PROCEEDINGS

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Fall Meeting

Sheraton Hotel City Centre
Indianapolis, Indiana

October 12 - 13, 2019

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At 8:30 a.m., Saturday, October 12, 2019, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Bolt.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: With the colors of our nation being in place, hand salute. Two.

Uncover.

I will now ask Chaplain Rodney Tolbert to invoke the blessing of God.

Invocation
Rodney Tolbert, National Chaplain, Michigan

Lord, as we gather today, we ask that You be in our mindset. Help us make decisions that would be pleasing to our organization and to You. Help us be able to discuss matters at hand in a reasonable way, and be willing to give up having our own way. God, let this meeting be productive, and should be the case in all areas of our lives. Help us keep You at the forefront of our minds as we do the work set before us. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: In the memory of our departed comrades and the comrades of all veterans, let us stand in silence.

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

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: To maintain a high awareness that a constant vigil should be maintained so that no POW or MIA will be left unaccounted for, The Sons of The American Legion designate a POW/MIA empty chair at all meetings. This is a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW and MIAs still unaccounted for, and as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in the defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

Will the sergeant-at-arms please place the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair.

...The Sergeant-at-Arms placed the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I will ask the sergeant-at-arms, Brian Waters, if he will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Cover.

I will now call on National Vice Commander Doc Pfeiffer to lead us in the preamble.

Recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion

...The National Executive Committee recited the Preamble to the Constitution of Sons of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Serving as a constant reminder that servicemen and women, on a daily basis, are putting themselves at risk to ensure our freedoms, The Sons of The American Legion display a Corporate Blue Star Service Banner at all meetings, to serve as a symbol of our support of all the military personnel serving this great country. Let us never forget every day that these individuals are protecting our liberty.

The Blue Star Service Banner is in place.

(Gavel)

I will call on National Adjutant Tony Wright for the reading of the call.
NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Pursuant to Section 2, Article VII of Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, the national commander of The Sons of The American Legion hereby calls for a meeting of the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion to be held October 12 through 13, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I will now call on Adjutant Tony to give the roll call.

Roll Call

...National Adjutant Wright called the roll of the National Executive Committee as follows:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Commander
Clint D. Bolt, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
East: Gary P. Nelson, New Jersey
South: Blair Miles, Alabama
Central: Richard M. "Doc" Pfeiffer, Indiana
Midwest: Christopher L. "Chris" Cook, Oklahoma
West: Nedley C. "Ned" Fox, California

National Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania

National Assistant Adjutants
Harold E. Thompson, Nebraska (Emeritus)
James "Ed" Sheubrooks, Florida - EXCUSED
Robert J. Avery, New York
David M. Ridenour, Indiana
Scott A. Williams, Virginia
Scott J. Thornton, Ohio
Jeffrey E. Hicks, New Jersey

National Chaplain
Rodney J. Tolbert, Michigan

National Historian
Thomas E. "Tom" Marsden, New Jersey

National Judge Advocate
Joseph Paviglianti, New York

National Sergeant-at-Arms
Brian K. Waters, Pennsylvania
National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms
Gregory A. Falco, New York (East)
Raymond P. Giehll, III, Indiana (Central)
Lyle G. Larson, Kansas (Midwest)
Charles Curtis, California (West)

National Commander's Aide
Jeff Evans, Virginia

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Immediate Past National Commander
Greg K. "Doc" Gibbs, New York

Past National Commanders
Michael K. Seaton, California
Robert A. McBride, Ohio
J.R. Stillwell, Illinois
Robert H. Faust, California - EXCUSED
James R. Hartman, Maryland
Charles E. Gannon, Maryland
David P. Stephens, Indiana
Christopher R. Cerullo, New York
Frederick L. Hartline, Sr., Ohio - EXCUSED
Douglas P. Bible, Minnesota
Eugene L. Sacco, California
Roland D. Matteson, Arizona
Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota
William E. Matoska, Maryland
Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana
Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma
Kevin N. Winkelmann, Texas
Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts
Steve C. Laws, North Carolina
Neal C. Warnken, Kansas
Michael J. Deacon, Iowa
Earl R. Ruttkofsky, Michigan
Raymond P. Giehll, Jr., Indiana
Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois
Mark E. Arneson, Georgia
David L. Dew, Texas
James K. Roberts, III, Florida - EXCUSED
Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland - EXCUSED
Michael W. Moss, Colorado
Kevin L. Collier, Alaska
Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona - EXCUSED
Brian J. O'Hearne, Massachusetts
Danny J. Smith, Colorado

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

Alabama, BOTH
Alaska, NEC
Arizona, NEC
Arkansas, BOTH
California, ALTERNATE
Colorado, BOTH
Connecticut, BOTH
Delaware, BOTH
Florida, BOTH
France, NEC
Georgia, BOTH
Hawaii, NEC
Idaho, NEC
Illinois, BOTH
Indiana, BOTH
Iowa, NEC
Kansas, ALTERNATE
Kentucky, NEC
Louisiana, BOTH
Maine, NEC
Maryland, BOTH
Massachusetts, BOTH
Michigan, BOTH
Minnesota, NEC
Mississippi, NEC
Missouri, NEC
Montana, BOTH
Nebraska, NEC
Nevada, BOTH
New Hampshire, NEC
New Jersey, BOTH
New Mexico, NEC
New York, NEC
North Carolina, NEC
North Dakota, NEC
Ohio, BOTH
Oklahoma, ALTERNATE
Oregon, NEC
Pennsylvania, NEC
South Carolina, ALTERNATE
Tennessee, ALTERNATE
Texas, BOTH  
Vermont, NEC  
Virginia, NEC  
Washington, NEC  
Wisconsin, NEC

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Commander, that completes roll call. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Will the sergeant-at-arms please bring before this body the American Legion National Commander, Bill Oxford, from the Department of North Carolina.

*(Standing ovation)*

James "Bill" Oxford was elected national commander of The American Legion on August 29th, 2019, in Indianapolis during the organization's 101st National Convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1986. A native of Lenoir, North Carolina, Commander Oxford is a Paid-Up-For-Life member, a past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department commander of North Carolina in 2010-2011.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Commander Oxford was an aviation electronics technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Commander Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer's candidate school and transferred to the United States Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Commander Oxford has served at every level of The American Legion. A former mayor of the city council, he has worked since he was in high school, with most of his career choice being with the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates.

Commander Oxford has volunteered as a coach, umpire, referee, and administrator in several youth athletic programs.

An active volunteer with several organizations, Commander Oxford is a member of the Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite and the North Carolina Army Retirees Council. His theme as national commander of The American Legion is "A Foundation for the Future," as the organization enters its second century of service.

Commander Oxford and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles, married to Deah, and a daughter, Jackie, married to her husband, Mike. They also have four grandsons: Isaiah, Micah, Jaggar, and Dawson.

Gentlemen, please let's welcome our national commander for The American Legion, Bill Oxford.

*(Standing ovation)*

Greetings
James W. "Bill" Oxford
American Legion National Commander, North Carolina

Last weekend we were in Iowa, and I'll ask Clint to tell the story about the entertainment that we had. That's a story that's worth repeating, but it was just about as funny as anything I have ever in my life seen. But it's a story for another time.
But thank you for the invitation and the opportunity. It's a blessing to be here and it's an honor beyond what I can describe. But as we approach the end of our centennial year, we need to remember that The American Legion, The Sons and the Auxiliary, are just as important, just as valuable, just as relevant as they were a hundred years ago when this organization was formed.

The things that we've been able to accomplish over the years, and we can talk about the GI Bill, the Veterans Administration, things like the flag code. All of those are just still important and still part of society. But if we think about just the past year, we have had a successful year when we consider the Blue Water Navy Act, the Bladensburg cross issue that was just recently decided by the supreme court, the LEGION Act, and our Centennial Coin Act.

All of those things happened because The American Legion and the Sons and the Auxiliary wanted them to happen. The grassroots support that we get from all of those organizations are critical when we try to make those things happen and make Congress understand what we want and what we need.

But we still have work to do. Things like eliminating the widow's tax, things like stopping for-profit colleges from scamming veterans, things like the Pay our Coast Guard Act, and The American Legion always supports strong and secure borders. Those things are still on the horizon, still on the radar, still things we need to consider or pursue.

But that's history, or will be history. But we've got to focus on our future. We've got to focus on the next centennial. Probably none of us will be here for the centennial, our next centennial celebration. But the things that we do, the things we did yesterday, the things we do today, and the things we will do tomorrow, are creating the foundation for the future of our organization.

When we consider how we're going to get there, I'd like to bring up just a few of my personal goals this year. Our membership goal, not everybody's happy with them. But if we keep expecting the same thing, then we're going to keep getting the same thing. We've got to raise our goals.

My personal goal to every post, unit, and squadron is 103 percent of your goal. Now, that's an ambitious goal, but we can do it with everybody's help and support.

If any Sons, Auxiliary, or Legion member recruits three new members, then they're going to be eligible for the national commander's hat pin. That's three new members. But The Sons, the Auxiliary, and the Legion members are all eligible for that pin as an incentive.

Last year or over the past few years, we've been averaging about an 86 percent retention rate. I'm challenging you to help me make that retention rate 90 percent. And over the past few years we've been averaging about 63,000 new Legion members a year. I'm challenging you to help me make that 100,000.

With the new LEGION Act as far as eligibility for new members, the LEGION Act opens up 4.2 million new members eligible for the Legion because of the LEGION Act. Between a 90 percent retention rate and 100,000 new members, we can turn our membership around. I talked about the incentive pin; that's anybody that recruits three new members.

My project for the year up until December is the centennial coins. Those coins make great gifts. If you collect American Legion memorabilia, those coins are great collectors' items. They're a great conversation starter if you're talking to somebody who does those kind of things. But the centennial coins are still available. They will not be available after December. So if you are interested and want to purchase some of those coins, you need to do that before December.
Now, the thing about the coins, we do make some money off of it, there is a few bucks involved. But all of that money that we collect goes back into our charities. If you think about the National Emergency Fund, the Child Welfare Fund, the Temporary Financial Assistance, all of those charities give away money to people in need.

We should all be proud of the fact, last year The American Legion gave away a million bucks to Coast Guard families during the government shutdown. All of that money comes out of our charities. Those were successful because of the work you do with the Child Welfare Foundation. A great charity, and I want to say thank you very much for all the things you do there.

After January, my project will turn from the centennial coins over to the Veterans and Children's Welfare Foundation. We hope ultimately to raise $25 million to seed that fund with. But we won't make that this year, we won't make this next year, but that $25 million is a multiyear goal. So as we move forward, hopefully we can raise a few bucks and raise the money to make that fund worthwhile and soluble, I guess is the right word I'm looking for. But anyway, 25 million bucks over multiple years. We'll all be working and appreciate your help to do that.

It's an honor and privilege to be here. It's a pleasure to be able to represent you as your national commander.

Clint, thank you very much.

*(Standing ovation).*

**Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: If there is no objection, the minutes of our previous meeting will stand as published, subject to any written corrections or additions.

At this time, I'd like to ask if there are any first-time attendees in here, would you please stand.

*(Applause)*

Are there any veterans in here today? Please stand.

*(Applause)*

I'll also share that Rodney is one of our newer Legionnaires under the LEGION Act. We're all proud of that.

The report that came out yesterday, approximately 3400 new Legionnaires into our organization under the LEGION Act. That was the report that came out yesterday. A lot of opportunities for Sons there; let's take advantage of it.

**Appointment to National Commissions**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We have two vacancies on the national commission to fill this morning. I will entertain a motion to accept the appointment of Bradley Dudley to the National Finance Commission, and Eddy Seegers, Detachment of Texas, to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

Do I have a motion to accept them?

NECMAN DENNIS HENKEMEYER (MN): Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, NEC, Detachment of Minnesota.

I so move that we approve the appointments as presented.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there a second?

NECMAN MICHAEL BOUGHNER (MI): Mike Boughner, NEC from Michigan, seconds.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any discussion? 
Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. 
Opposed? 
So moved. Motion carries. 
At this time, I would like to ask that the sergeant-at-arms please escort our SAL national liaison, Ken George, to the podium for remarks. 

(Standing ovation)

Remarks
Ken George
National SAL Staff Liaison, California

Good morning, everyone.

...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”
NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: That's what I like to hear. One more time.
Good morning, everyone.

...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”
NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Yes, let's get it motivated.

It's been a great year, one year in the position. It's been a heck of a ride and a lot of fun.

We've accomplished a lot and I just want to cover a little bit of where we're at.

So I'm going to call out the following states because I got some great news as of yesterday. Connecticut, Maryland, Alabama, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, and Florida is pending but it's probably going to work out. Now your adjutants can do online transmittals for membership.

(Applause)

Does everybody understand what that means? That means you don't sit on your transmittals anymore. You don't have to mail them to detachment and detachment sits on them. At the squadron level, you can go on mySAL, you can set up your online account, and you can transmit your membership and it posts in five days. You cut it down by almost five weeks.

So I used it as an adjutant on the Legion side. I loved it, it was great. Every Monday I did my membership, and the next week it was posted. It's a great thing. So your adjutants will get an email from national on how to set them up and how to actually do your transmittals.

Everyone go on and do it. It's so easy, even a Legionnaire can do it.

(Laughter)

So if you have any questions, pull me aside, I can help you with it. But this is a great thing. This is part of what you've been asking for, so this is something we're working on.

With that, membership. Twenty-one detachments met their goal of 25 percent. Congratulations. However, what does that mean? The other half of the 50 percent did not, so let's work on that. You guys have had a sustained growth in membership for 21 years. Let's keep that growing. You're the largest-growing, fastest-growing veterans service organization in the world, so let's keep that up. Okay?

I'm proud of every one of you. I know membership isn't easy, but now with the LEGION Act, actually I'll take the moniker from John Durkin, he says, "Dual is cool," is what he said. There's nothing wrong with that. I'm a dual member myself, I'm retired Navy, I belong to China Post 1 and I also belong to Squadron China 1.

All right, media. Our national commanders and our commander had their first-ever own media training. They came here for three days, they met with our media department, they
actually learned how to do skilled interviews, they learned about what's going on in the Legion, so when they're asked about it they can give an intelligent answer. It went very well. This is something I'm hoping to continue, and I think we will because it was very successful.

I want to give credit to the national vice commanders and the commander himself. They did a phenomenal job, I hate to say it, they did a little better than the Legion.

(Laughter)

But I'm very proud of them. Training went really well.

With that being said, we've also this year noticed, if you've noticed, and some of you adjutants have been fighting me on it, but please don't, there was two links released, that was your visitation for the commander and your certification of officers. It's an online link, it's set up just like the paper forms. So fill out the paper form, go online, fill it out, we get the information. Please go in and do that from now on. Because I'm going to start adding more links to that and it's going to make it so much simpler. We're trying to get away from snail mail, we're trying to do things in realtime. But I can't do it if you're going to fight me on it. So please, just let it go. Go ahead and do it.

If you have any questions, please call us. I'll walk you through it, I promise. This is not hard. The Legion side's doing this, it's time to get us on board with that.

CSRs. So I'm a little disappointed but, you know what, always room for improvement. Just a guess in the audience, what do you think the CSR return rate was nationally?

I heard "low." That's a good answer.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: None.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Better than that, I can tell you.

So there's a little over 6400 squadrons nationwide. Our return rate was about 1100.

Okay?

Now, the CSR, I just made it simpler for you because now -- you've been able to do this before but now it's going to be even better. You can go online at mySAL as an adjutant, not as an individual, fill out the CSR online, hit "send," done. Easy button. Okay? No sending it to national and detachment. It's sent to national electronically. We get it, it goes right to the operation center, they start entering the information.

I want to see that return rate go over 50 percent. Can I get that commitment from you?

...The National Executive Committee said, "Yes!"

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: What's the goal?

...The National Executive Committee said, "50 percent."

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Over 50 percent. Okay? I'll accept 50.1 but not 50. Okay?

So let's make that commitment. Go back to your detachments and your squadrons and tell them to do this. Okay? It's easy. Let's get the USPS out of the system and let's do this in realtime.

All right. I've taken enough time. A couple of things I want to mention, and I'll give this to your chaplain, I don't know if you know this or not. Our national treasurer, George Buskirk, passed away last week. He was a retired brigadier general with over 30 years of service, getting close to 40. So I will give the details. If you're going to be here this Wednesday, there will be a visitation. I'll give your chaplain those details to give you later.

One last thing. Where are my Wisconsin people? Wisconsin in the house? All three of them, great.

Go?
...People responded, "Packers."
NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Packers, that's right.
Where is Illinois at?
Okay. Wisconsin, go?
...People responded, "Bears."
NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: What? Take away his cheese card.

(Laughter)
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Go Patriots.
(A chorus of boos)
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Six and oh, baby. Six and oh.
NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: All right. Thank you for your time. I always try to make these a little lighthearted. Hey, I'll be here all weekend, so let me know if you need anything.

Sir, you have a question?
NATIONAL HISTORIAN MARSDEN: Tom Marsden, New Jersey, national historian. I have a question, do we send the CSR directly to you?
NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: No, they go to our operations center.
NATIONAL HISTORIAN MARSDEN: Right. But how do the detachments from each of the states get the judging? Are they going to email us a copy of it so that we get a copy of it as well, to do what we have to do?
NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: That's a very good question.
So right now, it doesn't go to your detachments. What I recommend, until we fix that -- we're aware of it and we're going to fix it. Until then, print off your copy and send it to your detachment. But nationally, you don't have to worry about it, it will go there. Eventually we're going to work it out so when you hit "send" it goes two places. But not every detachment has a place to send it to, and that's the problem. Okay? So we'll fix it. Somehow, some way, we'll fix it.

We are working on the online, trying to join online. We are working out a problem with the dual and the junior rates because not everybody has that same rate, it's a little different. I don't know what the work-around is, but if you have suggestions, I'm open to them, pull me aside. I'm an open book. I'm here to facilitate you, not run you. You give me your ideas and I make them work for you.

So if you have any questions, I'm here all weekend. Thank you.

(Standing ovation)
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We will be receiving donations tomorrow, not today.

I have an announcement right now. The Committee on Committees will be interviewing for the national update chairman at 1 p.m., and the national chaplain interview will also take place there at 1 p.m., and the update editor is at 2 p.m. on the 21st floor, Ohio Room.

So are there any other announcements that need to be made at this time?
NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PFEIFFER: Central region will have a caucus over here in the front left-hand corner.
NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER NELSON: Eastern region will have a caucus in the back corner over here.
NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MILES: Southern region caucus over here in the right-hand front corner.
NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: Western region, we'll go across the hallway. NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER COOK: The Mighty Midwest will meet out yonder out by the escalators.

(Laughter)

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVE: Good morning. While you're running around, don't forgot the CWF tables out front here. We have polo shirts, denim shirts, commemorative coins, and we also have our Sons aprons on out front sale while supplies last. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir?

LEADING CANDIDATE MICHAEL FOX: Thank you, Commander. Michael Fox, leading candidate. Good morning, everybody.

...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”

LEADING CANDIDATE FOX: I'd like to invite each and every one of you this afternoon at about 11:00, just following the commanders that will be in the commanders' class, we're going to have a luncheon over there. Bring your cover with you, put it in your pocket, you may need it.

Thank you, Commander.

ASST ADJ (EMERITUS) HAROLD THOMPSON, JR. (NE): Commander, as soon as I get done going through the commanders' training, we probably will have some breakfast tickets left. See me up in the office.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: The religious service will be at 6:45 tomorrow morning Meridian West and Center.

I do want to share something with y'all. I have two gavels here today. This one's important to me because my wife had this made for me. My father passed away in '97, and he was a bird fancier. He raised pheasant, quail, and all sorts of gaming birds. He always had a piece of wood that he would put against the door to keep predators out.

So after he passed away, my wife got that piece of wood and she had this gavel made for me years ago, and it's been with me just about as long as I've been a member in this organization. So every time I use it, I just -- I think of my dad, and he handled this piece of wood every single day, so it's important to me.

But at the same time, I was given a gift at convention of this gavel, and it's beautiful to behold. This was given to me by our National Executive Committeeman Willie Williams from Detachment of Oregon. He's a fine craftsman and did an outstanding job. So I will be using both of them this weekend.

(Laughter)

Thank you.

If there's no other announcements.

(Gavel)

With the colors of our country being in place, hand salute. Two.

We now stand in recess.

...At 9:09 a.m., Saturday, October 12, 2019, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 8:45 a.m., Sunday, October 13, 2019.

SECOND DAY
Sunday, October 13, 2019

...At 8:45 a.m., the National Executive Committee reconvened, National Commander Bolt presiding.

(Gavel)
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: The colors of our nation being in place, hand salute. Two.

Please uncover. I will ask the national chaplain to invoke the blessing of God.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN TOLBERT: I have a couple of announcements here. Past National Vice Commander David Swapedef is ill. Past National Vice Commander Mark Cannito of South Carolina is at the VA waiting for kidney transplant. Bill Shipley from Illinois is going to have a shoulder replacement on October 30th. Let's keep them in our prayers. Let's remember National Finance Officer George Buskirk passed away, so let's keep his family in our prayers.

Invocation
Rodney Tolbert, National Chaplain, Michigan

Dear Lord, I pray for the hearts of our people as we gather in Your name. I pray that we do not get caught up in our titles and our responsibilities. I pray that we humble ourselves before You so that You can lift us up. Let us be elevated in the spiritual realm with the hearts that yearn for You rather than the hearts that yearn for status of the physical realm. I thank You for Your love and I thank You for Your divine purpose. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Will you all please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: In memory of our departed comrades and the comrades of all veterans, let us stand in silence.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you. Please cover.

I now call upon National Vice Commander Gary Nelson to lead us in the reciting of the Preamble to the Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion.

Recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion

...The National Executive Committee recited the Preamble to the Constitution of Sons of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I'm going to take a moment right now before I call our adjutant to do the roll call, and I'm going to ask you all to help me out this morning.

In a little bit, President Nicole Clapp is going to come and address our body. Now, a bunch of us were in Iowa last week for her homecoming, and she treated The Sons like gold and it was a great time for all of us. And this is a special year for The American Legion Auxiliary. It's their centennial year, and she is their centennial president.

So when she comes, I'm going to have the sergeant-at-arms escort her here on stage. But before I turn the microphone over to her, I want to prompt all of you, if you're not already standing, we will stand, and I'll go, "One, two, three," and I want a big, "Happy birthday American Legion Auxiliary" from you. Can we do it?

...The National Executive Committee shouted, "Yes!"

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Let's practice.

(Laughter)

All right. One, two, three.
...The National Executive Committee shouted, "Happy birthday American Legion Auxiliary."

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Oh, that sounded good.
(Laughter)
Now I'll turn it over to our adjutant, Anthony Wright. Thank you, gentlemen.

Roll Call
...National Adjutant Wright called the roll of the National Executive Committee as follows:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Commander
Clint D. Bolt, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
East: Gary P. Nelson, New Jersey
South: Blair Miles, Alabama
Central: Richard M. "Doc" Pfeiffer, Indiana
Midwest: Christopher L. "Chris" Cook, Oklahoma
West: Nedley C. "Ned" Fox, California

National Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania

National Assistant Adjutants
Harold E. Thompson, Nebraska (Emeritus)
James "Ed" Sheubrooks, Florida - EXCUSED
Robert J. Avery, New York
David M. Ridenour, Indiana
Scott A. Williams, Virginia
Scott J. Thornton, Ohio
Jeffrey E. Hicks, New Jersey

National Chaplain
Rodney J. Tolbert, Michigan

National Historian
Thomas E. "Tom" Marsden, New Jersey

National Judge Advocate
Joseph Paviglianti, New York

National Sergeant-at-Arms
Brian K. Waters, Pennsylvania

National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms
Gregory A. Falco, New York (East)
Raymond P. Giehll, III, Indiana (Central)
Lyle G. Larson, Kansas (Midwest)
Charles Curtis, California (West)

National Commander's Aide
Jeff Evans, Virginia

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Immediate Past National Commander
Greg K. "Doc" Gibbs, New York

Past National Commanders
Michael K. Seaton, California
Robert A. McBride, Ohio
J.R. Stillwell, Illinois
Robert H. Faust, California - EXCUSED
James R. Hartman, Maryland
Charles E. Gannon, Maryland
David P. Stephens, Indiana
Christopher R. Cerullo, New York
Frederick L. Hartline, Sr., Ohio - EXCUSED
Douglas P. Bible, Minnesota
Eugene L. Sacco, California
Roland D. Matteson, Arizona
Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota
William E. Matoska, Maryland
Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana
Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma
Kevin N. Winkelmann, Texas
Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts
Steve C. Laws, North Carolina
Neal C. Warnken, Kansas
Michael J. Deacon, Iowa
Earl R. Ruttkofsky, Michigan
Raymond P. Giehll, Jr., Indiana
Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois
Mark E. Arneson, Georgia
David L. Dew, Texas
James K. Roberts, III, Florida - EXCUSED
Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland - EXCUSED
Michael W. Moss, Colorado
Kevin L. Collier, Alaska
Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona - EXCUSED
Brian J. O'Hearne, Massachusetts
Danny J. Smith, Colorado
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

Alabama, BOTH
Alaska, NEC
Arizona, NEC
Arkansas, BOTH
California, ALTERNATE
Colorado, BOTH
Connecticut, BOTH
Delaware, BOTH
Florida, BOTH
France, NEC
Georgia, BOTH
Hawaii, NEC
Idaho, NEC
Illinois, BOTH
Indiana, BOTH
Iowa, NEC
Kansas, ALTERNATE
Kentucky, NEC
Louisiana, BOTH
Maine, NEC
Maryland, BOTH
Massachusetts, BOTH
Michigan, BOTH
Minnesota, NEC
Mississippi, NEC
Missouri, NEC
Montana, BOTH
Nebraska, NEC
Nevada, BOTH
New Hampshire, NEC
New Jersey, BOTH
New Mexico, NEC
New York, NEC
North Carolina, NEC
North Dakota, NEC
Ohio, BOTH
Oklahoma, ALTERNATE
Oregon, NEC
Pennsylvania, NEC
South Carolina, ALTERNATE
Tennessee, ALTERNATE
Texas, BOTH
Vermont, NEC
Oral Report of Americanism Commission
Donald "J.R." Hall, Jr., Chairman, Maryland

Good morning.
...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVE: Saturday morning, we had our meeting start promptly at 9:30 in the morning. All commission members were present, along with your PNC liaison, Steve Laws, and 26 guests were in the room. After we had the meeting started, we started right away with our committee reports.

First up today, CWF Chairman Mark Nave.

Mark Nave, Chairman, Pennsylvania

Good morning, everybody.
...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVE: The Child Welfare Foundation had our meeting Friday afternoon at 4:00. We are 23 guests. We had a lot of great conversation.

But before I go any further, I want to introduce my committee members: Jon Coakley, George Fleming, Sandy Lipman, and excused is Lyle Chapman. These gentlemen provided great wealth and knowledge to me in this committee, and they'll be involved in all the different conference calls throughout the year, including myself. Any communication or questions that you may have, feel free to ask any of my members on my committee or myself.

Coming into this year, last year we reached the goal where we said, "We look great at eight," and we did, and that was in February. Here we are in October, we're already at $8.3 million. So my new goal is, "We're going to look fine when we reach nine."

(Cheers)

With that, our national commander set a goal for us this year. Last year we know it was a dollar per member. You well exceeded that, with $427,000, which was about $1.20 per member. This year we're looking at $500,000. It's a lofty goal, but you know what? With the work that we do in this room and with our blue cappers throughout the country, I'm quite confident that we'll reach that this year.

This past weekend we've been selling a lot of merchandise. We had our CWF 65th anniversary coins, our Sons aprons. The sales are great. And that's a testament to you, so I thank you. Between convention and now, we had 1,100 aprons made. We sold 1,098 of them, so we have two left in the back. You can see me in the back if you want the last two.

(Laughter)
A lot of great work is being done here, so there's no need for me to beat a drum over your head about raising money because we do this. This has been our signature fundraiser since 1998. Our first year we raised $39,000. We've come a long way since then.

To continue that process, as I mentioned with our merchandise, we're looking for new ideas. The aprons went well this year. But we're looking for new ideas. So if anybody has any ideas, please reach out to myself or any one of the committee members, and we're going to get that ball rolling towards next year so that we can have a new item to present to you that hopefully sells very well.

So gentlemen, in closing, I'm looking forward to a great year. I'm humbled to serve you as your chairman this year, and let's continue the great work. Thank you.

(Applause)

...Committee Chairman Nave submitted the report of the Child Welfare Foundation Committee.

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm on October 11, 2019 in the Ohio Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Mark E. Nave (PA)  Members: Lyle Chapman (GA) - Excused
Secretary: Scott A. Williams (VA)  Jon Coakley, II (OH)
Liaison: National Assistant Adjutant (none assigned)  Sanford Lipman (MI)
Past National Commander

Guests: Jim Noble (NJ), Chris Sherman (WI), Kirby Rich (CT), Ed Gossett (DE), Allen Waltry (WI), Dave Hendee (CT), Phillip Cook (NH), Doug Evans (KS), Scott Merril (NH), Bob Stephenson (TN), John Wright (CT), Roland Matteson (AZ-PNC), Mark Natale (NJ), Mike Monserud (IA), William Murphy (MA), Don Hall Jr (MD), Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Ernie Laberge (MA), Jim Coates (NY), Bill Towns (OH), Howard Fruhnwirth Jr (AK), Phillip Shiple (IL), Ken Rockholz (IA).

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, Chairman Nave declared the minutes of the Spring, 2019 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Nave said that the Sons have raised $8.3 million, cumulatively. He congratulated the Sons on their accomplishments.

Chairman Nave said that SAL National Commander Bolt's goal for CWF is $500,000 for the year.

Jon Coakley – Southern Region Conference Call – Southern Region is at $2.53 per member. He talked about the CWF Website and Grant selections.

George Fleming-promoted the $1 per member banner. He is also promoting the CWF coins and aprons in Pennsylvania.

Sanford Lipman – Talked about the Central Region Donations for the year. He is working on contacting the Detachments in the Central Region. He also talked about the coins and aprons for fundraisers.

Chairman Nave talked about the Western Region. They are looking into doing a regional project as a fundraiser.
**Old Business:**
Chairman Nave said that CWF Report format changes that were requested could not be implemented at this time. He is continuing to work to get the changes made.

**New Business:**
Chairman Naye talked about the $1.00 per member banner. He talked about how donations from Squadrons and Detachments are made. He stressed the importance for providing the appropriate documentation when sending the donations to CWF.

He talked about the CWF Merchandise – limited number of coins are still available and shirts are available. CWF Table will be at the NEC to sell.

Chairman Naye talked about the grant process for this year. CWF Committee selected 15 possible grant recipients. Chairman Naye will send out the list of Grant Recipients for this year as soon as they are awarded. He would like to have each of the Departments/Detachments submit a grant request for next year.

Chairman Naye opened the floor up to fundraising ideas for the attendees. A New Jersey Squadron does a Day at the Races fundraiser for CWF. Chairman Naye's Squadron does various fundraisers that allow them to donate $5 per member. Chairman Naye encouraged everyone to share their fundraising ideas with him. He will share them with the Public and Media Communications Commission.

**Resolutions:**
None,

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:**
National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. Commander Bolt talked about his CWF Goal for this year. He introduced his National Vice Commanders.

PNC Roland Matteson shared some history of SAL and its donations to Child Welfare Foundation.

Chairman Naye asked for ideas from the attendees on merchandise that can be sold to benefit CWF.

**Closing:**
With no further business to consider, Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA) adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HALL: Next up is our Children and Youth chairman, Bill Clancy.

**Oral Report of Children and Youth Committee**

**William Clancy, III, Chairman, New York**

Mr. Commander, fellow Sons, we have a few guests in the room, good morning.  
...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLANCY: My name is Bill Clancy. It's my first time ever speaking to this group, so it's both exciting and a little nerve-racking. But I'm honored to be in this position as the Children and Youth chairman, but more than honored, I'm excited. I'm excited for a few reasons. First and foremost, I think everything we do for kids, everyone will acknowledge, is good. It's good for our souls, it's good for them. Second, all of our programs, kids who are touched by our programs, are taught to be better
citizens. They'll grow up and be the future of our country, and that's obviously a fantastic thing. It's our core mission.

But in addition to those things, I firmly believe, in all of my Sons of The American Legion experience over 30 years, that our Children and Youth programs can be key to the growth and vibrancy of the organization.

I have seen in New York, my home state, in my travels as detachment commander, we unfortunately have a lot of posts that are not doing too well. But almost exclusively, posts that are not doing too well, lack, have a complete lack of Children and Youth activities in the post. And on the flip side, posts that have a lot of Children and Youth activities are thriving.

So our goal, my goal with the Children and Youth Committee, is to get all of our squadrons and all posts to be thriving with Children and Youth activities.

I think if there's excitement with kids, you'll build to vibrancy. Vibrancy will lead to higher retention. Higher retention will read to more numbers, more growth, positive press. It all comes together.

So my goals for this year all tie back to that. We have a few goals. One, to promote, through communication, all of our programs for Children and Youth, increasing member awareness of the programs. I know it's amazing, we have quite a few members when you're out with the blue cappers in my home squadron that really don't know about a lot of our programs. So we have to increase awareness and participation.

Second goal for this year will be to host the second annual children's youth room in Louisville at the convention.

(Applause)

This year we held a great event. My thanks to everybody who did it, not just as a member of the committee but as a dad. I had my two young boys with me this year; many of you met them. They were stopped in the airport, their bags were looked at because they had so many pins in there, I think they thought it was some type of shrapnel or something the boys were trying to bring on the plane. But my children had so much fun at convention, and everybody here made that fun for them.

But the youth room was a great success. Boys and some girls were taught about our emblem, the ten ideals; they got to have conversations amongst themselves about what it meant to be related to a veteran; they had a little bit of camaraderie built up between them, they made some friends; they learned how to fold the flag; they had a nice lunch. It was a fun day. So we seek to build upon that in a big and bold way in Louisville.

My third goal, and it's one that I am making with the approval and buy-in of Commander Bolt, is to issue a challenge to every squadron to hold a Children and Youth activity in their post. And in doing so, to publicize it. Get it in their local paper, local radio, TV if possible. Make the community know about it, bring new people into The American Legion family, and have a lot of fun in doing so.

So you'll be hearing a lot from me throughout the year, and my committee. We're going to be trying to get the word out about this. April is Children and Youth month. It's right around the corner.

Two weeks from now, three weeks from now is Halloween. We'll be trying to get out something before then about Halloween safety. We have 6,400 squadrons. Could you imagine if we had a poster on every front door about child safety on Halloween? How impactful would that be? We'd be ranked as one of the larger media companies in the United States with 6,400 billboards.
So that's the kind of thing I'm going to try to get going. More communication, letting the public know about what we do.

That having been said, that's really my report. I'll introduce you to the members of my committee. I think everybody is here. Phil Shipley from Illinois -- I have to check which states they're from. Phil Shipley from Illinois; John Lawrence from Louisiana. John, are you here? Yeah, there he is. Maybe stand up and wave, guys. Christopher Sherman; and Jim Noble from New Jersey.

That being said, that concludes my report. Full steam ahead, Commander.

(Applause)

...Committee Chairman Clancy submitted the report of the Children and Youth Committee.

Children and Youth Committee

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on October 11, 2019 in the Circle East Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman William Clancy, III (NY).

Roll Call:
Chairman: William Clancy, III (NY) Members: John Lawrence (LA)
Secretary: Robert J. Avery (NY) James Noble (NJ)
National Assistant Adjutant: Christopher Sherman (WI)
Liaison: (none assigned) Phillip Shipley (IL)
Past National Commander

Guests: Rich Kiley (CT), Phil Standar (IL), Donald Hall (MD), Ernie Laberge (MA), Carl Pawlick (OR), Gabe Cinquegrana (NY), Doug Evans (KS), James Coates (NY), Greg Price (MI), Linwood Moore (VA), Fred Vaccarella (VA), George Fleming (PA), David Johnson (MA), Mark Nave (PA), Gary Lang (OH), Jeff Vrabel, Jr. (OH), Raymond Ugaki (ID), Ronnie Grist (GA), Larry Ford (MD), Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Mike Moss (CO), Bill Towns (OH), Mike Cotton (DE), Martin Longeway (AR)

The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution.

Old Business:
Chairman Clancy reported on Children and Youth accomplishments announced at the past National Convention which included a banner year in support many programs with countless hours and donation totals. The first ever Children’s Room took place which will be expanded upon at next year’s Convention.

New Business:
Chairman Clancy welcomed all to the meeting and then introduced the members of the Committee and spoke of all the great activities being done supporting and involving children by Squadrons at Posts across the Nation.

Phillip Shipley (IL) asked for support of The American Legion Family Play Day concept. This program is an easy and fun activity for your Post take part in.

Commander Clint Bolt’s theme for the year is “Serving Those who Served – Full Speed Ahead” which the Committee intends to do.

Chairman Clancy outlined the 2019-2020 goals for the Committee which are:
Promoting awareness of American Legion C&Y projects and fundraising targets; executing a successful second Annual Convention Youth Room; promote The American Legion Family Play Day concept; assisting in an update of the SAL Youth Handbook; and challenging all Squadrons to host at least 1 children and youth activity at their Post.
This will assist in building Squadron level excitement, more participation, PR and local media opportunities and above all fun.

The Chairman noted some of the programs we support including:
- The American Legion Endowment Fund
- The Child Welfare Foundation
- (TFA) Temporary Financial Assistance & Family Support Network
- Child Safety- Say No to Drugs, Warning Signs, Halloween Safety
- April is Children & Youth Month
- C.O.T.A (Children’s Organ Transplant Association)
- Special Olympics
- “Legion Family Play Day”

The year’s Action Plan will include:
- Periodic News Blasts
- Attendance on Regional Calls
- Communication Blasts with Detachment C&Y Chairmen via email list
- Seeking Local & National Media in partnership with the PR Commission

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Committee. Children and Youth began as a “square deal for America’s children”. He thanked all for attending the meeting and for all they do back at home involving Children and Youth. He noted that the Children’s Room will take place again at our Convention next year.

Americanism Commission Chairman Donald Hall suggested to include the National Vice Commanders in all communication, so the word gets down to the Detachments.

Christopher Sherman (WI) reported on Santa’s Toy Blast which provides toys to children who are in hospitals for operations and treatment, some are terminal illnesses.

John Lawrence (LA) spoke on Halloween safety which should include visible costumes, use of flash lights, checking of treats.

James Noble (NJ) spoke on all of the great C & Y programs that Detachments need to share with other Detachments who may be interested in conducting them as well.

Americanism Chairman Donald Hall (MD) spoke about his Detachment’s support of Special Olympics which includes a Polar Plunge each year. They do a great job getting press coverage of all the great work being done to support the program.

Raymond Ugaki (ID) noted his Detachment has a toy drive for sick children undergoing surgery and treatment. Last year they raised $23,000 in toys and donations.

Ronnie Grist (GA) spoke on his Detachment’s Youth Camp. They had a Legion College for younger members and they are working to get younger members more involved in our organization.

Gabe Cinquegrana (NY) noted that certain holidays such as Halloween, Christmas and Easter are ideal for holding children’s activities. At his Post, they even include Legion Family membership recruitment opportunities as part of the events such as holding a haunted house or putting on an egg hunt.
Martin Longeway (AR) spoke on organizing structural activities at the Post level. You should be aware to match your resources at the Post with the age group of the young people that you plan on getting involved.

Public and Media Communications Commission liaison Doug Evans (KS) reminded everyone to submit entries to the Snapshots of Service Awards.

Chairman Clancy called for a moment of silence for those serving in harm’s way.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman William Clancy, III (NY) adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HALL: After these committee reports, we went right into business with the Americanism. We did go over the Americanism detachment chairman's list by each region. We do have about 22 detachments out there that we do not have an Americanism chairman listed for. We're working with the national vice commanders, I've sent out lists to them. We would like to fill every spot so we can make sure, each month as we do our Americanism blast out to everyone, that it's getting to a chairman that can help get it down to the squadron level, along to the NECs and the commanders.

Each of our commission members gave a report on the region that they were covering and also their different programs. We gave reports on Junior Shooting Sports, Four Chaplains Oratorical program, Boys State, ten ideals, flag etiquette, Legion baseball, and NEF. A lot of information was given out, a lot of discussion had. A lot of great ideas were shared of what was going on in other detachments, to help other people learn more things that they can do to promote The American Legion Americanism programs.

With that, we showed had a new slide show of all The American Legion programs under Americanism. Each one of them had the complete trifold or handout that The American Legion gives with information on it. This means is a great tool with your detachments to teach about the Americanism programs and/or copy one of those out when you're speaking somewhere about Americanism programs. So use these tools, they're readily available. All you have to do is reach out to us at the Americanism Committee and we'll give them to you.

The second presentation we did in the meeting was on the ten ideals, and we reworked that to make it more vibrant, more computer friendly to the app and to the website.

What we want to do is change that away from a test that you take, to where you can actually have a printable form that will come off, and you get whoever is doing the ten ideals program to sign off on each one as it's done, by somebody in the Legion, squadron, or community that they're working in. This will help get these members and children out of the posts doing everything, and into the community, also showing that The Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion are working in the community. We think it's crucial. We're not going to get new members talking to each other in the post, but get out in the community and work the Americanism programs. This is the best way to show what we can do.

Also, it takes the kids away from a book and reading and putting it all in their brain, and puts it in their hands and in their heart, and the programs are going to get worked more. So we think that this can help everybody by showing the program, working it, and also make everybody who does the program more understandable of that program so they now feel it
because they've worked it, and they've earned that ten ideals award and they just didn't take a test and get it handed to them.

With that, we did have a lot more discussion about that, information on it. We hope to have that completed by April and be able to show the form and all so we can work on that. I thank all the members of the committee for all the work they did on that and Ernie for all his work on the computer.

Commander, with that, that is my report.

(Applause)

...Commission Chairman Hall submitted the report of the Americanism Commission.

Americanism Commission

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am on October 12, 2019 in the Circle West Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Donald “J.R.” Hall (MD).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Donald “J.R.” Hall (MD) 
Vice Chairman: Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS) 
Secretary: __________________________ 
Liaison: __________________________ 
Members: James Borgman (IL) 
James Eubanks (CA) 
Ernest Laberge (MA) 
Casey Lenort (MN) 
Past National Commander 
Guests: Ken Rochholz (IA), Jon Coakley (OH), Mark Nave (PA), Allen Watry (WI), L. Mike Nanney (SC), Jeffry L. Gibson, Sr. (AL), Ray Jarvis (NY), Rich Kilby (CT), George Sevick (NE), Shawn Davis (MN), Bill Clancy (NY), Raymond Ugaki (ID), James A. Noble (NJ), Matt Griffin (AZ), Chris Sherman (WI), John Waite (VT), Don Allisot (ME), Sean Dieter (PA), John Lawrence (LA), Scott Merrill (NH), Linwood Moore (VA), Bob Phillips (NJ), James Eubanks (CA), David Rippe (NE), Doug Evans (KS), Terry Pressley (NC).

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, Chairman Hall declared the minutes of the Spring 2019 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Committees:
Children and Youth – Chairman Bill Clancy, III (NY) reported.

Child Welfare Foundation – Chairman Mark Nave (PA) reported.

Regional Reports:
Eastern Region: Ernie Laberge (MA) has been on the Eastern Region call. Ernie reported on Boys State and on the 10 Ideals Program that he will be writing articles on.

Southern Region: Chairman Hall has been on The Southern Region calls and also reported on the Detachments that were missing an Americanism Chairman. The Commission will work through the National Vice Commanders to fill the voids of Chairmen. The articles each month will be distributed to the Chairmen and through the National Vice Commanders.

Central Region: Jim Borgman (IL) reported on his assigned programs which are the Oratorical Contest and Four Chaplains. He can forward any information needed to help with ceremonies.
**Midwest Region:** Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS) is assigned to this region. He has written an article that will be sent out to everyone on Junior Shooting Sports and also will be writing an article about the Consolidated report later in the year.

**Western Region:** Jim Eubanks (CA) is the Western representative for the Americanism Commission. He reported on Flag Etiquette and American Legion Baseball.

Casey Lenort (MN) gave a report on the NEF program.

**Old Business:**

**Strategic Planning Committee:** Chairman Hall spoke about the Commission’s efforts to update the Youth Handbook. The Commission desires to add pictures to the Youth Handbook to make it more attractive to the younger generation.

Chaplain Training: The Commission discussed the resolution regarding Chaplains Training. The presentation is available for anyone needing it.

**New Business:**

A slideshow presentation was shown covering all The American Legion Americanism Programs. The trifold pamphlet is clearly shown on it. The slideshow can be used for training by the Detachments.

There was a slideshow presentation on the 10 Ideals program which is new and more vibrant. The Commission is working for this to be available online. The vision is to have a form that will be printable for members that can have each Ideal signed off on by a Post or Squadron officer when completed. This training will be designed to be more hands on.

**Resolutions:**

None

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:**

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Donald “J.R.” Hall (MD) adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: At this time I'll entertain a motion to accept the Americanism report.

NECMAN JOHN CHANG (NY): John Chang, NEC from New York. I make a motion that we accept the report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Chang from New York makes a motion to accept the Americanism Commission report. Is there a second?

NECMAN LINWOOD MOORE (VA): Linwood Moore, NEC from Virginia. I'll second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Linwood Moore, NEC from Virginia, seconded. Is there any discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
Oral Report of Finance Commission
William "Bill" Hill, Chairman, Maryland

Good morning, gentlemen.

...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HILL: Now we've come to the exciting part of our day, finances, numbers. Ooh, that just makes me all shiver.

Just a real quick note on finances. To go to Mark's point on CWF, being a number cruncher, we have to have the exact information for you. What he didn't point out is we're looking for $1.35 per member. So that's 370,000 members times $1.35, will give you $500,000. So I'll make sure that Mark has an exact number that each NEC can go back and take care of.

The National Finance Commission met yesterday morning at 10 a.m. Before that, I'd like to introduce the commission members, if they're in the room. They're typically shy like myself, they don't like to get a lot of recognition. Dennis Blue, vice chair, over in the corner. I have Greg Price from Michigan. Thank you, Greg. Steve Honigfort. Steve was here. Thank you, sir. Bob Thompson from South Carolina in the back. And our newest member, Brad Dudley from Pennsylvania. Thank you, sir.

Our meeting, as I said, started at 10 a.m. yesterday morning. We had two guests: We had the national commander stop by, brought greetings and thanked the commission for what they were doing. We also had our first leading candidate, Mike Fox, stop by with his cadre and also extended their greetings and wishes.

Order of business, as you noted in your packages, was basically we went over our 2019 reconciliation of finances to date. To date we are solvent. We're actually $129,000 ahead in revenue versus expenditure, so we're on track. There was no discussion on the 2020 budget as that's been approved and processed.

We will begin between now and the spring NEC of 2020 to start on the 2021 budget. During that process we will bring in -- we will have conference calls and discussions with the sitting commission chairmen, I'm assuming their committee chairmen. We'll also have discussions with the commander. The two leading candidates will discuss as to what we'll be doing for a budget in 2021.

Outside of that there was no further discussion. There was a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. There was no other business at that time.

Commander, at this time, this is our report.

...Commission Chairman Hill submitted the report of the Finance Commission.

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Finance Commission

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am on October 12, 2019 in the Illinois Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman William G. Hill (MD).

Roll Call:
Chairman: William G. Hill (MD) Members: Steve Honigfort (OH)
Old Business:
The Commission reviewed the Fiscal Year 2019 Year-to-Date Statement. The reconciliation report is through August 31st. A motion made was made by Steve Honigfort and seconded by Robert Thompson to accept the YTD report was carried.

The dues increase approved by the Sons of The American Legion at National Convention will be reviewed during The American Legion NEC meeting next week.

New Business:
The Commission will be working on the 2021 projected budget.

Resolutions:
None

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. He thanked all the members of the Commission for their hard work.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman William G. Hill (MD) adjourned the meeting at 10:12 am following a motion made by Steve Honigfort and seconded by Brad Dudley.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: At this time I'll entertain a motion to accept the finance report.
NECMAN DENNIS HENKEMEYER (MN): Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, NEC, Detachment of Minnesota.
I so move that we approve the report.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: NEC from Minnesota makes a motion.
NECMAN JOHN WAITE (VT): John Waite, NEC, Detachment of Vermont.
I second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Waite, Detachment of Vermont, seconds.
Is there any discussion?
Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye.
Opposed, nay.
Motion carried. Thank you, gentlemen.
At this time I'll call forward the Internal Affairs Commission chairman, Mark Tansel, for his report, and the Convention Committee chairman, Brandon Curry, and Member Training and Development chairman, Joe.

Oral Report of Internal Affairs Commission
Mark Tansel, Chairman, Indiana

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: There's actually three more following me, not just two.
Good morning, NEC.

...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Beautiful Sunday morning. A little chilly, but it's fall in Indiana.

Internal Affairs met Saturday, October 12th, with five members in attendance; we had one member absent. And I would like to thank all of those guests that joined us Saturday morning. Those also included our national judge advocate, Joe Paviglianti; our national adjutant, Anthony Wright; and our PNC liaison, Rick Cook.

Members this year of our commission: Myself, Mark Tansel, as chairman; Larry Weinzirl is our vice chairman who replaced Don Culver; Jay Cook from Oklahoma; Michael Kirschner from Colorado; Fr. Gary Gummersheimer from Illinois; and our newest member of the commission, we welcome Steve Gower from Virginia.

We had reports from our committees that were presented, and our first report that was presented was Our Convention Committee. With that, I call on Brandon Curry from the Detachment of Kentucky for his report.

Brandon?

Oral Report of Convention Committee
Brandon Curry, Chairman, Kentucky

Good morning, men and women in the crowd this morning.

...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CURRY: Good to see y'all this morning.

We had our meeting Friday night at 7 p.m. in the Ohio Room. Present was myself, Jeff Hicks, Shawn Davis, Greg Spaulding, Charles Treat, Al Watry. Will y'all stand up? I want to thank y'all for being on the Convention Committee this year. Guys, feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions about convention in Louisville and for future conventions.

One thing we've got in mind this year is looking at doing a social outing on Thursday before convention starts, at Angel's Envy Distillery, which is downtown Louisville. All y'all bourbon enthusiasts out there, you ought to come taste some good bourbon from my old Kentucky home.

So our meeting didn't take long, lasted about 35 minutes. It was a good discussion for all of us. I want to build on the kids day thing that we did this year in Indianapolis, so we're looking for some ideas for that.

National vice commanders, I have assigned each one of my committee members to a region for y'all. As of right now, Shawn Davis will be taking the Central, myself will take the South and East, Allen Watry is going to take the Midwest, Charles Treat will take the Western region. I'll be emailing those names out to y'all later, and they will be attending the conference calls when I can't be present.

This concludes my report. I look forward to having a good time in Louisville next year.

Thank you.

(Applause)

...Committee Chairman Curry submitted the report of the Convention Committee.

Convention Committee

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on October 11, 2019 in the Ohio Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Brandon Curry (KY).
Roll Call:

Chairman: Brandon Curry (KY)
Secretary: Jeffrey E. Hicks (NJ)
National Assistant Adjutant: (none assigned)
Past National Commander:}

Members: Shawn Davis (MN, 2018)
Greg Spaulding (IN, 2019)
Charles Treat, II (AZ, 2021)
Allen Watry (WI, 2022)

Liaison:

Guests: Scott Merrill (NH); Raymond J. Samko (MA); Matthew C. Thalasinos (NJ); Dewey Long (IN); Bill Sutterlin (OH); Daniel Maurin (LA); Bob Manzo (MD); Mark Tansel (IN); Jay Cook (OK)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the previous meeting were not entertained for any formal action.

Reports of Members:

Chairman Curry (KY) briefly discussed the documents he emailed to the Committee a few days prior to this meeting. These documents included the agenda for today’s meeting, the Strategic Plan for the SAL National Convention Committee, and the MT&D Questionnaire for the Convention Committee to be used at the Detachment Commander’s Course at the Fall 2019 NEC meeting.

Conference calls throughout the year will be scheduled as needed. The primary form of contact will be through emails. The Committee did not object.

Regional Assignments (to pass along information)

Shawn Davis (MN) – Central
Allen Watry (WI) – Midwest
Brandon Curry (KY) – East (Greg Spaulding (IN) is not available on Tuesdays when the East has its calls)
Charles Treat, II (AZ) – West
Brandon Curry (KY) – South

Chairman Curry pledged to inform the respective National Vice Commanders to include the committee members on their conference calls.

Chairman Curry (KY) is looking to do a social outing on Thursday evening, August 27, 2020, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM, at Angel’s Envy Distillery (downtown Louisville). Limited to 80 people. First come, first served. Tours of the facility are offered every twenty to thirty minutes. Tour costs $15 per person. Cash bar. Finger foods and appetizers from My Inn Café. The idea is to come to Louisville and have fun, i.e. a casual and relaxed environment.

Chairman Curry (KY) is planning to have another social gathering on Friday night, August 28, 2020, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at the Howl at the Moon Bar in downtown Louisville. It’s a dueling piano bar. Cost will hopefully be covered by a sponsorship. It will be a Department and Detachment of Kentucky event. It will be only open to the Legion Family. The plan is to have some raffles that night benefitting CWF. Raffle off some chainsaw woodcarver products.

Chairman Curry (KY) stated Louisville does NOT have American Legion Posts in the local area that are big enough to hold a lot of people, so dinners will have to be held at local eatery establishments.

Shawn Davis (MN) recommended finalizing convention activities during the winter months, so advertising can begin in the spring.

Greg Spaulding (IN) recommended the start of planning for the convention youth activities sooner rather than later based off his own experience with the Indianapolis convention. There is a $3,000 budget for this
activity in 2020 as per SAL Finance Chairman Bill Hill (MD). Chairman Curry (KY) suggested the Convention Committee draft a future resolution for allocating money to be budgeted for this committee. It is uncertain exactly what expenses can be covered by the $3,000. Chairman Curry (KY) will consult with Finance Chairman Hill (MD) for clarification on the spending allowances. Greg Spaulding (IN) reported that the banner that welcomed attendees at the Indianapolis convention was paid for out of the national budget through Emblem Sales. Chairman Curry (KY) would also like to have a welcome banner in Louisville and asked Greg to provide him with the information on how to order the banner. Greg agreed to help.

General Comments
Some ideas for attracting younger SAL members at national convention, Bob Manzo (MD) suggested doing a tour of The Louisville Slugger and maybe get free mini (about 18 inches long), wooden baseball bats as souvenirs. Chairman Curry (KY) has been considering that idea. Chairman Curry (KY) also noted Louisville has the IMAX Theatre and Science Museum downtown, which could be of interest, and the JP Speed Art Museum.

Greg Spaulding (IN) reminded the committee that any activity involving kids will require all participating adults to undergo a criminal background check, which The American Legion, National Headquarters can provide. Just something to keep in mind when planning the event. Chairman Curry (KY) agreed.

Shawn Davis (MN) would like to see whatever children activity the committee decides to hold at convention that the activity be advertised by the Spring 2020 NEC meeting. Getting the word out early will help to boost attendance. There is concern that some schools begin their new school year in late August, so parents will need to plan for excusing their child(ren) in order to attend convention.

Charles Treat, II (AZ) noted that the youth activity at the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis was coordinated by the SAL National Americanism Commission, chaired by Don (JR) Hall (MD). Chairman Curry (KY) replied that the SAL National Children & Youth Committee and the Americanism Commission are going to take turns, every other year, leading the youth activity at convention.

National Assistant Adjutant Hicks (NJ) suggested a tour of Churchill Downs horserace track as a tourist activity at convention. Chairman Curry (KY) agreed to consider that idea. Shawn Davis (MN) suggested investigating to see if Churchill Downs will partner with the convention to mitigate transportation needs. Chairman Curry (KY) would prefer to keep everything within walking distance to make life easier.

Chairman Curry (KY) will develop a design for the 2020 SAL National Convention Pin. It is a work in progress. The goal will be to have a final design ready by the Spring 2020 NEC meeting. Shawn Davis (MN) recommended having the pin order completed by then. Shawn had ordered 3,000 pins when Minnesota hosted the national convention. Greg Spaulding (IN) ordered 1,500 pins for the Indianapolis convention, but had about 700 to 800 pins left over. Greg recommended ordering 1,000 pins at most for Louisville. Pins were sold at $5.00 each. Pins were ordered through Cloud-Nine in Indianapolis. Cloud-Nine does a lot of Legion work for Indiana. Chairman Curry (KY) will probably go through Cloud-Nine to order the Louisville pins. Seed money for the pins was provided by The American Legion, Department of Indiana. The Legion was reimbursed from the sale of the pins. Shawn Davis (MN) recommended having the pins available for purchase at the Spring 2020 NEC meeting, offering an enticing deal to buy them. Detachments could take the pins back and sell them at their respective Detachment conventions, PRIOR to the national convention. Greg Spaulding (IN) noted the lead time for ordering pins is about six to eight weeks.

Charles Treat, II (AZ) inquired of Shawn Davis (MN) where he ordered the Christmas ornaments that were sold at the Minnesota national convention. Shawn Davis (MN) believed they went through national, but he would have to confirm. Minnesota still has some ornaments remaining for purchase.

SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) welcomed all comrades in attendance to the Fall 2019 NEC meeting here in his home state of Indiana. This year marks the twelfth year for Mark as
Internal Affairs Chairman and much has changed with the SAL since his first year. We keep enhancing and moving the SAL program forward for the betterment of our veterans. The Internal Affairs Commission will support the National Convention Committee in whatever way necessary to make the 2020 Louisville Convention successful! Chairman Tansel (IN) thanked Chairman Curry (KY) for the opportunity to address the Convention Committee meeting.

Chairman Curry (KY) stated that if anybody would like more information about the host city of Louisville to refer to www.GotoLouisville.com.

Allen Watry (WI) questioned Shawn Davis (MN) and Greg Spaulding (IN) as to how much they worked with their respective Departments when they hosted the national convention in their states. Shawn Davis (MN) replied the Detachment of Minnesota did its own thing until the Department Convention, when the Legion planners inquired about the SAL needs for national convention. A lot of the planning and coordination is completed behind the scenes. Greg Spaulding (IN) replied the Department of Indiana was more concerned about the big picture and not the details of the SAL convention. Shawn Davis (MN) noted that Jim Roberts (NV) who is a dual member had coordinated both the Legion and SAL national conventions when held in Reno. Chairman Curry (KY) stated that Jim Roberts (NV) is a great consultant for planning future national conventions. Jim is savvy at finding sponsorships. Chairman Curry (KY) noted that games of chance vendors offer generous sponsorships also.

**Old Business:**
None.

**New Business:**
None.

**Resolutions:**
None.

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:**
National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Committee. He thanked the Committee for all its efforts in planning for our 2020 National Convention. Commander Bolt looks forward to returning to Kentucky where he was installed as a National Vice Commander during Mark Arneson’s (GA) installation as National Commander. Kentucky is a beautiful state! The Committee’s planning to make this a wonderful convention is greatly appreciated! Commander Bolt thanked Chairman Curry (KY) for his leadership.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Committee. He asked the SAL comrades in attendance to ponder how we can encourage more youth to participate in our activities. Candidate Fox (CA) referenced the youth room at our 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis. We should take that concept and build on it. Make it bigger and better each succeeding year! What can we do to keep moving our organization forward? Let’s focus our attention on drawing in more active youth members. Candidate Fox (CA) wished everyone an enjoyable weekend! Chairman Curry (KY) was open to any ideas to include more younger members at the 2020 national convention.

**Closing:**
With no further business to consider, Chairman Brandon Curry (KY) adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Thank you. Next up is Member Training and Development Committee. With that report, I call on Chairman Joe Schultis from Indiana. Joe.

**Oral Report of Member Training and Development Committee**
Joseph Schultis, Chairman, Indiana

Good morning.
...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCHULTIS: It’s my pleasure to come before you today representing the Member Training and Development Committee. The meeting minutes are available there in your packets. I'm just going to go into what we've covered since.

We had the commanders training. And if I could have all the commanders stand up that graduated today.

(Applause)
We had 27 commanders attend and graduate this year.
I'd like to go into the NMI. NECmen, please, if you're submitting a name, do that quickly so we can get all that taken care of. But all that submission needs to go to Don Culver. I will read that email. Dculver@swbell.net. I also ask that you copy myself, joeschultis@gmail, that's J-O-E-S-H-U-L-I-S at gmail.com.

Once again, I'd like to thank our instructor, Mike Deacon. He got to do a little bit extra portion of the training this year. Thanks again, Mike.

PNC MICHAEL DEACON (IA): Nobody died except him.

(Laughter)
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCHULTIS: And Ken George for stepping in. I'll tell you, that really added a whole new level to the training, I believe, for the commanders. And once again, Ron Roberts for all your help.

I was going to tell anybody that wanted any of the material that was left over, that it would be available in the back, but everybody in the room took whatever was left to take back to their detachments. So sorry, there's nothing for you.

So lastly, I'd like to thank the committee, which is Mike Cotten, Jimmy Hunter, Lowell Long, and Ryan Longeway.

That's my report.

(Applause)
...Committee Chairman Schultis submitted the report of the Member Training and Development Committee.

Member Training and Development Committee

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on October 11, 2019 in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Joseph Schultis (IN).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Joseph Schultis (IN) Members: Michael Cotten (DE)
Secretary: Scott J. Thornton (OH) Jimmy Hunter (IL)
National Assistant Adjutant: Lowell Long, Jr. (MT)
Liaison: Richard L. Cook (OK) Ryan Longeway (AR)
Past National Commander
Guests: Ed Gossett (DE); Dennis Albright (OH); David Dilts (OH); Ron Roberts (MS); Matt Griffis (AZ); Thomas Glander (AL); Dave Hullihen (PA); Jimmy Hunter (IL); Carl Albern, Jr. (NJ); Ken Warner (PA); Dave Headee (VT); Jim Martin (IN); Joe Lohman (MD); Casey Lenort (MN); Christopher Carlton (IN); Lenny Free (NJ); Dennis George (NY); Mark McCue (MA); Don Allisot (ME); Ray Jarvis (NY); National Liaison Ken George; Jay Cook (OK); Mark Tansel (IN); Michael Fox (CA); Chuck Treat, II (AZ)
Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, Chairman Schultis declared the minutes of the Spring, 2019 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Schultis spoke about tomorrow’s Detachment Commanders Conference – we are ready to go. Ken George will assist with the Administrative part in place of PNC Joe Gladden who is unable to attend this weekend.

For the NMI program in the Spring, Don Culver has agreed to continue as the gatekeeper for NMI nominees. All NECmen need to submit their candidates to Mr. Culver and copy Chairman Schultis.

Mr. Schultis spoke about the Committee’s plan to review and update the materials for the NMI classes.

The Chairman next addressed the Strategic Plan for the Committee and the items to be handled.
- Develop national committee and commission training.
- Update the National Vice Commander training content and timing.
- Provide NMI concepts to squadron members.
- Update national training to focus on facilitation and problem solving.

Old Business:
Detachment Commanders Training at Fall NEC – Detachment Adjutants are permitted to attend. Although Adjutants are NOT compensated by National, that does NOT restrict them from participating in the training. There will be plenty of training materials to accommodate Adjutants. Detachment Vice Commanders with prospects of becoming Detachment Commanders soon are also encouraged to attend the Commanders Training, but again ONLY the sitting Detachment Commanders will receive a call-in from National. Detachments are encouraged, if they can afford it, to provide financial offset for their members to attend the Commanders Training. If Detachments desire to send their Adjutants and/or Vice Commanders, Chairman Treat (AZ) respectfully asks that they give advance notice to National so enough training supplies can be provided. The Committee will entertain more discussion on the Commanders Training during its next teleconference.

PNC Michael Deacon commented that this is basically a recommendation to Detachments to encourage their members to attend the training if they are able.

Stipend for NMI - Chairman Treat (AZ) reported that this request remained under consideration with the SAL National Finance Commission. Nothing new to report. Chairman Treat (AZ) apologized for not having a chance to speak with Finance about the issue.

No news to report.

New system for NEC breakfast tickets hopefully starting at Fall 2019 NEC – Chairman Treat (AZ) reported this system needs to be formalized and coordinated with the SAL National Adjutant Corps prior to Fall NEC. The thought is to offer pre-sale of tickets to Detachments to help relieve the present challenge of trying to buy tickets upon arrival in Indy at NEC meetings. The present method of procuring tickets can be quite difficult or impossible for some members depending on when they arrive in Indy.

Chairman Schultis and the Committee will discuss this in their conference calls.

New Business:
None.

Resolutions:
S.A.L. Resolution 12 – Spring, 2019
Title: Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman Training
Action: Motion to approve the Resolution made by Charles E. Treat (AZ).
Seconded by Patrick Kilby (CT) during the Committee's last teleconference call.

Discussion: None.

Disposition: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried. (All members were present on the call.) The Resolution will be reviewed for consideration at the Spring 2019 NEC meeting.

Note: Chairman Treat (AZ) also read the resolution aloud at the MT&D committee meeting of the Spring 2019 NEC meeting for the awareness of those in attendance.

Ron Roberts (MS) stated that it will need to be resubmitted once the funding has become available with that detail. The Committee review the requirements and plan to resubmit it in the Spring 2020.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. He thanked the Committee and the members present for their efforts and encouraged everyone to continue them when they return home.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. He spoke about the potential to offer some training options at the national convention to expand the programs to more people than just the Fall and Spring. National Liaison Ken George asked that any efforts to add times to the convention need to be requested as soon as possible. Internal Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel commented that we need to ensure that we don’t overlap meetings for people that need to attend multiple meetings. Mr. George encouraged any kind of training programs should incorporate small blocks of time that attendees could rotate among the various sessions and stated he needs any logistics needs very early to be able to request needed space and services. PNC Michael Deacon suggested we put out a question as to how many people we might get to come to such a program.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Joseph Schultis (IN) adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Thank you, Joe.
Final report that came before the commission is from Membership chairman, Joseph Navarrete. Joe?

Oral Report of Membership Committee
Joseph Navarrete, Chairman, New Mexico

Good morning.
...The National Executive Council responded, "Good morning!"

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVARETE: The Membership Committee was called to order on Friday, October 11, at 7 p.m. All five national vice commanders were in attendance as well as all five regional committeemen. I'd like to just take a second right now. Would my regional committeemen please stand up?

Gentlemen, this is your leading candidate for national vice commander. This is the first year that we have all five national candidates for national vice commander on the Membership Committee. Congratulations. Thank you.

(Applause)

With over 60 members in attendance, we had great representation by all regions. Our theme for the year, as many of you heard, "Serving Those Who Serve ... Full Steam Ahead." We have very aggressive goals.

Recruit, retain, reinstate, to reach 400,000 members. Bring renewal rates above 95 percent range. Obtain 105 percent membership by national convention.
If you were at national convention, you heard that we came up a little short at the start of our convention by 300 members. By the end of the Legion convention, we were at 100 percent. So we closed at 100 percent. So this is well within our reach, gentlemen. And Commander Bolt has raised the bar for us to exceed.

We also want to remember to recognize our achievements, making sure that we honor and appreciate the hard work that is happening throughout the regions.

We need to remember our priceless heritage. When we recruit new members, reinstate those memberships that have lapsed, and retaining our existing members. We need to build upon what has already been created, like the elevator speech, the rejoin letter, new member, renewal letter, and awards, are just to name a few. However, we can't stop there. We need to improve on those ideas and come up with other innovative ways to help our cause.

Thanks to our webmaster, Gene Theroux, for updating our website and keeping our membership tools up to date. They are located on the website under the Publication and Forms. It's been a great help to have that information readily available to everyone out there.

We have started off the year exceeding our first target goal of 10 percent. However, we fell a little short of our second target and only coming in at 21 percent. One good note, we are currently 1800 members ahead of the previous year, so we are on the right track.

This year, the Membership Committee is taking a little different approach and will be focusing on renewals versus straight membership numbers. You see, gentlemen, we have seen and we have learned that we know how to recruit. Our membership is increasing year over year. However, we're losing more members than we're gaining and we need to stop that.

Our regional reports were nothing short of amazing. Ideas brought forth by each region is proof that your Membership Committee is hard at work and committed to success. Ideas of 100 percent membership by January 1st, motivating individuals not just to hit target dates, but to look to exceed those target dates; ensuring members of closing squadrons are taken care of; communication; holding members accountable; and making process of becoming our renewal a lot easier. And you heard that this weekend from our liaison, Ken George. We now have six more detachments that are able to do online processing of membership, and that's going to continue to grow.

With the 35 percent and 45 percent target dates coming up in the next few months, we look forward to everyone helping out for us to exceed those goals. The committee also mentioned upcoming work on the Strategic Ad Hoc Committee plan.

The review of the squadron handbook has been completed, and a survey has also been created that will be going out when you return from these meetings. So we ask that you pass that survey along to each and every person that you know so we can get as much feedback, so that way we can make edits and changes and be more efficient in how we handle our squadron.

A discussion was held on membership target dates and numbers, with the presentation providing some details on how setting our targets at the beginning of our membership year will benefit the organization. We are looking at new ways and ideas to get information out to all of our members, and hope to see changes made to online usage and postings as well within the SAL mobile app.

Suggestions were taken from the floor on reports and information that others would like to see going forward. These will be taken into consideration by the committee and will be worked on through monthly conference calls.

National commander Clint Bolt addressed the committee and stressed the importance of membership and renewals.
With no further business, we adjourned the meeting at 8:15. This is my report.

(Applause)

...Committee Chairman Navarrete submitted the report of the Membership Committee.

### Membership Committee

#### Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on October 11, 2019 in the Circle Ctr. & W. Rooms of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete (NM).

#### Roll Call:

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Joseph R. Navarrete (NM)</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>National Assistant Adjutant</td>
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<td>National Vice Commanders:</td>
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<td>Seth Rippe, Joseph Keiser, Philip Stuart, Marvin P. Nay, Jamey Holloway, Brandon Roberts, Jeffrey L. Gibson, Sr., Nick Arceo, James Eubanks, David Soues, Willy Williams, Mark Natake, Mark Fayer, Sr., Carvin Chapman, Mike Monsrud, Brad Dudley, Kevin Chaplin, Troy Porter, Scott Baker, Pasrele Gallagher, Eddy Seegers, John Waite, Joe Roberts, Steve Gower, Ken Rockholz, David H. Valcan, Camille LeJuene, Ken Yanke, David Rippe, Bernie Kessler</td>
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#### Reports of Members:

Chairman Joe Navarrete (NM) - Our membership theme for this year is...
Serving Those Who Served... Full Steam Ahead

We are all doing a lot of hard work, but we have to have fun and enjoy what we do to make sure we keep this going.

We set some very aggressive goals for this year...

- Recruit, Retain, and Reinstate to reach 400,000 members.
- Bring renewal rates to above the 95% range. We know how to recruit; we see it in our numbers. We are increasing our membership. We are recognizing our recruiters. We are recognizing our detachments. However, we are still falling behind on our renewal members rate. Currently for the 2019 membership year we are at 89%. That means we are losing over 37,000 members a year. We do have about 5-6 maybe 7,000 that do go on to Squadron Everlasting. That is still over 30,000 members that at one time joined our organization, because they felt that there was something there for them. For some reason they are not coming back, and we need to figure out what it is to bring them back. With focus on renewals, November is Renewal Month you will see a lot more information email blast coming out. Hopefully you saw the email Chairman Navarrete sent out with the 25% target date. It included a cover of the template that started when Mr. Rippe was Chairman with his membership tools. We want to take advantage of those. Feel free to take that letter change it make it your own squadron or detachment and send it out. Send out the email, if you do not have their email copy it and mail it to them. Put that information on a postcard.
- Obtain a 105% in membership by National Convention in Louisville. When we went into convention this year, we came up short by only 300 members. By the end of the convention we were 100% in
membership. Commander Bolt said that is not enough, he said we need 105% by end of the year. Chairman Navarrete all the regional committeemen and National Vice Commanders are working hard and are doing as much as they can to help you. Please reach out so we are getting what you need so we can help and increase our membership.

- Recognize our achievements (awards) At convention that is where we want to show all the hard work they have done and that we appreciate that. We want to continue to do that throughout the year.

We always need to remember our priceless heritage, recruit new members, reinstate those whose membership has lapsed, and retain our existing members. We need to take what we have built on and continue to improve. The Membership Committee has created several membership tools that we hope many of you have seen and used. We will be reviewing them and improving on each them throughout the year, items like the elevator speech, a rejoin letter, new member welcome, and renewal letter are just a few of these tools. We want to give them that personal touch, we are not just looking for their money. Get them involved, if we have a fish fry on Friday invite them. Get them coming out. Maybe there is something in the squadron that we can offer them to do.

We continue to see progress in our website and social media posting thanks to our webmaster Gene Theroux. He has been getting the information out there in a timely basis. We need to push our information to a central location that way our membership can keep informed. We are trying to get emails so that when items go out they go out to everyone.

The next few months we need to focus on reinstating those members that might have let their membership lapse. We need to let them know how important their membership in our organization is and why they should belong.

One item to note, shortly after Fall NEC the first Renewal Postcard mailing is scheduled to be sent out from National, on November 1st. As you may or may not know that postcard is generic and does not have your squadron’s contact information on it. I would encourage you to reach out to those members and let them know what your dues are and whom they can send it to. As I mentioned earlier, we have created a customizable renewal letter to help with this and if you have not seen it yet please let your regional committee member know, it can also be found on our website under publications/forms.

We have started off the year exceeding our first target date of 10% on September 11th by reaching 11.134% and having over 3,456 members from the previous year. We also had 31 detachments exceed the 10% goal so congratulations to a great start of our membership year. We fell a little short on our second target date of 25% on October 9th by reaching 21%, however we did have 21 detachments exceed the goal and we more than doubled our numbers from the 10% target having 12,445 members more than the previous year at this same time.

Regional Reports:

**East: Dickie Huntley, Sr. (ME) / NVC Gary Nelson (NJ) –**

East: NVC Gary Nelson (NJ) Commander Bolt calls Gary The Skipper of USS East. They had a slow start. His ship is ready to sail again they have put in new engines and will fly past the rest of the regions. Having fun is what we do, but getting the work done. Also, if anyone needs help, they do not need to be from the East give them a call and they will help you.

East: Dickie Hunley, Sr. (ME) Typically the membership is huge, and we are slow but finish strong. We are working on emails Gary is sending out emails and Dickie is sending them out if you are not getting them get a hold of them and get on their list. It is very important that you are getting our emails.

**South: Jason Roberts (GA) / NVC Blair Miles (AL) –**

South: NVC Blair Miles (AL) They are full steam ahead. The South is just going crazy. They are sitting at 29%. We are doing this by having some fun between the detachments. They have competition going between states. Plus, with the National Vice Commanders they have their own commitments. He is talking as much as he can, and
the members of the South are making this easy. You guys are doing it, not him. One of the problems they have are zeros. He believes everyone is having the same problem. It did not make sense that squadron officers still be sitting on zero, they need to lead their squadrons by paying their own dues. Everybody climbs by getting your squadrons off zero.

South: Jason Roberts (GA) Thank the southern region for all the membership sent in. Mississippi is at 95.7%, Louisiana is at 47%, Georgia is already at 35.3%, Arkansas is at 25.7%. Just for the record the South is at 27% total. The South always starts strong and stays strong all the way to the end. He challenged the rest of the Vice Commanders. If anything, the southern region can help you with contact them. Their engines are ready to go.

Central: Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH) / NVC Doc Pfeiffer (IN) –
Central: NVC Richard Pfeiffer (IN) Running a little bit slow this year. It starts out in middle and stayed right in the middle, riding the wake in smooth waters. We are not out of the picture yet. We are right up there with them and hopefully will pass them pretty soon. All the guys are working hard the central region has turned in 39% already. We are out beating the bushes and working hard.

Central: Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH) We are finding in our region that some of the problems are that squadrons are not turning in their Squadron Certification Reports to get their cards. Some detachments are not sending those cards until they know who to send them to. David Lee (NY) said that his region has did that in the past and found out that it does not help and asked themselves why these cards are setting here it is not doing anybody any good. It is better to get the cards out and get paid members cards turned back in. In response to that NVC Doc Pfeiffer said that this is the first year that Indiana has held the squadrons to that and it has been working pretty well. We have only had about 3 to 4 squadrons that they had to fight with in order to get their Certification Form.

Midwest: Juan Torres (TX) / NVC Chris Cook (OK) –
Midwest: NVC Chris Cook (OK) The USS Midwest has been keeping up with the South. If you are not receiving, their communication please reach out and let them know. We are here to support each other not only the Sons but all the American Legion Family.

Midwest: Juan Torres (TX) Membership is key card to our success. They are trying to keep up with the south and are sitting with 23.34%. They had four detachments that reached 25%. They were Montana, Kansas, North Dakota, and Oklahoma. His detachments are asking where should they be at membership? Since their membership must be sent into department, they are holding it. He started sending the departments our SAL target dates so they can get the cards in on time.

West: Jim Stewart (NV) / NVC Ned Fox (CA) –
West: NVC Ned Fox (CA) He came out from the back of the room with tassels waving and cheering. He said membership, reinstate, recruit that’s what we are doing. He was the cheerleader for membership. NVC Fox brought cheer to the room. 2019 we are still bringing in members. Everybody has 2020 cards in room. All officers and chairman should have paid dues. He picked up 150 members for 2019. We are still working on 2019 but let’s push on 2020. Hawaii loss a valuable member when Bernard retired this year, but they have exceeded what they expected. They turned in 122%. It’s all about communication and where we are going. He listens to other regions calls and expects other regions to listen to his. He plans on taking ideas from everyone to make his region better.

West: Jim Stewart (NV) It does not matter the journey it is where you end up. The West will come in strong in the end. Recruit, retain and reinstate we will be on top. They Thank Ray Giehl, Jr. for his vision. We can reach that 400,000 this year.

Chairman Navarrete mentioned that all the Regional Committeemen will be our Leading Candidates for National Vice Commander next year, where last year we had 2 members that became National Vice Commanders this year all five will be National Vice Commanders.

Our next target day is just one month away… November 14th is our 35% target date followed by our 45% target date of December 11th which is the last target date for the calendar year. It will be these target dates that will help define how successful our membership year will be. I am asking all of you to go back to your detachments and squadrons and see what you can do to help make that last push for membership.
Old Business:
Strategic Ad Hoc Committee Report – Update Squadron Handbook Publication

- Conduct survey to gather feedback from Squadrons (survey completed and currently being evaluated for content questions and see this weekend in your inboxes feel free to forward that on.)
- Next steps are to send out the survey and evaluate those responses and submit the relevant content for update and determine feasibility of adding to the mobile

We had Three new Resolutions that went through the past NEC, November Renewal Month, Recruiter of the year, and Top Recruiting Detachment.

Do not forget that National Renewal Month is approaching quickly and we need to get those renewals in. Also remember that two new awards have been added, the Recruiter of the Year Award, and the Detachment Recruitment Award. They are not out yet, but he is working with Mr. Skelley (TX) to get them out. Let’s make sure to recognize those who have work so hard for our organization.

New Business:
In order to simplify and align our membership target with the process that The American Legion preforms I would like to recommend we move to a percentage increase vs the current year-end membership number. Benefits would be targets that will be set in July and never changed throughout the membership year. He said the first target is correct at 10% then as we get more 2019 cards in the targets change. He gave presentations. Your goals change before the end of the year. Based on previous year membership. That raises the goal. It does not get changed at the detachment. He wants set Target dates in July to take us throughout the whole year. National has been studying the targets based on the previous year’s membership. While we take membership all the way up till the end of the year. It is constantly changing that number. If you get a large number of members come in like 150 members that raised his goal. What is happening is we see that first report we take those numbers down and then it raises and never gets changed at the detachment level again. So, come through the rest of the year the detachment says I have 45% but national shows me at 30% or I show 100% and National shows me at 95%. They are going to align that process and make it more efficient. They are hoping to set those target dates in July and not change throughout the year. It will be one target date throughout the entire year. Very importantly it is not to be confused with the National Commanders Membership Goal. Our goal right now is approximately 375,000 and trying to hit Commander Bolt goal of 400,000. Over the last three years we have an averaged about ½% increase year over year. Our recommendation is that if we take that average and divide by 2 and apply it to the 2018 membership and multiple that by 1% and that will give us our target for this 2020 membership year. How will this affect me? Chairman Navarrete took the top five detachments PA, IN, OH, NY, MI their current target and what their proposed target will be. That 1% change in our larger detachments will be in PA it will be 620-members increase that is using the 2018 number and go down from there. He then took the bottom five detachments and any detachment with membership over 100, DC with their membership at 126 members their increase will be 2 members.

Open for discussion: John Jennings (FL) We need more communication and respect between the post and squadron. We need to train the post about how to handle the squadron membership.

Ken Rockholtz (IA) Said that one of the problems is that the Post Commander and Post Adjutant will never go to the National Convention or National meetings so they do not know what the SAL does.

Tom Skelley (TX) When we get that new member, we need to tell them what we do. We do a lot more than drink beer. We need to show them what we do for VA&R, CWF etc. on a National Level more than just around the post.

Bill Kelly (FL) The American Legion is encouraging their members to take the American Legion Bootcamp. We need to have our members take it too, it gives information on all the American Legion programs. He said how can we sell the organization if we do not know what it is about.
PNC Ray Giehll, Jr. (IN) Who is the renewal guy you do not get? He normally has 2 on membership card. You know why you do not get him? Because you never explained what you do. Nobody tells him why he joined. You give him a free drink and you are in the office putting his money in the safe instead of answering his questions. Then you turn around and say you do not know why he did not renew. We did not tell him what we do and why we do it and what we accomplish. They will not know if you do not tell them.

David Lee (NY) NY has an advisor training programs in January. They expect the SAL to be part of a traveling team to go to the members who cannot get to the department or national meetings.

Gary Nelson NVC We need to be a little more solid on what dates are 100%. We try to get them by December 31st yet the target dates say May is supposed to be 100%. Is it from January to December or in May? Some of our members have a certain date that they pay every year and its hard to change them.

Chairman Navarrete said that to change the dates we would have to go back to our constitution and write resolutions. It means a convention resolution to change. At the Membership Workshop the American Legion Commander meets with all the Department Commanders and discuss their goals. Our Detachment should be setting their goals. They need to set them in a timely fashion, they set them when they meet with the Commander and then they are set for the year. We will see a lot more push back when we start changing our Constitution and By-Laws.

Blue Brigade Announcement Discussion

First of all, Chairman Navarrete said he apologized for not being able to provide the Blue Brigade winners announced at National Convention. This is something that should never happen, and he will do everything in his power to ensure that we are able to recognize these members on stage in Louisville. With that said with the change in the deadline it makes it very difficult to validate the submitted awards, so we will be working closely with National to help in any way we can. We had a candidate come to National Convention with his family expecting to be recognized but was not.

Ned Fox On the Blue Brigade award and the way the system is setup. The person is submitting the 30 plus members names to the membership person in that region who then submits that to National and then trickles back. You would seem the process to be a little more to be efficient that your membership of each region would give straight to National to be verified or give to the regional membership that they have the tools to verify the new members.

Chairman Navarrete said there is a lot of work going on behind the seen. Your membership committee to get access to view membership at detachment level so we can verify this as well. Now that national is changing the system getting us to an online version they are waiting for that process to complete. Then they will be able to get us added in. Once complete the national leadership will have access to look at that information. You will hear from Mr. George, we have had Ohio testing validation online. He believes they are opening it up to six other detachments.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. Membership is job one. We have a great opportunity right now with the passing of the Legion Act. The report last week from the American Legion they have about 2800 new veterans signed up. It gives us attention to get sons, grandsons, auxiliary members. Better membership for all of us. They estimate that there are 4,000,000 more members to recruit. From 2800 to 4,000,000 is a lot to recruit. The American Legion is asking us to help them recruit and it should also help the sons and the auxiliary. They hope to stop their slide. Commander Reistad started the Buddy Check again and Commander Oxford wants to continue this year. Commander Bolt has talked to the Chairman and would like to start that in the SAL too Commander Oxford asks for our help too, because we do a good job at recruiting. This past August he attended the National Membership Workshop with Chairman Navarrete there was 200 to 300 people at the event. They did all that they could to express how valuable the SONS are to a post and department. American Legion needs our help. This year Commander Bill has developed a membership pin. He has opened it up to anyone who recruits 3 new legionnaires he will send them his pin. Every legionnaire we get has the potential to help us too.
Jeffery Gibson (AL) Mark Cannito is in the hospital, we loss Past Commander Wayne Stacey (AL) Please keep their families in prayer.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete (NM) adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Thank you, Joseph.
Under old business, our commission discussed the conclusion of action regarding the consolidated squadron report. As many of you in the room know, that we have been working on this project for over two years. It has been completed. Mission accomplished.

Over this past couple of weeks, there was some tweaking that was done in regards to the final outlay of how the report is going to look going forward. I would like to also thank two individuals behind the scenes for all of their work on that, one being our national SAL liaison, Ken George, for all of his work and his dedication to it. Also to Scott Thornton, our national assistant adjutant, for all of Scott's time and effort that he put into formatting the report.

The Resolution 5 from Spring 2018 has been rescinded and has been replaced with Resolution 3, Fall 2019. Also pre-convention 2018 Resolution 1, that was the travel reimbursement, was moved to the Subcommittee on Resolutions at the 2019 National Convention here in Indianapolis.

New business. Discuss the updating of our portion of the strategic plan. This will be an ongoing project going forward, with periodic updates as they are needed.
We were the only commission this weekend to have resolutions. There were no other resolutions that were brought before the NEC this past weekend. We had, as I said, seven of them.

The first resolution that we had was SAL Resolution 1 - Fall 2019, "Endorsement of Michael C. Fox of California for National Commander." That motion was received and filed.

The second resolution, SAL Resolution 2 - Fall 2019, resubmission of SAL Resolution 3 - Spring 2019, the "NEC Approval of National Commander's Appointments at Post-National Convention." There was a motion to approve. There was discussion. Motion was carried on voice vote.

SAL Resolution 3 - Fall 2019, the "Consolidated Squadron Report Form Revision for Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation sections - Amendment to SAL Resolution 5 - Spring 2018." Motion to approve the resolution, discussion, and notion carried on voice vote.

SAL Resolution 4 - Fall 2019, "National Officer, NEC Representative, and Chairman Certification of Membership Eligibility." There was a motion to approve. There was discussion on the floor for clarification of actual intent of the resolution, and the motion carried on voice vote.

SAL Resolution 5 - Fall 2019, "Revision to Article IV of Eligibility." Motion to approve resolution, it was seconded. Explanation was given by the national judge advocate. Motion carried on voice vote.

SAL Resolution 6, "Revision to Article X, Section 2" under finance. Motion to approve resolution. Explanation again from the national judge advocate. Motion carried on voice vote.

SAL Resolution 7, "Endorsement of Jason Roberts of Georgia for National Vice Commander," received and filed.
We also, as I said, had our national judge advocate, Joseph Paviglianti, who addressed the commission on the ongoing work regarding our Constitution and Bylaws.

We had visitations from leading candidate Michael Fox from California and his team for next year who stopped by to address the commission. We also had a visitation from second leading candidate Chris Carlton from Indiana.

With no further business, the meeting was concluded in proper form, and this concludes the Internal Affairs report minus resolution.

(Applause)

...Commission Chairman Tansel submitted the report of the Internal Affairs Commission.

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Internal Affairs Commission

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:43 am on October 12, 2019 in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Mark A. Tansel (IN).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Mark Tansel (IN)
Vice Chairman: Larry "Bear" Weinzirl (MD)
Secretary: Lyle G Larson (KS)
Liaison: Past National Assistant Adjutant Rick Cook (OK)

Members:
Past National Assistant Adjutant

Past National Commander

Guests: SAL National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti (NY), David Page (NJ), Joe Schultis (IN), Jeff Vrabel Sr. (OH), Brandon K Curry (KY), John M Wright (CT), Ron Roberts (MS), John Jennings (FL), Raymond J Samko (MA), Mike Boughner (MI), Greg Spaulding (IN).

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, Chairman Tansel declared the minutes of the Spring, 2019 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Committee(s):
Convention Committee – Chairman Brandon Curry (KY) gave his report.

Member Training & Development Committee – Chairman Joe Schultis (IN) gave his report.

Membership Committee – Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) gave his report.

National SAL Liaison Ken George (FR) gave a short report tied to Membership, on how the new online renewal will work for Squadron Adjutants. He answered questions from the floor.

Reports of Members:
None given

Old Business:
The Commission will continue to follow up on the implementation of S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring 2018 (Consolidated Squadron Report Form Revision). Suggestion was made that the line for Josh Dogs may need to be removed from the Consolidated Squadron Report Form, due to the discontinuing of that program. This has been modified and is now Resolution 3 – Fall, 2019 which includes a resending of Resolution 5 – Spring 2018. This completes the action to be taken by this Commission.
S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Pre-Convention, 2018 (National Convention Travel Reimbursement for N.E.C.)
This was moved to the Sub Committee on Resolution.

New Business:
Chairman Tansel (IN) discussed receiving information about the update for the “Strategic Plan”. This will include expanding and updating the CSR information as we move forward. This will be an ongoing project for this Commission.

Resolutions:
S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2019
Title: Endorsement of Michael C. Fox (CA) for National Commander
Discussion: None.
Action: Received and Filed

Title: NEC Approval of National Commander's Appointments at Post-National Convention Meeting
Action: Motion to approve the resolution made by Jay Cook (OK) Seconded by Steve Gower, Sr. (VA)
Discussion: From the floor.
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2019
Title: Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Form Revision – Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Sections – Amendment to SAL Resolution 5 – Spring 2018
Action: Motion to approve the Resolution made by Larry “Bear” Weinzirl (MD) Seconded by Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL)
Discussion: From the floor.
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2019
Title: National Officer, NEC Representative and Chairman Certification of Membership Eligibility
Action: Motion to approve the Resolution made by Jay Cook (OK) Seconded by Steve Gower, Sr. (IL)
Discussion: From the floor with clarification on actual intent of this Resolution from the SAL National Judge Advocate.
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2019
Title: Revision to Article IV (Eligibility)
Action: Motion to approve the Resolution made by Larry "Bear" Weinzirl (MD) Seconded by Jay Cook (OK)
Discussion: Explanation from SAL National Judge Advocate
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2019
Title: Revision to Article X, Section 2 (Finances)
Action: Motion to approve the Resolution made by Steve Gower, Sr. (VA) Seconded by Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL)
Discussion: Explanation from SAL National Judge Advocate
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Fall, 2019
Endorsement of Michael C. Fox (CA) for National Commander

Discussion: None

Disposition: Received and Filed

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
SAL National Judge Advocate explained to the Commission there will be ongoing work with the Constitution and By Laws.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. He introduced himself and his "Fox Squad". He spoke about how we can carry on the torch and keep looking for the next generation of leadership.

Second Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I call J.J., chairman of the Resolutions Subcommittee, forward.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Good morning.

...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”

(Laughter)

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: A little practicing.

I will entertain a motion to approve the Internal Affairs report minus the resolutions.

NECMAN HOWARD FRUHWIRTH, JR. (AK): Howard Fruhwirth, NEC, Alaska. I make a motion to accept the report as written.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do we have a second?


NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any discussion?

Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, nay.

Motion carried.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, sir.

Let's start over. Good morning.

...The National Executive Council responded, "Good morning!"

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Let's see if we can make this short and sweet.

In your packet you'll have a copy of the resolutions that were introduced in the Internal Affairs Commission.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings presented the following resolution:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall 2019
Title: Endorsement of Michael C. Fox (CA) for National Commander
Origin: Detachment of California

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

WHEREAS, Michael C. Fox has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of California as an elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of The American Legion Family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 12-13, 2019, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of California hereby endorses Michael C. Fox for the high office of National Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of California and the Department of California with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant, Ned Fox, and the Department Adjutant, Bill Siler, III, are on the submitted resolution.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: This was reviewed, accepted, received, and filed.

Moving on to Resolution Number 2 --

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I will suspend John's report right now for introduction of some special guests.

Will the sergeant-at-arms please escort to the front national president of The American Legion Auxiliary, Nicole Clapp.

(Standing ovation)

Please sit down.

American Legion Auxiliary president, Nicole Clapp, is eligible for membership in The American Legion Auxiliary through the military service of her grandfather, Roger Schroeder, a U.S. Navy seaman in the Central Pacific during World War II. She is a 44-year Paid-Up-For-Life member of the Ehrig-McTurk Unit 127 in Gladbrook, Iowa. She has been a dedicated member serving our nation's veterans, military, and their families in their various roles since she was four years old.

Nicole has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, department, and national levels. She served in 1987 to 1988 The American Legion Auxiliary honorary National Junior Auxiliary president and chaired many committees and served on many special appointments. She served as the National Rehabilitation chairman, the Future Focus Committee member, The American Legion Auxiliary Centennial Strategic Plan Committee member.

Nicole was a member of The American Legion Auxiliary Iowa Girls State board and has a staff of over 18 years' experience. She is also serving as a member of the department and the national 100th Anniversary Committees, in addition to the 75th Anniversary of The American Legion Auxiliary Iowa Girls State Committee.

Gentlemen, this is our centennial president for The American Legion Auxiliary, a hundred years of service.
So President Nicole, the guys have something that we want to do special for you.  
(Gavel)  
One, two, three.  
...The National Executive Committee shouted, "Happy birthday, American Legion Auxiliary!"  
(Applause)  
Greetings  
Nicole Clapp  
National President, American Legion Auxiliary  

Good morning.  
...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”  
AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT CLAPP: What a lovely crowd this morning. I will have to tell you, though, I'm never warm, and it's a little warm in here.  
(Laughter)  
Yeah, okay. It helped the brisk walk over from the Hilton.  
But good morning. First of all, I want to say thank you to Commander Clint, Commission Chairmen Harl Ray, Seth Rippe, Joseph Navarrete, and Past National Commanders Danny Smith, my own Mike Deacon, for coming to my homecoming last week in Iowa. It was a pleasure to have the gold caps present. So thank you, gentlemen, for coming. I hope you all had a wonderful time.  

For us, when I look back at a hundred years, World War I U.S. Army General John J. Pershing said, "Time will not diminish the glory of their deeds." The poppy fields of World War I are the reason we exist, to be celebrating a century of service a hundred years later.  

So my centennial theme is "Celebrating a Century of Service," which blends the past and the future of our organizations in such a fashion that, hopefully, people will want to gravitate towards our mission.  

So if you can envision a poppy field at night, giving way to a field of fireworks, that is what my pin and our theme encompasses. So if I haven't seen you to give you a national president pin, please come when I have a chance through the week. So please ask, because I would be more than proud to have you wear it on your caps.  

Our project focus area this year stems back to a hundred years ago. Our first national president, Edith Hobart from Ohio, helped lay the groundwork for the VA health system. With my background of being a burn care nurse and a hospital CEO, healthcare was a national affinity for me of where I wanted to focus my energies. But not only on the health but the well-being of our veterans, military, and their families.  

So we have a two-prong approach. Realizing that a hundred years ago we entrusted our lives into their hands, and still today, it is our responsibility. Because what is more important than entrusting their lives and well-being now in our hands? We have a duty and a responsibility or we wouldn't be sitting here on a Sunday morning.  

So realizing that 70 percent more veterans are coming back needing prosthetics, sensory aids, and other adaptive equipment. Those of you that have been following me on Facebook, you've seen me try to walk with a prosthetic leg and ride an adaptive bicycle, and it wasn't easy. It will be memories I'll cherish, but something that I pray to God that I don't have to do on a daily basis.
So nationally, we're working with two organizations. We're working with All in Sport Consulting out of Denver. They are a company that is helping us look at engagement opportunities for our members, and those members could be you as well as The American Legion family, to go out and assist in a different type of environment.

We know not everyone likes to come to a meeting, so we're looking at opportunities that they could go help at an activity, such as we just finished the first golf tournament with the VA Medical Center. We're having creative arts festival in just a couple of weeks. There's five other sporting activities.

So those are angles that our members can help at, and then see you in three months at another opportunity. Different states are setting those up across the country.

Our second group that we're working with is Sarah Verardo. I don't know if you know about Sarah and Mike. Mike was a staff sergeant in the United States Army. After 119 surgeries of having a leg completely lost and an arm completely rebuilt, she didn't know what to do when their daughter went to school and was being made fun of because of how her daddy looked.

She didn't know about The American Legion family, so she took it upon herself to reach out to other military spouses. They didn't know what to do either, coming back from Afghanistan. So she wrote her own children's book. I think this is something, because I know your focus is on children, is something you may want to take a look alternate NEC. It's called, "Hero at Home." It's how their family has adapted.

Mike has the same heart and same mind, he just doesn't look the same. But now he is his daughter's hero because she didn't know him to be different; she just knew that was her daddy.

So I think if you look at all the hard work you do with Child Welfare Foundation, your generous hard work and dedication and support. I'm looking forward this evening to having an opportunity to see all your hard-work efforts at the Child Welfare Foundation meeting and dinner.

But more importantly for us, it's what do we need to do together? There are 4,600 posts in America that do not have an associated auxiliary. I challenge you, and maybe you know your number of how many that don't have a squadron. That is a membership opportunity. If there isn't one presented to us besides for the LEGION Act, I don't know what there is.

So as we look at where membership is going, it is our responsibility. We know that, we know that from day one. But more importantly for us, as we are celebrating our century, and you are my first collective happy birthday, so thank you very much for that.

(Applause)

So as we look to our birthday, I keep telling the Legion that we're a little bit younger. You know, we look pretty good for a hundred years old, I think.

(Laughter)

Realizing that our birthday is fast upon us, November 10th, right before Veterans Day, so if you start to watch some activities that are happening. I've seen great things coming out of your departments, of activities, of celebration. And for us, this whole year is about celebration. All that hard work that was dedicated a hundred years ago and where we need to go today.

So you'll see a new video relaunch for us about a decade of making a difference. You'll see that we're having lots of birthday parties in person, virtual, as well as on social media. In a couple of weeks I'll be hosting a birthday party in Baltimore for our mission training, our regional educational opportunity, as well as we're having five other ones across the country.
And so for me, not everyone has the opportunity to have a national president come to their department, and not everyone obviously can afford to go to national convention, and so we're taking the birthday to them.

So as an opportunity, we hope to see you. I hope to see you along the way. Obviously, our big finale will be in Louisville. Ironically, for myself, being the first national president to have also been the national Junior president, 32 years ago my convention was in Louisville, Kentucky. Life comes full circle.

(Applause)

So as a now 45-year member, because of course my dues are paid for 2020, member, I pledge our dedication and support of the 600,000 strong Auxiliary members to our mission, to Commander Clint's theme. As I laugh and I appreciate that of "Serving Those Who Served ... Full Steam Ahead." When I think back to my grandpa, who passed way when I was 10, I don't know his stories of serving in the Navy in World War II. I have to learn about those from others and I have to learn about those from history. But for us, celebrating a century of service is all about celebrating.

So once you finish your meetings today, I hope we can all together celebrate together.
Thank you, gentlemen.

(Standing ovation)

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: At this time we have another guest present with us. Will the sergeant-at-arms please escort Dennis Boland to the podium.

...Several NECmen said, "Who?"

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Who?
(Standing ovation)

Greetings

Dennis R. Boland
American Legion National Child Welfare Foundation President, Florida

Well, as we say in southwest Florida, how y'all are?

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Good."

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT BOLAND: Doesn't sound like you're very good. Raise the bar.

How y'all are?

...The National Executive Committee shouted, "Good!"

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT BOLAND: Now you're the people.
I'm slow at my age, so bear with me. I just don't like John Jennings.
(Applause)

Every time I come before y'all, I lay at night thinking, what can I say to enthuse you? It's not what I can say to enthuse you, because you are part of the greatest organization, and if not, the best part of our organization.

Years ago I came before you. I served with the 101st Airborne Division and we had a motto, "A rendezvous with destiny." What is our destiny? I don't think we have reached it yet. As Clint said yesterday at the national commander's homecoming, "Building a foundation for the future." What does that exactly mean?

I look out amongst you and I see a lot of friends. I see Cliff.

(Laughter)

Who has a Cliffy on him. I see Blair, and I hate to say it, but John Jennings.
Bill Kelly; my detachment commander, Tom Klinger. Where did you think you would be 20 years ago?

Madam President spoke about when she was Junior president in Louisville. That was my first convention. I have almost 40 years in The American Legion, two years less in the Sons of The American Legion. And believe it or not, I am an Auxiliary member now from Oregon Unit 1.

You look at our numbers, when we talk about the Child Welfare Foundation, without The Sons of The American Legion, I don't believe we would be where we're at. We have 183 grant applications this year. And as always, we process it and, according to our bylaws and constitution, we eliminate some. So we're down to 50 primary and 50 secondary.

The Sons of The American Legion receives the same booklet that I receive and the board of directors receive, and they go over it, your committee. They've come up with 14 recommendations that they would like to see the board of directors approve. I can't determine what those are going to be approved because that's up to the board. But predominantly, mostly, 70 to 75 percent of your recommendations are approved by the board of directors. That shows you that we are in tune with each other.

We know what goes on in the life of children. Your commitment that you never, ever thought you would make 30 years ago when you were just venturing into life and looking forward to your family and what you had, but you decided somehow, some way, that this is another venture I need to take.

As you, many years ago in 1984, I never, ever joined anything prior to that. I was fortunate. I went to a children's hospital, Children's Miracle hospital, which is one of your big programs, and I was able to see a child in the neonatal that you could fit in your hand. And we gave that child an opportunity to live. That is such an awesome experience. It's hard to explain until you see it. But in your eyes, all the programs that you have done, in your eyes, you can tell the same story that I have.

I am amazed by our dedication. I'm fortunate I belong to a good squadron in Lehigh Acres Squadron 323. I'm their judge advocate, I'm the 13th District judge advocate. But our commitment, like your commitment, sometimes evolves better than the Legion.

I know it seems like I'm dragging this on, but if you visualize all the things that we have done because of you. You know, retinitis pigmentosa, that's where a person goes blind because of tunnel vision. Because of the money you donated, the grant that was given to them, found out that vitamin C retards that tunnel vision.

The birth defects of Orlando was for Vietnam veterans to find out the effects of Agent Orange. Because of you and the money you donated, they found out that, yes, the children of Vietnam veterans that were afflicted with Agent Orange have a problem. And now we're moving into the grandchildren. You did that. You made it happen through the contributions that you do.

You know, we're so fortunate. This year we've got $1,062,000, tonight when the board of directors meet, that we can possibly give out. Doesn't mean we have to give it out. We can be less than that or more than that. But without your dedication for the Child Welfare Foundation, we would be nothing.

I'm sorry to say that the Auxiliary and the Legion, many years ago used to be up 150- to almost 200,000, and it's not there anymore. But you're there. You are what makes the Child
Welfare Foundation, and I can never give you the accolades for that. All I can tell you is I love you like my family because you are my family, and thank you so much for what you do. May God bless you.

(Standing ovation)

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I’ll call John Jennings to come up and complete his report.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Good morning again.

...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: All right, let's move along. That was a great couple of guests we had.

Resolution Number 2 that's in your packet, NEC Approval of National Commander's Appointments at Post-National Convention Meeting, origin Detachment of Mississippi. The I'll read the resolution in its entirety.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings read the following resolution:

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<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>NEC Approval of National Commander’s Appointments at Post-National Convention meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Origin:</td>
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WHEREAS, The National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Article VII, Section 1, states, “The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion shall meet at least twice a year. It shall meet immediately preceding the National Convention to establish the agenda for the National Convention, and immediately following the National Convention to approve the National Commander’s appointments;” and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion have no knowledge of the individuals to be appointed to these positions, their experience, or tenure in the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It is the duty and obligation of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion to provide the National Commander those individuals that will best assist in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the positions they are to be appointed to; 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 October 12-13, 2019, That information on each individual appointment, including, but not limited to, name, tenure in the Sons of The American Legion, offices held at all levels in the Sons of The American Legion, and previous committee-commission positions held. This information to be provided in a written form to the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion by the Leading Candidate through the Committee on Committees at a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the National Convention. This information being necessary for the National Executive Committee to make an informed decision ensuring the best individuals who can contribute the most to the goal of the Committee or Commission receive the appointments; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That this action takes effect immediately.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: This was reviewed by the Resolution Committee in our meeting yesterday, and recommendation was to approve this resolution as presented.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do we have a motion to approve this resolution?
NECMAN MICHAEL PIPHER (IN): Mr. Commander, Mike Pipher, NEC, Indiana. I make a motion to approve this resolution.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Mike Pipher, Indiana. Second?
NECMAN BRANDON CURRY (KY): Mr. Commander, Brandon Curry, NEC, Kentucky, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any discussion?
NECMAN PIPHER: Yes, Mr. Commander. Mike Pipher, NEC, Detachment of Indiana. A question, I think for Commission Chairman Tansel, perhaps, on this, or maybe this is for the judge advocate. Does email constitute "in writing"?
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: No.
NECMAN PIPHER: Okay. I think we ought to consider the possibility of using electronic communication, whether it be email or a password-protected web page or something like that. This puts a lot of unneeded, unnecessary work on the shoulders of the staff in Indianapolis.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any other discussion?
PNC BRIAN O'HEARNE (MA): Mr. Commander, Brian O'Hearne, past national commander.
I rise in opposition to this resolution based on two factors. First, it is the NEC that recommends the people to the commissions. This is showing a lack of confidence that they can select the right people. Also, when they make their selections, they go to the Committee on Committees. It's showing that they're not doing their due diligence in reviewing these appointments.
So I would recommend that the NEC reject the motion.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Past National Commander Joe Mayne?
PNC JOSEPH MAYNE (MN): Thank you. PNC Joe Mayne from Minnesota.
This is just a logistical question for Committee on Committees. Is Ray in the room? Ray, is this something the Committee on Committees can handle and process? Is there something in place for the Committee on Committees to handle this or is there an assistant adjutant that's going to handle it? Just a question, thanks.
PNC RAYMOND GIEHLL, JR.: Commander, PNC Raymond Giehll, chairman of the Committee on Committees.
Commander, my only comment I can make on this is this: The Committee on Committees is a function of the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion, and without talking to them, I cannot and will not comment on this resolution at this time. I apologize for that, sir.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any other discussion?
NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: Yes, Commander. Ned Fox, national vice commander of the West.
I would think the National Executive Committee over many years has done an excellent job with the selection process to whatever goes according to the Constitution and Bylaws. My recommendation is to leave it like it is. We don't need another layer of bureaucracy to continue on where we're at. Thank you.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Commander, Bob Brown, NEC from Detachment of Georgia.

As probably the most senior NEC in this room, I know a lot of people that have been submitted. I approve the ones that I submit from our detachment, but other detachments I'm not as privy to the qualifications of some of the newer members.

I think it would enhance the NEC's ability to make good decisions and evaluate these candidates. It won't change much. Mailing out 56 letters is not a big deal, I wouldn't think, when we consider the overall organization as a whole and what we do and what we stand for.

I think it would be good that we continue to approve this resolution and move forward and see how it works for us, because some of these people I know very well, I know their qualifications, whether that's Committee on Committees.

But some of them are new to me. I'm not as privy with people in Washington or Oregon, maybe out in the Midwest somewhere. I know the guys in the South. But some of us are even, this is their first turn, they've been NEC for six months, a year. Now they've got to make approvals of appointments. I would think it would behoove them to have more information to make decisions on.

Commander, that's my comment. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any other discussion?
Ken George, national liaison.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Ken George, national SAL liaison.

One of the things I think everybody in the room needs to understand, too, that the final, final approval is actually the NEC of American Legion which goes through Internal Affairs, through the subcommittee, through Internal Affairs itself, and then the NEC. So now we're talking about a timing issue going back and forth. A lot of times we already start to ratify this in the spring meeting.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any other discussion?
NEC REV. THOMAS GLANDER (AL): Tom Glander, NEC, Alabama.

One of the issues you hear, when you send out these letters prior to convention, some of the NECmen that are going to be voting are not NECmen until at the end of the convention, so they're not going to have the information anyway.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any other discussion?
Any other discussion?
Okay. Hearing none, all those in favor of passing this resolution say aye.
Opposed, nay.
Nays have it. The motion is rejected.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings presented the following resolution:

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<th>No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Consolidates Squadron Report (CSR) Form Revision – Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Sections – Amendment to SAL Resolution 5 – Spring 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origin:</td>
<td>Internal Affairs Commission</td>
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</table>
WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion adopted guidelines/rules by Resolution No. 5 during the Spring, 2018 N.E.C. meeting regarding the selection process of annual National award recipients; and

WHEREAS, The guidelines/rules only take into account hours of service and costs associated with the various programs; and

WHEREAS, The current Sons of The American Legion Consolidated Squadron Report Form Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation sections contain information blocks that do not relate to the new section criteria guidelines, making this information unnecessary and redundant; 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 October 12-13, 2019, That the Sons of The American Legion amend S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring, 2018 and add a Veterans Employment and Education section to the Consolidated Squadron Report, and also include a copy of said Consolidated Squadron Report form to said resolution; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all associated Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation information and Veterans Employment and Education information contained on the Sons of The American Legion Consolidated Squadron Report Form be amended to reflect all adopted changes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That changes be expedited so as to be included in the 2019-2020 year Consolidated Squadron Report Form; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, Therefore, Resolution No. 5 passed at the Spring, 2018 N.E.C. meeting is rescinded.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: It was reviewed at the Subcommittee on Resolutions and recommended for approval.
As NEC from the Detachment of Florida, I move for acceptance of this resolution.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do I have a second to that motion?
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We have a second. Is there any discussion?
Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye.
Opposed, nay.
Motion carries.
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Okay. Gentlemen, SAL Resolution 4 - Fall 2019. National Officer, NEC Representative, and Chairman Certification of Membership Eligibility. Origin, Internal Affairs Commission. I'm going to read it in its entirety. Please read along with it and look at it as we go through it.
...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings read the following resolution:
WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans with specific requirements and guidelines for membership eligibility; and

WHEREAS, The process of Certification of Membership Eligibility has long been an established practice of The American Legion, established initially through resolution 591 of the 1931 National Convention and updated by NEC resolution 5 in May 2018; and

WHEREAS, The need for a similar process for the Sons of The American Legion, to ensure and establish validation of membership eligibility, is critical and necessary for the integrity of the organization, and will align it with a standing practice of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 12-13, 2019, That it is required that before the induction into office, every National Officer, National Executive Committeeman, Alternate National Executive Committeeman, and National Chairman of the Sons of The American Legion provide satisfactory evidence of eligibility for membership in the Sons of The American Legion as follows:

a) Eligibility for Sons of The American Legion membership of National Officers, National Executive Committeemen, Alternate National Executive Committeemen, Commission and Committee Chairmen, after initial review by the National Judge Advocate, will be certified by the National Adjutant and reported to the Post-Convention NEC Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion; and

b) Eligibility for Sons of The American Legion membership of Detachment Officers will be certified by the Detachment Adjutant, with notification to the respective Department Adjutant and National Adjutant of the Sons of The American Legion within 30 days of election, but no later than September 30 of each year, using the Detachment Officer report document provided by National Headquarters; and

c) Acceptable eligibility verification will include copies of descendant’s Veteran’s current American Legion membership card, DD-214 or to include other acceptable forms (if deceased) and must comply with the period of times established for American Legion membership; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any member with aspirations of future national leadership in the Sons of The American Legion may, at any time, submit one’s proof of eligibility for Sons of The American Legion membership to the office of the National Judge Advocate; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all submissions be electronically transmitted to the National Judge Advocate, with copy to the National S.A.L. Liaison, and that the aforementioned
requirements take effect with the 2020-2021 administrative year and occurs annually thereafter.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: This resolution was reviewed, with quite a bit of discussion, through Subcommittee on Resolutions. And as the executive committee members from the Detachment of Florida, I move for acceptance of this resolution.

NECMAN DENNIS HENKEMEYER (MN): Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, NEC, Minnesota.

I second the motion to approve Resolution Number 4.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

Is there any discussion? Mike Pipher.

NECMAN MICHAEL PIPHER (IN): Yes, sir, Mr. Commander. Mike Pipher, NEC, Indiana.

I have some issues with the wording in the resolution clause that includes paragraph C that I think are going to cause problems for us if we don't make some alterations here.

The DD 214 is a nice form. It's the only one that's listed here that's a military-issued form of proof of eligibility, but it didn't go into effect until 1950. So there is no wording in here that would accept anyone's eligibility prior to 1950 if we don't change that.

The other issue I have is, the fire in St. Louis in the '70s that destroyed so many records. I have a personal knowledge of a past detachment commander of The Sons whose father was a veteran, whose father was an American Legion member, deceased so long ago that no membership card exists and no records could be found within the DoD.

It took a couple of Legion post members; the commander and the adjutant of his post went down into the basement, dug out some old green bars, found the gentleman's name in the green bars, and wrote a notarized letter to our department, which was accepted as proof of his eligibility in the Sons.

I don't see anything in this document that would allow that individual to move forward if he ever chose to be a national officer, hold any kind of national office.

So if it's possible to amend this, I'd be willing to offer some wording that may or may not be acceptable.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: I'll have the chairman of Internal Affairs address that question.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: So I guess my part of this is, that we talked about this as being, you know, what The American Legion is wanting; correct? I mean, we're steadfast on this.

But we also talked about grave markers and other forms of proof that can be out there. I personally know of a member of my squadron that we used a grave marker on.

NECMAN PIPHER: So would an amendment to this be possible at this point, Mr. National Judge Advocate?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Yes, I believe so.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Thank you. So we had extraordinarily robust conversation at his commission meeting. The quick-and-short and down-and-dirty answer is no.

The further explanation, I guess expansion on that conversation, is that we will work diligently with all required members with their submission of certification of their membership
eligibility. We clearly understand that there are circumstances out there, the fire you referenced is one, that we may have to have an augmented acceptance, and that will be worked with.

We want to achieve the intention of the resolution, and that is to verify and certify that those individuals that are national officers, those individuals are a member of the National Executive Committee, those individuals that are committee and commission chairmen, are indeed eligible for membership in our organization.

If we have to augment beyond the two elements listed, we will, and we'll be very active in that process. I think the exceptions of that augmentation will be very rare, but they do exist and we recognize they exist.

However, we, as leaders in this organization, also have to recognize and appreciate the fact that we do not currently certify ourselves, and that should concern each and every one of us. This is taking action that has long been the practice of The American Legion, which they reinforced last May. We have never had a practice that does this, and it is long overdue.

So I would ask us to address and adopt the process as it was established, because it is simply the right thing to do. I can assure you that we will take in consideration all other circumstances that come to us. But the majority, the large, large majority of those individuals that represent ourselves at leadership in the national level will be able to be fulfilled by those two elements that exist.

Secondly, the other action that is in that resolution is the requirement of our detachments to certify their officers. We've had a standing practice of the availability of the process, but we've never had any action that was defined with a "what if you do not."

As recent as three weeks ago, we had more than a half-dozen detachments that had not certified their officers. We don't have a standing practice that the detachments certify their officers to their departments. Some departments are more structured and have it; many are not.

We also, as a program of the organization, are required to certify our detachment officers, detachment representatives, to that of The American Legion. This places that action into a resolution that becomes, then, a standard practice.

So those are the two elements that we're addressing here. And I can assure you again, back to the NECman from Indiana's concern, which is a valid concern, I can assure you they will be the exceptions rather than the rule, and work through diligently the exceptions to overcome any objections.

PNC CHARLES GANNON (MD): Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir, Chuck Gannon.

PNC GANNON: Chuck Gannon, past national commander.

I'm in favor of the motion or the intent of the motion. Be it beyond me or anybody else to challenge the words of the elegant judge advocate.

But if you look at The American Legion manual, they accept many more proofs of eligibility than the DD 214. Now, I know it doesn't need to be put in this resolution, but that needs to be kept in mind. There are a lot other forms of eligibility beyond -- proof of eligibility beyond the DD 214. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any other discussion? Yes, sir.

NECMAN RICHARD ELLWEIN (MT): Commander, Dick Ellwein, NEC, Montana, also a veteran, and I've had to deal with this before. And the situation is, there's too much personal information on the 214 that doesn't need to be passed around, all seriousness. One of the key items, if they want to relinquish, you cross out your service number, whether it's your social security number. There's just too much information on the 214 that's real personal to the
individuals in mind, whether you're looking for your father, your grandfather's eligibility and so forth.

But I just wanted to let you know, it's too much to give away. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Ken.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Ken George, national SAL liaison.

To your point, sir, just so everyone knows in this room, DD 214s, after a certain point in time, are public records. I could pull every one of yours in the room, if I really wanted to, through national archives, just so you know that. So how personal is that information if it's public record?

Number two, The American Legion has been doing this since 1933, certifying all their national officers, and they reaffirmed it last year in May. The American Legion also certifies all their officers at every level from the post, the district, the detachment, and national.

So really, it's just about getting in line with The American Legion and what we've been talking about, getting the SAL in line with The American Legion.

There are many forms that can be accepted. Those are listed in the adjutant's manual of The American Legion, also the officers' manual. That can be, with the judge advocate's permission, and I think he'll go with it, we can amend that but there are many other means, because National Guard is also impacted because they're only eligible if they have Title X orders.

The record of the fire that you cited, a lot of times now, almost in every incident, they'll give you a letter of eligibility from the national archives with the seal on it, not a DD 214, and that is acceptable as well. So there's many other means.

But this is a means of getting The American Legion and the SAL in line with each other in their practices. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir.

NECMAN MARTIN LONGEWAY (AR): Arkansas, Martin Longeway, NEC.

I want to concur with George in one respect. I do have an incident personally I know of. I had a father, talking about the '70s fire, St. Louis had to send a certified letter. They had found one piece of document, a shred of evidence, to substantiate some verification. So there are other instances where a verification is required, and it should be.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any other discussion?

J.R.

PNC J.R. STILLWELL (IL): Past National Commander Stillwell.

I'm hoping that we are saying "DD 214" as a generic term. Many, or the greatest portion of individuals, leaving World War II, there was so much document under that number at that time. They have items of separation. If I want to go back and try to prove my father's World War I service, all I got is a written certificate that he served in France.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any other discussion? Ron Roberts.

NECMAN RONALD ROBERTS (MS): Commander, Ron Roberts, NEC, Mississippi.

I'll give you a truthful example concerning myself. I held up -- that's when I was judge advocate for the Legion, of Mississippi. I said, "Commanders, how many of you require a copy of a 214? They all raised their hands. I said, "Let me read this document to you: Served in the African theater, served in the European theater, was awarded two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars." I said, "This document is the telegram that was sent to his wife, notifying her of being wounded in the action of Po Valley, Italy, member of the 110th Mountain Division."
You wouldn't accept this individual because this is a DD 256. That's what he got when he was discharged from the Army, World War II.

This telegram was a notification to my mother. You're telling me you would not allow him into The American Legion and cut off my eligibility to be a member of The Sons? Like Mr. Stillwell said, Past National Commander Stillwell, there are other documentation out there.

We accepted a member into the Legion that didn't have any paperwork, but he had his company picture in South Korea in 1952 and he was on the front row and his name was under the picture. Obviously, he was eligible.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.

PNC MARK ARNESON (GA): PNC Mark Arneson.

Clause C in the first resolve, can it all be remedied by saying "acceptable eligibility or verification will include but not limited to"? Add three words and I think you solve your problem. And that would address everybody's concerns about other forms, to say "but not limited to."

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I'll defer to the judge advocate.

PNC ARNESON: Okay.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: I think that's what I just said. We are going to make exceptions. I think the resolution, as tight as it is, is something that has already been reviewed and agreed to and established internally within The American Legion, and I would suggest strongly that we maintain its wording and understand that we are assembled here. And I'm saying very directly to you that we will accept and review exceptions beyond DD 214.

PNC ARNESON: I understand that, but those three words will solve that problem.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: I understand and respect that, but we do not want to amend this resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir?

PNC KEVIN COLLIER (AK): Past National Commander Kevin Collier.

Just a point of information or a question, I guess. We have several departments and posts out there that, with the wording of this resolution the way it's worded, they will follow it to the T. Where it says, "DD 214," if it's not a DD 214, they won't use it, even though The American Legion uses other sources of eligibility for The American Legion.

In my opinion, we should change it to add "or other qualifications as prescribed by The American Legion in their Constitution and Bylaws."

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Commander, Bob Brown, NEC.

At this time I would make a motion to amend Clause C of the "resolved" clause to include, a replacement of "DD 214 or other acceptable forms of certification," exactly the way the Legion has it written in theirs. It would be a very simple process to make that change. I make that motion that we make that change and it will resolve this issue.


I second that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We have a motion and a second on an amendment to our original motion. So we will vote -- we're going to withdraw the original motion.

NECMAN MAXWELL RICE (GR): Commander, NEC, Department of France.
The motion maker needs to make an amendment to his motion and it's over with. The motion maker that says, "Motion to accept this," says, "I would like to make an amendment to that motion." Is that not correct? That's the way the American Legion does the policy.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Mr. Commander, John Jennings, NEC that made the motion to Resolution 4 would like to amend my resolution -- amend the motion to the resolution.

With the amendment to Section C to read, "Acceptable eligibility verification will include copies of descendant's veteran's current American Legion membership card, DD 214, or to include other acceptable forms of verification, and must comply with the period of time as established for The American Legion membership; and be it further resolved."

That's going to be my amendment to Section C.

With the amendment, John Jennings, NEC from the Detachment of Florida, moves for acceptance of SAL Resolution 4 with the amendment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We have a motion. Do I have a second with the amendment?

NECMAN BRANDON CURRY (KY): Mr. Commander, Brandon Curry, Kentucky NEC, seconds the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any more discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

We'll take a vote. All those in favor, say aye.

Opposed, nay.

Motion carried.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: I got an airplane to catch here in about an hour, guys. Don't blame it on me.

SAL Resolution 5 - Fall 2019. Revision to Article IV (Eligibility). Origin, Internal Affairs Commission. I'm going to break this down and shorten it up a little bit. This is a resolution that regards the LEGION Act. I'm going to read the "resolved" clause only.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings presented the following resolution:

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WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans with specific requirements and guidelines for membership eligibility; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion’s eligibility dates/time frames have recently been augmented by Congress’s passage, and subsequent Presidential signature to sign it into law, of “The LEGION Act;” and

WHEREAS, Eligibility for membership in the Sons of The American Legion is defined by the eligibility requirements of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 12-13, 2019, That
Article IV (Eligibility) of the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws be revised to read:

“All direct male descendants (All generations – from male or female veterans) and adopted sons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service, if the individual – (1) has served in the Armed Forces of (A) the United States at any time during – (i) the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918; or (ii) any time after December 7, 1941; or (B) a government associated with the United States Government during a period of time referred to in subsection (A) of this section and was a citizen of the United States when the individual entered that service; and (2) was honorably discharged or separated from that service or continues to serve honorably during or after that period or time; provided, however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or continued honorably during or after any said period; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject themselves to military discipline or unqualified service, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service during the period set forth previously, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion;” and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this revision be implemented effective immediately, by all levels of the organization and within all documents of the organization, with final approval being enacted by the 2020 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: NECman John Jennings from the Detachment of Florida moves for acceptance of the resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there a second?

ANECMAN MATT PARSONS (CA): Matt Parsons, alternate NEC, California, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any discussion?

ANEC PARSONS: Yes, sir. Again, Matt Parsons, alternate NEC, California. Am I to understand that stepsons are no longer eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Correct.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: They never were.

ANEC PARSONS: Stepsons were never eligible?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Gentlemen, from history that we can find, stepsons were never a part of the original Sons of The American Legion from 1932. It was added somewhere, administratively, wording showed up in literature sometime in the 1980s. It's been carried forward since the 1980s that stepsons were eligible.

But following this, following the interpretation of the national judge advocate of The American Legion and under the tax code, am I correct, under the tax code, that stepsons are not eligible? It has to be a direct lineage of that veteran.
So therefore, adopted, adopted Sons are eligible; stepsons are not eligible.

ANEC PARSONS: So what do we do with the existing stepsons that are members of The Sons of The American Legion today?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: They are still allowed to remain as members, they just will not be allowed to move forward in the organization, to validate their application.

ANEC PARSONS: So the members, then, cannot hold any office within a squadron, detachment, or otherwise?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Joe Paviglianti, national judge advocate. To the court reporter, I apologize for not previously doing that.

We are not going to go and police downward. It's not going to occur. It is, however, incumbent on us to address going forward. And stepsons are not legal lineage of the descendent in which verification of membership is validated against.

I would encourage stepsons to become adopted sons and then they have much more legal rights attached to their existence, so to speak. But that's not a choice we can impart upon all members.

We are not going down below the national level. That's a decision and a determination that the detachments, squadrons, and any subsidiary levels of the organization must make their decision on.

NECMAN LEONARD FREE (NJ): Lenny Free, NEC, Detachment of New Jersey.

For some of us who have stepchildren, it's a daily challenge to make them feel like they're part of the family. How do I tell my birth son that he can be a member and my stepson he can't? It hurts the organization and it hurts the family.

With that, the Great State of New Jersey strongly rejects Resolution 5 that would remove stepsons from The Sons of The American Legion for membership.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Ken.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Ken George, national SAL liaison.

Gentlemen, I understand this hurts. I have stepchildren myself. However, one, you can't just, along the road, administratively add something. Number two, it is in the tax code. And number three, this comes from a legal brief from the national judge advocate, and the Auxiliary had to, unfortunately, go through the same painful act of removing stepdaughters from theirs as well.

So it is what it is, unfortunately. This isn't comfortable to talk about. But we have to establish what was originally there, and then we can fix it from there. But this is the first step of that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir?

NATIONAL HISTORIAN THOMAS MARSDEN (NJ): Tom Marsden, national historian.

As far as this goes, we just passed a resolution on this floor stating that the membership has to be approved. Now you're changing the eligibility that membership is.

There's a lot of stepsons out there that are members, that are detachment officers, that are national officers. Now you're turning around and saying all those people can no longer hold those offices, even though they were given membership, they proved their membership as it was written by the national organization? Now you want to change that that these people can't?

We're trying to include and increase our membership. Now you want to pull that away and say no, they are not eligible? How do you include that not eligible?
You just made -- the Auxiliary just made it that males can join the Auxiliary to try to include and be inclusive. Now The Sons are going to be in-inclusive and separate parts of families that, yes, you can be a member; no, you can't be a member? I think we're stepping on our own toes here and we need to fix this now, not wait until later.

I understand what Mr. George says, it can be fixed at a later point. But why let it go through and then fix it later? Let's fix it now and put it the right way. Because you've got a lot of members, including myself; I have 60 years in this organization and am a stepson. So you're telling me I can no longer hold a national office and no longer apply for any national committee in this organization. Is that what you're telling me?

NECMAN FREE: Commander, if I may. We set a precedent, even if it wasn't in the books, we set a precedent since the '80s, and I believe we should continue that precedence.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: So we've had two commentaries from Detachment of New Jersey. I will remind you that that does max out your commentary on this question.

The unfortunate, difficult, and painful answer to all of this commentary is a "yes." We have to abide by, we have been instructed legally to abide by that which is established as direct lineage of membership eligibility. And that is unfortunate, and I can't minimize the pain that is associated with it, but is a direct action which this organization can take upon its own and guide and correct and adjust accordingly or, gentlemen, it will be imposed upon us.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Past National Commander Ray Giehll?

PNC RAYMOND GIEHLL, JR.: He might have just said something anyway. The judge advocate said in the 1980s, yet I heard Mr. Marsden say he's been a member of The Sons of The American Legion for 60 years.

I do understand the change and I do understand that going forward. We have members in our detachment who are heavily involved who I know are stepsons. These gentlemen all joined under good conscience. It's obviously before the 1980s if he had 60 years.

I also realize this from what Mr. George said. It doesn't matter what we do here today. The American Legion is going to take care of this in this fashion no matter what happens, Mr. Commander.

But again, I am still concerned about these members who joined in good conscience as Sons of The American Legion members and have been so for many years. One of the gentlemen of my detachment I know joined long before the 1980s. This has been in there longer than we think it has. It just doesn't seem fair to those ...

Moving forward, I have no problem, sir. But moving backwards, there should be something that protects those members.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.

Scott?

NECMAN J. SCOTT GARRETT (CO): Scott Garrett, NEC, Colorado. I'm not addressing stepson.

Fifth line from the bottom of the "resolved" clause. "Provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any said periods, refused on conscientious, political, or other grounds to subject themselves to military discipline or unqualified service, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service during the period set forth previously, shall be eligible for membership in The Sons of The American Legion."
That section needs to be clarified. You started off by saying that, "No person shall be entitled to membership," and ended by saying "shall be eligible for membership." I've read this about five times and it makes no sense to me whatsoever. That needs to be clarified.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: National Judge Advocate Joe Paviglianti.

So that address dishonorably discharged individuals, those individuals who do not have an honorable discharge status, is what that addresses. Secondly, this is exactly the wording which is established within The American Legion update as a result of the LEGION Act.

So the intention is there, what is the status of the discharge?

NECMAN GARRETT: But it's confusing as hell.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: I would say it's interpreted differently. It's not confusing.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Ken.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Ken George, SAL national liaison.

I just want to go on record, Commander. On behalf of The American Legion, a representative of The American Legion to this meeting, it is not the intent of The American Legion to change and force it down the throats of the members. We're trying to let you as a body, and you as the commander, resolve your issues first. Okay? And find a way to make this work. And unfortunately, there might be some baby steps to get there.

But I just wanted to go on record, because the comment was made that we're going to make you do what we want anyway, and that is not the intent.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir?

NECMAN KENNETH ROCHHOLZ (IA): Ken Rochholz from the Detachment of Iowa.

I have a problem with this one sentence that says, "A citizen of the United States when the individual entered the service." We have a lot of Mexicans up here that are not citizens of the United States. They go in service, supposedly they're supposed to give them their citizenship when they come out. We have one, and it's been publicized, that he has shipped to Mexico and he can't come back in, and he served two years in the Army. There's a problem with that too.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I've been informed that that is the exact wording of The American Legion eligibility status.

Okay. No more discussion? Oh, go ahead, sir.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: Ned Fox, national vice commander of the West.

So just a question. So I see where this one's going. But what about a male who becomes a female, so we run them out now, or gender neutral, you know, I decline to state what I am.

(Laughter)

You know, I'm just throwing that out for some lively entertainment. Thank you.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. All those in favor of the motion, say aye. Opposed, say nay.

Motion rejected.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Joe Paviglianti, national judge advocate.

Obviously, the action of the NEC was to reject. I will, however, remind you --
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear you.
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: I can't get any closer without making it my wife.
(Laughter)
I would remind you that our eligibility structure, our eligibility requirements, are directed by that of The American Legion. You rejected the exact words, the exact wording, of that which is now part of the LEGION Act that drove the eligibility. We do not have the choice of ignoring that eligibility definition. We are guided by The American Legion's eligibility definition and by their same article, and ours gets passed through.
So please don't believe that you changed what is the prescribed eligibility that we are guided by. This was an adjustment to our Constitution and Bylaws. We still will be guided by that regardless of the rejection of this or not. You should understand that aspect.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings presented the following resolution:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall 2019
Title: Revision to Article X, Section 2 (Finances)
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion, and as such is required to comply and pattern its conduct and operations consistent with those of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 2 of the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws is currently not expressed in the same manner as that of The American Legion’s Article X, Section 2; 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 October 12-13, 2019, That Article X, Section 2 (Finances) of the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws be revised to read:
“The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by each National Convention for the ensuing year;” and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this revision be implemented effective immediately, by all levels of the organization and within all documents of the organization, with final approval being enacted by the 2020 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: As NEC from the Detachment of Florida, I move for acceptance of this resolution.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there a second?
NECMAN HOWARD FRUHWIRTH, JR. (AK): Howard Fruhwirth, NEC, Alaska, seconds.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any discussion?
Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
Opposed, nay.
Motion carries.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings presented the following resolution:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Fall 2019
Title: Endorsement of Jason Roberts (GA) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Detachment of Georgia

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

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

WHEREAS, Jason Roberts has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Georgia as an elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of The American Legion Family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 12-13, 2019, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Georgia hereby endorses Jason Roberts for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Georgia and the Department of Georgia with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant, Ronnie Grist, and the Department Adjutant, Zeste Debro, are on the submitted resolution.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: As NEC from the Detachment of Florida, I move -- excuse me, that was received and filed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, gentlemen. I appreciate it.

(Applause)

All right, the Legislative Commission chairman, Tom Deal, his report.

Oral Report of Legislative Commission
Thomas Deal, Chairman, Maryland

Good morning.

...The National Executive Council responded, "Good morning!"

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DEAL: It is still morning. We're going to try to speed this up and get you guys out of here.

Could I have a representative from Vermont please come forward. We have a little unfinished business. Anybody from Vermont here? Okay. Come forward.

At the national convention, we did award Lucas Herring from Squadron 10 of Vermont the George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans Advocate of the Year. At this time we will present --
Lucas is not able to be with us, but at this time we will present the Detachment of Vermont with his cap.

(Applause)
The legislative meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on October 12 at the Sheraton Hotel. There was five commission members present and eight guests.

I would like to introduce my commission members that are here, please stand. Vice chairman Mike Monserud; Bill Kelly, Florida; David Lee from New York; Bernie Kessler from Ohio; and Richard Humphrey from Colorado.

Gentlemen, this commission works very well. One person can't do it. It is a group, it is a team, and we work together. And we want to thank you all for the support.

We had commission member comments. Under old business we talked about the new George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans Advocate of the Year nomination process. It's online, it's a fillable PDF. You can go online and fill it out. Additional information can be sent by email as well. So we will accept email this year.

The legislative alerts system, we passed that information on the legislative alerts system. Go on the American Legion site and sign up. If you haven't, I talked about it before, I'm not going to cover it a lot. We have handouts that covered and showed a lot of slides. If you want those, email me and I will get them to you.

The only correction I have in the minutes, under the bus at the Washington conference, on March 8th to the 11th, it says the tour starts -- the bus schedule starts at 1:15. That is incorrect. The bus schedule, we leave at 8:00. You need to be there at 7:30 in the morning, that morning, on March 8th.

We had National Commander came in and gave us guiding words. We did talk about the conference calls, monthly conference calls -- or bimonthly calls are the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Eastern time. Call numbers are listed. And we did have Leading Candidate Michael Fox and the vice commanders come in and talk to us also.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Mr. Commander, that's my report.

...Commission Chairman Deal submitted the report of the Legislative Commission.
There being no objections, Chairman Deal declared the minutes of the Spring, 2019 meeting approved as published.

**Reports of Members:**

Vice Chairman Mike Monserud (IA) He is new to the commission and had asked to be put on it. He was iraq veteran. He has a feeling for the Suicide Prevention. When he came back, he was in a very bad place. He lost a lot of friends over there and many of the issues is close to his heart. He knows what the veteran needs and will fight for the veteran.

David Lee (NY) When you see a resolution you like talk to your representative. Thank you for getting this wreath laying time. He has a list of some of the detachments that do not have representatives. He needs to get chairmen for CT, DE and DC for the legislative committee. We are here to do our job the best we can.

Bill Kelley (FL) It was very impressive that the congress passed the new GI Bills and the President signed it on stage at our National Convention. We want to make sure that these acts are being accredited to the veteran too. It is our job to make sure the acts are followed. Sometimes after they are passed, they are put in a corner and not followed. (.edu) is nonprofit colleges. A (.com) is a for profit college. You have to watch them; they use up the veteran’s benefits and then push out the veteran without a degree. Once the benefits are gone, it is gone the veteran cannot get it back. Some of these (.com) colleges are bilking the system of millions and billions of dollars. Another thing that has been happening is when the veteran dies the benefits that the veteran stops. We want the spouse to get the benefits. The time of the Washington Conference is scheduled by the guards at the Memorial. This year it is the weekend of the time change of the Spring. Thank you, National Adjutant Tony Wright, for getting this information from every detachment it is very appreciative. The Southern Region there are 12 detachments and only 5 have a representative. Commander Miles is reaching out for a contact in each state. They do not have a representative he has sent out the information. Central Region Missouri is the only detachment out of eight that does not have a representative for their state.

Bernie Kesseler (OH) Some of these bills never get out of committee. Get to your state and national representatives on your list let them know who you are and what you are interested in.

Midwest is missing several chairmen.

PNC Mike Moss (CO) Asked have you discussed the call ins procedures. All members get a call in now. He also asked that the Chaplain gets a call in for Washington Conference.

**Old Business:**

Chairman Deal talked about the George B. Evans Grassroots Advocate of the Year Award. New award guidelines are in place for this year. Last year’s winner announced at convention was Lucas Herring from Vermont. Unfortunately, Chairman Deal was told he will not be able to attend today to accept his cover. We need to get more nominations this year. The form was passed out in packets and there is a fillable PDF on the SAL website under Publications/ 2020 Forms/ George B. Evans Veterans Advocate of the Application Form. You will need to supply additional information to meet the eligibility criteria. It can be email or snail mail at least 30 days before Convention. On The American Legion website is The Legislative Action Center page. In your packet you will see just what comes up when you visit this page. We need nominees.

Current Action Alerts Box from Legislative Alerts two bills sent out.

Listing S21 and HR 367, the “Pay our Coast Guard Act”

Legion Act

The most recent action items listed. They gave information on S21 and HR 367 “Pay our Coast Guard Act”.

You can follow actions on status of these HR 367 was amended on 6/11/19. These are just a guide to show you what can be found when searching for specific bills. You can find out if your representative is a sponsor or ask
them to be. At the bottom it says take action that is when you send your email to your representative. Just write that we would like your support or thank you for your support for this bill. We need to let them know we care.

Next is the Current Legislation Box
This lists bill numbers and a short title and is 3 pages long so you can see numerous bills that maybe you are interested in. If so, pick one and learn more about it then talk to your representatives and see where they stand. [www.legion.org/legislative](http://www.legion.org/legislative)

If you go to [https://www.congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) it gives you a ton of information about any bill. To find the bills you need to be a little specific or you might get 10,000 hits or more. Try and think what you want to do.

Legislative Agenda this released in February. This is what the legion is supporting. Protect our American Flag has a lot of sponsors this is the most sponsors it has ever had. It is brought up every year. Try to get the support from your state as well. You want to push what is important to you. They are all very important. Find one you like and get your representatives behind it. A new one will come out in March at the Washington Conference. Talk to your senators let them know you support our veterans and they should too.

Chairman Deal talked about the Washington Conference March 8-11, 2020 with the tours on Sunday March 8, 2020. Bus schedule starts at 1:15pm, National Commander Clint Bolt selected World War II Memorial and Korean War Memorials along with Tomb of The Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery this year. He passed out the schedule for the Meetings on Monday, Commanders call and know before you go on Tuesday. Commanders Testimony is usually Wednesday and you must have a ticket to attend. Full schedule will be published closer to conference.

Wreaths are same $150.00, Confirmed Box Lunches are still $8.00.

This year we are adding an offer to purchase your tickets for Arlington National Cemetery in advance to speed up the process of getting to the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier quicker. Arlington National Cemetery, General Admission tickets are $15.00 for the tram, Seniors are $11.00, Military and Veterans with valid ID are $6.75, Group Rate 20 or more Adults are $11.00. If you would like to include your cost of the entry fee, include it on the form and we will purchase group rate tickets.

You do not need to purchase lunches or group rate tickets; however, it is a long day and food is sometimes hard to find on our schedule.

Forms must be received by February 14, 2020.
No form with check, no wreath, no lunch, no Group Rate ticket.
It is a very good day for Public Relations. Visitors see our uniforms and caps.

New Business:
Chairman Deal talked about the Conference Calls are Bi-monthly 1st Wednesday of month for December 4, February 5, April 1 and June 3. Call in numbers are 712-775-7031 Access 988 284 103# Anybody can call in we try to keep it within an hour. All calls are 7PM Eastern Time.

Resolutions:
None.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. He said as you heard Commander Oxford has talked about the successes of this past year. He knows what we have done and is very appreciative about all the work we do on legislative matters. He was talking from the heart today. He knows we help with the big picture to get things done. Thank you for time and everything you do.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. He is here to support us and move this organization forward the best he can. He introduced his Fox Squad. He enjoys the Washington Conference. He likes what we are doing and wants to add to it or do more to engage our younger members.
Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Thomas G. Deal (MD) adjourned the meeting at 10:17 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do I have a motion to accept the legislative report?
NECMAN JEFFREY SEILER (MD): Jeff Seiler, NEC, Maryland.
Motion to accept the legislative report.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Jeff.
Do I have a second?
NECMAN DONALD ALLISOT, JR. (ME): Don Allisot, NEC, Maine, seconds.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any discussion?
Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Opposed, nay.
Motion carries.
(Applause)
Could I have Public & Media Communications Commission chairman Seth Rippe?
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WATERS: Gentlemen, please take the sidebars outside.

Oral Report of the Public and Media Communications Commission
Seth Rippe, Chairman, Nebraska
Thank you, sir.
I'd like to start by introducing the Public and Media Communications Commission. Gentlemen, if you're still here, please stand. Mark McCue, Damon Bradtmueller, Kevin Chaplin, Brandon Roberts, and Doug Evans. I'd also like to introduce who is not with us, today, the website and Facebook administrator, Gene Theroux. Thank you, gentlemen.

As a point of personal privilege, at this point I don't think we at the NEC level have had the opportunity to congratulate and wish Mike Pipher well. Shortly before the national convention, Mr. Pipher let us know of his decision to step down as National Update editor. Mr. Pipher has served the organization in this role for more than 25 years.

Gentlemen, I think we would be remiss if we didn't thank him for his service.
(Applause)
Thank you, Mike.

Mr. Commander, past national commanders, distinguished guests and fellow Sons, our theme for this year, "Serving Those Who Served ... Full Steam Ahead."

What an appropriate theme for not only this organization, but this commission: Serving to help, to assist, to aid, to do something for the benefit of others. We belong to this organization not because of our service, but because of our mothers', fathers', grandmothers', or grandfathers' service to this country. That is why we feel compelled to serve in this organization.

I said it on multiple occasions last year. We, the Public & Media Communications Commission, are not here to ask you to do anything more than what you're already doing. We are here to serve you, so serve our organization through the dozens of multiple programs of The American Legion. We, the PMCC, are here to serve the national officers, the national committees and commissions, the NEC, our detachments, and most importantly, our squadrons.

There is a lot of great work being done out there, gentlemen. However, we do not do a very good job of promoting ourselves. It's not an easy job to show what we're doing. We are a very humble organization who do not seek praise.
We need to change our culture and the way we look at service in this organization. By promoting our programs and the service that we're doing, we recruit new members who want to be part of something special; we retain existing members who feel appreciated for the work they're doing; and we gain support in our communities that we serve, because they realize what we're doing for our veterans and children.

To better serve the commissions and committees, we have assigned an individual from the PMCC to each committee and commission. To better serve the NVCs, we have assigned a member to each region, with the intent of having representation on each monthly call in order to promote the programs at the national level and focus on helping them reach their goals.

To better serve all of you in this room, we have created a calendar, a single place that offers all the call-in info for all the national calls in one location. There's a lot of great national calls going on, but it's the same people who are always on them. And the information is not getting out to all the detachments and all the squadrons.

So we've created an online calendar. The tool we have chosen is Google Calendar. You do not need to have a Gmail or a Google account. The website, the link will be distributed after the fall NEC. Gentlemen, it's easy to use. We've tested it from multiple mobile devices as well as PCs.

You get the link and you can see at a month's view all the calls that we are having at the national level. So every week you can see what's out there, what's going on. You see all the contact info. If there is any changes, your NVCs or chairmen will be contacting me, I will update those within a day. So that calendar is always the most accurate place to go to see whether or not you have a call.

Finally, we have the Snapshots of Service, gentlemen. This is a great opportunity, again, to reward, to recognize some of the great work that's happening at our squadron levels.

Everyone's got a cell phone with them these days. Next time you're at an event, take a picture with that Son doing something, whether it's participating at a fish fry, conducting a flag etiquette course. Take a picture of them in their SAL apparel. Stage photos are nice, gentlemen, but candid photos are what we're looking for. Send in the picture along with the form and get yourself some recognition, get your members recognition back home for all of the good things they're already doing.

Finally, gentlemen, I'm going to save you some time. The items, the action items for the PMCC for the strategic plan, you can find it in your minutes. We did provide a list of next steps for each action item. We also provided the PNC panel with a detailed list action items, what's been accomplished for the strategic plan, and are awaiting direction.

So thank you, gentlemen. Thank you for all that you do. Have a safe trip home.

(Applause)

...Commission Chairman Rippe submitted the report of the Public Media and Communications Commission.

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**Public and Media Communications Commission**

**Opening:**
The meeting was called to order at **12:00 pm** on **October 12, 2019** in the **Circle East Room** of the **Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel** by **Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE)**.

**Roll Call:**
Chairman: Seth A. Rippe (NE)  
Vice Chairman: Mark McCue (MA)  
Secretary: Scott J. Thornton (OH)  
National Assistant Adjutant: Damon Bradtmueller (IN)  
Liaison: Thomas Cisna (IL)  
Past National Commander: [vacant], National Update Editor: Gene Theroux (MA), Webmaster – Exc.  
Members: Brandon Roberts (GA)  
Doug Evans (KS)  
Kevin Chaplin (VA)  
Damon Bradtmueller (IN)  
[vacant], National Update Editor: Gene Theroux (MA), Webmaster – Exc.

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:  
There being no objections, Chairman Rippe declared the minutes of the Spring, 2019 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:  
Chairman Rippe began his remarks with a reflection on this year’s theme, “Serving Those Who Served... Full Steam Ahead.” What an appropriate theme for not only our organization but for this commission. Serving... to help... to assist... to aid... to do something for the benefit of others. We belong to this organization not because of our service to this country but because of our grandfather, grandmother, father, or mother. It is because of their service that we feel compelled to serve in this organization. I said it on multiple occasions last year... your Public and Media Communication Commission isn’t here to ask you to do anything more than you are already doing. You are already serving our organization and our veterans in dozens of ways through the multiple programs of The American Legion. We, the PMCC, are here to serve the National Officers, the National Committees and Commissions, the NEC, the Detachments, and most importantly the Squadrons by highlighting and sharing all the great work being done. However, this is not an easy job. We are a very humble organization that does not seek praise. We need to change our culture and the way we look at service in the Sons. By promoting our programs we recruit new members who want to be a part of something special, we renew members by recognizing their efforts, and we gain support in our communities when they see what we are doing for our veterans and children.

To better serve our Commissions/Committees we have assigned an individual from the PMCC to each of them. To better serve our NVCs we assigned a member to each Region with the intent of having representation on every monthly call to promote the programs at the National level and focus on helping reach our goals.

The PMCC is here to serve you... let us know how we can help!


Old Business:  
The first item I wanted to touch on under old business is the National Update. I want to start by saying thanks to Mr. Pipher. After +25 years of service as the National Update Editor Mike has decided to step down. Shortly before the National Convention Mike let us know of his decision so we could begin our search for the next editor. Mike has graciously agreed to stay on until a new editor is selected and help with the transition. The Committee on Committees will be reviewing applicants this weekend and, figures crossed, one will be appointed.

I also wanted to remind you that we are always looking for a few good men to write articles for the National Update so if you are interested please send your contact info to me.

A valuable platform for disseminating information is online. We do this using three tools at the National level... the National Website, Facebook, and the Sons of The American Legion mobile app. Gene Theroux is very responsive at posting submissions quickly once they are reviewed and approved.
Chairman Rippe provided an update on the action items assigned to the Commission from the Strategic Plan.

- **4.A Develop a marketing approach for SAL to attract corporate donations**
  
  Put together email blasts to send out to all members. Some of the information we will be seeking is to gather information on events with lots of younger members involved. We would like to gather photos and videos of events that highlight the programs of the American Legion. These videos will be used for a direct marketing plan to attempt to gather unclaimed corporate funds for non-profit organizations for youth.
  
  - Next Step: Define intent of corporate donation, drafting a letter of introduction, and identifying a point of contact at each company.

- **4.B Develop campaign to recruit and retain younger members (12-35)**
  
  Revamp the SAL App to be viable for the members.
  
  Next Steps: Creating Social Media accounts. Creating a panel of young members to serve as a steering committee to help identify solutions and prioritize efforts. Create survey to send to younger members. Identifying additional content/functionality for the SAL app, determining costs, and a timeline for implementation.

- **4.C Develop campaign to promote SAL program to American Legion family**
  
  Create videos for the website (TAL & SAL) to show who we are and what we do. Place all videos on a thumb drive to hand to attendees at National Convention to kick start.
  
  - Next Steps: Identify a platform to post these videos and future videos. Identify feature articles for the Legion Magazine.

- **4.D Develop SAL promotional videos**
  
  Have a professional company create videos (1 per quarter) to release on all social media sites as well as 15 second commercial spots to reach a broader audience.
  
  - Next Steps: Create additional PSAs next year.

- **4.E Develop videos to support SAL fundraising efforts**
  
  Work with the National Commander and create videos for each of his projects for the year. These videos will be placed on a thumb drive and sent to each Detachment to be utilized at their DEC and Convention as well as placed on all social media sites.
  
  - Next Steps: Identify specific programs to promote, develop content, produce videos, and determine distribution method.

The PMCC has provided a more detailed in-depth report of our progress on each of these items to the PNC Panel who has now assumed overview of the Strategic Plan.

**New Business:**

Under new business I wanted to highlight the creation of an online calendar for Commission / Committee / Regional Calls. This calendar offers a single place to find the call-in info for ALL National calls in one location. We are using Google Calendar as the tool but you do not need to have a Gmail / Google account to view the calendar. We have tested the functionality on a variety of mobile devices and PCs and asked the National Chairmen and NVCs to validate their call info. This calendar will be maintained and kept up-to-date by the commission and is ready for deployment.

Mark McCue asked if the calendar could be integrated into the mobile app to increase usage of the app. Chairman Rippe replied that it is possible, but National IT’s focus is currently on the SAL online membership submission rollout but could be addressed in the future. Kevin Chaplin mentioned that other calendar apps could be configured as Google Calendar subscribers to integrate the meeting details. Chairman Ripped asked if he would be willing to pursue this subject further and he agreed.
For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. He recognized Chairman Rippe for the calendar to organize all the conference calls. He thanked the members for their efforts and encouraged everyone to keep it up when they get back home.

PNC Tommie Cisna spoke briefly about the Strategic Plan efforts and its ongoing implementation. He asked about the possibility of promoting the annual Sons of The American Legion Accomplishments Report in our communities and suggested the development of a publicity push for it.

Chairman and Youth Chairman Bill Clancy (NY) addressed the Commission about his Committee's efforts this year. He described their plans to develop a fillable PDF form to aid in publishing C&Y activity details to alert local media. They are also looking to create a thermometer-type of fundraising poster for C&Y programs that could be used at the Post level. He expressed his belief in using Public & Media Communications as a key to growing our programs by letting our communities know what we do.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE) adjourned the meeting at 12:50 pm.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do I have a motion to accept the Public & Media Communications report?
NECMAN MAXWELL RICE (GR): Commander, Detachment of France NEC, a motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.
Do I have a second?
NECMAN DENNIS HENKEMEYER (MN): Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, NEC, Minnesota.
I second that motion to approve the report as given.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.
Any discussion?
Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye.
Opposed, nay.
Motion carries.
Next up is VA&R chairman, Butch Ray.

Oral Report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Harl "Butch" Ray, Chairman, Illinois

Good morning, gentlemen.
...The National Executive Committee responded, “Good morning!”
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN RAY: What an interesting day we’re having today, huh?
First, before we get started, I’d like to recognize the members of the commission: My vice chairman, Joe Roberts. Please stand. Thank you, Joe. Gabe Cinquegrana from New York; Phil Cook from New Hampshire; and my newest member, Eddy Seegers from Texas. Thank you, all.

Steve Tansel, as you know, is a member of my commission. He is currently deployed. I ask everyone in this room to please add him and his mission on your prayer list. I understand that where he's at right now is maybe a little hot and heavy, and we'll pray for his safe return.
So VA&R, the largest and proudest pillar of The American Legion, at least that's my opinion. I wish to thank everyone. If you took a look at the accomplishment sheet that we all got when we came here this weekend, you'll see that we did some pretty good things. So I took my calculator out and just did a little bit of math.

In VA&R alone, 1600 squadrons reporting, $1.7 million in donations, over 447,000 volunteer hours, which translates out to a value of 10.7 million in what you have done for our nation's heroes. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

So I have a favor to request of the NEC. At this National Executive Committee, I would like each detachment to submit to me, by July 15, 2020, an applicant for the Charles Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award. Can I get your commitment? Oh, come on, guys, show of hands, I know you can do it.

(Laughter)
That being said, I have a special treat for everyone here this morning. With the assistance of the national commander, I would like to call to the podium at this time, will the sergeant-at-arms please escort our 2018-2019 Charles Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award winner, Nick Arceo from the Detachment of Colorado.

(Standing ovation)
I'll put you on the spot, Nick. Do you have any words of wisdom?

DETACHMENT COMMANDER GREGORY "NICK" ARCEO (CO): Sure. This is overwhelming for me. I would like to say a couple of things.

I do quite a bit of volunteering down at the VA Hospital, the new Rocky Mountain Regional VA in Aurora, Colorado. One thing I'd like to say is, it's the highlight of my week. When I go down there, I spend all day on Wednesday and another day most of the time, every Wednesday for sure, ten hours. And the interaction with the veterans is just overwhelming for me. Like I said, it's the highlight of my week.

The one thing I want to leave everybody with in this room is, we desperately need more Sons of The American Legion to join me and the others that volunteer on a regular basis at VA facilities across our great nation. We are getting very, very close to losing some credentials that we have, and we don't want that to happen.

So I would encourage you to go back to your detachments and your squadrons and encourage others to join what I have considered to be the highlight of my week, interacting with veterans. There's nothing greater than giving back to these veterans in volunteering. Makes me feel so, so good, and I know it makes them feel good too.

Thank you again for this award, I love it. Thank you so much.

(Applause)
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN RAY: Thank you, everyone, for your indulgence.

I have just one more request to make. You see the VA&R report in your folders. I won't belabor all of that information.

For those of you who have already sent in your VA&R chairman from your detachments to the national adjutant, I thank you. We're still missing a few, so please free to send those addresses to our national adjutant so he can get it disseminated out to our committee and commission chairman.

I need photos, gentlemen. As you heard the Media & Public Relations chairman ask you for, the candid photos for Snapshots of Service. If you're promoting a VA&R activity and take a few photos, please send them to me. Who knows, next year at the national convention in Louisville, you might get to see your smiling face up on the big screen.
That being said, Commander, this will conclude my report. Remember, everyone, VA&R is not just to provide for the care of our veterans that they deserve. It is to provide for the care of our veterans because they earned it. Thank you, Commander.

...Commission Chairman Ray submitted the report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am on October 12, 2019 in the Ohio Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Harl D. "Butch" Ray (IL).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Harl D. "Butch" Ray (IL)
Vice Chairman: Joseph E. Roberts (AZ)
Secretary: Scott A. Williams (VA)
Liaison: Jim Hartman (MD)
Members: Steve Tansel (IN) - Excused
Eddy Seegers (TX)
Phillip Cook (NH)
Gabriel Cinquegrana (NY)
National Assistant Adjutant
Past National Commander
Guests: David Dew (TX - PNC), JR Stillwell (IL - PNC), Bill Sutterlin (OH), Tom Glander (AL), Lenny Free (NJ), Gary Lang (OH), Mike Bondurant (WA), Bob Stephenson (TN), Joe Lohman (MD), Allen Watry (WI), Patrick Gallagher (NJ), Scott Merrill (NH).

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, Chairman Ray declared the minutes of the Spring, 2019 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Ray talked about the VA & R Mission Plan handed out at the meeting. He also talked about 'My Life, My Story' which is not just the military story of the veteran it is also everything about his or her life which helps provide better care for the veteran. The commission urges all Detachments, with a VA Medical Center, to promote this program.

Chairman Ray stated the ultimate goal of VA & R is to put a smile on the vet's face. He has removed himself as National Representative for Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service. He is now the National Deputy Rep for Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service. Gabe Cinquegrana (NY) is the National Rep for the Sons for the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service. His focus will be twofold. One to get a specific idea of the Sons Reps and Deps in the system. Second goal is to fix the system within the Detachments, within the American Legion, and within the SAL National Organization. Correspondence was sent out to each Detachment Commanders regarding Reps and Deps within their Detachment. This was an inquiry on updating the information for each Detachment for Reps and Deps. He reviewed the materials he sent to the Detachment Commanders. 17,000 plus hours recorded which is probably understated. The Sons have 40 registered Reps and Deps in the system as of October 12. Detachment Commanders should follow up with Mr. Cinquegrana on the Reps and Deps for their respective Detachments. This is extremely important as the input from the National Advisory Council directs the care for all of our veterans. The VA is working on a credentialing process for our Reps and Deps. There are 127 Medical Centers with SAL Members volunteering.

585 474 3427 gcinqueg@rochester.rr.com is Mr. Cinquegrana's contact information.

Vice Chairman Roberts and Chairman Ray will be working on the VA & R PowerPoint presentation for the Spring Conference which will give an overview for this commission.
Phil Cook, Commission Member, will be writing articles on Fisher House and Operation Comfort Warriors. He gave an overview of Fisher House and Operation Comfort Warrior.

PNC Jim Hartman spoke about the challenges of the Reps and Deps in Tampa Florida VA Medical Centers.

PNC David Dew thanked everyone for their support of the VA & R Programs.

Chairman Ray talked about the Veterans Assistance Day in May of 2020. There is a box on the CSR for the Squadron to report their support of this.

Chairman Ray talked briefly about the Missing in America Project. This will be discussed more in depth at the Spring Conference.

Chairman Ray talked about the VA & R Results for the last year. $1.7 million in donations for last year and 447,644 volunteer hours, nationally.

Joe Roberts – Vice Chairman. He talked about the 22 a day or Veterans Suicide rate. He spoke of what his Post is doing to support Veteran Suicide prevention. He encouraged those in attendance to share this information with their respective Detachments. Veterans Crisis Hotline 1 800 273 8255. An encouraging word can make a REAL difference.

Old Business:
The Consolidated Report is being revised at the recommendation of the Commission. There will be a changed CSR coming out in the Spring of 2020. One Change will allow for VE & E reporting. He also explained the changes to the VA & R section of the program. The GI Josh Dog program/corporation has been dissolved. They are trying to resurrect GI Josh program and is removed from the CSR. Chairman Ray gave general reminders on the completion of the CSR forms.

New Business:
There was none.

Resolutions:
There were none.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. He talked about his recent visit to the Martinsburg VA Hospital. He stressed the importance of our support to Women's Veterans. He also promoted the need for Reps and Deps.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. He talked about his goals for his year and encouraging our younger members to be more involved in our VA & R Programs.

SAL Liaison Ken George thanked the VA & R Commission for their efforts in support for the VA & R Programs. LegionTown.org SAL section is where articles can be posted. Need a Newsletter Editor for the National Update. Online Membership Processing will be fully implemented by end of January 2020.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Harl D. "Butch" Ray (IL) adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do I have a motion to accept the VA&R report?
NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Commander, Bob Brown, NEC from Georgia. I make a motion that we accept the report of the VA&R Commission.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do we have a second?
NECMAN DONALD ALLISOT, JR. (ME): Don Allisot, NEC, Maine, seconds.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any discussion?
Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye.
Opposed, nay.
Motion carries.
(Applause)
I'd like to call the Veterans Employment & Education commission chairman, Thom Skelley from Texas.

Oral Report of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission
Thomas "Thom" Skelley, Chairman, Texas

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SKELLEY: Good morning, everyone.
...The National Executive Council responded, "Good morning!"
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SKELLEY: I was asked to keep my comments succinct. As soon as I look up the definition of that word, I will try to do that.
Due to a slight clerical error, page 2 of the minutes you have before you are incorrect and should be disregarded. An updated set of the minutes will be provided to the national adjutant and will be submitted for final publication.
That being said, the Veterans Employment & Education Commission met, was called to order at 9:45 yesterday morning at the Circle room across the hall. In attendance, when I call your name on the commission, please stand. Vice chairman Marvin Nay; Jim Coates; Nick Arceo who you've just seen; and Travis Cummins. Excused was Ray Edwards, Jr., as was PNC Gene Sacco.
We had eleven guests attending, two of which included Past National Commanders Earl Ruttkofsky and Raymond Giehll, Jr.
We were happy to have Commander Bolt and leading candidate for commander and second leading candidate, Mike Fox, and second leading candidate, Chris Carlton, come in and address the commission.
Our members' reports were given and they touched on many things that will affect our veterans under Employment & Education. Some of those included the aid to homeless at St. Patrick's Center in Missouri.
The website RecruitMilitary.com. I encourage all of you to take a look at that website. It will give you a list of job fairs in and around your area, and it's crucial that we have boots on the ground to work these job fairs. They need help as well. Anything that The Sons of The American Legion can provide to them, whether it's setting up chairs, maybe serving lunch, getting donations, just volunteering. We need to have that done.
The Office of Military and Veterans Services, and of course the Student Veterans of America.
We reaffirmed our two major goals, and that is to decrease the veterans' homelessness rate and, of course, increase the veterans' employment rate.
We moved on to old business and we discussed two resolutions that were brought up. One you heard was already amended and passed through Internal Affairs, and that was to add a section to the consolidated report form to include Veterans Employment & Education. So we now have a line there that will count up your total donations and total hours of volunteering. We are extremely pleased that that has happened.
The second one was to a resolution two years back that we started addressing a national award to be given to companies that promote veterans, hiring veterans. We did not find time...
enough to completely resolve that, so we're going to hold that for discussion during one of our conference calls.

The commission discussed the role that we would be playing in the strategic action plan. Although we have not been given a specific assignment yet, we are bound and determined to make this plan a better one for the betterment of our organization. We're going to do everything we can to do that, and that information will be passed on to Panel Chairman and PNC Danny Smith.

We're very extremely proud to let you know that through work with our liaison, Ken George, and webmaster, Gene Theroux, we now consolidated some information onto the home page of The Sons of The American Legion website, legion.org/Sons. In the past if you have looked for information regarding Veterans Employment & Education, you had to go under the committee and commission reports, dig down through some things. It was a little cumbersome to try to find those.

Well, if you're all familiar with the page, on the top there's a tab that says "Resources." Click on that "Resource" tab and it will now have subtabs that will take you directly to The American Legion career page where veterans can find information about job fairs. There's another tab that will take you to the VA page where you can find information about homelessness standouts. So we're extremely pleased that that's up front.

We talked about the importance of point of contacts within each detachment, and you've heard that as a reoccurring theme throughout this weekend. We've been trying as a commission, and this started back with Bear Weinzirl, continued with Past Chairman Chris Carlton, and now myself, to determine what detachments have their own VE&E Commission and which ones are still under VA&R. Of course, we're encouraging every detachment to create their own VE&E committee or commission.

With that being said, we created a questionnaire. I want to thank Mr. Jim Coates, who is a member, created this questionnaire for us. It was passed out to the commanders, which I had the honor to address yesterday, requesting that information back. And I counted 28 as of this morning. So I believe, as was stated, we have 25 -- 27 commanders at the class. I have 28 forms back. I'm not really sure, but maybe I miscounted this morning.

Again, we need to stress something. It is incumbent on us to help our fellow man. It's our privilege as Sons of The American Legion to help our veterans. And we're going to stand behind that and push that forward.

Commander, with that, that concludes my report.

...Commission Chairman Skelley submitted the report of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission.

Veterans Employment and Education Commission

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am on October 12, 2019 in the Circle Centre Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Thomas P. Skelley (TX).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Thomas P. Skelley (TX)  Members: Doyle T. “Travis” Cummins (MO)
Vice Chairman: Marvin P. Nay (MA) Ray Edwards, Jr. (MD) - Excused
Secretary: James Coates (NY) [internal] James Coates (NY)
Acting Secretary
Greg N. "Nick" Arceo (CO)

Liaison: Gene Sacco (CA) – Absent

Past National Commander

Guests: Patrick Gallagher (NJ), Camille LeJeune (LA), Kevin Chaplin (VA), Dave Hullihen (MI), Christopher Carlton (IN), Martin Longeway (AR), Carvin Chapman (MI), Dennis Albright (OH), Dennis J. Henkemeyer (MN)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, Chairman Skelley declared the minutes of the Spring, 2019 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:
Marvin Nay (Vice Chairman) – Conducting research to identify companies giving hiring preference to veterans. Assisting SAL within Department by promoting programs within Massachusetts for homeless veterans as well as employment fairs. Several stand-downs, one in Boston and one in Springfield in September. Also, Veteran employment and benefit fair in New Bedford conducted in October. Other programs promoted among SAL in Massachusetts for Homeless Veterans is collecting socks for both male and female Veterans. Raised $400 for woman veteran’s programs. Participating in regional call-ins.

Nick Arceo: Participated in regional conference calls. I am representing the Mid-West and West Regions. My focus is on Veterans Employment and Homelessness. Shared information regarding Stand-Downs, Veteran Career Fairs, and job fair information has been forwarded to appropriate contacts. Shared information on several websites. Shared my contact information and offered assistance in any way I can. Seeking contact information from Detachments that have stand-alone VE&E Commissions or share duties with VA&R Commissions. Moving forward I continue to build my contact list and passing on information that will help achieve the VE&E Commissions overall goal.

Travis Cummins – Spoke about St. Patricks’ Center, an organization providing housing and aid to homeless veterans as part of their overall mission. Travis also spoke about the Office of Military and Veteran Services and the Student Veterans of America. I have been assigned to the Central Region and to focus on Veteran Education and Homelessness.

Ray Edwards (report given by Chairman Skelly) – I have participated in Sept. and Oct. Commission conference calls. Chairman Skelley has assigned me to the Southern Region which has had two conference calls. I participated in the Western Region conference call on October 9th. I am working to establish a point of contact for each of the Detachments of my assigned regions to spread the word of increasing employment opportunities for our veterans and decreasing homelessness. I found the website Recruit Military.com and found their job/career fairs scheduled all over the nation through 2020.

James Coates – I have been assigned to participate in the Central Region conference calls and focus on veteran education and homelessness. I am also working with my own detachment of pass information along to the detachment leadership and we are working to make this information available on our website, www.sonsdny.org with easy access to our membership. I have been doing research on veteran’s education and homelessness to identify other opportunities to help in these areas.

Old Business:
Blair Miles (AL) stated that he came up with 5 questions asked of a business. 4 general info questions and one specific question pertaining to our organization in particular. They are as follows:

1) Do you have a Veteran’s hiring practice in place?
2) What % of your employees are actually Veterans?
3) Does being a Veteran carry any weight when making hiring decisions?
4) What other Veteran programs do you support/sponsor?
5) What have you done for the American Legion in your state.

These could be used as the criteria for Awarding of a Veterans Employment and Education Award. Marvin Nay (MA) will work on the criteria.
New Business:
None.

Resolutions:
S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Spring, 2019 – VE&E questions have been added to the consolidated report; Total Monetary and Total Hours.

S.A.L. Resolution 10 – Spring, 2019
Title: Establishment of Annual Sons of The American Legion Award for Outstanding Contributions for Veterans and Their Families.
Action: Motion to approve the Resolution made by Marvin Nay (MA).
Discussion: Find out what Criteria the American Legion has established for their Award and apply it for the Sons as well.
Disposition: Approved by the Commission

No action was taken on this resolution at this time.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
Chairman Skelley would like to see copies of VE&E and / or VA&R reports from Detachments so we can see if our message is getting out.

Chairman Skelley also commented that he is working with Public Relations to develop Facebook / Twitter / etc. to send out blasts on where stand-downs and/or job fairs are occurring.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Thomas P. Skelley (TX) adjourned the meeting at 10:40am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do I have a motion to accept the Veterans Employment & Education Commission report?
NECMAN DONALD ALLISOT, JR. (ME): Don Allisot, NEC, Maine.
I make a motion to accept that report.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.
Do I have a second?
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.
Is there any discussion?
Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye.
Those opposed, nay.
Motion carries.
(Applause)
PNC BRIAN O’HEARNE (MA): Mr. Commander?
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir.
PNC O’HEARNE: Brian O’Hearne, past national commander.
Seeing that the next one up is the Subcommittee on Resolutions, they’ve gone through all the resolutions in detail and all their minutes are based on those resolutions.
I would make a motion to accept the resolutions report as distributed.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I was going to say, Brian, you can't make a motion.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER COOK: Mr. Commander, I will take the advice from Past National Commander Brian O'Hearne and make a motion to accept John Jennings' report as printed and distributed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do I have a second?


NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: All those in favor, say aye.

Opposed, nay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good job, John.

(Applause)

...Committee Chairman Jennings submitted the report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions

Subcommittee on Resolutions

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm on October 12, 2019 in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman John T. Jennings (FL).

Roll Call:
Chairman: John T. Jennings (FL)
Secretary: Anthony W. Wright (PA)
Liaison: (none assigned)

Members: Joe Keiser (NV)
Jay Marsden (MO)
David Blair, II (TX)
John Chang (NY)

Past National Commander:

Guests: William Kelly (FL), Richard Pfeiffer (IN), Willy Williams (OR), Brandon Curry (KY), Jeffrey Gibson, Sr. (AL), Bill Sutterlin (OH), Jay Cook (OK), Rick Cook (OH), Ray Jarvis NY), Mark Tansel (IN) and Joe Paviglianti (NY)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, Chairman Jennings declared the minutes of the Spring, 2019 meeting approved as published.

Old Business:
The administrative team continues to update the resolution log. Our resolutions go back to August 1972.

The Committee will continue to work with the development of an electronic database for resolutions. The goal is to have this available from the web site.

New Business:
None.

Resolutions:
The members reviewed the resolutions submitted.

S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2019
Title: Endorsement of Michael C. Fox (CA) for National Commander
Action: Received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.
S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2019 (resubmission of Res. 3 – Spring, 2019)
Title: NEC Approval of National Commander’s Appointments at Post-National Convention Meeting
Action: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Joseph Keiser
Seconded by David Blair
Discussion: None
Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2019
Title: Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Form Revision – Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Sections – Amendment to SAL Resolution 5 – Spring 2018
Action: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Joseph Keiser
Seconded by John Chang
Discussion: None
Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2019
Title: National Officer, NEC Representative and Chairman Certification of Membership Eligibility
Action: Motion to approve the resolution was made by David Blair
Seconded by Jay Marsden
Discussion: None
Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2019
Title: Revision to Article IV (Eligibility)
Action: Motion to approve the resolution was made by David Blair
Seconded by Joseph Keiser
Discussion: Motion carried on a voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2019
Title: Revision to Article X, Section 2 (Finances)
Action: Motion to approve the resolution was made by John Chang
Seconded by Jay Marsden
Discussion: None
Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Fall, 2019
Title: Endorsement of Jason Roberts (GA) for National Commander
Action: Received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
Chairman Jennings will email the strategic plan to the committee members because there will be resolutions that will need to be implemented in the future.

Closing
With no further business to consider, Chairman John T. Jennings (FL) adjourned the meeting at 1:37 pm.
Old Business
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. Gentlemen, is there any old business to come before this meeting?
   Any old business?
New Business
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any new business to come before this meeting?
   Okay. I will entertain a motion to accept the appointment of Matt Parsons as editor of the National Update.
NECMAN MICHAEL PIPHER (IN): Mr. Commander, Mike Pipher, NEC, Indiana. With a bushel basket full of enthusiasm, excitement for the future, I wholeheartedly move the acceptance of your appointment of Matt Parsons as the next editor of the National Update newsletter.
   (Applause)
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do I have a second?
NECMAN DENNIS HENKEMEYER (MN): Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, NEC from Minnesota.
   I also enthusiastically second the nomination of Matt Parsons of California.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any discussion?
   Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye.
   Opposed, nay.
   Congratulations.
   (Applause)
   Is there any other new business to come before this meeting?
For the Good of The Sons of The American Legion
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any business for the good of The Sons?
PNC CLIFFORD SMITH (MA): Mr. Commander, Past National Commander Cliff Smith. On behalf of Past National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs and all the members of the Eastern region, if they would all stand, please.
   We want to show our respect and condolences to the passing of one of our great leaders in our Eastern region, Past National Commander Andy Newman from Pennsylvania. May he rest in peace.
PNC GREG "DOC" GIBBS (NY): A moment silence, please.
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Uncover.
   ...The National Executive Committee observed a moment of silence.
PNC C. SMITH: Just one more in short order. A lot of people are running around with the pink pinkies over there. I'm glad to say we raised $2,000 yesterday for breast cancer. Thank you very much.
   (Applause)
NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: At this time, we will accept any and all donations right over here to my right and your left.
DETACHMENT COMMANDER DENNIS GEORGE (NY): Commander Bolt, on behalf of the Detachment of New York, we'd like to donate $6,663.43 to the Child Welfare Fund Welfare. Thank you.
   (Cheers and applause)
DETACHMENT COMMANDER SCOTT BAKER (PA): Commander, I have the following donation for the Child Welfare Fund from the Detachment of Pennsylvania.
Squadron 105, Northeast PA, 250; Squadron 974, New Cumberland, PA, 250; Convention, 280; 801, Roscoe, PA, 200; 564, Millville, 100; 559, Annville, $500; and $226 donation from Mark Nave, for a total of $1,806.

(Cheers and applause)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WATERS: Gentlemen, please quiet down.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER (OH): Commander, as you know, Detachment of Ohio has always been a leader in CWF donations, but for too long we've been on a zero. Like to get up off the zero, you know we'll be there at the end. This is a small donation of just $121, but it's a start, fellows, because we don't like to tip our hand.

Also my project this year is to donate money to the NEF, the National Emergency Fund, because I feel the National Emergency Fund affects everyone, everybody from the Southern coast, up the East Coast, Midwest, the fires and flooding and tornadoes at the West Coast with their wildfires.

I've adopted my pin this year and it says "Recognize the Past, Redefine the Future." My pin does not have my name on it, does not say "Ohio" because not everyone's blessed by God to be a Buckeye.

(Laughter)

But I will sell my pins to you later on after this is over. But right now I'd like to present a check to the National Emergency Fund from what pins I've already sold, for $1,155. Thank you.

(Applause)

COMMITTEE MEMBER LOWELL LONG (MT): Commander Bolt, from State of Montana, for Sons of The American Legion, I have two checks to present. First one for the National Emergency Fund for $1,500; second one for Child Welfare Fund for $1,500.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: That was Lowell Long from Detachment of Montana.

KEN YANKE (CO): Ken Yanke from Colorado. We're a small squadron, just 50-some members. We'd like to donate a dollar each to the National Emergency Fund and Veterans and Children's Assistance Fund. Thank you, sir.

(Applause)

CARL ABBOTT (NJ): I'm Carl Abbott from the Detachment of New Jersey. We lost a friend, mentor and all-around great guy from the Eastern Region, Andy Newman. I have a personal donation in his memory for Child Welfare, $250.

(Applause)

DETACHMENT COMMANDER DALE TOENIES (AK): From the largest state in the union, Alaska, we have two checks for you, Commander. For Child Welfare Foundation, $1,500; for National Emergency Fund, $1,500.

(Applause)

ASST ADJ (EMERITUS) HAROLD THOMPSON, JR. (NE): Harold D. Thompson, Jr., Detachment of Nebraska. From Norfolk Squadron 16, my home squadron, $350 for Child Welfare, that makes us $1.75 a member; The American Legion NEF, $200, that's a dollar a member; and The American Legion for the Endowment Fund, $200.

(Applause)
NECMAN SCOTT UNDERKOFFLER (DE): Scott Underkoffler, Detachment of Delaware. I have two checks, one from my home squadron and one from the detachment, for CWF in honor of Andy Newman, $1,200 and $500.

(Applause)
The detachment also has a donation for COTA for 250; a donation for the American Legion Veterans and Children's Foundation, 500; and American Legion Emergency Fund, 500.

(Applause)

LAWRENCE WADE (PI): I'm Lawrence Wade from the Detachment of Philippines. I have a check here payable to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation for $500.

(Applause)

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVE: Mark Nave from Detachment of Pennsylvania, CWF chairman. I want to thank you this weekend. We raised $2,500 for CWF through the merchandise sold this weekend, so thank you.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any other donations?
At this time I'll call our national chaplain to come forward.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AIDE JEFFREY EVANS (VA): Excuse me, Mr. Commander. Jeff Evans, national commander's aide.
I know a lot of the people had to leave a little early, so I'm going to ask the NECs to write this date down. The national commander's homecoming will be held in Norfolk, Virginia, on April 17th through the 19th. Registration packages will be posted on the national website and be distributed via the national vice commanders shortly. Again, that is April 17th, 18th, and 19th, in Norfolk, Virginia.

Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

(Gavel)

Uncover, please.

Benediction
Rodney Tolbert, National Chaplain, Michigan

Please let us pray for Steve Tansel who is currently deployed. He's one of our brothers. Let's remember him in our prayers that he comes home safely.

As we close this meeting, Lord, we want to give honor to You. Thank You, God, for the time we had today to discuss issues and make decisions. Make You bless each person who took the time to gather here today, and let Your hand of protection be on them on their travels home.

Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Cover.

Until we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our country can only be fulfilled by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state, and nation be ever the main objective of The Sons of The American Legion. Let us ever be watchful of the honor of our country, The American Legion, our organization, and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, loyalty, and democracy.

With the colors of our nation being in place, hand salute. Two.

I now declare the fall meeting of the Sons of The American Legion 2019 adjourned.

...At 11:28 a.m., Sunday, October 13, 2019, the National Executive Committee meeting of The Sons of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die. `