections**
2018	**Spring**	**12**	**Accountability and Enhancements of Transition Assistance Program; Outcomes and Delivery for Today's Digital Transitioning Servicemembers**
2019	**Fall**	**13**	**Tracking of Veteran Unemployment in all U.S. Territories**
2019	**Fall**	**14**	**Reauthorize and Fund the U.S. Small Business Administration's Patriot Express Loan**
2019	**Fall**	**15**	**Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole**
2019	**Convention**	**54**	**GI Bill Eligibility for Reserve and National Guard Service**
2019	**Convention**	**55**	**Mandatory Use of the Veterans First Contracting Program**

2019	**Spring**	**13**	**Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act**
2020	**Fall**	**13**	**"Buy American" Policy within the Federal Government to Create Opportunities for Veterans**
2020	**Fall**	**14**	**Post 9/11 Transfer of Educational Benefits**
2021	**Fall**	**12**	**Cybersecurity Protections for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses**
2021	**Fall**	**13**	**Mandatory use of the Veterans First Contracting Program by The Department of Defense**
2022	**Spring**	**19**	**Enhancing The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) For Veteran Workers And Military Spouses**
2022	**Spring**	**20**	**Amend Title 38, United States Code, To Provide GI Bill Education Benefits For Veterans Receiving A General Discharge Under Honorable Conditions**
2022	**Spring**	**22**	**Federal Procurements And Contracts For Veteran-Owned Business**
2022	**Convention**	**15**	**Supportive Services Funding for Homeless and At-Risk Veterans**
2022	**Convention**	**16**	**Abating the Negative Impact of Category Management Procurement Practices for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses**
2022	**Convention**	**17**	**Protecting Veteran-Owned Small Business Subcontractors**
2022	**Convention**	**18**	**Quality Education for GI Bill Beneficiaries**
2022	**Convention**	**19**	**Resource and System Provisions for Food Insecurity Among Veterans**
2022	**Convention**	**20**	**Tax Relief for Veterans and Military Families**
2022	**Fall**	**22**	**Support for Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) Expansion**
2022	**Fall**	**23**	**Support for Veterans Employment Through Technological Education Courses (VET TEC)**
2022	**Fall**	**24**	**GI Bill Fairness for Activated National Guard and Reserve Servicemembers**
2022	**Fall**	**25**	**Additional Affordable Housing Funding for Homeless and At-Risk Veterans**
2023	**Spring**	**8**	**Home Loan Guaranty Program Eligibility**
2023	**Convention**	**13**	**Option to Provide Contact Information to Veterans Service Organizations at Discharge or Retirement**
2023	**Convention**	**14**	**Preserve Housing Benefits for Online Education**
2023	**Fall**	**12**	**Increase The Grant Amounts Authorized In The Specially Adaptive Housing Program**
2023	**Fall**	**13**	**Transition Assistance Program App**
2023	**Fall**	**14**	**Support The Armed Forces Retirement Home**

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission with the exception of one addendum. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WOODS: Mr. Commander, attached to the report is Addendum I. Pursuant to Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, I move the list of resolutions with legislative intent be ratified for distribution as part of the legislative program through the 118th Congress. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion is made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you. The chair recognizes David F. Wallace of Virginia, chairman of the Media & Communications Commission, for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Media & Communications Commission
David F. Wallace, Virginia, Chairman

Commander, members of the NEC, national officers, Legionnaires, and friends, The American Legion Media & Communications Commission is confronting a challenging and fast-changing landscape, especially for *The American Legion Magazine*, which indeed remains the best-read monthly periodical for men and is in the top ten for women, of all titles in the nation. Advertising sales into the magazine, however, are running below budget through the June issue. Meanwhile, paper, printing and postage are all running above budget, even though 12 fewer pages have been published than were budgeted.

This is a common refrain across the magazine industry. As traditional advertising revenue streams for the magazine and website have shifted, the commission has called upon staff to concentrate heavily on media developments and promotions that assist other revenue-generating areas of the organization, as well as those that are housed in the Media & Communications areas. I want to highlight just a couple of these.

One, the April issue of *The American Legion Magazine* featured a cover wrap promoting U.S. flag items for sale through Emblem Sales. Stamped on the cover was a QR code for easy ordering. The result: an all-time record for orders. Emblem Sales reported that in April, boosted by the cover wrap, a total of 451,718 units were ordered, nearly half of all flag sales for the year so far and a three percent increase over last April's record month.

Multi-year renewal: The division worked closely with Membership and Marketing to deploy a surround-sound campaign to promote the new multi-year option. That campaign has included magazine ads, digital media placements, news articles and more. The result: As of now, more than 21,000 members have either renewed or joined for the first time using the multi-year option.

Number three, Office of Charitable Giving: Twice a month or more, Media & Communications staff meets with the Office of Charitable Giving to line up promotions and editorial content for the website and magazine, to inform donors about how to make a lasting contribution to The American Legion. This effort has included weekly stories online, advertising and editorial copy in every magazine, impact sheets that appeal to specific donors and more. The result: a 124% increase in the number of estate planning guides sent to donors year over year, and the rise of a founder's level donor recognition that previously did not exist.

In addition to these efforts, the division also fulfills advertising and promotions for the organization's most valuable corporate alliances, like USAA, Centene, and INDYCAR, which are producing successful results and fulfilling important contract obligations. This is the way, where the bottom line is that outside advertising sales into all magazines are declining. As companies nationwide invest more and more in digital media, anymore it's less and less about selling advertising into magazines and more about building relationships between our audience and companies that wish to do business with us in print and online.

In 2017, the percentage of digital advertising spending in America was 48. That percentage is now 68% and rising. To mitigate some of this, the commission has called upon staff to conduct an important survey this summer of American Legion digital media audiences. This is a budgeted third-party study to obtain vital information that will help increase ad sales onto the Legion's national digital platforms. This is all part of a refreshed

advertising strategy the commission has called for with staff and the James G. Elliott Co. and is among the top priorities in the 2024 strategic plan for Media & Communications.

Staff has also been working hard to convert traditionally printed media into more digital online products, such as the newly redesigned annual report. You have a card in your packets with a QR code linking to that report, a project that was led by Associate Editor Laura Edwards and Graphic Designer Celesta Torok-Lee.

The Media & Communications Commission has made it clear to staff, and staff is acting effectively, to stay on plan, not only for the commission, but for the national organization. Top priorities for the organization were recently listed as: prevention of veteran suicide, financial stability, membership and talent management. In addition to the work being done on financial stability and membership, which I have already mentioned, I must commend Deputy Director Henry Howard for his leadership in delivering a multimedia campaign and new toolkit for local use in support of the Legion's Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.

One of the things I'd like to make sure that all of you know, every post is going to be receiving one of these cards in the mail. It's to be mailed out next week. It is going to provide the QR code and how to get to the resources that I just talked about. This is a key thing. Please make sure for all of you that you keep track of your respective posts, throughout your respective departments, in making sure that they're aware that this is coming. This way they can say, "Hey, now I know they're getting something in their hands."

This work has driven the Legion's top priority to the top of the organization's awareness with stories, videos, podcast episodes, graphics, magazine commitments and more, in a campaign that is now assembled into a toolkit that posts can use to spread the word and conduct effective activities locally.

In the area of talent management, the commission has been pleased by the staff's efforts to revive some of its pre-COVID esprit de corps with staff pitch-ins, competitions, outings, work sessions like stuffing Be the One toolkit packages, and more. And I applaud Jeff for this. Being an HR professional, it's very important to be talking, listening to your staff, and be able to understand the culture and climate of an organization, especially your staff. In the area of talent management, it's important the staff is making a point to select service projects throughout the year. Last fall, Media & Communications team members collected comfort items, donated them to Indiana Veterans' Home in Lafayette before Christmas. And in April, to celebrate Children & Youth Month, the division had a 50/50 drawing for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

I have in this envelope the foundation's 50%: $101. Well, what it was, was $101. But at our commission meeting, commander, the entire commission decided to double that, more than double that, to honor everything that our great staff is doing. So, I'd like to give to you $238 on behalf of Media & Communications Commission and staff for the Veterans & Children Foundation. *(Applause)*

Finally, Commander Seehafer and members of the NEC, I would be remiss to note that, for the record, that the commission mourns the passing of Doug Malin from New York, past national commander's aide and longtime Media & Communications Commission member. He passed away in December. He was a joy, an inspiration to us and to the staff, with his amazing photography skills, humor and insights.

Commander, thank you for allowing me a little more time than usual, but this is a complex period for the Media & Communications Commission, and I want to be as clear as possible about how we are navigating change. This concludes my report.

Report: Media & Communications Commission
David F. Wallace, Virginia, Chairman

The American Legion Media & Communications Commission continues to navigate a fast-changing environment for publishing and dissemination of information to the organization's audiences. The commission is closely following industrywide trends,

including the shift since 2017 when 48% of all advertising spending was in digital media and now, when 68% of all advertising is digital.

Advertisers are increasingly leaving print media and moving onto online platforms to promote their products, services and interests. *The American Legion Magazine* is feeling the impact of that evolution and is taking steps to mitigate it and adjust to the changes, which are expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile, the commission strongly supports the primary strategic priorities of the organization and encourages Media & Communications Division staff to work toward their fulfillment. They are:

- Prevention of veteran suicide
- Corporate financial stability
- Membership acquisition and retention
- Talent management

The American Legion Media & Communications Commission plays an important role in overseeing media support for each of these top priorities, and more, but emphasis must now be placed squarely on corporate financial stability, given the cost and revenue situation. The existing model to offset production and distribution costs of *The American Legion Magazine* and other national media products and services is increasingly less viable. As advertising sales into the national magazine and digital media (website and e-newsletters, primarily) now stand at over $654,000 below budget, the revenue-generating aspect of American Legion media and communications program is shifting. Production and distribution costs have increased approximately 40% over the last five years, and the division now stands at $141,127 over budget for paper, printing and postage costs, despite publishing 12 fewer magazine pages than were budgeted.

To address the corporate financial stability priority of the organization, the commission has instructed staff to explore potential new business models for the magazine, expedite the digitization of traditionally printed materials and to conduct the necessary market research to better position legion.org and the organization's family of e-newsletters for advertising. The commission looks forward to the results of a budgeted ReadEx survey this summer to develop a stronger demographic profile of The American Legion's digital media audience, similar to the market research required for advertising sales into *The American Legion Magazine*.

Notably, the Tango Alpha Lima podcast has been a successful driver for an increased audience, broader engagement and incremental revenue gain. In 2023, the number of downloads grew by 72% year over year. And this year started off by continuing the surge, with January and February being among the top several months ever in terms of downloads. The commission also commends the staff, in particular Associate Editor Laura Edwards and Graphic Designer Celesta Torok-Lee, for their work to redesign The American Legion Annual Report into a more digital product. Staff is also working with the Information Technology Division and a third-party contractor to substantially improve the national website user experience, elevating membership and donation opportunities, as well as demonstrate the organization's value to the nation.

The commission is also pleased with the high-priority work, led by Deputy Director Henry Howard, to advance the Be the One message in the Legion's mission to prevent veteran suicide. The most recent development on that front is a print and multi-media Be the One toolkit that is scheduled to be distributed to American Legion departments and housed on the national website as well. In addition, he has written or assigned dozens of web and magazine stories, launched a spinoff monthly Be the One podcast and newsletter, and has coordinated the design of media resources to support the mission.

The commission urges continued Media & Communications Division staff support of the Internal Affairs/Membership team with new media production, which has included a "surround-sound" campaign to promote multi-year membership, which has produced more than 21,000 transactions so far, enroute to a goal of 25,000 by June 30. Also, staff has been producing stories and videos about innovative post developments in places like Dripping

Springs, Texas, and Wichita, Kan. In addition, the staff video team has produced a first-ever "Welcome to The American Legion" video for new members.

In addition, the Media & Communications Commission heartily supports continued collaborations with the Office of Charitable Giving, the Marketing Division, Emblem Sales, Americanism/Children & Youth, Veterans Employment & Education, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Legislative and all others to demonstrate the value of the organization.

Collaborations with other divisions have produced some strong results, beyond the successful campaign to promote multi-year membership. One example is the record-breaking April for Emblem Sales, which published a cover wrap in that month's magazine. The cover wrap helped Emblem Sales achieve a 3% increase in flag sales over April 2023 for a record-breaking $781,000 in flag sales.

As the division works to make progress on its 2024 strategic plan, special emphasis has been placed on staff bandwidth and culture in the office. Over the last year, the staff has gathered for pitch-ins, took the initiative to conduct regular service projects by collecting items for the Indiana Veterans Home and has held a 50-50 drawing to support the Veterans & Children Foundation.

The American Legion Media & Communications Commission, which during its Monday meeting mourned the passing of longtime member and Past National Commander's Aide Doug Malin, appreciates the support of the National Executive Committee, national officers and executive leadership at this time of unprecedented changes in the way members communicate and consume media.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. There are no resolutions and no addendum. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried. The chair now recognizes Autrey B. James of California, chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Autrey B. James, California, Chairman

Good day, commander, national officers, NEC, and distinguished guests. It is an honor to continue to serve our nation's veterans as the chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. Commander, I truly appreciate the support that you and The American Legion's national leadership and staff have provided to the VA&R division this past year. I have provided a written report of the VA&R Commission's activities since the fall 2023 NEC meetings but would like to share a few things outside of that particular report.

From April 2023 until March 2024, 706 service officers have completed our service officer training program. 236 of those service officers completed the new suicide prevention module that was included starting in March of 2024. In the same time frame, we processed 654 new service officer accreditations. We encourage all of you to keep promoting service officer training and accreditation to your respective departments.

For fiscal year 2023, The American Legion accredited representatives have assisted in veterans receiving over $18 billion in compensation through initial claims, and over $74 million through appeals. We are continuing to focus on reinforcing and strengthening our service officer network.

Finally, I have a few reminders for all of you. The department service officer symposium is coming up on October 20-25, 2024. We will be sending out the nomination forms to department adjutants, service officers, and NECs on May 17. The nomination form must come through the department adjutant.

Additionally, I want to encourage all departments to look into award nominations for VA Physician of the Year, VA Health-Care Provider of the Year, and the William F. Lenker National Service Trophy. VA&R staff will send an email to department commanders, adjutants and NEC members in June with instructions on how to apply.

Commander, our committed volunteers and highly dedicated staff are ever present and available to ensure our nation's veterans are getting all the benefits they have earned through their time in service. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. This concludes my report.

Advance Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Autrey B. James, California, Chairman

I. NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE

The 64th Annual Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission Conference was held at the Washington Hilton on February 25-26, 2024.

II. MEETING OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission met at the Washington Hilton on February 26, 2024. Commission Chairman Autrey B. James, CA, presided. Reports received and matters considered during this meeting are as follows:

A. VA Voluntary Services Volunteer of the Year Award

National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer presented Mr. Daniel Jakubczyk (WI), the VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) Worker of the Year award during the 2024 Washington Conference. Legionnaire Jakubczyk was nominated and awarded the VAVS citation for his dedicated service to the Milwaukee, Wisconsin VA Medical Center.

Fifteen years ago, when his wife told him she was going to volunteer at the Milwaukee VA, Legionnaire Jakubczyk said that he would also sign up. After starting out as deputies they both became the hospital representatives. Mr. Jakubczyk also volunteers with VA's "No Veteran Dies Alone" program where he engages with veterans, building meaningful relationships and providing comfort before their end-of-life-process begins.

Mr. Jakubczyk served in the Air Force during Vietnam and is a 55-year member of American Legion Post 434 in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. He is held with the highest esteem for his hard work, dedication and the genuine concern he conveys toward all of his fellow veterans.

B. Remarks from Guest Speakers

American Legion Auxiliary President, Lisa Williamson, and Sons of The American Legion National Commander, Donald "J.R." Hall, provided remarks on their priorities for the year and their dedication to serving veterans and their families. It was an honor to have both attend and address the VA&R Commission.

Mr. Matthew Rowley, community builder for the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Office of Health and Innovative Learning, thanked The Legion for their support and trusted relationship over the past year. Mr. Rowley provided brief descriptions on the purpose of the office and new innovations the office is working on. The information provided was well received and the VA&R Commission is looking forward to continuing work with this office.

Mr. Eugene Luskin, Chief Executive Officer of SYNC.MD, presented their electronic health record system, which demonstrated the ease of which a veteran

would be able to transfer their medical records to providers registered in their system. The VA&R Commission had numerous questions about this system and is looking to discuss a resolution on this type of solution for electronic health record management for veterans.

A discussion panel was held with VA leadership to answer questions submitted by several departments and the VA&R Commission. The panel consisted of the following VA leaders: Jaime Ariezaga-Soto, Chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals, Matthew Quinn, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Dr. Steve Lieberman, Deputy Under Secretary for Health, and Michael Frueh, Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits.

The commission had no resolutions to consider at this time.

III. MEETING OF THE TBI/PTSD, SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

On February 25, 2024, The American Legion's Traumatic Brain Injury/Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)/Suicide Prevention Committee was held at Washington Hilton, Monroe, Concourse Level. Committee Vice Chairman William W. Kile, WV, conducted the meeting. More than 80 combined committee members and other Legionnaires attended the meeting.

Ms. Paige Figi, Executive Director, Coalition for Access Now, gave a presentation regarding the pathway that cannabidiol (CBD) has taken towards legalization and the unregulated market that it now lies in, urging for regulation from the FDA to ensure a safe product is available for all.

Next, our committee heard from Mr. Paul Bertrand and Mr. Bryan Gibb of LivingWorks Education USA, who discussed the importance of suicide prevention training and peer support. They spoke about their various training programs and gave an example of cost implementation for The American Legion in the state of Virginia. It should be noted the price was negotiable. To train 10% of Virginia, or 4,000 members in safeTALK and 1 ASIST trainer in each district, the total cost was $111,800 or $28 per member. LivingWorks also noted they would help complete potential grant applications to cover program costs.

Finally, we heard from Dr. Jeanne Stellman, of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, who provided a PTSD research update from her Vietnam Survey Mortality Study. There were many lessons learned from Dr. Stellman's studies, and these could and should be applied to future studies regarding the mental health of our Post 9/11 generation veterans. For instance, she explored the relationship between PTSD and health conditions such as heart disease, the consequences of combat levels, and the importance of examining subthreshold PTSD in the context of screening and care.

The committee had no resolutions to consider at this time.

VII. PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION VA PHYSICIAN AND HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

During the Commander's Call, on February 26, 2024, VA&R Commission Chairman, Autrey B. James, and the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Dennis McDonough, announced and presented the awards for the 2023 VA Physician and Health-Care Provider of the Year recipients.

Dr. William Bell III, a Rheumatologist from the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center in Mountain Home, Tennessee was selected for Physician of the Year. Dr. Bell was nominated for his honest and positive approach to helping veterans live their lives to the best quality possible.

Echocardiographic Technician Kimberly Nutt from the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was selected for Health-Care Provider of the Year. Ms. Nutt was recognized for her gracious treatment of veterans and unwavering dedication to the world-class care of veterans while being treated at this medical facility.

VIII. SYSTEM WORTH SAVING (SWS) AND REGIONAL OFFICE ACTION REVIEW (ROAR)

System Worth Saving

Past National Commander (PNC) Ronald Conley, PA, initiated the SWS Program in 2003. The American Legion resolved to support the SWS program through Resolution 206, which authorized visits to designated Veterans Health 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 VA&R Commission.

From October 2023 through March 2024, The American Legion's SWS team made a site visit to James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa Florida in January 2024.

In preparation for our latest SWS site, the SWS team conducted nine virtual meetings with VA representatives to get a better understanding of the facility's best practices and areas of improvement.

During each visit, the SWS team meets with the medical facility's departments to discuss challenges to aging infrastructure, accessibility, quality of care, budgeting, unique outreach or prevention programs, enrollment, and staffing and recruitment. Additionally, for this upcoming year, the SWS program aims to review and spotlight the Department of Veteran Affairs' (VA) effort in addressing women's health, rural health, telehealth, toxic exposures, dental, and minority health.

Regional Office Action Review

From January to May 2024, The American Legion's Regional Office Action Review (ROAR) team made site visits to VA regional offices (VAROs) in St. Petersburg, Florida and Phoenix, Arizona.

In preparation for these visits, the Legion requested 50 veterans' VA case files from each VARO for analysis by attorneys from Bergmann & Moore, LLC, our training and education partner. These analyses help to gauge the quality of VA claims processing and adjudication, identifying errors found in the claims. These results are later shared with the VARO's leadership.

The ROAR team conducts onsite interviews with leadership and staff to help identify best practices, as well as any significant challenges that may exist in the areas of training, productivity, quality, and employee morale. An ongoing concern has been the impact created by the rising number of VA disability claims being filed – generated by provisions of the PACT Act that was signed into law on August 10, 2022. Information gathered from these interviews is compiled into reports that are posted online and shared with VA leadership, members of Congress, and White House staff.

The St. Petersburg site is one of only three VA regional offices that include a Decision Review Operations Center (DROC), which handles Higher-Level Review (HLR) appeals and other areas of adjudication under the Appeals Modernization Act. The Legion's ROAR team was afforded the opportunity to interview several members of the DROC staff.

In St. Petersburg, 16 individuals were interviewed during the team's visit on 30-31 January 2024: the regional office director and two assistant directors, veterans service representative (VSR), senior VSR, rating VSR, two decision review officers,

rating quality review specialist, authorization VSR, authorization quality review specialist, quality review team coach/supervisor, veterans service center manager and assistant manager, and DROC manager and assistant manager.

In Phoenix, the ROAR team interviewed 15 individuals during its site visit on 1-2 May 2024: the regional office director and assistant director, veterans service representative (VSR), senior VSR, rating VSR, quality review specialist, rating quality review specialist, authorization VSR, authorization quality review specialist, quality review team coach/supervisor, national call center representative, veterans service center manager and assistant manager, national call center manager and support services chief.

Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Autrey B. James, California, Chairman

I. VA&R COMMISSION MEETING

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Resolutions Screening Committee met virtually via Microsoft Teams on April 22, 2024, with Commission Chairman Autrey B. James, (CA) presiding. This meeting focused on reviewing, discussing, and establishing recommendations on resolutions for NEC consideration.

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met virtually via Microsoft Teams on April 24, 2024, with Commission Chairman Autrey B. James, (CA) presiding. This meeting focused on reviewing, discussing, and establishing recommendations on resolutions for NEC consideration.

The Commission Reviewed and provided recommendations on the following resolutions:

- Improve Security at Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare Facilities – **Approve**
- PER- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) – **Receive/Record**
- Eligibility for Burial Benefits for Veterans Opting for a Commemorative Plaque or Urn – **Hold for Further Study**

RESOLUTIONS

Commission Chairman Autrey B. James, CA, led a discussion on the following resolutions in order to prepare for the May 2024 National Executive Committee meeting:

Title: Improve Security at Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare Facilities
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The VA&R Commission moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2024 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Title: PER- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
Origin: Department of Michigan
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The VA&R Commission moved and properly seconded to receive and record as there is currently an existing resolution that addresses the resolves of this resolution. Motion carried.

Title: Eligibility for Burial Benefits for Veterans Opting for a Commemorative Plaque or Urn
Origin: Department of Minnesota
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The VA&R Commission recommends holding this resolution for further study.

II. SYSTEM WORTH SAVING

System Worth Saving

Past National Commander (PNC) Ronald Conley, PA, initiated the System Worth Saving (SWS) Program in 2003. The American Legion resolved to support the SWS program through Resolution 206, which authorized visits to designated Veterans Health 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 VA&R Commission.

From March 2024 through May 2024, The American Legion's SWS team made a site visit to Carl T. Hayden Veterans' Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona, in April 2024.

In preparation for our latest SWS site, the SWS team conducted six virtual meetings with VA representatives to get a better understanding of the facility's best practices and areas of improvement.

During the visit, the SWS team met with the medical facility's departments to inquire about and discuss challenges to aging infrastructure, accessibility, quality of care, budgeting, unique outreach or prevention programs, enrollment, or staffing and recruitment. According to the team there has been a vast improvement since the events of ten years ago with wait times and connecting veterans with care. The medical facility, however, needs some infrastructure updates. Additionally, veterans care is heavily supplemented by community care due to the large number of veterans seeking care, as the medical facility was not built to handle as many veterans. It would be beneficial to build an additional veterans medical center in that area to make sure all veterans are receiving care.

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

Addendum A

Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2849 (MI) (DEC): **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)**

Hold for Further Study

Register Resolution No. 2851 (MN) (DEC): **Eligibility for Burial Benefits for Veterans Opting for a Commemorative Plaque or Urn**

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission with the exception of one resolution and one addendum. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 10: Improve Security at Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Facilities

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Nearly 70% of all disabled veterans rely on Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities for their health care; and

WHEREAS, Safe and secure facilities are paramount to ensuring veterans receive the world-class care that they deserve; and

WHEREAS, A 2022 report from the VA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) found an average 33% vacancy rate in security officer positions across VA medical facilities; and

WHEREAS, That report also found that the security officer vacancy rate surged to over 60% at some facilities; and

WHEREAS, An OIG audit, as part of that report, found that nearly 25% of publicly accessible doors at selected VA facilities had no security presence, and around 20% of security cameras at facilities were nonfunctional; and

WHEREAS, In February of 2024, a security guard at the Atlanta VA Medical Center in Decatur, Georgia was forced to shoot and kill a veteran experiencing a mental-health crisis when the veteran advanced on him with a knife, leading the hospital to install metal detectors at its emergency room entrance; and

WHEREAS, Two weeks before the shooting incident, the same facility's security staff arrested a veteran in the parking lot after finding his vehicle contained several weapons and a controlled substance; and

WHEREAS, These incidents occurred after a July 2023 letter from doctors and staff members at the Atlanta VA Medical Center calling for advanced security measures, including metal detectors at entrance doors, that could have prevented the shooting incident and saved the life of a veteran in mental crisis; and

WHEREAS, In March of 2024, a veteran at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center was murdered by a fellow veteran in the hospital's inpatient psychiatric unit while unmonitored by security personnel; and

WHEREAS, These incidents highlight a larger and growing problem with security at VA health-care facilities; 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, 2024, That The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation to improve security staffing at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health-care facilities, to include filling vacant security officer positions, increasing overall security staffing and improving security officer training; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls upon Congress to pass legislation to improve the physical security at VA facilities, such as installing metal detectors at facility entrances, ensuring security staff are present at all publicly accessible entrances and strengthening facility doors and windows; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to improve security surveillance at VA facilities by repairing and modernizing video surveillance technology at facilities, as well as ensuring enough staffing to properly monitor it.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has been approved by your VA&R Commission, the Resolutions Subcommittee and I recommend its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Attached to this report is Addendum A. I move the actions of the VA&R Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion made and seconded. Do I hear any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Next, the chair recognizes Jay W. Bowen, Sr. of Colorado, chairman of Veterans Employment & Education Commission, for his report.

Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
John W. 'Jay' Bowen Sr., Colorado, Chairman

National Commander Seehafer, National Adjutant Wheeler, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers, past national commanders, distinguished guests, Legionnaires all. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address this body on matters concerning Veterans Employment & Education. You have a copy of my written

report which highlights the accomplishments of the commission and its two committees, the Employment & Veterans Preference Committee, and the Veterans Education, Other Benefits & and Homelessness Committee. In this report you will find detailed information on recent work the commissions and committees have done to improve the lives of veterans and our active-duty servicemembers. Rather than regurgitating the report, I would like to speak on two current issues the commission is working to improve.

On April 22, the VE&E screening committee met to consider new matters to be brought to the National Executive Committee. From this we are recommending two resolutions for approval. The resolutions can be found in your packet. The first resolution pertains to military tuition assistance. Following discussions with representatives of the Department of Defense and senior members of various academic institutions, we have determined that tuition assistance must be increased. As it stands, tuition assistance covers $250 per credit hour, not to exceed $4,500 per year. Tuition assistance has not been adjusted for inflation since 2002, while inflation and the cost of tuition assistance continues to rise and servicemembers are finding it exceedingly difficult to earn their degree while in service. In the last 20 years, the cost of tuition has increased by over 120%.

It has recently come to our attention that earning an associate degree can take seven to eight years. The goal of tuition assistance was to prepare servicemembers to transition to civilian life by completing a degree program that would allow them to obtain gainful employment. It has been a vital recruitment incentive since its inception. However, military tuition assistance is becoming less attractive as a result of the increasing cost of tuition and the time it takes the servicemember to complete their degree.

This resolution is designed to see tuition assistance increases to keep up with the cost of tuition today and in the years to come. You'll notice that the resolution does not recommend a specific dollar amount. That was intentional. We want this resolution to be a dynamic document urging the DoD to adjust tuition assistance when inflation and the economy dictates.

The second resolution addresses credentialing assistance. Credentialing assistance has been an important benefit for servicemembers seeking an alternative path to education and training. The skills-based training afforded to servicemembers through credentialing assistance has become immensely popular over the past five years, as it provides for professional military development and allows the attainment of skills that lead to good-paying, family-sustaining careers.

Despite the popularity of this benefit and the opportunity it provides, funding for credentialing assistance is not appropriated. Rather, funding is at the discretion of the respective service branch. Consequently, oversight remains a concern, as the lack of oversight contributes to a scarcity of data on credentialing programs, particularly as it relates to its success rates and outcomes. The goal of this resolution is to see that funding for credentialing assistance is appropriated by Congress. This will ensure that credentialing assistance remains a viable option for servicemembers, and that funding for these programs continue, and that we receive data on how successful these programs are.

The VE&E Commission works tirelessly to see that servicemembers, veterans and their families, have all available opportunities afforded to them. These opportunities were earned through their great sacrifice and commitment to our country, and we will continue to advocate on their behalf.

In closing, I would like to thank each of you for your commitment to servicemembers, veterans, and their families. The work all of you do is vital to seeing our military-connected community is adequately prepared to achieve their goals and aspirations. And I want to thank you, Commander Seehafer, for giving me the opportunity to serve in this vital role. I have the honor and privilege of working alongside an extremely professional and talented staff of volunteers. I have gained tremendous insight into this commission. I have learned more than I have imparted. Commander, subject to questions, this concludes my report.

Advance Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
John W. 'Jay' Bowen Sr., Colorado, Chairman

Members and guests of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission (VE&E) and its two standing committees, the Employment and Veterans' Preference Committee and the Veterans Education, Other Benefits, and Homelessness Committee, met at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC, on February 26, 2024. Panels consisting of industry experts discussing the Commission's ongoing initiatives to assist transitioning servicemembers in achieving their academic goals, finding gainful employment, preventing homelessness, and ensuring mental well-being were held in conjunction with the Sixty-Fourth Annual Washington Conference.

National Veterans Employment & Education Commission events were conducted that included a Pre-Washington Conference virtual VE&E Commission meeting with the Veteran Small Business Task Force (SBTF) on February 16. In addition, VE&E held a Commission meeting, a Homeless Awareness and Prevention panel, a Mental Health and Wellness panel, a Tuition Assistance panel, and a Task Force Movement panel on Monday, February 26. In addition, an Awards Selection Subcommittee, composed of members of the VE&E Commission and its two committees met at the Washington Hilton on February 27 to select the national winners and runners-up in the Commission's two national awards programs.

A synopsis of the meetings follows:

I. CAREER FAIRS AND WORKSHOPS

On October 19, 2023, VE&E collaborated with the Department of Puerto Rico, SkilMil Municipio de Carolina, Conexion Laboral (Carolina), and the Departamento del Trabajo y Recursos Humanos to conduct an employment resource and job fair.

II. PRE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE NATIONAL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING ON SMALL BUSINESS CAREER FAIRS AND WORKSHOPS

On February 16, The American Legion's National VE&E Commission convened its virtual pre-Washington Conference Small Business Meeting. The meeting aimed to inform Commission Members of ongoing initiatives on veteran-owned small businesses and discuss the SBTF's goals and priorities.

Guest speakers included Larry Stubblefield, Deputy Associate Administrator of Small Business Administration (SBA), and Timothy Green, Associate Administrator of SBA. Mr. Stubblefield and Mr. Green expressed the importance of strengthening small businesses in underserved communities, including inner city and rural areas. Additionally, SBA aims to support further manufacturing businesses crucial to the United States (U.S.) economy. Following discussion from SBA, SBTF Subcommittee members provided recommendations ranging from enforcing veterans' preference in contracting to expanding cyber security protections for small businesses.

The meeting culminated with the SBTF expressing the importance of increased advocacy from Task Force members, particularly regarding the Vets First Contracting Program and its expansion to the Department of Defense.

III. AWARDS SELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission's Award Subcommittee reviewed all the nominations received in 2023 for the Employer of the Year and Employment Service Awards programs. The subcommittee selected a winner and second- and third-place runners-up in the categories below. The presiding subcommittee members were John "Jay" Bowen (CO), Chairman; Lloyd H. Woods (ME); Alonzo Scott (VA); Eugene O'Grady (NJ); and Brian Ring (IA).

Members of the Awards Selection Subcommittee met on February 27 to consider various nominations. In 2023, Departments submitted 38 nominations for employers and

employment services: eight for small companies (1-50 employees), five for medium-sized companies (51-200 employees), seven for large companies (201+ employees), two for Employer of Older Workers, and two for the Enhance the Lives of the Disabled category.

The same subcommittee also selected the Employment Service Awards program winners. Departments submitted five nominations for LVERs, four for DVOPs, and one for Local Employment Service Offices.

Before the meeting, the staff liaison to the subcommittee mailed copies of all nominations and supporting data to each subcommittee member. After a thorough review, the subcommittee selected the following winners:

SMALL EMPLOYER:	**HumCap LP** **Plano, TX**
MEDIUM SIZE EMPLOYER:	**Wolverine** **Dallas, Texas**
LARGE EMPLOYER:	**Werner Enterprises** **Omaha, Nebraska**
LVER OF THE YEAR:	**John Willard** **Covington, Georgia**
DVOP OF THE YEAR:	**Adam Colone** **Fort Wayne, Indiana**
LOCAL OFFICE OF THE YEAR:	**Workforce Solutions of Central Texas** **Killeen, Texas**

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

IV. HOMELESS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PANEL

On February 26, VE&E hosted a Homeless Awareness and Prevention panel discussion. The purpose of this panel was to bring together experts in their fields to discuss innovative ways to eliminate veteran homelessness. Guest speakers included Mark Walker, Deputy Director of Swords to Plowshares; Gregory Crawford, Executive Director of Access Housing; Anthony Love, Principal Advisor, Intra/Inter-Agency, Collaboration and Director of Community Engagement, Veterans Health Administration Programs; Kathryn Monet, Chief Executive Officer, National Coalition of Homeless Veterans, and Maria Temiquel, Director of Grants and Training Service, U.S. Department of labor.

A common theme during the discussion was the importance of sharing information amongst organizations, specifically regarding services provided. It was noted that while collaboration between Federal agencies is imperative, it is equally essential for City Councils, Boards of Supervisors, and volunteers to become more involved in combatting veteran homelessness, as it was expressed by one panelist that Federal agencies cannot accomplish this alone.

Many in attendance were unaware of the various programs available to homeless veterans, underscoring the need for enhanced collaboration between Federal agencies and community partners.

V. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PANEL

On February 26, VE&E hosted a panel on Mental Health and Wellness. According to the most recent available data from Veterans Affairs (VA), in 2021, there was an average of 17.5 veteran suicides per day. Of those, 38% were accessing VA Health resources.

Considering this, veterans must have access to mental health resources outside the scope of the VA. The objective of this panel was to bring together mental health professionals to discuss alternative methods of mental healthcare. Guest speakers for the panel included COL (Ret.) Sam Whitehurst, Vice President, Programs and Services, Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services; Emma Hertzberg, EAGALA-Certified Equine Specialist, Lifeline Horse Rescue and Rehabilitation; Justin Jacques, Human Theory Group, Suzi Landolphi, Whole Health Clinical Director, Merging Vets and Players, Rajeev Ramchad, Co-director, RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute, and Waco Hoover, Chair, Be The One Platform, The American Legion.

The discussion centered on alternative ways to assist veterans with mental health, including equine therapy and serving in the local community in areas such as youth sports. It was noted that traditional ways of treating mental illness have not always been effective, as evidenced by the number of veteran suicides. Exploring areas of mental healthcare that go beyond traditional methods have proven effective in many cases, mainly as it concerns person-to-person interaction and community involvement. Historically, isolation and loneliness have been the leading causes of veteran suicide. The guest speakers expounded on the importance of seeking opportunities to engage with others and developing practices that allow these interactions.

The Mental Health and Wellness panel was well received by all in attendance, with many attendees curious to know more about the various mental health programs discussed during the panel.

VI. TUITION ASSISTANCE PANEL

On February 26, VE&E hosted a panel on Tuition Assistance (TA). The cap on TA has remained unchanged since 2002, despite the rising cost of college. The purpose of this panel was to discuss the implications of this and how servicemembers are being affected by increases in college tuition and the stagnation of TA. Guest speakers for this discussion included Meg O'Grady, Senior Vice President of Military and Government Programs, National University; Esmerelda Silva, Vice President for Student Affairs, Alliant International University; and Angela Albritton, Director of Military Relations and Strategic Initiatives, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Several issues were discussed during the panel, such as the average allotted time it takes a servicemember to earn an associate's degree. According to one panelist, it can take seven years for a servicemember to earn their associate's degree using TA. As it stands, TA caps at $250 per credit hour or $750 per three-credit course. Despite many options for servicemembers to take courses in this price range, with a $4500 yearly cap on TA, this equates to only six classes per year. The panelists also discussed the effect TA, or lack thereof, has on recruitment and retention.

TA is not the recruitment incentive it once was, as costs have risen, and the $4500 yearly cap is insufficient to obtain a degree before separation. Conversely, the stagnation of TA does not incentivize servicemembers to reenlist, as the GI Bill is a much more attractive alternative.

Several in attendance were surprised that TA has not kept up with inflation and generally supported increasing the TA cap for servicemembers.

VII. TASK FORCE MOVEMENT PANEL

On February 26, VE&E hosted a Task Force Movement (TFM) panel. TFM was launched in April 2022 as a grassroots effort to bring the government and private industry together to alleviate labor shortages in sectors such as trucking. The goal is to move well-qualified transitioning servicemembers, National Guard and Reserves members, veterans, and military spouses into high-demand jobs. Panelists included The Honorable Patrick J. Murphy, Chairman, TFM; Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, Executive Director, TFM; Jack Dever, Cybersecurity Chairman, TFM; John Decoteau, Vice President of Military Admissions, Universal Technical Institute, and Kristopher Rick, Office of Strategic Outreach, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor.

While TFM began as an initiative to transition servicemembers into the trucking field, it has expanded to cybersecurity, healthcare, and aviation areas. In the cybersecurity field alone, there are 500,000 unfilled positions in the U.S. This number is expected to increase significantly in the next decade, along with more significant shortages in the healthcare and aviation fields. Considering this, panelists expressed the need to expand opportunities for servicemembers, veterans, and spouses in the aforementioned critically manned career fields. Not only will this benefit the military-connected community, but it will also significantly reduce the negative impact(s) these shortages will have on supply chains, national security, transportation, and access to healthcare.

To address this, the panelists encouraged those in attendance to promote licensing and credentialing opportunities that lead to good-paying, family-sustaining careers, particularly those in critically manned fields.

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
John W. 'Jay' Bowen Sr., Colorado, Chairman

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission met via teleconference on April 29, 2024. During the meeting, the Commission considered matters previously referred for study and explored various other current issues.

Presiding: John "Jay" Bowen (CO), Chairman
Also in attendance were:
Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr. (DC), Director, National Veterans Employment & Education Division; Brian D. Ring Sr. (IA), Vice Chairman, Veterans Employment & Education Commission; Eugene O' Grady (NJ) Chairman, Employment & Veterans Preference Committee; Alonzo Scott, (VA) Chairman, Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee; Lloyd Woods (ME), Chairman, Veterans Employment & Education Commission Liaison Committee; Kevin O'Neil, Senior Policy Associate, National Veterans Employment & Education Division and Tyra Nelson, Policy Associate, National Veterans Employment & Education Division;

THE COMMISSION RECEIVED, CONSIDERED, AND ACTED UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

The standing subcommittees, The Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee, and the Employment and Veterans Preference Committee, considered two Veterans Employment & Education Commission resolutions and subsequently forwarded them to the National Executive Committee for adoption.

Origin: VE&E Commission **Title:** Increasing Tuition Assistance
Origin: VE&E Commission **Title:** Appropriation of Funding for Credentialing Assistance Program

The Commission approved the resolutions.

I. INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes The American Legion's Veterans Employment & Education (VE&E) Commission's actions after the 2024 Washington Conference. The report highlights accomplishments, developments, and priorities concerning the diverse subjects encompassing the VE&E Commission.

II. SMALL BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), small businesses make up a staggering 99.9% of American businesses, of which approximately 6% are veteran-owned. Veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and entrepreneurial veterans seeking to start small businesses

face challenges unique to the veteran community. That is why The American Legion's Small Business Task Force (SBTF) is critical. The VE&E Division facilitates the task force, composed of expert Legionnaires that help define and execute best practices in developing small businesses and government procurement policies. The task force fosters an entrepreneurial ecosystem that allows VOSBs to thrive.

On April 24th, 2024, Division Staff met with the office of Congressman Roger Williams (R-TX 25th District) to discuss H.R. 7401 – Contract our Veterans Act of 2024. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit co-sponsors to see H.R. 7401 enacted into law. On January 26th, 2023, The Secretary of Defense released the "Small Business Strategy" for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). This document noted that small businesses occupy a central position in the American economy and way of life; they account for over ninety-nine percent of all employer firms and generate over forty-four percent of our Nation's economic activity." Congress has recognized not only the critical importance of small businesses to our economy but also the contribution of every servicemember who serves our country in the DoD and then transitions to The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). Within the veteran Community, there have been a small number of veterans who have taken the additional step of starting a small business and an even smaller group who have chosen the path of continuing to support the Federal Government as veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs). There has been a steep downward trend of almost half of all small businesses in the government industrial base and over half of new entrants into the space over the last ten years, despite Congress passing small business and veteran-friendly laws and the Supreme Court holding that the VA must apply "Vets First" and the rule of two to every contract.

The best mechanism to aggressively and fundamentally shift the Federal Contracting Model to support SDVOSBs is incentivizing large prime contractors to substantively partner with SDVOSBs by expanding Vets First to DoD. Vets First legislation has a proven track record of success in the growth of SDVOSBs at the VA, and such legislative action would have the same result at the macro-level through DoD. Division Staff has worked diligently to see that H.R. 7401 is included in the fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act by encouraging legislators to expand federal contracting opportunities for SDVOSBs to the DoD. It is estimated that, through this expansion, 30,000-50,000 new and certified SDVOSBs will be brought into the federal contracting space. Additionally, the Vets First expansion to DoD will create 200,000 new jobs for veterans, as veterans are widely known to hire veterans. Lastly, increased veteran hiring by veteran-owned businesses will provide meaningful employment and aid in the transition to civilian life; thus, there is great potential to reduce veteran suicide.

III. HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

Preventing and ending veteran homelessness remains a priority for The American Legion and the VE&E Division. The Division acknowledges that veteran homelessness is a national issue; however, it is equally important to recognize that each state faces unique issues. That is why the Division counts on support from each American Legion department through the Homeless Veteran Task Force (HVTF).

The task force is composed of chairpersons from each American Legion department. Division staff is meticulously working towards ensuring each department has at least one chairperson. To do this, staff first contacted every chairperson identified in the HVTF spreadsheet to ensure they were actively filling the role of chairperson for their respective department. Division staff updated the spreadsheet with accurate names and phone numbers for those still filling the role and identified vacancies.

The VE&E Division drafted a "Homeless Veteran Task Force Guideline Overview," which includes duties, expectations, and best practices for HVTF members. The division is awaiting review by leadership and will provide department adjutants and commanders with an overview of the guidelines upon approval. This will allow each department to disseminate the guideline overview and find a chairperson.

The goal is to have a robust task force equipped with the resources necessary to develop innovative ways of preventing and ending veteran homelessness nationwide. In addition, a comprehensive task force will enhance The American Legion's ability to provide resources and services to homeless and at-risk veterans in each state. In addition to the ongoing efforts to address veteran homelessness, the VE&E Division has been actively engaged in the legislative reviews and collaborative meetings listed below:

- Housing Stability Act of 2024: Division Staff completed a bill review for a bill titled "Housing Stability Act of 2024." This Bill amends Title 38, United States Code, Section 3720, by adjusting various provisions related to VA home loans.
- VA Home Loan Awareness Act of 2023: Division Staff completed a bill review for the "VA Home Loan Awareness Act of 2023." This Bill requires enterprises to include a disclaimer to increase awareness of the Department of Veterans Affairs direct and guaranteed home loan programs.
- Meeting with National Association of Realtors (NAR): Division Staff attended a meeting with the Legislative Division and the National Association of Realtors (NAR) to discuss NAR's current priorities and initiatives and explore areas of collaboration with The American Legion.
- Participation in Homelessness Workshops: Division staff participated in an all-day Zoom workshop with the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. Additionally, they conducted several meetings with organizations to assist homeless veterans, including the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.
- HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Workshop: Division staff participated in an all-day Zoom workshop with HUD and Veterans Affairs to assist homeless veterans and their families in finding permanent housing. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have awarded $14 million to support HUD-Veterans Affairs.
- Continued Efforts to Address Homelessness: Division staff continues to address the pressing issue of homelessness among veterans, witnessing a notable increase in calls and emails for assistance with housing. They remain steadfast in their efforts to provide support, actively working on all fronts to ensure necessary resources are available to serve service members and their families better.

IV. EMPLOYMENT & TRANSITION

The Department of Labor's (DOL) Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS) and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently briefed the VE&E Division on the veteran employment situation. The current unemployment rate in the United States from all areas is 3.9%, according to the BLS March 2024 report (this figure does not include US Territories). This is a 0.1% increase from the previous month. The unemployment rate for Post 9/11 and Gulf War I Era Veterans is 2.8% and 2.2%, respectively.

The American Legion has been hosting and participating in job fairs since 2005, with the primary purpose of educating veterans about their benefits, providing veterans avenues for employment, and promoting The American Legion's mission is "to enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

The VE&E Division also monitors the development and effectiveness of Federal Executive Branch Agency programs that assist servicemembers, including National Guard and Reserve members, veterans, and their families, to ensure a smooth transition from the armed services to gainful employment.

The Employment and Navigator Pilot Program (ENPP) is an area of interest that the VE&E Division has closely followed. The program was launched on April 1, 2021, as an extension of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) program. It offers transitioning servicemembers (TSMs) and their spouses individualized career assistance through Employment Navigators at 13 designated military installations to ensure participants

secure meaningful and gainful employment. Since the ENPP's launch, the program has expanded to five additional facilities: Fort Drum, Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks, Wounded Warrior Battalion East in Camp Lejeune, and Joint Expeditionary Base – Little Creek. Since its inception, the ENPP has served 5,747 servicemembers and 383 military spouses.

Through the ENPP, the DOL's VETS also partnered with public and private sector employment and training entities that provide preparatory services for participants transitioning into the civilian workforce. The DOL's VETS has continued onboarding partners. It went from nine original partners during the program's inception to a projected total of 48, who identified and mitigated possible program gaps in service coverage.

Private industry stakeholders have highlighted a disconnect in base access between employers and TSMs, with variability in TAP officer support for employers making some installations more accessible. As a result, some servicemembers are not made aware of the different job opportunities out there for them. The private industry recommended that a standard practice come from the VA to ensure employers are equipped with best practices to maintain steady contact with TSMs. In the interim, private sector task force members suggested that The American Legion hold events at posts adjacent to military bases to allow employers to connect with TSMs. In addition to the priorities and initiatives described above, the VE&E Division has participated in the following events:

- 81st Yellow Ribbon Event: Division Staff participated in the 81st Yellow Ribbon event, part of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, a Department of Defense-wide effort promoting the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members and their families throughout the deployment cycle. These events facilitate connections with local resources before, during, and after deployment, addressing critical post-deployment reintegration needs.
- Hiring Our Heroes Career Summit: Division staff also participated in the Hiring Our Heroes Career Summit held at Fort Belvoir Community Center, Virginia. The event attracted over 50 employers and Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), providing opportunities for 225+ service members and spouses, with over 50,000 job openings. The subsequent Hiring Our Heroes Career Fair at Fort Belvoir, VA, on April 11, 2024, garnered significant attendance, with over 200 service members and spouses present, resulting in the collection of 5 resumes for employment in the VE&E Division.
- National Virtual Hiring Fair: The Division successfully hosted its inaugural National Virtual Hiring Fair in collaboration with MilitaryHire.com. The event boasted impressive statistics:
    - 540 sign-ups
    - 427 completed registrations
    - 257 candidate attendees
    - 34 participating employers
    - 603 chats between candidates and recruiters/Veteran Service Officers
    - 98% attendance rate for registered representatives (recruiters)
    - Average candidate event duration: 89 minutes
- International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) Event: Division staff attended a breakfast with President Frank J. Christensen of IUEC to inform veteran employees of their benefits and explore opportunities for veterans to join the IUEC team.
- North American Building Trades Union Conference: The Division was invited to attend the North American Building Trades Union Conference, featuring notable speakers such as Josh Shapiro, Governor of Pennsylvania, Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland, and President Biden. The conference highlighted support for the Elevator Union, underscoring the importance of union involvement in veteran employment initiatives.

V. EDUCATION, LICENSING & CREDENTIALING

The VE&E Division ensures that all veterans can utilize their earned education benefits to acquire the skills, experience, and connections needed to pursue gainful

employment. With the federal government spending $12 billion a year on education benefits for veterans and their families, ensuring proper oversight and administration of these vital programs is paramount. Additionally, the VE&E Division routinely engages with subject-matter experts, policymakers, government agencies, and other stakeholders to comprehensively examine and respond to veteran needs.

One alarming trend the VE&E Division aims to interfere with within the next year is the sudden increase in rural schools no longer accepting GI bill benefits. Over the last couple of years, over 400 academic programs decided they would no longer accommodate GI Bill students due to the administrative burdens imposed on them through new legislation. VE&E will continue to investigate this alarming trend with the help of staff at the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) and introduce legislation that endeavors to protect GI Bill beneficiaries while reducing the administrative burdens that rural schools are experiencing.

Furthermore, the VE&E Division monitors the development and effectiveness of federal executive branch agency programs that aim to educate, upskill, credential, and license veterans to have the necessary skills to find meaningful employment opportunities; this includes areas about military tuition assistance and service branch-specific credentialing programs.

As a result of speaking with senior officials from the DoD and members of various academic institutions, we have found two pertinent areas of concern: the limited tuition assistance provided to servicemembers. DoD began providing TA to servicemembers in the 1950s to develop a more educated military and create avenues for success post-military service. In 1985, DoD was granted authority to fund voluntary education programs – including TA – through the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). In the fiscal year 2001 NDAA, Congress expanded this authority to allow the military department Secretary to pay all tuition expenses.

Despite being granted this authority, the service branches imposed caps on TA. Today, TA covers $250 per credit hour or $166 per quarter hour, not to exceed $4500 annually. The average annual cost of tuition is $42,162 at private colleges, $23,630 for out-of-state students at public universities, and $10,662 for in-state residents at public schools. TA has remained the same since 2002, while the cost of college continues to rise, and servicemembers are finding it increasingly challenging to complete their degree program before separating from the military. The second area of concern is the absence of appropriations for the military credentialing assistance program.

10 U.S. Code § 2015 – "Program to Assist Members in Obtaining Professional Credentials" does not currently define the appropriation of funding for credentialing assistance programs in statute. The allocation of Department of Defense funding for voluntary education programs – including credentialing assistance programs – is determined by the service branch; thus, credentialing assistance is not a guaranteed benefit and is at the discretion of the respective service branch to determine appropriate funding.

The absence of appropriations for credentialing assistance has placed financial strain on the military and led to inconsistencies in the amount of funding dedicated to credentialing. Barring a statute that appropriates credentialing assistance-specific funding, servicemembers risk losing this critical benefit. Pending approval of the resolutions above, the VE&E Division will begin advocating for servicemembers and veterans in tuition assistance and credentialing areas.

VI. LEGISLATION

The VE&E Division actively researches, analyzes, and supports legislation positively affecting servicemembers, veterans, and their families. The legislation highlighted below provides an overview of legislation that the Division currently supports:

H.R. 7401 – *"To amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a goal for the Department of Defense for participation by certain veteran-owned small businesses in*

procurement contracts, and for other purposes." The American Legion supports this bill based on established resolutions.

H.R. 1767 – "*To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that educational assistance paid under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs to an individual who pursued a program or course of education that was suspended or terminated for certain reasons shall not be charged against the entitlement of the individual, and for other purposes."* The American Legion supports this bill based on established resolutions.

H.R. 7323 – *"To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code.*" The American Legion supports this bill based on established resolutions.

H.R. 3738 – *"To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes."* The American Legion supports this bill based on established resolutions.

Draft Legislation – *"To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the restoration of entitlement of individuals entitled to educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs who use such entitlement to pursue a course or program of education at an educational institution found to have violated certain prohibitions on advertising, sales, and enrollment practices, and for other purposes."* The American Legion supports this draft legislation based on established resolutions.

Draft Legislation – *"To amend title 38, United States Code, to collect data regarding unemployed veterans residing in the Territories of the United States."* The American Legion supports this draft legislation based on established resolutions.

Draft Legislation – *"To amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make improvements to certain programs for a member nearing separation, or for a veteran who recently separated from the Armed Forces, and for other purposes."* The American Legion supports this draft legislation based on established resolutions.

VII. CONCLUSION

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission knows 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. I 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

Rejected

Register Resolution No. 2852 (MN) (DEC): **Expansion Of Joint Application Eligibility For Loans From The Department Of Veterans Affairs**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of two resolutions and one addendum. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of two resolutions and one addendum. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 3: Increasing Military Tuition Assistance
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Tuition assistance from the Department of Defense (DoD) was intended to assist active-duty servicemembers cover the cost of college during enlistment; and

WHEREAS, Tuition assistance is a vital recruitment, retention and readiness tool that incentivizes recruitment through education, retention through advancement and readiness through the development of a more well-rounded fighting force; and

WHEREAS, Tuition assistance is capped at $250 per credit hour and $4,500 per year and has not seen an increase since 2002; and

WHEREAS, The average annual cost of tuition is $42,162 at private colleges, $23,630 for out-of-state students at public universities and $10,662 for in-state residents at public schools; and

WHEREAS, 231,000 servicemembers utilized tuition assistance in the fiscal year 2023, demonstrating an increase of nearly 100,000 from the fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, There is limited publicly available data on servicemembers' tuition assistance outcomes, which contributes to gaps in understanding its effectiveness; 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, 2024, That The American Legion urges Congress to expand tuition assistance to adapt for and cover the increasing cost of college; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the Department of Defense to provide further data on tuition assistance usage, including, but not limited to, degree attainment, time to completion and completion cost.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WOODS: Mr. Commander, Resolution No. 3 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee, and I so move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 4: Appropriation of Funding for Credentialing Assistance Programs
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Military credentialing assistance programs allow servicemembers to pursue employment opportunities and career readiness during and after service; and

WHEREAS, Credentialing is a vital tool that provides servicemembers with education and training that supports technical advancement and military readiness; and

WHEREAS, While 10 USC 2015 authorizes credentialing assistance programs, there exists no statute that appropriates funding; and

WHEREAS, The absence of appropriations for credentialing assistance places financial strain on the military and may lead to inconsistencies across services in the amount of funding dedicated to credentialing; 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, 2024, That The American Legion urges Congress to appropriate funding for credentialing assistance as authorized by 10 U.S. Code § 2015.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WOODS: Mr. Commander, Resolution No. 4 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and the Resolutions Subcommittee, and I so move for its adoption. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WOODS: Attached to the report is Addendum A. I move the actions of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. The chair now recognizes Americanism Commission Chairman Mark A. Avis of Massachusetts for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Americanism Commission
Mark A. Avis, Massachusetts, Chairman

Thank you, commander. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, I am privileged to stand before you and report on the actions of your Americanism Commission. Your Americanism Commission is strong, and we are moving forward for this organization and our great nation. Copies of my detailed written report have been distributed for your review, so I'll only brief you on some of the highlights of our meetings.

It was a record-breaking year again for the Legacy Scholarship. This year there were 589 Legacy Scholarship applications received as complete. Of those, and remember this number, 505 demonstrated a financial need to be considered by this body for scholarship. It is my honor to tell you that every child that demonstrated need will receive funds to address the need. Eleven children of the fallen were awarded, and 494 children of post-9/11 service-connected disabled veterans were awarded. The total dollar amount of the scholarships awarded was $1,779,460. *(Applause)*

You can thank your Legion Riders for what we're doing in that Legacy Scholarship. So, any Rider in the room, thank you, and pass that on to your committee.

The Americanism Commission approved the Committee on Youth Education's recommendation that Chad Johnson of South Dakota receive the 2024 American Legion National Education Award. For scouting, Lauren Tyree of Pennsylvania was selected the 2024 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and will receive a $10,000 scholarship. They, along with other youth program champions, will be invited to our National Convention to speak on the convention stage and represent the success of our Americanism youth programs.

Coming before this body today is one resolution for which the Americanism Commission is seeking approval. A resolution titled "Adjutant's Advisory Board to the Americanism American Legion Baseball Committee," this resolution establishes an advisory board of department adjutants to the Baseball Committee. Having department adjutant input for the committee when considering how to grow the program, where to host regional tournaments and how to inspire attendance to the World Series in Shelby, North Carolina is a value add. The Americanism Commission thanks this body for considering and approving, hopefully, this resolution.

As many of you know, this year will mark the inaugural year of our National Oratorical Contest and Junior Shooting Sports competition being hosted on the campus of Hillsdale College, Michigan. Oratorical is in two short weeks. Your Americanism Commission is incredibly excited about this move, and I want to personally commend the Department of Michigan for their incredible support. They have embraced this move and have helped our national staff every step of the way.

Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, the Americanism Commission again thanks you for your long-standing support. This concludes my report, unless there are any questions.

Report: Americanism Commission
Mark A. Avis, Massachusetts, Chairman

The Americanism Commission met at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana on May 6th and 7th, 2024. There were 75 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 and various guests. We were privileged to have join us Past National Commanders John "Jake" Comer (MA), Daniel Dellinger (VA), Thomas Bock (CO), Dave Rehbein (IA), Daniel Ludwig (MN), and Tony Jordan (ME). Other distinguished guests who attended the Commission meeting included Chairman of the Child Welfare Committee of the Sons of The American Legion Mark Nave, and other honored guests representing The American Legion and affiliated organizations.

Members of the Americanism Commission present during proceedings:
Chairman Mark Avis (MA), Darell Bishop (OH), National Commanders Representative Douglas Boldt (NE), Lyman Brenner (DE), Leslie Clevinger (VA), Steven Colcord (IA), Patricia Dandy (SC), Alan Davis (MN), Vice-Chairman Michael Donnelly (NC), Dennis Frizzi (PA), Randy Goodman (GA), Douglas Harris (SD), Consultant Ronald Hoffman (IL), Theodore Howarth (NJ), Charlene Kelly (ID), David King (KY), F. Leon Martinez (NM), Herschel Nicholson (WV), Consultant Jon OConnor (MA), Gerald Theriot (LA), James Watson (TX), Americanism Commission NEC Liaison Chairman James Pisa (AK), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee Chairman William Feasenmyer (VA), Committee on Youth Education Chairman Michael Westergren (AR), Committee on Children & Youth Chairman Herbert Petit Jr. (LA), and Baseball Committee Chairman Gary Stone (MO)

The Commission's first order of business was to address developments in the Americanism Division staff structure, provide updates to the youth programs, and discuss some of the present and future initiatives resulting from the National Commander's Ad-Hoc Committee to study Americanism Youth Programs. Chairman Avis expressed his excitement about the inaugural year for the National Oratorical Contest and the Junior Shooting Sports Championship to be held on the campus of Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, MA.

Next, the Commission considered a resolution emanating from the Department of Arkansas titled "Black Ribbon Indicated Half-Staff on Fixed or Wall-Mounted U.S. Flags that was held for further study, and Department of California register resolution 2853 titled "American Legion Boys Nation Eligibility" that was handled administratively. Resolution 2853 asked the Americanism Commission to study the feasibility of allowing females to be Boys Nation senators. Because the resolution asked for a commission study, no action by the NEC was necessary. Chairman Mark Avis (MA) established an ad-hoc committee within the commission to conduct a detailed study of feasibility and provide updated reports in future meetings of the Americanism Commission. Commission Vice-Chairman Michale Donnelly (NC) was appointed as chairman of the ad-hoc committee.

The Commission was then asked to consider an amendment to the resolution establishing the baseball committee to increase the number of permitted consultants from three to eight, and for the eight consultants to include three department adjutants to be appointed annually. The resolution passed the commission without objection. Following the resolutions business of the commission, the commission recessed to allow for the meetings of the committees and subcommittees.

The second day of the commission meeting began with remarks from Chairman Avis and the presentation of a 100% Americanism pin to a new member of the division staff. After recognizing distinguished guests in the room, the commission received reports from the committees and subcommittees that convened the previous day. Following the acceptance of all reports, the commission welcomed the director of the media and communications division, Jeff Stoffer, and editor Cameran Richardson for their presentation on "Rally Around the Flag" and updates to new material for Americanism,

Children & Youth. The presentation was very well received, and the commission concluded the business of the day in recess.

A summary of the committee and subcommittee reports is provided below:

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION
Michael Westergren (AR), Chairman

One Nation – Civics Curriculum

The COYE looked at re-evaluating the stated goals of the One Nation Charter. Those who offered insight were Jim Davis (regarding his visit to a conference at the Jack Miller institute), Ron Neff (who has been building relationships through attendance in several civics expos and shared the Whole Child Book-a-zine Project), Randy Goodman, George Pogge, American Legion Auxiliary Lauren Lloyd and Chairman of Americanism Mark Avis. The COYE has motion to combine the One Nation and Educational Development Guide into a cohesive document that will not only to have periodic continual updates but will be geared to a more general audience.

The American Legion 21st Century Policy on Education

The COYE is reviewing and updating the American Legion Resolution 22: The American Legion 21st Century Policy on Education. The updates and changes to the 21st Century Policy on Education reflects terms, wordage, and ideologies that the American Legions need to address in the current times. Highlights of updates to the Resolution focused included technical and vocational emphasis being more prominent and COYE stance on current teacher preparedness and family responsibility and how the American Legion should be involved. The COYE motioned to continue reviewing polices and updates over the next couple of months.

Samsung American Legion Scholarship

All materials, including electronic, and instructions to leadership are ready for the 2024 season. The committee has voted to have the staff prescreen all essays going to the national graders be screened for AI (artificial intelligence) and plagiarism. Essays found using AI or plagiarizing will be docked points by the graders.

Currently, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Alumni Association is being re-invigorated. The management of the Alumni Association will likely be done by the Americanism Division in the future. A motion was made and passed to send a survey to all Samsung Scholarship recipients about an interest in revitalizing the Alumni Association. If there is an interest in revitalization, the committee will further discuss the goals and purpose of the Alumni Association. They did discuss the possibility of advantageous Networking and Mentoring potential and payoffs for current and formers members of the Scholarship.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship 2024 recipients

The 2024 American Legion Legacy Scholarship- the online application process was open from January 1 - April 10, 2024, and produced 589 completed applications. There were 505 applications that demonstrated financial need. Based on all applicable resolutions, policies, and available funds, the COYE recommends that 505 applicants, representing 47 departments, receive this scholarship in 2023. The total dollar amount awarded for the 2024 American Legion Legacy Scholarship is $1,779,460.63. See enclosure 1 for the breakout by department, name, and amount. Due to the FASFA SAI debacle and verification of actual need. Strong emphasis will be sent to all applicants receiving the scholarship that they need to re-verify the financial documentation, bills, and grants/scholarships before they get the final approval for the Legacy Scholarship

Guest speaker

Mark Clark (MO), Chairman of Legion Riders, discussed what the importance of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship has been to the youth as he discussed the 2023 Legacy Run. Future Legacy Runs funds raised will be dedicated to VCF but if NEC indicates a need for the Legacy Scholarship. The Riders will be glad to help raise money again. He then discussed the itinerary for this year's Legacy Run. Chairman Michael Westergren (AR) mentioned a special school envoy team on the route and encouraged all COYE if available to Participate in the Legacy Run from August 18th -22nd. The 2024 Legacy Run beginning in Independence, Missouri.

Education Award

In accordance with Resolution No. 6 of the National Executive Committee (NEC) October 2011, the COYE recommends Chad Johnson of South Dakota for the 2024 National Education Award. He has served as the educator for the Jobs for America's Graduates-South Dakota (JAG-SD) Program for many years and has seen tremendous growth in the program.

Department Education Chairman Certificate

COYE Vice Chairman James Davis (WV) discussed an award that was previously given to Education Chairpersons from each department, or to a candidate in their department. He recommended we again begin giving this award each year, following 2025 for presentation at each department's summer convention. Reinstating this award and recommending a list of criteria, email certificates to departments, guidelines etc. to be developed through the COYE for use in 2025. A motion was passed that this information be forward to each Department Adjunct information about the award, and it be communicated with Internal Affairs to be put into the Commanders Manuals for future reference.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE
Gary Stone (MO), Chairman

The American Legion Baseball (ALB) Committee met Monday, May 6, 2024, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel.

The ALB Committee received an update regarding the 2024 online registration status from Assistant Baseball Operations Program Manager Tom Starnes. As of the date of the committee's meeting, 2,084 teams (1,232 senior teams and 853 junior teams) from all 50 departments have registered online for the 2024 season.

The ALB Committee recommended to the Americanism Commission that it approve the 2024 American Legion Baseball National Tournament Rules and Policies for 2024 post season tournament play.

The ALB Committee recommends that Paul Sewald of the Arizona Diamondbacks be awarded the 2024 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year award. Sewald played American Legion Baseball for Las Vegas Post 40 in Nevada. Sewald was the James Daniel Memorial Sportsmanship award.

The ALB Committee held a discussion clarifying National Rule 6.E.1. regarding those American Legion Baseball teams that have affiliated senior and junior teams. The committee reiterated that affiliated senior and junior teams must share the same base school and high school enrollment combination as defined in the national rule book.

The ALB Committee held a discussion regarding updates to the online registration process in the foreseeable future. The current registration software is over twelve years old, and IT is currently updating the organization's website utilizing new software. A suggestion was made to explore having a player/participant registration that would create the required Form 2 and track risk management requirements. Further discussions will be conducted between your baseball committee and IT in the coming months.

The ALB Committee received an update on the planning of the American Legion Baseball centennial celebration in 2025. Cloud encouraged that departments and posts

begin to plan and promote who they intend to celebrate the baseball program's 100th. Cloud emphasized that departments should be reaching out to the thousands of alumni in their departments for social media or written testimonies or personal appearances acknowledging how American Legion Baseball impacted their life and congratulations of the program's 100th season. Cloud also indicated Emblem Sales is assisting with developing centennial apparel and merchandise that will be available through online sales and possible pop-up flash stores at events such as national/department conventions, regionals, and world series.

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, 2024.

The Committee on Children & Youth, in its biennial review of the Temporary Financial Assistance program, ensures that the program's administration directly benefits the basic needs of minor children. This review, mandated by Resolution No. 5 (May 2022) titled The Statement of Policy and Procedures of the Temporary Financial Assistance Program, is a commitment to providing clear and concise information to those working with the Temporary Financial Assistance program.

The Committee on Children & Youth is currently reviewing a significant addition to our literature, the newly created book titled The Whole Child. This book serves as a powerful tool, showcasing to an external audience the comprehensive efforts of The American Legion for children and youth nationwide at all levels of the organization, a testament to your collective contributions.

The committee is eagerly looking forward to the Children & Youth conference segment of the Combined Americanism Conference, which will mark our first in-person meeting since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. This exciting event, scheduled for September, is open to all Legion Family members who wish to attend, promising a vibrant exchange of ideas and best practices.

The American Legion Child Welfare (CWF) Foundation met on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The CWF Board of Directors received an update on the grant statuses for projects conducted in 2023 and 2024 and preparation for this year's exhibition booth at the American Legion National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. CWF brochures recently received an update and have been posted on the Legion's website.

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. In 2023 TFA assisted 56 minor children of 22 veterans throughout 14 states in receiving $29, 030 in non-repayable cash grant assistance at the national level.

MEETING OF THE YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
William Feasenmyer Jr. (VA) Chairman

On May 6, 2024, the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee met in person at the Sheraton Hotel, downtown Indianapolis, meeting started at 1:30 PM.

Members present; Committee Chairman, William Feasenmyer (VA), Committee Vice Chair, Richard Neville (NC), Committee Members Cory Brockmann (OR), Lawrence Maggi (PA), Louis Brault (MA), Gaylord Sanneman (KS), and Committee Consultants Delmar Buske (IL), and Noah McMullen (AZ). Guests present; Carl Moon (MN), Gene Toohey (TX), John Hince (TX), Doug Harris (SD), Gary Blough (PA), Dave King (KY), Carmen Rosario (PR), Jim Johnson (WI) and Tom Starnes (NHQ).

Meeting topics presented and discussed included: an introduction of new members, a review of the 2023 Fall Meeting and approval of minutes by Committee Chairman, William Feasenmyer, a brief history of the program for new members and how to locate existing departments, an update from committee members on their Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program, which included information that Michigan and Florida will not have a program, Virginia, Illinois, South Dakota will have a program and Ohio will decide by end of May. It was also discussed that Minnesota and Texas are interested in starting a departmental program. A review of Resolution 6 from October 2016.

Committee meeting points of emphasis:

- The need for every department to develop a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program.
- The need for greater Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program awareness.
- Multiple departments utilizing the National Guard for physical training purposes.
- North Carolina summer camp July 14-19. Department visitations welcome.
- A need for additional meetings via Zoom/Teams to share department details on how their program works.
- Funding issues and ideas to enhance and offset costs.
- Background checks following national vendor (PYS).
- Departments without a program should contact a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee member immediately if they have any questions about how to start a program.

The next meeting of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program Committee will be on October 7, 2024.

REPORT ON YOUTH ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
David King (KY), Chairman

Staff Liaison: Kim Shriver, Youth Programs Manager, Americanism Division

The Youth Activities Subcommittee met on Monday, May 6, 2024. After opening with the Salute to the Colors, Invocation, and POW/MIA Remembrance, the roll call was taken. The following subcommittee members were present: David King (KY), Randy Goodman (GA), Darrel Bishop (OH), Lyman R. Brenner (DE), Patricia Dandy (SC), Michael Donnelly (NC), Theodore J. Howarth, Jr. (NJ), Herschel Nicholson (WV), Steve Colcord (IA). A quorum was declared.

Staff members in attendance were Program Manager Kim Shriver, and Division Director Ron Neff.

National Americanism Commission Chairman Mark Avis was in attendance, and gave remarks regarding the upcoming program year, thanking and encouraging staff and volunteers.

AMERICAN LEGION & SCOUTING

Lauren Tyree, of Pennsylvania was selected the 2024 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and will receive a $10,000 scholarship. Runners-up recipients of the $2,500 are Hayden Shaffer, (CO), Robert McPhie (CA), and Jackson Kramer (MN). The motion and second to approve these results was made. The motion carried.

Twenty-six applications were submitted from the following departments: Pennsylvania, Colorado, California, Minnesota, Florida, Washington, Texas, Indiana, West Virginia, Ohio, Nebraska, Maryland, Vermont, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Alabama, Oregon, Wisconsin, Michigan, Virginia, Missouri, Utah, Arizona, New York, and Tennessee.

The Scouting Chairmen's Conference will be virtual and held on September 27, 2024. A link will be on the website and sent to Departments.

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

The 33rdAmerican Legion Junior Shooting Three Position Air Rifle National Championship will be held July 17-20, 2024, at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan; 824 athletes entered the individual National Postal Match Competition from 123 clubs entered the team National Postal Match Competition.

The annual Junior Shooting Sports Chairmen's Conference will be held in September. Additional information will be posted on the program website.

AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST

The 85th National Finals Contests will be conducted on May 17-19, at Hillsdale College. There will be 52 department winners who will be competing for scholarship money.

The pairing bracket for the 2025 national finals is attached. Assigned topics for the 2025 National Oratorical Contest are:

- **Amendment I** – Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.
- **Amendment VII** – In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved.
- **Amendment XVIII, Sections, 1, 2, & 3** – After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within.
- **Amendment XXVI** – The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied.

The annual meeting of department Oratorical chairpersons will be held in September 2024. Additional information will be posted on the program website.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE AND BOYS NATION

Director Ron Neff provided an update on the 2024 Boys Nation Program. Again, it will be held at Marymount University in Virginia.

After the benediction and salute to colors, this meeting was recessed at 10:46 a.m.

REPORT OF THE CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE SPRING MEETING, MAY 6, 2024
GERALD THERIOT (LA) CHAIRMAN

Opening

At 9:40 am, Chairman Theriot (LA) led a salute to the flag of the United States and called the 2024 Spring Meeting of the Citizenship and Naturalization Subcommittee (CNSC) to order. He then offered an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Drew Godby, Americanism Program Manager, conducted a roll call and determined a quorum was present.

Present:

Gerald Theriot (LA) Chairman, James "Bret" Watson (TX) Vice Chair, Leslie Clevinger (VA), Steve Hayes (Virtual-CO), Barbara Beck (ID),

Guests included:

Mark Avis, Americanism Commission Chairman and Ron Neff, Americanism Director (offered warm greetings and stressed the importance of the subcommittee). Tom Wiley (NH), Charlene Kelly (ID), Hans Stockenberger (FR), who attended to support the subcommittee.

Welcome and Greetings

Chairmen Theriot opened the meeting by greeting those in attendance. He emphasized the importance of the work the committee completes and encourages all members to remain

active and engaged. He then opened the floor to allow members and guests to introduce themselves.

Review and Approval of Agenda and Previous Report

The subcommittee then reviewed and approved the agenda for the 2024 Spring Meeting of the CNSC. The agenda was approved unanimously without correction or discussion.
The subcommittee next reviewed and approved the report from the 2023 Spring Meeting of the CNSC. The report was approved unanimously without correction or discussion.

Purpose and Focus of Subcommittee:

Chairman Theriot (LA) want to remind all those present of the Purpose and Goals, stated below, of CNSC. Committee members and guests shared their opinions, ideas and personal stories regarding citizenship and naturalization and how the subcommittee can be of greatest support. Many discussions focus on fostering a relationship with the National Security Commission/Committees and local Government to help further the goals of the Subcommittee.

Naturalization of Discharged Soldiers

There is concern that command posts are not ensuring that their discharged soldiers are naturalized (this should be done through the Senior NCO and CO). Hans Stockenberger (FR) discussed bring up at orientation with JAG office to facilitate the process with all immigrant soldiers during recruitment. Many agreed that the CNSC, Americanism Commission, and National Security Commission should place emphasis of working with the local branches of the Military and American Legion Post to promote citizenship to soldiers during recruitment or orientation. This will avoid soldiers being released with a less than honorable discharge or being deported after discharge.

Increasing Legion participation in citizenship and naturalization events at the post level

Drew Godby, Program Manager, announced that published flag and educational materials are updated, and are available on the Legion website like American Legion Citizenship Outreach Guide, available at legion.org/publications. Chairman Theriot (LA) encouraged all members of the CNSC to encourage Post to participate and/or host Naturalization Ceremonies or to attend local Ceremonies to hand out Flags, certificates, and flyers to New Citizens of the United States. He plans on invites Legionnaires at the 2024 National Convention to a Naturalization Ceremony.

Get-Out-To Vote Programs

Bret Watson encourages all Post to be involved in this program. He gave examples of helping with mailer and flyer campaigns to make everyone aware of locations of Polling Centers and who is on the ballots and their stances, upcoming laws, and referendums. Post can host debates for Candidates. He reminded everyone that Legionnaires and Post cannot endorse a Candidate or Political Party. If hosting a debate, all emblems need to be taken down and that no member can wear Legion Caps at these events and take pictures with Legion logos on themselves. Many members then discussed that each Post needs to have a Get OUT to Vote Committee and various ways they can be involved.

Further Meetings

The subcommittee has agreed to meet online once as an ad hoc working group prior to Convention 2024. The meeting in date and time are still to be decided.

Closing

Chairman Theriot made closing remarks, gave the closing benediction, and honored the POW/MIA flag. Then Chairman Theriot called upon those present to salute the Colors and thereby announced that announcing that the CNSC stood in recess at 10:37 am.

RESOLUTIONS

At the meeting of the Americanism Commission at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2024, a total of 3 resolutions were considered. The Americanism Commission recommends the following:

Approve

- Adjutants Advisory Board to the Americanism Commission American Legion Baseball Committee

Handle Administratively

- Reg. Res. No. 2853 (CA) ***Feasible Study of Girls Attending Boys Nation***

Hold for Further Study

- Res. No. 1 (AR) ***Black Ribbon Indicate Half-Staff on Fixed and Wall-Mounted U.S. Flags***

The commission further recommends new dates for Americanism programs and conferences as outlined on Addendum B attached to this report.

Enclosure 1
2024 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Award Recipients

State	Full Name	Award Amount
AK	Jared Neil Layton	$3,038.00
AK	William Tucker Gleaton	$3,038.00
AL	Megan Ramsey	$20,000.00
AL	Tyler Willaim Secor	$3,038.00
AL	DeYonna Jes'Maria Hatfield	$3,038.00
AL	Madylin Paige Jensen	$3,038.00
AL	Jackson Lee Painter	$3,038.00
AL	Ethan R Pierce	$3,038.00
AL	Johnny S Paradise	$3,038.00
AL	Jack Ryan Alvord	$3,038.00
AL	Karrington Felice Howard	$3,038.00
AL	Shaylee Evers	$3,038.00
AL	Maya Marie Wassenberg	$3,038.00
AL	Marah Ashlee Delgado	$3,038.00
AL	India Danae McSwain	$3,038.00
AL	Eleanna Whiteney Soto	$3,038.00
AL	Austin Ellis Rainwater	$3,038.00
AL	Anna Klaire Ashley	$3,038.00
AL	Jennifer Ann Santiago	$3,038.00
AL	Brian Esteban Eldredge	$3,038.00
AL	Aiden Slade Grantham	$3,038.00
AL	John K Byers	$3,038.00
AL	Daniel Lee McConeghy III	$836.00
AL	Sarah Faith Triplett	$787.00
AR	Hannah Terry	$3,038.00
AR	Emma Rose Barfield	$3,038.00
AR	Britlee Madison Holman	$3,038.00
AR	Gabriel S Pelkey	$3,038.00
AR	Nataleigh Burtts	$3,038.00
AR	Ramar L Smith	$3,038.00
AZ	Isabel Bathke	$3,038.00
AZ	Cole Sanscrainte	$3,038.00
AZ	Samia Amelia De La O	$3,038.00
AZ	Benjamin Jacob Cosner	$3,038.00
AZ	Grace Alexandria Rico	$3,038.00
AZ	Andrew Nevaeh Supernault	$3,038.00
AZ	Mary-Kate McCarty	$3,038.00
AZ	Kristin Dawn McCarty	$3,038.00
AZ	Rene Giovannie Navarro	$3,038.00
AZ	Haylee Marie Fusner	$3,038.00
AZ	Jazlyn Consuelo Hernandez	$1,644.00
CA	Charles Richard Sweeney	$15,311.05
CA	Isaac Bricker Jung	$3,038.00
CA	McKenzie P Kirsch	$3,038.00
CA	Sydnie Ann Duvall	$3,038.00
CA	Luke Hill Winkenhofer	$3,038.00
CA	Kira L Cook	$3,038.00
CA	Carlie Rae Duvall	$3,038.00
CA	Erik Richard Wieboldt	$3,038.00
CA	Brandon Richard Wieboldt	$3,038.00

CA	Ava Indie Lawson	$3,038.00
CA	Angelika Anne Jones	$3,038.00
CA	Amber Rose Ide	$3,038.00
CA	Ryan Alexander Flowers	$3,038.00
CA	Cameron Bragg	$3,038.00
CA	Keagan Shea Carman	$3,038.00
CA	Joshua Salgado	$3,038.00
CA	Marilyn Christine Muse	$3,038.00
CA	Stephanie Denise Puno	$3,038.00
CA	Alivia Taylor Woolard	$3,038.00
CA	Victoria Aguillon	$3,038.00
CA	Gabriel Michael Geronimo	$3,038.00
CA	Kaylee Brekinlin Vannoy	$3,038.00
CA	Sonnie Lynn Duvall	$3,038.00
CA	Savannah Winkenhofer	$3,038.00
CA	Sydnie Ann Duvall	$3,038.00
CA	Luke Hill Winkenhofer	$3,038.00
CA	Kira L Cook	$3,038.00
CA	Carlie Rae Duvall	$3,038.00
CA	Erik Richard Wieboldt	$3,038.00
CA	Brandon Richard Wieboldt	$3,038.00
CA	Ava Indie Lawson	$3,038.00
CA	Angelika Anne Jones	$3,038.00
CA	Amber Rose Ide	$3,038.00
CA	Ryan Alexander Flowers	$3,038.00
CA	Cameron Bragg	$3,038.00
CA	Keagan Shea Carman	$3,038.00
CA	Keagan Shea Carman	$3,038.00
CA	Joshua Salgado	$3,038.00
CA	Marilyn Christine Muse	$3,038.00
CA	Stephanie Denise Puno	$3,038.00
CA	Alivia Taylor Woolard	$3,038.00
CA	Victoria Aguillon	$3,038.00
CA	Gabriel Michael Geronimo	$3,038.00
CA	Kaylee Brekinlin Vannoy	$3,038.00
CA	Sonnie Lynn Duvall	$3,038.00
CA	Savannah Winkenhofer	$3,038.00
CO	Hayden Grace Creason	$20,000.00
CO	Aaron M Johnson	$12,067.00
CO	Dominick Caleb Lind	$3,038.00
CO	Julian Walker	$3,038.00
CO	Alyssa Marie Enriquez	$3,038.00
CO	Andrea Harriet Perrine	$3,038.00
CO	Madison Elaine Blomstedt	$3,038.00
CO	Liliandy Scarlet Serrano Henriquez	$3,038.00
CO	Colton Clay	$3,038.00
CO	Clara Kay	$3,038.00
CO	Alexandra Merriam Nelson	$3,038.00
CO	Daniel Benjamin Fellows	$3,038.00
CO	Raymond Alexander Mitchell	$3,038.00
CO	Samantha Marie McGee	$2,605.00
CT	Abigail Mae Hines	$3,038.00
CT	Charles Gussen	$3,038.00
CT	Sunshine Rangel	$3,038.00
CT	Carmela Rangel	$3,038.00
DC	Matthew Spencer Wiechmann	$3,038.00
FL	Nazeraeh Aleiyah Montrond	$20,000.00
FL	Alexander Harrison Lawrence	$3,038.00
FL	Joshua Juwan Sea	$3,038.00
FL	Sarah Bennett Lemasters	$3,038.00
FL	Brock Walter Genz	$3,038.00
FL	Derek Xavier Odar	$3,038.00
FL	Collin V. White	$3,038.00
FL	Kayla Rose Mason	$3,038.00
FL	Landon I Speegle	$3,038.00
FL	Emily King	$3,038.00
FL	Tristan Elena Oliver	$3,038.00
FL	Julia Morgan	$3,038.00
FL	Ciana Nicole Antonio	$3,038.00
FL	Mckenna Anne Stapleton	$3,038.00
FL	Katherine Alexis Weiss	$3,038.00
FL	Teresa E Peluso	$3,038.00
FL	Cayla Rose Ford	$3,038.00
FL	Trinity Talton	$3,038.00
FL	Laila Pitts	$3,038.00
FL	Stephanie Alexis Marie Bruno	$3,038.00
FL	Bobbie Joyce Pedrick	$3,038.00
FL	Alexia Ponce	$3,038.00
FL	Russell Donaldson Jr.	$3,038.00
FL	Jaime Luis Torres III	$3,038.00
FL	Rihanna Monique Yon	$3,038.00
FL	Victoria Nichole Camario	$3,038.00
FL	Alex Daniel Lincoln-Velez	$3,038.00
FL	Kha'Bria Davis	$3,038.00
FL	Carlos Jose Diaz Plaza	$3,038.00
FL	Nola Gayle Englund	$3,038.00
FL	Z'Kiyah Jones	$3,038.00
FL	Naydine Michele Cox	$3,038.00
FL	Joshua Larrick	$3,038.00
FL	Jacob Cosme Herrera	$3,038.00
FL	Maiah Katrina Ortiz	$3,038.00
FL	Maia Talton	$3,038.00
FL	Everett L Gorum Jr.	$2,814.00

FL	Darius Xavier Daily	$982.00
GA	Hannah Elizabeth Brooks	$3,038.00
GA	Audrey Gail Ubernosky	$3,038.00
GA	Andrea Lea Carson	$3,038.00
GA	Joshua Carlos Cardenas	$3,038.00
GA	Christion Cook	$3,038.00
GA	Clairese Joanne Adams	$3,038.00
GA	Katie Grace Rowland	$3,038.00
GA	Amanda Margaret Moreno	$3,038.00
GA	Ella Savannah Pursley	$3,038.00
GA	Ashley Jane Moreno	$3,038.00
GA	Zacarrah Monae Venning	$3,038.00
GA	Janiah Blount-Solomon	$3,038.00
GA	Thomas Boggs Jr.	$3,038.00
GA	Jayleen Aliz Deemer-Colon	$2,039.00
HI	Chelsea Momoka Briggs	$20,000.00
HI	Kai Ray Briggs	$8,683.00
HI	Aniyah-Arihanna Azaria Ja'Kyla Goodwin-Grate	$3,038.00
HI	Kaylee DeMarco	$3,038.00
HI	Harlow Thomas	$3,038.00
IA	Endira Caldwell	$10,000.00
IA	Sophia Rose Murphy	$3,038.00
IA	Liam Thomas Murphy	$3,038.00
IA	Paige Haylee Mattes	$3,038.00
IA	McKenzie Dawn Runyon	$3,038.00
IA	Alexander Logan Shinn	$1,616.00
ID	Lauren Niamh Ashley	$3,038.00
ID	Savannah Marie Jackson	$3,038.00
IL	Harrison Green Arnold	$3,038.00
IL	Caden James Green	$3,038.00
IL	Zakery Benjamin Green	$3,038.00
IL	Karsen Crook	$3,038.00
IL	Stephanie K Kriss	$3,038.00
IL	Aiden Bisping	$3,038.00
IL	Erik Andres Hernandez	$3,038.00
IL	Marshall Clayton Tipsword	$2,989.00
IN	Gabriel T Block	$3,038.00
IN	Madison Mackenzie Stewart	$3,038.00
IN	Luna Celeste Salgado-Wynn	$3,038.00
IN	Claire Frances Hadsall	$2,987.00
KS	Bergen Quinn Mauerhan	$3,038.00
KS	Clyde Ross Picklo II	$3,038.00
KS	Hannah Elaina Rodriguez	$3,038.00
KS	Monece Cynthia Thomas	$3,038.00
KY	Samara Angel Neyens-Cabrera	$3,038.00
KY	Emily Cordero	$3,038.00
KY	Pilar Wainani Cerritos Gatto	$3,038.00
KY	Kiley Lang Sherlock	$3,038.00
KY	Skye Sarah Aiko Newsome	$3,038.00
KY	Taylor J Goodrich	$3,038.00
KY	Abigail Nicole Hall	$3,038.00
KY	Brayden Lewis Taft	$3,038.00
KY	Serena Munoz	$3,038.00
LA	Faith Nycole Hughes	$3,038.00
LA	Lakayla Breanna Cleveland	$3,038.00
LA	Aubrey Lanel Daniels	$3,038.00
LA	Avery Elisabeth Boggs	$3,038.00
MA	Hector Alejandro Aponte	$3,038.00
MA	Abrianna Marie Madden	$3,038.00
MA	Noel Rose Milano DeRosa	$3,038.00
MA	Stefano William Adelfio	$3,038.00
MD	Louis Nwuha	$3,038.00
MD	Roland Barnes Jr.	$3,038.00
MD	Sadie Aline Cloud	$3,038.00
MD	Taylor M Allen	$3,038.00
MD	Brandon Yancey Sanford	$3,038.00
MD	Madeline Ann Pusey	$3,038.00
MD	Maverick Shailer Woodward	$3,038.00
MD	Christopher Dixon	$3,038.00
MD	Maya Angela Williams	$3,038.00
MD	Mark Kolb	$3,038.00
MD	Emily Anne Clutter	$3,038.00
MD	Amira Edmond	$3,038.00
MD	Austin William Pusey	$3,038.00
MD	Kyan Dada	$3,038.00
MD	Nalisa Sierra Lionel	$3,038.00
MD	Benjamin James Bowlds	$3,038.00
MD	Daevon Jamahl Lionel	$3,038.00
MD	Andra Skye Morrison	$3,038.00
MD	Gabrielle Elizabeth Williams	$1,920.00
ME	Callie Ryan Junkins	$3,038.00
ME	Emily A Easler	$3,038.00
ME	Kariahna Gamblin	$3,038.00
ME	Grace O'Brien	$3,038.00
MI	Zain Fakhouri	$3,038.00
MI	Isabel N Johnson	$3,038.00
MI	Ethan Johnathan Hunt	$3,038.00
MI	Lyla Lee Huffman	$3,038.00
MI	Kaylee Bedell	$3,038.00
MI	Kaylee Ann Williams	$3,038.00
MI	Troy Xavier Mengesha	$3,038.00
MI	Seth Vance Ruzicka	$3,038.00
MI	Joscelin Stewart-Hughes	$3,038.00

MI	Anna Lorene Prosser	$3,038.00
MI	Ryan Michael Krebs	$3,038.00
MI	Emma Katherine Gould	$3,038.00
MI	Benjamin Nikolaus Cook	$3,038.00
MI	Maddox Leonard Miller	$1,530.00
MN	Keagen Ava Betz	$3,038.00
MN	Tyler Thomas Keech	$3,038.00
MN	Abigail Rae Gerhard	$3,038.00
MN	Olyvia Rose Grace Horsman	$3,038.00
MN	Kyra Tamara Machakaire	$3,038.00
MN	Justin K Machakaire	$3,038.00
MN	Sarah Anne Galbadores	$3,038.00
MO	Megan Hatfield	$3,038.00
MO	Jaden Shane Flanery	$3,038.00
MO	Emma Grace Hunsberger	$3,038.00
MO	Taiyo Nelson	$3,038.00
MO	Alexander Glackin	$3,038.00
MO	Maco Erlyna Moseley	$3,038.00
MO	Chrystal Michelle Lee	$3,038.00
MO	Fiona Stigall	$3,038.00
MO	Elijah DeAngelo Clarke Boyd	$3,038.00
MO	Andrew Michael Myers	$3,038.00
MO	Malynn Grace Moreland	$3,038.00
MS	Matthew S Kimble	$3,038.00
MS	JaNyah Renae Gholar	$3,038.00
MS	West Aden Law	$3,038.00
MS	James Edward Hanlon IV	$3,038.00
MT	Natalie Jude Yeager	$3,038.00
MT	Gwyneth OValley	$3,038.00
MT	Bryce Kent	$3,038.00
MT	Ty Harper Goodemoot	$3,038.00
NC	Clayton Ulm	$3,038.00
NC	Grant Dakota Powers	$3,038.00
NC	Jeremiah Grafals Quinones	$3,038.00
NC	Eva M McRae	$3,038.00
NC	Noelle MacLaird	$3,038.00
NC	Alison Leigh Anderson	$3,038.00
NC	Kailyn Nicole Carmichael	$3,038.00
NC	Taliyah Haywood	$3,038.00
NC	Rachel Michelle Hall	$3,038.00
NC	Abigail Lynn O Moore	$3,038.00
NC	Hunter Reed Sinsel	$3,038.00
NC	Morning Joy Fields	$3,038.00
NC	Katherine Marie Riggs	$3,038.00
NC	Katharine Ann Wilson	$3,038.00
NC	Dacien E Montford	$3,038.00
NC	Ryan Klimp	$3,038.00
NC	Alexis Nichole Penny	$3,038.00
NC	Nicole Renee Perdue	$3,038.00
NC	Arianna Victoria Kennedy	$3,038.00
NC	Nathanael Ryan Kelleher	$3,038.00
NC	Haylee Elizabeth Salter	$3,038.00
NC	Melvin Anthony McRae Jr.	$3,038.00
NC	Abigail Gwyneth Sutton	$3,038.00
NC	Olivia M Anyanwu	$3,038.00
NC	Sa'Nya Esmeralda Polo	$3,038.00
NC	Katie Grayce Johnson	$3,038.00
NC	Ellison Campbell	$3,038.00
NC	Noah Klimp	$3,038.00
NC	Martin Hood	$3,038.00
NC	Anthony Robert Rossi	$3,038.00
NC	Isabella Adelle Farnsworth	$3,038.00
NC	Keyshawn Jamaal Henry	$3,038.00
NC	Leah Singleton	$3,038.00
NC	Alyssa Renee Johnson	$2,162.00
NC	Charli LaShon Bernice Witherspoon	$1,773.00
ND	Jordyn Ewine	$3,038.00
ND	Aubrey Nicole Adair	$3,038.00
NE	Anthony Moore	$3,038.00
NE	Collin Hurlburt	$3,038.00
NE	Shawn MacDonald	$3,038.00
NH	Lincoln Keenan Ferrante	$3,038.00
NH	Amaya Lynn Bledsoe	$3,038.00
NJ	Eric Alexander Lunger	$3,038.00
NJ	Matthew William Lunger	$3,038.00
NJ	Emma Simmins	$3,038.00
NM	Iziah J Tafoya	$3,038.00
NM	Aliah L Tafoya	$3,038.00
NV	Isaiahs Xavier Navarro	$3,038.00
NV	Timothy Carsten Reynolds	$3,038.00
NV	Julian Springfield Spalding	$3,038.00
NV	Kaitlyn Rose Harbison	$3,038.00
NV	Madyson Jean Grenz	$3,038.00
NV	Jacob Thunder Hook	$3,038.00
NY	Amora Morales	$3,038.00
NY	Avery Carolina Burroughs	$3,038.00
NY	Isaiah Mathew	$3,038.00
NY	Sarah Ann Vicari	$3,038.00
NY	John Anthony Hernandez	$3,038.00
NY	Brendan McGrath	$3,038.00
NY	Ulric Jackson Claar	$2,321.00
NY	Isabella Kiersten Valentin	$781.00
OH	Alyssa Burcham	$3,038.00
OH	Nickolas Frederick Wead	$3,038.00
OH	Hilayna Irene Whaley	$3,038.00

OH	Sania Hardin	$3,038.00
OH	Cabot Wade Bender	$3,038.00
OH	Derrick Hardin	$3,038.00
OH	Nathan Lloyd	$3,038.00
OH	Nasir David Baldwin	$3,038.00
OH	Sarah Bell Breland	$3,038.00
OH	Braden Curtis Downing	3,038.00
OH	McKenzie Prestlee Ashcraft	$3,038.00
OH	Emily Lloyd	$3,038.00
OH	Payton Marie Davis	$3,038.00
OH	Alaina Kieran Schaefer	$3,038.00
OH	Tiffany Williamson	$3,038.00
OH	Tyler Victoria Williamson	$3,038.00
OH	Cassandra Wead	$1,939.00
OK	Brice Marie Harvey	$3,038.00
OK	Reagan Isabel Mordecai	$3,038.00
OK	Nethaniel Hunter Jara	$3,038.00
OK	Jadyn Davis	$3,038.00
OK	Trenton Alan Johnson	$3,038.00
OK	Madaline Bullard	$3,038.00
OK	Isaac David Lynn	$3,038.00
OK	Kadin Isaiah Marshall	$3,038.00
OK	Jonathan Lynn	$3,038.00
OK	Kylie Gene Simpson	$3,038.00
OK	Colton DeKinder	$3,038.00
OK	Cameron Jamir Woodard	$3,038.00
OK	Madilen Renee Wofford	$3,038.00
OK	Lillian Grace Wofford	$3,038.00
OK	Gabriel Manning Wyatt	$3,038.00
OK	Jacob Thomas Brede	$2,560.00
OR	Kaia Allen	$3,038.00
OR	Lucas Bradford Johnson	$3,038.00
OR	Ashlynn Steinbaugh	$3,038.00
OR	Nikita Darryl Rose	$3,038.00
OR	Summer Keilani Schellinger	$3,038.00
OR	Zoraya Delmi Hernandez	$3,038.00
OR	Brooke Faith Baird	$3,038.00
OR	Arina Elizabeth Rose	$3,038.00
OR	Hannah Neumann	$3,038.00
PA	Mia Santiago	$3,038.00
PA	Emily Rae Truitt	$3,038.00
PA	Raphael Augustine Fordyce	$3,038.00
PA	Hunter William Essary	$3,038.00
PA	Hannah Emily Fischer	$3,038.00
PA	David Michael Holland	$3,038.00
PA	Timothy Jennings Wright	$3,038.00
PA	Alexander Monroe Hayward	$3,038.00
PA	Ainsley Sand	$3,038.00
PA	Ethan Xavier Grodack	$3,038.00
PA	Katelyn Starling	$3,038.00
PA	Sarah Leary	$3,038.00
PA	Sarah I Grimenstein	$3,038.00
PA	Torain Elyse Spearman	$3,038.00
PA	Bailey Elizabeth McNitt	$3,038.00
PA	Ethan K Cross	$3,038.00
PA	Joshua David Rotski	$3,038.00
PA	Tatum Stennett	$3,038.00
PA	Gianna Alexis Nicotra	$2,616.00
PA	Jamary Lee Luciano	$1,983.00
PA	Sarah Elizabeth Kramer	$1,838.00
PR	Jamir Abel Borrero	$3,038.00
PR	Angeishhka Paola Negron	$3,038.00
SC	Trinity McMahon	$20,000.00
SC	Vincent Anthony Schrock	$3,038.00
SC	Kaitlyanna Elizabeth Graciela Smith	$3,038.00
SC	Elijah Hye Aaron Hye I	$3,038.00
SC	Isaiah Alexander Hye	$3,038.00
SC	Madison Mouzon	$3,038.00
SC	Faith Olivia Livingston	$3,038.00
SC	Johnnie Lee Jennings III	$3,038.00
SC	Miguel A Medina Rivera	$3,038.00
SC	Charles William Hyleman	$3,038.00
SC	Christopher Ross	$2,712.00
SC	Dylan James Peter	$2,182.00
SD	Reid James Montreal	$3,038.00
SD	Donovan Robert Knecht	$3,038.00
SD	Brady Robert Dressler	$3,038.00
SD	Wyatt Haddad	$3,038.00
SD	Mya Claire Nishimura	$2,314.00
SD	Kaden Jesse Krause	$2,233.00
SD	Makaila Tanith Mertes	$1,628.00
TN	Camden Grace Smolter	$3,038.00
TN	Natasha Boswell	$3,038.00
TN	Taylor Buena	$3,038.00
TN	Naomi Ella Todd	$3,038.00
TN	Charles James Kenneth Durham	$3,038.00
TN	Allison Grace Kelley	$3,038.00
TN	Brianna Nass	$3,038.00
TN	Camyia Campbell	$3,038.00
TN	Sidney Michelle Cantway	$3,038.00
TN	Tia J Stretch	$2,067.00
TN	Lillian Layne Mitchell	$845.00
TX	Craig Alexander Thomas	$12,114.00
TX	Danielle Rose Devins	$3,038.00
TX	Victoria Michelle Bowman	$3,038.00
TX	Lamaya Denise Green	$3,038.00

TX	Lelia Ruth Poling	$3,038.00
TX	Kevin Andre Arellano	$3,038.00
TX	Joseph Andrew Bales	$3,038.00
TX	Xzavier Ahmad Latchison	$3,038.00
TX	Abbigale Madison Deem	$3,038.00
TX	Alexandria Deem	$3,038.00
TX	Bryana Me'Aira Lowe	$3,038.00
TX	Aaron Eugene Johnson III	$3,038.00
TX	Jared Hampton Middleton	$3,038.00
TX	Adrian Felix	$3,038.00
TX	Jeremiah Shelby Clarke	$3,038.00
TX	Kayla Danielle Contreras	$3,038.00
TX	Thalia Amnelis Garcia	$3,038.00
TX	George John Seargeant III	$3,038.00
TX	Axiel Yariel Jimenez Del Castillo	$3,038.00
TX	Elizabeth Neal	$3,038.00
TX	Giselle Alexa Soltero	$3,038.00
TX	Ethan Patrick Kiernan	$3,038.00
TX	Donovan Chase Crosby	$3,038.00
TX	Angelina Theresa Koch	$3,038.00
TX	Preston LeMacks	$3,038.00
TX	Adeline Baish Fellona	$3,038.00
TX	Ethan David Tesoroni	$3,038.00
TX	Harmony Maenique Hickma	$3,038.00
TX	Allie Rae Vanlangendonck	$3,038.00
TX	Kenya Brown	$3,038.00
TX	Sarah Addison Ayres	$3,038.00
TX	Alexa Citlalli Ybarra	$3,038.00
TX	Charles Michael Morehouse	$3,038.00
TX	Kelsie Raye Vicencio	$3,038.00
TX	Genesis Danyelle Valcin	$3,038.00
TX	Jaison Malveaux	$3,038.00
TX	Serenity Grace Valcin	$3,038.00
TX	Jade Isabella Wilson	$3,038.00
TX	Andrew Acosta	$3,038.00
TX	Matthew Alexander Martinez	$3,038.00
TX	Madelyn Skye Alejandro	$3,038.00
TX	Cidney Mebane	$3,038.00
TX	Emma Harvey	$3,038.00
TX	Tyler Paul Archie	$3,038.00
TX	Alexander Sagebiel Flinchbaugh	$3,038.00
TX	Jada Mignot	$3,038.00
TX	Marcus Cristian Thomas	$2,945.00
TX	Ava Ileana Napier	$2,564.00
TX	Aaliyah Henderson	$2,519.00
TX	Christi Marie Bales	$2,486.00
TX	Christa Elida Mendoza	$2,339.00
TX	Alyx Marie Fisk	$1,458.00
TX	Elliot James Smaha	$813.00
UT	Addison Ann Branham	$3,038.00
UT	Ashley Grace Clove	$3,038.00
VA	Dustin Zachary Crawford	$3,038.00
VA	Alison Becker	$3,038.00
VA	Isabella Sofia Mateo	$3,038.00
VA	Brandon Noah Hill	$3,038.00
VA	Jordan Cameron Glover	$3,038.00
VA	Dominic Di Leonardo	$3,038.00
VA	Ciearra Renee Christopher	$3,038.00
VA	Ashley Nau	$3,038.00
VA	Noah Jameson Reed	$3,038.00
VA	Megan J Mercado	$3,038.00
VA	Arionna Shaw	$3,038.00
VA	Jayla Foreman	$3,038.00
VA	Gabrielle Morris	$3,038.00
VA	Juliana Berlyn Anderson	$3,038.00
VA	Sydney Marie Freedle	$3,038.00
VA	Jaden Darell Lewis	$3,038.00
VA	Hannah Margaret McDermott	$3,038.00
VA	Shawn Nathaniel Brower II	$3,038.00
VA	Jaylah Koree Webb	$3,038.00
VA	Justice K Thomas	$3,038.00
VA	Marius Tennort	$3,038.00
VA	Jaren Tennort	$3,038.00
VA	Grace Elizabeth Bush	$3,038.00
VA	Brian Patrick Doty Jr.	$3,038.00
VA	Brenton Figures-Mormon	$3,038.00
VA	Johnathan Marcus Bjonnes	$3,038.00
VA	Paris A Goodman	$3,038.00
VA	Emmanuel Joshua Petway	$3,038.00
VA	Frances Maria Welsh	$3,038.00
VA	Triniti J'Nae Petway	$3,038.00
VA	Reese Katelynn Osborn	$3,038.00
VA	Olivia Evonna Foreman	$3,038.00
VA	Ethan Nathaniel Oliver	$2,307.00
WA	Niya Park	$19,785.00
WA	Natalie Grace Bunker	$3,038.00
WA	Samantha Hoffmann	$3,038.00
WA	Samantha Mohs	$3,038.00
WA	Alexandria N Hames	$3,038.00
WA	Kennedy Coleman	$3,038.00
WA	Ann Paula Cabacungan	$3,038.00

WA	Mya Jeanne Cushing	$3,038.00
WA	Noelani Milena Allison	$3,038.00
WI	Caleb Gray	$3,038.00
WI	Hannah Grever	$3,038.00
WI	Jaden Kondor	$3,038.00
WI	Amiyah Kay Jackson	$3,038.00
WV	Lanah Mollohan	$3,038.00
WV	Mia Paige McKee	$3,038.00

Addendum A

Dispose of Administratively
Register Resolution No. 2853 (CA) (DEC): **American Legion Boys Nation Eligibility**

Hold for Further Study
Resolution No. 1 (AR) (2023 Natl. Conv.): **Black Ribbon Indicate Half-Staff on Fixed and Wall-Mounted U.S. Flags**

Addendum B

The Americanism Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions that are presently before this body for disposition.

MEETING DATE	EVENT/MEETING	CONFERENCE DATES
May 6-7, 2024	Americanism Conference - 2024 *(Boys State)*	September 27-29, 2024
	Baseball Regionals - 2024	August 7-11, 2024
	Baseball World Series - 2024	August 15-20, 2024
	ALB Fall Chairman/Committee Mtg. 2024	August 21-22, 2024 (Shelby, NC)_
	Children & Youth Conference - 2024	September 27-29, 2024
	Dept. Chaplains Conference - 2024	September 27-29, 2024
	Jr. Shooting Sports Conference - 2024	September 27-29, 2024
	Yth. Cadet Law Enforcement Conference - 2024	September 27-29, 2024
	Oratorical Conference - 2023	September 27-29, 2024

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of one resolution and two addenda. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of one resolution and two addenda. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 11: Adjutants Advisory Board to the Americanism Commission American Legion Baseball Committee
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, It is important to include department adjutants as advisors to the Americanism Commission American Legion Baseball Committee to share their thoughts concerning situations that may be peculiar to one region or another and to gather information through their unique network to best assist the American Legion Baseball Committee in making appropriate decisions; 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, 2024, That the National Executive Committee hereby creates an Adjutants Advisory Board to the Americanism Commission American Legion Baseball Committee consisting of three department adjutants to serve for a term that ends with the close of the October National Executive Committee meeting each year following their appointment.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution was approved by your Americanism Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Pursuant to this resolution passing, then, I nominate the following department adjutants to serve on the Adjutants Advisory Board to the Americanism Commission American Legion Baseball Committee. The following are: Cory Bates, Rhode Island; Mark Cauble, North Carolina; and David Stein, Virginia. Do I have a motion?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WOODS: So, moved. *…Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Attached to the report are Addendum A and B. I move the actions of the Americanism Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Do I hear any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Because we are running ahead, the chair now recognizes Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Robert E. Newman of Indiana for the purpose of a report, which will be followed by the Membership & Post Activities Committee.

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

Commander, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chairman. Members of the National Executive Committee, fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen. You have my report of our actions and deliberations before you. The commission reviewed nine resolutions, and our recommended action on each is in our report, except for the Distinguished Service Medal which will be acted upon in executive session later today.

Also, thank you for passing the Department Retention Award resolution during the Finance Commission report. We believe this will have a positive impact on membership retention in the organization.

As you have heard reports from the different commissions during this meeting, we have a lot of great program initiatives that The American Legion is involved in. Because of this, it is vital that we provide opportunities to educate our members on these areas of focus. Last fall the National Regional Informational Conference Ad Hoc Committee was created. This committee has been working hard to institute regional training to start off.

We are looking to conduct our first training conference this November and a second one held after the first of the year in conjunction with the American Legion Auxiliary's Mission Training. We also plan to conduct training during the National Convention. An official announcement will be made once details are finalized. The ultimate goal for these regional training conferences is, through American Legion Family education, we are able to create an environment where the needs of our organization are met and members understand our legacy and prepare them for the future.

I would also like to highlight a few of our great programs within our report. First off, the NEF program helped 96 individuals and 11 posts in 2023, for a grand total of $366,572. We have approved three grants for individuals this year, but with the recent storms in the South and the Midwest, I imagine there will be more members who will need our assistance. We are well positioned to provide our members, their families and our posts with immediate assistance in the event of a national disaster.

We all know what great things the American Legion Riders do for developing awareness, and their hard work does not go unnoticed. Last year was a record year for donations during the Legacy Run, with over $1.55 million raised. This year the Riders are focusing their attention on the Veterans & Children Foundation. We are excited to see what this year's Legacy Run will do for VCF.

I would also draw your attention to the great work the Sons of The American Legion have accomplished, and I commend every department for supporting this program. This past weekend, the Sons collected more than $101,000 in donations during their NEC meetings.

Finally, the Operation Comfort Warriors program is dedicated to meeting the needs of the wounded or injured veterans and military personnel. Since its inception in 2007, we have given out over $3.1 million in grants. In 2023, American Legion Charities granted 57 grants for $354,403.78. This program highlights the great work The American Legion does on a regular basis.

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

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

Chairman Robert E. Newman (IN) called the Internal Affairs Commission to order at 9:00 a.m., May 6, and at 8:30 a.m., May 8, in 314A, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. We had twenty-six members and several guests.

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (ANNUAL SPRING MEETINGS REPORT)

Submitted by Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr. (MD), National Commander, Sons of The American Legion

INTRODUCTION:

The Sons of The American Legion just completed another successful National Executive Committee meeting this past weekend.

As of May 3, 2024, we have a total membership of 371,167 which is 97.14% of our 100% target which is 382,111 members. We have also renewed 85.42% of our 2023 members.

Again this year, we remain a strong supporter of the Child Welfare Foundation, raising $275,783 as of April 27, 2024, for 72.4% ($0.72 per member) of our goal. The organization recently surpassed the $9 million mark in total contributions to the Foundation. During the National Executive Committee meeting this past weekend an additional amount of $90,592 was donated to the Foundation, with more coming prior to May 31st. The total, after the donations this weekend, is over $366,375.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:

The Member Training and Development Committee continued training our members with the National Management Institute (NMI). Four hundred and twenty-eight (428) Sons of The American Legion (SAL) leaders have now completed all phases of this three-session

management training. Twenty-two (22) members graduated during this 21st Anniversary session.

SAL-U Pilot Program was a day and a half of training with twelve (12) attendees representing various detachments. Instructors were past national commanders and others.

SAL DONATIONS SUMMARY:

Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)	$90,592.00
Legacy Scholarship Fund	$500.00
National Emergency Fund (NEF)	$7,793.00
Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW)	$761.00
American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF)	$1,400.00
GRAND TOTAL	$101,046.00

CONCLUSION:

With our membership goal for this year appearing to be very attainable, we are heading towards another record year. We now have more than one-third of a million members in the organization. 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.

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 the Sons of The American Legion will become even more of an asset to The American Legion.

On behalf of the members of the Sons of The American Legion, I would like to thank the Internal Affairs Commission and the division staff for their help and guidance. A special thanks to Mr. Robert E. Newman, Mr. Matthew E. Herndon, Mr. James Baca and Mr. Kevin Mook. Through their perseverance and dedication the SAL program has grown to where we are today.

I am very pleased with the work and dedication of the National Executive Committee, our detachments and our members from which our further growth is ensured.

I. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
MATTHEW D. JABAUT (ME), CHAIRMAN

As of April 30, 2024, the total 2024 traditional membership was 1,368,378 which is 94.45% of the traditional membership goal of 1,452,188. The 95% target date was on April 10th. There were 14 departments who met the 95% target. Congratulations to the Departments of Puerto Rico and Hawaii for achieving 100%. The Departments of Virginia, Idaho and Florida are very close to achieving 100%.

The membership results do not include newly acquired 2024 DMS members. The total DMS members acquired is 31,505 and 43,237 encumbered DMS members have renewed for this membership year. Legionnaires have engaged and transferred 15,036 encumbered DMS members into local posts for the 2024 membership year.

National Commander Seehafer set a goal of 78,000 new traditional members for the 2024 membership year. As of April 30, 2024, we have recruited 66,772 new members into the organization at the local post level. He also set a goal of 90% retention for 2024. Our current renewal rate is 88.68% at the traditional post level.

There is an expectation to engage members on a regular basis through servant leadership. With the Be the One initiative, it is imperative for posts to contact members to check on their wellbeing and show them they are valued members of this organization.

Whether it is through Buddy Checks or contacting members about their membership dues, members need to feel wanted and valued. This should not only be utilized on current members, but expired members as well. This engagement tool shows members that leadership cares about them and their well-being. There are more than 45,500 department headquarters post members and 361,103 members at the post level who were paid for 2023 that have not renewed for 2024.

There is still a large pool of Legionnaires that can be contacted to renew their membership. To incentivize departments to continue pushing towards growth, Commander Seehafer continued with the monetary award for any department who attains 103% of their membership goal and renews 90% of their 2023 members. When a department achieves these two areas, they can continue to transmit 2024 members up until October 1st and they will be reimbursed the national per capita for each member transmitted. Currently no department has qualified for this incentive.

The online renewal program is performing very well. There have been 273,247 members renew online for 2024. As members sign on to renew, they are encouraged to pay their dues for multiple years. To date, 20,500 Legionnaires have taken advantage of this option. Members can also select the auto-renew option. We have 137,059 who have signed up for auto renewal. We are continuously looking at ways of improving the members' experience and these options within online renewal provide a cost savings for the organization since we do not have to mail renewal notices for these individuals for the upcoming membership year.

Currently we have 5,910 posts and 2,431 squadrons who use MyLegion and PGO to transmit dues online. This transmittal program is working well Personify and continues to be a great workload reducer as well as a timelier service for our members. It allows for earlier posting of renewal transactions to the national database which results in reduction of duplicate renewal notices going to members who paid their dues to posts.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARK R. CLARK (MO), CHAIRMAN

Chairman Newman and distinguished members of the Internal Affairs Commission, thank you for the opportunity to provide a summary of what your American Legion Riders National Advisory Committee has been up to this year. Our committee met yesterday May 5, 2024, in the Ohio Room at the Sheraton City Center Hotel and Conference Center.

I am proud to report that it is relatively quiet in the American Legion Rider community with no major controversies or concerns. Department ALR Programs are reporting strong growth and continue to formalize and professionalize their programs. National ALR Liaison Ken George and I had the opportunity to attend the Dept of Louisiana mid-winter conference and speak of the importance of establishing a department level program and I am excited to report they will likely formalize their ALR program at their department convention this year.

The 2023 National Legacy Run was a record-breaking success bringing in more than $1.55 million dollars for the Legacy Scholarship Foundation. We learned yesterday that those efforts will result in a record 505 Scholarships totaling more than $1,779,460 dollars being awarded this year if the NEC approves the recommendations. To see the positive results of last year's Legacy Run will be welcome news for our Riders who put their heart into raising funds for the kids this past year.

The 2024 Legacy Run will raise funds for the Veterans & Children Foundation for the first time. While some questioned if the Riders would get behind the new mission, I never doubted that they would. We are seeing great enthusiasm across the country for this new mission and in-state Legacy Runs are proceeding with great energy and momentum. We have a great ride planned this year with some unique stops. We are expecting another large and successful national Legacy Run to culminate this year's mission. It is important that our Riders understand the importance of the Veterans & Children Foundation and how we

can help grow this foundation of hope. While I am here this weekend, I will be shooting some promotional videos to continue to build enthusiasm for this year's run.

Our committee regional reports tell me that the ALR program is stable and growing. We still have departments who are reluctant to recognize the ALR as a department level program, but we are continuing to educate and motivate them to do so. A well-structured department level ALR program can properly align its priorities with the department priorities making it a force multiplier. When the department DEC and the Riders are reading from the same sheet of music, that's when the magic happens.

The Riders continue to advocate for the Be the One mission and it is becoming ingrained as part of our messaging in all our activities. In Missouri, our Riders saved a life by following the simple steps associated with Be the One and that story will soon be captured by our headquarters media team. We believe that we can continue to expand the reach of this vital program and that by doing so we can change and save lives.

Lastly, our committee would like to thank the outstanding members of our HQ Staff who support our program year around. This is especially true of our Internal Affairs Division staff as I ask a lot of them, and they always deliver with a smile and willingness to do more. Division Director Matt Herndon and his staff are serving our organization well and deserve to be recognized for the outstanding support they give us every day.

I am honored to serve as chairman of the ALR Advisory Committee and on behalf of its dedicated members, we thank you Mr. Chairman and the members of the Internal Affairs Commission for your support and commitment to the ALR Program.

SAL COMMANDER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JOSEPH M. MAYNE (MN), CHAIRMAN

Since the close of the 2023 Fall National Executive Committee meetings in Indianapolis, the SAL Commander's Advisory Committee held nine meetings:

- November 7, 2023 (Virtual)
- November 21, 2023 (Virtual)
- December 5, 2023 (Virtual)
- January 9, 2024 (Virtual)
- February 6, 2024 (Virtual)
- February 26-28, 2024 (Washington Conference)
- March 26, 2024 (Virtual)
- April 16, 2024 (Virtual)
- May 2- 4, 2024 (Spring Meetings)

A quorum was established for the above meetings to include the below members who were in attendance.

Chairman: Joseph Mayne (MN)
Member: Charles Gannon (MD)
Member: Clifford Smith (MA)
Member: Roy Smith (IL)
Member: Frank MacDonald (MA)
Member: Eugene Sacco (CA)
Member: Michael Fox (CA)
Consultant: Christopher Carlton (IN)
Consultant: Tim Aboudara, Sr. (CA)

Actions - Completed November 7, 2023 - May 4, 2024:

- Approved Post Convention NEC Appointments. (Appendix A attached)
- Approved Resolutions for Action that have completed RSC Review. (Appendix A attached)
- Selected Thom Skelley (TX) as the Trailing Candidate for National Commander to be announced at the SAL National Convention in New Orleans.

- Established a new "Resolutions Process" for getting Resolutions to the Resolutions Screening Committee for Review.
- Established The Millenium Monthly Newsletter. (distribution started in November 2023)
- SAL University conducted its first class (pilot session) prior to the 2024 Spring Meetings.
- PMCC worked with Chastain Creative and American Legion Media and Communications and released the first membership videos.
- Restructured the Convention Committee. (proposing Convention and Meetings Committee)
- Established a new policy requiring that each commission and committee to have a "scribe" to capture the "minutes" of what occurred in each respective committee/commission meeting and submit them within a defined time.
- "Restructured the Century Committee (CentComm) with a new Chairman, PNC Joe Gladden and direction.

SALCA Working Projects:

- Training for commission and committee "scribes"
- Contributing content for SAL Post Liaisons
- Writing a resolution to codify the new resolutions "process"
- Updating the current order of authorization for approval
- Working with commission and committee chairmen to monitor and report on the progress of their annual goals.

National Appointment Recommendations
SAL Committee on National Appointments (CONA) 2024 Post - National Convention Meeting August 25, 2024
New Orleans, Louisiana
Pending National Executive Committee Approval

National Officers:

NAME	DETACHMENT	TERM	EXP.
Joseph Navarrete	New Mexico	National Commander	2025
Harl "Butch" Ray	Illinois	National Vice Commander	2025
Robert Manzo	Maryland	National Vice Commander	2025
Michael Monserud	Iowa	National Vice Commander	2025
Dan Ashley	Arizona	National Vice Commander	2025
TBD		National Vice Commander	2025
Steven Navarrete	New Mexico	Aide to National Commander	2025
Gary Leach	California	National Parliamentarian	2025
Matthew Griffis	Arizona	National Sergeant-At-Arms	2025
Brian Waters	Pennsylvania	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms	2025
Gregory Falco	New York	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms	2025
Timothy Brower	New York	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms	2025
Anthony Wright	Pennsylvania	National Adjutant	2025
Harold Thompson	Nebraska	National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus	2025
James "Ed" Sheubrooks	Florida	National Assistant Adjutant	2025
Robert Avery	New York	National Assistant Adjutant	2025
Scott Thornton	Ohio	National Assistant Adjutant	2025

National Commissions and Committees:

NAME	DETACHMENT	TERM	EXP.
Joseph Navarrete	New Mexico	National Commander	2025
Harl "Butch" Ray	Illinois	National Vice Commander	2025
Robert Manzo	Maryland	National Vice Commander	2025
Michael Monserud	Iowa	National Vice Commander	2025
Dan Ashley	Arizona	National Vice Commander	2025
TBD		National Vice Commander	2025
Steven Navarrete	New Mexico	Aide to National Commander	2025
Gary Leach	California	National Parliamentarian	2025
Matthew Griffis	Arizona	National Sergeant-At-Arms	2025
Brian Waters	Pennsylvania	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms	2025
Gregory Falco	New York	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms	2025
Timothy Brower	New York	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms	2025
Anthony Wright	Pennsylvania	National Adjutant	2025
Harold Thompson	Nebraska	National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus	2025
James "Ed" Sheubrooks	Florida	National Assistant Adjutant	2025
Robert Avery	New York	National Assistant Adjutant	2025
Scott Thornton	Ohio	National Assistant Adjutant	2025

The resolution recommendations for the SAL National Executive Committee that were reviewed by the SAL Commander's Advisory Committee can be found in ***Addendum B.***

II. INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

AMERICAN LEGION 21ST CENTURY SUBCOMMITTEE
FRANCIS J. MACDONALD, JR. (MA), CHAIRMAN

Members present:
Francis J. MacDonald, Jr. (MA), Chairman
Danny P. Muth (TX) Vice Chairman
Wiliam H. Lienhop, Jr. (GA)
Michael W. Moses, Sr. (KY)
Eric V. Warthen, Sr. (MD)
Michael Hayward (AK), Consultant
Paul A. L'Heureux (ME), Consultant

National Staff supporting:
Mark Woodsmall (IN)

Spring 2024 Meeting of the 21st Century Subcommittee:

On Monday, May 6, 2024, at 10:00 AM, the 21st Century Subcommittee convened and met to become familiar with the progress made since its last meeting. M&PA Committee Chairman Jabaut discussed how the M&PA Committee has been working to incorporate the strategic plan with the 21st Century Ad Hoc Report. The M&PA Committee has taken on the role of being its champion. Subcommittee Chairman MacDonald mentioned that not only does the 21st Century Report need to have a champion at the national level, but each department should have one as well to ensure acceptance throughout the organization.

The subcommittee discussed the purpose of the National Regional Informational Conferences and when they will begin. These conferences will promote the founding principles of our organization through focused training and education. The subcommittee

agreed that these conferences should encompass American Legion programs under the four pillars giving our members a better understanding. The Internal Affairs and Membership staff stand ready to assist with providing any additional information or documentation in which the subcommittee requires to make informed decisions concerning recommendations for 2024.

The report of the 21st Century Subcommittee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

AMERICAN LEGION TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE
STEVEN C. SPERL (AZ), CHAIRMAN

The Training Subcommittee met in the National Headquarters building at 10:30 am in the Internal Affairs & Membership conference room to review business pertaining to the National American Legion College, National American Legion College Alumni Association and training.

Members present:
Steven C. Sperl (AZ), Chairman
John F. DeBisschop, III (CT), Vice Chairman
Timothy J. Collmer (NY), National Commander's Representative
Eric W. Measles (CA)
Jennifer M. Rehbein (IA)
John W. Knox (MI)
Richard W. Neville (NC)
Carl W. Swisher (OH)
David J. Clinger (FL), Consultant
David L. Gough (WI), Consultant

Staff Support: Erin Bossen (IN), Member Engagement & Training Coordinator
Ken George (FR), Member Engagement & Legal Matters Coordinator

Implement training 21st Century Report:

The committee reviewed the report, emphasizing the persistent need for training across all endeavors, as reiterated throughout the document.

National American Legion College Resolutions Update:

The ideal candidate resolution will proceed with some adjustments, while the purpose resolution outlining core curriculum has been removed.

Training Initiatives:

The committee clarified that Training Tuesday occurs on the last Tuesday of each month, covering four rotating topics: member issues or benefits, veteran suicide prevention, resolutions, and post business. This established cycle ensures consistency and predictability for members.

The committee focused on optimizing "Training In a Box," an online archive on the legion.org website. Requests were made for assistance in reviewing and updating stored training materials, including slide decks. A prioritized approach will be implemented, with a spreadsheet detailing the order of review for PowerPoint presentations and other resources. Initially, each member will review one PowerPoint from "Training In a Box," aiming to complete the task by the fall meeting, with plans to expand gradually. Quarterly progress checks will commence in early June.

Integration of 21st Century Scholar Report:
Suggestions include:

1. Implement online training modules and interactive platforms to modernize training methods.
2. Establish regular communication with organizations willing to offer training resources and schedule training sessions accordingly.
3. Pair new members with experienced mentors to facilitate knowledge transfer and foster a sense of belonging.
4. Develop a coordinated approach across all levels to provide structured leadership development opportunities.
5. Host regular "Training Tuesday" events to encourage participation and continuity in educational initiatives.
6. Implement a "train the trainer" program to ensure consistency and sustainability in training efforts.

The report of the Training Subcommittee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

AMERICAN LEGION TROPHIES, AWARDS & CEREMONIALS (TAC) SUBCOMMITTEE
JAMES R. BOJANOWSKI (NY), CHAIRMAN

The Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman James R. Bojanowski (NY) at 10:15 a.m. on Monday, May 6, 2024, at National Headquarters, IA & M Training Conference Room, to receive the 2023 Official Awards, 2024 Unofficial Awards and review the Spring 2024 *Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials (TAC) Manual* and other business of the TAC Subcommittee.

Members present:
James R. Bojanowski (NY)
James A. Costello (NE)
Jimmy E. Hawk (SC)
Roy E. Smith (IL)
George V. West (NH)
James R. Vollrath (PA)
James C. McGill, Jr., (NC), Consultant

Discussion and Recommendations on TAC Manual:

The Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Subcommittee reviewed the previous meeting agenda, minutes, report, and other relevant documents prior to their 2024 subcommittee meeting. Staff also provided a summary of actions per the direction of last year's subcommittee report and recommendations, which included a memo sent out by staff to departments encouraging participation in underutilized awards.

Subcommittee members discussed the 2023 Official Awards, the 2024 Unofficial Awards, and the 2024 edition of the *Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Manual*, noting appropriate edits and updates. The subcommittee determined that national staff and TAC subcommittee members will need to further investigate underutilized awards in order to craft a message to the relevant national commissions/committees, as well as all relevant department committees, so that they may assist with focusing efforts on promoting submissions for such awards.

Additionally, the subcommittee requests that copies of the thumb drives presented to National American Legion College participants contain the TAC and Membership Awards manuals to further increase awards optics to Legion College graduates so that they may better serve their departments. Moreover, the subcommittee requests that department-run Legion Colleges build in their curriculums an awareness of the TAC Manual and available awards.

Furthermore, the TAC subcommittee requests that a TAC/Awards-focused article to run in the American Legion Magazine and other periodical publications, such as "The Dispatch", to help disseminate award information to our posts and members. Along with utilizing Legion media platforms, the subcommittee requests that the national training team implement a "Training Tuesday" segment before 2025 Spring Meetings, as well as presenting a TAC/Awards overview during the general session of the 2024 National Membership Workshop.

Lastly, the subcommittee reviewed the 2024 American Legion Canadian Friendship Award Nominees to be awarded at the Dominion Convention in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Prior to this year, the last submissions for this award were in 2015. In order to encourage departments to increase future nominees for the American Legion Canadian Friendship Award, the TAC subcommittee requests for staff to craft a message outlining the details of this award to all departments sharing a Canadian border.

OFFICIAL AWARDS APPROVED FOR 2023:

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: First Liberty Institute

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: Corey Seager, Texas Rangers

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: Colten McAnelly, Francis E. Self Post 6, Cheyene, WY (29 strikeouts)

Commissioner of Baseball Trophy: Awarded annually at the Major League World Series to that baseball team which becomes the National Champion because of playing in The American Legion World Series.

RECIPIENT: League City Post 554, TX

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: Lincoln Post 3, NE

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: Jacob Cyr, League City Post 554, League City, TX

The Howard P. Savage, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having the baseball team which becomes the Champion because of playing in The American Legion World Series

RECIPIENT: League City Post 554, TX

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: League City Post 554, League City, TX (coaching staff – Ronnie Oliver, William Kemp, Steven Whittington, Jack Kaiser, and Kameren Harddebeck.

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: A.J. Evasco, Lincoln Post 3, Lincoln

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award: Presented annually to the national tournament champions of the individual and team categories in Sporter and Precision disciplines of The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program. (Originally named the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy)

RECIPIENT:	Precision Team:	Lafayette Gun Club
	Precision Individual:	Jacob Wisman
	Sporter Team:	Nation Ford
	Sporter Individual:	Charles Bratton

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: Zack Hunt (.500) and Brady Cook (.500), Fred H. Sexton, Inc. Post 1, Florence, SC

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 Tennessee

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: A.J. Evasco, Lincoln Post 3, Lincoln, Nebraska and Zack Hunt, Fred H. Sexton, Inc. Post 1, Florence, SC (tied with 23 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 Indiana

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: Rylie Stoeser

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): Phillip Rosini (NY), Keith J. Koster (NY), C.F. Trey Jaeger, III (FR), Ruth Carvajal-Dawson (SC), Kevin R. Eidell (SC), William H. Neal (SC), Robert D. Carvajal-Dawson (SC), Peter N. Holtz (IN), Douglas G. Kirby (TN), Barton L. Heldke (MI).

The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award: Each respective American Legion Department (State) selection committee will determine the Eagle Scout judge to be the best in their department. Then the Department will send that packet, along with a list of the members serving on that selection committee to The American Legion National Headquarters no later than April 1st. The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will receive $10,000 scholarship, three runner-up scholarship awards will be granted in the amount of $2,500 each. The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will travel to join the Youth Champion Delegates of The American Legion that is honored at the annual National Convention of the American Legion.

RECIPIENT: Jack D. Adams (WA)

The American Legion National Education Award: Awarded annually to an individual, group or organization which has conducted the best all-around promotion of the education programs of The American Legion, education programs that correspond to the goals of The American Legion or has promoted or advanced education programs at the national level.

RECIPIENT(S): Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program

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 – None Awarded for 2023
INDIVIDUAL – None Awarded for 2023

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: Montana and New Mexico

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):	Large Employer	Akima Technologies, Fort Cavazos, TX
2022 Winners	Medium Employer	Texas Veteran Security, San Antonio, TX
	Small Employer	TangoAlpha3, Austin, TX

Note: The 2023 National Employer of Veterans Award Recipient(s) will not be announced until 2024 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:	Eric Brown, Dallas, TX
2022 Winners	DVOP of the Year:	Kelly Norris, Garland, TX
	ES Office of the Year:	Workforce Solutions Panhandle, Amarillo, TX

Note: The 2023 National Employment Service Award Recipient(s) will not be announced until 2024 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: PRIDE Industries Western Currency Facility, Ft. Worth, TX
2022 Winner

Note: The 2023 Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award Recipient will not be announced until 2024 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: Harris Health System, Bellaire, TX
2022 Winner

Note: The 2023 National Employer of Older Worker Award Recipient will not be announced until 2024 National Convention.

Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach Award Recipient: The program provides the Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach Award for a department of The American Legion that demonstrates involvement in homeless veteran initiatives that show outstanding support for activity in any or all of these areas: volunteerism, prevention, supportive housing, advocacy and fundraising.

RECIPIENT: Department of New Jersey – Housing Our Heroes, Trenton, NJ
2022 Winner

Note: The 2023 Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach Award Recipient will not be announced until 2024 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): Narrative – Indiana
Yearbook - Nebraska

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): Narrative – Pony Express Post 359, Saint Joseph, MO
Yearbook –Women Veterans of Southwest Missouri Post 1214, Ozark, MO

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 2023

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: Congressman Raul Ruiz (D-CA-25)

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 South Dakota
2023 Winners	Category II	Detachment of West Virginia
	Category III	Detachment of Georgia
	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	None qualified
Category IV	None qualified
Category V	None qualified
Category VI	Department of Puerto Rico

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 Wisconsin

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 Department of Puerto Rico

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 Patricia E. Liddell, Department of Georgia

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 Department of Puerto Rico
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 Puerto Rico

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 Cadet James M. Landy

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 Ensign Michelle Kwafo

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 Midshipman Morgan Fortin

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 Cadet Malina Hatton

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 Midshipman Dylan Carter

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 85,000 or more members:**
	Post Participation:	Department of Pennsylvania
	Individual Participation:	Department of Pennsylvania
	Category II	**Departments with 65,000 to 84,999 members:**
	Post Participation:	Department of New York
	Individual Participation:	Department of New York
	Category III	**Departments with 40,000 to 64,999 members:**
	Post Participation:	Department of Minnesota
	Individual Participation:	Department of Minnesota
	Category IV	**Departments with 25,000 to 39,999** members:
	Post Participation:	Department of Virginia
	Individual Participation:	Department of Virginia
	Category V	**Departments with 10,000 to 24,999 members:**
	Post Participation:	Department of Alabama
	Individual Participation:	Department of Maine
	Category VI	**Departments with less than 10,000 members:**
	Post Participation:	Department of Vermont
	Individual Participation:	Department of Vermont

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 Patrol Officer Audrey Arbuckle, Crete, NE

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 Firefighter John DeBisschop, III, Naugatuck, CT

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): Top 3 Departments:
Department of Georgia
Department of Florida
Department of South Carolina

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(S): Broadcast: ABC Action News (WFTS-TV) I-Team, Tampa, Florida/Adam Walser
Print: *Military Times*/Leo Shane

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): Hon. Timothy K. Moore, Johnnie E. Webb, Jr., Chip Ganassi Racing

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. Christopher Irvine
	Navy:	Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Justin D. Santoyo
	Marine Corps:	Sgt. Nhatalyne Bordes
	Coast Guard:	Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Knick
	Air Force:	Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Allen
	Space Force:	Spc. 3 Tyler J. Baker
	Air National Guard:	Staff Sgt. Dhruva S. Poluru

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 Joliet American Legion Band, Joliet, IL

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 Newport Harbor Post 291, Newport Beach CA

The Lemuel Bolles Trophy: Awarded annually to that band winning first prize in competition with all other bands during the annual National Convention.

RECIPIENT Joliet American Legion Band, Joliet, IL

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 Florida

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 Gobind Tarchand

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. Patricia Dickmann

UNOFFICIAL AWARDS APPROVED FOR 2024:
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 13, 2023: Forty-eight departments qualified for the 50% target date they are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Latin America, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.
FALL MEETINGS - OCTOBER 18, 2023: Fifty-one Departments qualified for the 55% target date they are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Latin America, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 15, 2023: Fifty Departments qualified for the 65% target date they are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Latin America, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

PEARL HARBOR DAY – DECEMBER 13, 2023: Forty-nine Departments qualified for the 75% target date they are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Latin America, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma,

Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

MID WINTER – JANUARY 18, 2024: Fifty-two Departments qualified for the 80% target date they are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Latin America, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

PRESIDENT'S DAY – FEBRUARY 14, 2024: Fifty-one Departments qualified for the 85% target date they are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Latin America, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

LEGION BIRTHDAY – MARCH 13, 2024: Thirty-six Departments qualified for the 90% target date they are: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Latin America, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

"BIG TWELVE" COMPETITION WINNERS:

Category I	Florida, Pennsylvania	Category IV	Virginia, Iowa
Category II	None Qualified	Category V	South Dakota, Nebraska
Category III	Wisconsin, Minnesota	Category VI	Puerto Rico, Idaho

CHILDREN & YOUTH – APRIL 10, 2024: Fourteen departments qualified for the 95% target date they are: Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Hawaii, Idaho, Latin America, Maryland, Michigan, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia.

ARMED FORCES DAY – MAY 15, 2024: *Not yet determined.*
By achieving 100% of the department's 2024 membership goal, the department will receive a plaque recognizing this achievement.

DELEGATE STRENGTH – JULY 29, 2024: 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 2024 by May 15, 2024, will receive a plaque recognizing his/her achievement. The 2024 winners are *not yet determined.*

GOLD BRIGADE RECRUITER AWARD: A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more NEW members by May 15, 2024, will qualify for enrollment in the elite GOLD BRIGADE of The American Legion.

POST HONOR RIBBONS: Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to 1,432 posts whose 2024 membership as of December 31, 2023, exceeded their final 2024 membership.

CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE: These certificates were awarded for 98 posts for attaining a new all-time-high membership for 2024 by December 31, 2023.

FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS ALL-TIME-HIGH: These citations are awarded to posts with five or more consecutive years of all-time high membership in 2024.

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 will be 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 2023 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 2024 National Convention will be presented to the top district commander and spouse in each category whose district membership on March 31 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 105th National Convention in *New Orleans, Louisiana.*

Second Place Awards will be presented to the district commander in each category whose district membership on March 31 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 31 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 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA:

Category I	Milton R. Chatham	Texas	111.92%	District 2
Category II	Stuart L. Scott	Florida	109.01%	District 3
Category III	Gary S. Ely	Georgia	105.67%	District 9
Category IV	Murray S. Hall	Maryland	104.15%	District 6
Category V	No submissions			

SECOND PLACE WINNERS ($500 CHECK):

Category I	Jack Scott Paulsen	Idaho	111.86%	District 2
Category II	Cynthia Miller	Texas	108.99%	District 11
Category III	James N. Bowers	Florida	103.69%	District 17
Category IV	No submissions			
Category V	No submissions			

THIRD PLACE WINNERS ($375 CHECK):

Category I	Steven J. Storey	Texas	110.59%	District 7
Category II	Robert F. Russell	Georgia	107.50%	District 6
Category III	Leonard T. Ward, Jr.	Maryland	102.58%	District 2
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 31, 2024, 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 2024 membership year by May 15, 2023. 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, 2024.

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 105th National Convention in *New Orleans, Louisiana.* ***The winner for 2024 has not yet been determined.***

The report of the Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials (TAC) Subcommittee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

III. NATIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Please note: Financial information included in these reports are for management use only. It does not constitute a financial statement and has not been subjected to audit, review, or compilation by an independent Certified Public Accountant.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Since its creation in 1989, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has awarded over $11M to 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 lose the ability to conduct Four Pillar programs within their community. In 2023 we approved 107 grants (96 individual grants and 11 post grants) totaling $366,572.09.

2023 Individual Grants $264,072.09 (Average individual grant $2,750.75)
2023 Post Grants $ 102,500.00 (Average post grant $9,318.00)

Most of the grants distributed in 2023 were for Hurricane Ian from September 2022, and Hurricane Idalia in August of 2023. Three requests for flooding were approved within the Departments of California, Vermont, and New York. One request within the Department of Oklahoma was approved for a tornado, and one request was approved within the Department of Illinois for straight line winds. Overall, the NEF provided grants in 2023 for the Departments of Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, Illinois, Vermont, and New York.

So far in 2024, the NEF has provided grants to 3 members within the Departments of Tennessee (2), and Louisiana (1) for a total of $3,604 (compared to $315,016.94 on this date in 2023).

The NEF trust remains healthy with over $6.4M available as of December 2023.

OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS (OCW)

Purpose:

Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) offers activities and delivers items to wounded, injured and ill servicemembers, veterans and their families to support and empower them to improve their quality of life. This OCW report provides an end-of-year review of 2023 with a comparison to 2022.

Authority:

Resolution No. 12 (NEC, Oct 17-18, 2012) Subject: "Consolidate Heroes to Hometowns Program into Operation Comfort Warriors"

Financials:

* Since its inception in 2007, Operation Comfort Warriors has given out $3,141,039.77 with over 450 grants.

	2022	2023	Difference
Total Donations	$385,350.55	$383,932.03	($1,418.52)
Disbursements	60 Grants	57 Grants	(3)
Amount Disbursed	$241,240.78	$354,403.78	$113,163.00

Donations:

Departments, detachments, posts, units, squadrons, and Riders chapters have been key in fundraising for OCW. In 2023, the top three donors were:

- Department of Indiana - $179,504.75
- Department of Ohio - $ 24,926.26
- Department of New York - $19,457.00
- Overall, donations directly coming from the department and post level of the American Legion Family is $306,219.01.

Grants:

- 42 individual grants for a total of $141,912.33
- 3 facility grants for a total of $81,506.31
- 12 event grants for a total of $195,845.14

Impact:

2023 was a record year for grant disbursements with 57 grants being approved for $354,403.78. Over 3,600 servicemembers, veterans and their families were directly impacted by Operation Comfort Warriors through grants to individuals, facilities, and

OCW-sponsored events. The program manager worked closely with departments and posts to mobilize American Legion Family members (Legionnaires, ALA, SAL, and ALR) to be a representative for the organization when delivering items for approved grants. 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.

Media & Communications:

Articles across the various means of communications in social media, the Legion website and traditional print media give good exposure to The American Legion. OCW received recognition in The American Legion's website 10 times during 2023. This coverage also included articles in 2 issues of The American Legion Magazine. OCW was also directly mentioned in American Legion department newsletters throughout the year after delivery of grants within those departments.

NATIONAL REGIONAL INFORMATIONAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

Mission and Vision Statement:

Mission Statement: To enable the American Legion Family to promote the founding principles of our organization through focused regional training and education; ensuring collaboration and networking of our members. Challenging our Legion Family to fully understand our legacy and prepare them to lead The American Legion beyond the 21st Century.

Vision Statement: Through American Legion Family education, we enable and facilitate a culture to create an environment where the needs of our organizations, veterans, youth, and community are fulfilled.

Curriculum:

Core curriculum will focus on:

- Be the One
- Constitution & By-Laws/Governing Documents/Officer Responsibilities
- Post Operations
- MyLegion
- Programs
- How to take an idea and turn it into a resolution/Purpose of a resolution

The plan is for each of these courses to offer 50 minutes of training with a 10-minute break. Some topics will require more than one time slot to complete.

Candidate Pool for Instructors: Need to identify potential instructors from various sources, such as NALC graduates and facilitators, national staff, and department-level trainers. We need to ensure thorough vetting processes, including virtual interviews and Q&A sessions, to assess suitability and expertise.

Timeline:

National Convention Training: Planning on holding training during the national convention on Monday, August 26th. Flyers with class schedules will be created to put into the members' check-in packets and will be advertised on the national convention app and on the Legion website.

Upcoming Regional Training Conference: The current plan is to conduct a training in the fall of 2024 and one in the spring of 2025. The first National Regional Informational Conference will be held on November 16, 2024, in Nashville, Tennessee in conjunction with the American Legion Auxiliary's Mission Training. The one in the beginning of 2025, will be decided between Des Moines, Iowa (January 25), Las Vegas, Nevada, Boston, Massachusetts or Albany, NY (February 1).

Staff/Volunteers Needed: Depending on the courses taught, 3-5 volunteers and one national staff member will be needed to train during each conference. If there is not a

subject matter expert within the volunteer ranks, more national staff members may be needed to teach courses.

Registration fees and costs: Since the goal is to host these conferences with the Auxiliary, the ad-hoc committee will need to align the proposed registration costs with the Auxiliary. Currently, Mission Training registration is $70 and a week prior to the training it adjusts to $80. Registration fee includes a lunch, sometimes a breakfast (when not available, registration fee is still the same), and an Auxiliary branded giveaway item.

Auxiliary Mission Training:

The upcoming Mission Training dates and locations have been established with the exception of the Eastern Division. The next step is to contact with the hotels is the following locations:

- Nashville – November 16
- Denver – November 16
- Des Moines – January 25
- Las Vegas – February 1
- Eastern Div TBD – February 1 (Note – we have it narrowed down to Boston, MA and Albany, NY and will make the final decision during the spring meetings)

Final National Regional Informational Conference Report:

The final report and update of the National Regional Informational Conference Ad-Hoc Committee will be given during The American Legion 105th National Convention. Details on the upcoming training dates and locations will be announced at this time.

TRAINING

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (NALCAA)

The NALCAA was established under the Internal Affairs Commission by Resolution No. 2 in October 2015 to foster camaraderie among National American Legion College graduates, and grants elected NALCAA officers the authority to collect dues, organize an annual meeting, and host a banquet during the national convention. Plans are underway for a virtual meeting in late spring/early summer with a keynote speaker.

TRAINING INITIATIVES

Training Tuesdays:

The Internal Affairs & Membership Division has developed a series of training topics hosted on the webpage www.legion.org/training/training-Tuesdays. On the last Tuesday of each month, American Legion National Headquarters staff and guests present sessions geared towards post commanders and adjutants. Sessions are recorded and accessible along with downloadable materials and Q&A sessions.

National American Legion College (NALC):

In November 2023, the National American Legion College welcomed 53 attendees representing 39 departments. This week-long class delivered over 40 hours of instruction, catering to enthusiastic members keen on delving deeper into The American Legion and leveraging their newfound knowledge to enhance their department's training programs.

Annual evaluations by the college chancellor and staff ensure continual assessment of the course's relevance and effectiveness, aiming for improvement or replacement as necessary. A new survey design for 2024 is underway, building upon the beta version implemented in 2023, which garnered a rating of 4.7 or higher for presenters' clarity, coherence, and well-organized presentations.

Lessons featured clear beginning, middle, and end sections, fostering ample opportunities for class discussion and inquiries. Efforts are underway to codify the operations of the National American Legion College in resolutions, reinforcing its structure and functioning.

Training In A Box:

This section contains modules to aid local posts and districts in organizing training sessions. Modules include lesson plans and materials, customizable by presenters.

Basic Training:

The free online Basic Training course has been completed by over 21,400 members since February 2017. It is a prerequisite for application to the National American Legion College.

Training Newsletter:

Media and Communications have integrated the training newsletter into the Digital Dispatch distribution, allowing training to focus on other initiatives.

Subject Matter Expert Training:

Live 30-minute training sessions will be conducted during the National Convention, featuring NALC alumni presenters.

National Regional Information Conference:

Curriculum development is underway for the conference debut at the 105th American Legion National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23-29, 2024. Topics include organizational structure, parliamentary procedures, leadership development, effective communication, and resolution writing.

IV. RESOLUTIONS

INTERNAL AFFAIRS ACTION ON ASSIGNED RESOLUTIONS

Approved and Forwarded to the Resolutions Subcommittee:

Resolution No. 12 Authorize Issuance of a Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post
Resolution No. 13 Four Rules of an American Legion Program
Resolution No. 14 Support of the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award
Resolution No. 15 Identifying Ideal Candidate for the National American Legion College

Approved and forwarded to the Finance Commission:

Resolution No. 17 Department Retention Award

Other Resolutions:

Disposition of all other resolutions is addressed in Addendum A.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for your assistance and for giving us the opportunity to submit this report. Our commission is "Veterans Strengthening America."

Addendum A

Received and Filed

Register Resolution No. 2848 (NC) (DEC): **Endorsement of Eugene R. Bellando for National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion**.

Held for Further Study

Resolution No. 9 (FL) (2023 Natl. Conv.): **Change Post Service Officer Title to Post Resource Officer**

Register Resolution No. 2850 (VA) (DEC): **Investigation of the Department of District of Columbia**

Rejected

Resolution No. 29 (IA) (2023 Natl. Conv.): **Loose-Leaf Operational Manual**

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 dispositions made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the SAL National Executive Committee May 4-5, 2024.

The below recommendations for the SAL National Executive Committee were reviewed and approved by the SAL Commander's Advisory Committee and the Internal Affairs Commission.

RESOLUTION NUMBER	SOURCE	TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
SAL Res. No. 1 Spring NEC, 2024	Veterans Employment and Education Commission	Marvin P. Nay Award for Outstanding Contributions to National Veterans Employment and Education	*Referred to VE&E for further clarification*
SAL Res. No. 2 Spring NEC, 2024	Detachment of North Carolina	Endorsement of Eugene R. Bellando, Detachment of North Carolina, for the office of National Vice Commander, Sons of The American Legion, Southern Region	*Received and Filed*
SAL Res. No. 3 Spring NEC, 2024	Member Training and Development Committee	Creation of SAL University "SAL-U"	*Hold for Further Study*
SAL Res. No. 4 Spring NEC, 2024	Membership and Squadron Activities Committee	Membership and Squadron Activities Restructure	*Approved as Amended*
SAL Res. No. 5 Spring NEC, 2024	Detachment of South Dakota	Endorsement of Casey Hanson, Detachment of South Dakota, for the office of National Vice Commander, Sons of The American Legion	*Received and Filed*
SAL Res. No. 6 Spring NEC, 2024	Detachment of Kentucky	Endorsement of Brandon Curry, Detachment of Kentucky, for the office of National Vice Commander, Sons of The American Legion	*Received and Filed*
SAL Res. No. 7 Spring NEC, 2024	Internal Affairs Commission	Appointment of Brian K. Waters as Sergeant-At-Arms Emeritus	*Hold for Further Study*
SAL Res. No. 8 Spring NEC, 2024	Detachment of Wisconsin	Endorsement of Allen J. Watry, Detachment of Wisconsin, for the office of National Vice Commander, Sons of The American Legion	*Received and Filed*

RESOLUTION NUMBER	SOURCE	TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
SAL Res. No. 9 Spring NEC, 2024	Detachment of Wisconsin	Endorsement of Christopher Sherman, Detachment of Wisconsin, for the office of National Vice Commander, Sons of The American Legion	*Received and Filed*
SAL Res. No. 10 Spring NEC, 2024	Detachment of Vermont	Endorsement of Jeremy Revell, Detachment of Vermont, for the office of National Vice Commander, Sons of The American Legion	*Received and Filed*
SAL Res. No. 11 Spring NEC, 2024	PUFL Ad-hoc Committee – SAL National Commander Donald "JR" Hall	Creation of SAL Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Program	*Hold for Further Study*
SAL Res. No. 12 Spring NEC, 2024	Membership and Squadron Activities Committee	"105 in July"	*Hold for Further Study*
SAL Res. No. 13 Spring NEC, 2024	Public and Media Communications Commission	Establishment of the Sons of The American Legion Stipend for the National Newsletter Editor	*Hold for Further Study*
SAL Res. No. 14 Spring NEC, 2024	National Membership and Squadron Activities Committee	To Make Detachments with less than 200 members eligible for the Highest Renewal Percentage Award	*Approved*
SAL Res. No. 15 Spring NEC, 2024	National Membership and Squadron Activities Committee	To Make Detachments with less than 200 members eligible for the National Regional Membership Award	*Approved*
SAL Res. No. 16 Spring NEC, 2024	Child Welfare Foundation Committee	Create the Dennis Boland Award for the Highest donations by a Squadron to the Child Welfare Foundation	*Rejected*
SAL Res. No. 17 Spring NEC, 2024	Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission	Donation of $5,000.00 to Operation Comfort Warrior from the SAL Reserve Fund	*Hold for Further Study*
SAL Res. No. 18 Spring NEC, 2024	Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission	Charles Rigsby Award Update	*Approved*
SAL Res. No. 19 Spring NEC, 2024	Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission	$5000 Donation to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival	*Hold for Further Study*
SAL Res. No. 20 Spring NEC, 2024	National Membership and Squadron Activities Committee	Restructure Houghton Award	*Hold for Further Study*

The Sons of The American Legion
National Executive Committee
Held on
May 4-5, 2024
Resolution

No.: **SAL Resolution 4 – Spring 2024**
Title: **Membership and Squadron Activities Restructure**
Origin: **Membership and Squadron Activities Committee**

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion Resolution NEC7-74 created the National Membership and Squadron Activities Committee as a standing committee of the National Executive Committee that defined the purpose, scope, function, authority and membership of the Committee; and

WHEREAS, the increase in national membership and need for clarity and continuity suggests that a revision to the original resolution is in order; 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, 2024, that the National Membership and Squadron Activities Committee shall continue to be a standing committee of the National Executive Committee charged with promoting the recruitment, renewal and reinstatement of members as well as developing programs and activities which may be used by Squadrons or other levels of the organization to promote service, camaraderie and membership, while reporting to the Internal Affairs Commission of the Sons of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Committee shall disseminate national membership and renewal reports through its assigned members as well as other duties germane to membership; and be it further

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved As Amended ■

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

NEDLEY C. FOX (CA), Chairman
Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Daryl VerStreate, Jr.
DARYL VERSTREATE, JR. (NY), Chairman
Membership and Squadron Activities Committee

The Sons of The American Legion
National Executive Committee
Held on
May 4-5, 2024
Resolution

No.: **SAL Resolution 4 – Spring 2024**
Title: **Membership and Squadron Activities Restructure**
Origin: **Membership and Squadron Activities Committee**

RESOLVED, that the Committee shall be comprised of an appointed chairman; three (3) core members of which one (1) shall be named vice chairman; and regional chairmen representing each geographical region as determined by The American Legion with voice and vote; one (1) authorized national commander's representative (optional) on the Committee who shall serve with voice and vote; and that number of consultants and/or advisors to the Committee as deemed appropriate and necessary who shall serve with voice but no vote; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Sons of The American Legion National Commander shall appoint the members annually, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Vice Commanders of the Sons of The American Legion shall serve as ex-officio members of the Committee with voice but no vote; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that Sons of The American Legion Resolution NEC7-74 is hereby rescinded.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved As Amended ■

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

NEDLEY C. FOX (CA), Chairman
Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Daryl VerStreate, Jr.
DARYL VERSTREATE, JR. (NY), Chairman
Membership and Squadron Activities Committee

The Sons of The American Legion
National Executive Committee
Held on
May 4-5, 2024
Resolution

No.: SAL Resolution 14 – Spring 2024
Title: To Make Detachments with less than 200 members eligible for the Highest Renewal Percentage Award
Origin: National Membership and Squadron Activities Committee

WHEREAS, the primary duty of all SAL members is to support and motivate at all levels membership growth within the program by utilizing and sharing all resources available, such as training, social media, marketing, and awards; and

WHEREAS, membership awards have proven to motivate membership growth within the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, the Detachments with less than 200 members should be recognized equally with all detachments for their efforts to grow their membership; and

WHEREAS, currently, detachments with less than 200 members are excluded from competing for the Highest Renewal Percentage (%) Detachment 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, 2024, that all Detachments with less than 200 members are hereby eligible for the Highest Renewal Percentage (%) Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect with the national convention immediately following the acceptance of this resolution by The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee; to be awarded at the 2024 Sons of The American Legion 2024 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ■

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

Nedley C. Fox

NEDLEY C. FOX (CA), Chairman
Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Daryl VerStreate, Jr.

DARYL VERSTREATE, JR. (NY), Chairman
Membership and Squadron Activities Committee

Christopher S. Michel

CHRISTOPHER S. MICHEL (DE), Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

The Sons of The American Legion
National Executive Committee
Held on
May 4-5, 2024
Resolution

No.: SAL Resolution 15 – Spring 2024
Title: To Make Detachments with less than 200 members eligible for the National Regional Membership Award
Origin: National Membership and Squadron Activities Committee

WHEREAS, the primary duty of all SAL members is to support and motivate at all levels membership growth within the program; and

WHEREAS, membership awards have proven to motivate membership growth within the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, the Detachments with less than 200 members should be recognized equally with all detachments for their efforts to grow their membership; and

WHEREAS, currently, detachments with less than 200 members are excluded from competing for the National Regional Membership 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, 2024, that all Detachments with less than 200 members are hereby eligible for the National Regional Membership Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect with the national convention immediately following the acceptance of this resolution by The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee; to be awarded at the 2024 Sons of The American Legion 2024 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ■

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

Nedley C. Fox
NEDLEY C. FOX (CA), Chairman
Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Daryl VerStreate, Jr.
DARYL VERSTREATE, JR. (NY), Chairman
Membership and Squadron Activities Committee

Christopher S. Michel
CHRISTOPHER S. MICHEL (DE), Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

The Sons of The American Legion
National Executive Committee
Held on
May 4-5, 2024
Resolution

No.: SAL Resolution 18 – Spring 2024
Title: Charles Rigsby Award Update
Origin: Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, the original resolutions for the creation of a Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service (VAVS) award: NEC S6-89 and for naming the award the Charles B. Rigsby Service to Veterans Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award NEC S3 -91 cannot be located by the Sons of the American Legion National Organization; and

WHEREAS, the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission presents the Charles B. Rigsby Service to Veterans Volunteer of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, this award in the past has been strictly for Veterans Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS) hours; and

WHEREAS, credit is given to all the nominees for all service to Veterans Affairs and no matter where their volunteer service is done; and

WHEREAS, those volunteers that are VAVS representatives, deputy representatives associates they be given a 1.5 hours credit for their VAVS hours because of the application process and training required to hold those positions; and

WHEREAS, the period of this volunteer award will be from Detachment Convention to Detachment Convention, only one nominee per Detachment can be submitted and submitted 30 (thirty) days prior to National Convention; now, therefore, be it

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ■
Rejected ☐
Referred to: ☐
Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

Nedley C. Fox
NEDLEY C. FOX (CA), Chairman
Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Bruno Williamson (Zoom Meeting on 04/08/2024)
BRUNO WILLIAMSON (IL), Chairman
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

The Sons of The American Legion
National Executive Committee
Held on
May 4-5, 2024
Resolution

No.: **SAL Resolution 18 – Spring 2024**
Title: **Charles Rigsby Award Update**
Origin: **Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission**

RESOLVED, that the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission in a Zoom meeting on April 8, 2024, approved this resolution; and let it be further

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2024, that this will be the active resolution for the Charles B. Rigsby Service to Veterans Volunteer of the Year Award.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ■
Rejected ☐
Referred to: ☐
Other Action ☐

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Bruno Williamson (Zoom Meeting on 04/08/2024)
BRUNO WILLIAMSON (IL), Chairman
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

Nedley C. Fox
NEDLEY C. FOX (CA), Chairman
Subcommittee on Resolutions

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of four resolutions and two addenda. ….*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of four resolutions and two addenda. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 12: Authorize Issuance of a Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post
Origin: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Application for the issuance of a charter to a post outside of the United States has been received, properly endorsed by officers of the department which will accept responsibility for supervision, and all in conformity with Resolution No. 42, adopted by the National Executive Committee at its meeting of April 29-30, May 1, 1959; 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, 2024, That the national adjutant is authorized to issue a temporary charter to the following post to be affiliated with the named department.

1. **Guadalajara Post LT MX17, located in Guadalajara, Mexico, and affiliated with the Department of Latin America.**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution No. 12 has the approval of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Do I hear any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Mr. Commander, **Resolution No. 13** in your packet has been pulled by your Subcommittee on Resolutions because of certain deficiencies. Therefore, I move that it not be considered at this meeting and be tabled. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Do I hear any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 14: Support of the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Presidential Medal of Freedom, an award bestowed by the president of the United States to recognize individuals who have made an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is in keeping with the principles, purposes and traditions of this award that it now be bestowed upon a Vietnam War veteran who served and saved lives in the Army Nurse Corps during the height of combat, 1968-1969; and

WHEREAS, She was born and raised on a dairy farm in rural Minnesota and volunteered for wartime duty in the U.S. Army upon completion of nursing school; and

WHEREAS, She served in the burn unit of the 36th Evacuation Hospital in Vung Tau and at Pleiku in the 71st Evacuation Hospital, as one of more than 10,000 women who served in-country during the Vietnam War and one of more than 265,000 American women who were stationed around the world at that time; and

WHEREAS, Following six years of honorable service, rising to the rank of captain, she confronted combat-based post-traumatic stress disorder as a civilian and military spouse; and

WHEREAS, Driven by a passion to honor her fellow Vietnam War combat nurses and all women who served during that time, she launched and spearheaded a complicated and challenging 10-year campaign in 1983 to install a memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., dedicated to her sisters in service; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supported her efforts at every step, starting with a resolution from American Legion Post 121 in River Falls, Wis., where she was a member, that led to a national American Legion resolution of support in 1985; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated in 1993, drawing national attention to the important role women played in the war; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Women's Memorial has inspired countless women to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces since that dedication and has raised awareness about the respect they deserve, as well as the healing that comes with such commemoration and closure; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Women's Memorial, which faced offensive criticisms and political obstacles during its journey to completion, with The American Legion as a steadfast supporter, celebrated its 30th anniversary in November 2023, when Diane Carlson Evans was the Veterans Day keynote speaker at the Observance at the Wall; and

WHEREAS, Diane Carlson Evans, a member of American Legion Post 2 in Helena, Mont., has served on The American Legion 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee (2013-2019), received the national Patriot Award (2018) and the Distinguished Service Medal (2021); and

WHEREAS, Her memoir, "Healing Wounds" has consistently ranked among the top 10 books about the Vietnam War since it was published in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Diane Carlson Evans has distinguished herself as one of the pre-eminent women of her generation to have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and to have stood for

proper recognition of all women who have pledged with their lives to defend and protect the United States of America; 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, 2024, That The American Legion supports and encourages the awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to be presented to Diane Carlson Evans.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution No. 14 has the approval of your Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 15: Identifying Ideal Candidate for the National American Legion College

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The National American Legion College (NALC) was established in 1944 through action of the National Convention, reestablished by Resolution No. 50 at the Spring 1950 meeting of the National Executive Committee, and reestablished again in its modern form starting with the Class of 1999; and

WHEREAS, The national organization sees the highest benefit in NALC through education for dedicated Legionnaires providing leadership and shaping programs across all organizational levels for enduring impact; and

WHEREAS, The ideal NALC student would possess qualifications enabling upward mobility, eight to ten years of continued service and leadership and demonstrated leadership potential; and

WHEREAS, These desired qualifications are most often found in Legionnaires that are serving in the offices at the post and district level of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires that have achieved department level office while deriving benefit from NALC may be required to adopt new techniques and practices from those learned through on-the-job experience; 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, 2024, That the ideal National American Legion College students should demonstrate qualities that can enable them to grow and become effective leaders at all levels within their respective departments; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That candidates with a desire to serve The American Legion for the next eight to ten years in leadership positions at the post, district and department level would be ideal for the betterment of the organization.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution No. 15 has the approval of your Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption.: …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Attached to the report are Addenda A and B. I move the actions of the Internal Affairs Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Again, motion has been made and seconded. Do I hear any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried. The chair now recognizes Matthew D. Jabaut of

Maine, chairman of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Membership & Post Activities
Matthew D. Jabaut, Maine, Chairman

Thank you. Good afternoon. National Commander Seehafer, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers and guests, you have a copy of my written report in front of you. In the written report you will find updated information on the 95% target date, DMS, traditional recruiting and retention, multi-year and online renewals.

We have some great news we'd like to share with you. The Departments of Puerto Rico and Hawaii have surpassed their membership goals as of today. *(Applause)*

Congratulations to these two departments. I would also like to note that this is the third year in a row that Puerto Rico has surpassed their membership goal prior to this meeting.

Our primary focus needs to be in the two areas that we can control. Both Puerto Rico and Hawaii have made these two areas a priority, and those are retention and recruiting. So, what can we do to increase our renewal rate and reach Commander Seehafer's retention goal of 90%? This goes back to the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee report from October of 2019. In it there were three sections that the committee had put into place with recommended actions under each one. The second section covered membership and membership engagement. Communication needs to be a priority when we're engaging with are our members.

One thing we have done, not only that will help this year but that will make working renewals just a little easier for several years to come, during last spring meetings, the body passed a purchase of multiple years of membership resolution, and I commend you on that. I'm happy to report that as of this afternoon, we've had 21,909 members take advantage of this option. This is 1,520 new members and 20,389 who have chosen to renew their membership this way. If you notice, this number is a little bit different than the numbers that Chairman Gaither gave you this morning, because while we've been in this meeting, we've had an additional 74, 74 people that have taken advantage of that opportunity just while we've been sitting here today. *(Applause)*

We have been advertising this through *The American Legion Magazine*, on our website, renewal notices and renewal emails, and through Thank You Thursdays. The two times the message has been sent out through Thank You Thursday, we have had over 700 individuals purchase a multi-year membership. We need to pass this on to our current members, encourage those who have already renewed for 2024 to use this option and save a little money before the dues increase takes effect. It's real easy to do. The member can go online on our website and just click the "renew" button. From there it will allow them to renew their membership for three years.

What does this prove? It shows with effective communication and member engagement, the members will respond. What else can we do to increase our retention rate? We have been proactive in engaging our members. Conducting Buddy Checks on our members is more important than ever. We need to thank them for being a member and show them the value of being a member of this great organization. We must engage them with the great things The American Legion is doing, and it is imperative to share the monthly membership impact report with those members.

I say we should actually even take that a step further and the posts should start creating their own membership impact report based on the activities that they are doing. And how can they do that? Through their own CPR report. Share that with their communities to show The American Legion is an asset to their community.

We must continue to make retention a priority, as you all have shown by passing the retention incentive award this morning in any of our membership plans. And that is what our national vice commanders have been out doing this past year. They are conducting periodic Zoom conference calls with their regions, with an emphasis on working their

respective membership plans with a focus on renewals and recruiting. We cannot wait for membership to just come floating into our posts, and we cannot solely rely on renewal notices to engage our members.

Retention of our current members will only get us so far, though. And that is why Commander Seehafer has set a goal to recruit 78,000 new members in the organization this year. As of this morning we have brought in 68,331. As we bring them in, we need to engage and educate these members on the great things that The American Legion is doing for veterans, their families and our communities.

You may be asking yourself: How do we accomplish this? Many times, we are looking for some magic bullet to find the perfect reason for veterans to belong to our great organization, or the post just becomes complacent and worried about only what's going on within the four walls. The real answer in these posts is to have their post be visible in their communities. Work the programs that make them an asset in their community. It could be a national or a department program, or it could be something the post has identified that's a need in their community. Whatever it is, we have to rally our members around it like we have done with Be the One. Publicize it in the community, show them how great we are, and make them want to become part of a winning team. Then engage them and ask them to join and to renew.

Now, hopefully we are all well aware by this point of the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee from 2019, and I cannot stress enough how important it is for us to work towards the recommendations within it and pass that down to our post-level members. The report was developed to assist leadership at all levels in developing and implementing new and refined strategies in order to approve recruiting, engagement of members and training in a multi-generational service organization.

So, I encourage you to go back home and continue to work within your respective departments, districts and posts to get that word out. We cannot lose focus on our mission, and we have to understand the wants, the needs and desires of our membership base. We must engage our members to effective and timely communication, but leadership at all levels has to be committed and dedicated to training, to ensure that this is accomplished properly. Ultimately, we want to strive for every post to be a pillar in their respective community.

Lastly, I would like to thank the committee, our director, Matt Herndon, and all of the membership coordinators and staff that have worked so hard to support us and all of your departments during this year. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you on matters of Membership & Post Activities. And subject to questions, this concludes my report.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. The chair now recognizes National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler of Virginia for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: The National Commander's dinner honoring the members of the National Executive Committee will be tonight at the Sheraton City Centre Indianapolis, with the reception starting at 5:30 p.m., dinner starting at 6:30. This is 30 minutes earlier than usual. Department envelopes containing tickets will be available for pickup in the NEC room lobby outside of this room, in case you don't know what a lobby is, after today's meeting.

National Commander Seehafer, I want to personally thank you for recommending my appointment as national adjutant to this National Executive Committee. It has been an

honor and a privilege to work with you, and I've loved hearing your sermons every time you spoke. Thank you very much. *(Laughter and applause)*

Commander Seehafer, as we have discussed, I have served this great American Legion for nearly 45 years at national headquarters, and I think it's time for me to step down as national adjutant effective at the end of this meeting tomorrow. It has been the greatest honor of my life to be selected to serve in this capacity for the past 15 years, and I want to thank all of you for the confidence you have placed in me.

I have many mentors, and I hesitate to try to name them all, because I have learned something significant from each of you. However, there are a few significant milestones that I would like to mention. The person who hired me was Bert Davis, national judge advocate and publisher. Shortly after I came aboard in 1979, one of the first few Vietnam veterans to serve at national headquarters, he told me, "You know, young Dan, you are not the best-qualified candidate for this job." *(Laughter)*

And so naturally I said, "Well, why did you select me?"

He said, "Of the seven candidates we interviewed, you were the only one that had the courtesy to send me a thank-you note." He said, "We value gentility around here." That is a lesson I have always remembered.

The second significant event was when Past National Commander Clarence Bacon appointed me publisher and editor-in-chief of *The American Legion Magazine*. I honestly thought that that would be my career for the rest of my life until I retired. But then PNC Bill Detweiler appointed me executive director and later president of the Citizens Flag Alliance. And most recently, when PNC Rehbein recommended me to be national adjutant, acting upon the suggestion of PNC John Geiger, PNC Dick Pedro and PNC Jake Comer who I'm sure told him, "Suggesting Wheeler as national adjutant is only a suggestion, but let's not forget where it's coming from." *(Laughter)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: Well put, sir.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Along the way, I've enjoyed the wise counsel of many, but especially PNC Paul Morin, Finance Chairman Gaither Keener, PNC Dan Dellinger, and PNC Dan Ludwig who is the biggest pain in the ass you've ever had as a PNC. *(Laughter and applause)*

I sincerely thank all of those for their mentorship and much more so for their friendship. There have been good times and there have been not-so-good times, some of them right here in this room. But my long-suffering wife, Kathy, has been by my side through it all. And I want to thank her for that and assure her that I love her more because of it, especially because sometimes I came home less than my usually even-tempered lovable self. *(Laughter)*

Finally, I want to thank your national staff, which are the best in the business, who have faithfully carried out all your directives. Among those staff members are many who stand out, but none have worked so closely with me as Mary Rooney. We are fortunate that she's staying on because she is the best of the best. *(Applause)*

And finally, I want to thank a colleague and friend who I've had the privilege of working hand in hand with for the past three years, and that's your assistant national adjutant, Rodney Rolland. *(Applause)*

It's been a fantastic journey. The memories will last a lifetime. So, thank you, Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, friends and comrades all. Thank you very much for this opportunity. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: As a point of personal privilege, I recognize Media & Communications Director Jeff Stoffer for the purpose of a presentation.

Recognition of National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler

DIRECTOR STOFFER: We have a presentation we want to share with you. I think our folks in the back are ready to go ahead and roll it out. I hope they're back there getting ready to roll it out. So, the presentation is about to appear.

...A video presentation about National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler was shown.

DIRECTOR STOFFER: Those of you who are going to be at the National Commander's Banquet, we'll get that playing again.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: It was good.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: There's some more, Mr. Wheeler. I will now entertain related resolutions.

Resolution No. 1: Bestow Upon Daniel S. Wheeler the Title of "Past National Commander" With All Privileges and Rights Pertaining to Such Office
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, Daniel S. Wheeler has earned the deep and abiding respect and sustained admiration of all who know of his dedicated efforts on behalf of The American Legion and America's veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wheeler is the architect of the modern American Legion magazine; and

WHEREAS, For 45 years at the national level, his profound and dynamic leadership has been well known and greatly appreciated by all Legionnaires; and

WHEREAS, On October 16, 2008 he was appointed national adjutant of The American Legion and has dedicated over 15 years of outstanding and devoted service in this position; and

WHEREAS, National Commanders have consistently recognized and sought his unique administrative talents and organizational skills, have sought and heeded his excellent advice and counsel in fulfilling the principles and programs of The American Legion and have recognized and appreciated his passion and dedication to The American Legion and its mission; and

WHEREAS, Precedent has been established to bestow honor, as hereafter provided, upon Legionnaires who have given exemplary service to 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, 2024, That the title of "Past National Commander" of The American Legion, with all rights and privileges pertaining to such office, be bestowed upon Daniel S. Wheeler in recognition of his extraordinary and unwavering service to The American Legion; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That appropriate ceremonies shall be observed and that this honor be conferred upon Daniel S. Wheeler at the completion of his term of office.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WOODS: Mr. Commander, this resolution has the approval of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. …*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution No 1. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. That's pretty good. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried. *(Standing applause)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: Mr. Commander, let the record show it was a unanimous vote.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: The record will show it. The chair now recognizes the Past National Commander Jake Comer of Massachusetts to administer the oath of office to Daniel S. Wheeler of Virginia.

Oath of Office to the New Past National Commander

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I have had the privilege of swearing in quite a few national commanders, but this is the most memorable. Raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, Daniel S. Wheeler do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office of past national commander of The American Legion. I further pledge that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the National Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion. I do not subscribe to the principles of any foreign government or group opposed to our form of government. So, help me God.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Commander, congratulations. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Thank you. I said that being national adjutant was the greatest honor of my life. I didn't lie. I was just premature. *(Laughter)*

This is indeed the greatest honor of my life, and I want to thank all of you for making it possible. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Mrs. Wheeler, will you please present your hubby, PNC Wheeler, with his new cap. *(Applause)*

And grandchildren, children, assist with the nametag, pin and badge. *(Applause)*

And ladies and gentlemen, as a point of personal privilege again, I would like to call on Mary Ludwig, wife of Past National Commander Daniel Ludwig, for a presentation to Kathy Wheeler on behalf of the first spouses of The American Legion.

FIRST SPOUSE MARY LUDWIG: Kathy, it's my pleasure. This is our latest first lady. Let's all welcome her. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Any words? *(Laughter)*

FIRST SPOUSE KATHY WHEELER: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, again, as a point of personal privilege, Mary Rooney is presenting roses to Kathy Wheeler for her many years as the national adjutant's, and I quote, "long-suffering wife," unquote. *(Laughter and applause)*

The chair now recognizes Past National Commander David Rehbein of Iowa for a presentation.

Presentation of Plaque and Colors

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: It gives me great pleasure to use these words. Commander, would you join me down here?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Yes, sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REHBEIN: What I hold in my hands is the plaque that is presented to each national commander as they leave office. I don't know how you can become a past commander and leave office, but it seems you did. *(Laughter)*

Commander, this plaque is not given. This plaque is earned. Through your years of service to The American Legion you have more than earned this plaque. For each of us that has one of these, we look at them and we remember all of the things, all of the events, all of the memories. I hope you will do the same. I hope you will display this with pride. I hope you will accept this with our great thanks. Thank you.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Thank you, sir. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: The chair now recognizes Past National Commander Daniel Dellinger of Virginia to present the colors to our newest past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Commander, it's with great honor that I oversee the next order of business. I call on the NEC and alternate NEC from Virginia to present your national colors. Everyone, please rise. Hand salute. Two. Please be seated.

Commander Wheeler, your record definitely speaks for itself. Almost 45 years of outstanding and dedicated service to our organization, your many years of leadership and compassion for our veterans, our members and your employees as our national adjutant is unparalleled. Your dependability, creativity, knowledge and integrity in performing your

duties have guaranteed your and our organization's success. It has had an inspiring effect on the performance of those which you have come in contact with and supervised.

You have always had the interests of The American Legion at heart, and I know I speak for all of us here, but also all of the members of The American Legion, when we thank you for your dedicated service, loyalty and leadership that has elevated the bar for all that follow. It's been an honor to know you and work with you over the years. I know you will embrace your newly obtained status and continue to serve The American Legion, just in another capacity. May God bless you and your family in the future. Everyone please rise. Detail. Retire the colors. Hand salute. Two. Congratulations.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Thank you. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: At this time, I will now entertain any other related resolutions.

Resolution No. 2: Daniel S. Wheeler Conference Room
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, Daniel S. Wheeler is a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Wheeler is a 45-year member of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Wheeler is the architect of the modern American Legion magazine; and

WHEREAS, From 1995 to 2008, Wheeler served as executive director of the Indianapolis office; and

WHEREAS, On October 16, 2008, Wheeler was appointed national adjutant of The American Legion and has dedicated over fifteen (15) years of outstanding and devoted service in this position; and

WHEREAS, For forty-five (45) years at the national level, his profound and dynamic leadership has been well known and greatly appreciated by all Legionnaires; 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, 2024, That in honor of Daniel S. Wheeler's long and exemplary service to The American Legion and America's veterans and their families, that Room 301, located in the American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, be hereafter named the "Daniel S. Wheeler Conference Room"; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That a suitable plaque attesting to this honor be affixed to the door of said conference room.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution No. 2 has the approval of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. …*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. *(Applause)*

Congratulations, Past National Commander Wheeler. You joined the national staff 45 years ago, giving you the longest combined tenure on staff of any national adjutant. These honors are well, well deserved. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Mr. Commander, I have one other issue of business.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Okay.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Commander Wheeler, if you'd please join me to the right of the dais here.

Presentation of Engraved Resolutions

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Wow. Resolution No. 1 and 2 engraved. If I'd known this was going to happen, I might have prepared some remarks. *(Laughter)*

All I can say is that it's been great. You know, I came here when I was 32. There were a bunch of old people here that were younger than I am now. *(Laughter)*

I just celebrated my 77th birthday. I think it's time to, as congressmen say who have been caught doing something terrible, I want to spend some time with my family. *(Laughter)*

So, I just want to thank every member of the staff who's been so loyal. I want to thank every member of the NEC who has been a friend, a counselor. This is indeed the greatest day of my life other than the day my wife said, "Yeah, I'll marry you, you rascal."

So, I just thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. Thank you very much. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: At this time, I would entertain a motion for the NEC to go into executive session.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WOODS: So, moved. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded that the National Executive Committee go into executive session. Is there any discussion? Objections? Hearing none and seeing none, motion carries. For the executive session, members of the National Executive Committee who are speaking for their department may stay. Alternates who are not representing their departments as the sole spokesperson on the NEC must leave. Past National Commanders may stay. National Officers may stay. The chairmen of the Finance Commission and the Internal Affairs Commission may stay. All others are requested to leave.

...At 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 8, 2024, the National Executive Committee entered Executive Session.

...At 2:37 p.m., the National Executive Committee returned to regular session, Commander Seehafer presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: I would like to announce that the NEC members see Michele Emery, who is set up in the hallway outside this room, to get tickets for tonight's dinner. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Sheraton City Centre Circle Suite on the lower level. Dinner will be in the Meridian Ballroom at 6:30 p.m. Also tonight, we will be honored to have an auction of the National Adjutant Wheeler's GTG, that's Glory to God paintings. So, bring your dough.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Bring your tithe.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Bring your tithe. At this time, please rise and join me in saluting the colors of our country by the numbers. One, two. We are now in recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning.

...At 2:38 p.m., Wednesday, May 8, 2024, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 9, 2024.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 9, 2024

...At 8:30 a.m., the National Executive Committee reconvened, National Commander Seehafer presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: I call this meeting of the National Executive Committee to order. Please join me in a salute to the colors of our country by the numbers. One, two. I now call on National Chaplain Frank Carr of Virginia for the invocation. Please uncover.

Invocation
Frank H. Carr, Virginia, National Chaplain

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN CARR: Good morning. *...Chorus of "Good morning."*

Let us pray. Almighty God, Giver of all life, peace, and freedoms and victories we enjoy here in America, Father God, we invoke and invite Your Holy Spirit to take control over this meeting of Your national American Legion today. Father God, we thank You for this opportunity that we have to oversee the business of this great organization that stands for God and country.

Bless all the decisions we've made this week and are making today. Take us through, lead us to that place in You, dear Lord that, we would be able to see the needs of our people. Father, we just love You and thank You, and it's in the name of the one true and living God we do pray. Amen. *...Chorus of "Amen."*

Pledge of Allegiance

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Please remain uncovered. I call on National Sergeant-at-Arms Jim W. Kell of Wisconsin to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country.

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Please be seated. I now call on National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler of Virginia for the roll call.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander
Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders

Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana
Randy D. Edwards, Utah
William R. Roy, New Hampshire
Robert M. "Mark" Shreve, Georgia
Raymond L. Vail, Kansas

Past National Commanders

John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia (Excused)
Robert S. Turner, Georgia (Excused)
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine (Excused)
Butch L. Miller, Virginia (Excused)
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (Excused)
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania (Excused)
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas (Excused)
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 (Excused)
Harold D. Barnett, Georgia (Excused)
Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia
James W. Oxford, North Carolina (Excused)
Paul E. Dillard, Texas (Excused)
Vincent J. Troiola, New York (Excused)

National Executive Committee Members

Department	Committee Member	Alternate
Alabama	Hardwick O. Hall, Sr.	
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Steve W. Aguirre, Sr.	
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman	
California	Robert C. Heinisch (Excused)	Larry Leonardo, Sr.
Colorado		
Connecticut	Robert S. Murray	
Delaware	Michael A. Havel	
D.C.	Christopher V. Herndon	
Florida	Jim V. Ramos	
France	James M. Settle (Excused)	Hans J. Stockenberger
Georgia	Phil Youngblood	
Hawaii	Francis E. Riddell, Jr.	
Idaho	Robert L. Skinner	
Illinois	Roy Weber	
Indiana	Kenneth R. Cooper	
Iowa	Dennis J. Soppe	
Kansas	Dan K. Wiley	
Kentucky	William O. Moore, Jr.	
Latin America	Michael D. Wood	
Louisiana	Rudolph A. Bourg, Sr.	
Maine	Lloyd H. Woods	
Maryland	Melvin G Smullen	
Massachusetts	Jodie L. Pajak	
Michigan	Larry C. Money	
Minnesota	William C. Barbknecht (Excused)	Peggy Moon
Mississippi	Steve Sweet	

Missouri	George E. Scarborough	
Montana	Larry G. Dobb (Excused)	Glen Sharbono
Nebraska	Frederick C. Craigie	
Nevada	Jeanette R. Evans	
New Hampshire	Robert E. Dionne, Sr.	
New Jersey	Berley Hanna, Jr.	
New Mexico	Edward Cheatham, Jr.	
New York	Timothy S. Van Patten	
North Carolina	Davis S. Shore	
North Dakota	Dean Overby	
Ohio	Stephen M. Masowick	
Oklahoma	Timothy W. Smith	
Oregon	Kevin John Owens	
Pennsylvania	E. Michael Stelacio	
Philippines	Michael S. Napsey (Excused)	Carl A. Nord (Excused)
Puerto Rico	Ramon L. Rivera (Excused)	Antonio Arroyo
Rhode Island	Ronald P. Levasseur	
South Carolina	Joe A. Lysaght	
South Dakota	Dennis O. Brenden	
Tennessee	Robert W. Hensley	
Texas	Kenneth W. Mueller	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Thomas J. Scanlon (Excused)	Catherine Tester (Excused)
Virginia	Linden B. Dixon, Jr.	
Washington		
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Robert L. Shappell	
Wyoming	Keith R. Davidson	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: You have a quorum, Mr. Commander.
...National Vice Commander Aucoin assumed the chair.

Presentation of Awards for Veterans & Children Foundation Donations

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: This is a presentation for our Veterans & Children Foundation. We do have some special awards to present, so I'd like Past National Commanders Dellinger and Ludwig to please join me up front.

I would like to present a couple of plaques in recognition to some outstanding achievements, especially American Legion Post 180 of Vienna, Virginia, which has contributed $84,900.40. *(Applause)*

And then American Legion Post 491 of Baymont, Minnesota, has contributed $60,000. *(Applause)*

So, I want to say thank you, continue to God bless, Bravo Zulu, and all those good things. So again, talking about changing lives and saving lives, prime example. Thank you.
...National Commander Seehafer resumed the chair.

Receipt of Resolutions, Motions, and Petitions

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: All right, family. Do we have any resolutions, motions, and petitions to receive?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, there are three additional resolutions to receive from the Subcommittee on Resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: All right. Present.

Resolution No. 5: Rescinding of 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, 2024, That the following resolutions be rescinded for the reasons stated herein.

No.	Year	Meeting	Title (Brief)	Reason
4	1921	Winter	Departments of The American Legion in Foreign Countries	Obsolete
22	1948	Spring	Memorial Markers for War Dead	Accomplished
96	1948	Spring	Powers and Prerogatives of Commissions and Related Committees	Obsolete
59	1949	Spring	Amending National Constitution	Obsolete
66	1951	Spring	Implementation of Colorado Resolution No. 7	Obsolete
253	1952	Convention	Auxiliary and Subsidiary Organizations of The American Legion Eliminate Membership Conditions	Obsolete
58	1957	Spring	Appreciation to State of Indiana	Obsolete
42	1958	Spring	Dissemination of Information and Correspondence to National Executive Committeemen	Obsolete
44	1963	Spring	Non-Payment of Dues to Cause Suspension on February 1	Obsolete
23	1966	Spring	Amendments to Sections 3 and 5 of the Federal Act Incorporating The American Legion, and to Article IV, Section 1, and to Article XIII, Section 2 of the National Constitution of The American Legion, to Extend Eligibility for Membership in The American Legion to Those Person Who Served in the Armed Forces From on or After August 5, 1964	Obsolete
2	1969	Special	Support The Position of the President of The United States For a Honorable And Just Peace In Vietnam	Superseded
4	1970	Spring	To Amend Article I, Section 6, National By-Laws by Redesignating the National Child Welfare Commission as the National Commission on Children and Youth	Obsolete

5	**1970**	**Spring**	**To Amend Article I, Section 6, National By-Laws by Redesignating the National Publications Commission as The American Legion Magazine Commission**	**Obsolete**
6	**1970**	**Spring**	**To Amend Article I, Section 6, National By-Laws by Redesignating the National Rehabilitation Commission as the National Veterans Affairs Commission**	**Obsolete**
39	**1975**	**Spring**	**A Program for Developing an Oral History Record of Significant Events**	**Obsolete**
33	**1976**	**Spring**	**To Amend National Constitution to Provide for the Appointment of National Chaplain by the National Executive Committee**	**Obsolete**
28	**1976**	**Fall**	**Change in Delinquent Dates**	**Obsolete**
20	**1994**	**Spring**	**Authorization for Expenditure of Funds for Flag Amendment Campaign**	**Obsolete**
8	**1995**	**Spring**	**Authorization for Additional Flag Campaign Appropriation**	**Obsolete**
1	**1996**	**Mail**	**Authorization for Additional Expenditure of Funds for Flag Amendment Campaign**	**Obsolete**
1	**1996**	**Fall**	**Continuing Support of Efforts to Secure a Flag Protection Constitutional Amendment**	**Obsolete**
1	**1997**	**Spring**	**Change in Eligibility of Membership in The American Legion**	**Obsolete**
1	**1997**	**Fall**	**Authorization for Additional Support to Secure a Flag Protection Amendment**	**Obsolete**
64	**2012**	**Fall**	**5-Year Membership Plan**	**Obsolete**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER STELACIO: This resolution has the approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion made and seconded. Is there any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 6: Amend the Rules of the National Executive Committee Pertaining to Legislative Resolutions

Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions

Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, Any resolution passed by the National Executive Committee or a National Convention can be used to support congressional legislation; and

WHEREAS, The current process for identifying resolutions includes hundreds of resolutions that cannot be passed during a single Congress; and

WHEREAS, It is difficult to identify those resolutions that have impacted legislative 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, 2024, That the Rules of the National Executive Committee be amended as outlined in Attachment 1 to clarify that any resolution can be used to support legislative action.

Attachment 1

RULES OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rule 3
Current Wording
Powers and Rights
The Committee is specifically empowered to exercise the following powers and rights and may delegate to any national commander's appointed subcommittee that is composed of members of the Committee the authority 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 said action taken shall not be contrary to, nor in derogation of, actions of the Convention, except as provided by the resolution adopted at the Cleveland National Convention in 1936, as follows: "Resolved, That any policy adopted by the National Organization 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 preceding the convening of a new Congress shall be effective until the adjournment of such new Congress.

Rule 3
New Wording with changes
Powers and Rights
The Committee is specifically empowered to exercise the following powers and rights and may delegate to any national commander's appointed subcommittee that is composed of members of the Committee the authority 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 said action taken shall not be contrary to, nor in derogation of, actions of the National Convention during the year of their adoption and prior to the adjournment of a subsequent National Convention.""

Rule 3
New Wording as Amended
Powers and Rights
The Committee is specifically empowered to exercise the following powers and rights and may delegate to any national commander's appointed subcommittee that is composed of members of the Committee the authority 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 said action taken shall not be contrary to, nor in derogation of, actions of the National Convention during the year of their adoption and prior to the adjournment of a subsequent National Convention.

Rule 8-b
Current Wording
Any resolution adopted by the National Convention of The American Legion, or the Committee, intending congressional action by the United States Congress shall upon its adoption immediately become part of The American Legion's Legislative Program and shall remain in full force and effect only during the life of the United States Congress to which it relates. The National Legislative Commission shall compile such resolutions and make the current compilation part of its report to the Committee for the sole purpose of establishing an orderly historical record of resolutions requiring legislative action.

Rule 8-b
New Wording with Changes
Any resolution adopted by the National Convention of The American Legion, or the Committee, may upon its adoption be used to support The American Legion's Legislative Program and shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded by the Committee.

Rule 8-b
New Wording as Amended
Any resolution adopted by the National Convention of The American Legion, or the Committee, may upon its adoption be used to support The American Legion's Legislative Program and shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded by the Committee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER STELACIO: This resolution has the approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 7: Amend the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of the American legion Pertaining to Reporting Legislative Action
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, Any resolution passed by the National Executive Committee or a National Convention can be used to support congressional legislation; and

WHEREAS, The current process for identifying resolutions includes hundreds of resolutions that cannot be passed during a single Congress; and

WHEREAS, It is difficult to identify those resolutions that have impacted legislative 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, 2024, That the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion be amended as outlined in Attachment 1 to clarify how legislative actions with resolution support are reported beginning at the 2024 National Convention; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 25: Implementation of the Legislative Program, approved at the October 2016 National Executive Committee meeting is hereby superseded and rescinded; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 2: Legislative Program for the 117th Congress, approved at the October 2020 National Executive Committee meeting is hereby superseded and rescinded.

Attachment 1

Uniform Code of Convention for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion

DUTIES OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Current Wording

6. Legislation

To formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy to the National Convention including plans and programs respecting federal legislation including resolutions thereon not otherwise assigned to other convention committees.

New Wording with Changes

6. Legislation

To formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy to the National Convention including plans and programs respecting federal legislation including resolutions thereon not otherwise assigned to other convention committees.

Include an addendum to its report, which is not required to be read, that lists the resolutions used to support the matters The American Legion advocated before Congress since the preceding National Convention, and a list of resolution-supported legislation enacted since the preceding National Convention with the list of resolutions used to support said legislation, for the sole purpose of establishing an orderly historical record of resolutions supporting legislative action.

New Wording as Amended

6. Legislation

To formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy to the National Convention including plans and programs respecting federal legislation including resolutions thereon not otherwise assigned to other convention committees.

Include an addendum to its report, which is not required to be read, that lists the resolutions used to support the matters The American Legion advocated before Congress since the preceding National Convention, and a list of resolution-supported legislation enacted since the preceding National Convention with the list of resolutions used to support said legislation, for the sole purpose of establishing an orderly historical record of resolutions supporting legislative action.

Remove the following section under RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CONVENTION:

8. Beginning with the transition from the 115th to the 116th Congress (January 2017), all resolutions with legislative intent are to be reviewed by the appropriate convention committees at the National Convention immediately preceding the convening of a new Congress. The convention committees shall include in their reports to the National Convention an addendum listing those resolutions (including meeting information, resolution number and title), previously approved with legislative intent, that are to remain as part of the legislative program of The American Legion for the next Congress. Any resolution with legislative intent that needs to be updated in any way shall be submitted as a new resolution through either the National Convention or National Executive Committee. The resolutions with legislative intent which are to remain as part of the legislative program and any new resolutions for legislative action shall be reported to the NEC as provided under Rule 8-b of the Rules of the NEC. Note: Any resolution not carried forward or submitted as a new resolution will be removed from the legislative program and considered rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER STELACIO: This resolution has the approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Unfinished Business and Resolutions Lying Over from Previous Day

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Is there any unfinished business of the preceding day or resolutions lying over from the previous day.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, there is no unfinished business of the preceding day or resolutions lying over from the previous day.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Are there any motions from the floor to remove members of standing commissions, committees, boards, or subcommittees of the NEC? Hearing none, we will move to the next order of business. Do we have any interim appointments?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Yes, you may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify that the list of the interim appointments is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move that the list of interim appointments be approved without being read. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

Confirmation of Interim Appointments

National Executive Committee Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 8-9, 2024

Lucinda M. Yslas (Iowa), Committee on Children & Youth, 2024 Member (replaces Peter Madsen – expired Legion membership)

Eric T. DeKraai (New York), Americanism Council, Member (replaces Doug Malin, deceased – was Media & Communication Council, Member)

Mark M. Hummer (Missouri), Americanism Council, Member (replaces Marvin E. Harper – deceased)

Douglas Ray Uhrig (Wyoming), Americanism Council, Member (replaces Michael J. Hobbs – resigned)

Lisa McPhee (Massachusetts), Convention Commission Advisory Board, Member (replaces Zeste Debro [Georgia] – resigned)

Cathy Gorst (Wisconsin), Constitution & By-Laws Committee, Vice Chairman (replaces Donald Walser [Minnesota] – resigned)

Mark Cauble (North Carolina), Membership Study Committee, Consultant (replaces Zeste Debro [Georgia] – resigned)

Sarah Tobin (Colorado), National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee, Member (replaces Douglas W. Millison – resigned)

Oliver Moore III (Louisiana), Emblem Committee, Consultant (replaces Larry Abshire – resigned)

Rhonda Ziehl (Rhode Island), Media & Communications Council, Member (replaces Robert C. Schierschmidt, Jr. – resigned, transferred to another department)

Judy A. Pearson (Indiana), Aerospace Committee, 2025 Member (replaces Jeffery R. Morris – resigned)
Guy N. Beragon (New York), National Security Council, Member (replaces John R. Kassmer, Jr. – deceased)
Wilem Wong (New York), Veterans Benefits Committee, 2025 Member (replaces R. Michael Suter – resigned)
Kristy A. Janigo (Minnesota), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (new appointment)
Alonzo M. Scott (Virginia), Resolutions Screening Committee of Veterans Employment & Education Commission, Member (replaces Eric W. Measles [California] – resigned)

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Yes, you may.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been made and seconded to approve the list of cancellation of posts and/or squadron charters without being read. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Confirmation and Cancellation of Posts and/or Squadron Charters

Post Charters
Presented to the National Executive Committee for Cancellation Consideration

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*** and ***Veterans Population***

Ninety-six (96) Posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2024 Spring National Executive Committee meeting proceedings in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 9, 2024.
** *See Merging Post Information Below* **

Department	Post No.	Name	Location
Alabama	0016	Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry	Marion
	0026	Anniston	Anniston
	0029	William Polk Spratt	Livingston
	0154	Ohatchee	Ohatchee
	0201	Ronald G Rock Rhoades	Huntsville
	0239	Pleasant Valley Memorial	Hale Co Vly Cmty
	1831	Capstone	Tuscaloosa / Univ of Alabama
	2007	Eutaw	Eutaw
Arkansas	0012	Leslie Huddleston	Hope
	0035	Forristall-Wells	Sulphur Springs
	0063 **	William E Bateman (to merge with Albert J Spieler Post 0008)	Ozark

Department	Post No.	Name	Location
	0088	Robert F. Darr	Marvell
	0097 **	Dickerson-Caldwell (to merge with Abner Blankenship Post 0136)	Caraway
	0109 **	Mize Murphy (to merge with Baldwin-Bradley Post 0121)	Magazine
	0149	Counts-Kirksey-Nixons	Mulberry
	0194	Lumpkin-Hill	DeValls Bluff
	0197	Herman Davis	Manila
	0200	Eagle-Lilly	Lonoke
	0202	Enyart-Bird	Bradley
	0238	Richard B. Lucy	Elaine
	0303	Scroggins-King	Mount Holly
	0324	Watkins-Purcell	Kensett
	0404	George La Rue Watkins	West Helena
	0410	Wilson	Mc Neil
	1919	Marshall Centennial	Marshall
	2019	1st Sgt Nick D Bacon	N Little Rock
California	0502	Moorpark	Moorpark
Connecticut	**0123** **	Campilio-Holmes (to merge with Bourne-Kenney Post 0023)	Rocky Hill
	0162	Frank J. Stempick	New Haven
Florida	0091	Jamerson-Sheffield	Trenton
	0131	Greenville	Greenville
	0308	West Hollywood	W Hollywood
France	GR02	Ramstein	Ramstein Air Base, Germany
Illinois	0060	Walter R Craig	Rockford
	0628	Dieterich	Dieterich
Indiana	0287	Hunt-Trouse	Centerville
	0522	Indianapolis	Noblesville
Iowa	0028	Ray Hawbaker	Grand Junction
	0087	Harry E. Powers	Liscomb
	0177	Emil H. Dutler	Mt. Auburn
	0472	Plainfield	Plainfield
	0482	Marshall Brown	Davenport
	0687	Paul Johnson	Jamaica
Kansas	0008	Charles Walters	Fredonia
	0147	Corlberg - Smith	Burdick

Department	Post No.	Name	Location
	0196 **	Emmett H. Neuway (to merge with Ruth-Wilson Post 0231)	Burrton
	0211 **	John W. Knowles (to merge with Paul Stewart Irwin Post 0136)	Belle Plaine
	0272	Clarence Smith	Weir
	0333	Havensville - Onaga	Havensville
	0422 **	Grassland Estates (to merge with Thomas Hopkins Post 0004)	Wichita
	0424 **	Reflection Ridge (to merge with Thomas Hopkins Post 0004)	Wichita
Maryland	0332	Southwest	Halethorpe
Massachusetts	0203	Bridgewater	Bridgewater
	0212	Chelmsford	Chelmsford
	0314	John Foster Stafford	Fall River
Michigan	**0261** **	East Detroit-Roseville (to merge with Harry Ollrich Post 0004)	East Detroit
	0285	Bivens-Bonner	Inkster
Minnesota	0310	Courthouse	Minneapolis
	0468	Joe Smith	Minneapolis
	0504	Bearcat, Inc.	Minneapolis
	0597	James Weiland	St. Bonifacius
	5222	Patrick M. Novack	Minneapolis
Missouri	0053	Newton Dudley	Pleasant Hill
	0183	Hart-Hartwell-Channel-Brewster	Drexel
	0211 **	Glasgow (to merge with White-Bell Post 0273)	Glasgow
	0439	Valley Park Memorial	Valley Park
	0596	Raytown Memorial	Raytown
Nebraska	0013	Davidson-Nejahr	Gresham
	0124	Michie-McKeown, Inc.	Mitchell
New York	0321	Cook, Inc.	Yonkers
	0486	Leadbetter-Brinklow, Inc.	Minetto
	1163	Frank A Rea	Yonkers
	1505	The Richard Somers, Inc.	Somers
	1734	John B Winter, Jr	Goldens Bridge
North Carolina	0240	Maiden	Maiden
	0530	Swift Creek	Raleigh

Department	Post No.	Name	Location
North Dakota	0142	Richard Blue Earth	Solen
South Carolina	0064	Bowman	Bowman
	0133 **	The Ridge (to merge with Leesville Batesburg Post 0061)	Ridge
	0134	Mt. Groghan-Ruby, Inc.	Mt. Groghan-Ruby
	0169 **	Thomas S. Brown (to merge with Aiken County Post 0026)	New Ellenton
South Dakota	0298	Reisenweber-Wolf	Kidder
Texas	0314	Roy Trow	Trinity
	0692	Alfred H. McCluskey	El Paso
	0800 **	George Washington Carver (to merge with Fred Brock Post 0828)	San Antonio
Virginia	0182	Blacksburg, Inc.	Blacksburg
	0222	Stonewall	Elkton
	0361	James Waters-Westenders, Inc.	Richmond
Washington	0049	Cpl Christopher Nelson	Rochester
	0083	Wendell H Fidele, Inc.	Deming
	0132	Heskett-Arnold, Inc.	Concrete
	0154	Kulshan, Inc.	Ferndale
	0165	Edward Leehan, Inc.	Rockford
	0235	Tukwila, Inc.	Tukwila
	0247	Pluma Sager Wacek Memorial, Inc.	Blaine
	0333	Arlington	Arlington

Sons of The American Legion Squadron Charters
Presented to the National Executive Committee for Cancellation Consideration

One hundred two (102) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2024 Spring National Executive Committee meeting proceedings in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 9, 2024.
**** See Merging Squadron Information Below ****

Detachment	Squadron No.	Name	Location
Alabama	0001	General Gorgas	Birmingham
	0010	Livingston	Epes
	0025	Lawrence County	Moulton
	0026	Anniston	Anniston
	0040	Robert H Driver	Gordo
	0049	Carlisle B Grisham	Athens
	0090	Billy Glenn Rushing	Atmore
	0123	Don Hammack	Tuscaloosa
	0129	Blountsville	Blountsville

Detachment	Squadron No.	Name	Location
	0157	Covington County	Gantt
	0176	Buford D Byrom	Huntsville
	0210	Wright Brothers	Montgomery
	1165	Pfc Harold James Battle	Birmingham
Illinois	0176	Fairfield	Fairfield
	0192	Marango	Marango
	0279	Jacksonville	Jacksonville
	0531	Saunemin	Saunemin
	1271	Sugar Grove	Sugar Grove
Indiana	0023	Hedrick-Brandt	Kentland
	0030	Goshen	Goshen
	0069	Warren Brock	Orleans
	0071	Pulaski County	Winamac
	0087	Alexandria Bright	Alexandria
	0101	Lowell	Lowell
	0112	Camp Jackson	Brownstown
	0123	Harrison	Corydon
	0177	Worley David Gaskin	Kokomo
	0218	Thorntown	Thorntown
	0404	Prairie Creek	Terre Haute
	0413	Camden	Camden
	0428	General John J Pershing	Hammond
	0508	Emilio Albert De La Garza, Jr	East Chicago
Iowa	0070	Champaign	Creston
	0210	Anita	Anita
	0725	Lamar Hartje	Treynor
Maryland	0332	Southwest	Halethorpe
Michigan	**0261** **	East Detroit-Roseville (to merge with Harry Ollrich Sqdn 0004)	East Detroit
Mississippi	0021	T C Carter, Jr.	Meridian
	0082	Chocktaw County	Ackerman
	0091	Joel Harper	Jackson
	0152	Ramsey-Loper	Lakeshore
Missouri	0001	Quentin Roosevelt	St. Louis
	0006	Bazan-Bailey	Moberly
	0023	Wayne T. Boles	West Plains
	0033	Elmer Ellis	Cameron
	0069	Goad Ballinger	Springfield
	0109	C. Dolph Gehrig	Campbell
	0125	Norval Stafford	Springfield
	0140	Ed J. Kenney	Kidder
	0164	Story-Hardin	Craig

Detachment	Squadron No.	Name	Location
	0183	Hart-Hartwell-Channel-Brewster	Drexel
	0189	Robert L. Clore	Lees Summit
	0220	Pemberton-Jennings	Branson & Hollister
	0258	Lohman-Meyer	Concordia
	0388	O'Fallon	O'Fallon
	0434	Nixa Memorial	Nixa
	0439	Valley Park Memorial	Valley Park
	0445	Daniel-Shafer	Edgerton
	0587	Rosebud Memorial	Rosebud
	0596	Raytown Memorial	Raytown
Montana	0008	Hardin	Hardin
	0018	Mussellshell	Roundup
	0022	Leonard Dethman	Wolf Point
	0025	Meagher	White Sulphur Spring
	0026	Henry W Griesbach, Jr	Fort Benton
	0052	Thompson Falls	Thompson Falls
	0070	Judith Gap	Judith Gap
	0071	Clarks Fork	Fromberg
	0080	Fairfield	Fairfield
	0084	Belfry	Belfry
	0114	Fairview	Fairview
Nebraska	0013	Davidson-Nejahr	Gresham
	0143	Springfield	Springfield
New York	0486	Leadbetter-Brinklow	Minetto
	1163	Frank A Rea	Yonkers
North Carolina	0455	East Lincoln	Denver
Ohio	0773	Amelia Bicentennial	Amelia
	0801	Nordonia Hills	Nordonia Hills
Texas	0692	Alfred H. McCluskey	El Paso
Virginia	0361	James Waters-Westenders	Richmond
Washington	0002	Edward B Rhodes Parkland	Tacoma
	0005	Aberdeen	Aberdeen
	0006	Senator Henry M Scoop Jackson	Everett
	0022	Milton F Rosabach	Chehalis
	0024	G Raymond Mc Cown	Garfield
	0036	Logan Wheeler	Yakima
	0037	Lynnwood	Lynnwood
	0050	Malcolm Crabtree	Toppenish
	0069	William T Mullaney	Tenino

Detachment	Squadron No.	Name	Location
	0078	Auburn	Auburn
	0084	Hodges	Oroville
	0088	Selah	Selah
	0091	Memorial	Burlington
	0160	West Seattle	Seattle
	0176	Salmon Creek Heights	Vancouver
	0181	Lake Stevens Memorial	Lake Stevens
	0200	Belfair	Belfair
	0212	Sumas Memorial	Sumas
	0245	Selmer H T Myreboe	Poulsbo
	0247	Pluma Sager Wacek Memorial, Inc.	Blaine
	0264	Rainier	Rainier
	0508	Richard C Emigh	Onalaska

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, may I address the national adjutant in regards to the confirmation of dates for future meetings?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, are there dates of future meetings that require approval of the National Executive Committee?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: The list that has been passed out is a true and correct list.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I move that the dates be approved without being read. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to approve the dates of future meetings without being read, as they are published in the digest. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

...National Vice Commander Roy assumed the chair.

Confirmation of Dates of Future Meetings

Previously Approved by NEC

2024 FALL MEEETINGS – OCTOBER 7-10

Commissions and Committees	October 7-8
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 7-8
National Executive Committee	October 9-10

2025 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE March 2-5

2025 SPRING MEETINGS – MAY 5-8

Commissions and Committees	May 5-6
National Executive Committee	May 7-8

2025 FALL MEETINGS – OCTOBER 6-9

Commissions and Committees	October 6-7
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 6-7
National Executive Committee	October 8-9

2026 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE February 22-25

2026 SPRING MEETINGS – MAY 4-7

Commissions and Committees	May 4-5
National Executive Committee	May 6-7

2026 FALL MEETINGS – OCTOBER 5-8

Commissions and Committees	October 5-6
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 5-6
National Executive Committee	October 7-8

Closing Remarks
Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, National Commander

National officers, once again, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and guests, I must say, "Wow!" Right? Wow, what a night last night and, of course, really, what a week. But it was here. I'm talking about here and from here that things happened, just like I said yesterday. Especially as we together change lives and save lives.

Last night was very, very special. To thank and honor a servant leader like Dan Wheeler who served us through this beloved organization of ours that we just call "Family." But through humor and paintings and, of course, your hearts, you know what we really did last night? We changed and we saved lives by contributing almost $12,000 to the Veterans & Children Foundation. *(Applause)*

And you know something, leaders? I want you to take that spirit home. Let's open wide our hearts and even surpass our department goals when it comes to this foundation. But you know something? More of our family members can't open their hearts if they don't actually know about it. So, let's use our voice and tell them. Continue to tell them about legion.org/action. You know that's close to my heart. I want us to talk about, and not just talk about, but to really see with our eyes and let even America know that we mean business when it comes to changing lives and saving lives, especially with our veterans and their families. *(Applause)*

And I think you know as well, not everybody knows about legion.org/action and not everybody is doing it as well. I do want to highlight a good friend of mine, he's probably thinking, "Oh, my goodness" or somebody's thinking, "Oh, please don't call on me"; right? But Brother Kevin Owens, that man steps up to the cause. I think he just waits on his phone for the next 24 hours to press "submit." He's over 3,000 messages that he has sent. That's outstanding. *(Applause)*

I also want that voice to be known, as I've talked to basically our nine departments about filling those vacancies with our legislative council members. Let's get that done this month, shall we? *(Applause)*

And one that is also dear and near to my heart is, let's circle our leadership as we complete 100% of those CPRs so we can let Congress know how serious we are when it comes to America as well as our veterans and their families. *(Applause)*

You know something? When it's early in the morning like this, and a reverend in front having the floor and a microphone, it can be dangerous. *(Laughter)*

But on a serious note, remember when I started off with purpose and relevance? Those are very important items. But this is our mission *(raising index finger)*. Let's do this together. Being the one as a family as we continue to change lives and save lives. I think that's all I need to say. Once again from my heart to yours, love you, thank you, and God bless. *(Standing applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, I move your closing remarks be received and filed. *...Second.*

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER ROY: It has been moved and seconded that the national commander's closing remarks be received and filed. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, nay. Motion carries.

...National Commander Seehafer resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Now I call on Chairman William Kile of West Virginia for a final report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions.

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

Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has considered all resolutions that have come before the committee. I would like to stress the importance to the members of the National Executive Committee in keeping their departments informed about the actions taken by the National Executive Committee. The resolutions passed the last two days will be available within a few days on the Digital Archive at archive.legion.org.

I would like to take this time to thank members of the committee who have done an outstanding job and attended every session. Special thanks goes to my vice chairman, Lloyd Woods of Maine; Robert Skinner of Idaho; Dan Wiley of Kansas; Michael Stelacio from Pennsylvania; and Linden Dixon from Virginia. I thank you very much for all your dedicated service.

Appreciation is also extended to Howard Trace and his staff who served our committee. I also want to thank the Document Center, directors and chairmen of the commissions and committees on their work in order to bring the resolutions and reports to you. During our deliberations, we spoke with a number of chairmen who have been very helpful to us in explaining questions we had about resolutions.

Mr. Commander, it is a pleasure to serve you as chairman of your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I would like to thank the National Executive Committee in reporting of the various resolutions. You have been most cooperative. Mr. Commander, I move that this report be received and filed. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Is there any discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carries.

Appointment of the National Adjutant

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It is now my pleasure to appoint Rodney Rolland as national adjutant of The American Legion. Do I hear a second? *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: It has been moved and seconded to confirm Rodney Rolland as national adjutant of The American Legion. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor by the usual sign. Opposed? Motion carries. *(Standing applause) ...National Vice Commander Edwards assumed the chair.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Rodney, you have been appointed by the National Executive Committee to fill the office of national adjutant of The American Legion. I know you will vindicate the trust that has been reposed in you and fulfill in every way the obligations which that trust entails. You shall at once familiarize yourself with the duties of your office, and you shall proceed upon those duties in the same spirit of devotion and endeavor which characterize that service out of which arose The American Legion. The welfare and success of The American Legion depends largely on you. Upon your shoulders rests the burden of preserving the integrity of The American Legion. You must protect its good name before the people of the United States. You must extol it in their eyes. You must make them know, as we know, its purpose and its policy.

Ever remember the tolerant spirit that emanates its members. There is no rank among us, for each serves as an equal and all strive toward the same goal, which is the realization in the life of the republic of the ideals of justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty. Ever remember the cardinal purposes of The American Legion are the rehabilitation of disabled servicemembers and veterans; care of the dependents of those who have answered the final call and of those who are now suffering the ravages of wounds, disease and want; rightful

education of the children of our country; and devoted service to the community, state and nation. Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me?

I, Rodney K. Rolland, do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office of the national adjutant which I am about to assume. And I further pledge I am not a member of and do not subscribe to the principles of any groups opposed to our form of government. I present to you Rodney K. Rolland, national adjutant of The American Legion. *(Standing applause)*

So, as I address the body, I do congratulate you on the selection that you have made. You have chosen him to guide the destinies of The American Legion. Now it is your duty to aid him in every way, help him keep The American Legion an organization of free men and women faithful to its principles and ideals.

And Rodney, you have been chosen to uphold the wise and effective administration of the national adjutant's office and to serve not only your fellow Legionnaires, but also those whose relationship with our organization have led them to look to us for guidance and relief. You will find your duties many, varied, and at times, according to your predecessor, taxing. *(Laughter)*

On your crowded hours and, of course, your resources, the successful accomplishments of our programs depends to a great extent upon you and your performance of the duties of your office. To you I extend the congratulations of the National Executive Committee and I wish you well as you assume the responsibilities of your office. *(Applause)*

Adjutant Rolland, the floor is yours.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROLLAND: Wow! As I stand here, I am so moved. I never dreamed in a million years that I would actually be standing here at this podium, so I sincerely thank each of you for entrusting me with this opportunity. *(Applause)*

Twenty years ago, when I first walked in the front door of the national headquarters, my mission was simple. It was to help veterans. Help veterans find a job and use the platform of working with veterans to get jobs. That was my simple mission. Along the way, along my journey, I encountered mentors who played key roles in creating ideally who I am today. First person, Patty Waltz, my HR director who hired me. *(Applause)*

And she taught me having a work ethic, that if I was going to be successful here at the national headquarters, 8:00 to 4:30 wasn't going to work. *(Laughter)*

Two, Billy Johnson, former membership director. *(Applause)*

He taught me that The American Legion was much bigger than the four walls of national headquarters. And that if I was essentially going to be successful here, I would need to get out in the field and connect with the other Legionnaires. So, Billy, I thank you for that.

Third, once I got out into the departments and the posts, I want to recognize the individual, Past Department Adjutant Charlie Knox, Department of Georgia. *(Applause)*

On many occasions I've heard the commander talk about servant leadership. Let me tell you, I got a chance to see it with Charlie Knox, and I thank him for that. So, Department of Georgia, please pass that on to Charlie Knox, because he was incredible in my development.

Last, the national adjutant, well, former national adjutant. *(Laughter and applause)*

Daniel Wheeler, the "big cheese," as I like to call him. Three years of shadowing the national adjutant, incredible experience. Some of that training was simply sitting right directly in front of his desk, just observing the way he conducts business. That knowledge has been invaluable, and I thank you for that.

So, as you leave here today, what I want you to take with you is that I am committed to making you feel proud about your decision today. I am committed to putting my best foot forward each and every day. I will admit, some big shoes to fill. *(Laughter)*

But he left me a lifeline, the almighty Mary Rooney. *(Applause)*

So, I leave you today with a motto we actually use in the Marine Corps, "Semper Fi." Thank you. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Thank you, Rodney. Now as a point of privilege, I think it's appropriate for the wife of our longtime national adjutant to make a presentation to your boss, Sandy Rolland. *(Kathy Wheeler presented flowers to Sandy Rolland.) (Applause) ...National Commander Seehafer resumed the chair.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Adjutant Wheeler, do you have any announcements for this last time? *(Laughter)*

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Again, I want to thank each of you for guiding me on this great journey. And dinner is on your own tonight. *(Laughter and applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: The chair recognizes Past National Commander Paul A. Morin of Massachusetts.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: Sergeant-at-Arms Kell, please come forward. Past National Adjutant Dan Wheeler, please come forward.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Oh, now I know what that is. *(pointing to wheelchair) (Laughter)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: Forty some-odd years of being in this building, I never came up the back stairways until today. It was my first journey up the back stairs. And then there was this past national adjutant's chariot sitting up there waiting for him. *(Laughter)*

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: You're pretty proud of yourself, aren't you? *(Laughter)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: As a servant leader, God inspired that to be present this morning for me to see. *(Laughter)*

Dan, you have completed a great journey to this organization. It is now the time for you to go to the hall of fame, wall of hall of fame in that hallway where every distinguished leader of this organization's portrait hangs. Sergeant-at-Arms, you will escort the past national adjutant, whether he wants to use his chariot or walk, to place his picture in its place of honor.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I'll walk. *(Laughter and standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Family, continue to stand and we will uncover. I call on now National Chaplain Frank H. Carr of Virginia for the benediction.

Benediction
Frank H. Carr, Virginia, National Chaplain

Boy, oh boy, what a day. What a day. I never thought in The American Legion this day would come that we would have a national adjutant that looked better than me. But it's here. Alleluia. *(Laughter and applause)*

Father, God, as we prepare to depart this place but not Your sight, let us go forward into Legion land with Your grace and mercy covering us. Father, we pray Your blessings over all of the leaders of this great organization. Give them the wisdom and the knowledge they need, dear Father, to continue to guide us to that place in Legion land You would have us to be. Father God, grant unto us Your benedictive blessings, Your everlasting love and peace.

And now, unto Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before almighty God, may grace, peace, and mercy travel with us as we go to our several homes, for it's in the mighty name of the one true and living God we do pray, Father. Amen and amen. *...Chorus of "Amen."*

NATIONAL COMMANDER SEEHAFER: Please cover. And with the colors of our country being in place, hand salute. Two. I now declare this meeting of the NEC adjourned. Thank you.

...At 9:18 a.m., Thursday, May 9, 2024, the National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.

ABBREVIATIONS

A

ABMC ..... American Battle Monuments Commission
AI ..... artificial intelligence
ALA ..... American Legion Auxiliary
ALB ..... American Legion Baseball
ALR ..... American Legion Riders
ANAVICUS .....Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada – United States

B

BASE .....Base Assessment and Servicemember Experience
BLS .....Bureau of Labor Statistics
BTO ..... Be the One

C

CBD .....cannabidiol
CBP ..... Customs and Border Patrol
CNSC ..... Citizenship and Naturalization Subcommittee
COL .....colonel
COVID ..... coronavirus disease
COYE .....Committee on Youth Education
CPR .....Consolidated Post Report
CR .....continuing resolution
CRM ..... Customer Relationship Management
CWF .....Child Welfare Foundation

D

DAV .....Disabled American Veterans
DEC ..... Department Executive Committee
DMS ..... Direct Membership Solicitation
DOD ..... Department of Defense
DOL .....Department of Labor
DROC ..... Decision Review Operations Center
DSLO .....Defense State Liaison Office
DVOP .....Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

E

EAGALA ..... Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association
EDT ..... Eastern Daylight Time
ENPP ..... Employment and Navigator Pilot Program

F

FASFA ..... Free Application for Federal Student Aid
FBI ..... Federal Bureau of Investigation
FDA ..... Food and Drug Administration
FY .....fiscal year

G

GUARD Act .....Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act

H

HERO Act ..... Healthcare Equality and Rights for Our Heroes Act
HR ..... House Resolution, Human Resources
HUD ..... Department of Housing and Urban Development
HVTF ..... Homeless Veteran Task Force

I

IT ..... information technology
IUEC ..... International Union of Elevator Constructors

J

JAG ..... Judge Advocate General

L

LVER ..... Local Veterans Employment Representative

M

M&PA ..... Membership & Post Activties
MIA ..... missing in action
MILCON-VA ..... Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
MISSION Act .... Managing Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Networks Act
MLC ..... Master Leader Course

N

NALC ..... National American Legion College
NALCAA ..... National American Legion College Alumni Association
NAR ..... National Association of Realtors
NASA ..... National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCO ..... non-commissioned officer
NDAA ..... National Defense Authorization Act
NEC ..... National Executive Committee
NEF ..... National Emergency Fund
NSCAI ..... National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence

O

OCW ..... Operation Comfort Warriors
OIC ..... officer in charge
OIG ..... Office of the Inspector General

P

PACT Act ..... Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022
PFC ..... private first class
PGO ..... Personify ThreeSixty
PMCC ..... Public and Media Communications Commission
PNC ..... Past National Commander
POW ..... prisoner of war
PSA ..... public service announcement
PTSD ..... Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
PUFL ..... Paid Up for Life

Q

QR ..... quick-response code

R

RFP ..... request for proposal
ROAR ..... Regional Office Action Review
ROTC ..... Reserve Officers' Training Corps
RSC ..... Resolution Screening Committee

S

SAI ..... Student Aid Index
SAL ..... Sons of The American Legion
SALCA ..... Sons of The American Legion Commander's Advisory
SAL-U ..... Sons of The American Legion University
SBA ..... Small Business Administration
SBTF ..... Small Business Task Force
SDVOSB ..... Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
SGT ..... sergeant
SOD ..... Special Operations Detachment
SPC ..... specialist
SQDN ..... squadron
STARBASE Program ... Science and Technology Academies Reinforcing Basic Aviation and Space Exploration Program
SWS ..... System Worth Saving

T

TA ..... tuition assistance
TAC ..... Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials
TAP ..... Transition Assistance Program
TBD ..... to be decided
TFA ..... Temporary Financial Assistance
TFM ..... Task Force Movement
TSM ..... transitioning servicemember

U

USAA ..... United Services Automobile Association
USC ..... United States Code

V

VA ..... Department of Veterans Affairs
VA&R ..... Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
VARO ..... VA Regional Offices
VAVS ..... VA Voluntary Services
VCF ..... Veterans & Children Foundation
VE&E ..... Veterans Employment & Education
VETS ..... Veterans Employment and Training Service
VET-TEC ..... Veterans Technology Education Courses
VFW ..... Veterans of Foreign Wars
VOSB ..... Veteran-Owned Small Business
VSO ..... Veteran Service Organization
VSR ..... veterans service representative

W

WWI ..... World War I
WWII ..... World War II

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